What is an Interest Group?

*Interest Groups* are another way for OLLI@UNL members to continue lifelong learning beyond the classroom. Meeting regularly, *Interest Groups* not only provide new and enriching opportunities to form friendships with other members, they also provide continuity with the OLLI@UNL program over the summer break in the class schedule. An *Interest Group* is formed by a nucleus of people with a special interest in the same subject, and who are willing to participate as active, rather than as passive, learners. *Interest Groups* are independent and self-directed, with members deciding where and when they will meet and how the group will function.

An OLLI *Interest Group* is a group of OLLI members who share a common interest and like to meet outside the normal OLLI class environment to discuss and enjoy this mutual interest. Each group is different depending on its focus, and all provide interesting lifelong learning opportunities as well as fun social experiences.

OLLI *Interest Groups* are independent and self-managed with members deciding when they will meet and planning how the group will function. Initially, members volunteer to be leaders or co-leaders, and leader roles may rotate. *Interest Group* Leaders also handle administrative and communication details.

Over the years, we have learned that people join OLLI for two major reasons. The first is the opportunity to learn new things, but a secondary, and sometimes more important reason, is the opportunity to meet new friends who have similar interest. *Interest Group* bring together members who have similar interests or hope to meet others socially.

**Can I Start an Interest Group?**

**Yes!** OLLI's *Interest Groups* foster learning and friendships by linking OLLI at UNL members who share a common interest (bookies, ping-pong players, mediation, politics, sketching, walking, wood-working, science & technology, etc.). *Interest Groups* do not take the place of OLLI courses and programs – they complement them! Like everything else at OLLI at UNL, all it takes is a member willing to take the lead and find others who share the same interest.