

# 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.

**4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, DC 20016**

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**Website: [www.OLLI-DC.org](http://www.OLLI-DC.org)**

Dave Palmeter, *Board Chair* / Anne Wallace, *Executive Director*

Tony Long, *Curriculum Coordinator* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator*

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

## February 2015 Newsletter



# OLLII

at American University Washington DC



### REGISTRATION REMINDER!

In order for your **paper registration** to be included in the Lottery, it must be in the OLLI office by close of business Friday, Feb. 6.

In order for your **online registration** to be included in the Lottery, it must be submitted by midnight, Sunday, Feb. 8.

### Spring 2015 Open House

The Spring Open House will be on Wed., Feb. 25, from 10:00-11:30 am in the Lower Level of Temple Baptist Church.

### Letter from the Chair



#### OLLII Shorts

OLLII Shorts began five years ago with 130 members and six study groups -- led by Eleanor Heginbotham, Ginger Newmyer, Colin Owens, Barbara Searle, and Lois Steinitz. The program has grown steadily. This month, 210 members took advantage of 13 shorts.

OLLII Shorts grew out of a retreat held in May 2010 by then outgoing Board chair Don Quayle and incoming chair Ed Goldin. Linda Miller came up with the idea, in a workshop headed by Willie Blacklow. The Shorts program, with Bob Coe as its coordinator, is a way to offer members something different from our standard once-a-week study groups. They are an integral part of our offerings.

The newest addition to OLLI's offerings, coordinated by Katy Adams, is our online discussion group program. Last Spring, OLLI offered its first online discussion group, which was led by Sue Willens. Two more online discussions are ongoing now -- led by Bob Coe and Al Hirsch -- and more are being planned for later this year. And, of course, the "main event" -- a Spring semester with nearly 90 course offerings, will begin in less than a month.

In short (no pun intended!), we now have a wide-ranging group of offerings -- from lectures and Shorts to online discussions and semester-long weekly courses. All of these depend on the efforts of our volunteers. Consider joining them. If you do, you not only will be contributing to an organization we all treasure, but you will be giving yourself a very rewarding experience, as well.

Dave Palmeter  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

### OLLII Member Ed Cohn: Man of the World

Those OLLIites who have shared Study Groups with Ed Cohn know that

the quiet, white-haired man with the refined accent will be the source of original, perceptive observations reflecting a wide intellectual and cultural perspective.

This is because the 93-year-old has lived a consciously created life. He remembers precisely the first moment that decisively shaped him. In fifth grade, when he learned about Europe's overseas expansion, "It opened my eyes to other parts of the world, different geographical influences, histories, cultures, and languages."

This was reinforced when as a ten-year-old he and his family spent 15 months in Europe during his father's sabbatical. Traveling in Germany, Italy, France, Greece, and Switzerland, Ed experienced different languages, landscapes, architecture, and cultures. Ed emphasized that the combination of events "had a profound influence on how I have lived my life. It inspired my curiosity in other cultures and gave me a love of travel."

His professional career developed these passions and ranged from the Office of Economic Warfare and the Marshall Plan to the U.N. Development Programme and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Serving in Turkey and then working in Afghanistan led him to believe that development was not just a matter of economic transformation; it was also of social and cultural transformation. During assignments in India, Central America, and East and West Africa, Ed continued to ponder broader questions of participation and development. What are the social, cultural, and economic conditions enabling democratic political systems to function? One important factor, in his view, is how people relate to each other in daily life. Trust in non-related people, tolerance of diversity, and a conciliatory rather than a confrontational approach to resolving disputes are crucial. Ed is convinced that if democracy is to take root and function, it must be indigenous and not introduced from outside.

Jacquelin Gallagher  
OLLI Roving Reporter

**4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, DC 20016**

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*Dave Palmeter, Board Chair / Anne Wallace, Executive Director*

*Tony Long, Curriculum Coordinator / Mary Fran Miklitsch, Program Coordinator*

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

## April 2015 Newsletter



### 2015 Board Election

The following were elected to the OLLI Board:

- Katy Adams
- Lewis Cohen
- Stan Newman
- Barbara Rollinson

The Committee wishes to thank all of the candidates and the Board, Officers and Staff of OLLI for their help and cooperation.

### Condolences

**Chuck Lapine**, long-time OLLI member and SGL, died earlier this month. Also, **Trudy Kaplan** and **Olga Gilloegly** passed away recently. We extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

### Open Art Studio

**Rose Mosner**, our OLLI collage teacher, is inviting everyone to her open art studio on Sat., April 18, from 2:00-6:00

### Letter from the Chair



#### OLLI at American University

We call ourselves "OLLI at American University," but what does that "at" mean? The word became part of our name in April 2008 when the University accepted for its endowment a one-million-dollar grant from the Osher Foundation, with the income to be used to support OLLI. The Memorandum of Agreement memorializing the arrangement noted first that "OLLI is dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process" and that AU has a "commitment to serve a diverse student population, including adult learners." It then licensed OLLI to call itself "OLLI at American University."

There are "institutes" at universities across the country. Some are degree-conferring parts of their university, others are not. It's safe to say no two arrangements are alike, but many are similar to the arrangement between OLLI and AU:

- The institute's activities are consistent with the programs and goals of the university.
- The university approves of and encourages the activities of the institute.
- The institute is located "at" the university -- on campus or nearby -- and adds to the university's intellectual footprint in the community.
- The institute governs and supports itself.

Our loose arrangement also includes discounts at the University book store and the Katzen Arts Center gift shop, use of the Bender Library, discounted membership at the Jacobs Fitness Center, and use of the AU shuttle bus from the Tenleytown Metro stop to the campus.

More important, over the past seven years, the University's faculty has enriched the intellectual life of OLLI through the many lectures they have given and classes they have taught on a purely voluntary basis. We greatly value our relationship with the University, and hope to extend it in the years ahead.

pm and/or Sun., April 19, from 2:00-6:00 pm. Light refreshments. Free parking. All welcome. 2939 Van Ness St. NW, Apt. 302, Washington, DC. 202-966-0354. roseart@rcn.com.

## Study Group Proposal Reminder

Proposals for Fall 2015 study groups are due to the office by April 27, 2015. Please go to [olli-dc.org/studygroupform](http://olli-dc.org/studygroupform) to submit a proposal online. Thank you.

## Thank You to ...

... **Bob Hausman**, for contributing his SGL gift in the Fall. Our apologies for the oversight.

... **Barbara Rollinson**, for all of her work organizing the Spring Open House and organizing the SGR's.

Dave Palmeter  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

## Sylvia Brown: Go-Getter for Good

Sylvia Brown has always pushed to improve things. That goal still drives her at 94.

A Rutgers University MSW in Social Work Policy, Sylvia, under the aegis of The Mayor's Office in Newark, NJ, began working out of storefront offices in poor parts of Newark to carry out legislation to help pay for family planning. This entailed not only explaining the contraception services to her clients, but also navigating family politics of providing services to wives whose husbands forbade it. She also had to figure out how to occupy the children tagging along lest they inadvertently betrayed their mothers. Later legislation funded abortions, which despite the need among a teen-aged, unmarried population, doctors were unwilling to acknowledge. Sylvia's efforts helped them by convincing doctors to change their minds.

During these years she also participated in research that led to setting up Patient Advocate programs -- a role she was already fulfilling. Although medical professionals did not see a need for such a role, the patients were grateful and welcomed the program. It is now a standard health-field practice.

All of this was accomplished in five years.

When she and her husband returned to the Washington area on his retirement, she sought ways to encourage new interests for him and joined the Institute of Learning in Retirement (ILR). She became the first generation of what is now OLLI, on whose board she has served two terms in addition to "taking the art and literature courses I didn't have time for in college."

Now widowed, she has turned her formidable drive, energy, and intelligence to helping people on a larger scale by becoming a philanthropist. "I've decided that's what I wanted to do," she declares. In addition to her recent generous gift to OLLI of \$25,000.00, she has given to the Levine School of Music, the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, and American University.

"I want to find a way to help people and to make people happy," she says. She has.

## News in Context, Looking for SGLs

OLLI has a record of offering several classes each semester to satisfy the demand for in-depth discussion of current news. Requests for registration regularly far exceed the number of available seats. Also,

limited space means that news workers who have taken a class in the previous two semesters almost certainly can't get in despite their continued interest.

To address this demand in the upcoming Fall semester, the Curriculum Committee asks that all interested members seriously consider leading such a class. The present class is led by two members ... so sharing the load can be a good solution. If you cannot propose to lead such a class, please ask a news-focused friend or suggest one to us!

### "All Things Shakespeare" Online

If you are one of the many OLLI members who is a Shakespeare devotee, you will want to participate in a combination online discussion group and bulletin board about "All Things Shakespeare."

Not only are many OLLI members regulars at the Folger and the Shakespeare Theatre, they also travel to see performances, from Stratford, Ontario, to Stratford-upon-Avon, as well as making quicker trips to the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore and the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia. OLLI's online bulletin board will furnish members with an opportunity to announce and discuss these performances with their OLLI colleagues.

If one of us reads a play or a poem for the first or hundredth time, she/he can share views with others reading the same. We will discuss new books such as James Shapiro's *The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606*, which will be published this fall.

OLLI SGLs Osa Coffey, Gina Guglielmo, and Dave Palmeter have agreed to be "active" online participants, but there will be no formal leader of the group. Its success will depend on the participation of OLLI's many Bardolaters. To participate, send an email to Tony Long, Curriculum Coordinator.

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# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

## May 2015 Newsletter



### Thank You to ...

... **Ahmed Achrati, Josh Berman, Ken Coffey, and Marianne Sponis**, who donated their Study Group Leader gifts to OLLI.

... **Eva Baer, Lila Berger, Ben Boley, Sue Boley, Patricia Druck, Charles Doty, Si Efros, Gloria Kreisman, Carol Light, Larry McCarthy, Ellen Myerberg, Robert Nelson, Dave Palmeter, Ellen Passman, Donna Scriven, Meryl Silver, Rhea Smith, Kelly Tueller, and Betsy White** for stuffing, sealing, and stamping invitations for the John Eaton Concert.

### Letter from the Chair



#### Swan Song

My year as Chair of the Board ends at the end of this month. The very able Gloria Kreisman will take the reins in the important coming year as we work out our arrangement with American University.

My thanks go to my fellow Board members for their advice and patience, to Anne Wallace, Mary Fran Miklitsch, Tony Long, and Vivian Booker in our office, and to all the volunteers who contributed to a solidly successful academic year. The academics are the reason OLLI exists.

More than 1,000 people now participate in OLLI study groups. We're used to selecting from a catalog that routinely presents 90 offerings. But it wasn't always this way.

We got our start 33 years ago, when a small group of retirees decided that they wanted more than just a book group. Led by Tina Fried Heller, they created the Institute for Learning in Retirement and began a diligent search for members. The Institute opened in the Fall of 1982 with 11 study groups and 81 members. In addition to Tina, two other members of the founding generation are still active in OLLI: Carolyn Alper and Margo Kranz.

By the time I joined OLLI in 2006, there was a solid "institute" in place -- complete with rented space, a small staff, and a web site, which is how I found it. At that time there were about 500 members and about 50 courses. OLLI then, OLLI when it was founded, and OLLI as it is now, depends heavily on the voluntary efforts of its members -- to develop and lead courses, to find lecturers and, in some cases, give lectures, to arrange social events, to manage a growing fund-raising effort, to negotiate with present and potential land-lords, to stuff envelopes for mailings, etc.

Those of us who benefit from the efforts and foresight of the OLLI founders owe it to them to ensure that an established institution is in place for future retirees. Without the continued voluntary efforts and

financial generosity of its members, OLLI cannot succeed. But with those efforts and that generosity, we can ensure that OLLI will be there for retirees in the years to come.

Dave Palmeter  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

### June Lecture Series

The June Lecture Series is available on the OLLI website. Visit the [Lecture Series web page](#) for a full listing.

### Fall 2015 Semester

The Fall 2015 semester begins Monday, September 21, and ends on Friday, December 11.

The catalog will be mailed the last week of July. Registration opens when the catalog mails. We will send an announcement when this happens. More info to come in the June newsletter.

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Tony Long, *Curriculum Coordinator* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator*

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

## June 2015 Newsletter



### Summer Office Hours

The OLLI office, which is located at 4000 Brandywine St. NW, will be open from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm this summer.

### Summer Poetry

WHAT: Cool Poems for Hot Days

WHEN: Biweekly Wed. afternoons, beginning June 3, 2-3:30 pm

WHERE: Van Ness East condominium, 2939 Van Ness St. NW, Apt. 1221

"Cool Poems" is back for the third year in a row! This summer we'll use *The Penguin Anthology of 20th Century Poetry* edited by Rita Dove, reading a certain number of poets for each session and writing an original poem based in some way on what we've read.

RSVP to Ginny Finch at 202.686.0053 or [ginnyvne@yahoo.com](mailto:ginnyvne@yahoo.com)

### Letter from the Chair



Happy New Year!

OLLI's calendar year starts on July 1, so we're celebrating the year that is ending, and relishing the possibilities of the twelve months ahead.

Looking back, we can take pride in impressive numbers: during the last two semesters, we offered 178 study groups plus 14 shorts in a wide range of subjects to 1209 members. We continued to attract gifted Study Group Leaders from within our membership, and from the rich resources of the Washington community. Our four Lecture Series, open to the public, were well attended and well received. Our social events were wonderful opportunities for new and lasting friendships, culminating in May's sold-out concert fundraiser.... Kudos to Stan Newman, Development Committee Chair, and Susan Rolnick, Event Chair.

At OLLI, as usual, the best is yet to come. The schedule for the June Lecture Series is outstanding, thanks to Denise Liebowitz and her cohorts. By early August, you will receive the catalog for our Fall Semester, which starts on September 21. Prepare to be amazed. You will be offered a record-setting panoply of 100-plus courses, courtesy of Naomi Heller and her hard-working Curriculum Committee.

But I've saved the best for last. With a bit of luck, and much hard work, we will be in our new home, 4801 Massachusetts Avenue NW, for the Spring 2016 semester, and for many years to come. Thank you Ray Rasenberger, Dave Palmeter, Bob Goodman, Phil Schwartz, and our indefatigable Anne Wallace for your unstinting efforts to make this happen.

Enjoy your summer vacation, and be confident that many of your OLLI classmates will be working diligently to make the New Year our Best Year.

Gloria Kreisman  
Chair, Board of Directors

## Thank You to ...

... **Bob Coe, Dick Dunnells, Paul Van Nice, Louis Nevins,** and **Irving Rosenthal**

who donated their Study Group Leader gifts to OLLI.

## Profile: John Chamberlain

For the preface to his family biography, former Board Chair John Chamberlain quoted Albert Schweitzer, "I do not know what path in life you will take, but I do know this: if, on that path, you do not find a way to serve, you will never be happy."

The retired pediatrician has volunteered with numerous organizations, and he advises young physicians that they "must have something other than their own private practice. There must be service ... to benefit the community at large. This is important to their personal growth and the sense of duty that every physician must have."

John is also an earnest learner. He studied at Amherst College and the University of Virginia Medical School. He has never had any regrets about becoming a doctor, a goal since he was fifteen. During a severe snow storm, he drove to a patient's home, and then drove the child to the emergency room when he realized the child had meningitis. As a consulting physician to St Albans School, he helped the school community weather the AIDS crisis and supported an affected teacher. On retiring from practice, he volunteered for two years in the US Army Medical Corps serving as a colonel at Walter Reed.

Over the years, his sense of adventure has been evidenced by embarking on an Outward Bound course, learning to fly a small airplane, river rafting, kayaking, and canoeing. In 1993, he discovered a new adventure: OLLI. In addition to volunteering in various positions, he has taught a Civil War class and has taken more than 150 classes (none in science).

## Fall 2015 Semester

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The catalog will be mailed the last week of July. Registration opens when the catalog mails. We will send an announcement when this happens.

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*Tony Long, Curriculum Coordinator / Mary Fran Miklitsch, Program Coordinator*



# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

## August 2015 Newsletter



# OLLII

at American University Washington DC



### Summer Office Hours

The OLLI office, which is located at 4000 Brandywine St. NW, will be open from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm this summer.

### Thank You to ...

... **Carol Light** for the donation of her class gift.

### Nationals Baseball Tickets

For the sixth year, Stan Cohen has generously donated Washington Nationals' baseball tickets to OLLI members. Of the 10 tickets donated, five tickets remain. The tickets are for Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 7:05 PM against the San Diego Padres. If interested, please contact the office. Tickets will be given out to the first five requests.

### Catalog Updates

### Letter from the Chair



The days are growing shorter, our TVs are filled with back-to-school ads, and the new OLLI catalog is in the mailbox. It's time to plan our next semester of stimulating courses, shared with others a lot like ourselves ... older, wiser, and constantly broadening our horizons.

The Fall 2015 catalog is a wonder. Over 90 courses will pique your curiosity and engage your mind. The difficulty is in selecting from this embarrassment of riches, a very pleasant problem indeed. Registration is now open, and a cinch to complete online, or by mail. The lottery will work its wonders on August 31, and assignments will be emailed by September 2.

Our plans for residence in a new home have been delayed, from spring to fall of 2016. Many of us who are impatient for change must face the realities of possibilities and priorities. Be assured that change will come, without compromise of our cherished OLLI experience.

See you in September!

Gloria Kreisman  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

### Stan Asrael: A Well-Rounded OLLI Member

Stan Asrael, born and bred in DC, is a man of wide interests and experience.

After college, he served in the constabulary force in Europe. There his family background and his military career came into conflict. The son of a former professional musician, as a child he had refused his father's offer of learning to play a musical instrument saying that he preferred playing baseball. On a free Saturday afternoon while stationed in Germany, he took advantage of the chance to see his first opera. The next Monday on reporting to duty, his commanding officer wanted to know where he had been on Saturday afternoon because "I needed you

Please check the following link for any updates to the catalog: [Catalog Updates](#)

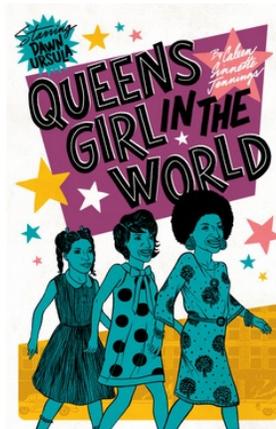
in right field."

He has maintained his interest in the arts and athletics, combining an active outdoor life of sailing, hiking, and tennis well into retirement with attending classical music, opera, and ballet performances, lectures on various subjects, and collecting fine crafts through his membership in the Renwick Museum Alliance. The Alliance encourages studio craft artists and provides them patronage. Stan and his deceased wife, Evelyn, collected crafts which include turned wood, ceramics, studio glass, and fiber art, as well as paintings.

After military service, Stan joined a business collecting and processing metals for use by steel mills and foundries. In 1970 he became the sole owner of Alexandria Scrap Corp. Active in the industry's trade matters, he was several times part of a group testifying before Congress. At one point, he was president of one of the three national trade associations representing scrap dealers. A case on scrap autos he brought against the state of Maryland went to the U.S. Supreme Court and is the subject of a chapter in Bob Woodward's *The Brethren*.

Retirement meant he finally could fully engage his wide-ranging curiosity, taking classes in philosophy, literature, current events, Spanish, and German. At OLLI, he has participated in the volunteer work that makes OLLI successful, serving as a class representative, working on the curriculum and nominating committees, and twice coordinating the Middle East Institute lecture series. And he has given generously to OLLI's Future Fund in gratitude for OLLI's role in "affording me a vehicle for intellectual exercise, growth, and socialization."

### World Premiere by AU Professor & OLLI Lecturer Caleen Sinnette Jennings



Last year, AU Professor and local playwright Caleen Jennings presented excerpts of her autobiographical play and other work at a well-received OLLI lecture. Her play, entitled "Queens Girl in the World" opens at Theater J on September 21 and runs through October 11. The play takes place in 1962 in Queens, NY, where 12-year-old Jacqueline Marie Butler begins her journey into adulthood. When Jacqueline's parents abruptly transfer her to a progressive school in Greenwich Village where she is one of only four black students, her world expands dramatically, as Jennings describes in this touching, funny play.

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Gloria Kreisman, *Board Chair* / Anne Wallace, *Executive Director*

Tony Long, *Curriculum Coordinator* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator*

Vivian Booker, *Administrative Assistant*

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

## September 2015 Newsletter



### Catalog Updates

Please check the following link for any updates to the catalog: [Catalog Updates](#).

### SCHEDULE CORRECTION

The schedule on pages 6-7 of the catalog lists Tuesday afternoon classes from 1:00 - 2:50 pm. They are held 1:30 - 3:20 pm to allow members the opportunity to attend the Tuesday lectures at Temple Baptist Church.

### SUGGEST SPEAKERS FOR THE LECTURE SERIES

OLLII holds four Lecture Series throughout the year: January, Spring (Tuesdays between study Groups), June, and Fall (Tuesdays between Study Groups).

We regularly host speakers who are authors, experts, members of the Administration, etc. We have found that speakers are most

### Letter from the Chair



### Who Are the Guys with Our Chair (circa 1991)?

Sometimes it's fun to step back and recall Life Before OLLI. Here's a glimpse into mine: Meeting and entertaining celebrity guests at Macy's in New York: Elizabeth Taylor, Jessye Norman, Lena Horne, Esther Williams, Lauren Bacall, Muhammad Ali, Magic Johnson, Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea, even The Donald.

The men in the photo? Many of us are old enough to remember The Shot Heard 'Round the World, Bobby Thomson's bottom-of-the-ninth home run in the National League playoffs of 1951, which gave the pennant to the New York Giants. Ralph Branca of the Brooklyn Dodgers delivered the fateful pitch. It was great to meet Bobby (left) and Ralph (right), 40 years later. They were then good friends.

We'd like to share memorable photos and stories from our members' rich and varied past. Search your archives, and email your photos to [Mary Fran Miklitsch, Program Coordinator](#).

Here's looking at you, Kids!

likely to agree to lecture if she/he has a personal connection to someone at OLLI. We offer no honorarium. If you know an individual(s) who would be a great speaker, please call the office at 202-895-4860 or email

[OLLI@american.edu](mailto:OLLI@american.edu).



Gloria Kreisman,  
*OLLI Board Chair*

## MEMBER NEWS

We frequently receive requests to post information which members believe would be of interest to the wider OLLI community. We have dealt with requests on a case-by-case basis, which is no longer efficient. With this issue we are introducing a new section to include news about members newly published books, art shows, theatrical events, etc. These are the guidelines for submitting information.

- Entries are limited to 35 words.
- The member submitting the item is responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted: dates, times, location, etc. and the member must include her/his contact information to be posted.
- Items must pertain directly to a member. No items will be posted related to a member's spouse or family.
- To be included in the next month's issue, an item must be emailed to [OLLI@american.edu](mailto:OLLI@american.edu) by the 26th of the preceding month.

**4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016**

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**Website: [www.OLLI-DC.org](http://www.OLLI-DC.org)**

Gloria Kreisman, *Board Chair* / Anne Wallace, *Executive Director*

Tony Long, *Curriculum Coordinator* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator*

Vivian Booker, *Administrative Assistant*



## **Letter from the Board Chair**

It's official: This time next year, OLLI will be conducting classes in our new headquarters at 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. , now home to the American University Law School. The possibilities at this new location are enticing, including the introduction of summer programs. We have to wait for occupancy until the Fall of 2016, when the A.U. Law School can move to its new complex, under construction at Tenley Circle, and for the completion of renovations at our soon-to-be home.

After the move, our Administrative Office will be under the same roof, along with classroom and social spaces, and an auditorium for lectures and large classes. This is the move for which many of us have hoped and worked: the prospect of a comfortable new home and a long-term lease.

Many more details will be shared in the months to come, but for now, let's celebrate the knowledge that our OLLI 's best days are in the not-too-distant future.

## **Request Regarding Class Attendance**

We are very excited that so many people want to attend our great slate of study groups this

semester, but please only attend study groups for which you are registered. An empty seat on any given day does not mean there is an available space in that study group.

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## Upcoming OLLI Trips



### **Annual Civil War Trip with Ed Bearss**

**Wednesday, November 4**

Join Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service on a tour of Civil War sites in Baltimore. Bearss, 92, is renowned for his depth of knowledge of the Civil War and his captivating presentation. This trip is coordinated by Chris Bradley, Civil War Study Group Leader. Bus departs from St. Sophia's. Bring a bag lunch. Return to DC around 5:30 p.m.

[Learn more details and](#) [download a registration form.](#)

### **American Visionary Art Museum**

**Saturday, Nov. 14**

"Visionary art as defined for the purposes of the American Visionary Art Museum refers to art produced by self-taught individuals, usually without formal training, whose works arise from an innate personal vision that revels foremost in the creative act itself." Take a bus to the museum with other OLLI members, attend a docent-led tour, and explore an amazing art collection. Details to come shortly.



### The Gospel of LovingKindness

**Mosaic Theater, Atlas Performing Arts Center**

**Sunday, Decemeber 13, 3:00 pm Preview**

A daring and poignant hymn- and hip-hop-tinged elegy by Marcus Gardley staged by Mosaic Theater's Jennifer Nelson tells the story of Manny, a 17 year-old who signs for President Obama at the White House and is shot to death three weeks later for his Air Jordan sneakers. Join 10 or more OLLI members to obtain discounted tickets. Details to come shortly.

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## American University Events

**Yuliya Gorenman, Piano**

*Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015, 8:00 pm*

*American University, Katzen Arts Center, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW*

Internationally acclaimed concert pianist Yuliya Gorenman explores masterpieces of great Russian composers. Selections for this concert include works by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, and Rachmaninoff. Tickets: \$25 general admission/\$10 AU students. [RSVP Required.](#)

[Learn more.](#)



## Human Rights Film Series

American University Washington College of Law's Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law and the Center for Media and Social Impact invite you to our 16th annual Human Rights Film Series. The 2015 Series will feature documentary films that exhibit excellence in filmmaking and explore a broad spectrum of human rights issues. Following each screening, there is an opportunity for the filmmaker, human rights advocates, and faculty to discuss the film and its issues with the audience. Films will be shown at 5:30pm at AU's Washington College of Law in Room 602. All screenings are free and open to the public. The Center will have screenings of the following films:

**Thurs., October 15: Daisy and Max**

**Thurs., October 22: 120 Days**

**Thurs., October 29: 3 ½ Minutes |**

**Thurs., November 5: Out in the Night**

[Visit Our Website](http://www.aumhumanrightsfilmseries.org)

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Anne Wallace, *Executive Director* | Tony Long, *Curriculum Coordinator*  
Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator* | Vivian Booker, *Administrative Assistant*

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## Letter from the Board Chair



Our semi-annual Town Hall was held last Tuesday. Room 6 at the Temple Baptist Church was filled to capacity. Many OLLI members asked thoughtful questions about our impending move to 4801 Massachusetts Avenue.

We've received requests to recap, for those not in attendance, and are happy to oblige.

Our move is scheduled for September 2016, in time for the fall semester. The terms of our agreement with American University allow us to rent six classrooms, an auditorium, social space, and office space. In order to accommodate our usual number of courses, we will schedule three classes a day in each room, a necessary change from our current two classes. Since we will have use of the agreed-on space twelve months a year, we will have the opportunity to offer something we've never had before: a summer program. A committee, headed by Denise Liebowitz, has been formed to study ways to maximize this opportunity, and to make recommendations to the Board.

Our lease which offers sustainable rates, has a ten-year term. Every two years, we will be able to negotiate with A.U. for additional space, if needed.

The premises at 4801 Mass. Ave. are completely handicapped-accessible, and have a 300-car underground garage, which we will share with the building's other tenants, mostly A.U. administrative personnel. The cost to park in the garage is \$2.00 an hour. Paid outdoor parking is available in three lots within a

block. In addition, the surrounding residential neighborhood has street parking for two hours. The N2, N3, N4 and N6 buses stop at our door. The free A.U. shuttle from the Tenley metro station may be available. (Stay tuned.)

Our building is adjacent to the Spring Valley shopping center, and offers easy access to several restaurants and a great delicatessen.

We feel that our consolidation under one roof will enhance our sense of community, and enrich the OLLI experience. Those who attended the Town Hall seemed to agree.

I hope all of our membership will embrace the changes ahead.

Gloria Kreisman  
*Chair, OLLI Board of Directors*

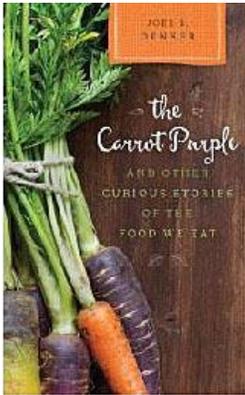
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## **Mosaic Theater Outing on November 14**

For those who can't wait until December 13 to experience the exciting offerings of DC's new Mosaic Theater, OLLI will take reservations for a group discount for the 3:00 pm matinee on November 14 of its opening production, ["Unexplored Interior: \(This is Rwanda: The beginning and end of the earth\)"](#). This fictional recollection of Rwanda before, during, and 10 years after the 1994 massacres is portrayed (through re-enactments) through the 2004 lens of a Tutsi filmmaker.

The large cast, black with 2 exceptions, includes well-known actor John Lescault as Mark Twain. As Founding Artistic Director Ari Roth says, this play illustrates "making art from the ashes of catastrophe." Following the performance will be a Peace Café (free to the public) with a discussion of Post-Conflict Reconciliation with Pulitzer Prize-winning author David K. Shipler.

For more information, contact Dorothy Marschak at 202-232-8764 or [dmarschak@chime-dc.org](mailto:dmarschak@chime-dc.org). The amount of the discount will depend on the size of the group. Members will provide their own transportation. Call the OLLI office at 202-895-4860 to sign up.



## OLLI Author Joel Denker

Just out: OLLI member Joel Denker's book, [\*The Carrot Purple and Other Curious Stories of the Food We Eat\*](#), is now available. As noted on Amazon.com, "This entertaining history will enhance the reader's appreciation of a wide array of foods we take for granted. From the carrot to the cabbage, from cinnamon to coffee, from the peanut to the pistachio, the plants, beans, nuts, and spices we eat have little-known stories that are unearthed and served here with relish." The book should be a treat for followers of Denker's blog, [Food Passages](#).

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## Online Discussion Groups

Reading alone, it's been said, is like drinking alone: you can do it, but the alternative is better.

OLLI's online discussions are your alternative to reading alone. You can enjoy sharing your reading experience with friends interested in the same book without the hassle of trying to find somewhere to meet and—especially—a time that suits everyone. Discussions can take place throughout the year, whether OLLI is in session or not. No experience is required—just a reading interest you share with others and a desire to discuss it with them.

Contact [Tony Long](#) for specifics.

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## Music to Your Ears

The Music Curriculum Committee is seeking to enlarge and enrich the OLLI music course offerings. The input and assistance of OLLI members would be most helpful. We would appreciate your suggestions of:

1. What courses might be offered, ranging from classical music to jazz; and
2. Your suggestions of possible SGLs, inside and outside the membership. Suggestions could include you and others you know who might be interested.

Please respond by email to [Alan Frey](#) and [Mike Daniels](#), Co-Chairs.

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## Letter from the Board Chair



Most of this semester's classes have concluded, but our intersession activities are on the horizon.

Reservations, at \$25, are still available for our [Holiday Party](#) on December 15, an opportunity to share a glass or two of wine, and enjoy abundant hors d'oeuvres, in a gala atmosphere. Join your friends from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Mark your calendars for the ever-popular January Lecture Series, which starts on January 5th, and runs through the 28th, every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Lectures are free and open to the public, so bring your friends. The full schedule will be posted on the OLLI website next week.

You'll soon be receiving information about our popular OLLI Shorts, during which intriguing courses are compressed into a single week, February 1-5. A brochure with full information will be mailed "shortly" (pause for groans).

An exciting, redesigned, Spring Catalog is being prepared. You should receive it around year's end (or year's beginning, depending on your point of view). Thank you, Mary Fran Miklitsch, for the new look, and thank you, Chair Naomi Heller and the Curriculum Committee, for outstanding offerings.

For OLLI, this has been a year to remember. As it draws to a close, and as we look forward to the great promise of 2016, I wish you happiness, good health, and joyful holidays.

Gloria Kreisman  
*Chair, OLLI Board of Directors*

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## Lucretius Online

“The Nature of Things” (*De Rerum Natura*) by the Roman poet Titus Lucretius Carus is one of the fundamental documents of the Renaissance. The story of the discovery in 1417 of the only surviving manuscript of the poem was told by Stephen Greenblatt in his National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning work *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*.

In six “books,” the didactic poem expounds the views of the Greek philosopher Epicurus and provides us with the most complete statement of that philosophy that has survived. Multiple English translations exist. One of the latest, by the American poet A.E. Stallings, is in iambic heptameter (14 syllables to the line) with rhyming couplets.

OLLI will offer an online discussion of “The Nature of Things,” using the Stallings’s translation, beginning in early January. One book will be covered each week. For details contact [Tony Long](mailto:tlong@american.edu) (tlong@american.edu) or [Dave Palmeter](mailto:dpalmer@comcast.net) (dpalmer@comcast.net).

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## American Visionary Art Museum Trip

From Alice Weinstein, Trip Coordinator, "It was a wonderful day. We had a terrific docent who led us through the museum for 1-1/2 hours which was insightful and exhausting. Some people, me included, ate in the restaurant, in spite of bringing bag lunches. It is possible to eat modestly there, which was not the impression I had from their website. We met mirror artist Bob Benson who runs workshops at the museum as well as from his home. Our visit ended at an exhibit of mechanical sculptures with witty titles. You had to push a button to activate the sculpture so we were like children hurrying on to push

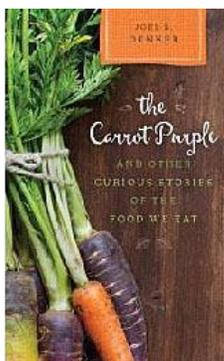
the next button to see what would happen. By the time we were finished it was time to board the van which we did smiling and laughing."

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## Many Thanks

Indeed many hands does make light work. With the help of Ben Boley, Sue Boley, Stephanie Brandes, Paul Brown, Susan Byrnes, Asimina Caminis, Di Elkin, Penny English, Bruce Forrest, Leslie Forrest, Jacquie Gallagher, Alice Goodman, Henry Guyot, Ange Hassinger, Carol Hausman, Bob Hausman, Jeanne Kent, Linda Kiser, Gloria Kreisman, Elizabeth Lee, Natalie Multz, Ellen Myerberg, Jim Myerberg, Lois Neuman, Janet Platt, Kristin Ruckdeschel, Donna Scriven, Stanley Talpers, and Nancy Wiederhorn, the annual fundraising appeal was stuffed, sealed, labeled, and stamped in record time.

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## OLLI Author Joel Denker

OLLI member and author Joel Denker will read from and sign copies of his new book, *The Carrot Purple and Other Curious Stories of the Food We Eat*. For more about *The Carrot Purple*, go to [foodpassages.com](http://foodpassages.com).

Thursday, December 3rd, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Glen's Garden Market, 2001 S Street, N.W.

(short walk from Dupont Circle Metro; entrance on 20th St.)

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