



*Where Curiosity Never Retires*



## **May 31, 2019 OLLI NEWS**



### **A Farewell From Our Board of Directors Chair**

#### *THE HAND-OFF*

The shelf life of an OLLI at AU Board Chair is short, and my sell-by date has arrived. Our good fortune is that Vice Chair Martha Cutts is stepping up to lead the Board and membership. Martha has a distinguished record of achievement in her 47-year career in education serving as Assistant Head of the National Cathedral School as well as Director of Cathedral's Upper School. She concluded her career as Head of the Washington Public Latin Charter School. Highly diverse and with a classics-based curriculum, Washington Latin is ranked as one of the very best public high schools in the city.

Hunter Rawlings, a member of the school's Board of Governors and former president of Cornell University, says of Martha, "As Head of the Washington Latin Public Charter School almost from its inception, she built it into a first-rate learning environment in which children thrive, work hard, and graduate with excellent opportunities to attend colleges of every kind. Martha has left the strongest of legacies, as thousands of parents in Washington, DC recognize."

Concluding their terms on the Board are three valued OLLI leaders, Dave Palmeter, Betsy White, and Gloria Kreisman. John Aldock, Mark Nadel, and Linda Kiser are joining as new directors, and Myra Barron is returning to the Board for her second term. So much talent coming and going!

It's been a good year for OLLI at AU. Now extending into the summer months, our academic program has grown, offering a record 256 Fall, Spring, Mini, and Short courses. Committed and

knowledgeable study group leaders are, of course, at the heart of the OLLI mission, and this year 36 new SGLs have been recruited to our talent pool. Our finances are solid. We are concluding the budget year with a surplus and the Friends of OLLI Fund is growing. During his first year as Executive Director, Tony Long has demonstrated skill, vision, and confidence in leading his staff and managing our program.

The new strategic plan is helping us monitor and moderate our membership growth so that we don't overwhelm our space or our faculty. The OLLI-American University relationship continues to strengthen. This year the AU College of Arts and Sciences joined the line-up of university schools and departments offering OLLI courses, and several distinguished AU faculty members were featured in our lecture program. The number of OLLI members partnering with international graduate students for cultural exchange has doubled during the past year.

So many people to appreciate and admire: study group leaders, staff members, committee chairs, donors, Board members, volunteers. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve this past year. My principal takeaway is that at OLLI, as in most worthwhile endeavors, it takes a village. And the best is yet to come.

See you in class,  
Denise

## **Thank you, thank you!**

May saw a flurry of thank-you events for members who help make the OLLI at AU community special. We expressed our gratitude to some of our most generous donors at a late-afternoon reception. The Spring SGL luncheon featured service pins for all those with more than five years of teaching to their credit. (Linda Freeman, Irwin Lebow, and Arnold Leibowitz, and Jenny Pierson all earned 20-year pins!) Also at the luncheon, door-prize winners walked off with a variety of treats and tables of SGLs competed in a trivia contest. OLLI key chains and more door prizes (an apple tarte for a family celebration, a hand-knit scarf to ward off the chill in Room A, and a big bag of macaroons for when all else fails) were given at the volunteer appreciation coffee hour. To round out the morning, guitar-strumming troubadour Steven Cutts serenaded volunteers with a musical expression of appreciation (click [here](#) to view the lyrics). Thank you to one and all!

## **2019 June Minis and July Shorts Registration**

Registration is still open for our June Minis session that starts on Monday! Although the lottery has taken place, there are still many study groups with spaces available. To view open study groups and to register, please click [here](#). As a reminder, the July shorts registration opens June 10. You may view those listings [here](#).

## **Housing Program**

OLLI at AU is working with the American University School of Public Affairs (SPA) to gauge interest of OLLI members in providing accommodations to SPA graduate students in exchange for rent and/or agreed-upon services. Many graduate students from across the country come each year to AU, and need housing while they study for two years towards earning a Master's degree or four years towards a PhD from SPA.

Each SPA student seeking housing would prepare an online form providing relevant personal information as well as the type of housing he or she is seeking. Interested OLLI at AU members would then be able to access such data and contact the student directly online, by e-mail and/or

by phone.

More about this proposed program will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks with possible student postings at that time. If you are interested and/or would like more information, please e-mail OLLI at AU at [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu).

## **Arlington National Cemetery Tour**

**Just a reminder that we will be hosting a trip to the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Saturday, June 8.** We already have more than 30 people signed up to attend, but we welcome more to join! People come from all over the world to visit this remarkable resting place for over 400,000 of our U.S. servicemen and women and their families. Join us as we tour the site and discuss its history, traditions, and many of the former soldiers buried there. The walking tour will last about two hours. There is no fee and it is very convenient to get to, with a metro stop just one block from the entrance and very reasonable parking onsite. This trip will be led by Trips Coordinator, Tammy Belden. For more details and to register, please click [here](#). You can also call the OLLI office to register (202-895-4860) or e-mail [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu).

## **2019 Bloomsday Celebration**



Please join us for this year's OLLI Bloomsday Celebration. **The reading will run from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Friday, June 21 in the lecture hall (Room A) at 4801 Mass. Ave. NW**, and will consist of Chapters 5 (Lotus Eaters), 6 (Hades) and 7 (Aeolus) of *Ulysses*, accompanying James Joyce's anti-hero, Leopold Bloom, as he sets out on his odyssey across Dublin. It will be followed by an off-site cast party to which all attendees are invited. If you would like to attend on June 21, please click [here](#). This is a free event, but reservations are required. For more information and to reach the coordinator of this event, please contact Bob Kolodney at [bobkolive@gmail.com](mailto:bobkolive@gmail.com).

## **OLLI Volunteering Fair**

OLLI member Bob Croog is proposing **a volunteer fair, to serve as a bridge between OLLI members and members of surrounding communities.** Representatives of other volunteer organizations are welcome. For example, there are some OLLI members who volunteer with local public school systems, so those districts may send their volunteer coordinators to speak at the fair. **This event is set to take place on July 10, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Spring Valley Building, where all OLLI classes are held** (exact room will be determined). For more information, please contact Bob Croog: [rdcroog@gmail.com](mailto:rdcroog@gmail.com), 301-215-7852.

## **The Middle East Institute Presents...**

### ***Countering Terrorism in the Middle East: A Situation Report***

On Tuesday, June 4, from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM, the Middle East Institute (MEI) will be hosting a public panel on countering terrorism in the Middle East. Featured will be high-level panelists representing the United States, the United Nations, and the United Kingdom. The location will be

at 1319 18th Street NW, Washington, DC. For more details and to RSVP for this discussion, please click [here](#). You may also contact the MEI Programs Department at 202-785-1141, ext. 202, or [programs@mei.edu](mailto:programs@mei.edu).

## Upcoming Events at American University

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

### **Summer Exhibitions and Events at the AU Museum**

***Opening Reception June 15, 6-9 PM***

#### **Plans to Prosper You: Reflections of Black Resistance and Resilience in Montgomery County's Potomac River Valley**

**June 15-August 11, 2019**

The exhibition title takes its name from bible verse Jeremiah 29:11 to echo the central role of the Black church in bringing communities together, inspiring hope, and acting as a vector for social change. The goal of this exhibition is to offer a space of learning and meditation that highlights the Black history of Montgomery County and western Washington, DC, and pay homage to the communities who championed fights against racial discrimination through faith, family, and fellowship.

#### **Passages: Keith Morrison, 1999-2019**

**Curated by Judith Stein**

**June 15-August 11, 2019**

*Passages: Keith Morrison, 1999-2019* surveys thirty paintings and watercolors by the Jamaican-born Keith Morrison. A magician of color and space and a teller of tales, fanciful and real, Morrison focuses on the tangible and spiritual components of culture. His subjects encompass Afro-Caribbean and Meso-American art and architecture, as well as the somber history of the Middle Passage. By turns mystical, meditative and joyous, Morrison's work invites our entry into the rich visual world of his making.

#### **Being Here as ME- New Media Art Exhibition of Women Artists from Taiwan**

**Curated by Yu-Chuan Tseng**

**June 15-August 11, 2019**

*Being Here as ME* presents six women artists striving towards constructions of female subjectivity. Pey-Chwen Lin, Tzu-Ning Wu, Yung-Chieh Wu, I-Chun Chen, Pei-Shih Tu, and Hui-Chan Kuo create new media artworks through diverse mediums and methods. Their work transcends gender discussions, and through social strategies, action, and engagement, they express their concerns and create artworks revealing their anxiety and opinions about the ecology of society, science, technology, and the environment.

### **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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