



## February 2, 2018 OLLI News

### QUICK LINKS

- [Hearing Loops](#)
- [New Member Breakfast and Spring Open House](#)
- [Upcoming Events at American University](#)
- [Our Sympathies](#)
- [Discount at Politics and Prose](#)
- [Registration Deadline](#)
- [OLLI Calendar](#)

### Our Sympathies

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of **Margo Kranz**, who died on January 14 in Newton, New Jersey. Margo was a founding member of the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at American University. OLLI at American University began as ILR. Margo served on the ILR Board of Directors for 14 years.

[Discount at Politics and Prose](#)

### Letter from the Chair



OLLI at AU begins 2018--our *36th* year as an organization--but only the *2nd* year of Winter/Spring sessions at our "new campus." Here's what's going on.

#### **Classes and More---Lectures, Trips, Events**

February Shorts begins next week with nearly 300 registrants for 21 classes. Lottery day is near at hand--February 12<sup>h</sup>-- for Spring classes beginning March 5<sup>th</sup>. The twice-weekly Winter lectures, covering a diverse array of topics, were enthusiastically received. There were two new developments: the larger lecture hall seating 120 and giving early registration preference to members. This helped accommodate all OLLI members who wanted to attend. We will continue to address the need for expanded seating capacity.

Upcoming February trips include a play at the Round House Theatre and a self-guided tour of the African American Museum. Reminders: for the new members-- a Breakfast on February 13<sup>th</sup>, and for new and returning members--the Open House February 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Enhanced Facilities---Look and Listen!**

Hearing loops are now in place in all six of our classrooms. As the article below explains, this new technology provides a major improvement in the ability to hear for members attending classes. The fifth floor monitors announce daily classes, upcoming events, the weather and much more. Thanks to the staff's thoughtful placement of sliders,

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Politics and Prose bookstore (5050 Connecticut Avenue NW) offers OLLI members a **20% discount** on books assigned at OLLI. The store carries all books assigned for the February Shorts and Spring Semester. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

## Registration Deadline

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**For Spring semester:** Sunday, Feb. 11. You can [register online](#) for the spring semester. Be sure to have your registration before the lottery on February 12, so you have the best chance of getting the study groups of your choice.

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we can easily move table and chairs to ease classroom set-ups.

### **Board and Staff News**

The Nominations and Elections Committee (OLLI Board members Denise Liebowitz and John Thorner, and OLLI members Joan Berman-Chair, Richard Ringell, and Barbara Rollinson) has met and will oversee the nominations and elections process to fill four June 2018 Board director vacancies. The nominees will speak at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Town Hall meeting prior to the start of elections. The Board adopted a Resolution recognizing the contribution of Besith Pineda, Operations Director, who resigned in January for another job. This month we welcome Jesse Williams, our new Operations Director, with experience and expertise in technology.

### **Fundraising/Scholarships**

We especially thank you for your generous Campaign 2020 contributions. Over \$100,000 has been received to date in cash and pledges towards our 2017-18 goal of \$150,000. This will help replenish and grow our much needed reserves. While we are on budget for the first half of our fiscal year, we have already spent over \$60,000 from our Friends of OLLI Reserve Fund just for hearing loops.

The Lillian Posner Wallace Scholarship Fund has received \$1,000, supplementing an annual \$2,500 contribution (for 5 years) for scholarships in honor of Ray Rasenberger, a past Board chair. The newly formed Scholarship Committee (Sue Boley, Chair; Virginia DeRoze; and Anne Wallace) is administering the scholarship funds.

### **OLLI-AU Synergy**

Expanded hours and space 'on campus' and additional Spring class offerings in the first floor lecture hall reflect our close working relationship with AU. We are also in contact with the AU Alumni/Development Office and the AU international students' administration. More later as AU-OLLI programs develop. OLLI members are welcome at AU events throughout the year, with listings frequently updated on the OLLI website. You can also scroll to the bottom of this newsletter to see upcoming AU events.

### **Compass' Progress**

There has been steady progress as we benefit from this year's award of \$150,000 in volunteer time from the D.C. nonprofit Compass to assist in our strategic planning. Compass' nine-member team, led by Patrice Feinstein, has been interviewing OLLI Board and committee members, and representatives from AU. The Compass team members are also looking at other OLLIs' organizational structures and programs and providing feedback to us. Compass will provide its preliminary report to the Board and Strategic Planning Committee March 5<sup>th</sup>.

***To be continued!***

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**Hear Here!!**



## **Hearing Loop**

### **Switch hearing aid to T-coil**

Hearing loops have been installed in all of OLLI's 5th floor classrooms. Look for the sign above to indicate that hearing loops are present in our classrooms (and elsewhere in the world). Hearing loops allow members with T-coil-enabled hearing aids to hear lectures and class discussions clearly without the aid of additional equipment. Members

who have no T-coil in their hearing aid or who do not use a hearing aid can use a receiver with headset to benefit from the system. The loops will be available to use during the February Shorts. If you are unsure if you have a T-coil or how to use it, contact your audiologist.

Identifying vendors and obtaining competitive bids to design and install the loop systems took more than six months. That time was well spent, though, as we were able to reduce the cost from initial estimates of \$190,000 to \$270,000 down to an actual cost of less than \$60,000.

***For individuals to gain the greatest benefit from the loops, it is vital that class members speak in turn and not talk over each other. Please make every effort to do so and to encourage others to do so as well.***

## New Member Breakfast and Spring Open House

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The **New Member Breakfast** will be held on Tuesday February 13, from 9:00 to 10:30 am. Invitations will go out to new members in the upcoming week.

All members are invited to attend the **Spring Open House** on Tuesday, February 20 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the 5th floor Social Space. This is a wonderful opportunity for new members to tour OLLI and meet other members. It is also a wonderful time for returning members to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. No reservation is required. Just stop by between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.

## OLLI Trip to African American Civil War Museum

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**March 1, 2018**

**1925 Vermont Avenue, NW**

Meet at the **[African American Civil War Museum](#)** at 9:50 am for a 10:00 tour.

**Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/african-american-civil-war-museum->**

## Upcoming Events at American University

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**NOTE: If you have a question about any AU-specific event, please contact the sponsoring department directly.**

### **"The Arab Population in Israel 1948 to Today" Conference**

***Sunday, February 11, 1:00-5:00 PM***

***Washington College of Law***

With keynote speakers **Tamir Sorek**, University of Florida and **Mohammed Wattad**, Zefat Academic College of Law.

Co-sponsored by **American University's Center for Israel Studies, Arab World Studies Program, Washington College of Law Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues.** See **conference schedule:**

**<https://tinyurl.com/ArabsinIsraelSchedule>**

**Attendance is Free with RSVP:**

**<https://tinyurl.com/ArabsinIsraelSchedule>**

**Event Contact: Laura Cutler, *Managing Director*, Center for Israel Studies:**

**[cutler@american.edu](mailto:cutler@american.edu) | 202-885-3780**

### **OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

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