Upcoming Poetry Workshops

Workshop & Reading Complimentary Session
October 22, 2010
12:30 p.m.—2:20 p.m.
Wilson Hall, Room 152

Mary Carol Moran, winner of the Alabama State Poetry Society’s 2009 Book of the Year, *Equivocal Blessings*, will inform and inspire attendees on the art of writing poetry. She’ll give editing tips, and will hold a Q&A session about publishing. Bring your poems to read, and enjoy short in-class writing exercises.

Ms. Moran is an active member of the Auburn University OLLI, where she teaches and takes several courses each term. She has published two books of poetry and is the editor of an anthology of Alabama women writers. Mary Carol travels throughout the south giving poetry, editing, and publishing workshops.

In-depth Poetry Workshop
October 22, 2010
2:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.
Wilson Hall, Room 152

This course, taught by Mary Carol Moran, involves longer writing exercises and classroom sharing of readings and critiques. Editing and ideas for publishing will be covered in detail.

Call the OLLI office at 256-824-6959 to sign up for either workshop.
$25.00 (in-depth session) will be payable the day of the workshop.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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From The President

Chuck Duffy

OLLI members are all fired up from the hot summer and their return to classes. We are meeting and enjoying being back! Another “thank you” to the many volunteers on the Curriculum Committee for long hours and a handsome new catalog.

Thanks to Nan Case and the Social Committee for the “cool” Ice Cream Social on September 10, where we saw a slide show of photos submitted to the contest. What a talented bunch of photographic artists living among our members! Congratulations to all of the participants in this 2010 Photo Contest and to the judges for whom the selection of winners was not a snap decision.

If you missed the 2010 OLLI Summer Enrichment Series, I invite you to view two of the superb presentations now available at www.pcs.uah.edu/OLLIOnline. This online format was made possible by a gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation and the efforts of Professional and Continuing Studies at UAH.

Additional presentations are planned in order to build a library of online courses for OLLI members in the future. As always, no exams—just personal satisfaction.

Chuck Duffy, President

Curriculum Corner

Classes for the winter term are off to a good start. Three hundred and eighty-one members signed up to take them, which is about average for a fall term. Fifteen of the fifty-six classes filled to capacity.

Joe Berry’s “The Life and Times of George Washington” is the most popular class with sixty students. Joe is an extremely popular instructor, and OLLI is fortunate to have him in our program.

Karlee Arey’s “Absolute Beginner Spanish” is another class in high demand. Over forty members applied. This number is by far too many students for a single language class. Flora Boardman, one of our Spanish teachers, volunteered to teach another absolute beginner’s class. Thus, most of the applicants were able to enroll in one of the classes or the other. Spanish is the most popular of the languages taught at OLLI. I wish to express my appreciation to Flora for volunteering. We had a dilemma with the large number of applicants. She was kind enough to step forward and help solve it.

Sometimes there are simply too many applicants for a particular class, and not everyone can be admitted. The most reliable way to enroll in the classes of your choice is to register early. OLLI operates on a strictly first come, first served basis.

Submitted by Hugh Nicholson

Just a gentle reminder: The catalog, newsletter, Bonus classes, and socials will no longer be available if your membership hasn’t been renewed for 2010-2011. Don’t miss out on these benefits; please make sure your membership is up-to-date by filling out and mailing the membership form on page 6 of this newsletter.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?
Cultural Events

Remember MET “Opera at the Movies” (Hollywood 18) dates: Wagner’s “Das Rheingold” on October 9, with encore October 27; Mussorgsky’s “Boris Godunov” on October 23, with encore November 10. Senior tickets are $22, children $18, and all Encore tickets $18. The Live HD opera performances will be on Saturdays at 12:00 p.m., and the Encore performances will be on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Final details are being worked out for the Poetry Reading and Workshop on October 22, by Mary Margaret Moran, winner of the Alabama State Poetry Society's 2009 Book of the Year award. She will present editing tips and answer questions about publishing. Enjoy a short in-class writing exercise, and bring one of your poems to read. Following this session, a more in-depth poetry workshop will include longer writing exercises and sharing of readings and critiques. Detailed editing and ideas for publishing will be offered. Look for more details in this newsletter.

Attendees at the first Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Preview Lecture by Conductor Emeritus Taavo Virkhaus enjoyed his insights and humor. His next lecture will be November 11, from 2:45 to 4:15 p.m. in Wilson Hall 152. He will discuss the program “From Medtner to Mother Goose” to be performed on November 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the VBC Concert Hall. David Wroe will conduct; Yakov Kasman will be guest pianist. The music will be Ravel: Suite from Ma Mere L'Oye (Mother Goose Suite), Medtner: Piano Concerto No. 2, and Brahms: Symphony No. 4.

Submitted by Pat Lindberg, Cultural Committee Chair

Report From the Social Committee

OLLI members enjoyed a wonderful turnout at the Back- to-School Ice Cream Social on Friday, Sept. 17. If you were not there, we missed you! The slide show, created by Lorrie White, of all the photography contest entries was fabulous and entertaining. We have some wonderful photographers in OLLI. Everyone was also impressed with the new art in our suite of rooms, and we are sure Terry Schoper, a deceased OLLI member, would be very proud of this selection and their display. The art is in Terry’s memory. We appreciate the work of Barbara Staggs and her committee who selected the art, framed it, and supervised its placement for our enjoyment. Lastly, everyone loved eating cold ice cream treats on a hot day, socializing with their fellow OLLI members, and welcoming new members.

The Holiday Party

December 8, 2010, 6:00 p.m—10:00 p.m.
The Summit 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 is included in the price of the ticket.

Tickets are $25 and go on sale on October 4 at the OLLI office.
Do you know of someone who recently retired, or wishes to boost a social life, or perhaps has expressed an interest in continuing their education? Then OLLI is the right place to direct them. By guiding them down the OLLI path, you could benefit also.

For every new member for 2010 that you refer to OLLI between September 1 and November 1, your name will go into a drawing for two OLLI Holiday Party tickets. Make sure that your friends put your name on their membership forms. So spread the word—the more new members that you bring in, the more chances that you have to win! A membership form is on page 6 of this newsletter.

Tell your friends about OLLI or give a gift of learning, and YOU may become a winner. Good luck!

Sue Chatham, Chair, Member Services Committee

Don’t forget about OLLI’s gift membership for that special relative, friend, or neighbor. For only $15.00 you can sign them up with a membership that will show how much you care. Give a unique gift—the gift of learning.

In Remembrance

It is especially difficult to announce the passing of two very valuable and extraordinary members in September, 2010. They will be remembered for their special qualities and for all they contributed to OLLI.

Ralph Murphy was a founding member of the Academy of Lifelong Learning (now OLLI) and has been actively volunteering since 1993. Many know him from the interesting industrial tours he arranged; others enjoyed his instruction of the AARP Safe Driving Courses for OLLI. But he is most famous for the entertaining magic he performed for special events and taught for OLLI. Ralph was an inspiration to us at OLLI. His incredible energy and enthusiasm was ageless and gave us hope that aging needn’t be anything more than a continuation of living life to the fullest. And he did! Our hearts are filled with compassion for Florence, his wife for 61 years, and their loving family. Read more about Ralph’s life at http://obits.al.com/obituaries/huntsville/obituary.aspx?n=ralph-waldo-murphy&pid=145407058

Al Bailey, a member of OLLI for over four years, was OLLI’s Web Master since 2007. During his membership, he used his knowledge of web page design to benefit the OLLI web site. He performed a marvelous job of redesigning the Osher web site, giving it an appealing facade and adding fresh pertinent information with fewer searches. He devoted time to keeping it up-to-date with the most current information and was always a joy to work with. Al was also an OLLI instructor, specializing on how to build a personal web page. He was truly an asset to OLLI and will be sadly missed. Our condolences go to his wife, Cathy, and to their family and many friends. You may read more about Al Bailey at http://obits.al.com/obituaries/huntsville/obituary.aspx?n=alan-bailey&pid=145368906
The Terry Schoper Art Memorial Project is now a reality. Twenty pieces of art have been selected, framed, and hung in the OLLI complex in Wilson Hall in her honor.

The art in Room 152 was especially selected to represent the many disciplines and activities that OLLI offers.

The art in Room 152C has motivational messages to spur us on to greater pursuits.

I would like to thank Jim Lindberg and his committee for planting the seed for this project. Also thanks to my committee -- Debbie West, Jo McDonald, and Barbara Hitt -- for their ideas and support. Willie Staggs was invaluable in his help with all of the nitty-gritty of framing, measuring, and hanging. I would especially like to thank Eleanor Carter for all of her suggestions, encouragement, and endless enthusiasm through all of the ups and downs of the project.

Please come to see and enjoy the art.

Barbara Staggs,
Art Committee Chairperson
If you would like to make a contribution to the OLLI Scholarship Fund for a UAHuntsville student, please include the additional amount you would like to donate in your check.

Important Notice: Newsletter inputs for the November/December Newsletter are due by November 16. 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.