



OLLI HOLIDAY PARTY 2011



Have you dined and socialized on the top floor of The Summit while looking out at Big Spring Park? The OLLI Holiday Party will give you a chance to do that as well as dance to songs from the 50's to the 80's by "The Looking Back Band." The wonderful meal will be provided by Kurt. Punch and non-alcoholic beverages are provided, but byob.

Parking in the garage is included in the price of your ticket.

No ticket? Then call Bill Johnson (256-701-6490) or Sue Chatham (256-684-7950) and ask if any are still available. You may be lucky enough to snag the last ones at only \$25.00 per individual!



Congratulations, Linda!



Linda McGiness is the winner of two tickets to the OLLI Holiday Party 2011! She won for recommending OLLI to someone who joined the organization this fall; her name was drawn at the Teacher Appreciation Pizza Party.



Help (Re) Name Our Newsletter

Would you like to name our newsletter? We have a newsletter with the organization's name on it, but not a newsletter name. We need a spiffy title that captures what OLLI is all about. All OLLI members are therefore invited to send their best ideas for an appropriate name. Please send your suggestions to ollinewsletter@msn.com, and type "Newsletter Name" in the subject line. The deadline for submissions is January 9, 2012.

From the President



Chuck Duffy, President

Remember OLLI During the Busy Season!

Do your Christmas shopping early; when the OLLI Winter Catalog of classes arrives in December, sign up for any additional course! Give an OLLI membership to your friends (you can multitask with this one). Make a New Year's resolution to attend the Wednesday Bonus Classes. VOLUNTEER to become a facilitator or for OLLI office duties. We are planning for our Summer Enrichment Series program to be held next summer. Can you help? Above all, enjoy the holiday season and experience a happy and fun 2012 with all of us at OLLI!

Curriculum Corner

Have you ever wondered how the OLLI courses come about? Unlike manna, they don't fall down from heaven. They are the results of the efforts of a couple hundred people, most of whom are OLLI members. The instructors are the most obvious ones, but there are plenty of behind-the-scene workers.

The courses are instructor driven. Even though OLLI has preferences for the types of courses taught, we do not decide on what courses to offer and then recruit instructors to teach them. It is the other way around. Instructors approach OLLI with the courses they would like to teach. Members of the Curriculum Committee then work with these instructors to insure that the courses fit into the OLLI program.

As is obvious from the above, OLLI does not exert a lot of discipline over which courses are taught. Neither are we able to project the course schedule for more than a couple of terms in advance; this projection is fuzzy at best.

Even though a course may be popular one term, there is no assurance that it will ever be repeated. This being the case, if you see a course in the catalog that you want to take, you had better get it while the getting is good. Want to teach a course at OLLI? Then give me a call at 256-830-9279.



Hugh Nicholson, Chair
Curriculum Committee



DVD Lending Library for OLLI Members

OLLI members may check out all kinds of informative and interesting DVDs from the OLLI DVD Lending Library that is maintained in the OLLI office. If you missed a class taught through the use of DVD's, you don't have to wait until that class is taught again. You can do an independent study just by going to the office and checking out the DVDs.



Cultural Committee

Submitted by Eleanor Schweinsberg, Chair

On Wednesday, November 30 at 1:00 p.m., OLLI members are invited for another docent-led tour of the exhibit *In Company With Angels: Seven Rediscovered Tiffany Windows* at the Huntsville Museum of Art. In the late 1890s, Louis Comfort Tiffany created this magnificent set of seven iridescent, stained-glass windows, each representing a spectacular eight-foot-tall angel from the Book of Revelation. Originally, from a Cincinnati, Ohio, church that was demolished over 37 years ago, these windows have been recently rediscovered and lovingly restored and reassembled, so that they may once again be enjoyed in all their multihued splendor.

We will continue to attend the “Live in HD” Metropolitan Opera broadcasts at Hollywood 18 Theater, South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville. On the schedule for December are the following:

Saturday, December 3: *RODELINDA* (Live) 11:30 a.m. Encore on Wednesday, January 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 10: *FAUST* (Live) 11:55 a.m. Encore on Wednesday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m.

After the operas, we will take a break in December, enjoy the holidays and time off to visit with family and friends, and return in January with more fun and invigorating cultural events.

ON GARDENING:

Your Own Source of Free Fertilizer



Submitted by Karen Volker

A little effort can supply an organic source of nutrients for your plants. Here are two ways to use your leaves.

Pile composting for mixed borders

- Rake the leaves into loose piles or in wire bins about 4 feet square within your borders.
- Mix in a few shovelfuls of soil, and add 20 to 30 gallons of water to aid decomposition.
- Pull the piles or bins apart in the spring, and spread the decayed leaves throughout the border.
- Cover the decayed leaves with a 1-inch-deep layer of fresh mulch.

Sheet composting for annual beds

- Rake your leaves into the empty beds, and shred them with a lawn mower.
- Sprinkle the leaves with a 1-pound coffee can's worth of 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 square feet of garden.
- Turn the leaves, and water thoroughly to disperse the fertilizer, which speeds decay.
- Turn the leaves again in spring, and plant right through the remaining clumps, which will provide nutrients as the leaves decompose.

Note: Article is authored by Terry Ettinger; it is excerpted and reprinted from *Fine Gardening* magazine.

Special Events Committee

Jan Atnip, Special Events Chairperson

Pictures of the October train ride, organized by the Special Events Committee, to view fall foliage.
Photos: Sue Chatham



Lunch was served prior to the train's departure. The leaves were a feast for the senses, although they had not reached their peak. By all accounts, the event was a sellout and a resounding success!

OLLI Organization a Factor in Huntsville's Ranking

The OLLI Lifelong Learning organization is listed as an "amenity" among Huntsville's positive qualities in ranking the city third best for retirees by CNN/Money. The article was reprinted in the *Huntsville Times*, Business Section, September 24, 2011.

Social Events

The Fall Teacher Appreciation Pizza Party, held at the Trinity United Methodist Church on Wednesday, November 2, and attended by about 150 students, was a roaring success. Little Caesar’s provided 52 hot and delicious pizzas with various toppings. Diners also feasted on vegetables (carrots, broccoli & grape tomatoes with dressing), soft drinks, coffee, ice cream and cookies.

Our own OLLI German language class, taught by Leka Medenbach, provided a short play spoken in German for the entertainment. Cast members included Penny Viot, Bill Rankins, Russell Kerl, Orenita Kerl, Andy Kochis, Hugh Nicholson, Paul Beduerftig, Chris Johnson, Mable Gordon, and Mayilyn Robertson.

Members of the Social Committee include Joyce Bates, Chris Johnson, Nan Case, Carl Case, Joe Cremin, Sue Chatham, Bob Crowe, Becky Dollman, Shirley Gibb, Marvin Lampert, Marilyn Patterson, Cindy Spratley, Brenda Wynn, Leah Black, Mable Gordon, Brenda Kinnane, and Bill Johnson. Our thanks to these folks who put forth a lot of effort to make such successful and fun events happen.

You are also invited to join the Social Committee and participate in all the fun we are having. Call Bill Johnson at 256-701-6490 for information.

Submitted by Bill Johnson,
Social Events Chairperson



In the photos (top), the ‘actors’ take their bow; (bottom left) the audience is attentive; (right) the food line is progressing. Photos by Lorrie White.



OLLI's UAH Scholarship

Celebrating our past, supporting the future

Betty Ann Neils and Jervic Caparas, current recipients of the OLLI UAH Scholarship, wrote lovely thank-you letters that were printed in the October *OLLI Newsletter*. Recent members might enjoy a little history on how that scholarship came to be. Our organization was formed in 1993 as the Academy for Lifetime Learning. UAH has found a way to accommodate us and our classes ever since Mike Oliver and Jean Herron of Continuing Education (now PCS) first had the idea. To say that lifelong learning struck a chord with seniors is an understatement! From the initial founding members and a membership of 107 that first year, we grew to a peak of 1100 (2008-09) and now stand at 681. Along the way, class enrollment has nearly tripled.

In 2006, members of the organization looked for a way that might celebrate the organization's growth and success, and simultaneously give back to the University, which had been so supportive of our efforts. Thus, the UAH Scholarship fund was established in 2006. Through the generosity of our members, a formal agreement was signed in 2006 to provide scholarship(s) to undergraduate or graduate students with a grade point average of 3.0/4.0 and with financial needs.

Since the scholarship's inception, 343 individual donors have contributed; some donate each year when they renew their OLLI dues, and some make individual contributions on the forms from our website (www.osher.uah.edu). The total contributed by OLLI members to date is—drum roll please—\$39,119!

We're proud that through the years, the award amount for the OLLI-UAH Scholarship has increased, and now we're able to make awards to two deserving and *appreciative* students!

A Gift From Florence and Ralph



Ralph and Florence Murphy were icons around the campus of OLLI. He taught AARP Driving and magic courses; she taught crafts. Ralph was also the coordinator for all those wonderful Industrial Tours. The Murphys were among the original founders of the Academy of Lifetime Learning (now OLLI), which began in 1993, and it was their baby. They nurtured its growth and were socially and academically active in it until Ralph's passing in 2010.

Florence has generously donated \$5,000 to the scholarship fund to honor Ralph's memory. "He would have wanted me to do that," Florence said; "we loved OLLI." All of us who knew both Ralph and Florence couldn't help but love them in return, and we give thanks to Florence for this gift and for all the support and time she and Ralph have given to OLLI throughout the years.

The Truly Educated Never Graduate

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OLLI Student Publishes Book Inspired by OLLI Class



(Photograph: Bob Goodwin)

Hosoo Yoo holds up *The Alabama Korea Times* newspaper, which has a feature on her book's publication.

Hosoo Yoo, is the proud author of *A Pair of High Heels in the Korean War* (July 2011), a book about her mother's experience during that era. It is published in Korean so that Yoo's mother, who lives in Seoul, can read it. Yoo, who has been a member of OLLI since fall term in 2009, began writing her mother's story in the "Write Your Life Story" class, taught by Betty Carlton. Jerry Rosensteel's OLLI class, "Is it a dream or goal?" also assisted Yoo by helping her realize that writing her own book was a dream in her early life.

Since Yoo's book is about the Korean War, she decided to use book sale profits to support the "Valor Flight" project to express her gratitude to the veterans for their hardship. "Valor Flight" assists these veterans in the Huntsville and Tennessee areas in taking flights to Washington, D.C. to see the Korean War Memorial. Valor Flight is similar to the Honor Flight Program where WWII Veterans are flown to D.C to see the WWII Memorial.

Yoo has sold over 100 books and has received about \$3,000 in sales and donations toward the Valor Flight project.

Writer's Group Update

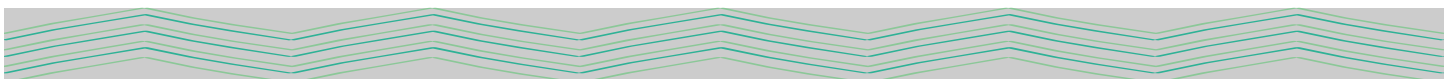


The Writers Group will not meet for the rest of 2011 since the fourth Fridays in November and December fall within the holiday season. Meetings will resume on the fourth Friday, January 28, 2012. Our meeting place and time are dependent on the OLLI schedule; place and time will be announced.

The group seems most interested in addressing the craft of writing in a manner open to criticism and helpful suggestions; however, there is still time to express your opinion about the direction you would like your Writers' Group to take. An indication of your writing genre(s) will be appreciated.

Hope to see all writers in 2012.

Submitted by John Jeter, phone 256 489-6095; email fabjete@yahoo.com.





OLLI's AV Team Needs Volunteers

Has one of your classes included the use of amplified sound, photo presentations, the playing of DVDs, PowerPoint presentations or material accessed through the internet? Well, someone has to make these work, and it is the A/V Team, working hard to ensure that these functions happen. Steve Wynn is the team's leader, and currently there are four trained OLLI members working with him (not counting Maxine). The team's goal is to facilitate the operation of all audio and visual equipment for classes with a minimum of mishaps.

The team has now produced a detailed written operating manual for each classroom. At the beginning of each term, they check out the requested equipment, update our manuals, and train the new A/V facilitators. Also, for the first week or two of each term, the team tries to supply an A/V Team member for each class where A/V is involved in order to back up the facilitator and to ensure that everything goes smoothly.

The AV Team needs additional volunteers for its group. Please consider joining. If you are interested, Steve Wynn would love to hear from you. Please call Steve at 256-883-4296, send email to "steveowynn@comcast.net," or call the OLLI office at 256-824-6959, and leave a message. Hands-on training will be given to all volunteers prior to the beginning of each term.



Margrit Earles: OLLI Volunteer



Margrit Earles constructs the OLLI yearbooks, colorful and neatly structured albums of OLLI activities, including the newsletters.

When asked how she began to volunteer for this duty, Margrit says that she inherited the job from Margaret Tegtmeier, who, upon giving up the duty around 1999, suggested to Margrit that she take it on. Margrit also credits Tegtmeier with introducing her to OLLI classes and to volunteering on committees.

The yearbooks that she creates and maintains are housed in cabinets B and C in the OLLI Lounge.

Margrit is originally from Germany.

Thank you, Margrit, for all of your work over the years.



In Remembrance of an Extraordinary Member, Elaine Leach

Even if you didn't instantly see her at OLLI functions, you could hear her voice and hearty laughter, and would know that Elaine was nearby. Vibrant and energetic, she contributed greatly to OLLI via the Member Services, Special Events, and Public Relations Committees.

Her accomplishments, since she joined in 2005 were many. If you check out DVD's from the OLLI office, know that it was Elaine who set it up, spending hours copying all those DVDs, organizing, and cataloging what's available. She was routinely seen pointing her camera during OLLI events or in classrooms getting photos for the newsletter and Website.

She was the Web Master for two years and was instrumental for the most recent redesign of the OLLI Website and she programmed the Kiosk which is now in the OLLI Lounge. She and her husband George were OLLI dance instructors for two years, teaching the graceful ballroom round dance; they were instructors for the Canasta course and a Wednesday Bonus class. She was a 2010 photo contest prize winner for her photo of "White Lilies." But perhaps her biggest triumph was last year when she planned and produced the successful "OLLI Has Talent Show" where she performed the hit comedy act of Patsy Cline's, "She's Got You."

Elaine sadly left us on November 6, 2011 after a long battle with cancer. Our deepest sympathy goes to her devoted husband, George, her sisters, her children, and grandchildren. We will miss her pleasant smile, her friendship, and her willingness to volunteer the extra mile to help make OLLI an enjoyable organization.



Hiking with Bob, Ken, and Rick

A "not-for-beginners" hiking class in action on a crisp fall morning, traversing the trail at one of the several Huntsville locations featured during the Friday morning sessions. Hiking leaders were Bob Goodwin, Ken Shrider, and Rick Gates.



Photos by Bob Goodwin





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 all these benefits:

- * *Free Wednesday Bonus Classes*
- * *10 newsletters each year*
- * *Privileges at UAH library and bookstore*
- * *UAH Fitness Center membership discount*
- * *DVD lending library*
- * *Cultural, social, and special events opportunities*
- * *OLLI curriculum catalog each term*
- * *Opportunity to register for interesting courses*

Sign up for a gift membership at
http://www.osher.uah.edu/_Docs/gift%20membership.pdf or call 256-824-6959.

Important Notice: Inputs for the January 2012 Newsletter are due by December 14.

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.



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at the
University of Alabama in Huntsville
Wilson Hall, Room 151
Huntsville, AL 35899

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