2019 OLLI January Film Series

To Sidney with Love
January 8-24 (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
University Hall, 2nd Floor, Room 2310

This year’s theme celebrates the life and works of Sidney Poitier. The first black actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor is 91 and still vibrant! He has led a remarkable life and created award-winning movies that people the world over love and watch over and over. It's time to give him a party! The films series is free again this year! Members should bring their snacks and their lunch if they wish. In case of bad weather, films may be canceled and rescheduled if possible.

Tuesday, January 8: The Defiant Ones (1958), 97 minutes
In 1950s America, members of a chain gang are being transported through the South when their truck crashes. Two of the convicts, John "Joker" Jackson (Tony Curtis) and Noah Cullen (Sidney Poitier), who are chained together, find an opportunity to escape. Jackson is white, Cullen is black and, at first, the men appear to be opposites in every way. As they take to the back roads, their hostility and distrust of one another eventually gives way to mutual respect as they dodge sheriffs, hunting dogs, lynching mobs, and gun-wielding youths together.

Thursday, January 10: Patch of Blue (1965), 102 minutes
A Patch of Blue is a 1965 American drama film directed by Guy Green about the relationship between a black man (played by Sidney Poitier) and a blind white female teenager (played by Elizabeth Hartman), and the problems that plague their relationship when they fall in love in a racially divided America. Made in 1965 against the backdrop of the growing civil rights movement, the film explores racism from the perspective of "love is blind."

Tuesday, January 15: Raisin in the Sun (1961), 128 minutes
This lauded drama follows the Youngers, an African-American family living together in an apartment in Chicago. Following the death of their patriarch, they try to determine what to do with the substantial insurance payment they'll soon receive. Opinions on what to do with the money vary. Walter Lee (Sidney Poitier) wants to make a business investment, while his mother, Lena (Claudia McNeil), is intent on buying a house for them all to live in -- two differing views of the American Dream.

More films on the back
Thursday, January 17:  The Bedford Incident (1965), 102 minutes
Reporter Ben Munceford (Sidney Poitier) is aboard a U.S. Navy ship sailing near the Arctic Circle, on assignment to write a profile of Capt. Eric Finlander (Richard Widmark), a hardened anti-communist. Despite the concerns of Munceford, medical officer Chester Potter (Martin Balsam) and others on the ship, Finlander is shadowing a Soviet submarine on patrol in the same area, hoping to make it to surface. The cat-and-mouse game, however, turns deadly serious.

Tuesday, January 22:  In the Heat of The Night (1967), 110 minutes
While traveling in the Deep South, Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier), a black Philadelphia homicide detective, becomes unwittingly embroiled in the murder investigation of a prominent businessman when he is first accused of the crime and then asked to solve it. Finding the killer proves to be difficult, however, especially when his efforts are constantly thwarted by the bigoted town sheriff (Rod Steiger). But neither man can solve this case alone. Putting aside their differences and prejudices, they join forces in a desperate race against time to discover the shocking truth.

Thursday, January 24:  Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner (1967), 108 minutes
When Joanna Drayton (Katharine Houghton), a free-thinking white woman, and black doctor John Prentice (Sidney Poitier) become engaged, they travel to San Francisco to meet her parents. Matt Drayton (Spencer Tracy) and his wife Christina (Katharine Hepburn) are wealthy liberals who must confront the latent racism the coming marriage arouses.