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Editor: Nicole Grant

# OLLI on LINE

## OLLI @ UTEP

On Campus  
at:  
Miners Hall  
Room 209

(915)747-6280



## Your 2018 OLLI Board Members::

Marie Livingston  
*Chair*

Janet Dand  
*Vice Chair*

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*Secretary*

Ruth Bassett

Kathy Brunk

Linda Calk

Karen Evans

Brian Yothers, PhD

Liz Highsmith

Shari Schwarz

Said Larbi-Cherif

Jim Richardson

Nicole Grant

### Office Staff

Ian Wilson  
*Executive Director*

Crystal Brown  
*Admin. Secretary*

This is already the second week in our Fall Semester. We have 369 members signed up for classes and 64 of those are brand new members. Welcome again to all the new members! We also have a new person in the front office. Crystal Brown has joined OLLI as our Administrative Secretary. Her Email is [Cjbrown2@utep.edu](mailto:Cjbrown2@utep.edu) and she is ready to take your questions and requests. Please feel free to stop in and say hi! Have a great Semester!  
Ian Wilson, OLLI Executive Director

### A Big Welcome to OLLI Members Old and New

Welcome back OLLI members! Ian, our board members and our great team of volunteers have been working hard to make this semester a success. The sudden changes in our parking arrangements have had everyone concerned about the effect it would have on our program. But the turnout for classes this week has been robust which is very encouraging. We are dealing with many changes at OLLI and at UTEP as well. OLLI needs to weather these changes in order to remain the institution we all love. Class attendance is critical to the success of OLLI@UTEP and our members have taken that to heart. UTEP needs to be made aware of OLLI's importance in the community both on and off campus. Paradoxically, our parking crisis has helped bring attention to OLLI making more people aware of our program. We have a new class this semester with faculty from the History department and Charles Martin, recently retired history professor, is teaching a class. Brian Yothers' has brought faculty from the English department, as well as, taught several great classes recently along with his short story class this semester. We are getting the word out to UTEP faculty in several departments about the advantages of teaching at OLLI. This includes the experience of teaching enthusiastic OLLI life long learners. December 8th there will be an OLLI membership meeting at 4:00 pm followed by a reception and a special lecture and recital. Please consider attending. More information as to topics to be presented will be posted later in the semester. Remember we are a membership driven organization. Marie Livingston, Board Chair

### UTEP Parking Tip

If you park in parking lot SB7 and own a smart phone or tablet, visit the Metro Miner page at <https://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid+50775> and download and install an app to track the location of shuttles in real time.

## **Special Occasions Ahead!**

October 24 - **Halloween Party**, 1:30 - 4:30. Enjoy the party before and after your OLLI classes. It's a fun time to show off your costumes & bring a dish, cookies, snacks, Halloween candies or goodies to share.

December 8 - **OLLI Membership Meeting and reception** - 4pm  
"Poets of the Piano": Special Lecture & Recital - 6:30pm  
***Liz Highsmith, Social Chair***

## **The Times They Are A-Changin'**

When Bob Dylan wrote 'The Times They Are A-Changin' in 1964, he was commenting on the social and political unrest of the time. Somehow the title is relevant to the CHANGES OLLI@UTEP is currently experiencing or has experienced.

The first major CHANGE for OLLI@UTEP involves parking. The parking arrangement we have enjoyed for many years was suddenly CHANGED. We were either going to have to pay substantially more to park in SBG, or we were going to have to park in a remote lot. It was a CHANGE that we were not expecting in any way. Adjustments have already been made, and we may see additional adjustments made in regard to parking.

Although OLLI@UTEP has CHANGED somewhat over the years, there are some aspects of OLLI@UTEP that have not CHANGED, and cannot if we expect to continue. OLLI@UTEP is a member driven organization. We cannot sustain the program if our members do not continue through their membership, their volunteer hours and their financial support.

When you see a new course and instructor listed in the catalog, you need to be aware that that CHANGE came about because some member recruited that new instructor. They brought that instructor's name to the attention of the volunteer Curriculum Committee who reviewed the proposal and vetted the instructor.

You are aware that our Administrative Assistant is new, and soon we will have a new Director. More CHANGES. Those positions are filled because a volunteer committee reviews all the applications, selects those who best fit our criteria and then interviews the applicants.

The members of the Board are all volunteers. The Board works collectively to maintain the entire program but individual Board members have assumed specific assignments. Karen Evans compiles our financial statement. Jim Richardson chairs the Curriculum Committee. Liz Highsmith is our social chair and responsible for a variety of festivities. Shari Schwartz is in charge of publicity and works to promote OLLI@UTEP. Said Larbi-Cherif secures speakers for Our Changing World. Nicole Grant puts together our newsletter. Janet Dand is in charge of registration and has assembled a terrific group of volunteers to help. This summer and fall she instituted a CHANGE in our registration procedure which streamlined the process. Some applauded the CHANGE, others complained. The real point is that The Times They Are A Changin', and we need to be open to that.

Some of you served on the Curriculum Committee and were Board members in the past, and we thank you for your service. Some of you faithfully contribute to the coffee donation box or physically bring coffee and cookies to the office. It all helps. We need our members to contribute however you can. The Times They Are A-Changin' indeed, but life-long learners have a great deal of experience in solving problems and finding solutions. We know CHANGE.

***Ruth A. Bassett, Past Chair***

### **Dr. Lawrence Johnson continues to Improve**

Some of you may know that long time OLLI instructor Dr. Lawrence Johnson had a medical crisis this summer. At the end of June he went in for a single bypass procedure. Due to other health related issues, he ended up in a coma for a

He has been moved to Sierra Rehab where he is learning to walk again. He is walking 450 feet a day with a walker, as well as working on balance and upper body strength. He is being weaned from oxygen and fully intends to be released from Sierra Rehab on September 18 to his home. He will continue physical therapy as an outpatient.

He is now sporting a mustache. He said that while he was in the coma, they continued to shave him, but because of his oxygen tube, they skipped his upper lip. He said he is keeping it as his memento mori, remembrance of mortality.

***Ruth A. Bassett, Past Chair***

### **Did you Know?**

UTEP provides many in-kind services that are no cost to OLLI:

- Accounting, payroll, purchasing, information technology, human resources, security, parking and traffic, library, print and copy services as well as administrative and oversight and advocacy by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. These services, excluding the use of office space and classrooms, are valued at over \$41,000 annually;
- Free parking in lot SB7;
- Permanent office space of 470 sq. feet;
- 3 dedicated classrooms to OLLI as the priority user;
- 8 classrooms of various sizes assigned to OLLI on an as-needed basis;
- The use of the Union Gallery for exhibits every other year or more often on request.

OLLI is able to offer high quality educational services at affordable cost thanks to funding from the Bernard Osher Foundation, in-kind funding from UTEP, dedicated staff, and committed volunteers. Please consider volunteering or making a donation to help make the program flourish.

***Said Larbi-Cherif, member of the UTEP OLLI Board of Directors***

### **Adventures in Shuttling**

It felt like a combination of the first day of school and first day on a new job. I found myself, butterflies in stomach, parking in the visitor's lot (SB7 was full) and waiting for the shuttle to go to Miner's Hall. It was several days before OLLI classes were to start, and I had accepted the offer to edit the OLLI on Line newsletter and join the OLLI board of directors. Happily, I encountered three board members, Karen Evans, Linda Calk, and Marie Livingston in the parking lot, and we set off for our first shuttle ride from SB7 parking lot to Miner's Hall. We were a bit apprehensive, naturally. As

we boarded the crowded, standing room only shuttle, the driver called out a warm welcome, and students immediately stood (unprompted) and offered us seats. I chatted with a student from Canada and told him all about OLLI, and he told me how much he liked UTEP and El Paso. On the return shuttle, I chatted with a student as we waited. Imagine that, actually talking to UTEP students! Another board member, Said Larbi-Cherif, related that the bus driver on his shuttle leaped up and told him he'd find a seat for him. Now that's service. I was pleased to see almost every student thank the driver as they departed the shuttle. Perhaps the CHANGE won't be so bad after all.

***Nicole Grant, newsletter editor***

### **OLLI Book Club News**

It's hard to believe but a year has passed since the OLLI Book Discussion Group first started. We began in October 2017 with *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr and had 6 members at our first meeting. Since then, we have read a variety of books, from historical novels to science fiction to non fiction, and we have had some really great discussions. We have also grown to more than 10 members! If you love books, think about joining us!

Most recently, we enjoyed a lively discussion of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, a non-fiction account of the murders of oil rich Osage native Americans in the early 1920's and the birth of the FBI.

Our next selection is the classic *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway, said to be John McCain's favorite book. Three years after Hemingway went to Spain in 1937 to cover the Spanish Civil War as a war correspondent, he completed what many consider one of the best war novels of all time.

The selection for November is *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson, a non-fiction account of two men, one a renowned architect and the other a serial killer, who used the 1893 Chicago World Fair to secure their places in history.

We meet the second Thursday of every month at noon in the OLLI office. Posters are always in the hallways sharing the month's selection. Be on the lookout. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 11 at noon in the OLLI lounge. Join Us!

***Janet Dand, Board Vice Chair, Book Club Moderator***

Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain  
Characteristics of a vigorous intellect!

*Samuel Johnson, The Rambler*