

## Join Us at the Holiday Dinner-Dance

It's that time of year again. Time for holidays, parties and fun. Please join us for our annual Holiday Dinner Dance where we will dine, then dance to the mellow Big Swing sounds of the Sentimental Journey band. A buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by dancing to your favorite tunes.



**Thursday, December 11, 2008**

**6 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Twickenham Ballroom in the Senior Center  
2200 Drake Avenue SW, Huntsville**

**Tickets: \$20.00 per person**

**Tickets can be purchased until December 3 from the following Social Committee members:** Joyce Bates 256-233-0693 (Athens), Sue Chatham 461-0262, Bob Crowe 881-5722, Marvin Lampert 883-0093, Sandra Lyons 881-1834, Larry Rice 881-9061, Cindy Spratley 679-0505, Brenda Wynn 883-4296

### **OLLI Establishes a Member Assistance Fund**

OLLI has started a member assistance fund to help those who would like to be a part of OLLI, but who cannot afford membership and/or tuition.

Please direct potential candidates to our OLLI Member Assistance Fund chair, Marvin Lampert, 256-883-0093. All information about participants will be confidential.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send check payable to OLLI with a note that it is for our Member Assistance Fund to: OLLI, P.O. Box 1581, Huntsville, AL 35807. Your contributions to OLLI are tax deductible.

*Submitted by Marvin Lampert*

## Teacher Appreciation Pizza Party



Please join us for the end-of-fall-term Teacher Appreciation Pizza Party. Take this opportunity to thank the volunteer OLLI teachers personally, socialize with your fellow students and munch on yummy pizza for lunch.

**Friday, November 7, 2008,  
11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.**

**Trinity United Methodist Church  
607 Airport Road SE, Huntsville**

## From The President



**Sue Chatham**

Our busy and productive Fall Term will have been completed by the time that you read my message.

We have many people and committees that deserve our appreciation.

The Curriculum committee, led by Cindy Spratley, does an amazing job. We have just finished a term of over 50 classes and Wednesday bonuses. This committee is already making the final touches to the Winter Catalog and has started the process of setting classes for the Spring Term. Cindy, working closely with Maxine, never gets a break. Please express your appreciation to Cindy, Maxine, and all who contribute to this committee when you see them.

The registration for the Winter Term starts December 15. Consult your catalog and sign up for the classes you want.

The OLLI Holiday Party is Dec. 11. The details are in the newsletter. This is a wonderful occasion to socialize with your OLLI friends.

I hope that each of you will have a warm and peaceful Holiday season.

**Sue Chatham**  
*President*

## ***OLLI Courses Inspired a Writer to Publish***

"I wanted to call my book SEPIA-TONED MEMORIES, but everyone convinced me that the title needed to tell people exactly what the book was about, so I changed it," Martena Koken admits. She is talking about *Doc, Memories of Edward C. Farmer*; a book that is a personal and communal memoir about the legendary Doctor of Osteopathy physician in Martena's Wisconsin community of Washington Island. **The introductory essay on Doc Farmer in Martena's book grew out of assignments in two writing classes in OLLI.** Martena thus credits the OLLI writing classes for increasing her assurance that she could and should preserve her community's memories of Doc Farmer.

The realization that she really would write a book came to Martena Koken in Writing Your Life Story, the OLLI class taught by Betty Carleton. Her motivation was reinforced in Creative Writing, taught by Pat Clay. In both classes, Martena wrote about personal experiences. One essay related the a story of a dress that survived one of Huntsville's worst tornadoes and required Martena's rescuing it from her local cleaners. She ultimately read that essay on the Writers' Corner on WLRH radio as well as the Doc Farmer essay.

Doc Farmer's picture graces the front cover of the galley copy Martena received from her publisher. The first page of each chapter is highlighted with graphics provided by Martena's husband Rip. Her book will be available to the public in December 2008.

**The OLLI newsletter co-editors want to hear from other students who have been inspired to take action or try a different activity as the result of an OLLI class. For example, have you researched your family's genealogy after a class on genealogy? Have you undertaken restoration of your family's browned and aged photos after a class on photo manipulation? Have you set out to view collections in specific museums after an OLLI art class? If you have these or similar experiences, let Joyce Pettis know at [ollinewsletter@msn.com](mailto:ollinewsletter@msn.com). You may see your picture and accomplishment in a future newsletter.**



Martena Koken

Article and photo by Joyce Pettis

# Cultural Events



Pat Lindberg,  
Cultural Committee Chair

The Cultural Committee is having a good year. Membership and interest have increased, and we hope we are planning activities you will enjoy. Contact us if there are events you are interested in, and if perhaps you would like to help us plan!

On Saturday, November 8, meet OLLI members at Sterns Coffee (formerly Seattle South) on Whitesburg Drive for fellowship and coffee before the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Rehearsal. Verna Lee Clark will be there soon after 9:30 a.m. to greet you. The rehearsal begins at 11:00 at the VBC. See details about the program in the October Newsletter which can be viewed at [www.osher.uah.edu](http://www.osher.uah.edu).

Also, on November 8, THE MET, live from New York, will show "Dr. Atomic" an opera based on the development of the atomic bomb by J. Robert Oppenheimer, with his imperious colleague Edward Teller, and the idealistic young physicist Robert Wilson. The showing will be at Hollywood 18 cinema on South Parkway at noon. It will be shown again on the second Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m., after the live broadcast. Look for other OLLI members at the live showing!

OLLI members participating in the Huntsville Master Chorale invite you to the Huntsville Master Chorale Holiday Concert on Tuesday, December 16, at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church downtown (307 Gates Ave). The Chorale is under the direction of Tom Dooling. This concert will feature holiday favorites, narrative prose by Sara McDaris and a guest appearance by the Whitesburg Middle School Girls Chorus. This is a sure way to catch some holiday spirit.

Eleanor Schweinsberg reports that the block of tickets has been purchased for attending La Traviata at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham (March 2009). Fifty-seven people purchased tickets.

Meetings continue as plans are put in place for The Big Read. The Huntsville (Main) Library now has the book *The Thief and the Dogs* available for checkout.

*Submitted by Pat Lindberg  
Cultural Committee Chair*

## Thanks to our Office Volunteers

OLLI is a volunteer driven organization and an essential group of these volunteers are those who staff our OLLI office. A special thank you goes to Jack Montgomery who is serving as the Office Volunteer Coordinator for this year. The Office Volunteers who staffed the OLLI office during this past fall term were the following:

Lynn Abernathy	Janet Creech	Olga Morawe	Cindy Spratley
Pat Allen	Kay Lawler	Jean Mulcahy	Karen Trevey
Catheryn Bailey	Beverly Liles	Sandra Nesbitt	Jim Will
Jean Bannister	David Mahling	Hugh Nicholson	Steve Wynn
Leah Black	Helen Martin	Pat Passmore	
Mary Comparetto	Carolyn Meadows	Carolyn Pohner	

*Jim Lindberg  
Member Services*

### *In Memory*

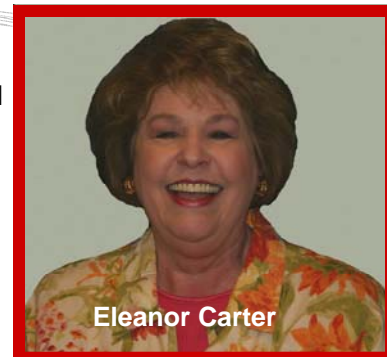
*We are very sad to learn of the passing of Toby Kilgo on October 31. He is the beloved husband of Reese Danley-Kilgo, who is an OLLI instructor and one of the founders of OLLI.*

*Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Reese, their family and many friends.*



# Greetings from Special Events

By the time you read this, we will have almost completed our Fall term! We've survived the move, parking problems, 8:45 a.m. classes, and (soon) a presidential campaign. If you didn't think that you could adapt to changes, you've been proven wrong. Thanks to Nan Case, Paulette Bernstein, and Verna Lee Clark for our Brown Bag Lunch on October 22. Kudos are in order for Shirley Mohler, who coordinated our Day in Huntsville-Hobo Lunch on November 1! Great job, all of you.



Eleanor Carter

**November 11** is Fall Game Day from 1:00-3:00 pm at Compass Bank on Governor's Drive. Light refreshments served.

**November 14**, Sue Chatham will lead the group on a walking tour of the Botanical Garden's Galaxy of Lights. If you love holiday lights and displays, you won't want to miss the chance to wander through with OLLI friends. Meet at 5:00 p.m.; dinner afterward at the group's discretion.

**January 17-18**, OLLI members travel to Montgomery for "Football and Fine Art." Claudia Conn has arranged a two-day trip that has something for everyone: a docent-led museum tour, the play "Bear Country" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, a backstage tour of ASF, and an opportunity on the way back to stop at All-Steak in Cullman for their Sunday Brunch (*details elsewhere in this newsletter*). Don't delay! Sign up now.

The Special Events Committee is examining its lengthy "to-do" list, lining up coordinators, and looking for calendar slots. Also, we hope that the Long-Range Planning Brainstorming Session held on October 31 has given us some more ideas to pursue.

**Just a word:** We try to make sure that all information makes it into the newsletter so everyone is informed, but we often send event reminders and updates via email. However, if you don't have or use email, you may miss member updates. Most OLLI information is available on our website at [www.osher.uah.edu](http://www.osher.uah.edu) so you can always use the OLLI office computer or computers at the public libraries or the UAH Salmon Library to access that site. If you don't know how to use email, there are other OLLI members who will be happy to teach you. Leave your name and phone number in the OLLI office, and someone will contact you.

**Directors for the Summer Enrichment Series '09 are needed.** Now's your chance! Among the possible topics are urban planning? conservation? new books of merit? life coaching? self-enrichment? Apply now if you want to be a director, coordinate a session, help out with logistics, or assist with a session.

*I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a happy (and prosperous) new year!*



**Submitted by Eleanor Carter, Chair  
Special Events Committee**

OLLI SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE PRESENTS . . .

# FOOTBALL AND FINE ART January 17-18, 2009



ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA



Shakespeare

Join your fellow OLLI students for an overnight trip that will include:

- ▶ A docent-led tour of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, including a special exhibit on “The Art of the Theatre” based on the ASF production of Shakespeare’s War of the Roses Trilogy.
- ▶ "Bear Country" by Michael Vigilant is a Southern Writers' Project World Premiere, allowing you to get up close and personal with legendary UA football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. Sit back and absorb the wit, wisdom and journey of a man who started life as the child of dirt poor sharecroppers and become an Alabama icon.
- ▶ The Backstage Tour of the Festival theatre explores how the talented professionals inside ASF’s amazing facility create the magic you see on stage.
- ▶ The drive home on Sunday permits a stop in Cullman for the well-known All-Steak Restaurant Sunday lunch.

Cost for the tours and tickets to the play will be \$45.00 per person. We have reserved a block of rooms for \$89.90 (single or double, tax and breakfast included) at the Country Inn and Suites about a mile from ASF and the Museum. Please make your room reservation directly with the motel by calling 334-270-3223, asking for the OLLI group. Restaurants are located close by. NOTE: We will have a pre-trip meeting to facilitate car pools, distribute maps, discuss restaurants and answer any questions you may have. To reserve your spot on this exciting trip, send your check for \$45.00 per person (made payable to OLLI) to Claudia Conn, 211 Beaucamp Pl SW, Huntsville, AL 35802. Be sure to include your correct contact information. If you have another question, contact Claudia at [cgconn@bellsouth.net](mailto:cgconn@bellsouth.net) or 881-2203.

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: DECEMBER 1, 2008**

## Fun Day, Game Day!



Join us for food, fun, and board games.

**November 11 at Compass Bank  
Governor's Drive (4<sup>th</sup> floor)  
1:00 – 3:00 pm**



## Curriculum Corner

Thanks again to all of you who volunteered to help make this another successful term – instructors, coordinators, facilitators, audio-visual facilitators, and office volunteers. There are too many of you to name, but we still appreciate every one of you.

Registration for the winter term is just around the corner. Our catalogs will be mailed about Dec. 8. Registration will start Dec. 15. There will be some changes in the registration process. Details will be printed in the catalog, and highlights will be provided via email. The instructions for online registration are critical to making this a successful process. You must identify all the courses you want to take before you enter the information to pay for registration. The system is not set up to accept course registration without payment.

After you have registered for classes, please consider volunteering to facilitate. Many of you will be traveling and enjoying the holidays with family and friends. While you are unavailable, our subcommittee chairs and coordinators will be trying to reach you to ask for volunteers. You can help us out by volunteering proactively. Call the office (824-6959), or me (679-0233) and leave a message if you are willing to help. That way all of us can enjoy the holidays.

Facilitator training for the winter term is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 8. The winter term is Jan. 12 – Mar. 9, 2009. Please note that the Martin Luther King holiday on Jan. 19 will cause Monday classes to finish later than others. Syllabi for the spring term are due Jan. 30. Forward course ideas to the subcommittee chairs listed on the back of your course .



Cindy Spratley

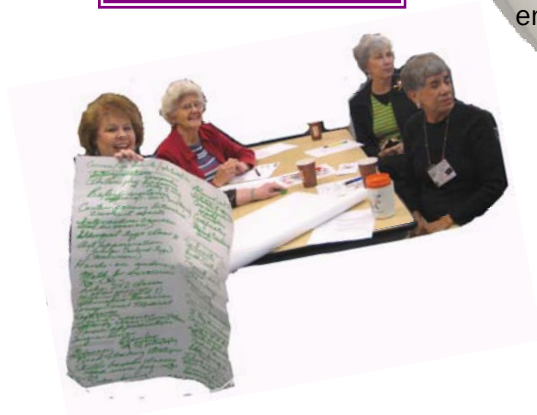
catalogs. We are still looking for instructors. Call the office at 824-6959. If no one answers, leave a message. Someone will pick it up and forward it to the correct people. As always feel free to call me, Cindy Spratley at 679-0233

*Submitted by Cindy Spratley  
 Curriculum Chair*

## IDEAS! SUGGESTIONS! CREATIVITY!



Twenty-seven members were present at a Long-Range-Planning brainstorming session on Friday, Oct 31. They offered their opinions and insight on how to maintain and improve our high standard of senior education as we move into the future. Al Cruze, the LRP Committee Chair conducted the high energy three hour meeting in which new and seasoned members attended.





# The Adventures of OLLI & Harriet



What joy! To be as emancipated as a bird; to take wing to lands unknown with absolutely nothing to hinder your journey except for your own free will! It may be a dream for many of us, but it is a reality for at least one member of OLLI. She is a free spirit; her name is Harriet Lawrence, a person who has no address to call home.

It is a tribute to our members and to Huntsville that Harriet was attracted to OLLI at UAH. She learned about us while working as a volunteer host at The Mountain Retreat near Highlands, NC, where we held a special event in 2006. Later, on the way from NC to Texas, she visited Huntsville, liked what she saw, went straight to Wilson Hall and registered for OLLI. A year later, she returned for the 2008 winter term.

Harriet's nomadic lifestyle began about three years ago. After her husband passed away, the home they shared in New York's Hudson Valley seemed too large, the burden of maintaining a house too demanding for a widow. Thinking about what to do with the rest of her life, Harriet focused on how much she enjoyed traveling and she visualized a goal: *she would see the country and visit all its national parks.*

She was no stranger to camping; her family began their camping adventures at her ripe age of 10. She explains, "By the time I went to college, I had seen all the national parks in 48 states. Since then the number has absolutely grown and I need to see them all. It's my duty as a citizen!" So she sold her home, packed up her belongings along with an Elderhostel catalog and campground and youth hostel directories, and began her great adventures.

Harriet could write a book about her exciting life and, in fact, she is a published writer of articles and other works. In her youth, she studied in Paris and traveled Europe. She also enjoyed playing in a community orchestra, but her violin is now replaced with a more transportable dulcimer (our Dulc-Jam'rs being another OLLI at UAH attraction). She is a walker, swims for exercise, rides a bike, does yoga, and is an avid reader. She explained that one of the negatives of not having a permanent address is a lack of access to library books. She is absolutely thrilled that as an OLLI member, she has access to all the wonderful books in the UAH library.

Listening to Harriet, you will get the impression that she is absolutely in love with life. She never meets a stranger and, armed with an adventurous and youthful spirit, she seeks knowledge and cultural opportunities wherever her travels take her.

Harriet Lawrence will be teaching a "Puzzle Mania" course this winter. Because the course limits the number of attendees in each class, she has generously agreed to teach two classes. Watch for your catalog and sign up early; you can rest assured you are in for a marvelous treat!

*Article, photo by Lorrie White*



**Harriet Lawrence**

## Thank You WLRH Volunteers

On October 21, 2008, Bob Crowe, Dave Kostowny, Sherry Woody, Sandy McAllister, and Lois Keele kindly served on the WLRH fundraiser.

OLLI gets good publicity working this fun event. If you are interested in taking pledges during the next fundraiser in March and enjoying the good food available to volunteers, please call Beverly Marchelos at 534-3639.

**Box for Lost & Found Items**

Did you know there is a lost and found box? It is located in the OLLI Office, Madison Hall, room 322.

If you have lost something in an OLLI classroom, you might check the box to see if it has been turned in. However, if you find something that someone else has lost, please kindly drop it in the box.



**Need a Holiday Gift Idea?**

Here's a unique hint: Give that special neighbor, friend or loved-one a new lease on life with a gift membership to OLLI.

For only \$15.00 you can give several months of socials, cultural, and special events opportunities. In addition, there are free Wednesday Bonus Classes and unforgettable Summer Series lectures. Sign-up for a gift membership at [osher.uah.edu](http://osher.uah.edu).

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Did you know that the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is maintained solely by member volunteers?**

From the OLLI president to the instructors, committee chairs, board of directors, committee members, office workers, support personnel, web site master, newsletter editor, and all support personnel in-between; every role is a volunteer who gives their time, experience and creativity.

OLLI depends on volunteers and welcomes any amount of time that a person is willing to contribute. If you have experience, skills, or interests and are willing to donate your time, from a couple to several hours a month, please consider joining our group of volunteers. Your help will enrich our Institute, and you will get back much more than you give in the way of appreciation, new friendships and many smiles.

For a list of committee, please visit our Web site at [www.osher.uah.edu](http://www.osher.uah.edu).



**Important Notice:** Newsletter inputs for January Newsletter are due by December 16. Please send articles and ideas to Lorrie White, Editor, Joyce Pettis, Co-editor, at [ollinewsletter@msn.com](mailto:ollinewsletter@msn.com)  
Please understand that due to cost and space constraints, articles may be edited for length.



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