

Davidson is single-minded

Don Davidson started teaching at JCCC in 1978, when he was hired by Virginia Krebs, the first director of community services at JCCC. For 31 consecutive years, Davidson has taught *What's Happening in Greater Kansas City for Singles*, and in 1995 added a second class, *101 Fun and Clever Ways to Get Noticed*. He is the longest-serving instructor in community services, according to Linda Cole, program director, community services.

Davidson is a retired pastor by vocation and specialized in singles ministry for 25 years. JCCC offers each class three times a year in spring, summer and fall at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 12251 Antioch Road, Overland Park.

In 1977 when Davidson first co-authored a book, *Guide to Singles Groups in Kansas City*, there were approximately 20 to 30 singles groups. Now in its 11th edition, the book lists 120 K.C. groups.

“In my *What's Happening in Greater Kansas City for Singles* class, I spend the first half of the two and one-half hours talking about the reasons more people don't go to singles groups and dispelling myths about singles groups,” Davidson said. “The second half is spent encouraging people to attend singles groups and how to meet people once there.”

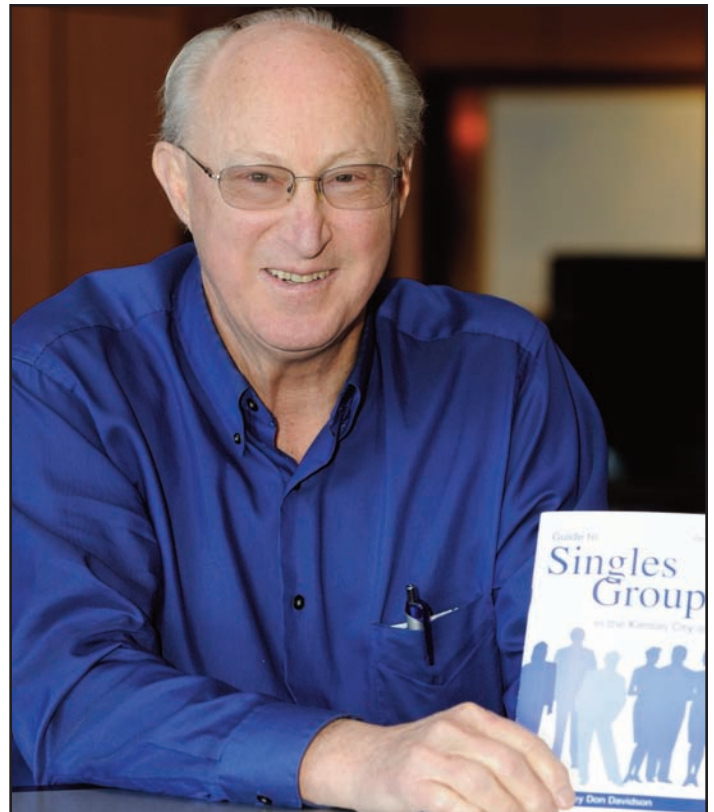
For Davidson, the goal of singles groups is not “matchmaking,” it's to “enhance one's social life and find support and encouragement.” Even in the wake of online dating services, Davidson believes people prefer to meet face-to-face. He contends the problem is that people don't know what singles groups are available in this area, thus the need for his book and class.

That brings Davidson to his next point about ways to get noticed. If you go to a singles group, he advises volunteering to work the welcome table or finding a way to give a compliment.

Davidson's message is: it's okay to be single.

On the other hand, Davidson, as a minister, performs about 65 weddings a year. He says that doing weddings is one of the great joys of the ministry.

Before retirement, Davidson, who has a master's of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., was on the staff of three local churches where he facilitated successful singles programs – Countryside Christian, Valley View United Methodist and First Calvary Baptist. After retiring he was hired to be the interim director of the 55+ singles ministry at the Church of the Resurrection United Methodist. He has written many articles and books about singles, including *How to Build an Exciting Singles Ministry*, published by Thomas Nelson



Don Davidson has been a community services instructor for 31 years.

Publishers, and has trained many churches across the country on how to create an effective singles program. He also runs a travel club for Kansas City area singles. **Im**