

Learning in Non-Traditional Settings

For some seniors, leaving the home or assisted living facility regularly in order to obtain a continuing education may not be easy. If that's the case, many ongoing educational opportunities are still available!

The Tulsa City-County Library offers a homebound service. Persons who are in their own home and physically unable to visit a Library location may apply for homebound service in which Library outreach staff members will deliver or mail books, DVDs, audio books and other materials to your home. There is no charge for this service.

The Library also has a program geared specifically to assisted living, nursing homes and retirement communities. Library staff frequent the communities on a monthly basis and visit residents in their rooms, taking requests according to the individual's reading interests.

If a group of seniors – whether at a living facility, or a social or church group – is interested in having the Library visit their home, church or community to share information about the homebound program and other services available, the Outreach Services Department can send a representative to discuss their services. To inquire about any of the aforementioned Library services, call (918) 549-7480.

Additionally, the Oklahoma Library for the Blind serves customers state-wide who are visually impaired to the point where they require books on cassette or are physically unable to hold a book. Their number is 1-800-523-0288.

For seniors who are tech-savvy, the Tulsa City-County Library also offers several online learning opportunities. Through the Library's website, anyone with a Library card can access a free online tool called Mango Languages, an interactive language-learning tool. Users can choose from

nearly 40 languages, including Spanish, French, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, German, Mandarin Chinese, Greek, Italian, Russian, Hebrew, Thai and Vietnamese. Visit <http://www.tulsalibrary.org/language> and use your Library card to access Mango Languages.

Additionally, the Library offers Universal Class, which includes hundreds of free online non-credit courses facilitated by dedicated instructors sharing their knowledge on almost any topic. More than 500 online courses are available, and areas of study include alternative medicine, computers and technology, cooking, crafts and hobbies,

health and medicine, home and garden, how-to and do-it-yourself, parenting and family, personal care, pet and animal care, and self-help. Visit <http://www.tulsalibrary.org/onlineclasses> for course descriptions and to register.

Several local retirement communities host educational programs for their residents. Town Village, for example, hosts an array of events themed on the culture of a specific country. This year, Town Village seniors have explored the cultures of Italy, Japan, Brazil and

Thailand. Activities include a video tour of the country, a speaker who shares their personal travel experiences and visits to local restaurants within the theme of the culture.

For the month of June, the focus was on Italy. Town Village residents dined at Trula Restaurant within the Mayo Hotel. A guest speaker provided an insightful tour of Italy, including an educational slideshow focused on Florence, Pisa, the lost city of Pompeii, Rome and Venice. Also during the month, Town Village's Chef Dirocco hosted a Taste of Italy. The Town Village dining room was transformed into an Italian oasis, complete with violinist. Seniors dined on an array of delectable delicacies, were serenaded by a variety of Italian songs and danced the evening away.

by Lindsay Morris



As part of Town Village's exploration of Italy, residents enjoyed an Italian meal and music in their five-star dining room.

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NSU and the surrounding community. Through these programs, NSU hopes to impart a better understanding of the rich history and deeply-rooted language of the Chinese culture. For more information on NSU's Extended Learning opportunities, visit <http://academics.nsuok.edu/extendedlearning/CollegeofExtendedLearningHome.aspx>.

Rogers State University (RSU)

At RSU in Claremore, tuition is waived, but fees are required, for residents of Oklahoma who are 65 years of age or older who wish to audit courses. Auditing a course is contingent upon space available in the classroom or laboratory. Written permission from the instructor of the class must be presented at the time of registration. Applicants should contact financial aid at (918) 343-7553 for the tuition waiver application.

Tulsa City-County Library

The Tulsa City-County Library offers several in-person, free classes that seniors may find helpful. These include computer classes regarding email, Microsoft Word, Facebook and more. Locals can also benefit from the Tulsa Genealogy Center, and the library offers classes on how to navigate the Center's web page. The Hardesty Library offers a "Computer for Seniors" class every Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This series of classes is designed for individuals 55 and older who want a slower-paced, encouraging atmosphere in which to learn new skills. To learn more about the educational opportunities available at the Library, go to <http://guides.tulsalibrary.org/content.php?pid=271303&sid=2239586>.

Area Museums

Philbrook Museum of Art hosts regular classes for adults, including Life Drawing every Thursday. For \$10 per session, you can develop your drawing skills in open studio sessions by Philbrook Teaching Artist Richard Rich. Participants practice drawing nude male and female models.

Additionally, both Philbrook and Gilcrease Museum host art programs in association with the Alzheimer's Association that are specifically designed for people with dementia and their families or caregivers. A teaching artist facilitates the sessions, and snacks and beverages are served. The classes take place at 10 a.m. every second Tuesday at Gilcrease and every third Tuesday at Philbrook.

by Lindsay Morris