

### **Spring 2016 Catalogs available online now and at the Reuter Center on Tuesday, February 16**

The OLLI Spring 2016 catalog and registration forms are available online now. Because of continuing bulk mail challenges we will not mail catalogs to our members in Buncombe County, so you may come to the Reuter Center to pick up a catalog beginning at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, February 16.

### **The Spring 2016 Registration Process**

Given that February weather can be unpredictable, we have decided to use a randomized registration for Spring 2016 classes rather than risk having people travel to the Reuter Center early on one given day. This is the same process we used for registration for Spring 2015. We will receive registrations for Spring 2016 College for Seniors courses beginning **Wednesday, February 17, 8 a.m. until Wednesday, February 24, 5 p.m.**

You may submit your forms at the Reuter Center (where we can check for correct, complete information and payment), or you may mail your form (please see the address on the registration form on page 24 or 26 in the catalog). If you wish to submit your form with someone else (friends or couples who travel together), please clip the forms together and attach a note, and we will do our best to accommodate your request. All forms received after February 24 will be processed in the order of receipt, after we process all forms received before February 25.

**Please note that because we will randomize forms, there is no point in trying to get here early on the 17<sup>th</sup> and there is no need to stand in a line. Everyone who gets here by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24 will be processed in random order.** If you arrive at the Reuter Center and find a line, please feel free to take a seat and talk to a registrar when the line is gone or come back another time. It's helpful for us if you do submit the form for someone to check over to avoid phone calls and waits later.

We always work to balance the enthusiasm of our members for classes with safe and efficient processes. Please contact OLLI executive director Catherine Frank at 828-251-6188 if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Scholarships**

We will have a deadline for scholarship applications this year. We will accept applications for scholarships until Thursday, February 25, 5 p.m. See <https://olliasheville.com/forms> to download and print a form or pick up a form in the OLLI office.

### **Changes to Health, Fitness, and Dance course fees**

Our health and fitness committee has thoughtfully assessed our health and fitness curriculum to meet the needs of our members while acknowledging the costs and space issues that we have to manage to offer courses that are not suited for our rooms in the Reuter Center. You may notice that our \$20 symbol has been replaced by a \$30 symbol. This is to cover the costs to pay instructors who must be certified and insured to teach movement courses.

You may also notice that we are offering four courses off campus at the Woodfin YMCA: *Yoga of the Heart* with instructor Diane Saccone, *Strength Training for Health Aging* with Stacie Smith, *Intermediate East Coast Swing* with Sherry Lubic (popular College for Seniors instructor and former full-time ballroom dance instructor in Florida), and *Improver Line Dance* with Denna Yockey (also a long-time popular College for Seniors instructor). For these courses you will pay a \$30 fee (\$20 if you are a member of the YMCA) directly to the YMCA and not as part of your registration fee.

Elise Beckstett will offer *Pilates: Foundational Mat* at RISE Authentic Pilates Studio in downtown Asheville. A \$30 fee will also be paid directly to the studio for this course.

Course descriptions and full details are available in the Spring 2016 catalog online or in print.

### **Add/Drop**

Please recognize that while the initial registration process will be like our Spring 2015 registration, the Add/Drop registration will run as it always has. You will receive a schedule on March 7, and add/drop will begin on Tuesday, March 8, 8 a.m. You will receive a revised schedule on Monday, March 14. You may drop classes for a full refund if you submit your refund request by 3 p.m. on Friday, March 18.

### **Online Registration On Track for Summer 2016**

OLLI at UNC Asheville has signed a contract with Seattle-based Campus CE for an online registration system that we hope to be able to implement for our Summer 2016 registration. A number of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the country use Campus CE software, and we spoke with over thirty different directors to assess which online system would be most effective for our needs and capacity.

As we put the catalog together in January, we are still learning about the system ourselves and won't be able to answer all of your questions for a while. Here's what we can say so far. We chose a system that would allow us to use a priority allocation system rather than have participants register first come, first served. Members who cannot or do not wish to use an online system can come to the Reuter Center for help without "losing their place in line." We will develop a variety of "how-to" documents and schedule sessions where you can come to learn and test the next system. Staff and volunteers will be available to walk folks through the process so that we maintain our sense of community rather than fostering a sense of competition. Members will be able to pay using a credit card, and refunds will be approved by staff but will not require us to issue checks to make credit card refunds. If you can master the system, you can register wherever you have Internet access. Members will no longer feel they are lining up for a "door-buster special" when they want to register for courses.

We also want to manage expectations of the new system. Class sizes will still be limited by space and by instructor preference; an online system will not add one more seat to any class. Some members will miss the opportunity to control their place in line. Some participants may have preferred to know right away if they were into or out of a class rather than waiting for an allocation period. No system, in person or online, will allow us to meet every request for every class. We hope, however, that once we learn and implement this system that it will allow us to focus on our work in new ways and to meet more of our members' needs and expectations. We will continue to communicate as we know more.