

SPRING ▪ PROGRAM CATALOG ▪ JANUARY - JUNE 2025



EXPLORE - ENGAGE - ENRICH

LearningQUEST

SINCE 2009

EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES

MEMBER COURSES ▪ PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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LearningQUEST Activities

LearningQUEST calendar years feature two terms: Spring Term (January – June) and Fall Term (July – December).

Courses & Programs

- **Courses** are offered in a wide variety of disciplines, from gardening to finance, art to local history and beyond, ranging in length from a single meeting to six or eight meetings.
- **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** are created for members who share a similar interest (for example, Mahjong, Hiking, or Poets' Corner).
- **Trips** range from day-long outings at nearby points of interest to trips around the country and abroad.
- **Public programs** are LearningQUEST's gift to the community. Open to non-members with no fees or registration.

Events

- **Rally Day**, a major beginning-of-term event where you can pick up the term's new catalog, register for the new courses, and socialize—a fun event for making new friends and choosing new learning opportunities.
- **MEETups** are special activities where members get together in the community for events such as trivia nights, concerts, lunch get-togethers, and other fun activities. They are great opportunities to "MEET" other members.
- **Happenings** are special member events such as cafes, seasonal-themed festivities, new member socials, and game times. Held monthly at the Downtown Library, they provide fun ways for members to connect with one another.
- **Picnic**, annual get-together with food and fun
- **Annual Meeting**, yearly status and vote for new board members

LearningQUEST Directory

General Questions

LearningQUEST@lquest.org

Ideas for Classes

Proposals@lquest.org

Publicity & Public Relations

Communications@lquest.org

Facebook Posting Info or Changes

SocialMedia@lquest.org

Send your Pictures

PhotoArchive@lquest.org

Change your Contact Info

Membership@lquest.org

Socializing Ideas or Questions

MEETup@lquest.org

Interactive Fun Events

Happenings@lquest.org

Send your Volunteer Hours

VolunteerHours@lquest.org

Want to Volunteer?

VolunteerLead@lquest.org

Articles for the E-News

NewsInput@lquest.org

Food and Decorating

Hospitality@lquest.org

Issues with Other Members

HumanResources@lquest.org

Audio/Visual

AV@lquest.org

Class Coordinator Info

CoordinatorLead@lquest.org

Withdraw from Class

Registrar@lquest.org

Board President

President@lquest.org



LearningQUEST is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), volunteer-led organization for adults of all ages, dedicated to building a learning community through educational and enrichment opportunities. Partnered with the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, LearningQUEST's programs are generally held at the downtown public library as well as some off-site venues.



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QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Downtown Library: AUD (Auditorium), 2FL (2nd Floor Events Room), Studio (Makerspace Studio, 1st floor), A (beside Auditorium), FCR (Foundation Conference Room, 2nd floor), **South Huntsville Public Library:** SLib (Classroom)

Program	Venue	Presenter(s)	Dates	Day	Time	#	Coordinator
MEMBER COURSES (WITH TERM FEE)							
1-The Value, Purpose and Future of Work	2FL	Liz Hall	1/14–1/28	T	10–11:30	3	Lisa Urban
2-The Cranes are Coming!	See Desc.	Tom Ress	1/14	T	1–2	1	Susan Bakken
3-CHAMPION Nutrition Class	See Desc.	Nkenge Hyter	1/15–2/26	W	11–12	7	Wanda Shoultes
4-Sharks and Gators and Bears, Oh My!	AUD	Tom Ress	1/16	Th	10–11:30	1	Judy Frago
5-Artificial Intelligence	AUD	J. Langley	1/16–1/30	Th	1–2:30	3	Bill Carter
6-American Poetry	2FL	Jeff Nelson	1/17 – 2/7	F	10–11:30	4	Susan Livingston
7-The War of 1812	AUD	Guy Collins	1/22–1/29	W	10–11:30	2	Judy Frago
8-Beginning Tai Chi	AUD	Xingrong Chen	1/22–3/26	W	1–2	10	Larry West
9-Introduction to Psychology	SLIB	William (Bill) Confer	1/23–2/20	Th	10–11:30	5	Lisa Urban
10-Writing Your Life Story	SLIB	Peter A. Finzel	1/27 – 3/17	M	10–11:30	8	Marilyn Puett
11-Beginner's Meditation	2FL	Shilo Bias	1/27–2/17	M	6–7	4	TBD
12-Skull Identification	SLIB	Beth Girard	1/29	W	10–11:30	1	Susan Herring
13-Armchair Travel Series #25	AUD	Multiple	2/3–3/3	M	1–2:30	5	Joyce Howell
14-Caricatures with Fred	2FL	Fred Sayers	2/4–2/25	T	10–11:30	4	Cynthia Otwell
15-The Paradox of Femininity Part 2	AUD	Debbie Dempsey West	2/6–3/13	Th	1:30–3	6	Gina Bain
16-Friday Film Festival	AUD	Jennifer Garlen	2/7;3/7;4/4;5/2	F	2–4:30	4	Gina Bain
17-A Conversation with Mayor Battle	AUD	Tommy Battle	2/11	T	10–11:30	1	Cindi Branham
18-International Dining	Various	Jane Wodtke	2/11;3/11;4/8;5/13;6/10	T	5–8	5	Paul Hurst
19-Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet	2FL	Jeff Nelson	2/14–2/28	F	10–11:30	3	Linda Fletcher
20-Let's Do Lunch - Group 1	Various	No Instructor	2/18;3/18;4/15;5/20	T	11–12:30	4	Charlotte Hudson
21-Introduction to Zentangle	2FL	Beth Powel	2/18–3/4	T	2–3:30	3	Cindi Branham
22-Six Steps to Legacy Planning	AUD	Ron Moody	2/19	W	10–11:30	1	Sandy Nicolette
23-Let's Do Lunch - Group 2	Various	No Instructor	2/19;3/19;4/16;5/21	W	11–12:30	4	Kathi Cribbet
24-The Mexican-American War	AUD	Guy Collins	2/20–2/27	Th	10–11:30	2	Judy Frago
25-Let's Do Lunch - Group 3	Various	No Instructor	2/20;3/20;4/17;5/22	Th	11–12:30	4	Gwen Goins-Pratt
26-Intermediate Tai Chi	AUD	Xingrong Chen	2/21–3/28	F	10–11	6	Jeanne Zibell Betsey Bock
27-Lessons for Life and Living	See Desc.	Steve Jones	2/25–4/1	T	10–11:30	6	Nancy Butler
28-Tax Planning Changes in Retirement	AUD	Ron Moody	2/26	W	10–11:30	1	Sandy Nicolette
29-The WellHouse	AUD	Leah Sanderson	3/6	Th	10–11:30	1	Jane Maples
30-James Webb Space Telescope Update	AUD	Michael Stallcup	3/10	M	1–2:30	1	Roberta Dismukes
31-The Enigma of Mary Todd Lincoln	AUD	Mary Pat Riley	3/11	T	2–3:30	1	Roberta Dismukes
32-Lobbying Your Members of Congress	AUD	Jessie Whitehead	3/12	W	10–11:30	1	Arnita Cole
33-Making Beautiful Landscape Photos	SLIB	Tom Bryant	3/17–4/21	M	1–2:30	6	Ruth Maddox
34-March Madness	SLIB	Jill Burt	3/18; 4/8	T	10–11	2	Diana Travelute
35-Carolina Shag Dance Lessons	AUD	David and Ann Jones	3/18–4/22	T	2–3	6	Ravina Sujamani
36-Front Porch Conversations	2FL	June Norton	3/20–4/24	Th	1:30–3	6	June Norton
37-HudsonAlpha Guidebook Talk	See Desc.	Kelly East	3/24	M	10–11:30	1	Judy Frago
38-Garden Tour of Bennett's Nurseries	See Desc.	Jeff Bennett	3/27	Th	10–11:30	1	Carl Lomax
39-PHYT for Your Life	See Desc.	Donna Green-Goodman	3/31	M	10–12	1	Ruth Maddox
40-Thaddeus Lowe	AUD	Cheryl McAuley	4/3	Th	10–11:30	1	Cindi Branham
41-The Masters	AUD	Neal Waygood	4/7	M	10–11:30	1	Carl Lomax
42-Old Town Walking Tour - Tour 1	See Desc.	Katie Stamps	4/9	W	1–2:30	1	Nancy Butler
43-Improve Your Bridge Game	SLIB	Jack Albers	4/10–5/8	Th	10–11:30	5	Jill Burt
44-Huntsville Police Crime Investigation	AUD	Joseph Scarborough	4/15	T	10–11:30	1	Roberta Dismukes
45-Two Step Chair/Line Dance	AUD	Nkenge Hyter	4/17–5/29	Th	1–2	7	Wanda Shoultes
46-The Chamber of Commerce	AUD	Michael D. Ward	4/21	M	10–11:30	1	John Ofenloch
47-Recycling Plastics	SLIB	Bill Carter	4/22–4/29	T	10–11:30	2	Roberta Dismukes

Program	Venue	Presenter(s)	Dates	Day	Time	#	Coordinator
48-Old Town Walking Tour - Tour 2	See Desc.	Katie Stamps	4/23	W	1-2:30	1	Pat Sampson
49-The Mighty Mississippi	AUD	Rick Suever	4/24-5/1	Th	10-11:30	2	Judy Frago
50-Art From the Heart	AUD	Shobha Bhat	4/25	F	2-4	1	Shoba Bhat
51-Spanish: Reading and Writing	SLIB	Elaine Fredericksen	5/1-6/5	Th	1-2:30	6	Phyllis Turner
52-Voter Education	AUD	Multiple	5/9-5/16	F	1-2:30	2	Wanda Shoultes
53-Heart Matters - Cardiology	AUD	Gordon H. Cash	5/21	W	10-11:30	1	Jane Maples
54-The Brain Fix	SLIB	Ralph E. Carson	5/27	T	6-7:30	1	Marilyn Puett
55-Medication 101	AUD	Phillip Rigsby	6/3	T	6-7:30	1	Arnita Cole
56-Homelessness in Our Community	AUD	Chad Rodriguez	6/11	W	1-2:30	1	Linda Griffin
MEMBER COURSES WITH PRE-PAID FEE (WITH TERM FEE)							
F1-AARP Smart Driver Course	AUD	Ron Akridge	1/21	T	9:30-4:30	1	Ruth Maddox
F2-"Coffee or Tea?" Card Workshop	SLIB	Jill Stallcup	2/4	T	2-3:30	1	Joy Anderson
F3-Rocker Card Workshop	SLIB	Jill Stallcup	2/11	T	2-3:30	1	Joy Anderson
F4-Creative Vision Board	See Desc.	Monica Yother	3/14	F	10-11:30	1	Phyllis Turner
F5-Fitness and Balance Class	See Desc.	Debra Wade	3/19-4/23	W	9-10	6	Charles Gattis
TRIPS (NO TERM FEE)							
T1-Mardi Gras Excursion on the Tennessee Central Railway	See Desc.	See Desc.	3/1	Sa	9:30 AM - 8:30 PM	1	Maggie Musser Peter Finzel
T2-Gibbs Gardens Trip	See Desc.	See Desc.	3/12-3/13	W-Th	7-6	2	Annie Brasseale Linda Berry Vicki Ladner
T3-Memphis in May	See Desc.	See Desc.	4/28-5/2	M-F	4/28 7 AM-5/2 6 PM	5	Maggie Musser Peter Finzel
T4-Hidden Gems of East Tennessee	See Desc.	See Desc.	6/6-6/8	F-Su	6/6 7:30 AM-6/8 5:30 PM	3	Rick Suever
LIBRARY SPONSORED TRAINING (NO TERM FEE)							
L1-Creating Digital Images for Crafting	Studio	Rose Stough	1/17	F	1-2:30	1	Joy Anderson
L2-Paper Weaving	Studio	Rose Stough	2/21	F	1-2:30	1	Joy Anderson
L3-Digital Conversion Demonstration	Studio	Rose Stough	3/21	F	1-2:30	1	Ruth Maddox
L4-April Showers Suncatcher	Studio	Rose Stough	4/18	F	1-2:30	1	Ruth Maddox
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (NO TERM FEE)							
S1-UkeQUESTors Jam	Online	Theresa Miller	1st and 3rd Sun. starting 1/5	S	2 - 3:30		Theresa Miller
	2FL		2nd and 4th Sun.				
S2-Mah Jongg	A	Janet Tedrow	Mon., starting 1/6	M	1 - 4		Janet Tedrow
S3-Great Literary Conversations	Online	Bob Stagg	Mon., starting 1/6	M	3 - 4:30		Bob Stagg
S4-Hand and Foot	A	Cheryl Hodges	Thurs., starting 1/9	Th	12:30 - 4		Cheryl Hodges
S5-Bunco	A	Joy Anderson	2nd Mon., starting 1/13	M	9:30 - 12		Joy Anderson
S6-Poets' Corner	FCR	Liz Hall	Last Wed., starting 1/29	W	1:30 - 3		Liz Hall
S7-Friday Hiking	Various	Jim Kirkwood	Fri., 1/31-4/25	F	9		Jim Kirkwood
S8-Become a Cheerleader for LearningQUEST	SLIB	Shobha Bhat	1st Wed., 3/5-6/4	W	10-11:30		Shobha Bhat
S9-Tai Chi	SLIB	Patricia Jeffery	Wed., 4/2-6/25	W	1-2		Patricia Jeffery
PROGRAMS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (FREE)							
P1-Ebony and Ivory	AUD	Anna Blair	3/13-3/20	Th	10-11:30	2	Anna Blair
P2-Singing River Trail	AUD	Katie Lee Sara Kovachich	4/16	W	10-11:30	1	Gwen Goins Pratt
P3-Land Trust of North Alabama	AUD	Hallie Porter area experts	5/20	T	2-3:30	1	Susan Bakken

The opinions and views expressed by presenters of LearningQUEST programs are solely those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the views of the LearningQUEST organization or its Board.

Board of Directors and Committees

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jill Burt **Vice President:** Jane Maples

Secretary: Amanda Mullins **Treasurer:** Sallyanne Cos

Members: Kevin Call, Cathy Hoffman, Jim Kirkwood, Carl Lomax, Ruth Maddox,
Jeff Nelson, Sandy Nicolette, Bob Ward

Ex-Officio: Laura Gonzalez, Operations Manager; Mary Ellen Peters, Program Development Committee

BOARD COMMITTEES

Governance: Kevin Call (Chair), Tom Borchert, Kathey Bradford, Elaine Fredericksen, Jim Kirkwood, Bob Stagg, Larry West

Finance: Jim Kirkwood (Chair), Judy Frago (Treasurer), Jan Wardlaw (Assistant Treasurer), Deen Rice (Assistant Treasurer), Bob North, Gwen Goins-Pratt

Development: Carl Lomax (Chair), Susan Bakken, Liz Hall, John Ofenloch, Ravina Sujamani, Anna Whisenant

Human Resources: Sandy Nicolette (Chair), Carl Lomax, Barbara Moore, Wanda Shoultes

OPERATIONS COMMITTEES

Operations: Laura Gonzalez (Manager)

Office Staff: Barbara Moore (Manager), Arnita Cole, Wanda Ferguson, Julia Gary, Judy Gattis, Anna Lee, Mary McGaha, Margie Pfalzer, Lisa Urban, Bonnie Vos, Ed Williams

Audio-Visual: Bob Stagg, Larry West (Acting Co-Chairs), Kathy Anderson, Jay Bain, Bill Boggess, Richard Curtis, Charles Gattis, Beth Girard, John Kammerud, Bob Stagg, Larry West

Catalog: Jay Bain, Cathy Hoffman (Co-Chairs)

Desktop Publishing: Jay Bain, Valeta Wheeler

Review Planning: Jay Bain, Cathy Hoffman

Review Team: Sherry Anderson, Connie Atkinson, Jay Bain, Ed Bernstein, Tom Borchert, Judy Frago, Buffie Gibbons, Cathy Hoffman, Helen Lamy, Mike Lamy

Printer: C&A Printing

Communications: Connie Atkinson, Valeta Wheeler (Co-Chairs), Elaine Hubbard (Marketing Advisor)

E-News: Jane Jones, Peg Heesch (Co-Leads/Editors), Connie Atkinson, Susan Herring, Joyce Howell, John Ofenloch, Ravina Sujamani

Publicity: Valeta Wheeler (Lead), Paulette Bernstein, Tom Borchert, Donna Clark, Arnita Cole, John Cole, Owen Hofer, Elaine Hubbard, Mary McGaha, Claire Mikkelsen, Roberta Shivers, Ravina Sujamani, Diane Wick

Public Relations: Sandy Nicolette, Ravina Sujamani (Co-Leads), Paulette Bernstein, Rebecca Bradshaw, Arnita Cole, Victoria Coleman, Mary Compton, Lisa Hopkins, Jim Kirkwood, Kristin Mumper, Sandy Nicolette, John Ofenloch, Marie Osmer, Carolyn Peters, Wanda Shoultes, Diana Travelute

Social Media/Photography: Joyce Howell (Lead), Jay Bain, Ed Bernstein, Rebecca Bradshaw, Arnita Cole, Anita Conner, Kathi Cribbet, Charles Gattis, Peg Heesch, Travis Hardin, Jane Jones, John Kammerud, Jim Kirkwood, Kristin Mumper, Marilyn Puett, Emily Saile, Ravina Sujamani

Website: Jane Jones (Lead), Sumita Ainapure, Linda

Bryan, Charles Gattis, Joyce Howell

Database Infrastructure: Mike Lamy (Chair), Bob Fletcher, Rick Suever

Hospitality: Roberta Dismukes (Chair)

Beverages Lead: Helen Lamy

Kay Agliano, Paulette Bernstein, Judy Berry, Carol Brissom, Susan Carr, Donna Clark, Arnita Cole, Paula Cushman, Judith Elmes, Jeanette Farrell, Marilyn Farrell, Judy Fisk, Ellen Griffin, Pat Griffin, Natha Hancock, Barbara Hitchings, Cheryl Hodges, Allyson Hofer, Janet Jadus, Susan Kuehlthau, Judy Lambert, Helen Lamy, Carole McCoy, Amanda Mullins, Diane Pratt, Patricia Sampson, Joanne Sanders, Roberta Shivers, Joelle Starefos, Olga Steiner, Catherine Stone

Membership: Paul Hurst (Chair)

Membership Database: Cindie Chapman, Angie Fedele, Laurie Peterson

Membership Operational Manual Proofreader: Vanessa Jones

MEETup Events: Diana Travelute (Lead), Claudia Conn, Sallyanne Cos, Jane Maples, Jennifer Robinson, Ravina Sujamani, Arnita Cole

Happenings Events: Buffie Gibbons (Lead), Shobha Bhat, Rebecca Bradshaw, Michelle Crull, Hilary Goss, Shirley Goss, Ellen Griffin, Joyce Howell, Linda Marsh, Barbara Moore, Margie Pfalzer, Margaret Price, Judi Shade, Debbie West

Public Programs: Paul Hurst and Sandy Nicolette (Co-Leads), Wanda Ferguson, Judy Frago, Vanessa Jones, Gwen Goins-Pratt, Mike Nunes, and Jim Kirkwood

Volunteer Hours: Gwen Goins-Pratt

Rally Day Coordinators: Jim Kirkwood, John Ofenloch

Rally Day Support Leads:

Sign-in/Catalogs/Forms: Paul Hurst, John Ofenloch

Hospitality: Roberta Dismukes

Displays: Larry West

Information Table: Barbara Moore

Volunteer Table: Nancy Butler

Exterior Signage: Jim Kirkwood

Information Counter: Nancy Butler

Photographer: Charles Gattis

Registration: Bob North

Mobility Signage: Paul Hurst

Facility Layout: Larry West

Program Development: Rick Suever (Co-Chair), Mary Ellen Peters (Co-Chair), Charlotte Hudson (Vice Chair)

Scheduling: Rick Suever

Courses: Susan Bakken, Anna Blair, Jill Burt, Bill Carter, Elaine Fredericksen, Linda Griffin, Cathy Hoffman, Charlotte Hudson, Sally Lomax, Ruth Maddox, Jane Maples, Bill Nunn, Mary Ellen Peters, Wanda Shoultes

Trips: Linda Berry, Anne Brasseale, Pete Brasseale, Claudia Conn, Joyce Howell, Barbara Kammerud,

Vicki Ladner, Maggie Musser, Sandy Nicolette, John Ofenloch Nancy Ward

SIG Coordinator: Linda Griffin

Editing: Elaine Fredericksen, Jill Burt

Biographies: David Lambert, Judy Lambert

Planning Spreadsheets: Darlene Hilton, Rick Suever

Coordinator Lead: Larry West, Ruth Maddox

Communications: Wanda Shoultes

Attendance Tracking: Ginger Loder

Registrar: Ed Bernstein

Volunteers are the heartbeat of LearningQUEST.



Your time & talents leave a lasting impact on our learning community!

Join the Heart of LearningQUEST!

LearningQUEST is a vibrant, volunteer-driven organization led by a dedicated Board of Directors and supported by a range of volunteer committees. These volunteers coordinate and facilitate all of our essential day-to-day activities. Member participation plays a vital role in our ongoing success, creating a thriving community where everyone can contribute their talents.

Whether you excel in administrative work, artistic endeavors, teaching, hospitality, or public relations, there's a place for you at LearningQUEST. By joining our active community of volunteers, you can make a meaningful impact and help shape the future of our organization.

To find out more about how you can get involved, contact us at VolunteerLead@lquest.org. Together, we make LearningQUEST an engaging, dynamic space for lifelong learning!

Landon, 30

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Registration

When does registration begin?

- Spring Term - January 1
- Fall Term - July 1
- Catalog is published online one week prior to registration opening.
- Registration continues throughout the term as long as space is available.

How do I join and/or register for courses?

- Join and pay online at LQUEST.org
- Go to LQUEST.org, complete downloaded forms, and mail along with fees to: LearningQUEST, P.O. Box 2387, Huntsville, AL 35804
- Come during office hours to sign up.
- During non-office hours, completed forms and fees can be dropped off in the office door mail slot.
- Attend a Rally Day in January or July at the Jaycees Building. Look for announcements at LQUEST.org.

How do I know if I am successfully enrolled?

- Notifications of your course status are emailed when registration is completed (or sent by mail if no email address is provided).
- If course limits have been exceeded, registrants may be placed on a waitlist. If an opening occurs, registrants will be notified.
- Reminder emails are sent to all registrants at least five days before the course starts.

What is the Drop/Add Policy?

- No longer able to attend a class you registered for? Interested in adding a course?
 - Add/drop through your account at LQUEST.org, or
 - Email Registrar@lquest.org

What happens when a course or trip reaches its maximum capacity?

- The LearningQUEST registrar maintains a waitlist in order of registration date, and working with the instructor and scheduler may:
- Review class size to see if limits can be increased, or a larger venue is available.
- Schedule additional sessions in the same term or repeat the program in a later term.

What does "pending" status mean?

- A member has registered for a class but the required fee must be paid to be officially enrolled.

How do I change my "pending" status to "enrolled"?

- All registrants receive payment instructions in their course status notification after they register for their courses.
- The instructions will include all the payment info.
- If you have not received your instructions, contact Registrar@lquest.org.
- When the fee is paid, a member is moved to "enrolled" status as long as there are available spaces in the course.
- Courses are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Members are registered in the order the fees are received.

How do I register for a trip?

- Information can be found in the Trips section of the catalog.
- Members can sign up for most trips on the class registration form.
- Trip registration is not complete until payment and a signed Release of Liability form are received.

Fees

Membership

- \$20 per calendar year (January – December), and are not prorated.
 - Overpayments are considered donations.
- Exception: New members registering after October 1 receive free membership for the remainder of that calendar year.

Term Fees

- \$30 a term; with this fee you can sign up for as many courses as you like!

How to pay

- Online at LQUEST.org

- By check. Couples are encouraged to combine their payments on a single check.

Additional Fees

- If fees are noted in the course description, the coordinator will provide instructions for payment (by check only). Checks will be held until one week prior to the event and then deposited. Should a program be canceled, checks will be returned or destroyed. No refund will be provided after expenses have been incurred in advance of the program start date. Spaces will be allocated in the order in which the coordinator receives the required fee.

Inclement Weather

Member Information

What is the inclement weather policy?

LearningQUEST follows the weather policy of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.

Library closures are posted and updated throughout the day at HMCPL.org.

If the Downtown branch closes, our classes will be canceled.

Program coordinators will notify all members registered for a program when there is a cancellation at the library or any other venue.

How can I stay up to date on LearningQUEST activities?

- Visit the LearningQUEST website, LQUEST.org. The online calendar reflects updated program changes.
- Weekly E-News
 - Goes out every Saturday morning and includes upcoming trips, public programs, course schedule changes, MEETups, Happenings, and so much more!
 - Don't have email? No problem. A copy of the weekly E-News is in the LearningQUEST glass case display, in the hallway leading to the Downtown Library auditorium.
- Follow LearningQUEST on Facebook.

Why am I not getting my LearningQUEST E-News?

- Is it in your spam folder? Check, and if it is, move it to your Inbox.
- Have you been inadvertently unsubscribed? If you share an email, this can happen. Tell them how important getting the E-News is to you!
- Need assistance? Contact Membership@lquest.org.

What if I don't want a LearningQUEST photographer to take my picture?

- Tell the event photographer.
- If you wish to have a picture deleted from the LearningQUEST website or Facebook page, let us know at LearningQUEST@lquest.org.

Who can be a member of LearningQUEST?

- Adults of all ages, 19 and older, who are interested in lifeline learning.

Where is the LearningQUEST office and when is it open?

- We are located on the second floor of the Downtown Huntsville Public Library (in the alcove to the left of the Reference Desk).
- Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10-12 and Thursdays, 1-4
- Phone: (256) 529-8695

Where do I report a change in my contact information?

- Any changes in your address, phone number, or email? Let us know!
- Contact Membership@lquest.org

Where can I get a replacement name badge or badge holder?

- Lost your name badge? Contact MembershipData@lquest.org
- Misplaced your green badge holder? Replacements can be purchased for \$6 during office hours.

Can guests attend a LearningQUEST program?

- Yes, we love having guests!
- Guests are invited to enjoy one single session if the class is not full.

How do I report my volunteer hours?

- Have you contributed your time to LearningQUEST? If so, THANK YOU!
- Report your monthly hours to VolunteerHours@lquest.org.

LearningQUEST Human Resources Policy

LearningQUEST offers learning opportunities in an open and friendly environment with respect and dignity for all participants and presenters. LearningQUEST does not treat members or employees differently because of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, or religion. Furthermore, LearningQUEST does not tolerate any behavior from members, employees, presenters, or guests that interferes with any

LearningQUEST activity, which may include Special Interest Groups (SIGs), programs, trips, or other activities/outings. If anyone thinks they have been treated unfairly, they can file a complaint with the Human Resources Committee, and it will be investigated thoroughly. LearningQUEST Human Resources may be contacted at HumanResources@lquest.org.

MEMBER COURSES (WITH TERM FEE)

Term Fee of \$30 Required for Unlimited Courses

Downtown Library: AUD (Auditorium), 2FL (2nd Floor Events Room), Studio (Makerspace Studio, 1st floor), A (beside Auditorium), FCR (Foundation Conference Room, 2nd floor), **South Huntsville Public Library:** SLib (Classroom)

1-The Value, Purpose and Future of Work

Instructor: Liz Hall
Dates: 3 Tuesdays Jan. 14 – 28
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: 2FL

The nature of work has a long history with a variety of types, values, and purposes. This presentation will lay out man's interaction with work, its tasks, values, role in society, advantages (benefits) and disadvantages (human and society costs) over time. It will conclude with discussions on the future of work with its many challenges. The format will include lectures and guided discussions to enhance understanding of the issues.

2-The Cranes are Coming!

Instructor: Tom Ress
Dates: 1 Tuesday Jan. 14
Time: 1 – 2
Location: Wheeler Wildlife Refuge



The cranes are coming, and the perfect place to witness this amazing arrival is at the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge in January. There will be an introductory lecture at the Visitors Center and then a short walk to the heated Observation Building with benches providing excellent viewing of the cranes. Visiting Wheeler when the cranes are so active remains a special treat. Tom Ress is a long-time volunteer instructor with extreme knowledge and a delightful personality. The coordinator will provide driving directions to registered members. For further information see wheeler@fws.gov or call 256-350-6639. *Max: 110*

3-CHAMPION Nutrition Class

Instructor: Nkenge Hyter
Dates: 7 Wednesdays Jan. 15 – Feb. 26
Time: 11 – 12
Location: Extension Service Office

CHAMPION stands for Community Health Aerobic Motivational Program Initiating Optimal Nutrition. This program consists of a series of lessons aimed at helping participants make healthier food choices. Benefits include gaining a better understanding of nutrition terminology, learning how to read food labels, improving meal prep skills, discovering healthy snacking options, and finding ways to substitute high-calorie, high-fat foods

with nutrient-dense alternatives. Topics will include Healthy Living (MyPlate, Water, Major Nutrients, Food Labels, etc.); Nutrition Myths or Facts; Know Your Numbers; Heart Health; Patient Portal (How to navigate virtual medical information); Meal Planning; Food Demonstration. The program will be held at the Madison County Extension Service Office, 819 Cook Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801. *Max: 35*

4-Sharks and Gators and Bears, Oh My!

Instructor: Tom Ress
Dates: 1 Thursday Jan. 16
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

Alabama has incredible wildlife diversity including a number of charismatic species. From sharks in the Gulf of Mexico to whooping cranes, bats, bears, and gators right here in north Alabama, there are plenty of opportunities to encounter exciting creatures. Tom will talk about the above species plus pelicans, sandhill cranes, eagles, and other species that we are starting to see that are not normally spotted in this part of the state, possibly due to climate change. The presenter has accompanied state and federal biologists in the field and has had unique opportunities to interface with many of our most intriguing animal residents. He will provide photographs and first-person insights into these animals.



5-Artificial Intelligence

Instructor: J. Langley
Dates: 3 Thursdays Jan. 16 – 30
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: AUD

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming a common tool used by students, educators, and businesses, but what exactly is AI, and how does it function? This program explores the fundamentals of AI, examining whether it "thinks" like a human brain, how it processes questions,



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for the use of your facilities
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and how it investigates queries. We'll delve into the legal, ethical, and moral considerations surrounding AI, including potential biases in its responses, and discuss how to distinguish truth from misinformation. Additionally, we'll examine AI's strengths, weaknesses, and the mechanics behind its operations to better understand this rapidly advancing technology.

6-American Poetry of the 1980s and '90s

Instructor: Jeff Nelson
Dates: 4 Fridays Jan. 17 – Feb. 7
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: 2FL

This course will examine some of the most exciting American poetry of the 1980s and 1990s: Rita Dove recreates the marriage of her maternal grandparents; Denise Levertov journeys toward religious conversion in the face of doubt; Louise Glück explores human life in a dialogue between flowers, a gardener, and God; and Amy Clampitt discovers personal and cultural meaning in the American landscape. No previous knowledge of poetry is required.

7-The War of 1812 and Its Impact on Alabama

Instructor: Guy Collins
Dates: 2 Wednesdays Jan. 22 – 29
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

This course will present a short overview of the complicated, strange military conflict with Great Britain, the War of 1812. It will explain how a regional, Native American crisis became a humiliating national war with Washington DC burned by the British. The program will highlight amazing stories of American heroes who saved the infant country, including Dolley Madison, James Monroe, and General Andrew Jackson. *Min: 20 Max: 80*

8-Beginning Tai Chi and Qigong

Instructor: Xingrong Chen
Dates: 10 Wednesdays Jan. 22 – Mar. 26
Time: 1 – 2
Location: AUD

Tai Chi (TIE-CHEE) is an ancient Chinese tradition that is practiced today as a graceful form of exercise and is one of the most popular methods of movement for seniors. It involves a series of movements performed in a slow, focused manner and accompanied by deep breathing. Practicing tai chi can improve both physical and mental



Photos of LearningQUEST Activities Needed!

- Snap your pictures
- Write a brief statement for the post
- Send them to both:
 - SocialMedia@LQUEST.org
 - PhotoArchive@LQUEST.org
- Pat yourself on the back for sharing the fun!

health. Qigong involves using exercise to optimize energy within the body, mind, and spirit with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being. This class will be both for beginners and intermediates.
Min: 10 Max: 40

9-Introduction to Psychology as a Social Science

Instructor: William (Bill) Confer, Ph.D.
Dates: 5 Thursdays Jan. 23 – Feb. 20
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: SLIB

Modern psychology uses the scientific method to study thought, experience, and behavior. This course will review some of the historical right and wrong turns that ultimately steered psychology from authoritative guesses and outright quackery to evidence-based applications and practices. Although not a course in memory improvement, it will include an overview of the basics of learning, forgetting, and memory revealed by psychological research and then illustrate their applications to techniques for learning efficiency and improved retention.

Thanks for being on time for class.

Being seated at class start time shows respect for the presenters who have volunteered to teach classes for us.

Occasionally things happen that make us late. When this happens, it is respectful to the class and presenters to close the door quietly when entering, sit in the back and don't disturb others by going up front.

10-Writing Your Life Story

Instructor: Peter A. Finzel, Ph.D.
Dates: 8 Mondays Jan. 27 – Mar. 17
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: SLIB

This is a class for anyone who has ever wanted to write a short story about some time or life event. Participants may look forward to creating a short story for themselves, their children or grandchildren or for a friend. The class will provide an opportunity to do just that (one- and one-half pages generally) and share it with the class. This is not a "how to write" course but an environment to encourage and support writing efforts. Hand-outs and reading recommendations will guide the process as well as advice from fellow writers. Class members will read bits of their story and enjoy sharing and hearing the stories of their classmates.
Min: 10 Max: 30

11-Beginner's Meditation

Instructor: Shilo Bias
Dates: 4 Mondays Jan. 27 – Feb. 17
Time: 6 – 7
Location: 2FL

This course will present the basics of how to begin a personal meditation practice. Meditation has many

benefits such as relief from stress and anxiety as well as training the mind to maintain presence while building tools for greater ease amidst challenging emotions and body sensations. Class members will learn to develop their own meditation practice in a way that will work for them. *Max: 8*

Looking for a Website Developer

WordPress experience needed in development of a new LearningQUEST website. If you can help, please contact Communications@lquest.org.

12-Skull Identification for the Curious Naturalist

Instructor: Beth Girard
Dates: 1 Wednesday Jan. 29
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: SLIB

Walkers sometimes come across a skull while strolling through the woods and wonder what creature it belonged to. This class will provide a tour of skull parts and identify those characteristics that are indicators of specific families. Participants will learn to use a dichotomous key to wend their way to the correct answers. *Min: 4 Max: 36*

13-Armchair Travel Series #25

Instructor: Multiple
Dates: 5 Mondays Feb. 3 – Mar.3
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: AUD



Participants are invited to grab a chair and take off on some fun travel adventures.

Feb. 3—Southern Africa Safari. Tom Ress trekked through Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Africa on a quest to see Africa's "Big Five," the five most iconic

animals on the continent. Travelers arrive by bush planes at remote tented lodges in Hwange, Kafue, and Chobe National Parks. They paddle a mokoro (canoe) in the Okavango Delta, go on a walking safari in search of elusive and endangered white rhinos, and take a helicopter ride over spectacular Victoria Falls. Southern Africa's vast areas of protected habitat are home to large populations of animals including elephants, leopards, hippos, lions, and hyenas.

Feb. 10—Jane's Travels. Jane Maples shares her travel explorations over the years highlighting the beauty of God's creation; then she tells of her 2024 explorations taking her "from sea to shining sea" and to the "heartland of America." She includes highlights from her quest to see all 50 states, the National Parks, and several countries. Her 2024 travels are from the Atlantic (Maine) to the Pacific (Washington State) with a quick jaunt into New Brunswick and British Columbia, Canada. The concluding tour is a "Heartland of America" road trip primarily to see Oklahoma and Nebraska. Travelers will enjoy seeing God's creation and experiencing "America the Beautiful."

Feb. 17—Japan - A Three Generation Adventure.

Barbara and Gary Hitt share a multi-media presentation of the Hitts' trip to Japan with their daughter and 14 year-old granddaughter. They were astounded by an interactive art museum, enjoyed visiting shrines and temples, rode the bullet train, fed snow monkeys and deer who politely bowed to them, while the teen was in anime heaven.

Feb. 24—Land of the Midnight Sun. Charles and Judy Gattis' recent fifteen-day Viking Tour of Norway and Scotland began in Bergen and ended in London. Arriving early in Bergen, they also took a one-day excursion with Norway in a Nutshell, traveling by train, bus, and boat to visit fjords and other sites in the area around Bergen.

Mar. 3—Frolicking in the Flora. Enjoy a spectacular photographic tour of Colorado wildflowers, glorious golden aspen, and autumnal colors of the eerie Big Cypress Bayou. Master photographers, Emily Saile and Barbara Staggs, will present a collection of images that capture the changing seasons in the West.

14-Caricatures with Fred

Instructor: Fred Sayers
Dates: 4 Tuesdays Feb. 4 – 25
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: 2FL

This class offers a wonderful opportunity to delight friends and family. The program will be a beginner's guide to drawing caricatures. The participants will learn the fundamentals of looking at a subject, examining features, and creating a humorous likeness. Participants should bring paper and pencils to each meeting. *Max: 20*

MakerSpace



Create in the
Downtown MakerSpace Studio!
Appointments available.
For more information call
256-532-5955.

15-The Paradox of Femininity Part 2

Instructor: Debbie Dempsey West
Dates: 6 Thursdays Feb. 6 – Mar. 13
Time: 1:30 – 3
Location: AUD

This class offers an overview of the beauty and power of women as portrayed in art dating back thousands of years. The subject is "Woman, the Feminine Gender" as a recurrent subject in art. Participants will examine how female lives, joys, taboos, rage, and blurred sexual lines are evident in the most revered masterpieces. The sculptor Praxiteles (mid-4th century BC) introduced the female nude into art in what was to become probably the most popular subject of all time, the female nude, the sacred, and the profane.

16-Friday Film Festival: Spencer Tracy

Instructor: Jennifer Garlen
Dates: 4 Fridays Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4, May 2
Time: 2 – 4:30
Location: AUD



Our featured star this term is Spencer Tracy, with four films that showcase different facets of his career. Viewing will start with *Captains Courageous* (1937), which earned Tracy his first Best Actor Oscar. Then Tracy takes a dark turn in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1941) before moving on to his legendary pairings with Katharine Hepburn in *Woman of the Year* (1942) and *Adam's Rib* (1949). Each film screening will begin with an introduction and be followed by group discussion.

17-A Conversation with Mayor Tommy Battle

Instructor: Tommy Battle
Dates: 1 Tuesday Feb. 11
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

Huntsville's Mayor Tommy Battle will answer questions posed to him by retired Methodist Minister, Dr. Charles Gattis. Mayor Battle will share his plans/objectives for his next administration and Huntsville's future. He will also address his plan/strategy for handling the issues our city faces as the population continues to grow. He probably will also answer questions about his career and life. Time will be allowed for a question-and-answer period, so this will be a great opportunity to ask the mayor a question.

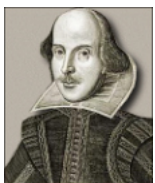
18-International Dining

Instructor: Jane Wodtke
Dates: 5 Tuesdays Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13, Jun. 10
Time: 5 – 8
Location: Various

Join us monthly for an international dining experience. Starting in Feb, we will eat and critique Italian, Vietnamese, Greek, Indian, and Thai cuisine in and around the Huntsville area. Our rating of these restaurants will be in the LearningQUEST E-News. Mangia Tutti!! Max: 30

19-Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet

Instructor: Jeff Nelson
Dates: 3 Fridays Feb. 14 – 28
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: 2FL



How did class members react to Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet in high school? Perhaps they loved it, perhaps they were confused. Some probably endured it or even hated it. But what about now? What new themes will be discovered, and what jokes will be better understood? What is the

current view of very young lovers? To what extent has the play changed for readers? Or are readers the ones who have changed? The group will explore this play by discussing key scenes from some excellent DVDs. This course is designed for both beginners and long-time Shakespeare lovers.

20-Let's Do Lunch - Group 1

Instructor: No instructor
Dates: 4 Tuesdays Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 20
Time: 11 – 12:30
Location: Various

LearningQUEST "Let's Do Lunch" - Group 1 will lunch at various locations within the Huntsville/Madison area. Two weeks prior to the monthly luncheon, the coordinator will identify the "Restaurant of the Month" and will obtain a head count of those planning to attend. The group will meet on designated Tuesdays. Please register for one group only; duplicate registrations will be removed. Max: 25

BECAUSE IT WORKS...

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21-Introduction to the Zentangle Method of Drawing

Instructor: Beth Powel
Dates: 3 Tuesdays Feb. 18 – Mar. 4
Time: 2 – 3:30
Location: 2FL

Zentangle is a meditative drawing method using short, simple strokes to create non-representational patterns and designs using a few basic tools. It does not require previous drawing skill as it is a mindful process focusing on repetitive lines and shading. All patterns can be broken down into the same strokes used to make the letters i, c, s, and o. Drawing "tangles" is relaxing, increases focus, and still allows each person to create beautiful patterns. The process was developed by husband-and-wife team Rick Roberts and Maria Thomas, and the method enjoys an international following. Max: 10

22-Six Steps to Legacy Planning for the Generations

Instructor: Ron Moody
Dates: 1 Wednesday Feb. 19
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

Generational Planning is a modern, forward-thinking, and intentional two-phase process of first passing on a family's tangible wealth and assets and, secondly,

conveying its values and history, all for the benefit of the next generation. This course will provide materials needed to build a team of professionals all focused on helping clients and prospects transfer their assets in the best way possible.

23-Let's Do Lunch - Group 2

Instructor: No instructor
Dates: 4 Wednesdays Feb. 19, Mar. 19, Apr. 16, May 21
Time: 11 – 12:30
Location: Various

See the description for Group 1. Group 2 will meet on designated Wednesdays. Note: Please register for one group only; duplicate registrations will be canceled.
Max: 25



Fall '25 Term Programs

Got an idea for a new program? Just click on the "General Proposal Form" at the LQUEST.org website, and email your idea to Proposals@lquest.org.

24-The Mexican-American War: 1846-1848

Instructor: Guy Collins
Dates: 2 Thursdays Feb. 20 – 27
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

This course presents an overview of the controversial conflict between the United States and its neighbor to the south. It will provide profiles of the eight presidents involved plus discussion about dozens of future Civil War military leaders and the enormous land acquisition that resulted in far-reaching political consequences.

Min: 20 Max: 80

25-Let's Do Lunch - Group 3

Instructor: No instructor
Dates: 4 Thursdays Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 22
Time: 11 – 12:30
Location: Various

See the description for Group 1. Group 3 will meet on designated Thursdays. Note: Please register for one group only; duplicate registrations will be canceled.
Max: 25

26-Intermediate Tai Chi and Qigong

Instructor: Xingrong Chen
Dates: 6 Fridays Feb. 21 – Mar. 28
Time: 10 – 11
Location: AUD

Tai Chi (TIE-CHEE) is an ancient Chinese tradition that is practiced today as a graceful form of exercise and one of the most popular methods of movement for seniors. It involves a series of movements performed in a slow,

focused manner and accompanied by deep breathing. Practicing tai chi can improve both physical and mental health. Qigong involves using exercise to optimize energy within the body, mind, and spirit with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being. Students should have some experience with Tai Chi. It is not necessary to have Qigong experience.

Min: 10 Max: 40

27-Learning Lessons for Life and Living from Historic Conservationists

Instructor: Steve Jones, Ph.D.
Dates: 6 Tuesdays Feb. 25 – Apr. 1
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: Residences at WellPoint

This course will introduce, describe, and explore the knowledge and wisdom of notable conservationists. Class members will assess timeless conservation philosophy and consider how this wisdom applies to issues of the day. This program will be held at Residences at Wellpoint, 2940 Mill Run Rd, Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763.

28-How Tax Planning Changes Through the Four Stages of Retirement

Instructor: Ron Moody
Dates: 1 Wednesday Feb. 26
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

People often pay more in taxes than expected because a confusing system treats various income types differently and contains hidden taxes and penalties. The course will cover the appropriate strategies for each of the four stages of retirement: pre-retirement, early retirement, middle retirement, and late retirement.

29-The WellHouse - Human Trafficking Overview

Instructor: Leah Sanderson
Dates: 1 Thursday Mar. 6
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

Human trafficking has grown significantly in Alabama in recent years, endangering the lives of many desperate individuals while lining the pockets of criminals. The WellHouse in Odenville, Alabama serves adult and minor victims of trafficking. The presenter will go over the mission, history, work of the organization and describe the current landscape of human trafficking in our state/country.



Report Your Volunteer Hours

Reporting your volunteer hours is VERY important to the library! Just click VOLUNTEER HOURS at the bottom of the E-News or send your hours to VolunteerHours@lquest.org.

*Visit Marie's Pollinator Garden
at Blevins Gap*
"If we die, we're taking you with us!"
The Bees

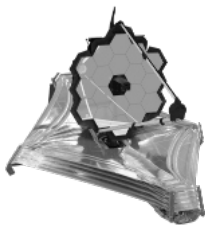
Land Trust of North Alabama
landtrustnal.org

Gordon & Susan Bakken

30-James Webb Space Telescope - Design to Discovery, 2025 Update

Instructor: Michael Stallcup
Dates: 1 Monday Mar. 10
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: AUD

This presentation is an overview of the design and engineering that created the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), from the challenges of creating a new type of telescope to getting it into space and how it functions. Comparisons of previous images from other space telescopes of the same areas taken by JWST will be presented. Recent images from JWST will be included and discussed.



31-The Enigma of Mary Todd Lincoln

Instructor: Mary Pat Riley
Dates: 1 Tuesday Mar. 11
Time: 2 – 3:30
Location: AUD

Mary Todd Lincoln was possibly the most controversial wife of any American president. Born into an aristocratic Kentucky family of 14 children, raised by slaves and educated in an era when women were rarely schooled, Mary Todd Lincoln was smart, pretty, and outgoing. After her mother's death, Mary Todd Lincoln went to live with her oldest sister in Springfield, Illinois, to participate in the local social season. There she met a young attorney named Abraham Lincoln "and the rest is history." She was the mother of four sons, three who died before adulthood. She was a social outcast in Washington DC even though she was First Lady. She lived through the bloody Civil War and had siblings who fought and died for both sides. She witnessed the murder of her husband and was put through a public court hearing where her only surviving son had her declared mentally unsound and placed her in an institution. Was she truly ill or was she a victim of her life's awful events? Come hear about the life and times of Mary Todd Lincoln and decide for yourself. *Min: 25*

Facebook assistance needed.
Please contact SocialMedia@lquest.org

Frequent LearningQUEST Presenters



For 30 years, Longview Financial Advisors has been a trusted, fee-only, fiduciary advisor in the Huntsville community, dedicated to helping individuals and families achieve their financial and philanthropic goals. Our personalized approach to wealth management and charitable planning ensures that our clients receive expert guidance and support every step of the way. Let us help you secure your financial future while making a meaningful impact.



PRESENTATION SUPPORT NEEDED

You are going to a program anyway, so why not help set up the computers for the presenter? Training provided. It is easy! Contact AV@lquest.org.

32-An Effective Way of Lobbying Your Members of Congress

Instructor: Jessie Whitehead
Dates: 1 Wednesday Mar. 12
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a national, nonpartisan Quaker organization that lobbies Congress for peace, justice, and environmental stewardship. FCNL unites Quakers and allies who believe in the power of relationships to shape public policy. Relying on its lobbyists and a vast network of advocates, FCNL works with policymakers to find common ground. The Advocacy Teams Network, comprising over 1,500 Quakers and friends nationwide, empowers constituents to drive change in Washington. The Huntsville Advocacy Team, one of 135 teams, includes member Jessie Whitehead, who will present on Quaker methods of lobbying through in-district meetings, emails, and letters, emphasizing respect and listening to foster change.

33-Making Beautiful Landscape Photos

Instructor: Tom Bryant
Dates: 6 Mondays Mar. 17 – Apr. 21
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: SLIB

Landscape photos are compelling and beautiful. They make a great addition to any journey. Tom Bryant and *National Geographic* photographer Michael Melford will present a class about this art. Tom will teach one-third of each session with an introduction to the day's topic and current events of local interest. Michael will teach the remaining two-thirds of each class with topics such as Color in Landscapes, Site Research, Travel Photos, and Computer Editing. This will be more a photography art appreciation class than a technical "how to use a camera" class, rather like walking through a gallery with an excellent photographer and having them explain the photos and provide some tips. The experience will be valuable for both experienced photographers and those interested in understanding more about art. The class will conclude with a suggested photo assignment. Each session stands alone, and attending the previous class is not required.

34-March Madness

Instructor: Jill Burt
Dates: 2 Tuesdays Mar. 18, Apr. 8
Time: 10 – 11
Location: SLIB

This program will encourage participants to enjoy March Madness even more than usual. They will fill out their bracket and compete with LearningQUEST friends for the best bracket. Each correct guess will receive a score. The score will increase with each succeeding tournament round. The class will first meet right after the NCAA announces the bracket. The next meeting will be at the end of the tournament. The student with the best score will receive the recognition of friends and perhaps even a prize. *Min: 3 Max: 25*



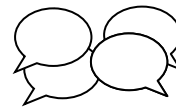
35-Carolina Shag Dance Lessons

Instructor: David and Ann Jones
Dates: 6 Tuesdays Mar. 18 – Apr. 22
Time: 2 – 3
Location: AUD

Carolina Shag is a partner dance that was born on the beaches of the Atlantic Coast. It is a smooth, graceful dance and is a lot of fun. Easy to learn and very sociable, this is the perfect dance to know for a party. This class will help participants master the basics. *Max: 30*

36-Front Porch Conversations

Instructor: June Norton
Dates: 6 Thursdays Mar. 20 – Apr. 24
Time: 1:30 – 3
Location: 2FL



Topics of current social, philosophical, and political issues will be considered, with civility, in a structured environment that allows each class member to actively participate in the dialogue. The purpose of meaningful conversation is to come to an understanding of the other, not to determine if they are good, bad, right, or wrong. It requires deep reflection and the ability to disagree with others while respecting their sincerity and decency. Members will custom design the course by choosing the topics and identifying questions to be considered. *Min: 15 Max: 30*

37-HudsonAlpha Guidebook Talk

Instructor: Kelly East
Dates: 1 Monday Mar. 24
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: HudsonAlpha Institute of Biotechnology

HudsonAlpha, a world-renowned research institute, works to cure cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Kelly East will represent this organization and discuss the latest in genomics and biotech discoveries and why they matter. These programs are always interesting and



Special thanks to WLRH for their support in helping spread the word about LearningQUEST.

informative for those who attend; East will surely bring something new to the table. The program will be held at HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, 601 Genome Way Northwest, Huntsville, AL 35806 *Min: 15. Max: 75*

38-Garden Tour of Bennett's Nurseries

Instructor: Jeff Bennett
Dates: 1 Thursday Mar. 27
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: Bennett's Nursery

Jeff Bennett, owner of Bennett Nurseries, will conduct a tour of the nursery describing the various plants, trees, and flowers for a beautiful outing of the grounds. During the tour, Jeff will offer insights on how to incorporate these plants into home landscapes as well as practical tips on their care for all colors of thumbs—not just the green ones. The program will be held at Bennett's Nursery, 7002 Memorial Pkwy NW, Huntsville, AL 35810
Min: 10 Max: 20

39-PHYT For Your Life: A Cookin' Up Good Health Presentation

Instructor: Donna Green-Goodman
Dates: 1 Monday Mar. 31
Time: 10 – 12
Location: Lifestyle Therapeutix

Plant powered living is here to stay. It is beneficial from conception and throughout all stages of life. While plants provide nutrients and fiber, scientists have discovered “phytochemicals” that help to prevent, treat, and reverse disease. All plant foods are FULL of them. And, when prepared in tasty dishes, they are a pleasure to eat. Health educator and breast cancer survivor, Donna Green-Goodman, MPH, shares how to be PHYT for Life. This program will be held at Lifestyle Therapeutix, 4825 University Square, Suite 9, Huntsville, AL 35816.
Max: 25

40-Thaddeus Lowe: Who was He and Did He Make a Difference in the American Civil War?

Instructor: Cheryl McAuley, Ph.D.
Dates: 1 Thursday Apr. 3
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

This presentation highlights unique inventions introduced by Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, whose vision for a Balloon Corps in the Union Army was received enthusiastically by some and rejected by others. His creativity and perseverance were admirable traits and an inspiration to many.

41-The Masters: Moments and Mystique of Golf's Most Iconic Tournament

Instructor: Neal Waygood
Dates: 1 Monday Apr. 7
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

The Masters, a springtime tradition unlike any other, is golf's first major of the season. This class will explore the origins of the tournament as well as examine the course on which it has been played for the past 90 years. The presenter will explore the history of the tournament, past champions, and the rich traditions that endure at golf's most iconic tournament. Triumphs and tragedies will be explored as well as fun facts and tournament idiosyncrasies. The program will highlight some of the most memorable moments in tournament history. In addition, it previews this year's tournament with great anticipation.



42-Old Town Walking Tour - Tour 1

Instructor: Katie Stamps
Dates: 1 Wednesday Apr. 9
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: Old Town

Old Town Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places on July 18, 1978. Roughly bounded by Dement and Lincoln streets and Randolph and Walker avenues, it features homes in a variety of styles including Victorian, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, American Craftsman, and even Prairie School. The western half of Old Town was incorporated into the city in 1843. By 1861, approximately 25 houses were present in the roughly 100 acres that make up Old Town. In 1871, the east part of Old Town was incorporated into the City of Huntsville as the East Addition, and Walker was opened to development. Growth was encouraged because the area was within walking distance of downtown Huntsville, the Memphis and Charleston railroad depot and the city's first cotton mill on Jefferson Street. By 1892, Dallas Mill was located just north of Old Town, further stimulating development. The Old Town area was settled by merchants and professional people. Old Town is the only complete section of Huntsville which displays a true Victorian character. Participants should bring only what they can carry comfortably (water, sunscreen, comfortable shoes, light snacks). Participants should check the weather and dress accordingly. Also offered Apr. 23, course #48. Please register for one tour only; duplicate registrations will be removed. *Max: 35*

SIGs (Special Interest Groups)



For even more fun, check all of the Special Interest Groups in the Spring lineup.
For more info, email or call the contact person in the SIG description.



LearningQUEST is on Facebook!

Show your support -
COMMENTS, LIKES, and SHARES are appreciated!

43-Improve Your Bridge Game

Instructor: Jack Albers
Dates: 5 Thursdays Apr. 10 – May 8
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: SLIB

The material presented is intended for advanced beginners and intermediate level players. The course will present solutions to common situations that cause problems for many players. The “law of total tricks” is introduced for both offensive and defensive play. Doubling is a potential gold mine for points. Doubling for both offense and defensive play is addressed. The short club opening is presented. This overcomes certain difficult opening situations. The play of the hand will also be addressed. The reason for the Stayman convention will be discussed and a detailed flow chart presented.

44-Huntsville Police Crime Investigation - Techniques & Strategies

Instructor: Joseph Scarborough
Dates: 1 Tuesday Apr. 15
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

Are Huntsville and the surrounding area safer or more dangerous than in the past? What crimes are prevalent? This course will describe the HSV police department's special crime analysis unit, which coordinates city and county law enforcement by using advanced techniques in the form of drones to aid in surveillance of crime scenes. Statistical analysis is also used to determine what, where, and when certain crimes occur. The presentation will show the results of these analyses and how they apply to the wider Huntsville area.

Become a Program Coordinator.

It's an easy way to contribute to
LearningQUEST. Communications and
email skills are useful.

Training is provided.

Contact CoordinatorLead@lquest.org.

45-Two Step Chair/Line Dance

Instructor: Nkenge Hyter
Dates: 7 Thursdays Apr. 17 – May 29
Time: 1 – 2
Location: AUD

A fun, interactive, 1-hour aerobic chair/line dance class is the perfect way for older American to increase steps, enjoy a total body workout, and have a blast while doing it. Participants will feel the rhythm and let their bodies groove to the beats. Chair/line dance is designed to

cater to all fitness levels, promoting cardiovascular health and enhancing overall well-being. Each dance step is carefully crafted to engage mind and body, making it a delightful experience that benefits both physical and cognitive health. This dance routine is specifically designed for older adults, ensuring a safe and enjoyable workout. It is a fantastic way to socialize, stay active, and keep those joints moving. *Max: 40*

46-The Chamber of Commerce - What We Do and the Impact We Have on the Community

Instructor: Michael D. Ward
Dates: 1 Monday Apr. 21
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

The Chamber of Commerce is the lead economic development organization for the Huntsville community. Its mission is to prepare, develop, and promote the community for economic growth. This presentation will discuss the Chamber's role in economic development and how it interacts with federal, state, and local government entities to impact the region.

Thanks for turning off and not using your cell phone during class.

Cell phones ringing and attendees using their phones during a class is distracting for presenters.

Most presenters won't mind if you take a photo of a slide as long as it is done quietly.

47-Recycling Plastics

Instructor: Bill Carter
Dates: 2 Tuesdays Apr. 22 – 29
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: SLIB

Plastics are widely used due to their ability to conform to nearly any shape, color, or texture, making them indispensable in various applications. Their strength lies in their longevity and durability, but these qualities also pose challenges when it comes to disposal. Plastics resist degradation by time, exposure, or immersion in fluids, making them difficult to eliminate. Furthermore, as plastics break down, they micronize into particles so small they become toxic to human beings and animals that ingest them. This program explores techniques and processes to destroy or repurpose excess plastic, turning this environmental menace into new, useful materials. *Min 15 Max: 30*

48-Old Town Walking Tour - Tour 2

Instructor: Katie Stamps
Dates: 1 Wednesday Apr. 23
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: Old Town

Also offered Apr. 9 (see course description #42). Please register for one tour only; duplicate registrations will be removed.

FUN!

Friendship!

The **MEETup** Committee invites you to concerts, lunches, trivia, and more!

Be sure to check the **Saturday weekly email E-News** for details on upcoming events!



49-Old Man River - The Mighty Mississippi

Instructor: Rick Suever
Dates: 2 Thursdays Apr. 24 – May 1
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

Take an unforgettable journey along the mighty Mississippi River. This captivating two-part series will delve into the fascinating hydrology of this iconic river and uncover its profound impact on the United States, from its early days to the present. Starting at Lake Itasca in Minnesota and flowing all the way to the Louisiana Delta Basin, the class will explore the diverse landscapes and rich cultural heritage that make the Mississippi River a true American treasure.

50-LearningQUEST's Got Talent - Art From the Heart

Instructor: Shobha Bhat
Dates: 1 Friday Apr. 25
Time: 2 – 4
Location: AUD

For 15 years, LearningQUEST has offered diverse arts and crafts classes, from jewelry making to creative writing, painting, and flower arranging. Volunteer instructors have provided members with enriching experiences, often helping them uncover hidden creative talents they never knew they had. Now, we're inviting members to showcase their creations in a special "Art From the Heart" Show & Tell session. This is an opportunity for participants to display their work, share their stories, and celebrate their artistic journeys. Friends are welcome to join in the fun as we highlight the creativity that thrives in our community. Members interested in displaying their work will receive detailed instructions on how to participate.

A REMINDER...

always keep current by reading the weekly E-News and checking LQUEST.org for updates, course changes, and new offerings.

51-Spanish: Reading and Writing

Instructor: Elaine Fredericksen
Dates: 6 Thursdays May 1 – Jun. 5
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: SLIB

This course is designed for students with some background in Spanish who want to improve their reading and writing skills. Short reading selections will encourage group reading and analysis, followed by dictation and other writing exercises. Can reading and writing be fun? Of course they can. No pressure, no homework, just the joy of becoming more fluent.

52-Voter Education by the League of Women Voters

Instructor: Multiple
Dates: 2 Fridays May 9 – 16
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: AUD

The League of Women Voters, a national organization, has existed for over 100 years, with local units all over the United States. Huntsville's local unit is called The League of Women Voters of the Tennessee Valley (LWVTNV) and serves five counties in North Alabama. The state League serves 15 counties and is increasing in numbers. In two one-hour sessions, leaders of the local and state leagues will share current goals and activities related to getting out the vote and advocating for citizens' rights and responsibilities. Get answers to your questions about voting. *Min: 20*

53-Heart Matters - Cardiology

Instructor: Gordon H. Cash, M.D.
Dates: 1 Wednesday May 21
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD



Dr. Gordon Cash will lead an in-depth discussion of the changes and adaptation that the human heart makes in response to aging. By virtue of his training, certifications, and experience, Dr. Cash brings a wealth of knowledge to this presentation.

54-The Brain Fix: What's the Matter with Your Grey Matter

Instructor: Ralph E. Carson, Ph.D.
Dates: 1 Tuesday May 27
Time: 6 – 7:30
Location: SLIB

Much like nutrition and strength training are interdependent while building muscles, what we eat has a significant influence on how the brain heals and improves functioning. The brain has only so much reserve. The combination of abuse (chronic stress) and neglect (poor eating habits) takes an even further toll on mental functioning. Fortunately, the brain is



malleable, and with proper nutrients, nerves are regenerated, proper circuitry is restored, neurotransmitters are replaced, and optimal brain functioning is possible. This class will present new research about a food plan that maximizes the healing of the brain and expedites recovery.
Min: 25 Max: 40

55-Medication 101: Safety, Side Effects, and Other Concerns

Instructor: Phillip Rigsby
Dates: 1 Tuesday June 3
Time: 6 – 7:30
Location: AUD



This program offers a general overview of prescription medications. This will be a very high-level discussion useful to everyone using (or refusing) medications. Topics will include safety, side effects, drug interactions, and other related areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

For only \$80, you can run a message ad in the LearningQUEST Catalog.
Email LearningQUEST@lquest.org.

56-Homelessness in Our Community

Instructor: Chad Rodriguez
Dates: 1 Wednesday June 11
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: AUD

This program is an opportunity to learn about homelessness in Huntsville and Madison County and how First Stop and its partners, including the City of Huntsville, are working together to address the issues and how the community can help. The instructor will offer an overview of services provided and how First Stop is assisting and empowering the homeless community as well as where help is needed from volunteers and partner agencies.

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MEMBER COURSES WITH PRE-PAID FEE (WITH TERM FEE)

Some courses require an additional fee that must be pre-paid to the Coordinator. Members registering for these courses will be in a "pending" status. The registration process is complete, and a member is enrolled in the course only when the coordinator receives the required fee, and there are spaces still available.

F1-AARP Smart Driver Course

Instructor: Ron Akridge
Dates: 1 Tuesday Jan. 21
Time: 9:30 – 4:30
Location: AUD

LearningQUEST members can refresh their driving skills and may save \$\$ on auto insurance. The AARP Smart Driver course, according to AARP, is the nation's first and largest refresher course designed specifically for drivers aged 50 and older. Their goal is for you to encourage and train even safer drivers. The course will provide a review of driving skills and techniques as well as strategies and tips to help adjust to normal age-related changes that can affect driving ability. This highly interactive course will be conducted in a classroom setting with visuals. Participants will each be provided their own Smart Driver Guidebook to keep as a reference. At the completion of the course, members will be provided a certificate to be submitted to insurance companies for a possible premium discount. Fee: \$20 for AARP Members, \$25 for all others. *Max: 40*

F2-"Coffee or Tea?" Card Workshop

Instructor: Jill Stallcup
Dates: 1 Tuesday Feb. 4
Time: 2 – 3:30
Location: SLIB

This workshop will feature three different cards featuring coffee and tea themes. All supplies will be provided by the instructor. Participants are welcome to bring their favorite tools if they prefer. Fee: \$12 *Min: 3 Max: 12*

F3-Rocker Card Workshop

Instructor: Jill Stallcup
Dates: 1 Tuesday Feb. 11
Time: 2 – 3:30
Location: SLIB

This workshop will feature three rocker cards featuring three different themes. All supplies will be provided by the instructor. Participants are welcome to bring their favorite tools if they prefer. Fee: \$12 *Min: 3 Max: 12*

F4-Creative Vision Board

Instructor: Monica Yother
Dates: 1 Friday Mar. 14
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: Studio 127

Many LearningQUEST members have probably made a vision board at some point, but maybe not like this. Using a canvas board and mixed media, participants will

create a vision board that is creative and fun to make. Using paints, papers, book pages, and all other artistic materials, they will create a collage that focuses on their goals or perhaps a word or phrase that sums up goals/vision for 2025. All materials are supplied with the material fee, but class members are welcome to bring anything they would like to add (printouts of words, quotes, scriptures, old planner pages). The class will meet in the new location of Studio 127, Main Street South, 7500 Memorial Parkway SW, #110, Huntsville, AL 35802. Fee: \$15 *Min: 4 Max: 12*



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F5-Fitness and Balance Class

Instructor: Debra Wade
Dates: 6 Wednesdays Mar. 19 – Apr. 23
Time: 9 – 10
Location: First Baptist Church

For those interested in experiencing a Fitness and Balance class but not ready to dive in full speed, this 6-week course puts emphasis on balance, fall prevention, strengthening, and flexibility. Brain work is incorporated into each class as working the mind with the body is an important aspect to staying healthy. The instructor offers a gentle entry to an important experience toward a stronger body. All equipment for the class will be provided by Steady for Life. We ask that you bring water to class. The class will be held at the First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive SW, Huntsville, AL 35801. Go to the St. Clair entrance #7 at the back of the building. The class will meet in the Gathering Place. Fee: \$20 *Min: 12 Max: 40*

The Membership Committee offers many opportunities for involvement in LearningQUEST. If you are a people person and want to contribute, contact VolunteerLead@lquest.org.

TRIPS (NO TERM FEE)

Trips are organized by LearningQUEST members and are self-supporting by the participants. No term fee payment is required. Additional fee requirements are presented in each trip description and may change due to unforeseen changes by the venue or transportation operator. The registration process is complete, and a member is enrolled in a trip, only when the coordinator receives the required fee and liability waiver, and slots are still available.

T1-Mardi Gras Excursion on the Tennessee Central Railway

Dates: 1 Day Saturday Mar. 1
Time: 9:30 AM – 8:30 PM
Location: Nashville, Tennessee



We are planning a train trip via Spirit Coach, Inc. to the Tennessee Central Railway Museum in Nashville, Tennessee, in the Spring of 2025. The bus will pick you up and take you to the train for a specially themed Mardi Gras Excursion through the mountains of

Tennessee. Fees: \$130 *Min: 40 Max: 48*

T2-Gibbs Gardens Trip

Dates: 2 Days Wednesday Mar. 12 – Thursday Mar. 13
Time: 3/12 7 AM – 3/13 6 PM
Location: Gibbs Gardens, Georgia

A bus trip to the world-class Gibbs Gardens in northern Georgia. Leave Huntsville at 7 a.m. Arrive at the gardens in time for lunch (not provided) at the Garden Café. Spend the afternoon walking the 300+ acres of gardens adorned with daffodils. Spend the night at Amicalola Falls Lodge (breakfast included) and have time in the morning to explore the falls. Stop in Summerville, Georgia, for lunch on your own and then visit Paradise Garden, the home of primitive artist Howard Finster. Bus back to Huntsville arrives late afternoon. **Must be able to handle walking through the gardens. No shuttle available. Fees: \$265 Double, \$360 Single
Min: 40 Max: 50

T3-Memphis in May

Dates: 5 Days Monday Apr. 28 – Friday May 2
Time: 4/28 7 AM – 5/2 6 PM
Location: Memphis, Tennessee

Join us for a four-day trip to Memphis, Tennessee, the birthplace of blues, soul, and rock 'n' roll. Highlights

include a guided tour of Graceland, Elvis Presley's iconic home, shopping and dining on the vibrant Beale Street, and an in-depth city tour. You'll also visit Sun Studio, famously known as the "Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll," where legendary artists like B.B. King, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and Jerry Lee Lewis began their careers; and where blues, gospel, country, and rock 'n' roll flourished in the 1950s. Additionally, experience an audio-guided tour through the seven galleries of the Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum. Later, try your luck at a local Memphis casino for some gaming excitement. Fees: \$840 Double, \$1040 Single *Min: 30 Max: 50*

T4-Hidden Gems of East Tennessee

Dates: 3 Days Friday June 6 – Sunday June 8
Time: 6/6 7:30 AM - 6/8 5:30 PM
Location: Johnson City, Tennessee

Explore four East Tennessee towns in just three days on our Hidden Gems Trip! Travel comfortably on a deluxe motorcoach with two nights at the Holiday Inn in Johnson City, Tennessee, plus all meals included. Begin in Morristown, TN, with a visit to the Crockett Tavern Museum; then head to Johnson City to enjoy Liberty! The Saga of Sycamore Shoals at Sycamore Shoals State Park. On day two, discover the fascinating Gray Fossil Site before experiencing the Annual Garden Tour & Tea in Jonesborough, Tennessee, followed by dinner and live storytelling at the International Storytelling Center. Finally, visit Petros, Tennessee, for a guided tour of Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary and lunch at the Warden's Table. Return home around 6 p.m. with incredible memories to share! Fees: \$730 Double, \$665 Triple, \$633 Quad, \$919 Single *Min: 30 Max: 54*

***Thanks for sitting in the back
when you know you have to leave early.***

Leaving from the back of the room is less disruptive to the presenter and the class attendees.

LIBRARY-SPONSORED TRAINING (NO TERM FEE)

Although no term fee is required for Library-Sponsored Training, registration is required for scheduled programs.

LP1-Creating Digital Images for Crafting

Instructor: Rose Stough
Dates: 1 Friday Jan. 17
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: Studio

What are vector images? If you are interested in using the Cricut, embroidery machine, and other tools and equipment in the Makerspace, you'll want to know all about them! Learn what a vector image is, how to make one, and how to use it. *Max: 12*

LP2-Paper Weaving

Instructor: Rose Stough
Dates: 1 Friday Feb. 21
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: Studio

Create interesting, geometric art pieces by weaving strips of colorful paper and cardstock. Learn and experiment with various weaving patterns to achieve different styles. *Max: 12*

LP3-Digital Conversion Demonstration

Instructor: Rose Stough
Dates: 1 Friday Mar. 21
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: Studio

Interested in converting VHS tapes, film slides, vinyl records, or other forms of media into digital files that you can access on your phone or computer? Watch a demonstration of equipment in our Digital Conversion Suite and learn how to preserve your physical media. *Max: 12*

LP4-April Showers Suncatcher

Instructor: Rose Stough
Dates: 1 Friday Apr. 18
Time: 1 – 2:30
Location: Studio

Craft a dazzling, faux stained glass suncatcher using plastic sheets, puff paint, and alcohol markers. Follow along with the instructor or create your own unique design. *Max: 12*



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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (NO TERM FEE)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are organized and facilitated by current LearningQUEST members for those who share a similar interest. Participants must be current LearningQUEST members. No registration is required. For more information, email or call as directed in the SIG's description. To explore creating a new SIG, please contact the Program Development Committee (PDC) chair at PDCChair@lquest.org.

S1-UkeQUESTors Jam

Instructor: Theresa Miller
Dates: Sundays, starting Jan. 5
Time: 2 – 3:30
Location: Online - 1st and 3rd Sunday
 2FL - 2nd and 4th Sunday

The LearningQUEST UkeQuestors is a special interest group (SIG) that provides an opportunity for ukulele players of all levels to meet in an open, unintimidating and accepting environment to refine and expand their skills, and to "jam" and sing. Though players are assisted in development, beginner lessons are not provided at this time. To wit, JUST HAVE FUN! One goal of the sessions is for participants to gain confidence in their playing ability so they will be willing to perform in ensemble at events such as the Alabama Uke Fest. For information, contact Theresa Miller at art.tree.hsv@gmail.com. LearningQUEST members can also join the SIG by requesting membership to the UkeQuestor SIG Facebook page. Once a member, the schedule, music resource webpage, and Zoom Links will be available.



LOVE
 the LIBRARY

Many thanks to the Huntsville–Madison County Public Library and its entire staff. Their continuing support of our activities by use of facilities, equipment, and personnel is essential to the growth and success of LearningQUEST. Thanks to everyone at the Library!!!!

S3-Great Literary Conversations

Instructor: Bob Stagg
Dates: Mondays, starting Jan. 6
Time: 3 – 4:30
Location: Online

This literary discussion group reads one selection each week and discusses the author, time period, and relevance in today's world. Since there is a new selection each week, prior attendance is not a requirement. Come when you are available. Notes are emailed on Friday detailing the upcoming selection. The anthology used changes each term. Contact Bob Stagg at 256-520-0417 for more information.

Thanks for not talking while the presenter is talking.

Talking while the presenter is talking is very disturbing to the presenter and other attendees.

S2-Mah Jongg

Instructor: Janet Tedrow
Dates: Mondays, starting Jan. 6
Time: 1 – 4
Location: A



Mah Jongg players of all levels meet weekly on Mondays to play. Beginning class is available upon request. For information, contact Janet Tedrow at wftedrow@aol.com.

S4-Hand and Foot

Instructor: Cheryl Hodges
Dates: Thursdays, starting Jan. 9
Time: 12:30 – 4
Location: A

Everyone, beginner to expert, is welcome to play the Hand and Foot variation of Canasta. Instruction and "cheat sheets" are provided upon request. For further information, contact Cheryl Hodges at maxine46@gmail.com.



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Check out the Calendar of Events at LQUEST.org
 It's the best place to find all of the latest updates!

Thank You

A special note of thanks to all of the volunteers who give of their time, passion, and skills to support educational and enrichment opportunities for our learning community!

S5-Bunco

Instructor: Joy Anderson
Dates: Second Monday, starting Jan. 13
Time: 9:30 – 12
Location: A



Come join us for a fun-filled morning of Bunco. As it is played today, Bunco is a social dice game played in teams of four involving 100% luck and very little skill (there are few decisions to be made). The rules are simple and can be learned in five minutes or less. Beginners and seasoned players are welcome. For information, contact Joy Anderson at jma82182@aol.com.

S6-Poets' Corner

Instructor: Liz Hall
Dates: Last Wednesday, starting Jan. 29
Time: 1:30 – 3
Location: FCR

This special interest group is for members who enjoy reading or writing poetry and want to share that enjoyment with others. Whether you are a neophyte or a published poet, come join our conversations! Poems will be written, shared, and discussed. Our conversations may include poetry by well-known as well as, perhaps, lesser known poets whom we have enjoyed. The group will be loosely structured according to participants' interests. The purpose is to participate in a poetic appreciation of life! For more information, contact Liz Hall at 256-881-6099 or lizhall076@gmail.com.



Willing to share your marketing expertise?
Please contact Communications@lquest.org.

S7-Friday Hiking

Instructor: Jim Kirkwood
Dates: Fridays, Jan. 31 – Apr. 25
Time: 9
Location: Various



Explore a variety of local hiking trails in Madison County. Enjoy the trees, flowers, and streams in our local forest preserves. Hike with other LearningQUEST members who appreciate the outdoors. Liability waivers are required. Hiking announcements with directions are provided weekly by email. If interested, please send an email to hiking@lquest.org. For our hikes, it is recommended to wear sturdy hiking boots and to bring water and a hiking stick.

S8-Become a Cheerleader for LearningQUEST

Instructor: Shobha Bhat
Dates: First Wednesday, Mar. 5 – Jun. 4
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: SLIB

Fifteen years ago, LearningQUEST began as a completely volunteer-run organization. Today, even with the addition of a part-time Operations Manager, the heart and soul of LearningQUEST remains to be its volunteers, who have been the driving force behind our continued success. Without their dedication and tireless efforts from the very beginning, this organization could not have achieved the survival and success it enjoys today. Over the years, we've witnessed an expansion in course offerings, changes in membership, the formation of new committees, and the planning of exciting new trips. One constant throughout has been the unwavering commitment of our volunteers. Even during the challenges of the pandemic, they stepped up to organize Zoom sessions for homebound members. We've always believed that if everyone contributes in their own way, the whole will take care of itself. While some members eagerly dive into volunteering, others may feel unsure of where to begin, hesitate to commit, or worry they don't have the right skills. Now is the time for us to come together and support our volunteers. Every act of kindness—whether a smile, a thank you note, or a compliment—matters. Let's unite and make something wonderful happen! Please contact Shobha Bhat at shobabhat@hotmail.com for more information.

S9-Tai Chi

Instructor: Patricia Jeffery
Dates: Wednesdays, Apr. 2 – Jun. 25
Time: 1 – 2
Location: SLIB

Practice your 24 Yang Style Tai Chi skills with other LearningQUEST members. Our goal is to keep practicing and improving together. We are mostly beginners, but all levels of experience are welcome. If you are interested in joining us or need more information, please contact Patricia Jeffery at pcjeffery@gmail.com.

PROGRAMS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (FREE)

Several public programs are offered by LearningQUEST each term as its gift to the community. No registration or fees. Registration for members is suggested during online registration or in-person registration. Please help spread the word and be sure to invite your friends and neighbors.

P1-Ebony and Ivory: Alabama Writers to Know and Love!

Instructor: Anna Blair
Dates: 2 Thursdays Mar. 13 – 20
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

This course continues Read to Me, Alabama!, offered in 2019 as part of LearningQUEST's celebration of Alabama's Bicentennial. A two-session course dipping into the overflowing treasure trove of writings from Alabama authors, focuses on Black and White writers, known and not known until now. The presenter will encourage participants to bring and read books from their own libraries.

P2-Singing River Trail

Instructor: Katie Lee, Sara Kovachich
Dates: 1 Wednesday Apr. 16
Time: 10 – 11:30
Location: AUD

The Singing River Trail will be a 200+ mile greenway system across eight North Alabama counties that strengthens regional bonds and creates new health and wellness, educational, economic, tourism, and entrepreneurial opportunities for the people and communities of North Alabama. The SRT team will provide an update on current and future projects, planning and design work, and regional collaboration. Learn how SRT contributes to quality of life, recreational

tourism, and economic development, and where you can find the trail today!

P3-Land Trust of North Alabama Invitation!

Instructor: Hallie Porter, area experts
Dates: 1 Tuesday May 20
Time: 2 – 3:30
Location: AUD

Project Pollinator has exciting news to share. The Land Trust of North Alabama is going through a transformation and over the next few years, beginning with the pollinator education garden at Blevins Gap Nature Preserve and the pollinator garden at Harvest Square Nature Preserve, the goal will be adding a pollinator garden at all trailheads. Some of the new plantings will be small, but a couple of them will actually cover an acre or more of preserved land. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds, and bats. Each of us depends on pollinators in a practical way to provide us with the wide range of foods we eat. This presentation will cover pollinators and the plants they need to survive and thrive in our local environment. The speakers will also touch on practical ways to incorporate a pollinator garden into any home landscape.

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**Board of Directors
for 2025**



LEARNINGQUEST INSTRUCTORS

Number in () indicates Term Program(s), Fee (F), Trip (T), Library (L), or Public (P) being presented by Instructor.

Ron Akridge gave 20 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force, honing a strong work ethic, attention to detail, and a commitment to excellence. After leaving the Air Force, he applied those skills as a real estate professional to help clients find their dream home. He and his wife enjoy the great outdoors, camping, hiking, and boating. Ron states that this love for nature instilled in him a deep appreciation for community and a desire to help others. After retiring, he became a volunteer AARP Safe Driving instructor as a way of giving back to the community that has given so much to him. (F1)

Jack Albers has extensive experience teaching both beginning and intermediate bridge. He plays regularly at the Senior Center and with partners of varying skill levels in different settings. His years of play have given him valuable insight into the common challenges faced by players, and his teaching approach addresses these areas directly. Jack also continually explores new conventions and strategies, refining his expertise in contract bridge. (43)

Tommy Battle was born in Birmingham in 1955. He moved to Huntsville in 1980 after receiving a business degree from The University of Alabama. Four years later, he was elected to the Huntsville City Council, where he served as Finance Chair. His successful career as an entrepreneur and businessman, along with nearly 30 years of community service, effectively prepared him for the demanding role as the City's chief executive officer. (17)

Jeff Bennett is the owner of Bennett's Nurseries in Huntsville, Alabama. Jeff started working in the business with his father, George, in 1989. (38)

Shobha Bhat is a long-time resident of Huntsville and a community volunteer for several organizations such as the Interfaith Mission Service, The Land Trust, The Crisis Services of North Alabama and AshaKiran. She has loved being part of the LearningQUEST family since 2011. Besides attending classes, she enjoys presenting, coordinating, learning new things, and meeting amazing members and dedicated volunteers of LearningQUEST. She enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, and interacting with people from different backgrounds. (50)

Shilo Bias is a certified Level 1 Meditation Leader and Yoga Instructor who believes strongly in the mind-body connection. She and her husband made Huntsville their home 10 years ago after retiring from the military. (11)

Anna Blair, J.D., is a legal specialist in healthcare regulatory compliance and risk management, working to keep hospitals and doctors safe from trial lawyers and federal regulators. Blair is also educated and experienced in the dramatic arts as an actor and a director and spends a good amount of her free time on or near the stage. Her *Alabama Speaks Readers Theatre* events have attracted the attention of AL.com. She also taught a popular class entitled *Alabama Reads*, which celebrates Alabama authors. (P1)

Tom Bryant is an award-winning and published photographer whose work has appeared on two magazine covers and a book jacket and has also been exhibited locally. He has been fortunate enough to have a photo of Kathryn Tucker Windham published on the cover of *Storytelling Magazine* and also on the jacket of her last book *She*.

Tom's education in photography includes both workshops and formal classes and years of self-study. Tom is a member of several photography groups. He has been a hobby photographer for over 50 years and has an extensive portfolio of Southeastern and Western landscapes. (33)

Robin Buckelew, PhD, was the first woman to be inducted into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame in 1995 after earning her PhD at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Buckelew joined the local League of Women Voters when it was established in 2017 and is now active on the state level as the Director for Advocacy. In that role, she works to assist formerly incarcerated citizens in having their voting rights restored. (52)

Jill Burt, Ph.D., attended Auburn University as an undergraduate. She holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and spent her career working for the U.S. Government. (34)

Ralph E. Carson, Ph.D., is a clinical nutritionist and exercise physiologist with over 40 years of experience in the treatment of addictions, obesity, weight management, sports nutrition, mood and anxiety disorders, and eating disorders. Dr. Carson is committed to community education and teaching the next generation of healthcare professionals. He was a faculty member of the University of Alabama in Huntsville for over 20 years. Dr. Carson is the author of *The Brain Fix: What's the Matter with Your Gray Matter*. (54)

Bill Carter holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Wichita State University and an MBA in Business Management & Entrepreneurship. With a diverse technical background, Carter has contributed to laser-guided weapons systems and personal computer printer development. As a Production Manager, he played a key role in managing NASA space shuttle payloads, ensuring precision and innovation in mission-critical operations. His expertise spans defense, technology, and space exploration, blending engineering knowledge with leadership in highly technical environments. (47)

Gordon H. Cash, M.D., earned his medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine in 1981. After completing his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, Dr. Cash pursued a fellowship in Cardiology at Emory University School of Medicine from 1984 to 1987. He became board-certified in Internal Medicine in 1984 and in Cardiovascular Diseases in 1987, the same year he was named a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology. During his career, he also obtained board certifications in Nuclear Cardiology, Congestive Heart Failure, and Cardiac CT Angiography. Dr. Cash retired in 2022. (53)

Xingrong Chen, an expert in Martial Arts, is a visiting scholar from Nanjing Forestry University and part of an International cultural exchange program with Alabama A&M University. (8, 26)

Guy Collins is a veteran LearningQUEST instructor. After 34 years of teaching/coaching, he retired from Huntsville City Schools (Grissom High School) where he taught AP US History and AP European History. (7, 24)

William (Bill) Confer, Ph.D., retired from clinical psychology in 2016 after 38 years of practice. He is a diplomate of The American Board

of Professional Psychology and The American Board of Sleep Medicine. He has written two books, been published in professional journals, and taught courses with the aim of making psychological principles accessible and applicable to the daily life of attendees. He and his wife Karin enjoy visiting their children and five grandchildren. He believes all individuals are entitled to be treated with courtesy, dignity, and respect. (9)

Kelly East leads the HudsonAlpha Educational Outreach team to develop and implement innovative teacher training, student experiences, public enrichment, classroom kits, and digital resources that reshape how science education is delivered. East provides strategic leadership for the educational initiatives that advance the Institute's mission and further its role as a leader in STEM education. She was formerly the Director of Clinical Education at HudsonAlpha and the Director of HudsonAlpha's Smith Family Clinic for Genomic Medicine, where she supported multiple mission areas to expand the application of genomics through research, education, and patient care. (37)

Roger Ellis served in the U.S. Air Force, where he learned Communications Technology, then received a B.S. in Business from Columbia College in Missouri. He came to Huntsville from St. Louis in 1997. Roger has chaired Voter Services and served as Treasurer for the local League for three years. He is also Voter Services Training Chairman for the Alabama League of Women Voters. (52)

Peter A Finzel, Ph.D., received his Doctor of Management Degree from the University of Phoenix in 2004. He also has a B.S. degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an M.S. degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Tennessee. He grew up in Huntsville as the son of a German engineer who was part of the von Braun rocket team. He worked as a Computer Engineer Project Leader for missile systems for the U.S. Army Missile Command. After retiring in 2010, he has taken numerous LearningQUEST and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute classes over the last five years. (10)

Elaine Fredericksen, Ph.D., holds a B.A. in Spanish from the University of California, Los Angeles, an M.A. in English and American Literature from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Writing Studies from the University of Alabama and served for many years on university faculties, most recently on the graduate faculty of The University of Texas at El Paso. She is a longtime member, instructor, and volunteer at LearningQUEST. (51)

Jennifer Garlen, Ph.D., is a former member of the English faculty at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and a longtime volunteer with LearningQUEST. She holds a Ph.D. from Auburn University and is the author of several books, including *Beyond Casablanca: 100 Classic Movies Worth Watching*. (16)

Charles and Judy Gattis have worked in various volunteer positions with LearningQUEST. Charles is a United Methodist Pastor who retired in 2012 after 43 years of service. He taught classes in iPhone Photography, Google Docs, and Immigration. Judy taught school for 28 years all over the state of Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia. She retired as a special education teacher in 2005. Since retirement, they have enjoyed various hobbies, travel, and spending time with their five grandchildren. Together they have traveled in Europe, the British Isles, and the Holy Land, and have previously shared their trips with Armchair Travel. (13)

Beth Girard is a retired natural resources educator. She continues to learn about the natural world and loves to share that knowledge with visitors to Tims Ford State Park, where she is a volunteer educator. She has been a Minnesota Master Naturalist since 2007 and graduated from the Tennessee Naturalist Program in 2023. She is enrolled in the Alabama Master Naturalist Program because lifelong learning is what life is all about!! (12)

Donna Green-Goodman, Master of Public Health, has spent her career educating others on health improvement through better nutrition and lifestyle choices across various sectors. She and her husband run Lifestyle Therapeutix in Huntsville, Alabama, offering physical therapy, wellness coaching, and plant-based services. A breast cancer survivor, Donna has been a National Ambassador for the Susan G. Komen Circle of Promise Campaign and served on the PCRM Breast Cancer Advisory Board. She is also a Food for Life Instructor and the author of three books on healthy living. Donna graduated from Oakwood University and Loma Linda University School of Public Health. (39)

Elizabeth (Liz) Hall is a retired college professor. She has been a consultant to adolescents and adults in her private practice: Skills for Success. She sees herself as a writer/teacher. Her writings include books, articles, short stories, and poetry. Her interests include travel, scuba diving, gardening, reading, volunteering, and thinking. She particularly enjoys self-help, political, and social topics. (1)

Lawanna Harvey, PhD, currently works for the Department of the Army at the U.S. Army Material Command Logistic Data Analysis Center as a Logistic Engineer. Dr. Harvey served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a Bioenvironmental Engineer with a career span of 13 years, to include two tours of duty. She joined the local League in 2019, currently serves on the Board, and was recently elected President of the local League of Women Voters of Tennessee Valley. At the State level, she served on the DEI Task Force and was appointed DEI Task Force Chairperson in May 2023. (52)

Gary and Barbara Hitt retired from engineering careers in 1994 and have been on the go ever since. Their travels to see birds and wildlife have taken them to more than 60 countries. Gary keeps the bird list, and Barbara does the photography. (13)

Nkenge Hyter is an Urban Regional Extension Agent specializing in Health and Nutrition at Alabama Extension-Alabama A&M University. With a profound passion for education and a commitment to fostering healthier communities, she intertwines her diverse educational background with several physical activity certifications such as Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL.), and Chair Chi. Nkenge embraces her role as a catalyst for positive change, allowing her faith to guide her mission in motivating others toward healthier and happier lives. (3, 45)

David and Ann Jones have been studying and dancing the Carolina Shag for 22 years. They moved here from the heart of "Shag Country" and are excited about sharing the dance in the Huntsville area. (35)

Kathy Jones retired in 2016 as a space systems engineer and project manager from NASA. In 2017-2020, she established and was President of the local League of Women Voters of Tennessee Valley before moving on to preside over the state League. She considers herself fortunate to collaborate with many amazing and strong people across Alabama who are dedicated to overcoming voting barriers, to

supporting marginalized communities to be able to advocate and make their voices heard, and to making Alabama's government more transparent, accountable, fair, and accessible to its citizens. (52)

Steve Jones, Ph.D., is a retired university professor and former university president, a forest scientist, and a published author of three books. He publishes weekly blog posts on nature-inspired life and living. Dr. Jones has a B.S. in forestry and a doctoral degree in applied ecology. He brings deep passion for nature and informed and responsible earth stewardship. He is a husband, father, and grandfather. (27)

Sara Kovachich is a planner and landscape architect with Alta Planning and Design in Huntsville, Alabama. She has worked on trail master plans, statewide active transportation plans, bicycle and pedestrian plans at multiple scales, and Vision Zero projects. Recent projects include the Huntsville Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Plan, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Government's (TARCOG) Regional Safety Action Plan, North Alabama's Singing River Trail, Montgomery's River Region Trails, and Birmingham's Red Rock Trail System. Skilled in visioning, conceptual planning, spatial analysis, and community engagement, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Florida. (P2)

J. Langley holds a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Mississippi State University and an M.S. in Computer Science from Florida Institute of Technology, specializing in computer graphics and artificial intelligence (AI). Since 2000, Langley has worked in the defense sector, contributing to Department of Defense training, weapon systems, and simulation and modeling. With expertise in AI dating back to 2006, Langley brings a wealth of experience and innovation to solving complex technical challenges within military and defense applications. (5)

Katie Lee is Singing River Trail's Operational Coordinator. She has a variety of experience in retail marketing, social media management, fundraising, event planning, and grant writing, which she uses to engage the community and share her love of this project with North Alabama. (P2)

Jane Maples, a native of Limestone County Alabama, grew up on one of the oldest Black Angus Cattle farms in the state. She has a B.S.B.A from Auburn University and an M.B.A from the University of Kentucky. Her 36+ year career with NASA began in Procurement as a contract specialist and concluded in the Chief Information Office as an IT Specialist. (13)

Cheryl McAuley, Ph.D., is a Christian, retired Army soldier, and DoD Civilian, with many interests and activities in retirement. Her career includes diverse skillsets from musician to Army intelligence officer to published author. She retired in 2010 after serving for 25 years as a Defense Department civilian and Army Reserve Officer. She deployed twice (Horn of Africa and Iraq). As a life-learner, her alma maters include West Chester University, (Bachelor of Music, 1975), George Mason University, (Master of Public Administration, 1996), the U.S. Army War College (Master of Strategic Studies, 2005), and University of Phoenix (Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership, 2016). (40)

Ron Moody has been active in the financial services industry since 1981 and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama. He is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional, a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor from the College of Financial Planning, and a Certified Senior Advisor as well as a

member of the Financial Planning Association. With a strong background in investment, estate, and retirement planning, Ron delivers exceptional service to his clients. Committed to ongoing education, he continually enhances his expertise to better serve his clients. (22, 28)

Jeff Nelson, Ph.D., recently retired after having taught English and Shakespeare at the University of Alabama in Huntsville for 30 years. His credentials include a B.A. from Illinois Wesleyan and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He has been a frequent presenter for LearningQUEST. (6, 19)

June Norton came to Huntsville in 1962 as a summer student with a fellowship from the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association to work for NASA. She has a B.A. in Elementary Education and an M.A. in Psychology and is retired from the Madison County School System. June enjoys friends, gardening, church activities, yoga, and reading, and believes learning is a life-long activity. (36)

Hallie Porter began her work with the Land Trust 12 years ago as a volunteer, working to re-energize the outdoor environmental education program for children. She came on staff at the Land Trust shortly thereafter and has been working in the fundraising capacity there for 11 years. Hallie is passionate about the Land Trust's mission of North Alabama land preservation. (P3)

Beth Powell is a dabbler in many fine arts and crafts. After a working career in medical technology, teaching Biological Sciences at Grissom High School and Calhoun, and analyzing manufactured DNA and RNA, she turned her mind to the creative arts. She is happy to challenge herself with attempting new craft projects and techniques and enthusiastically sharing what she learns. While not a Certified Zentangle Teacher, Beth is looking forward to sharing this simple drawing practice with others. (21)

Tom Ress is on the Board of Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association and is a volunteer naturalist who leads birding and kayak tours on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. He is a writer whose work has appeared in numerous publications and is the author of Images of America: Wheeler National Refuge. An avid adventure traveler, he has visited all seven continents, dozens of countries and all 50 states. (2, 4, 13)

Phillip Rigsby, a Huntsville native, earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Auburn University. He and his wife, Pamela, have been married for 23 years, raising two sons with strong conservative values. Phillip has worked in Madison County pharmacies, and he currently owns the Huntsville Compounding Pharmacy. Active in his community, Phillip serves as an elder at Gracious Savior Church and has been a firefighter, EMT, and Chaplain with the Monrovia Volunteer Fire Department since 2003. In 2022, he was elected to represent District 25 in the Alabama House of Representatives. (55)

Mary Pat Riley is a wife, mother and grandmother, a retired educator, past Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Cuddler, Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll chairman, after school tutor, and history lover. She enjoys reading biographies and has in the past presented programs to LearningQUEST members on Helen Keller, Harper Lee, Marilyn Monroe, and Johnny Carson. (31)

Chad Rodriguez is a Huntsville native and the Executive Director at First Stop, a local non-profit dedicated to encountering the homeless population of Huntsville, connecting them to resources and empowering them into stable, sustainable housing. (56)

Emily Saile is a Huntsville native. She attended Butler High School and retired from the U.S. Army Missile Command after a 30-year career in logistics. She is a member of the Huntsville Photographic Society and has attained the status of Master Photographer. (13)

Leah Sanderson is the Development Director at The WellHouse. Before stepping into this role, Leah worked with victims in Birmingham, helping them connect with The WellHouse to receive much-needed support. Her mission is to instill a sense of self-worth and value in women and children who have experienced exploitation, guiding them toward empowered and fulfilling lives. (29)

Fred Sayers has a degree in Commercial Art from Auburn University. For over 50 years he has produced graphic designs, illustrations, and visual projects for various clients. He earned many awards for his art from the advertising industry. Since retirement in 2013, Fred has enjoyed drawing caricatures at craft festivals, art shows, and business gatherings. (14)

Joe Scarborough is an investigator with the Huntsville Police Department. He is a Crime Analyst, specializing in crime statistics. (44)

Barbara Staggs is a former Special Education Teacher. Having traveled extensively, she is a popular presenter for LearningQUEST programs. She taught several photography classes, specializing in photographic composition. The Huntsville Photographic Society awarded her the title of Master of Photography. In 2020, she shared delightful pictures from her explorations in the canyons and valleys of the American West. (13)

Jill Stallcup is a longtime Madison resident and a lifelong crafter. She started rubber stamping and creating cards while still in high school. Her favorite thing is sharing her knowledge with others and learning from them as well. Thus, she has instructed many classes for card making and paper crafting. (F2, F3)

Michael Stallcup grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico with an emphasis on structural analysis. After working for the Air Force for two years, he transferred to NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in 1983, retiring in 2016. At MSFC he provided structural analysis and testing support for Shuttle, Spacelab, International Space Station, Chandra X-ray Observatory, James Webb Space Telescope, various optical projects, Constellation, and SLS/Artemis. He lives in Madison, Alabama and spends time as a docent at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. (30)

Katie Stamps, a Madison, Alabama native, is the Preservation Planner for the City of Huntsville. In 2007, she received a B.S. in Secondary Social Science from Auburn University, where she led regular campus tours as a student recruiter. In 2010, while studying in Charleston, South Carolina, Katie received an M.S. in Historic Preservation from Clemson University/College of Charleston. Prior to working for the City of Huntsville, she was the Architectural Historian for Redstone Arsenal for seven years. She has led multiple architectural walking tours for the Historic Huntsville Foundation and served on the Madison Station and Huntsville Historic Preservation Commissions. (42, 48)

Rose Stough is a Makerspace Librarian with the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. She has experience in art, technology, and education, including graphic design, digital media conversion, fashion and costume design, additive manufacturing, electronics repair, and

traditional crafts. Rose has worked as an art consultant for the non-profit LoveHuntsville and has assisted with several large-scale interactive art projects throughout the city. (L1, L2, L3, L4)

Rick Suever is an avid enthusiast of United States history and biographies. With a solid civil engineering background and a distinguished career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rick brings a wealth of expertise and a unique perspective to his work. His deep knowledge and passion for America's past enrich his presentations and writings, making him a compelling and insightful storyteller of the nation's historical narratives. (49)

Debra Wade is a certified peak Pilates instructor. She has been teaching senior fitness for the past seven years for Steady for Life and the YMCA. She is an instructor through the National Association of Sports Medicine, a RedCord specialist, and a Yamuna Body Rolling practitioner. Debra has been teaching Pilates for the past 25 years and was a Pilates studio owner in Huntsville for ten years. It's been exciting to observe Debra's class participants improve their strength, flexibility, and balance. (F5)

Michael D. Ward, a Huntsville native, attended the University of Alabama on a debate scholarship, receiving a B.S. in Business Administration. He is an alumnus of Leadership Huntsville (1993), the DoD's Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (2007), the Army War College National Security Summit (2021) and Leadership Alabama (2024). He serves on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Military Stability Foundation. He was a co-founder of Huntsville's Big Spring Jam music festival. He is the author of the book *Shaping History*, the story of the economic development of Huntsville and Cummings Research Park. (46)

Neal Waygood is a recently retired (2023) Project Manager with a B.S. Mechanical Engineering (University of Tennessee) and an M.B.A. (University of Texas). Neal is married and has two grown children and one grandchild. Neal has a passion for the game of golf, particularly for the Masters Tournament. He attended the tournament in 2007 and has watched it on TV every year since 1972. Neal has also attended approximately 150 professional golf tournaments since 1972. (41)

Debbie Dempsey West is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville with a bachelor's degree in art and art education. She taught for 25 years in the Huntsville City School system at all levels: elementary, junior high, and high school. She was awarded two Fulbright Scholarships to study the arts in China and Turkey. Debbie travels extensively to continue her studies in art and art history. (15)

Jessie Whitehead is a native of the Southeastern United States and an artist educator with a Ph.D. in Art Education, and graduate and undergraduate degrees in visual art. Jessie retired from working in higher education and is currently a practicing visual artist. (32)

Jane Wodtke grew up in a rural area outside of Louisville, Kentucky. She met and married her husband at the University of Kentucky and has a son and daughter. Jane was a Special Education teacher for 30 years. Since she moved to Huntsville after living in New Jersey for 29 years, she is enjoying her retirement with volunteer work and LearningQUEST. (18)

Monica Yother is an artist and graphic designer who has been working professionally in both fields since 1987. She enjoys teaching classes in her art studio located in Main Street South, where she paints, works in mixed media and art journals. (F4)

LEARNINGQUEST CALENDAR

Downtown Library: AUD (Auditorium), 2FL (2nd Floor Events Room), Studio (Makerspace Studio, 1st floor), A (beside Auditorium), FCR (Foundation Conference Room, 2nd floor), **South Huntsville Public Library:** SLib (Classroom)

Venues are designated when programs are held in a standard location. Otherwise, see the program description or, in some cases, the coordinator will contact registrants.

Programs other than courses are differentiated with special formatting:

Special Interest Group

Trip 2-4

Public Program 1-2

Library Program 1-2

January 2025

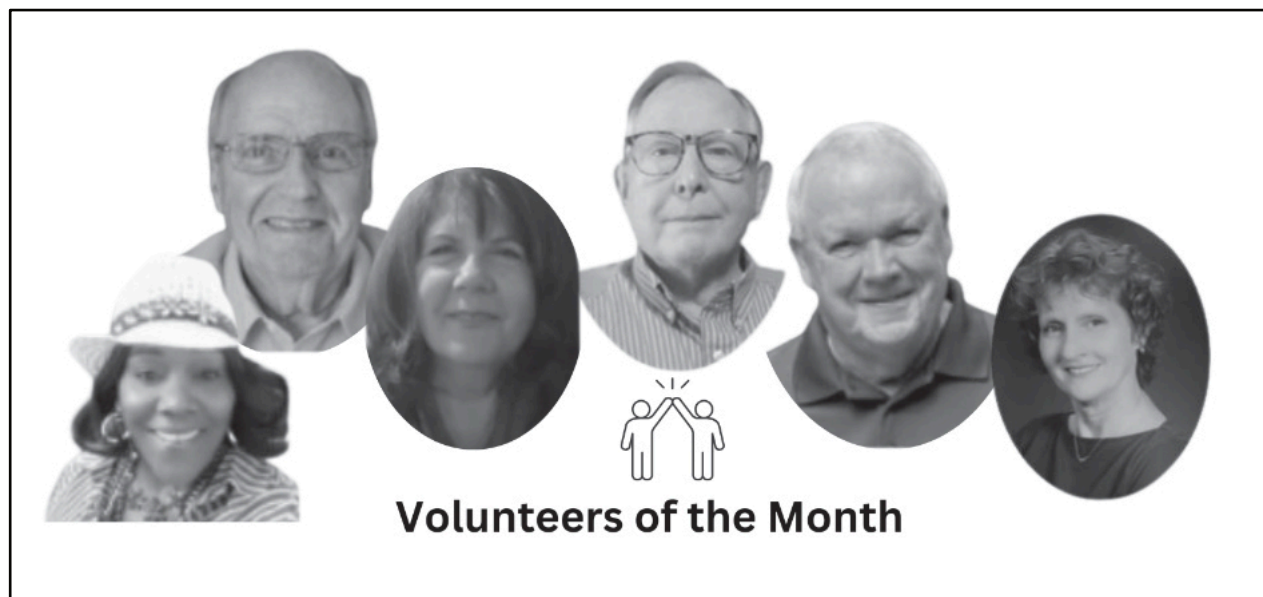
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
5 <i>Uke 2-3:30 Online</i>	6 <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i>	7 RALLY DAY	8	9 <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i>	10	11
12 <i>Uke 2-3:30 2FL</i>	13 <i>Bunco 9:30-12 A</i> <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i>	14 Work 10-11:30 2FL Cranes! 1-2	15 Champ Nutr. 11-12	16 Sharks 10-11:30 AUD <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> A.I. 1-2:30 AUD	17 Am Poet 10-11:30 2FL Digital Imaging 1-2:30 Studio	18
19 <i>Uke 2-3:30 Online</i>	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY Library Closed	21 Smart Driver 9:30-4:30 AUD Work 10-11:30 2FL	22 War 1812 10-11:30 AUD Champ Nutr. 11-12 Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD	23 Psychology 10-11:30 SLIB <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> A.I. 1-2:30 AUD	24 Am Poet 10-11:30 2FL	25
26 <i>Uke 2-3:30 2FL</i>	27 Life Story 10-11:30 SLIB <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i> Meditation 6-7 2FL	28 Work 10-11:30 2FL	29 Skull ID 10-11:30 SLIB War 1812 10-11:30 AUD Champ Nutr. 11-12 Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD <i>Poets Cmr 1:30-3 FCR</i>	30 Psychology 10-11:30 SLIB <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> A.I. 1-2:30 AUD	31 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i> Am Poet 10-11:30 2FL	

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 <i>Uke 2-3:30 Online</i>	3 Life Story 10-11:30 SLIB Arm Trvl 1-2:30 AUD <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i> Meditation 6-7 2FL	4 Caricatures 10-11:30 2FL "Coffee or Tea?" Cards 2-3:30 SLIB	5 Champ Nutr. 11-12 Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD	6 Psychology 10-11:30 SLIB <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> Fem (Pt 2) 1:30-3 AUD	7 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i> Am Poet 10-11:30 2FL Fri Film 2-4:30 AUD	8
9 <i>Uke 2-3:30 2FL</i>	10 <i>Bunco 9:30-12 A</i> Life Story 10-11:30 SLIB Arm Trvl 1-2:30 AUD <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i> Meditation 6-7 2FL	11 Caricatures 10-11:30 2FL Mayor Battle 10-11:30 AUD Rocker Cards 2-3:30 SLIB Intl Dining 5-8	12 Champ Nutr. 11-12 Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD	13 Psychology 10-11:30 SLIB <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> Fem (Pt 2) 1:30-3 AUD	14 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i> Romeo & Juliet 10-11:30 2FL	15
16 <i>Uke 2-3:30 Online</i>	17 Life Story 10-11:30 SLIB Arm Trvl 1-2:30 AUD <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i> Meditation 6-7 2FL	18 Caricatures 10-11:30 2FL Lunch Gr 1 11-12:30 Zentangle 2-3:30 2FL	19 Legacy 10-11:30 AUD Champ Nutr. 11-12 Lunch Gr 2 11-12:30 Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD	20 Mex-Am War 10-11:30 AUD Psychology 10-11:30 SLIB Lunch Gr 3 11-12:30 <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> Fem (Pt 2) 1:30-3 AUD	21 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i> Int. Tai Chi 10-11 AUD Romeo & Juliet 10-11:30 2FL Paper Weaving 1-2:30 Studio	22
23 <i>Uke 2-3:30 2FL</i>	24 Life Story 10-11:30 SLIB Arm Trvl 1-2:30 AUD <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i>	25 Caricatures 10-11:30 2FL Life Lessons 10-11:30 Zentangle 2-3:30 2FL	26 Tax Plan 10-11:30 AUD Champ Nutr. 11-12 Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD <i>Poets Cmr 1:30-3 FCR</i>	27 Mex-Am War 10-11:30 AUD <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> Fem (Pt 2) 1:30-3 AUD	28 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i> Int. Tai Chi 10-11 AUD Romeo & Juliet 10-11:30 2FL	

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Train 9:30 AM - 8:30 PM
2 Uke 2- 3:30 Online	3 Llfe Story 10-11:30 SLIB Arm Trvl 1-2:30 AUD Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	4 Life Lessons 10-11:30 Zentangle 2-3:30 2FL	5 Cheer for LQ SIG 10-11:30 SLIB Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD	6 WellHouse 10-11:30 AUD Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Fem (Pt 2) 1:30-3 AUD	7 Hiking 9 Various Int. Tai Chi 10-11 AUD Fri Film 2-4:30 AUD	8
9 Uke 2- 3:30 2FL	10 Bunco 9:30-12 A Llfe Story 10-11:30 SLIB JWST 1-2:30 AUD Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	11 Life Lessons 10-11:30 Lincoln 2-3:30 AUD Intl Dining 5-8	12 Gibbs Gardens, GA 3/12 7 AM -3/13 6 PM Lobbying 10-11:30 AUD Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD	13 Ebony & Ivory 10-11:30 AUD Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Fem (Pt 2) 1:30-3 AUD	14 Hiking 9 Various Vision Board 10-11:30 Int. Tai Chi 10-11 AUD	15
16 Uke 2- 3:30 Online	17 Llfe Story 10-11:30 SLIB Photos 1-2:30 SLIB Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	18 Life Lessons 10-11:30 Mar Mad 10-11 SLIB Lunch Gr 1 11-12:30 Shag Dance 2-3 AUD	19 Fit & Bal 9-10 Lunch Gr 2 11-12:30 Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD	20 Ebony & Ivory 10-11:30 AUD Lunch Gr 3 11-12:30 Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Front Porch 1:30-3 2FL	21 Hiking 9 Various Int. Tai Chi 10-11 AUD Digital Conv 1-2:30 Studio	22
23 Uke 2- 3:30 2FL	24 HudsonAlpha 10-11:30 Photos 1-2:30 SLIB Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	25 Life Lessons 10-11:30 Shag Dance 2-3 AUD	26 Fit & Bal 9-10 Beg Tai Chi 1-2 AUD Poets Cmr 1:30-3 FCR	27 Bennett's 10-11:30 Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Front Porch 1:30-3 2FL	28 Hiking 9 Various Int. Tai Chi 10-11 AUD	29
30	31 PHYT for Life 10-12 Photos 1-2:30 SLIB Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online					



April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Life Lessons 10-11:30 Shag Dance 2-3 AUD	2 Fit & Bal 9-10 <i>Cheer for LQ SIG</i> 10-11:30 SLIB <i>Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB</i>	3 Thad Lowe 10-11:30 AUD <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> Front Porch 1:30-3 2FL	4 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i> Fri Film 2-4:30 AUD	5
6 <i>Uke 2-3:30 Online</i>	7 Masters 10-11:30 AUD Photos 1-2:30 SLIB <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i>	8 Mar Mad 10-11 SLIB Shag Dance 2-3 AUD Intl Dining 5-8	9 Fit & Bal 9-10 <i>Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB</i> Walking Tour 1 1-2:30	10 Bridge 10-11:30 SLIB <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> Front Porch 1:30-3 2FL	11 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i>	12
13 <i>Uke 2-3:30 2FL</i>	14 <i>Bunco 9:30-12 A</i> Photos 1-2:30 SLIB <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i>	15 Crime 10-11:30 AUD Lunch Gr 1 11-12:30 Shag Dance 2-3 AUD	16 Fit & Bal 9-10 <i>Singing River</i> 10-11:30 AUD Lunch Gr 2 11-12:30 <i>Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB</i>	17 Bridge 10-11:30 SLIB Lunch Gr 3 11-12:30 <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> Two-Step 1-2 AUD Front Porch 1:30-3 2FL	18 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i> <i>Suncatcher</i> 1-2:30 Studio	19
20 EASTER Library Closed	21 Chamber 10-11:30 AUD Photos 1-2:30 SLIB <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i>	22 Plastics 10-11:30 SLIB Shag Dance 2-3 AUD	23 Fit & Bal 9-10 <i>Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB</i> Walking Tour 2 1-2:30	24 Bridge 10-11:30 SLIB Mississippi River 10-11:30 AUD <i>Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A</i> Two-Step 1-2 AUD Front Porch 1:30-3 2FL	25 <i>Hiking 9 Various</i> Art From The Heart 2-4 AUD	26
27 <i>Uke 2-3:30 2FL</i>	28 <i>Memphis, TN</i> 4/28 7 AM - 5/2 6 PM <i>Mah Jongg 1-4 A</i> <i>Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online</i>	29 Plastics 10-11:30 SLIB	30 <i>Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB</i> <i>Poets Crnr 1:30-3 FCR</i>			



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Bridge 10-11:30 SLIB Miss River 10-11:30 AUD Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Two-Step 1-2 AUD Spanish 1-2:30 SLIB	2 Fri Film 2-4:30 AUD	3
4 Uke 2- 3:30 Online	5 Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	6	7 Cheer for LQ SIG 10-11:30 SLIB Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB	8 Bridge 10-11:30 SLIB Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Two-Step 1-2 AUD Spanish 1-2:30 SLIB	9 Voters 1-2:30 AUD	10
11 Uke 2- 3:30 2FL	12 Bunco 9:30-12 A Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	13 Intl Dining 5-8	14 Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB	15 Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Two-Step 1-2 AUD Spanish 1-2:30 SLIB	16 Voters 1-2:30 AUD	17
18 Uke 2- 3:30 Online	19 Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	20 Lunch Gr 1 11:12:30 Land Trust 2-3:30 AUD	21 Heart 10-11:30 AUD Lunch Gr 2 11-12:30 Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB	22 Lunch Gr 3 11-12:30 Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Two-Step 1-2 AUD Spanish 1-2:30 SLIB	23	24
25 Uke 2- 3:30 2FL	26 MEMORIAL DAY Library Closed	27 Brain 6-7:30 SLIB	28 Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB Poets Crnr 1:30-3 FCR	29 Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Two-Step 1-2 AUD Spanish 1-2:30 SLIB	30	31

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Uke 2- 3:30 Online	2 Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	3 Med 101 6-7:30 AUD	4 Cheer for LQ SIG 10-11:30 SLIB Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB	5 Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A Spanish 1-2:30 SLIB	6 Johnson City, TN 6/6 7:30 AM - 6/8 5:30 PM	7
8 Uke 2- 3:30 2FL	9 Bunco 9:30-12 A Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	10 Intl Dining 5-8	11 Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB Homeless 1-2:30 AUD	12 Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A	13	14
15 Uke 2- 3:30 Online	16 Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	17	18 Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB	19 JUNETEENTH Library Closed	20	21
22 Uke 2- 3:30 2FL	23 Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online	24	25 Tai Chi SIG 1-2 SLIB Poets Crnr 1:30-3 FCR	26 Hand & Ft 12:30-4 A	27	28
29	30 Mah Jongg 1-4 A Lit Conv 3-4:30 Online					

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