



OLLI

at American University Washington DC



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Update

June 2009

Calendar

June

Lecture Series:
Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, and
Thursdays in June at
the Katzen Arts Center
(see list in newsletter
and on [website](#).)

July

Catalogs Mailed

August

Registration begins

September

9: Lottery
16: Open House- 1-
2:30, TBC
30: Classes Begin

Letter from the Chair

I am very honored to have been elected to the Board of Directors of OLLI and especially honored to be chosen as Chairman of the Board. I see a bright future ahead for all, given the excellence of our staff and the diversity of experience of our members. I continue to be impressed by the quality of the courses that are offered for our consideration. I'm told that about 65 courses will constitute the fall semester offering, many of them new ones for us to choose from.



I'm also pleased to let you know that many of the individuals who have brought us this far will be continuing for another year doing what they have done so well in the past, continuing to volunteer their time and talent to work on the many committees that support OLLI. We are in good shape financially and look for continued improvement. We have an abundance of riches in Study Group Leaders providing the learning opportunities we all relish, and we look forward to a wide variety of lectures in the fall and in January. I have just seen a preview of what's to come, and I am confident you will be as impressed and enthusiastic as I am.

Thanks to you all, and let's have a great year.

--Don Quayle

Congratulations

Results of the 2009-10
Board Elections:

Mickey Klein

Don Quayle

Carl Rappaport

Selma Rosenthal

The People of OLLI: Alice Bralove

During the 1930s and '40s the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, with George Balanchine, Leonide Massine, and Alexandra Danilova in its Diaghilev repertory, was the world's most influential ballet company. Its tours of the United States brought classical ballet to audiences that had never seen such performances, and in one of those audiences was little Alice Aycok. She decided that she would become a ballet dancer and dance with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. And she did.

After training at Washington School of the Ballet, she went to New York at 18 to study for a year with Pavlova's partner, then joined the Gollner-

Thanks

Thanks to **Irwin Lebow** and **Dave Palmeter** for donating their class gifts to the OLLI Future

Fund.

Petroff Ballet that toured South America and was headed for Europe when its manager absconded with the funds. Nonetheless, Alice Aycock was now a professional ballet dancer - with a plane ticket back to New York.



There she was accepted into the corps of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, sharing a tiny hotel room with two or three other dancers during extended stays in major cities. When touring the South for one-night stands, the company's railroad cars would be off-loaded onto a side track where stage hands unloaded scenery and costumes and rushed to the local theater. There the dancers rehearsed in the new venue, took a technique class, then performed, took off their costumes and makeup, and headed back to the railroad cars to sleep on the jostling train. It was, Bralove recalls, "a lonely, pressure-filled life."

In the summer, when companies didn't perform, she supported herself by dancing two to three shows a night at the Copacabana Club in New York where she performed with popular stars Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, and Jimmy Durante. Years later, when she was married to Bernie Bralove, the owner of Washington's Shoreham Hotel, she introduced him to the hotel's headline performer, Jimmy Durante, who exclaimed, "You mean one of my goils owns the joint?"

After living her dream for five years, she recognized that she really enjoyed the classroom more than the stage and returned to DC to teach at her dance alma mater. There Alice Bralove remained, becoming recognized, according to Kathleen Bannon, retired Executive Director of International Arts Enterprises, "by a generation of dancers for the thoroughness of her teaching, her compassionate approach to her students, and her dedication to passing along to them the heritage of the ballet tradition."

And it is that ballet tradition that makes the life of a dancer worthwhile, explains Bralove. It manifests itself in the personal training for a role under the tutelage of one of its great performers, in the smallness of the close-knit international community, in the great respect accorded to teachers by their students, and in the almost religious focus on the moment that demands your best. It also appears in the passing along of talismans from generation to generation of dancers. Alice Aycock wore the same costume worn by Maria Tallchief in the "Scheherazde" corps, and she prizes the earrings that Alexandra Danilova gave her after wearing them in "Capriccio Espanol."

Now retired from teaching, Bralove devotes the same intensity to her OLLI classes where her class comments often reflect her extra reading. She has taken so many philosophy courses that she was finally asked to co-chair the philosophy section of the Curriculum Committee.

Terrific June Lecture Series

Join us at the **Katzen Arts Center**
Nebraska & Massachusetts Avenues at Ward Circle.

Parking: street parking and in the
Katzen Arts Center lot at \$1.50/hr.

*Special thanks to the coordinators of this lecture series:
Barbara Rollinson, Beverly Zweiben, and Mickey Klein*

10:00 am - 11:50 am No reservations are needed.

Lectures are free and open to the public.

Please note the switch of speakers in blue.

June 2: Alice and Lincoln Day

*Film and Discussion of: Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives- The
Environmental Footprint of War*

June 3: Sid Davis and Bill Sheehan

Obama's First 100 Days

June 4: Lynn Olson

Not Playing the Game: How Winston Churchill Came to Power

June 9: Stan Cloud

Poland and the Jews

June 10: Tersh Boasberg

Historic Preservation in Washington DC

June 11: Yitchok A. Breitowitz

Bio-ethics and Jewish Law

June 16: Robert Peoples

*Our Journey to a Sustainable World-
the Role of Green Chemistry*

June 17: Ambassador Richard Schifter

The Need for United Nations Reform

June 18: David Levy

Directions in Art

June 23: Denyse Sabbagh

Immigration Issues

June 24: Roger Lewis

Design Competitions: Pushing the Architecture Envelope

June 25: String Quartets Live

Beethoven and Mendelssohn

(Detailed descriptions found on the [OLLI Website](#))

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