



## January 2017 Newsletter

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### Kenwood Country Club Member?

Are you a member of the Kenwood Country Club? If so, would you contact the office at 202-895-4860.

### OLLI Op: James Joyce's Birthday

Our OLLI birthday party for James Joyce will take place on Thursday, Feb. 2, in Classroom A on the 1st Floor. The schedule:

**12:00 pm:** Reading from the works of James Augustine Aloysius Joyce

**1:00 pm:** Briefing on *Ulysses* film (1967, directed by Joseph Strick)

**1:15 pm:** Showing of *Ulysses*

**3:30 pm:** Cast Party with birthday cake and coffee



### Letter from the Chair

As we anticipate the 2017 Spring Semester, I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year. The Spring Semester promises to be a great one, with 91 diverse study groups. We are very grateful to our wonderful volunteer SGLs and Curriculum Committee who work so hard to bring these courses to the OLLI membership. And we are once again amazed at the artistry of Mary Fran Miklitsch, who designed the wonderfully attractive catalog. We also thank our past Chair Gloria Kreisman, dedicated editor of the catalog. Spring registration ends Feb. 9. Choosing six courses and listing them in priority order greatly increases your chance of being assigned three courses.

You also should have received the Shorts catalog, which like the Spring catalog is online. Many thanks to Bob Coe for organizing the record number, amazing 17 Shorts. Registration for the Shorts ends very shortly — January 18 — so register now.

Once again, Denise Liebowitz and her lecture committee are presenting first-rate lectures this January. You can register for a week's lectures on the Friday before the lectures at 9:00 am.

We are also preparing for new Board nominations. There will be two vacancies on the Board. If you would like to be considered for nomination to the Board, please email a member of the Nomination and Elections Committee: [Barbara Rollinson](#); [Phil Schwartz](#); [Bob Coe](#); [Marion Connell](#); or [Sue Edson](#). Clicking on the person's name should open an email link to that person.

in OLLI Social Space on 5th Floor (All attendees invited to join our cast of readers. Groundhogs also welcome.)

Find more information on the celebration's website at [JJ Birthday Celebration 2017](#). If you would like to participate as a reader, please contact OLLI Member Bob Kolodney at [BobkoLive@gmail.com](mailto:BobkoLive@gmail.com).

This is a banner year as we celebrate OLLI at American University's 35th anniversary. A major event is in the early planning stage. Barbara Rollinson and I have volunteered to be event co-chairs. Jeanne Kent, Social Committee Chair, is also involved in creating the celebration. We do not have the exact date, but we do anticipate the celebration will take place after Spring courses end in May. Stay tuned!

All the best,  
Stan Newman

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## OLLI Interview

***Of all the books you've read, what's your favorite?***

**Dale Birdoff:** I think my favorite book in the last two years was *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. I loved the way he interwove the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner (the two protagonists) and the beauty of his sentences which contained amazing physical details and gorgeous metaphors. In the end, what struck me most was the story — how people attempt to overcome the brutality of war by being human.

**Joel Denker:** This is a tough one. One choice would be Lionel Trilling's *The Liberal Imagination*. Trilling is an elegant writer who understands literature as a humanistic art. He puts books in their cultural and social setting. He responds to works of art as a human being as well as a critic, who sees writing as more than a text to be analyzed.

**Charles Mansfield:** *Moby-Dick* — great story; beautiful blank verse, striking images, unforgettable characters. There is a PhD thesis waiting for someone to compare Melville's treatment of his three "savages" with Mark Twain's treatment of Jim. *Wind in the Willows: Mole's Christmas*, Ratty messing about in boats, *Piper at the Gates of Dawn*: All engraved in memory from earliest childhood.

**Mary Ellen Michel:** My favorite book is not a book, but a series of books (N=22), the Aubrey Maturin stories by Patrick O'Brien that describe the

adventures of a British sea captain (Jack Aubrey) and his ship's surgeon (Stephen Maturin) during the Napoleonic Wars. I found each one an engaging mix of adventure, politics, language, and characters. The series contains many nautical terms and locations in far-away places. If readers' interests are piqued, other books (*A Sea of Words* and *Harbors and High Seas*) define and describe these interesting sidelights.

**OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

**Website** [www.oli-dc.org](http://www.oli-dc.org) | **Phone** 202-895-4860 | **E-mail** [oli@american.edu](mailto:oli@american.edu)

**Mailing Address** 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016

Anne Wallace, *Executive Director* | Tony Long, *Deputy Executive Director*  
Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator* | Susan Kalil, *Administrative Assistant*

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