



January 8, 2018 OLLI News

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Catalogs Mailed. Registration Open.

The catalogs for the Spring 2018 semester and the February 2018 Shorts have been combined into a single catalog.

The catalogs were delivered to the Post Office on Friday, Dec. 29. Members should receive them by Jan. 12.

Registration is open online.

Refunds

Hearing Loops Come to OLLI

This month, hearing loops will be installed in OLLI's six classrooms on the 5th floor. A hearing loop is a system comprised of a microphone, a transmitter, and copper wire. The microphone picks up the sound, the transmitter converts the sound from analog to electromagnetic, and the copper wire projects the electromagnetic field within the "loop."

Hearing aids which include a "t-coil" receive the signal from the loop. The effect is hearing sound from anywhere within the loop going directly into one's ear, without all of the other sounds in the room being amplified. An audiologist can tell you whether or not your hearing aid has a t-coil, and can activate it, if necessary. Individuals who have no hearing aid or hearing aids without a t-coil can use a "loop receiver," to benefit from the loop.

Below are contributions from two OLLI members on what having hearing loops at OLLI means to them.

Campaign 2020 and Hearing Loops

Our recently launched 2020 Campaign is OLLI's first major step into securing the financial base that will certainly be needed to support OLLI's future growth. "Growth" here refers to the number, variety, and scope of courses in our academic programs as well as to the steady addition of new members to OLLI's student body. The 2020 Campaign also expands OLLI's capability to address inevitable evolving challenges as we confront them. Our long awaited and deeply researched project to install hearing loops in all our classrooms on the fifth floor is now underway.

Without doubt this project will expand the OLLI

If you paid for a membership fee, trip, or event with a credit card and asked for a refund, the money now will be refunded directly to your credit card.

James Joyce's Birthday

Join other OLLI members in celebrating James Joyce's birthday on Friday, Feb. 2 in Room A on the 1st floor.

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

A reading of "Wandering Rocks" episode from *Ulysses*

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Viewing of *A Portrait of the Artist, 1977*, directed by Joseph Strick

Get all of the details at:

[OLLI 2018 James Joyce Birthday Celebration.](#)

Lecture Reservations

In order to give OLLI members preference in reserving seats at lectures, members will

experience going forward. The Installation of hearing loops, beginning in January, ensures that many more of us will benefit from an improved ability to hear and, therefore, to derive the most we possibly can from classes showcasing lectures, discussions, videos or any other presentation format. Those with modern hearing aids will benefit most, while others, including those who don't have such devices, also will experience augmented volume via installed microphones and available headsets. Since most people over 65 experience some hearing loss, we can be sure our current investment will enhance the OLLI experience for many members. OLLI's improvement to American University's facilities may also benefit their own students, especially if the University holds classes in these same rooms when OLLI classes are not scheduled.

— Sue Boley

Hearing Loss — A Personal View

"Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people."

— Helen Keller

Hearing loss increases inexorably with age. Only about two percent of adults between 45 and 54 have disabling hearing loss, according to the National Institutes of Health. The rate increases to 8.5 percent for those between 55 and 64, to nearly 25 percent for those between 65 and 74, to 50 percent for those 75 and older. Once it starts, it never gets better.

No study has been done on OLLI members, but it is clear that hearing loss is widespread among our membership. Every year, members whose health is otherwise good, drop out of OLLI because they can't follow the class discussion. I've watched many of them go over the dozen years I've been at OLLI, and expect myself to be soon among them.

I lost hearing in my right ear 25 years ago when a simple head cold settled in my ear canal and damaged the auditory nerve. It was difficult at first, but because hearing in my left ear was normal, I adjusted after a few months. I made it a point to tell anyone sitting to my right that I couldn't hear in

be emailed links for reservations for the next week's lectures at 8:30 am on the Tuesday before the lecture.

If seats remain available, the wider community will receive emails at 8:30 am on the Thursday before the lecture.

History of DC School Segregation

OLLI Study Group Leader Ralph Buglass will be giving a talk on the history of school segregation in DC at the George Washington University Museum on Monday, Jan. 22 at 12:00 noon. The free talk, part of the "DC Mondays at the Museum" series, will be a condensed version of an upcoming OLLI February Shorts course. More at:

<https://museum.gwu.edu/school-segregation>.

Tickets!!

Roundhouse Theatre Tickets, at a special rate for OLLI members, are still available for the Roundhouse Theatre production of

that ear, and please don't think I'm ignoring you if I don't respond. A device that I now wear in my right ear looks like a hearing aid, but it really is a simple microphone that picks up sound and transmits it to the hearing aid in my left ear. It works pretty well, but when I hear something I have to look around to see where the sound is coming from. I've lost the ability to tell the direction of sound.

For many years with this situation, I didn't need a hearing aid. Normal hearing in one ear was enough for me to work, have a full life, and--when the time came--to join OLLI. The first class I took was "Thucydides" with Marty Lapin in room 4--the large upstairs room at the Temple Baptist Church. I sat at one end of the table and Marty was at the other. I had no problem hearing him or anyone else.

But gradually, age-related hearing loss began in my good ear. I began making it a point to sit close to the study group leader. This worked so far as the SGL was concerned, but it did not help in hearing comments of others in the class. I gradually gave up on lectures--I couldn't hear well enough to follow a lecture, even sitting in the first row.

Hearing in classes became more and more problematic. In the study groups I lead, the problem is not too bad because I am free to move about the room and get close to whoever is speaking. I'm also freer to ask people to repeat what they said than I am when I am attending a class led by someone else.

Hearing loss is isolating. You can be *in* a group but not *of* a group--you often don't know what's going on. You stop commenting in class because too often when you've done so, the looks on the faces of others make clear that what you've said is irrelevant--the point had already been made or the discussion had moved on. This is what leads many members, whose health is otherwise good, to leave OLLI.

This is coming to an end with the installation of hearing loops in all six of the 5th floor classrooms. For the first time in a long time, along with many other members, I'll be able to sit in an OLLI study group and hear all that is said. It will postpone, if not save, many of us from the isolation that hearing loss inevitably brings.

Handbagged on

2/11/18.

You may get tickets at:

<http://olli-dc.org/events/handbagged>

African American Museum

For OLLI members registered for the National Museum of African American History & Culture tour on 2/15/18, please remember to pick up your tickets in the OLLI office.

— Dave Palmeter

OLLI Trip to African American Civil War Museum

March 1, 2018

1925 Vermont Avenue, NW

Metro Stop: U Street on the Green/Yellow Line

Exit at U & 11th Sts. NW

Meet at the Museum at 9:50 am for a 10:00 tour. The Museum is dedicated to preserving and telling the stories of the United States Colored Troops' involvement in the American Civil War. Frank Smith, PhD, the founding director of the Museum, will lead the tour. The Museum is located across the street from the African American Civil War Memorial.

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