

## Free summer lecture series offered remotely

By Kathleen Alaks  
of the Daily Courier

Adults can get a taste of academic enrichment through a series of free lectures offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Southern Oregon University.

The OLLI summer speaker series features four one-hour programs on math, history, poetry and geology.

All the sessions will be done online via the Zoom teleconference platform.

"This is a good way for people to get a sense if OLLI is something they want to do," says Anne Bellegia, with OLLI communications and community outreach. "It's a no-risk way to see whether a Zoom class has any value to them."

The free lectures are designed to whet people's appetites and interest them in signing up for more.

OLLI is an educational program for adults of any age, "but they must have a pretty flexible daytime schedule," Bellegia says.

Dozens of courses are offered in each of three terms, September through June, from academic topics to lighter fare. There are no academic prerequisites and no tests.

A one-time annual membership fee of \$150 covers all fall, winter and spring classes and events. Scholarships are available. The summer speaker series, however, is free.

The schedule is:

- July 20, Anna Sloan with "Remarkable Women in Southern Oregon History." An anthropologist and collections assistant with the Southern Oregon Historical Society, Sloan will highlight stories of some women who made their mark in the region over the last 150 years, including Regina Dorland Robinson and

the Hanley sisters.

- July 27, Lorenzo Taylor with "The African-American Experience in History and Poetry." A playwright, poet and novelist who witnessed the civil rights movement in Birmingham, Alabama, Taylor will focus on the history and poetry of African-Americans.

- Aug. 3, Karen Grove with "See Like a Geologist — the Landscapes Around Us." A retired geoscience professor at San Francisco State, Grove will explain the reasons behind the diverse landscapes in the Rogue Valley.

- Aug. 10, Irv Lubliner with "There's Magic in Math (and Vice Versa)." An emeritus professor at SOU specializing in math education, Lubliner will demonstrate the math behind a number of magic tricks, including some simple ones to learn and share.

All talks start at 4 p.m.

Registration for each program is required to obtain a link. Go to [inside.sou.edu/olli](https://inside.sou.edu/olli) online or call 541-552-6048.

Offering the courses online makes them more accessible, especially to people with mobility or transportation issues, Bellegia says.

"It's a valuable thing for people in Josephine County to know about," she says. "Lifelong learning is important. A social connection is important. And the interactive aspect is especially of value for people going through some kind of transition, whether it's moving or retiring or losing a partner."

A fall course catalog will be available online starting July 26. The fall term starts Sept. 13.

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