



## May 4, 2018 OLLI News

[- Letter from the Chair](#)

[- Newest Team](#)

[Members](#)

[- Bloomsday OLLI Op](#)

[- June Minis](#)

[Registration](#)

[- Notable Numbers](#)

[- Submit a July Short](#)

[- Upcoming OLLI](#)

[Events](#)

[- OLLI Calendar](#)

## Upcoming OLLI Events

**Tuesday, May 22**

**10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

Julie Kent

*In Pursuit-A Ballerina  
Reflects on her Artistic  
Journey*

**Tuesday, May 24**

**10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

**To Be Announced**

**Tuesday, May 29**

**10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

Charles Lane

*American Dream or  
Nightmare? Home  
Ownership Considered*

**Thursday, May 31**

**10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

## Letter from the Chair



### Transitioning To A New Era

The end of June marks the end of our second fiscal year in our new “campus.” No longer preoccupied by the move, we have settled into our new home. Now we are evaluating where OLLI at AU is, and where we should be headed. We are reassessing our internal operations as well as our role as part of the larger AU community.

### *Internal Operational Changes*

Change is underway. In late February, our long-time and devoted Executive Director, Anne Wallace, announced her retirement effective July 1. While Anne will be much missed, we are pleased that succeeding her as Executive Director effective June 1 is our current Deputy Executive Director, Tony Long, supported by Mary Fran Miklitsch in her new role as Director of Planning. Further strong support will continue to be provided by this year’s new staff —Jesse Williams as Operations Coordinator, Yolanda Oakcrum as Administrative Coordinator, and through late May, part-time AU senior, Eamon Martin. We’ve also implemented new policies and procedures. A Personnel Handbook is in place. Members receive preference in attending lectures. The newly formed Scholarship Committee processes tuition assistance requests. This Spring, the Board adopted an Americans with Disabilities Policy, setting the standard for accommodating members with special needs. Recently installed hearing loops in the six classrooms enhance the sound.

### ***A New Relationship with American University***

We have continued to enhance our relationship

## **Notable Numbers**

Several members have inquired about how many members voted in the election or participated in the Survey. Election IDs and passwords were sent to 1,251 members (anyone who participated in a study group or short from Fall 2017 through Spring 2018). Of those, 330 (26%) voted. An invitation to participate in the survey was sent to 1,625 individuals (unique members of the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years). Of those, 531 (33%) took the survey, and 90% of those completed it.

with AU. We are not just AU tenants. We coordinate more closely with the University administration. During the year, AU was able to accommodate some of our additional space requests, as well as adopt a more beneficial financial arrangement with respect to the earnings OLLI receives on the more than \$2 million Osher endowment held by AU for OLLI. We also enhanced our curriculum with classes led by AU Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics professors, supplementing our already strong relationship with other AU departments and schools. A new OLLI-AU initiative has linked OLLI members one-on-one with 16 foreign AU graduate students for cultural exchanges and conversations through the AU International Accelerator program.

### ***Looking Ahead: Transitioning to a New Era***

OLLI has blossomed from a small staff with a limited budget and a few class offerings 36 years ago to an organization recognized nationally for its strong academic program, with nearly 100 courses each semester and nearly 1,400 members. We benefit from a sound financial basis and strong staff supported by hundreds of volunteers. Now what?

### ***Board Identified Upcoming Challenges***

The Board sees key challenges ahead. Our membership, growing approximately 5% a year, is now nearly 1,400. To accommodate the members, and make the best use of our new home, we will continue to explore initiatives such as year-round classes and/or expanded day, evening, and weekend classes. We hope to diversify our enrollees to represent a broader segment of the senior population. At the same time, we need to assure that our current finances, with a nearly \$1 million budget, will be able to fund needed expansion and desired enhancements. Coordinating our strategic plan with AU's will help us meet future space needs. Outreach to AU alumni, many of whom are members of OLLI, will strengthen our mutual ties. We are well on our way to meeting our \$150,000 fundraising goal for the initial phase of our Campaign 2020 this year, assuring sufficient income to meet expenses without unduly depleting the Friends of OLLI Fund. The balance of our

ambitious, three-year \$1.5 million Campaign 2020 lies ahead, as does a need for increased financial transparency to our members.

### ***Strategic Planning Aided by Compass Strategic Alignment Grant***

OLLI at AU is tackling these challenges as it plans its future. This year, a Strategic Planning Committee has been developing a proposed five-year strategic plan. The Committee has been aided since August by the nine-member Compass volunteer team provided through our \$150,000 Compass grant of professional staff time. Compass will release its report to the Board and Committee May 22. Results of the March membership survey and focus groups provide further input. The target date for the completion of the plan is this summer. Much has been done. Much is yet to be accomplished.

---

## **Newest Team Members**

Introducing the newest members of our team! Yolanda Oakcrum started working for OLLI at AU on May 1, and we are delighted to welcome her. She is our Administrative Coordinator. Generally she will be the first voice you hear on the phone and the first face you see as you walk into the office. Yolanda comes to OLLI with vast experience in customer service, an MA in the works, and she is also a published children's book author! Please stop by and introduce yourself.

Already onboard and admired by all is Jessie Williams, our Operations Coordinator. Jessie joined OLLI with more than 20 years experience in administrative and customer service. He enjoys assisting SGLs and members with technical issues! He is a DC native and a lifelong Redskins fan. We also understand that he is a terrific cook and grillmaster. We are hoping for a cook off with Tony.

---

## **Bloomsday OLLI Op**

OLLI will be celebrating Bloomsday this year on Friday, June 22, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM by reading

*Ithaca*, James Joyce's favorite chapter from *Ulysses*. If you would like to participate as a reader, please contact the organizer, Bob Kolodney, at [rbk987@verizon.net](mailto:rbk987@verizon.net). Reservations to attend this program can be made on the [OLLI Bloomsday page](#). This is a free event.

---

## June Minis Registration Open

Registration for the June 2018 Minis opens online today. [Click here to register](#). Catalogs were mailed First Class this week.

---

## Submit A July Short

If you would like to lead a July Short, please submit the online [proposal form](#) by June 1. Registration for the July Shorts will begin in early June.

---

## Learn About Iona House

We have a unique resource for seniors near OLLI — Iona Senior Services at 4125 Albemarle St. NW. OLLI member **Charlotte Jones Carroll** has arranged a special time for interested persons to join her for an hour-long visit and tour — **Thursday, June 7, at 5:00 PM**. Two Iona leaders will share stories about how Iona connects with the community and aids seniors through activities and socializing. Free parking. Not a solicitation for funds ... just to spread the word. Space is limited to 20 so please RSVP to Susan Messina at [smessina@iona.org](mailto:smessina@iona.org) (or call her at 202-895-9401).

### OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

#### Our Mission:

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University is an association of, by, and for the people in the Washington, DC area who wish to continue to study and learn.

OLLI at AU is dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process and that curiosity never retires.

**Website** [www.oli-dc.org](http://www.oli-dc.org) | **Phone** 202-895-4860 | **E-mail** [oli@american.edu](mailto:oli@american.edu)

**Mailing Address** 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016

Anne Wallace, *Executive Director* | Tony Long, *Deputy Executive Director*

Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Communications Director*

Jesse Williams, *Operations Coordinator*

[Join E-Mail List](#)

[View Our Website](#)

