

# Enrich Your Life through Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

By Barbe Mariotti



OLLI at UT came together from the university's original adult learning community. There are five current OLLI programs: SAGE, NOVA, LAMP, QUEST and FORUM. All five programs, while similar, all have their own flare. LAMP is all lecture-based learning.

The University of Texas at Austin Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (UT OLLI) is quite an extensive title, but it is also an extensive opportunity for those who are "50 and better" to enjoy meaningful programs for learning and social engagement. OLLI, originally started by Bernard Osher, is a 90+ year old philanthropist and businessman who believes in practicing what you preach. He took up piano in his 80's and recently took up surfing!

SAGE is all seminar, experiential activities. The others have a variety of ways to engage. Due to COVID-19, last March OLLI quickly turned all content to remote learning and that continues currently. Members of OLLI come from all walks of life and bring a lifetime of experiences to the classroom. All program members can enjoy experiential activities, such as travel, field trips, service projects, book clubs and memoir writing. UT OLLI courses are a non-credit academic program, unlike other Lifelong Learning Institutes around the country. As a member of UT OLLI you will not learn to play bridge,



knit or crochet. Osher Institutes are exclusively hosted at universities and colleges and in almost all instances academic in nature.

If you are interested in joining, you can still get in on the fun for the winter session. Check out their website at [OLLI.utexas.edu](http://OLLI.utexas.edu). All lectures are recorded, so you can go back and watch anything you have missed.

Programming is uniquely developed and driven by member interests as a way to enhance collaboration and program engagement.

Current member and Westlake resident, Sherry Horan, is very active with the SAGE group and has made many friends by being involved. She and Dorothy MacInerney, also a Westlake resi-

dent, have both enjoyed many of the events that have occurred and find OLLI allows learning new things in a forum that is comfortable for adult learners. OLLI also gives you the opportunity to learn about topics you thought you may not have any interest in, but afterwards you may find one of those to be your favorite of the session! Members have said to the UT OLLI director, Julie Martenson, "I came to OLLI for the academics, but I stayed because of the friends I have made through membership."

There are so many fun and interesting topics, and members can participate in as many as they would like.

They are hoping in the fall that they can offer in person seminars as well as remote learning, and there may be a few summer offerings. To learn more, or to give the gift of learning, contact [OLLI.utexas.edu/about](http://OLLI.utexas.edu/about).

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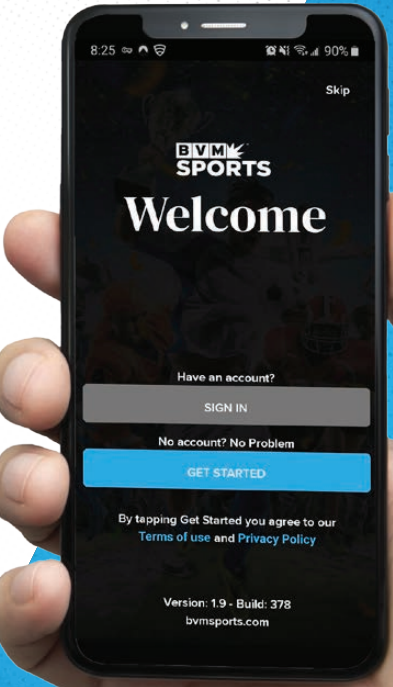
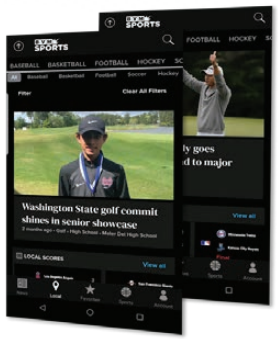
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### SOME PAST LEARNING TOPICS

- Useful Technology for All
- Presidents and their Generals
- WWI in Poetry and Film
- Disinformation Strategies in Social Media
- Classical Music in Russia and the United States
- Whalecome!
- No Labels--Counters to Hyper Partisanship
- NASA on the 50th Anniversary of Apollo
- The Philosophy of Aging
- Best Film Adaptations
- Sheer Terror (movies)
- Modern Islam
- Into the Vast Unknown--Pacific Ocean Navigators
- The Divine Art of Meditation for a Healthy Mind, Body and Soul
- Great Country Houses (think Downton Abbey)
- Shakespeare's Infinite Variety
- Great Texas Art Collections
- Financial Planning
- Sleep
- Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union
- Scientific and Cultural Tour of the Solar System
- American Education--As It Was and Can Be
- The Future of Newspapers--lead by Ken Herman