



John and Mildred McDonald at the Back-to-School Potluck Luncheon, Friday, January 19, 2012.

OLLI Couple Married 58 Years



It's February 2012, and many of us turn to thoughts of love and to its celebration on February 14, Valentine's Day.

OLLI has couples who have been married a long time, even 50+ years, and have lived through numerous special Valentine's Day events. Mildred and John McDonald are one of these couples.

They reduced their possessions and moved to Owens Crossroad in January 2007. John had been a pilot for Delta Airlines, and Mildred did not work outside the home. They graciously answered the following questions:

How did you hear about OLLI?

Neither recalls, specifically, how they heard, but they joined in 2008, shortly after learning about the organization.

What do you like most about the organization?

Mildred likes the diversity of courses while John enjoys associating with the guys and learning new material. They both (with smiles) like the absence of homework.

How long have you been married?

They both agree on 58 years!

What advice would you offer for staying married that long?

Mildred says the couple certainly should "like each other." "We're the exception rather than the rule," she adds.

John says that one should "be a good listener" and "have good children that you enjoy."

How do you traditionally spend Valentine's Day?

"We don't do too much," Mildred said. "We may go to dinner, and I get a card or something."

The McDonalds have four girls, who have completed their education and are working, and six grandchildren. After 58 years of marriage, perhaps the McDonalds offer proof that cupid really does exist.



Save the Date:

The Special Events Committee is planning a wine-tasting event for March 16, 2012. Location and other details to be announced.



From the President

Try Volunteering!



Chuck Duffy, President

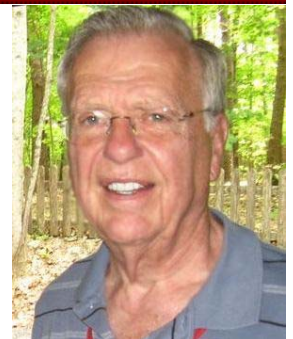
OLLI's numerous committees are looking for "a few good men and women" to volunteer for 2012 and beyond. We know that there is considerable talent in our membership, and we hope some of you will challenge yourselves. If you think you might enjoy joining the rest of us volunteers, and no one calls you, you may volunteer yourself.

It's fun! Some of our dedicated OLLI members seem to be almost full time, and they relish the work and camaraderie with other OLLI volunteers! Remember, "Knowledge never retires!"

Try it, you'll like it. Share yourself with the rest of us having fun.



Curriculum Corner



Hugh Nicholson, Chair

Last month I wrote about OLLI students being courteous to one another; this month I write about our being courteous to UAH employees.

OLLI members and university employees have a very different standing. UAHuntsville is our host; we are guests of the University. OLLI is a community outreach program for the University. This is the reason Maxine Doherty, a UAHuntsville employee in the Division of Professional and Continuing Studies has the title, "Outreach Program Manager." Under the guidance of the Director of Professional and Continuing Studies, her job is to reach out to the University at large to help meet our program needs by making requests for support on our behalf.

In light of the above, we, as OLLI members, should never directly ask UAHuntsville employees to do a job for us. Generally, requests for support should be coordinated with our OLLI points of contact first, for example, our Volunteer Office in Wilson Hall 151, Curriculum Committee, Member Services Committee, and then submitted to Maxine for support. This process especially applies to room reservations, janitorial services, maintenance of the physical plant such as temperature regulation, classroom repairs, and so on. Of course, in an emergency, go to Max immediately! Her office is in Wilson Hall, Room 119, phone number 256-824-6183. She will be happy to assist.

You might be asking what the above has to do with being courteous. It is because, like every organization, UAH has an organizational structure that should be observed, and we should observe it. We are the guests. Let's be courteous to our host.

The Truly Educated Never Graduate



Cultural Committee

Submitted by Eleanor Schweinsberg, Chair

We are so fortunate to be living in a community that provides us with a wealth of cultural venues. These are the events in February that I want to bring to your attention, but there are many others. If you have a particular cultural interest that you would like to bring to the attention to the OLLI community, consider joining the Cultural Committee to help us plan to visit these events. Call me at 256-883-0602.

The next Huntsville Symphony Orchestra preview lecture by Taavo Virkhaus will be on Thursday, February 9, at 2:45 p.m. in Madison Hall, Room 202. This lecture will prepare us for the Saturday, February 11, performance of *Something Old, Something New*. The HSO will perform Symphony No. 36 by Mozart, Tango Loops I by Alejandro Ruty, and The Piano Concerto No. 1 by Johannes Brahms, featuring guest pianist William Wolfram. Future lectures will be held on March 8, and April 19, so mark your calendars.

On Friday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m., the Huntsville Master Chorale will perform *English and Italian Music of the Renaissance* at St. Mary of the Visitation Church, Jefferson St., Huntsville, and on Sunday, February 12, 3:00 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, Douglass Rd. in the Monrovia area. Donations will be accepted at the door.

The American Shakespeare Center (ASC) troupe will perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Tuesday, February 14, and Wednesday, February 15, and *Winter's Tale* on February 16. Performances will begin at 7:00 p.m., in the UAH University Center Exhibit Hall. Free pre-show lectures will be presented at 6:00 p.m., each evening by UAHuntsville faculty members. Ticket prices for students are \$12; Huntsville Literary Association members and seniors (65 and older) \$15; and general admission tickets are \$20. Tickets are now available at the Coffee Tree, the Arts Council, and the UAHuntsville English Department (Morton Hall 222; 256-824-6320).

The February presentations of "Live in HD" Metropolitan Opera Broadcasts will continue at Hollywood 18 Theater, South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville. On the schedule for February are the following:

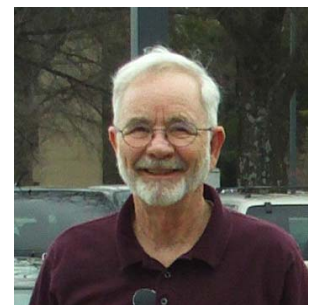
Wednesday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. - "Encore" - The Enchanted Island (3 hr. 40 min.)

Saturday, February 11, at 11:00 a.m. - "Live in HD"- Wagner's Gotterdammerung (6 hrs.)

Saturday, February 25, at 11:55 a.m. - "Live in HD" - Verdi's Ernani (3 hrs. 50 min.)

Social Committee

Fruit, salads, main courses, and desserts were in abundant supply at the Back-to-School Potluck Lunch to kick off the winter term, and there was a good crowd of OLLI members to enjoy everything. The committee provided assorted drinks. These events have proven an excellent way to reconnect after a long vacation and to focus us for the next round of OLLI courses and activities.



Bill Johnson

Special appreciation for a successful lunch that set the tone for a productive term goes to all members of the Social Committee!

Blooms for All Seasons? Almost, for Encore Azaleas



Encore 'carnation'

When fall term classes began in September, and you approached Wilson Hall, perhaps some blooming shrubs caught your eye. “No way,” you might have thought; azaleas only bloom in the spring. You were right, if you considered those lovely bushes and blooms were azaleas. They were ‘Encore’ azaleas, called ‘repeat’ by some.

The Encore Azalea is a patented brand that blooms in spring. Then, new shoots begin to grow and set buds. The shrub then flowers again in mid summer and in fall, with blooms lasting until the cool of autumn ends all garden glory. There are twenty-three varieties of this shrub.

The Encore Azalea was the vision of plant breeder Robert E. “Buddy” Lee of Independence, Louisiana. Noting one year that a tray of traditional azalea cuttings bloomed in the Louisiana summer sun at his nursery, he began crossing traditional spring-blooming azaleas with the rare Taiwanese summer-blooming azalea, *Rhododendron oldhamii*. After a lengthy 15-year hybridization and selection process, Encore Azalea selections became commercially available in 1997. Thanks to his work, azalea lovers can now enjoy the blooms two seasons longer.



Encore 'embers'

Harvey Cotton in *Easy Gardens for the South* says that “of the Encore azaleas, ‘Autumn Amethyst’ has shown the best cold tolerance at Huntsville Botanical Garden” (200). The Encores enjoy more sun than the traditional bush, require more fertilizer, and have slightly fewer blooms than the traditional shrubs.

The Encore azalea, like the spring-only bloomers, is hardy in zones 7-10, thus performing excellently in north Alabama, which is in zone 7.



Encore
'amethyst'

Article by Joyce Pettis

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, almost half of the adult population in the United States (43 percent for men, 49 percent for women) are enrolled in some form of lifelong learning. See right column for benefits.

- ◆ Keeps your mind sharp
- ◆ Improves memory
- ◆ Increases self-confidence
- ◆ Offers an inexpensive way to try something new
- ◆ Saves money as you learn to “do it yourself”
- ◆ Gives you a feeling of accomplishment
- ◆ Helps you meet people who share your interests

Winter Term 2012: Back-to-School Potluck Lunch



Photos by Mable Gordon

The long tables, centered in the dining room (rather than stretched across the back) nearly groaned under the weight of so much delicious food, as illustrated in the top photographs.

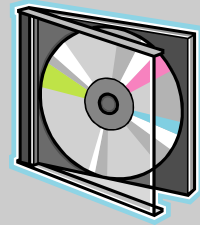


The Social Committee is commended for organizing this fete, and the cooks in OLLI are sincerely thanked for their offerings.

What a grand and memorable way to kick off the winter term!



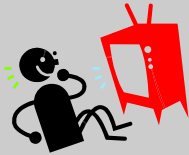
Did you know that there is a wealth of information stored in our OLLI office?



Believe it or not, it is tucked in a file drawer waiting to be checked out by minds that are hungry for knowledge. With a TV, a DVD player, and a little free time, you can explore Greek Civilization, become knowledgeable about Thomas Jefferson, learn about economics, science, physics, or psychology. You can examine the *Life Writings of C. S. Lewis*, or find out about Huntsville's history of the space program. There are even power point presentations of past Summer Enrichment Series.

Don't let winter pass without examining the wonderful DVD collection and borrowing those that interest you. Perhaps you'll become so expert in a subject, you'll choose to instruct it next year.

For more information about available DVD titles, go to http://www.osher.uah.edu/_DVDlibrary.php.



**Important Notice: Inputs for the March 2012 Newsletter are due by February 21 .
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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