

OLLI MEMBER WINS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Travel to Madagascar Pays Off



Barbara Hitt placed *first* in the annual Huntsville Times Travel Photography Contest in the people category. Her colorful photograph, taken in Madagascar, depicting one of its native children, appeared in the Sunday, February 22, 2009, issue of the HT. Additionally, Barbara has won top recognition for her photograph in the places category. Barbara and her OLLI member husband Gary are wildlife and nature enthusiasts and travel to Madagascar to observe lemures and birds. Barbara is a former OLLI board member and has been involved in the organization almost from its inception. Her interest in digital photography is the result of an academy class taken with Glenn Nettleton. Barbara remains an active member of the OLLI camera and computer interest group.

OLLI's own Barbara Staggs judged the entries in the Huntsville Times contest..

Please see Barbara Hitt's award-winning photo on page 8 of this newsletter.



Events at a Glance

Madame Butterfly	Mar 7 & 18
Winter term ends	Mar 9
Spring registration	Mar 9
Teacher Appreciation	Mar 10
La Traviata	Mar 22
Game Day	Mar 24 & 31
Monte Sano Hike	Mar 23
The Big Read	Mar 25
Spring Facilitator Training	Mar 26
Spring term Begins	Mar 30

**Olli Members
 Enjoy Brown Bag
 Lunch**



From The President

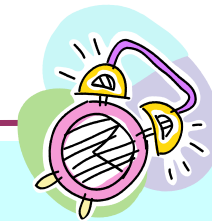
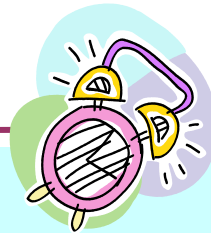


Sue Chatham,

Time passes so fast. We are at the end of another term. The catalogs for the Spring Term should be in your hands by the time you receive this newsletter. Registration starts on March 9 and classes start on March 30. Hopefully you will find a class or two that you would like to take during the Spring Term.

Stay informed about OLLI activities that are planned in addition to classes. Read your newsletter, watch for emails and check the website at www.osher.uah.edu concerning other activities. Our Special Events Committee, Cultural Committee and Social Committee already have events planned for the spring and summer. You don't want to miss out.

The Teacher Appreciation BBQ will be on Tuesday, March 10, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Methodist Church. I hope to see each of you there.



Curriculum Corner

Course catalogs for the spring term are imminent. Registration starts on March 9, and classes begin on March 30. Remember to volunteer your services as a facilitator. Facilitator training will be held in Madison Hall, room 215, on March 26, at 10:00 a.m. Training for Audio-Visual Facilitators will be at 11:00 a.m. The term will run for six weeks, ending on May 8.

Tentative planning for the fall term has classes scheduled to begin on September 14 with syllabi for that term due to the curriculum committee on July 17. The balance of the schedule for the upcoming academic year will be published in next month's newsletter.

Since the last course catalog for the academic year has been completed, your curriculum committee will be engaged in some long term planning over the next several months. If you have ideas for new courses or know of instructors who are ready to share their interests and expertise, let us know who they are. Any ideas you have are valuable to our planning processes.

Subcommittee chairs are still looking for volunteers to serve on discipline area committees. Remember that the discipline area subcommittee chairpersons are listed on the back of the course catalogs. Call the office (824-6959) to find out how to volunteer or call me (679-0233).

Submitted by Cindy Spratley



Pat Lindberg,
Cultural Committee Chair

CULTURAL EVENTS

Opera at the Movies continues when *Madama Butterfly* is shown live from the MET on Saturday, March 7, at 12:00 noon with the re-run on March 18, at 7:00 p.m. Run time is 201 minutes. On Saturday, March 21, *La Sonnambula* will be shown at 12:00 noon and again on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. Run time is 160 minutes.

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Classical Five series on March 14, will feature “Inspiration & Contemplation – Barrueco Plays Rodrigo” with guest Manuel Barrueco (guitar). The conductor will be Tobias Foksett. Music featured will be Copland – *Lincoln Portrait*, Rodrigo – *Concierto de Aranjuez*, and Brahms – *Symphony No. 3*. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Call the Symphony Office (539-4818) for ticket information.

There is still time for reading *The Big Read 2009* selection “*The Thief and The Dogs*” prior to the March 25 and April 8 seminars, which will be at The Huntsville Madison County Library auditorium from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Interesting and informed speakers will broaden your knowledge of the era in which the book was set. If you haven’t read it, you may borrow a copy (534-7148).



The group of 57 people who purchased tickets to the performance of *La Traviata* in Birmingham on March 22, are anxiously awaiting the date. We are looking forward to Huntsville native Susanna Phillips’ appearance in the role of Violetta. We appreciate Eleanor Schweinsberg’s efforts in coordinating the trip.



La profesora Vita French lee un cuento a la clase de Espanol.



SPECIAL EVENTS



Join us on Monday, March 23, to see spring wildflowers on Monte Sano. Spring is just around the corner and the bluebells on Monte Sano should be blooming. A moderate hike on the “Sinks” trail with significant elevation change, the hike will take about 2 hours. Bring water and a snack if desired. Meet at 10 a.m. in the hiker’s parking lot. Note: \$2 adult and \$1 children weekday admission fee to the park.

Directions: Take Governor’s Drive (Highway 431) east toward Monte Sano. Follow Hwy 431 to the crest of the mountains; turn left onto Monte Sano Boulevard. Drive approximately 2 miles and turn right onto Nolen Ave. Drive 1 mile to park entrance. From the park entrance follow the road till it forks and keep to the right. The hiker’s parking lot is immediately on the right. We will depart from this parking lot.

Questions? Contact Joyce Howell j11howell@knology.net

OLLI GOES TO THE MOVIES



Twenty-five members of OLLI gathered at a local theatre on February 19 to view *Slumdog Millionaire*. Afterwards, they enjoyed dinner and analyzing the film. Were they unanimous in designating *Slumdog* best picture of the year??



**Eleanor Carter,
Special Events
Chair**

Game Day

Join us for food, fun, and board games.

March 24 at Compass Bank (4th floor)
Governor’s Drive
1:00–3:00 p. m.



STACKING THE DECK FOR FAIR PLAY

The Google Game

If you were an uninformed InterNet searcher, what terms would you use to google for something like "Us," OLLIatUAH? If you were the OLLI web weaver, how would you integrate such terms into the message flow of the OLLI web pages?

Finding what you want on the net depends on your use of a search engine (SE). But being found *by you* depends on the weaver's imaginative anticipation of your choice of key terms and his (or her) providing them in the context of the site's messages.

That's the Google Game, at which we're not losing, but at which we need to enhance our strategy to expand our reach. The most essential components are the *imagination* to anticipate the seekers we hope will find us and the *creativity* to mold our message to attract the SE's attention. Moreover, we have to retain the appeal of our very *human* message for the seeker.

We can use your thoughts to help us give our site an SE tune up. Imagine yourself searching for something like OLLI, but you haven't a clue how to name it. Then think of terms you might use to help the SE locate what you want. Try them out to see what they point you to. Send OLLIwwwweaver your best or favorite ones. Remember to suggest ways to meld your term(s) with the OLLI message. Send suggestions to <OLLIwwwweaver@gmail.com>.

Some words that work well for us now, usually in combinations of two or more, are lifetime, lifelong, learning, osher, OLLI, UAH (including Arkansas), academy, institute, gift of learning, elderhostel, course schedule, calendar, events, huntsville, alabama, etc.

Some surprise terms that also found us include these:
bob ward, line dancing, cruise larry rice, tobias foskett, jo mcdonald huntsville, and industrial tours.

The Web Critics Guide How to Shake up your Web Weaver

Web site weavers are crafty tinkerers! Give them a box of old parts, tools and toys and they'll put something together, but ask them for something you need and they don't have a clue how, what, where, or why not! If you can't describe what you want, you need to tell them what they have done wrong. That's what the *Web Critics Guide* is about.. Download the *Web Critics Guide* using the link at the foot of the Home page for ideas.

When you visit the OLLI web site (as you do each week), take a few extra minutes to assume the role of a visiting stranger and poke around looking for something a stranger might "google" for. If you find it, congratulate me; but if you don't, let me know! Use for the subject: "OLLI web critic." Olliwwwweaver@gmail.com.

Al Bailey, OLLI Web Weaver
(The combined words are deliberate. The weaver is "shaking you up.")



The Big Read



The Huntsville Library and the OLLI Curriculum Committee are teaming up to bring you a special course to be taught by Dr. Bill Stephens entitled, "The Pharaoh's Library." This course is being offered in conjunction with other activities associated with the "Big Read Egypt/U.S. - 2009" and will be held at the Main Branch of the library in the Jane Grote Roberts Auditorium for 6 Mondays, starting March 30, 10:30 - 12:00 noon. This course is open to the public, will not be listed in our spring course catalog, and will not require registration. Show up early to be sure to get a seat.

Although there was no actual Pharaoh's Library until the time of Alexander, this series of lectures examines the literature available to the Pharaohs of the ancient dynasties through the mystical written language of the hieroglyphs. Each session wraps up with a dramatic audio-visual presentation enhancing our understanding of this ancient culture.



(1) The first lecture contains an overview of the lecture series and a review of basic religious beliefs including the "Legend of Osiris."

(2) The subsequent session introduces the clever god Toth, inventor of medicine, measurement, time, astronomy, and most important, writing (hieroglyphs).

(3) The following session studies literary works inscribed on massive granite obelisks, on awesome stone temple walls, and on secret hidden tomb walls. Also in this session a selection of Love Poems translated from hieroglyphs will be showcased and analyzed.



(4) The fourth session is concerned with the use of carved scarab beetles as the medium for a "Family Newsletter," and the gravestone-shaped stele is used as a "billboard," while papyrus is used for a wide variety of literary records. Examples are given for ancient hymns and wisdom texts for advice to the young.

(5) The next-to-last session is the story of the Benu Bird (the Egyptian Heron - born again like the Greek Phoenix), including the significance of the benben stone which stood atop an obelisk. Excerpts from exotic medical texts are discussed, and several curious "fables" recorded in the ancient literature are described.

(6) The final session will focus on literature from fascinating court records of criminal trials of tomb robbers and other legal documents including prenuptial agreements.

Outline provided by Dr. Bill Stephens.





JOIN US FOR OLLI FARM DAY!

APRIL 4, 2009

11 AM - 2 PM

Burritt on the Mountain is holding its Spring Farm Days on April 4-5 and we'd love to have you join us on **April 4** when we take a trip back in time and visit the Historic Park and Barnyard. Several treats are in store for you: lectures, a sheep shearing demonstration, and a truly wonderful exhibit of farm equipment from 1900-1950, put together by the Southern Flywheelers. If you've never done so, you can experience another way of life by cleaning rugs, make pillows or quilts, or even churning butter! Our group will meet promptly at 11 am in front of the Welcome Center, so wear your name tag and don't be late. We'll have our own guide to show us around. Lunch is hamburgers, hot dogs, etc., and we'll eat as a group in the Trillium Room. This is a rain or shine event, so come prepared for the weather!

Deadline to register is March 20, so be sure you reserve soon. Cost for the outing is \$10 per person and includes Burritt admission and lunch (make checks payable to OLLI). Guests must be accompanied by an OLLI member.

Send check to Eleanor Carter, 5720 Jones Valley Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802.

Name: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

This event is sponsored by Special Events.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT SERIES



Change is coming to Alabama's framework of governance. Learn more about it and key aspects of this important, timely subject.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 7, 9, 14 and 16
9:00 AM to 12:00 noon
(Location TBA soon)

Sponsored by the OLLI Special Events Committee.



Burritt Museum Activity



Important Notice: Newsletter inputs for the April 2009 Newsletter are due by March 24. Please send articles and ideas to Lorrie White, Editor, and Joyce Pettis, Co-editor, at Ollinews@msn.com. Please understand that due to cost constraints, articles may be edited for length.



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