

at UAH

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Est. in 1993 as the Academy for Lifetime Learning, Inc. at UAH

P.O. Box 1581, Huntsville, AL 35807 256-824-6959 www.osher.uah.edu Email: OLLI@uah.edu November/December 2009

A Special Holiday Party

DECEMBER 9, 2009

THE SUMMIT AT BIG SPRING PARK



Have you bought your ticket for OLLI's **EVENT OF THE YEAR**? The OLLI Holiday Party will give you a chance to check out The Summit located at Big Spring Park. The party will be on the top floor of the building overlooking Big Spring Lake. There will be a wonderful meal provided by Kurt. To offset the meal, get out your dancing shoes and reminisce to songs from the 50's to the 80's by "The Looking Back Band." Punch and non-alcoholic beverages provided/byob. Also, parking in the garage is included in the price of your ticket.



What else could you ask for at a cost of \$25 a ticket? If you have not bought your ticket, give Nan Case a call at 508-6292, Sandra Lyons - 881-1834, or Sue Chatham - 461-0262. The deadline for purchasing tickets is November 30, 2009. This promises to be an evening of wonder and fun, don't miss it!

Nan Case, Chair, Social Committee

Check out our new Picasa where you can view, add or download OLLI photos. Go to www.osher.uah.edu and put your cursor on Membership Benefits on the menu. The last item is Photo Albums. Click and you'll be in Picasa! Hmmm, is that you in one of those albums?

Osher Lifelong Learning and YOU!



The socials, special events, cultural functions, Wednesday Bonuses, and the wide variety of courses are awesome! We get so much enjoyment out of reaping these benefits offered by OLLI. When attending one of these gatherings, everything goes so smoothly that it seems as if a magic wand were waved to make it all happen. That would be nice, but actually it takes many members putting in hours of brainstorming, drawing on their varied experience, motivation, and labor to turn an idea into a occasion that we can all take pleasure in.

When you think of it, It is almost a miracle that unpaid volunteers can run a large organization like OLLI. From the president and board of directors to the instructors, members of committees, the web master, the newsletter editors, the office volunteers, committee chairs, facilitators, audio-video coordinators and on and on. Each person contributes their expertise, ideas, commitment, and determination to do the best job they can. The rewards are the good feelings of a task well done, the gain of new friendships, and the continuance of a worthwhile organization.

We thank all of our volunteers, for without them and the quality of their contributions, there would not be an OLLI as we know it. As this year comes to an end, take the time to consider what role you can play that would add to the strength of OLLI. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Turandot	Nov 18
Creative Gift Wrapping	Dec 3
Holiday Party	Dec 9
Survivor Competition Training	Jan 20
Eagle Awareness Weekend	Jan 22
Back- to- School Pot-Luck	Jan 22
Winter Term Begins	Jan 25
Mardi Gras	Feb 16
Winter Term Ends	Mar 12
The Marriage of Figaro	Mar 21
Olli's Got Talent	May 4

From The President



Cindy Spratley

Happy Holidays! I hope you and your loved ones have a safe holiday season. Lots of changes are coming OLLI's way. During the next two newsletters we will try to keep you informed about what

to expect when you return to classes the last full week in January. We expect to have a new office and lounge location and unfamiliar classrooms when you return. We are ordering new office furniture but are holding off on new classroom furniture and appliances for our kitchenette until we can measure the new space. Almost everything about Wilson Hall will be different, clean, and new. Hopefully, we will have numerous convenient parking spaces!!

Catalogs for the winter term will be mailed on December 18. The Business and Continuing Education Offices will be in the middle of moving from Madison Hall to Wilson Hall during this same time period.

Be patient. The phones and computers may not be hooked up in the new location. If at all possible, hold your phone calls until after the campus is closed from December 24 until January 4. No one will be in the OLLI office during this time period either. Our office staff will be able to pick up phone messages left on the office phone from off-site, but our volunteers are busy enjoying the holidays, too.

OLLI Holiday Party tickets will be on sale during November. Call the office if you need tickets. I'm looking forward to sharing this holiday season with you at The Summit at Big Spring Park.

Cindy Spratley, President

The Curriculum Corner

OLLI is on the move! Beginning January 2010 – just two months away – we will be back in a renovated Wilson Hall. On the first floor of Wilson we will have our own OLLI suite which will contain an office, a larger lounge for our members, an activity room, a classroom, and storage areas. The classroom is medium-sized, good for a typical OLLI course, and the activity room can also be used for a smaller class such as a craft or language course. Right now we are shopping for the best prices in desks, tables, chairs, a refrigerator, microwave, and other necessities to furnish our new quarters. We will purchase these items with some remaining OLLI Grant funds we've set aside for this purpose.



Barbara Ward

Of course, moving requires lots of effort, and not just the packing and unpacking. For Curriculum the biggest challenge was how to schedule the Winter Term to minimize disruption. What if the planned mid-December move took place days early or days late?

Working with UAH Continuing Education, we went through several iterations of the winter schedule and settled on the following which (please note) is different from our customary schedule:

- ◆ **The course catalog will go into the mail around December 18 to accommodate the UAH copy department's holiday schedule.**
- ◆ **Registration will begin on Wednesday, January 6.**
- ◆ **Winter classes will start on Monday, January 25 and will run seven weeks so that our Spring Term does not end too late in May and interfere with our members' summer plans.**

For our online members, we will send out an email after the first of the year to remind you about registration. For those who do not get email, put a reminder on your 2010 calendar or a sticky on your refrigerator as soon as you read this article. We all need to keep our eyes out for Mr. Murphy and his law; but if things don't work out quite as planned, we all know OLLI members haven't gotten this far in life without being **adaptable**.

Barbara Ward, Chair Curriculum Committee
bward@hiwaay.net 883-6403



Pat Lindberg

Cultural Events

Eleanor Schweinsberg has obtained very good ticket prices for OLLI members who wish to attend Birmingham Opera's presentation of "The Marriage of Figaro." We will attend the Sunday, March 21, 2:30 p.m. performance, which will be in Opera Birmingham's new home on the campus of Samford University. Susanna Phillips will portray Countess Almaviva in Mozart's perfect comedy. Ticket prices are as follows: center front orchestra (\$42.50), side front orchestra (\$34), center rear orchestra (\$24), side rear orchestra/lower balcony (\$14), and upper balcony (\$9). This price quote reflects a 50% discount off original ticket price.

Make out your check to Opera Birmingham for the amount of the seats you choose. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope and mail to Eleanor Schweinsberg, 1105 Rivlin Road, Huntsville, AL 35801. You may call Eleanor at 883-0602, if you have questions. The deadline for receiving ticket requests is November 30, so you can obtain choice seats in the area you choose.

You are invited to join opera fans for the encore of "Turandot" on Wednesday, November 18, at Hollywood 18 Theatre at 6:30 p.m. (\$18 admission). On Saturday, December 19, 12:00 noon, "Les Contes D'Hoffmann" will be presented live from the MET, (\$20 admission).

Submitted by Pat Lindberg, Cultural Committee Chair

Hudson-Alpha Institute Tour Leaves Members In Awe

Walls of glass, soft smooth wood, ultra-modern high-tech design, open, bright, warm and balanced. This best describes the architectural wonder of Hudson-Alpha Institute where 50 OLLI members met for the Industrial Tour on Friday, October 24.

The open concept of the building reflects the free-flowing communication between 13 biotech companies working in a symbiotic relationship with each other and with Hudson-Alpha to solve the world's most difficult mysteries concerning bacteria and viruses. There are numerous facets of research going on within the walls of the Institute. For instance, to further understand the immune system, there is a study of the fuzz that grows on the shells of hermit crabs. Then there are studies on aging, on the causes of certain cancers, and much, much more.

The tour included speakers from two biotech companies. The first speaker was Randy Ward, President of Diatherix Laboratories. He explained that Diatherix's distinction is the ability to run a sample panel, testing not for just one virus at a time, but genetic-based testing of multiple viruses at once – in just six hours! This CLEA approved feat is unmatched by any other lab in the world. Its importance is that when a person has a virus, pneumonia for example, there could be other infections secretly lurking that are overlooked in regular lab testing. Diatherix has been in the news lately for the fact that the FDA gave them emergency approval to test the H1N1 flu virus. Here again, they get results in hours and not days, as with other labs.



Ron Phillips of Digital Radiance demonstrated software showing three dimensional images of cells created as part of their work with the HudsonAlpha Institute. Free interactive software is given to schools throughout Alabama as a learning tool to aid with biology and to further education in biotechnology. Try it yourself at

<http://www.hudsonalpha.org/education>.

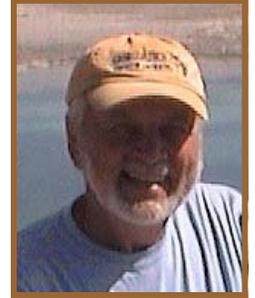


The tour included all four floors of the building where members could peek into state-of-the-art laboratories; each lab had a fantastic view of the Huntsville landscape. We thank Ralph Murphy for arranging this tour, and commend the Hudson-Alpha Institute for developing an Institute for which Huntsville can be very proud.

Lorrie White, Newsletter Editor

Special Events Committee

We had our second **GAME DAY** on November 10 in the rain from Hurricane Ida, but in spite of the weather we had nine people show up ready to play games. Played Rummikube, Uno, and demonstrated/played the game of "WAR" in preparation for our upcoming OLLI Survivor Competition. Our next game day will be January 12, 2010. Hurting for coordinators. Please help!



Our **CREATIVE GIFT WRAPPING CLASS** (see details in this newsletter) will be held on December 3, at the Huntsville Main Library room A/B from 6:00-9:00 pm. Learn how to artistically wrap those unwrapable gifts with inspiration and slight perspiration. See page 8 for details.

OLLI SURVIVOR COMPETITION (coordinator needed) will be held during the winter term. The competition plan and the game rules are being finalized. The card game will be "WAR" resurrected from our childhood. It is easy to learn, play, and win. All you need is luck.

Individual games will be face-to-face but signup, coordination, direction, opponent identification, schedule, and results reporting will be via email. If you don't have access to the internet, perhaps a friend who does can be your email provider. Individual competitors will need to get in touch with their assigned opponent and arrange for a date, time and location for their game. Bring a deck of 52 and a copy of the rules. Depending upon the number of entrants, to fit this competition into the winter term each round will have a deadline by which the individual game must be played and the results emailed to the Coordinator. A kickoff, if necessary, will be held on January 20, to show how the game is played and, possibly, even have some of the initial round play.

EAGLE AWARENESS WEEKEND (Coordinator Shirley Mohler) will be held at Guntersville State Park on the weekend of January 22, 2010. This will be an opportunity to view our majestic, national bird the American Bald Eagle. See details on page 5.

Laissez les bon temps rouler

The only way to prepare for Lent is to have a celebration, so how about a **MARDI GRAS** (Coordinator Shirley Mohler). The event will be on Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday...February 16 for those unfamiliar with this ancient tradition. It will be a gala costumed affair where you will have delicious Cajun food, beads (non-edible), Zydeco, other music, dancing, and a glass of wine. American Legion post 237 will host us, and each ticket will be \$15. Come join the party and **let the good times roll!**

On the horizon are a possible **Cooking Class** in February, more game days, a visit to **Russell Cave** in April, **OLLI Has Talent** in May, and a trip to **San Antonio/Fredericksburg, TX** in late May.

Joe Cremin, Special Events Committee Chair

Coming Attraction!

OLLI Has Talent

Save the date, May 4, 2010, for an entertaining and comical talent show performed by your fellow OLLI friends. Complete details to come in the January 2010, newsletter. If you have an interest in performing, please email your act to ollihastalent@gmail.com.

**EAGLE AWARENESS WEEKEND
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE STATE PARK
JANUARY 22-24, 2010**



The Special Events Committee of OLLI, in cooperation with Lake Guntersville Resort State Park, invites you to participate in **Eagle Awareness Weekend, January 22 - 24, 2010**, to observe and study this magnificent national symbol, the bald eagle. Eagle Awareness has been a tradition at Lake Guntersville State Park for more than twenty years, and is an activity that people of all ages can enjoy. The Park Naturalist and a host of field trip guides and guest speakers make these weekends an event you won't soon forget. All programs (guided nature hikes to Eagle nesting sites, lectures, live birds, excellent scenery and much more) are free of charge.

Package rates are available which include the Friday night apple cider and coffee social (don't miss it!), Friday and Saturday night lodging, two breakfast buffets, and lunch and dinner on Saturday. Basic Eagle packages start at \$219.14 for one person per room or \$282.00 for 2 people per room (does not include tax). Packages don't include the popular Friday night Seafood Buffet (\$14.95), but it's worth the extra price! Other packages are available for lakeside cottages or mountaintop chalets, and are on the Park website at <http://www.alapark.com/lakeguntersville/Specials%20&%20Packages/>. You may also create your own weekend at regular rates for rooms and meals (see below).

Arrival time is 4:00 p.m. (rooms may be available earlier). Checkout is 11:00 am (In case you want to play an early round of golf on the park's championship course).

OLLI has reserved a block of rooms for our group: 10 hotel rooms on the bluff (sleeps 2), 5 rooms facing the parking lot on the ground floor (sleeps 2), and 2 king-size suites (sleeps 4).

Reservations? Call the Park directly at 1-800-548-4553 to choose the pricing and room style that you prefer. Please use the group code word: OLLI. Then drop an email to Coordinator Shirley Mohler at TUCK-MO1935@aol.com to let her know you'll be part of the group.

Deadline for reservations is December 15, 2009.

For more information, you can contact Shirley via email or by phone at 539-3660.

As all avid outdoor lovers know, this event will be held rain or shine. So dress for the outdoors in warm clothing, and bring your binoculars and all your camera paraphernalia! Glorious scenery and fantastic company! What more could you want? Hope to see you there!

Joe Cremin, Special Events Committee Chair

PUZZLEHOLICS, HERE'S SOME FUN FOR YOU!

Harriet Lawrence's Puzzlemania classes bring challenge and fun into education, and are guaranteed to get those brain cells stimulated. Here are some of her puzzles; but don't think you'll get a head-start for the winter term. She has a variety of puzzles she'll teach you to solve, but you won't see these particular ones in her winter course. Find the answers elsewhere in this newsletter.

TI . ME	CHAIR	E N I L	chin chin	yaplayrd	the weather she she
p o u r	SNPLAYOW	much eat much eat	diddle diddle	C H O W	sister + brother

Photo Contest Judges Pick the Winners!

It couldn't have been an easy task to sort through 37 impressive photos, but judges **Barbara Staggs**, **Gene Zajicek** and **Barbara Hitt** managed to select the ideal winners for OLLI's 1st Annual Photo Contest. The winning photo, "Saturn V Rocket," fits the contest theme "Picturesque Scenes of Madison County" to a tee. It is a positive part of our landscape that we often view as we travel on I565, and with the dramatic night lighting, the photo seems almost magical. The 2nd and 3rd place photos each depict some of the loveliness of our locale, and convert well into black and white.

Appreciation goes to all the following contributors: **UAHuntsville Continuing Education** for the 1st prize of a \$65.00 term tuition, and to **Barbara Ward** for helping to coordinate the catalog photo feature with UAHuntsville; to **Jim Lindberg and the Member Services Committee** for the 2nd and 3rd prize membership donation; to our **Web Master Al Bailey** who set up a perfect web site where our judges could view the unnamed photos; and to our judges, including **Jo McDonald**, who helped determine the criteria and who used their expertise to choose the winners. Most of all, a hearty thank you to **all the talented participants** who sent in their amazing photos.

See all the photos at http://www.osher.uah.edu/_Contest.php. Be sure to look in the June/July 2010 issue for the theme of the 2nd Annual Photo Contest.



The winning photo, Saturn V Rocket, was taken by Tom Bryant.

Tom bicycles to classes whenever possible and notices things he wouldn't see if traveling by car. This shot was made on October 1 (Thursday) at 6:50 p.m. towards the end of rush hour traffic, right after the sun set.

Tom especially likes curves in a photo, and he captured them well with the graceful line of the headlights and streetlights. See Tom's commentary at http://www.osher.uah.edu/_Docs/TomBryantStory.html

Lorrie White, Newsletter Editor



Second prize, "Water Feature at Bridge Street," by Mike Bilinski



Third prize, "Downtown from Big Springs Park," by Frances Ruiz

Activities Galore at the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

What a wonderful turnout for the **Fall 2009 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon**. Over 160 members attended. There were displays from the Photo Composition Class, the Lace Knitting Class, and the Drawing Class. The talent that our OLLI members have is amazing. The pictures of the photo contest were displayed, and the three winners were announced at the luncheon. As their pictures were unveiled, it was very exciting to see the winning photos. Once again, the teachers were recognized for their efforts. We simply would not have an OLLI without them. In addition, the volunteers that make it all happen were given our sincere thanks.

If you missed this luncheon, don't miss the next one. **The Back-to-School Pot-Luck will be on January 22, 2010.** More details will be in the January newsletter.

Nan Case, Social Committee Chair



Photos from the contest caught the eyes of many



Photo contest winners: 1st place Tom Bryant, 2nd place Mike Bilinski and 3rd place Frances Ruiz



Volunteers preparing the tables with enough pizza, veggies and cookies to feed 160 hungry appetites.



These lovely ladies stop to admire the art from the drawing class



Drawing samples from Frances Currie's Drawing Class. (Zoom in to get a detailed view of the fantastic art)

Answers to Puzzleholics

A point in time	Downpour
High chair	Play in the snow
Line-up	Too much to eat
Double chin	High diddle diddle
Play in the yard	Chow down
She's under the weather	Little sister and big brother



Creative Gift Wrapping for the Holidays

December 3, 2009

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Huntsville Main Public Library

Room A/B

Sign up by November 20

There are times when dropping a gift into a gift bag just won't do, or you really would like your present to be noticed among the other packages. Get creative this year and choose a unique way to wrap those holiday gifts for your family and friends. Anna Hanlin will be teaching a class called Creative Gift Wrapping.

Anna uses an assortment of materials—newspaper, cardboard, paint, coat hangers— to transform the ungainly or ordinary object into a masterpiece one may not wish to unwrap.

So bring your gift and an idea or two. Anna may ask you about the recipients, their likes, dislikes, or favorite colors. With the information and the object, she will help you construct a wrapping. Class is December 3 at the Main Library from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. There is a \$5 materials fee. Call Anna Hanlin at 256-656-0646 or email at hmmm100@gmail.com to sign up by November 20 (last call November 25).

Bob Goodwin,
 Special Events Coordinator
 564-8417

Important Notice: Newsletter inputs for the January Newsletter are due by December 15. Please send articles and ideas to: Lorrie White, Editor, Joyce Pettis, Co-editor, at ollinewsletter@msn.com Please understand that due to cost and space constraints, articles may be edited for length.



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