



# OLLI

at American University Washington DC



## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

### December 2009

#### December Luncheon

**Our Holiday Luncheon will take place on Friday, December 11 at noon in the Mary Graydon Center on American University's main campus.** Come celebrate another great semester.

Reservation forms are at the Temple Baptist Church, or send a check for \$27 to the OLLI office **by Thursday, December 3.**

#### SGL Class

Are you interested in being a Study Group Leader or improving your leadership skills? Let us know if you want to take the four-session class that will be offered in February, led by Willie Blacklow.

#### Civil War Trip: Antietam National Battlefield

By all



accounts Chris Bradley led another very successful Civil War trip. See Sarel Kromer's wonderful [slide show](#) of the trip.

#### Don't Miss OLLI Member

#### Letter from the Chair

The excitement evident at the beginning of the fall semester continues into the spring when approximately 60 courses will be offered. This comes as a result of the outstanding work of the Curriculum Committee which has been laboring behind the scenes to bring you this stimulating and diversified program. We want to pay tribute to this Committee and the superb work of the retiring **Chairperson, Gloria Kreisman.** The members of the Committee include **Allen Frey, Ed Goldin, Sandra Levenbook, Linda Miller, Dave Palmeter, Barbara Searle, Sidney Steinitz, Betsy White, and Myrna Whitworth.** You hard-working folks are wonderful, and we are all very much indebted to you. This will be obvious when you leaf through the spring course catalog which will be in the mail in early January. The spring semester runs from March 1 to May 7, 2010.



Note that the level of excellence continues as you peruse the list of January lectures arranged by the Lecture Committee. We will let you know when the January Lecture series will be online. Lectures will take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, from 10 to 11:50 a.m. in the Katzen Center, Mary Graydon Center, and the Ward Circle Building. We will be mailing the list to those who don't have email.

The Tuesday Lecture list for the spring semester will be available at the Open House and online in February. Again, our deepest appreciation goes to Barbara Rollinson, Chairperson, and to Committee members Hope Bogorad, Tina Fried Heller, and Mickey Klein. It is this kind of volunteer effort that makes OLLI what it is today. And, remember, these lectures are free and open to the public so bring your friends, give them an OLLI brochure, and invite them to join our organization.

As we move into December toward the holidays, I wish you all happiness and joy during the season. We hope to see you all at the Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 11. The holidays are for celebrating with your family, so join your OLLI family for this festive get-together.

Grace Lebow, Iona Artist-in-Residence, at the Gallery at IONA (4125 Albemarle St. NW). Open to the public: Mon-Fri, 9-5 through January 7, 2010.



--Don Quayle

## The People of OLLI: Ray Rasenberger

It seems as if Ray Rasenberger has always set goals for himself and then succeeded in attaining them.



Ray majored in Public Administration at Dartmouth, received a masters at Syracuse University, and eventually spent six years at the Bureau of the Budget (now the OMB) as an examiner. While at OMB he met and married his wife, Nancy Presek, and, with her encouragement, decided that he really wanted to be an administrative lawyer. Two weeks after they married, Ray enrolled at The George Washington University School of Law at night and received his law degree. He co-founded the firm of Zuckert, Scoutt and Rasenberger which specialized in all aspects of aviation law. Ray enjoyed everything about this kind of administrative law, including writing briefs.

His law practice allowed him to devote time to his next passion-- politics. In 1960 he served as advance man for Senator John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign, a job Ray said "was definitely a young man's job" because it required a great deal of energy to make advance preparations for the candidate in a city. Years later he also worked on the Muskie campaign along with some other up-and-comers like Mark Shields and Madeleine Albright.

After a long and successful law career, Ray retired from active practice, but continued vigorous pro bono activities and found time to pursue another long-term goal. He felt that he had never had the opportunity to explore some aspects of his education, such as the Humanities. He joined OLLI (then known as ILR) in 1998 and enrolled in Jenny Pierson's Poetry Workshop. Although he is very modest about his poems, his teacher and many others regard Ray as a sensitive and original writer of poetry. He did self-publish a group of his poems to distribute to family and friends. In addition to taking classes, Ray also taught a course, "Politics and the Supreme Court," and served as Board Chairman in 2007-8. He is still an active member of OLLI

All in all, Ray Rasenberger has achieved many of his goals. He and Nancy have five children and six grandchildren, which, in itself, is a most satisfying achievement.

--Jeanne Baron

## How many classes do OLLI members take?

OLLI members taking:

- 1 class- 20%
- 2 classes - 40%
- 3 classes - 37%
- 4 classes - 3%

## Food Drive

Congratulations! We collected 751 pounds of food in our Fall Food Drive.

## 10% off Purchases at the Katzen Center Gift Store

Unique jewelry, decorations, scarves, gloves, etc. Tell them that you are an OLLI member and receive 10% off the purchase price.

## Condolences

We will miss Larry Shulman, Nien Cheng, Elaine Kirk, and Irwin Vogel who have recently passed away. There will be a memorial service for Larry at the Cosmos Club on Saturday, January 9 at 3 pm.

## Thanks

Thanks to Martha Horne for donating her class gift to the OLLI Future Fund.

## Message from Helen Schwartz

Dear Friends,  
As many of you know, I'm leaving December 2 to fly to Turkey for some travel and a semester-long Fulbright, teaching American Drama and Writing

## Nominations and Elections Committee

The Board of Directors has appointed the following members to the Nominations and Elections Committee:

for the Internet at Bilkent University in Ankara.

I'm writing a blog about my adventures. Since the blogname "Teaching in Turkey" was taken, Blogspot assigned the name "turkey in teaching"! Here's a link to my blog:  
<http://turkeyinteaching.blogspot.com/>

The latest blog is about why the Thanksgiving staple and the country have the same name.

Happy Holidays to all of you at OLLI.  
--Helen

**Marcia Crandall, Ray Rasenberger, Phillip Schwartz  
Ed Stelzer, Beverly Zweiben.**

This Committee will select six nominees for four vacancies on the Board for the 2010 election. The Board consists of 12 members elected for three-year terms, four members being elected each year.

The Committee will make its selection in accordance with the OLLI Policies and Procedures, completely independent of the current Board, in consultation with one another and with emphasis on the background and experience of each potential nominee.

Members who would like to volunteer either themselves or a colleague as a possible candidate may submit a special form to the Committee. Forms will be posted on the bulletin board, and copies are available in the office.

The elections will be held at the Annual Meeting in May. Photos and biographical data of all candidates will be posted in early April and mailed to every member prior to the election.

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**Don Quayle, Board Chair/ Anne Wallace, Exec. Director/**

**Lena Frumin, Program Manager/ Barbara Johnson, Newsletter**