

The OLLI Insider

News For Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH

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

P.O. Box 1581, Huntsville, AL 35807

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October 2012

Fall Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Please join your OLLI friends and teachers for the end-of-fall-term Teacher Appreciation Lunch. Seize this opportunity to thank personally the volunteer OLLI teachers and facilitators for your classes. Then, socialize with fellow students, make new friends, and enjoy the delicious food.

Friday, 11/2/2012 Noon-2:00 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church

"Discover why some of the richest people in the world are not millionaires; they are volunteers."

Jobail Brcelona

Wanted: Spring Wildflower Hike Leaders



Sweet White Trillium

We need folks with knowledge of wildflowers to assist with a multi-instructor wildflower hiking class in the spring. We will assist you with the hike routes, if you can identify the flowers. The spring term has 6 weeks. Ideally, we would like to divide the hikes so that 2 or 3 instructors could each take a few hikes. Please call Bob Goodwin at 256-564-8417, if you can help.



Purple Thistle

Member Services Offering a Special Workshop

A marvelous truth about OLLI members is that they are curious and have a strong desire to explore hobbies and subjects that are new and challenging. Thus, OLLI has a yearly photo contest for the novice photographer, and offers an opportunity for you to learn more about the subject of how to make your photos pop. See page 5 for details.



From the President



Chuck Duffy,
President

The Osher Foundation Grant and OLLI

It is surprising that after several years, some OLLI members, including members of the OLLI Board, still think that the \$2 million Osher Foundation awards were actually given to OLLI at UAH. The statements below should provide some clarity.

The award was given to UAH as endowments in recognition of the growth of OLLI to its first 500 members and then to 1,000 members. Obviously, Osher was recognizing the additional costs to UAH to house and support our OLLI programs, but there were restrictions. Osher also gave grants to UAH for the specific use of furnishing our OLLI suite. Now with the substantial growth of UAH alongside university priorities, UAH still covers our overhead costs for lights, air, cleaning, and contributions from several members of Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS), both full and part time. The majority of the 115 (or so) OLLI groups around the country are run by their universities, while we are self-governing and make no contribution to cover our costs.

Please enjoy what we have. Costs are going up all around us and PCS still has our backs, but there will be limits.




Mike Doyle, Chair

The Curriculum Committee is discussing the possibility of offering late afternoon or early evening classes. These would be designed to afford the advantages of OLLI to working people. Tuesday and Thursday may be the days with classes no later than 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The committee suggests that one of these classes should be a beginning Spanish class.

This term we had a few classes that were overbooked. Interestingly enough, 60% percent of the classes were the subject of presentations at the Back-to-School Gala held in August. Is there a connection? Perhaps in time, we may learn the answer.

Most of the classes with waiting lists were addressed by changing to larger rooms, thus expanding seating capacity, or by adding a second class, as we did with beginning Spanish. Of course, the number of students and type of class are dependent on finding a willing instructor.

Check with your friends and neighbors; ask them if late afternoon classes are of interest. Also, ask your friends and neighbors if any of them would like to teach a class. We're receptive to different instructors at OLLI.

The Truly Educated Never Graduate

Cultural Committee



Eleanor Schweinsberg, Chairperson



Taavo Virkhaus

Once again Taavo Virkhaus, former Huntsville Symphony Orchestra conductor, has agreed to offer his insights to prepare us for listening to the two classical performances scheduled for this year. The first one will be "The Voice of the Piano" on Saturday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m., featuring guest pianist Benedetto Lupo. The concert will be followed by a performance of "Friday Night at the Opera" on Friday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m., featuring soprano Veronika Kincses, baritone Anton Belov, and the Huntsville Community Chorus. Taavo will speak to us on Thursday, October 4, at 2:45 p.m. in Wilson Hall Room 001 and on Thursday, October 25, in Wilson Hall Room 152. The Cultural Committee is looking forward to another year of his entertaining and informative talks.

Opera at the Movies

We are also excited about the new season of the Metropolitan Opera Live in HD broadcasts at Hollywood 18 on South Memorial Parkway. The schedule for October follows:

October 13 11:55 am CT Donizetti's 'Elisir d'Amore Encore: Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 p.m.

October 27 11:55 am CT Verdi's Otello Encore: Wednesday, November 14, 6:30 p.m.

Winter Term Bridge Instructors

Many members have requested that we continue offering bridge classes at OLLI. We are very fortunate to have found two volunteers to teach bridge during the winter term. Responding to our call for a teacher, John Jeter and his wife will begin teaching in January 2013. Both John and his wife are accomplished bridge players, who love the game. So, look for your winter-term catalog in early January, and plan to sign up for bridge on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45–4:30 p.m.



"The earth laughs in flowers."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Curriculum Committee

(in the Spotlight)



Mike Doyle, Curriculum
Chairperson

The Curriculum Committee is the heart of the OLLI organization because its work results in 50 or more OLLI classes for each term. Chaired by Mike Doyle, this committee is responsible for classroom facilitators, A/V equipment, and the teachers in the classroom.

As the heart of OLLI, Curriculum has numerous arteries, namely, the nine subcommittees below. Each term, the respective subcommittees arrange for courses in their discipline. They check course syllabi and monitor the courses as the term progresses. They also encourage research for future classes.

Subcommittees

- Arts and Letters
- Computers
- Finance and Economics
- Foreign Languages
- Health and Psychology
- History, Religion & Civics
- Leisure and Nature
- Science and Math
- Wednesday Bonuses



Back row, L-R: Bob Goodwin, Helena Crutcher, Janet Reville, Chuck Duffy, John Schweinsberg, Sue Chatham, Eleanor Carter, George Leach, Chris Rupp, Bob Robertson, Andy Kochis. Front row, L-R: Hugh Nicholson, Eleanor Schweinsburg, Gratia Dunham Mahoney, George Thurlow, Jerri McLain.



Each term the committee is involved with the following:

- ◆ Addresses course needs of different age groups in OLLI
- ◆ Solicits new course ideas and teachers
- ◆ Evaluates new course ideas and proposals
- ◆ Approves and schedules courses
- ◆ Collaborates with PCS to produce the Curriculum Catalog each term
- ◆ Evaluates instructors and curriculum

Learn How to Make Your Photos



A Workshop for Taking Fantastic Photos

Friday, November 9, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
UAH—Wilson Hall

Mark your calendar for this very unique workshop
designed for the amateur photographer.

Learn from our panel of experts about composition, technique, titling, dos and don'ts, and much, much more. Find out what constitutes the "wow factor" and hear tips on how to enter the OLLI Photo Contest. The panel will address comments and questions from the floor during the "question and answer session."

There will be handouts and refreshments.

Please call the OLLI Office at 256-824-6959 to reserve your seat, or for more information, email Lorrie White at ollinewsletter@msn.com.

All OLLI Members are Invited to Attend

Fall Color in the Landscape

Submitted by Mary Lou McNabb (pictured with husband Robert), OLLI member and founding member of the Huntsville Master Gardeners.



Joe Pye weed

As the cooler weather of fall arrives, we notice changes of color in nature. In unmowed fields, the Joe Pye weed begins its purple show and the goldenrod its majestic gold. The dogwoods put on a brief show of red leaves before being shed, and the red berries attract the birds. Crepe Myrtles will display yellow leaves before they, too, are shed, and the exfoliating bark offers winter interest. Holly berries will begin turning red, and there are some varieties that have yellow berries. Let nature be your guide in choosing fall color for the yard.

First consider whether there will be sun or shade as the angle of the sun changes. If you have sun, chrysanthemums are a good choice. When you go plant shopping, choose mums that are just beginning to show color, and let them come into full bloom in your garden. As you set them in the ground, tease apart some of the roots so they can begin to spread into the surrounding soil. This minor separation will give the plant a much better chance of living through the winter and giving color for another year. Mums will continue to provide color until the first hard frost, which usually occurs about November 1.



Mums (center)



Violas

Pansies and violas are appearing in the market place, and they are also good choices. Violas, although they have smaller blooms, are very well adapted to our fluctuating temperatures of fall and winter. Overall, they make an impressive display, if set eight inches apart. They tolerate shade but will bloom more if in the sun. A mass of one color makes the best display, if you can resist purchasing multiple colors. Like the chrysanthemums, choose violas just coming into bloom, since they will transplant with less shock and get a good root system developed before they put on their show of color. They will bloom intermittently during winter and be at their best in early spring. Parsley makes a good companion to pansies or violas and will give some tasty sprigs for the kitchen. It is a good choice for shade. Remember that rabbits and deer really enjoy these two plants, but don't bother chrysanthemums.

All of these plants will need watering for a few weeks, if the weather is dry. The pansies and violas appreciate a little fertilizer after a week or two. Buy some 20-20-20, the type mixed with water, and water the plants with it. Use the recommended amount, since more is not better. The cooler weather is ideal for gardening and will give you some fresh air and good exercise.

In the perennial border, Sedum 'Autumn Joy' is making a good display and the various salvias are making a good showing also. Salvia farinacea, also called mealy-cup sage, is a dependable spike type flower for the back of the border. There are blue and white cultivars. Another of the salvias (sages) that is taller and makes an impressive show is Mexican sage, also called Velvet sage. This one is said to be tender in our area, but mine have lived in a well drained and sunny place for many years. Our common culinary sage has nice gray foliage and when mature, blooms pale purple spikes in mid summer.



Sage in bloom

The plants mentioned above will likely be available for purchase at the Huntsville Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale, October 13-14, and at local nurseries.

OLLI Membership Form for June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2013

Name _____ Preferred Name on Badge _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Please send OLLI Newsletters via: E-mail [] Please send OLLI Newsletters via Postal Service: []

Do you want to receive E-mail messages about OLLI activities? Yes [] No []

Join the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UAH by mailing this form and a check for \$15, payable to: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH.

MAIL TO: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH
P.O. Box 1581, Huntsville, AL 35807
PHONE: 256-824-6959

If referred by an individual, please list their name _____

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH is not responsible for any damage or personal injury sustained when a member is participating in any OLLI sponsored activities on or off the UAH Campus.

Membership implies permission to use your photo for OLLI publicity. If you do not want your photo used, please notify the instructor/photographer in advance.

Membership: \$15

Scholarship Fund: * _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Date: _____

New Membership []

Gift Membership Yes [] No []

Gift From _____

*If you would like to make a contribution to the OLLI Scholarship Fund for a UAHuntsville student, please include the additional amount you are donating in your check.

Important Notice: Inputs for the November/December 2012 newsletter are due by November 10, 2012. Please send articles and ideas to Joyce Pettis, Editor; Lorrie White, Co-editor, at OLLInewsletter@msn.com.



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