

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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UPDATES

2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This year's Nominating Committee (Mark Nadel, Chair; JoAnne Friedenthal; Larry Gondelman; Lesley Rubinger; and Lynn Lewis) have developed a list of four candidates to fill the four positions on the Board of Directors becoming vacant in June 2025. The Committee believes these candidates have amply demonstrated

the skills, experience, background, and energy needed for OLLI at AU leadership. The list, which the Board has approved, will appear on the ballot for the election that is scheduled for April.

Additionally, OLLI has a process by which any member may be nominated if a petition with at least ten signatures from active OLLI members is presented to the Nominating and Elections Committee. Once the Nominating and Elections Committee receives the completed petition, along with a brief bio of no more than 100 words, and a photo, it will consider and review such nominations for Board approval through March 7, 2025. Interested candidates should contact the OLLI office for the petition form and other details.

Please note that an asterisk by a candidate's name indicates they're a current Board member. The Board-approved candidates are:



Joe Belden

Joe Belden has taught OLLI study groups since 2017 and chaired the Lecture Committee since 2023. He has served on a number of nonprofit boards and writes regularly for *The Daily Yonder* and other publications. From 1989 to 2015 he was Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Assistance Council (www.ruralhome.org). He also worked at USDA, on Capitol Hill, and for other nonprofits. Belden is the lead author of books on affordable housing and food issues. He is a graduate of the University of Texas Austin and the Baylor University Law School.



Edward Feinberg

Ed Feinberg joined OLLI in 2017. He has been a member of the OLLI Nominating Committee and is currently serving on the Curriculum Committee and the strategic planning committee. Ed has taught the course, *Survivors and Descendants of the Holocaust: A Search for Meaning*, for the past four fall semesters. He was the founding director of what evolved into a large, multidisciplinary early intervention program that serves young children with disabilities and their families. A psychologist by training, Ed has served on many nonprofit boards

and has been an adjunct instructor at George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University. He is a docent at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Penny Hansen*

Penny Hansen has been a member of OLLI since 2011 and an ongoing study group leader since 2014. Her ever-evolving course, Today's Supreme Court: A Class for Citizens, has been presented 21 times. In 2021, she added a new class, Populism and the Presidency to her OLLI efforts, and now serves as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Prior to retirement, she had a 30-year career at the Environmental Protection Agency, implementing the country's first recycling, hazardous waste, Superfund, acid rain, and environmental technology verification programs. She was educated at Skidmore College, Johns Hopkins University, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Her post-EPA life focused on consulting on environmental issues domestically and around the world, along with other volunteer work. She is a proud fourth generation Washingtonian and a passionate believer in an educated citizenry.



Diana Jamieson*

Diana has been an enthusiastic member of OLLI for 12 years and spreads the message that OLLI classes have enriched her life. She has often been a study group representative and has served on the Nominating Committee for two years, once as chair of the committee. She previously was a mental health professional in the field of clinical social work. Since retirement she has worked as a Hospice volunteer and continues to be a docent at a historic house in DC.

STAFF WORKING REMOTELY

The OLLI staff will be working remotely on **Monday, February 17**. We will be reachable by phone and email, and will return to the office on Tuesday, February 18.

OLLI'S 2024 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

A big "thank you" to everyone who participated in OLLI's Annual Campaign thus far, but it is not over yet. We are happy to report that we met our fall match campaign that raised \$50,000 for OLLI, but we are still only at 66% of our goal of \$125,000. The campaign runs through the end of our fiscal year in June.

When you think about the courses, lectures, events, and new friends that you enjoy at OLLI, please consider a gift this Valentine's Day to support OLLI at AU if you haven't already done so this year.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

SHORTS FEEDBACK AND SGL GIFTS

Feedback

Please take a few minutes to submit feedback about each of your Shorts courses this week. The feedback form is available on the OLLI website under "Classes" and then "Shorts." [Click here](#) for a direct link to the page.

Your feedback is an important part of being a member of a learning community. Whether the feedback praises an SGL for a job well done and/or offers constructive suggestions that might help the SGL, it is a demonstration of your support for our SGLs and OLLI program and is greatly appreciated. ***As always, if you have suggestions for improvement, please be mindful of stating them in a constructive and respectful manner.***

SGL Gifts

All of OLLI's study group leaders are volunteers. Each academic session, members are invited to give them a gift in honor of all of the work they do to prepare and deliver their courses. This is completely voluntary. [SGL gifts](#) can be made on the OLLI website under "Give" and then "SGL Gifts." **You must log into your account on the website to see the gift form.** SGL gifts can also be made by mailing or dropping off a check made payable to OLLI at AU

with the course number(s) listed in the memo field. The OLLI office will collect all gifts and write a check to each SGL.

Feedback and SGL gifts will be accepted through **Friday, February 21.**

SPRING LOTTERY DATE CHANGE

The spring semester is March 3-May 9. Courses meet for a varying length of time (see each study group for the number of weeks). The membership fee is \$330 and allows you to sign up for three courses in the lottery. After the lottery, when you have received your class assignment letter, you can add a **fourth study group** by logging into your account.

Make sure to register before the spring lottery which will now be held on **Friday, February 21.**

MORE INFO/REGISTER

SPRING BOOKS

Most spring semester books are available through Politics and Prose book store at 5015 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008. Politics and Prose offers OLLI members a 10% discount on books for courses. Below is a list of spring semester books that are not available at Politics and Prose, are available only as pay-to-order, or are available but without discount.

NOT Available

581 Profile of the Eternal City - *Rome Profile of a City*

601 Le Français par la Littérature - *La Civilisation*

678 Experience Poems and Pictures - *Experience Poems and Pictures*

682 Contemporary Jewish Short Stories in Context - *Three Floors Up*

739 China's 20th-Century Revolutions - *Revolution and its Past*

806 Medical Qigong - *Healing Art of Qigong*

860 & 861 Plato's Tragedy, Comedy, and Epic - *Plato*

Pay-to-order (and no discount)

200 The Neuroscience of Conflict - *Making Peace with Conflict*

550 Expressionism: A German Destiny - *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*

589 American 20th-Century Furniture: What's Hot, What's Not - *Both Books on American furniture*

600 Intermediate Italian - *Gioielli Caffè E Firenze*

740 Japan's "Modern" Century - *Modern History of Japan*

No Discount

724 Manifest Destiny and US Territorial Expansion - *Manifest Destiny*

733 The Coming of the Civil War - *Free Soil Free Labor*

NEW MEMBER 10% DISCOUNT

Are you new to OLLI or thinking about coming back after taking a break? Use the button below to register for the spring semester. A 10% discount will be applied for those who are new or who have not taken classes in five or more years. Click "**Choose Lottery Selections**" and then log in or create an account. You will see the discount when paying for the semester.

NEW MEMBER DISCOUNT

SPRING CATALOG CHANGES

Below are spring changes made to classes after the catalog went to print. Class changes are also available on the [spring catalog changes](#) page of the OLLI website and are updated as they occur.

Spring Class Changes

113 Shakespeare and Politics: CANCELLED

240 Hearing Matters: CANCELLED

476 Practical Primary Care Medicine: Will now meet for seven weeks

597 Ballet to Broadway: The Influence of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo: CANCELLED

599 Color Theory and Practice: Now starts Friday, March 21

725 Red Sea: Exploring the Waterway Uniting and Dividing Africa and the Middle East: will now start on Wednesday, March 12

755 The Holocaust in Film: CANCELLED



TEACH A SUMMER COURSE!

If you are passionate about a topic, we invite you to share your talents by leading an OLLI at AU course.

We are currently accepting June and July study group proposals from within the OLLI

membership, the Washington, DC community, and thanks to Zoom, from those outside of the area, as well. With the shorter sessions, the summer is a

great time to get started at OLLI and "dip your toe" in the teaching waters!

To propose a summer study group, please click one of the buttons below. You will need to log in with your OLLI username/password or create an account if it's your first time.

June Minis

June 2-27 (classes meet once a week for 4 weeks)

[PROPOSAL FORM](#)

July Shorts

July 7-11 (classes meet 2-5 times during one week)

[PROPOSAL FORM](#)

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer from Home With OLLI!

Are you interested in volunteering with OLLI from the comfort of your own home? Below is a remote volunteer position for our upcoming spring semester.

SGR Coordinator:

SGR Coordinators recruit Study Group Representatives (SGRs) for each academic session. Coordinators are provided a list of members who have expressed interest, or the attendance list if there are no volunteers, for the remaining classes. They will then call members to find an SGR for each study group. For the upcoming spring semester, SGR Coordinators will begin making calls **Monday, February 24**. This role operates continuously, so if you are unavailable for spring, but are interested in summer or fall, please let us know!

If interested please contact Amya in the office at amyab@american.edu

OLLI EVENTS



SPRING WINE AND CHEESE WELCOMER

Wednesday, February 26 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Spring Valley Café, 6th Floor

\$15/person | Registration Required | No

Refunds

OLLI Facilities Tour at 3:15 PM

Join us for an in-person spring semester wine and cheese welcome event! Various wines and hors

d'oeuvres will be served. New to OLLI? A tour of the OLLI facilities will also be given at 3:15 PM on the fifth floor by the elevators.

Attendance is limited to the first 120 members that register. **The deadline for registration is Friday, February 21.**

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)

OLLI DISCUSSION GROUP ON ELECTION ISSUES

Tuesday, February 18 | 1:45-3:15 PM

Wednesday, February 19 | 9:45 AM-11:15 PM

6th Floor, Room 603

Reservation Required | Limited to 45 people each

With the election behind us and three weeks into the new administration, we will be discussing some of the most significant changes that are in the works. With so many changes, there is a lot of information out there. If you want to share your information or your opinions, come join OLLI's Current Events and Policy study group leaders, Jeff Porter and David Callet, for a discussion about the current administration's policies. This is an informal gathering of up to 45 people to discuss these topics. This is a free event open to all OLLI members; registration is required and refreshments will be provided by Jeff Porter.

[REGISTER FOR FEB 18](#)

[REGISTER FOR FEB 19](#)

AU EVENTS

ISRAELI THEATER IN TIMES OF CRISIS

with actor/director
Dr. Roy Horovitz



**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 20
1:00 -2:30 PM**



**LETTS
FORMAL LOUNGE**



Israeli Theater in Times of Crisis

Thursday, February 20 | 1:00-2:00 PM

Letts Hall Formal Lounge | Registration Required

Please join the AU Meltzer Schwartzberg Center for Israel Studies as we welcome Dr. Roy Horowitz, who will discuss the role of art and theater in Israel today. Israel boasts the highest rate of theatergoers in the world, with the National Theater (Habima) that predates the state.

[REGISTER](#)

SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

Join #2025SineFellow **Hon. Sylvia Burwell**
for her first #SineSeminar:

What is a Realignment?

With Special Guest
Professor Liz Suhay, PhD
Co-Editor-in-Chief,
Political Psychology

February 20th, 2025
12:00 PM ET
MGC 306



[REGISTER](#)

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University

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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