

Celebrations

Anniversaries



Jackson

Bill and Bonnie Jackson of Tulsa celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Dec. 10, 2008. They will renew vows and celebrate with a reception Dec. 14, 2008, at Southpark Community Church.

The couple married Dec. 10, 1948, in Tulsa. They have two children: Chuck Jackson and wife Gina of Adair and Ron Jackson and wife Phyllis of Norman. They have four grandchildren: Christopher Jackson and Wesley Jackson both of Norman; Amy McDill and husband David of Thornton, Colo.; and Jason Lile of Tulsa.

Bill Jackson retired after 32 years with Parker Drilling Co. He was executive vice president. Bonnie Jackson has volunteered more than 34 years. Both volunteer at Saint. Francis Hospital in Tulsa

Engagements



Bowen-Marler

Lindsay Bowen to Greg Marler. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Bowen of Sand Springs; and Mr. and Mrs. David Marler of Sapulpa. March 21, 2009.

Vesper-Sarratt

Bethany Vesper to Brandon Sarratt. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Vesper of Broken Arrow; and Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sarratt of Tulsa. June 20, 2009.

Drake-Hein

Tammy Drake to Shawn Hein. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Drake of Broken Arrow; and Melinda Turner of El Dorado, Kan., and Bob Hein or McPherson, Kan. June 13, 2009.

Dotson-Haney

Cheryl Dotson to Derrik Haney. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dotson of Sand Springs; and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Haney of Tulsa. Jan. 10, 2009.

Weddings

Timko-Law

Carole Ann Timko and John Lloyd Law were married Nov. 28, 2008, at Jesus Center in Tulsa.

Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Timko of Longmont, Colo.; and Ramona Stanfield of Tulsa and the late Bob Law.

The couple will reside in Longmont, Colo.



Livingston-Young

Melissa Lokelani Young and Jeffrey Blake Livingston were married Sept. 5, 2008, in Austin, Texas.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David M. Young of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Wilson and the late Kenny M. Young and the late Lydia S. Young. The bride graduated from Hawaii Preparatory Academy and the University of Colorado.

The bridegroom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Harry E. Livingston of Tulsa. He is the grandson of Elizabeth Lupton Owen and the late Lewis Owen and the late David I. Livingston and the late Johnnie Williams Livingston. The bridegroom graduated from Bishop Kelley High School, the University of New Orleans and the University of Texas. He is employed by Cirrus Logic in Austin, Texas.

Following a honeymoon to Belgium and Italy, the couple reside in Austin, Texas.

Summers-Coffidis

Sarah Ann Coffidis and Gregory Lee Summers were married May 10, 2008, at Meditations in Stillwater.

Parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Coffidis of Altus; and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Summers of Broken Arrow.

The couple will reside in Abilene, Texas.

Weddings



Vaughn-Wightman

Kate Wightman and Lowell Geoffrey Vaughn were married Nov. 1, 2008, at Kali-Kate Ranch in Buda, Texas. J.E. Johnson officiated. A reception followed at the ranch.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Noel Wightman of Tulsa. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stuart and the late Mr. and Mrs. F. Noel Wightman. The bride graduated from Holland Hall School, Grinnell College and the University of Texas. She is a master carpenter with the Performing Arts Center at the University of Texas in Austin.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gale Vaughn of Fishers, Ind., and the late Linda Kay Smith. He is the grandson of Margaret Smith and the late Charles Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Vaughn. The bridegroom graduated from North Central High School, Grinnell College and Indiana University. He is owner and consultant with Vaughn Research Inc.

Honor attendants were Malcolm Wightman and Christopher Doemel. Bridesmaid was Nita Daniel. Groomsman was Andrew Derksen. Wedding music included the Arundel Ensemble and vocalists Tara LeBar, Megan King and Ryann Steging.

The couple will reside in Austin, Texas.

Botelho-Valenti

Sylvanna Valenti and Bill Botelho were married Nov. 28, 2008, at Jesus Center in Tulsa.

Parents are Lauretta Valenti of Mansfield, Mass., and Dean Valenti of Tulsa; and Mr. and Mrs. William Botelho of Harrisville, R.I.

The couple will reside in Tulsa.

Sing along to 'Messiah' at First Christian Church

BY JAMES D. WATTS JR.
World Scene Writer

George Frideric Handel wrote several hundred pieces of music, from grand operas to solo sonatas. But the one work by Handel that almost everyone knows is his oratorio "Messiah."

That is something Mark Beckwith, director of music at Tulsa's First Christian Church, is counting on. Beckwith is planning to lead a chorus, soloists, orchestra and members of the public in a sing-along presentation of Handel's "Messiah."

"We're calling it 'Tulsa Sings 'Messiah,'" Beckwith said. "Although that's not entirely true, because we're not going to be singing the whole work. We'll be doing the first part, the 'Christmas' section of the piece."

The church will also be using the original Handel orchestration — strings, oboes, trombones, timpani and an organ. "And we'll add the 'Hallelujah' chorus, because you can't do any version of the 'Messiah' without doing that," he said, laughing.

Beckwith said the performance will feature several vocal soloists — sopranos Phena Hackett and Anne Antoinelli, mezzo-soprano Maggie Larkin, tenor Taylor Scott and baritone Chris Nulf — all of whom have ties to First



Some concert-goers bring along their score to "The Messiah" for the sing-along. Tulsa World file

CLASSIC

tulsaworld.com/spot

TULSA SINGS 'MESSIAH'

When: 4 p.m. Sunday

Where: First Christian Church, 913 S. Boulder Ave.

Admission: Free. Scores of "Messiah" available for \$2.

Christian Church. But the majority of the singers will be in the audience.

"I worked as a professional singer in Los Angeles for several years, and events like this were a regular thing during the holiday season," Beckwith said. "I've been to 'Messiah' sing-alongs that had literally thousands of people in the audience.

"Fortunately, this piece is so well known that it's one of those rare choral

works that you can put on without having to do a lot of in-depth rehearsals with every singer. That's why we encourage people to bring their scores — and just about every person who's sung the piece still has a score — and sing along."

For those who have misplaced their scores, or never owned one in the first place, copies will be available to use for \$2 a copy.

A reception will follow the performance, and child care will be provided, although Beckwith hopes parents will bring their children to the performance.

"An event like this is a great way to introduce young people to this piece," he said, "and to great music in general."

James D. Watts Jr. 581-8478
james.watts@tulsaworld.com



Grounds

Kenneth and Linda Grounds of Tulsa will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 20, 2008. They were honored with a reception Dec. 6, 2008, at LaFortune Community Center in Tulsa. The event was hosted by their children.

The couple married Dec. 20, 1958, in Tulsa. They have two children.

Kenneth Grounds retired in 1997 after 40 years with Harley Valve. He was president. Linda Grounds retired in 1999 after 18 years with Union Public Schools. She was in human resources.

Engagements



Lower-Phillips

Dedra Ann Lower to Mark William Phillips. Mother of the bride is Ranell Harry of Bixby; Parents of the groom are Betsi Phillips of Tulsa and the late Perry Phillips. A private wedding will be held Jan. 31, 2009 at First Christian Church, a reception will follow at the Tulsa Garden Center.



Jennings-Lavoie

Caroline Jennings to Craig Lavoie. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jennings of Tulsa; and Mr. and Mrs. Norm Lavoie of Bartlesville. Dec. 27, 2008.



Wife should be patient

Dear Amy: My husband has a habit of saying or explaining things, and then when I ask a question or relay to him what he has just said he vehemently denies saying it.

I am at my wits' end. This is happening more and more frequently, to the point that there are times he has me convinced that I am the one that has it all wrong.

When I talk to him and repeat something he has told me, he accuses me of not listening.

Our children have on occasion been in the room and have heard their father say exactly what I said he has said.

When that happens he accepts it because there are more people around to hear what he has said.

We are not old. We are both in our early 50s.

I am beginning to worry that this could be the start of dementia or Alzheimer's. What can I do or say to him without starting World War III? — Brokenhearted

Dear Brokenhearted: You and your husband are not old, but unfortunately Alzheimer's disease and related dementias have little respect for the calendar.

You can read the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease on the Alzheimer's Association Web site at alz.org.

If you think that your husband's behavior fits the warning signs of memory-illness, tell him that you and the kids are concerned about his health and urge him to see his physician for an evaluation. He might be more frightened than you realize, so continue to be patient.

Send questions via e-mail to askamy@tribune.com or by mail to Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

Celebrations

Tulsa World's Announcement Pages for Births, Engagements, Weddings, Anniversaries, Graduations & Birthdays

The Tulsa World not only publishes free standard wedding and engagement announcements but also offers additional options for color photo sizes and expanded announcements at a nominal charge. Rates are available for wedding anniversaries, births, graduations and birthdays.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

I would like information for:
 Engagement Wedding
 Anniversary - (No. of years) _____
 Birth Graduation
 Birthday

Mail completed forms to:
 Celebrations
 P.O. Box 1770
 Tulsa, OK 74102
 or call (918)581-8488

TEXAS TALES 'Tuna Christmas' brings nearly 20 years of laughs

BY KAREN SHADE
World Scene Writer

He's seen "A Tuna Christmas" at least 25 times in the last month. But Ed Howard doesn't get tired of it.

"Isn't that weird? I should, but the last show I saw of 'Tuna Christmas' was just a rehearsal. Well, I came close to wetting my pants. I shouldn't say that."

So when Springer Opera House's touring production of the Howard, Joe Sears and Jaston Williams holiday comedy stops in Claremore on Saturday, you'll see Howard's handiwork — he directed actors Topher Payne and Jef Holbrook, who will be playing all the roles originated by Sears and Williams.

"The big difference is that Topher and Jef aren't from Texas," Howard said in a recent phone interview from Nashville. "So the first thing we had to do was move to Texas. They're both Southern boys, but there's a big difference."

According to this native Alabamian, Southerners are "more apologetic about it. And Texans are prouder of it. I had to get the actors to not apologize for the things they're saying."

They're also tough, determined and branding a pioneer spirit that makes the characters particularly memorable even behind wigs, house dresses, overalls and dozens of pairs of glasses.

The touring production from the Springer Opera House in Nashville stops at Claremore's Robson Performing Arts Center for one night only. Howard sends regrets that he can't be there when Vera Carp, Bertha Bumiller, Didi Snavely and the rest of Tuna, Texas, society gets into a Christmas mood with a yard-display contest, sabotage and a ghostly type who refuses to give up his spit cup.

Is it no wonder Howard, the director and co-writer of the "Tuna" saga, can't keep from laughing?

"I can brag about these shows," he said, "because I can say it's all because my two partners are so wonderful."

The production headed for Claremore, however, won't feature Sears and Williams, who were also in Nashville on stage with the trio's latest



WRITING 'TUNA'

Ed Howard: "We just fell for these characters, and these characters took over."

theater

A TUNA CHRISTMAS

When: 8 p.m. Saturday
Where: Robson Performing Arts Center, 101 E. Stuart Roosa, Claremore
Tickets: \$35-\$45; 699-7390, tulsaworld.com/mytix

labor, "Tuna Does Vegas." When they started, "Greater Tuna" was intended to be a parody of the right-wing majority of the region.

"But we realized that we were writing about the people we grew up with and our families and people we loved," Howard said. "We just fell for these characters, and these characters took over. We had to show them all the respect that they deserved."

"Greater Tuna" debuted in Austin, Texas, in 1981 and has bloomed into an audience hit around the world. With its comic look at the denizens of "the third-smallest town in Texas," Howard, Sears and Williams made their name in theater.

"A Tuna Christmas" followed in 1989 and allowed the trio to identify the central characters and elaborate on their stories. More quick changes were in order as Sears (a Bartlesville native) and Williams again played all the characters. With 1998's "Red, White and Tuna" and now "Tuna Does Vegas," the story continues. Howard is still having fun. Consequently, so are the fans.

It may not be over yet. "I want to do one set on Halloween in which Smut Snatchers are going to ban Halloween," Howard said. "It's just formulating."

(The latest adventure out of Tuna-ville is likely headed for Tulsa, soon, too, he added, though dates have not been set.)

Karen Shade 581-8334
karen.shade@tulsaworld.com

Nielsens
81st & Lewis • NielsensGifts.com • 298-9700



Gifts are our Specialty at Nielsens

LIADRÓ Daum WATERFORD Herend FABERGÉ Julia Knight