



October 5, 2018 Lecture

Mbachur Mbenda and James Allen: *Free Minds*

Friday, October 5, 2018, 1:30-2:30 pm
4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Room 601 (6th Floor)

The tag line for the Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop is “empowering young inmates to write new chapters in their lives.” Members of the organization go into DC Jail and hand young men dictionaries, journals, and books. It encourages them to create poetry out of their hopes, fears, and dreams. Free Minds believes that the act of expression is empowering and successful in improving lives. Free Minds is the winner of the 2015 Aspen Ideas Award, a partner in the Workplace DC, and is described in the Catalogue for Philanthropy as one of the best small charities in the Greater Washington area.

***Mbachur Mbenda** is the outreach coordinator for Free Minds and a spokeswoman for the Urban Teaching Fellows in Brooklyn, New York. Mbenda has given speeches at the United Nations on Education and Equality for Women and Girls. **James Allen** is a songwriter and Poet Ambassador with Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop. He joined Free Minds in 2017 after returning from 5½ years in federal prison starting at age 18. James is motivated to give back to his community to prevent violence.*

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olli-at-au-free-minds-tickets-50186619530>

Reservations are required on Eventbrite.

Registration for members opens at 8:30 AM on TUESDAY of the week preceding the lecture. An email is sent to members at that time containing a

link for registration.

If the lecture is not full by 8:30 AM on THURSDAY of the week preceding the lecture, **registration for the public** opens. An email is sent to nonmembers at that time containing a link for registration.

Your name must be on OLLI's Eventbrite list to enter the lecture. You do not need to bring your ticket to be admitted.

You must be seated five minutes before the lecture begins to guarantee your seat. Five minutes before the lecture begins, empty seats are given to individuals on the waitlist.

DISCLAIMER

OLLI does not endorse any of the viewpoints expressed by the speakers in its series.

THANK YOU

We thank the Lecture Committee and all those who suggested and contacted speakers: Paul Brown, Martha Cutts, Lesley Diaz, Chuck Edson, Judith Havemann (Chair), Lynne Henson, Jeanne Kent, Mary Moore, Stan Newman, Diane Renfroe, Richard Ringell, Steve Sherman, Delbert Spurlock, and Ray Squitieri.

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