



Where Curiosity Never Retires



July 13, 2018 OLLI News

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OLLI Numbers

Now that OLLI at AU has a 12-month lease, we are taking advantage of the space to offer additional programs.

In June, we offered 27 Minis, which 277 members attended.

Letter from the Chair



We learned from the survey and focus groups conducted in the spring that many of our members want more nuts-and-bolts information about how OLLI at AU is run. “Your members want more information about the administration and

organization of OLLI: budget and finance, mission, etc.,” our outside facilitator reported. Fair enough, let’s start with the money.

In recent years, OLLI at AU has transformed from a modest volunteer organization into a much larger nonprofit with all the attendant requirements: more staff and benefits, technology, financial and legal advice, facilities, etc. The move into the Spring Valley Building came with moving costs, higher rent, and capital investments such as the installation of hearing loops in our 5th floor classrooms. Expenses climbed, and income did not keep pace, requiring us to dip into our reserve funds.

Next week, 14 first-time ever July Shorts are scheduled, with 134 members registered.

Our lease allows us to use the classrooms and social space from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. We are committed to optimizing the use of the space during those hours.

Upcoming OLLI Events

**Monday July 16 -
Friday, July 20**
July Shorts

We began the 2017-18 fiscal year with a budget in significant deficit: member tuition was projected to cover only 67 percent of total expenses of \$902,800. Earnings from two investment sources—an American University endowment established by the Bernard Osher Foundation for the benefit of OLLI at AU and the Friends of OLLI Fund, a reserve account owned by OLLI at AU— together were expected to cover another 15 percent of operating costs. The substantial funding gap was filled during the course of the year primarily by nearly \$138,000 in generous donations from loyal OLLI members and friends. As a result, we closed our 2017-2018 year with a significantly smaller deficit than anticipated.

The 2018-2019 budget with total expenses of \$798,113 reflects a far more sustainable model. Expanding our academic year to include June Minis and July Shorts has raised income, while reducing outlays for capital investments will lower expenses and decrease our dependence on donations to cover operating expenses. Our goals moving forward are to achieve financial stability that supports an academic program of unrivaled excellence and to maintain a fundraising effort that keeps tuition affordable, funds special initiatives, and grows the Friends of OLLI Fund for future needs.

To view the 2018-2019 budget go to:

olli-dc.org/2018-2019_budget

While many, perhaps most, of our members are focused mainly on their study groups, for those who said you want to know more about the nuts and bolts, I will give an occasional peek into the machinery in future letters.

Denise Liebowitz
Chair, Board of Directors

July Shorts

July Shorts take place next week (Monday, July 16- Friday, July 20). If you have not registered, visit the OLLI website at www.oli-dc.org to see which shorts still have space. You can take up to 3 Shorts for \$75.

PayByPhone Parking

OLLI's summer intern, Eitan Avni-Heller, will be available next week during July shorts to assist members in downloading and using the PayByPhone Parking App. He will be available Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the OLLI office. You need to bring the following items in order to download the application:

- Apple/Android password to download the application in your phone's App Store
 - License plate information
 - Email information
-

Fall Registration

Our Fall semester at OLLI is approaching! Please be on the lookout for the catalog the first week of August!

Upcoming Events at American University

July 21 and 22, from 12:00 to 4:00 PM, the Katzen Arts Center is offering a two-day bookmaking workshop led by artist Martha Edgerton. Each participant will create a memory book from scratch, making a deeply personal repository for their own stories. This will include sewing the book together and decorating the cover using various techniques, including paper and fabric collage. The cost is \$225 per participant. Register online at

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 | **Phone** 202-895-4860 | **E-mail** oli@american.edu

Class & Study Group Location 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Mailing Address 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016

Tony Long, *Executive Director* | Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Director of Planning*

Lesley Diaz, Academic Programs Coordinator

Jesse Williams, Operations Coordinator

Yolanda Oakcrum, Administrative Coordinator

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