

Coming this July . . . Another Enlightening Summer Enrichment Series

Why IS Alabama...?

That's the question and theme of the Summer Enrichment Series 2009 currently planned for July 21 and 22 and July 28 and 29, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day at the Alabama Rehabilitation Center, 3000 Johnson Road, Huntsville. The objective of this series is to educate and inform OLLI members about Alabama's history, its 1901 State Constitution and its history, construction, content, relevance, effectiveness, status and possible future, and to learn some new Alabama history along the way.



Session one will provide factual background information about Alabama's history as a land and as a State, including key dates and events. It will overview our State's dual history, as written by "whites" and as relayed in narratives by "blacks." We will review our six State constitutions from 1819 to today. The impact of the post-Civil War in Alabama will be presented and will focus on its role in the 1901 Constitution's governance framework. Speakers will include several historians and author Douglas Blackmon.

Session two will focus on Alabama's current 1901 constitution, summarizing the document using "It's A Thick Book" DVD, and will compare it to TN, GA, MS and FL State constitutions, and discuss Alabama's 18 Articles in 287 Sections, and address the 799 current amendments. There will be a speaker to relate the primary State companion document, the State Code of 1975, to the Constitution.

Session three will look forward to 1 January 2012 and beyond to review possible outcomes. A representative of the Executive Branch will provide an assessment of governance under the current State Constitution, and representatives of the Legislative Branch will present arguments FOR and arguments AGAINST a new Constitution. Another speaker will offer a broad look at the State of the State environment of 2010 and beyond.

The **fourth and final session** will focus on North Alabama and Madison County and how we may be impacted by changes to the State Constitution, the issue of Home Rule and the issue of Taxes. This will be a moderated panel discussion among representatives of Federal, State, County and City levels of government, and will include the local media. Reaction from potential speakers so far has been favorable, and invitations should be going out soon. Possible actions by the State Legislature, currently in session, may impact this series in a significant way. We are looking for volunteers to help with this series. We hope to have a complete program of speakers confirmed sometime in June.

Chuck Duffy and Bob Jones, Co-Chairs



OLLI's Basket Weavers

In plenty of time for Easter, these talented OLLI members show their handiwork at the Grapevine Basket Workshop on February 10. Good job, everyone!



Coming May 1

See page 5 for details about an exciting day -trip to Cheekwood in Nashville, TN. This is an all day outing presented by the Special Events Committee. Mark your calendar now.

From The President



Sue Chatham

We are fast approaching the end of the school year for OLLI. Nan Case and her Social Committee are planning something so special for our Annual Meeting that they are changing the venue!

The Annual Meeting will be on Friday evening on May 8 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The meal will be catered. To know how much food to order, we are asking those planning to attend to please buy a ticket for \$2. The tickets will be available in the OLLI office.

Remember that at the Annual Meeting, new Board Members for the next year will be introduced and voted on. Put the date on your calendar, pick up your ticket, and plan to have a good time. Look for additional information in this newsletter. See you in class!!

Sue Chatham
President



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Farm Day, Burritt Mountain | Apr 4 |
| Pharaoh's Library (Mondays) | Apr 6 |
| The Big Read Egypt/U.S. | Apr 8 |
| Brown Bag Lunch | Apr 15 |
| Cheekwood, Nashville, TN | May 1 |
| Spring Term Ends | May 8 |
| Annual Membership Meeting | May 8 |
| Game Day | May 12 |
| Summer Enrichment Series | Jul/Aug |

A Message From Our Web Master

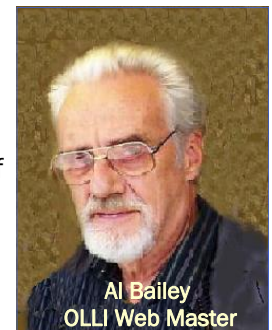
TIME TO REBUILD THE OLLI WEBSITE?

Because the present OLLI site design and structure have evolved over the years by the rules of Chaos Theory, away from the intelligent design of its original creator, it suffers from frustrating confusion and lacks consistency and navigational fluidity. An obvious solution is to *rebuild*, using reconsidered objectives and reflecting a modernized perspective.

I suggest the UAHuntsville Web Template #3 at webguide.uah.edu/templates.php offers a sensible foundation. This OLLI weaver's hope is to adopt the coding concepts of template #3 to improve maintenance efficiency and styling compatibility with the university's concurrently evolving uniformity guidelines.

The next aspect of rebuilding is a logical Info-structure. This will be tough, for it will entail reorganization and total rewriting of many pages. For a grasp of the magnitude of such a project, visit the (pseudo) "Site Map" linked from the drop menu of our present Home page. This map is based on a recommendation from Jim Lindberg, who spent many hours foraging through our tangled "web." If you have opinions, ideas or suggestions, the ad hoc web site sub committee to the Public Relations Committee will be happy to read them at olliwweaver@gmail.com

Two bits of valuable feedback arrived in response to the March newsletter's *web page*. One member exposed the "disappearing link" mystery. Now, when your mouse hovers over our many links to everywhere, the text doesn't disappear into the clouds. Another member suggested key words to raise our search engine (Google) visibility by inserting "adult" and "senior" modifiers to "education" in the stream of our descriptive prose. Now we've drawn our search engine curtains a bit wider. Of course there are risks to drawing curtains wide in the presence of birds and bats. Consider the ubiquitous "adult" as a modifier to just about anything the net has to offer. The competition can be fierce; searchers beware! However, the search words work well when used with the UAH search tool available from any UAHuntsville page (including OLLI's) and from most search engines when used with additional suitably focused terms.



Al Bailey
OLLI Web Master



Pat Lindberg,
Cultural Committee Chair

Cultural Events

Our first "The Big Read Egypt/U.S." Seminar on March 25 is behind us and it proved to be a big success. The speakers were very good and the Huntsville library personnel were great to work with. They provided refreshments and were extremely helpful in every way. Thanks so much to Nell Roberts, Beverly Liles, Eleanor Schweinsberg, Ed Bernstein, Ilene Thompson and Margaret Walker who assisted in every capacity to support the project and make it run smoothly. All our efforts were well rewarded with an attendance of 100 people. Thanks especially to our speakers, Dr. Kathy Hawk and Jeanie Snoddy, to Sophie Young and Annie Phillips of Huntsville Library, and to you committee members who devoted your time with work and support!

The Cultural Committee, in partnership with the Huntsville Public Library, will present day two of their "The Big Read Egypt/U.S." Seminar on April 8, at 10:00 a.m., in the Main Library Auditorium, 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville. The book *The Thief and the Dogs* will be discussed by UAHuntsville Lecturer Dr. Jennifer Garglen. A panel moderated by OLLI member Dr. Joyce Pettis will then field questions from the audience. Join the group, learn more about the book, and get answers to your many questions related to the book

Submitted by Pat Lindberg, Cultural Committee Chair

Let's Get Social

News about social events

The Teacher Appreciation BBQ was a resounding success with over 150 members in attendance. Our OLLI Line dancers strutted their stuff and got members off the floor to join them on stage for a fun dance number. The "Pretty in Pink" geranium centerpieces were gifted to 16 lucky teachers in attendance. We should all be thankful for our many instructors who make our OLLI classes possible. Be sure to give them a pat on the back when you see them. Thanks to everyone for making the day a success!



Nan Case
Social Committee Chair



Some of the dancers: Rose Steele, Faye Goode, Dick Fisher, Judy Graf, Kaye Askew and Jacquelyn Ewart



SAVE THIS DATE!

Friday, June 19, 2009
10 am – 3 pm



The annual OLLI Potluck Picnic will be held at the Green Mountain Nature Trail Pavilion.
Watch for reminder and directions to the park in the May newsletter.

Special Events Committee

Welcome to the season of runny noses, scratchy eyes, and some of the most gorgeous landscapes around. Love those pear and redbud trees, and my jonquils that grow in spite of my dubious gardening skills! Lots of things happening, too, that are fun for OLLI members. Pat Lindberg has been a dedicated champion of The Big Read and lots of our teachers are participating in library outreach activities. Thanks to Joyce Howell for an interesting Bluebell Hike on Monte Sano and to the gang who brought you Game Day on March 24: Phyllis Varney, Vi Veitch, Janice Marsh, Paulette Bernstein and Mary Compton—a big Mexican Train whistle to you all!

By the time you read this, Farm Days at the Burritt may be behind us, but ahead lie some other interesting activities. On May 1, Mary Compton will head the group out for a Day at Cheekwood in Nashville, Tennessee (see *elsewhere in this newsletter*)...a wonderful historic property with art collections, 11 botanical gardens (including a Japanese one), and a sculpture trail. Get your reservations in early to reserve your spot!

As we mentioned before, Chuck Duffy and Bob Jones have taken on the task of providing another fast-paced and informative **Summer Enrichment Series 2009** (see *front page in this newsletter*). And while the dates and locations refuse all efforts to stay put, the topic has remained the same: the 1901 Alabama Constitution. Ever wonder why YOU have to vote on an amendment that affects only Baldwin County? Or even what restrictions you face if you want to play checkers on Sunday? Answers and lively discussion will be the order of the day, so watch your newsletters this month and next for more details on **SES'09!**

As always, we continue to seek coordinators and fascinating events for OLLI members. What could be in your future? The fainting goats in Georgia? Wine stomping and sipping? Maybe we'll even get around to that OLLI Garage Sale. SOMEONE knows. Is it you?

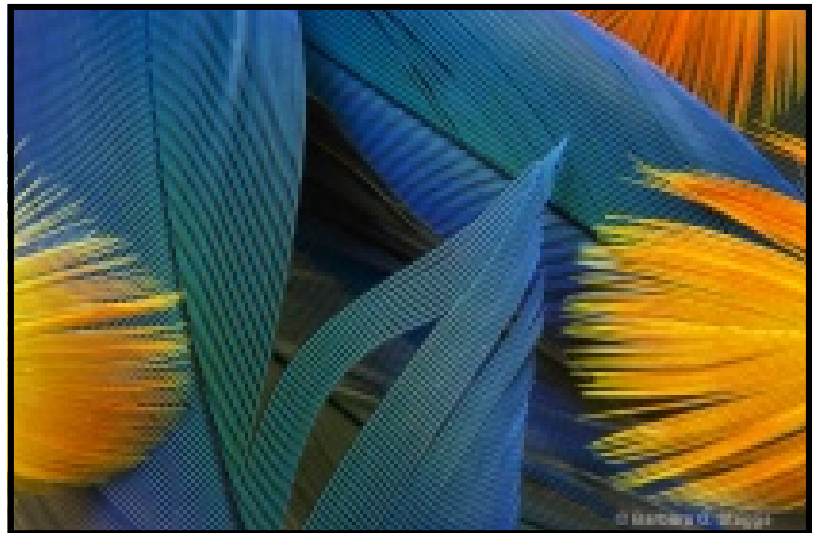
Happy Trails!

Eleanor Carter, Chair, Special Events Committee

Barbara Staggs Takes Top Honors Among Stiff Photo Competition

There is no end to the bountiful talents of OLLI members. Last month we focused on photo contest winner Barbara Hitt. And now we have another contest winner, Barbara G. Staggs, photographer and OLLI instructor, who has won Second Place for January in the prestigious photography contest sponsored by BetterPhoto.com.

More than 20,600 entries were submitted to the online photography contest, which attracted contestants from around the world and featured 10 separate categories. Judging is performed by a panel of professional photographers. Barbara's stunning image, "Feathery," garnered top honors after being submitted in the Details & Macro category.



Feathery
A collection of exotic bird feathers

All of the winning images can be viewed at BetterPhoto.com's contest page: <http://www.betterphoto.com/contest/winners/0901.asp> Take a look at Barbara's many breathtaking photos. Type "Barbara Staggs" in the search box.

OLLI IS ON THE MOVE!!

Get ready for a Day at Cheekwood in Nashville, Tennessee On May 1



Cheekwood is a historic property featuring permanent art collections and traveling exhibitions. The 55-acre estate includes 11 botanical gardens, a mile-long sculpture walking trail, a docent tour of the Georgia style Mansion with Museum of Art featuring the Matilda Geddings Gray Collection of Faberge, a Contemporary Art Gallery and more. We'll have lunch at the Museum, and an optional dinner stop at Herbert's Bar-B-Q in Franklin, TN.

This is a day trip for OLLI members. We'll meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot in front of Wilson Hall nearest the access road to form car pools, etc. We expect to leave no later than 8:15 a.m. We'll all meet at the Cheekwood Mansion at 10:30 a.m. for our guided tour, followed by lunch in the Pineapple Room, and our own walks through the gardens. By 4:30 p.m., we'll depart and meet up again for a Dutch treat dinner at Herbert's Bar-B-Q in Franklin, TN. Those returning to Huntsville should arrive back (depending on what you do for dinner) at 6:30 p.m. or 9:30 p.m. There is a maximum of 30 attendees for this event.

Cost for the Cheekwood tour and lunch is \$25 (desserts may be purchased at an additional cost on May 1). Make checks payable to OLLI. Driving costs are shared and worked out with the driver of each car. Dinner is dutch treat.

Please fill out the form below (make sure you mark your lunch choice) and return it with your check to: Mary Compton, 1708 Graywood Court, Huntsville, AL 35806.

A DAY AT CHEEKWOOD, May 1, 2009

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number Attending: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

- Choice for Lunch: _____ Chicken Salad Plate w/finger sandwiches
 (drink included) _____ Quiche (Lorraine, Mushroom, Tomato Basil (or Broccoli Cheddar))

OLLI ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES FOR 2009-2010

The Nominating Committee presents to OLLI membership the following nominees to serve as Directors on the Board starting on June 1, 2009: Ed Bernstein, Joe Cremin, Linda McAllister, Barbara Ward and Bob Ward who are being nominated for a first term, while Al Cruze, Larry Rice, Cindy Spratley and Lorrie White are being nominated for a second consecutive term. OLLI membership will vote at the Annual Meeting in May.

*Pat Lindberg, Marvin Lampert, Gobe Vick
Nominating Committee*



Ed Bernstein grew up in Chicago, although he has lived in Huntsville since 1965. He came here as an aerospace engineer, having received degrees from Purdue, Cornell, and a Ph. D. from the University of Florida. He later started a retail business (“the bed, inc.”) selling waterbeds and then was a department chair at Alabama A&M University. He is married to Paulette and has four daughters and ten grandchildren.

He has been an OLLI member since retirement five years ago and is a member of the Cultural Committee. He is also treasurer of the Spring City Cycling Club and the Huntsville Ski Club. He and Paulette like bicycling, ballroom dancing, and hiking.

Joe Cremin was born in Brooklyn, NY, and has a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering and a Masters in Aerodynamics from the North Avenue Trade School (Georgia Tech). Military service performed with US Army Corp of Engineers in a Heavy Construction Battalion supporting the Strategic Air Command at Anderson Air Force Base on (would you believe) Guam before being relocated to Okinawa. He arrived in Huntsville to work for the Chrysler Space Division in 1960, joined NASA in 1963, and worked on the Saturn launch vehicle projects, Skylab managed Spacelab 3 and retired as the Spacelab J Mission Manager in 1990. He concluded his working career with Computer Sciences Corporation pursuing Information Technology outsourcing opportunities with major US corporations. Joe has two children, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren and occupies his time, not necessarily in order, with traveling, multimedia projects, grandchildren, tennis, OLLI, and mail order brain surgery courses.



Linda Singleton McAllister retired in 2005 as Music Specialist and Choral Director at the Academy for Academics and Arts, a K-8 arts magnet school in the Huntsville City Schools System. She began her career as a high school choral director at Butler High School and Huntsville High School before moving to Auburn and then later to Tennessee. While in TN she was an adjunct teacher at Motlow State Community College and then became a Music Consultant with the Tennessee State Department of Education, where she developed curriculum and presented numerous workshops. She served as National Choir Chair for the Organization of Kodály Educators and as President of the Huntsville Choral Directors Association.

In retirement Linda continues to teach voice, conduct workshops, honor choirs and adjudicate festivals as well as sing with the Huntsville Master Chorale and her church choir. Retirement is wonderful and has afforded her more time for gardening, entertaining, visiting grandchildren, traveling, and enjoying OLLI classes with her husband Bill. For four years she has served as an OLLI facilitator for Betty Carlton’s *Writing Your Life Story* class.

Nominees Continued

Barbara Ward is a native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a B.A. in English. In 2000 she retired from TRW as a software engineer and has been active with OLLI ever since. As a past member of the Board of Directors, Barbara has served as Board Secretary, Vice President of Curriculum, and editor of the Course Catalog. She has facilitated numerous courses, and has served on the Finance and Administration Committee and the Social Committee. She currently is a member of the Curriculum Committee and the Leisure Subcommittee and regularly teaches courses under this subcommittee as well as securing instructors for other leisure courses. Barbara also teaches knitting at the Senior Center, where she has been a volunteer since her retirement.



Bob Ward joined OLLI (The Academy) in 1998 after retiring from the Army Missile Command where he worked as an Electrical Engineer and manager for most of his 37 year career. He has previously served as OLLI's President, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Vice President for Curriculum and as a member of many of OLLI's other committees. While conducting OLLI's first facilitator training class in 2001, he discovered the joy and satisfaction that teaching at OLLI can bring and has continued teaching facilitator training as well as computer and leisure courses. Bob enjoys traveling with his wife Barbara, sports, magic and just about anything related to computers. He also serves on the boards of several other non-profit organizations in the community.

FOOTWORK: HOW TO WALK FROM HUNTSVILLE TO LOS ANGELES (AND MORE) WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

By Phil Kitchens

My great adventure started so unsuspectingly for me that, to this day, I am still amazed how it happened at all. One day in late May 2001, as I neared the end of a work day, I decided, for some reason, to take a break and drop in on Martha, my supervisor.

I can't recall what started the conversation, but after a while it shifted to a new subject: getting proper exercise. Having told her my experience with YMCA weight workouts, I said that I was therefore perplexed as to the best physical activity. Martha then queried me: "Why don't you try walking? You can do it when you get home from work in the evening." Wishing to avoid excuses, I replied that I usually didn't get home until after 6:00 p.m. and that I was normally "pooped" upon arrival. But Martha persisted: "Go home and give it a try. "With that our conversation concluded, and I left to finish the day's tasks. Pondering her suggestion, little did I realize how powerful her message would become for me! *Read the continuation of Phil Kitchen's walking adventure on <http://www.osher.uah.edu/MembSupport.php#E>*



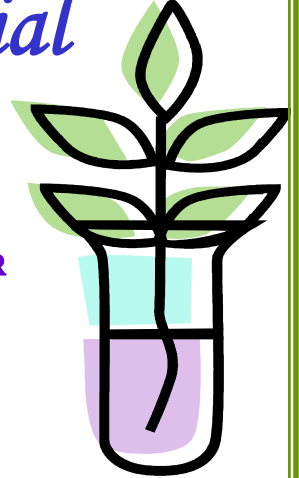
IN MEMORY

It is with deep sadness that we learned about OLLI member and instructor Dick Swan who passed on February 28, from pancreatic cancer. Dick was a long-time OLLI golf instructor who skillfully trained many happy members to an improved game.

Dick lived an interesting life as a radio and TV engineer where he interfaced with famous people throughout his career. He was an avid ham radio operator and, most importantly, was the inventor of the vertical integral switching system which is still in use today. We extend our sincere sympathy to his loving family and many friends. He will be missed. To read more about Richard Swan: <http://www.al.com/huntsvilletimes/stories/index.ssf?/base/news/1236607318133390.xml&coll=1>

Growing into Something Special

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND DINNER
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009,
5-7 P.M.
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WESLEY HALL

The OLLI Social Committee is doing something new and different for our Annual Meeting, something bigger and better to celebrate the continued growth of OLLI. We will have the election of board members (see pages 6 and 7 for nominees), spring teacher appreciation, and a special catered dinner to celebrate all of these Annual Meeting activities.

To ensure an accurate headcount for this occasion, tickets will be required for the dinner. The \$2.00 ticket may be purchased from Nan Case (883-8805) or Sandra Lyons (881-1834). Tickets will also be available in the OLLI office in Madison Hall.

Submitted by Sandra Lyons, Social Committee

Important Notice: Newsletter inputs for the May Newsletter are due by April 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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