



Where Curiosity Never Retires



MARCH 29, 2019 OLLI NEWS

Letter from the Chair



GROWTH

Many members have expressed interest in plans for future OLLI at AU growth. The preparation of the five-year strategic plan that the Board adopted last fall was an opportunity for us to do a deep dive into the growth potential of OLLI at AU membership and programs and the impact of that growth on space and financial stability.

We learned that in recent years, annual net membership growth has been fairly consistent at 4 to 6 percent. On the space side, we are in year three of a ten-year lease with AU that includes the use of six classrooms with a seating capacity ranging from 20 to 30, and a lecture hall with 105 seats. These spaces, shared with the university, are generally available to us weekdays year-round from 9:45 AM to 3:15 PM.

Our analysis reveals that we are operating at around 85 percent classroom capacity, leaving some 400 seats available each semester (although, of course, none of those seats are in classes that have waitlists). In addition, our current academic calendar leaves classrooms unused for parts

of each year.

The Board has concluded that in the coming few years we will be able to continue to grow in our Spring Valley Building at our historic, moderate pace by filling more classroom seats, extending our academic calendar, and possibly lengthening the daily class schedule. The Board has consistently resisted “capping” membership as several other OLLIs have been forced to do. We do not want to turn away those seeking to share the lifelong learning experience that we so value. Nor do we want more growth in the coming few years than we can reasonably accommodate in our existing space. We also know that any expansion of academic offerings will require an expanded pool of Study Group Leaders. This is a balancing act.

Our Membership Committee is being thoughtful and strategic as it spreads the OLLI word to potential lifelong learning audiences. In recent months, committee members and staff have spoken at seminars for retiring Foreign Service and State Department personnel, the Northwest Neighbors Village, the 1818 Society of former World Bank staff, the National Education Association, Retirees Organization, and similar groups. Our Diversity Committee has also been reaching out to parts of the community currently underrepresented at OLLI. We expect to continue this measured, limited outreach as a way to make our membership more diverse, keep it vibrant, and tap into sources that are likely to yield additional excellent Study Group Leaders.

Denise Liebowitz

Board Chair

Safety in Room A: The Lecture Hall

In the past two weeks, three members have fallen in Room A and been injured. At least two of the members missed the step from the highest level down to the third row of desks. We have met with the head of AU Facilities to review that area and other potential problem areas. Non-skid caution tape has been added to the top level to mark the step down. Caution tape has also been added to all of the steps on the back stairs. In the upcoming week or two, caution tape will be added to the ramp on the far side of the room. In addition, caution tape of a color combination other than yellow and black will be added to the steps adjacent to the ramps on either side of the room going from the first level to the upper levels.

We will continue to monitor the situation and seek help as needed to make the room as safe as possible. If you have a suggestion for safety, please email olli@american.edu or call the office at 202-895-4860. Please take your time and look carefully when going up or down steps in Room A. If you have a vision impairment, please ask others for assistance.

Spring Member Directory

The 2019 Spring Member Directory has now been published. It is available online, under the *Members Only* section of our website. To view, click [here](#). A limited number of printed copies are available on the small desk outside of the OLLI office.

Grandparents! Save These Dates

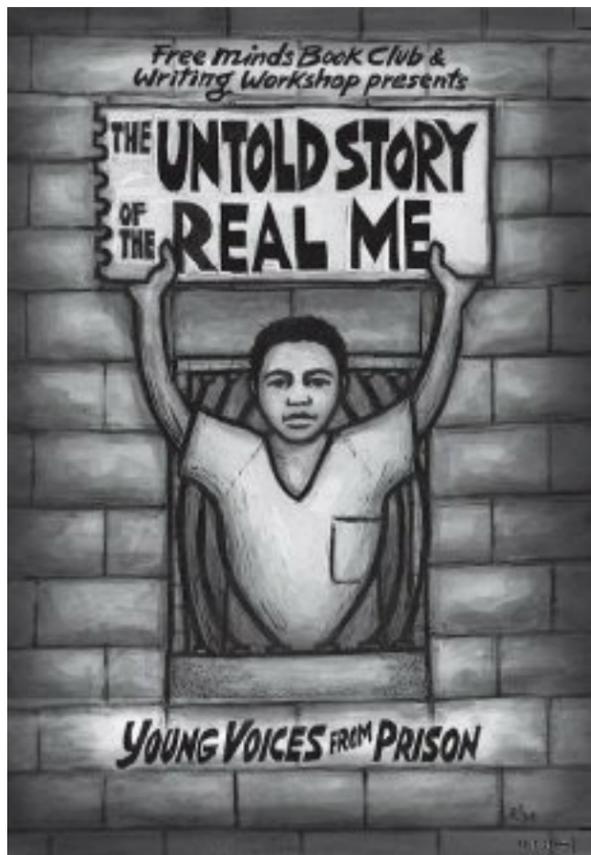
Monday through Friday, August 12 to 16

OLLI will offer ten educational activities – one each morning and one each afternoon – designed for grandparent/grandchild late-summer fun including museums, river trips, and visits to local sites. Sign up for one, two, ... all ten; whatever fits your schedule and your grandchild's interests. Activities will be geared to children ages 6 to 12 (and to eternally youthful grandparents!)

There will be a small registration fee for each session payable to OLLI. Grandparents will be responsible for transportation to site visits, any park or museum entrance fees, and snacks.

We hope to publish a full calendar of activities, times, etc. by late April.

Free Minds Book Club: Write Lunch



On **Tuesday, April 16, from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM**, OLLI and the Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop will co-sponsor our fifth "Write Lunch," led by Jenny Pierson and Ellen Siegler. **The Write Lunch will take place in Room 2 on the 5th floor of 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW.** Participants are welcome to bring a bagged lunch to the event.

Free Minds conducts literacy programs, including poetry classes, for incarcerated youth in DC. They will provide us with a packet of poems written by incarcerated young men for us to read and to provide comments.

We are seeking a community of 20-25 OLLI members who will give the youth's poetry encouraging comments. Providing feedback on these poems is an enjoyable community activity and a great way to show these youth that others respect their work and appreciate their dedication. **A few men who have participated in and benefited from this program will be with us to share their experiences** and express their appreciation. If you have questions, please contact Jenny Pierson at piersonjen17@gmail.com or 202-248-8288.

Please click [here](#) to register for this event.



Lead a June Mini or July Short



OLLI is now accepting study group proposals for both upcoming summer sessions. This year, the **June Minis are June 3-28** and the **July Shorts are July 15-19**. June Minis meet once a week for 4 weeks and July Shorts meet 3-5 times over the course of one week. **We welcome proposals from both new and veteran study group leaders.**

For more information about being a study group leader at OLLI, please visit the [Become A Study Group Leader](#) page. If you or someone you know is interested in leading a study group and would like to speak with someone, please e-mail olli@american.edu with your contact information and we will get in touch with you.

To propose a study group, please click one of the links below. You will be prompted to login with your OLLI username/password or create an account if it's your first time. **The proposal deadline for both sessions is April 15.**

[June Minis 2019 Proposal Form](#)

[July Shorts 2019 Proposal Form](#)

Update on Election of Board Members

Under the OLLI by-laws (revised in 2018), the Committee on Nominations and Elections, after consulting with and inviting recommendations from OLLI members in general, has developed a list of four candidates to fill the four open Board positions. The Committee believes these candidates have amply demonstrated the skills, experience, background and energy needed for the important work of the Board. The list, which the Board has approved, will appear on the ballot for the election that begins in late April. The Committee would like to thank all those OLLI members who provided the many excellent recommendations for Committee consideration.



John Aldock. John joined OLLI two years ago after retiring as General Counsel of Goodwin Procter LLP, an international law firm. He has served on the OLLI Finance Committee and assisted the OLLI Chair in negotiations with AU over space in our new building and the OLLI endowment. He previously served as Assistant U.S. Attorney for D.C., Chair of the Shea and Gardner law firm, Chair

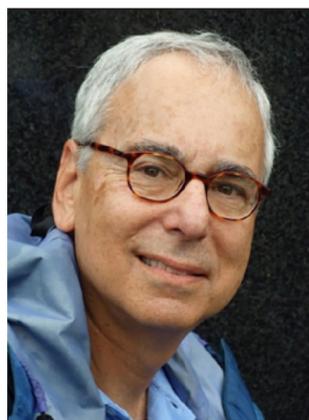
of the Advisory Committee on Rules of the U.S. District Court for D.C. and for many years as a member of the Board of the Legal Clinic for the Homeless.



Myra Barron. Myra is a current Board member seeking a second term. She is on the Executive Committee and co-chairs the AU Relationship Committee. Previously she has served as Board Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Personnel Committee Chair. A lawyer by profession, she has worked in both the public sector — with stints as Assistant County Attorney and as Counsel to the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority — and in the private sector, where she specialized in affordable housing and represented non-profits in business and related matters. She has degrees from Smith (BA), Johns Hopkins (MA), and Georgetown (JD).



Linda Kiser. Currently a member of the Development Committee, Linda has been an OLLI member since 2012. She has extensive development experience, having spent many years as Director of Development in several local private schools and having served on various school and non-profit Boards as Chair/member of development committees. Prior to that, she had several years of public service, working with both the U.S. House and the Senate and for the Carter Administration. She currently serves as a tutor at The Academy of Hope, a charter school for adults working to get their GED. I'm a new Text block ready for your content.



Mark Nadel. Mark joined OLLI in 2012 and since then has taught several different courses on public policy. He is currently on the Curriculum Committee and has helped in the orientation of new SGLs. Previously, he taught political science at Cornell before joining the Government Accountability Office. He ended his federal career as an Associate Commissioner of Social Security. Since retiring, he has taught public policy at Georgetown and was a senior fellow at Georgetown's Government Affairs Institute. He has degrees from California (BA) and Johns Hopkins (PhD).

Next Steps

April 8. Members interested in being placed on the ballot as at-large candidates can do so by filing a self-nomination petition supported by the signatures of 10 OLLI members. Candidates meeting the 10-member signature requirement will automatically appear on the ballot. The deadline for submitting at-large petitions is April 8. As part of the petition, candidates should provide a photo (a smartphone photo will be fine) and a brief bio of no more than 100 words. Interested candidates should contact the Office for the petition form and other details.

April 26. OLLI annual meeting. Candidates will be allowed 2-3 minutes to introduce themselves.

April 26 - May 10. The election takes place online.

May 13. The results are announced.

Student Essay Contest: Climate Change

Recently, *The Washington Post* included an article about Alexandria Villasenor, a 7th grader who has been sitting outside of the UN Headquarters for weeks with signs asking adults to do something serious about climate change. The article talks about other young people's activities and a global strike they are organizing to demand action. **OLLI member Ron Ridker is a member of an organization called *Global Peace Service-USA* that has decided to start an essay contest for high school and middle school students to write about their feelings about climate change and what they would like to see done about it.** A committee of experts will judge the essays and prizes will be given out. Ron is asking for help with this program, which will include contacting school teachers to encourage them to enter the contest, raise funds for prizes, and other ideas about how to run the contest. **If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ron at 202-321-0367, or by e-mail at rbridker@gmail.com.**

Volunteer Judges Needed for DC's National History Day

DC's National History Day program that is run through the National Archives is looking for volunteers to judge this year's competition that will take place Wednesday, April 10 (middle school division) and Thursday, April 11 (high school division). If you enjoy talking with teenagers and are interested in history -- we would be delighted to have you join us as judges for one or both of these days. Training on how to be an NHD judge will be provided.

For more information about National History Day please check out their Web site at <https://www.nhd.org/>. If you are interested please contact Elly Greene, at elly.greene@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events at American University

NOTE: For any AU-specific event, **please contact the sponsoring department directly.**

AU SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Georgia Governor's Race: Voter Suppression, Electoral Fraud, Voter Intimidation, or Malpractice?

Tuesday, April 2

Lunch at 11:45 AM, Event begins at 12:15 PM

AU Constitution Hall

Contested elections decided by narrow margins bring forth the fault lines of election administration and politics. Last November, the Georgia Governor's race was decided by approximately 50,000 votes out of 3.9 million votes cast. There are lawsuits and congressional investigations underway to determine if all the citizens of Georgia were treated fairly and if all their votes counted. Bill Sweeney will walk us through the details of registering, voting, and counting in Georgia and ask you to decide if the results reflect the outcome. To RSVP for this event, click [here](#).

2020 Election: Bots, Trolls, Fake News, and Deep Fakes

Wednesday, April 3, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Kerwin Hall, Room 301

Join us for a panel discussion about the 2020 Elections with experts immersed in the effort to manipulate the political process from both a domestic and an international perspective. Lunch will be served. To RSVP, click [here](#).

Can Free Speech Be Progressive?: A Conversation with Louis Michael Seidman

Wednesday, April 3, 2:30 PM

Hughes Formal Lounge

Free speech can't be progressive if we're talking about free speech in the American context, with all the historical, sociological, and philosophical baggage that comes with the modern, American free speech right. Join Michael Louis Seidman, Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Constitutional Law at Georgetown Law, for a discussion of his work *"Can Free Speech be Progressive?"* No RSVP required.

Can the Confirmation Process Be Saved?

Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Kerwin Hall, Room 301

Amending the makeup of the Supreme Court has long been a radical idea, but after the most recent politically charged confirmations of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, is it time to amend the confirmation process? Ed Whelan of the Ethics and Public Policy Center and Caroline Fredrickson of the American Constitution Society will discuss with Inaugural Sine Institute Fellow and *The Washington Post* columnist, Ruth Marcus. To RSVP, click [here](#).

2019 MPC Annual Spring Lecture: Robert Sampson

"Urban Neighborhoods and American Life"

Wednesday, April 3, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

SIS Founders Room

The Metropolitan Policy Center (MPC) at the School of Public Affairs, is pleased to announce its fifth Annual Spring Lecture. Robert J. Sampson of Harvard University will deliver our keynote lecture. His talk is entitled "Urban Neighborhoods and American Life." Robert J. Sampson is the Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University, founding director of the Boston Area Research Initiative, and Affiliated Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation. A reception will follow the lecture. To RSVP, click [here](#).

Sine Institute of Policy & Politics Seminar Presents *Breaking the Wall: The Power of Latinx Narrative*

Thursday, April 4, 4:05 PM - to 5:20 PM

Kerwin Hall, Room 311

Inaugural Sine Institute Fellow Karen Zacarias, one of the most produced playwrights in the U.S. and founder of Young Playwrights' Theater and the Latinx Theater Commons, draws from her experience to talk about art, civic engagement, and the political power of theater. To RSVP for this event, please click [here](#).

Madison Prize

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 PM

Butler Board Room

Please join AU School of Public Affairs to honor the inaugural recipients of the Madison Prize. Our recipients exemplify respect for the institutional values of Congress and the need for compromise in a democratic society - the very traits outlined by James Madison in Federalist 10. The event will feature a conversation with Senator Alexander. Cocktail reception to follow. Please RSVP by April 3. To RSVP, click [here](#).

AU Washington College of Law

Evan Thomas Book Talk: *First: Sandra Day O'Connor*

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 PM

Claudio Grossman Hall

Noted journalist, and best-selling author Evan Thomas will discuss his new book about America's first female Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor. Reception and book signing to follow. To register, click [here](#).

AU MUSEUM AT THE KATZEN ARTS CENTER

Gallery Talk: *Forward Press*

April 6, 5:00 PM

Join curator Susan J. Goldman and the artists of *Forward Press: 21st Century Printmaking* to learn how their works reinterpret centuries-old printmaking techniques in the digital age. Free and open to all. To RSVP, please click [here](#).

Spring Opening Reception

April 6, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Mix and mingle with artists, curators, and fellow patrons at our Spring opening reception and enjoy five new exhibitions on view. Free and open to all, no RSVP required.

***Drawing Portraits: Learning to See Like an Artist* with Beverly Ress**

April - May, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Six-week class, Sundays

In this course, you will improve your ability to capture a likeness from life. Weekly topics cover visually shifting from the right to left brain, working with the picture plane, cementing the basics of portraiture, working with light and shadow, and finally, creating a skillful self-portrait. Read more about DC artist and longtime teacher Beverly Ress [here](#). *Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, and May 5 and 12, \$225 for the six-week class. To register, click [here](#).*

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Our Mission

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University is an association of, by, and for the people in the Washington, DC area who wish to continue to study and learn. OLLI at AU is dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process and that curiosity never retires.

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Tony Long, *Executive Director* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Director of Planning*

Lesley Diaz, *Academic Programs Coordinator*

Jesse Williams, *Operations Coordinator*

Terri Greene, *Administrative Coordinator*

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