

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

January 2015 Newsletter



Catalogs Mailed

The February 2015 Shorts catalogs have been mailed. **Registrations are due in the OLLI office Thurs., Jan. 15.**

Spring 2015 Semester catalogs have been mailed. **Registrations are due in the OLLI office Friday, Feb. 6.**

Books That Shaped America

Join the American University Library for Books That Shaped America -- conversations for the American University and metro-D.C. communities about books that have helped shape American society. Each discussion starts with a focal text, but the conversations stretch far beyond the pages of the books themselves. Each discussion is led by a faculty or staff member from AU. Attendees are encouraged-but not required-to have read the featured text.

Learn more at <http://www.american.edu/library/events/BTSA.cfm>.

Or [download a flier](#) from our website.

Letter from the Chair



Bad News and Good News

We have received some disappointing news from the Osher Foundation: We will not receive a second million dollar endowment at this time. We have, however, been invited to re-apply when the problem the Foundation felt disqualified us has been settled. That problem, in the Foundations words, is this: The lack of "clarity about the costs associated with occupying the offices and classroom space that the [American] University has committed to provide on campus."

"To consider additional funding," the Foundation said that it "will need evidence that the institute and the University have reached a formal agreement that will allow the program to operate in the proposed space on campus in a financially sustainable manner."

That's the bad news.

The **good news** is our eligibility to re-apply and the fact that we are meeting early this month with AU officials to begin what we believe will be a fruitful discussion of the terms of our use of space at current Law School building.

The Foundation congratulated us on our academic program, but also noted that "a robust, ongoing annual fundraising program" is essential. We have made considerable progress in this area. As of December 31, 2014, we have received donations totaling \$38,939 from 44 percent of our membership. The 44 percent of members donating is a strong improvement over prior years, and we thank all of you who have made a contribution. For those who have not, we hope you will be able to make a donation when registering for the Spring semester.

Dave Palmeter
Chair, Board of Directors

OLLI's Inquiring Reporter asked some OLLI members: "What are you going to be reading over the winter break now that you don't have homework to do?"

Ken Coffey

Year Zero: A History of 1945 by Ian Buruma is the only good book I've ever found that focuses on the dramatic and uncontrolled events (violence, death, illness, starvation, displaced persons, etc.) that followed the formal end of the war with Germany. A great read ... highly recommended.

Carol Hausman

We Are Called to Rise by Laura McBride is what I'm reading because a favorite niece recommended it, and she always picks the right books for me!

Larry McCarthy

I have an advanced proof of John A. Nagl's *Knife Fight*. He's a retired Army Lt. Col. who is (was) THE expert on modern counter-insurgency (CI) doctrine, even after leaving the service over Iraq/Afghanistan policy. He earned his Ph.D. at St Antony College, Oxford. The title is an extension of his first book, *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife*. I helped draft portions of the original Army C/I doctrine 50 years ago, when Nag was then a young major.

Marguerite Benson

The book I have chosen to read is, in fact, related to one of the courses I took this Fall at OLLI: Ray Squitieri's "Understanding World War I in Life and Politics."

It is *Good-Bye to All That*, Robert Graves' autobiography wherein he not only describes his own experience as a captain in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, but also depicts the multiple ways in which the Great War with all its horrors and loss of life transformed life as it had been experienced prior to the conflict.

Linda Miller

I've taken "Constitutional Issues" this semester with SGL Richard Allen, and as a result am now reading *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, by Jon Meecham. Jackson used the veto power liberally (there had been only four vetoes among the first six presidents) and defiantly initiated executive actions believing that he -- who had been elected by the nation -- and not the Congress was the true voice of the people. This, of course, to the great disdain of his detractors. The angry stand-offs and passionate over-statement in Washington in 1830 did not look and sound all that different from today, but with my newly-minted interest in and understanding of, the constitutional questions, I am enjoying the book immensely.

Jane McCune

I'll be enjoying *Paris 1919* by Margaret MacMillan. After World War 1, Britain, France, and the U.S. met in Paris to decide on the disposition of

the Hapsburg Empire; reparations; and the creation of the League of Nations, which the U.S. then refused to join. We are paying for these decisions today. The book illuminates the lack of understanding by the main characters, the profound ineptitude of Woodrow Wilson, and the fact that peace is not something that can be dictated by the few. It is a fascinating history.

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