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Where Curiosity Never Retires



December 20, 2019 OLLI News

Note From The Chair



The catalog of [February Shorts](#) and [spring classes](#) is now on the OLLI website. The Curriculum Committee, under the able leadership of Marianne Soponis, has presented us with a fabulous array of offerings. I never cease to be amazed at the creativity and hard work of our Study Group Leaders, who in most cases design classes that reflect their interests and expertise in areas not related to their professional fields. What a great example of lifelong learners they are! Enjoy perusing the offerings and grappling with which classes to take.

Thank you to the 180 members who have made a donation to OLLI this fiscal year. In the next 11 days as you make final charitable donations for 2019, I hope those who have not yet included OLLI

will want to express their appreciation for all that OLLI offers - courses and community - give to the extent that they can.

Wednesday's Holiday Party was a terrific example of community. I arrived late because of jury duty, and as I turned the corner from the elevator, I not only heard the music of The Artifacts but also saw members dancing to tunes we know from our past. See the photos included here for proof! Good food, good company, and holiday spirit carried the day. Many thanks to the Jeff Porter and the Social Committee for organizing this fête.

All best wishes for the holidays,

Martha Cutts

Chair, OLLI at AU Board of Directors









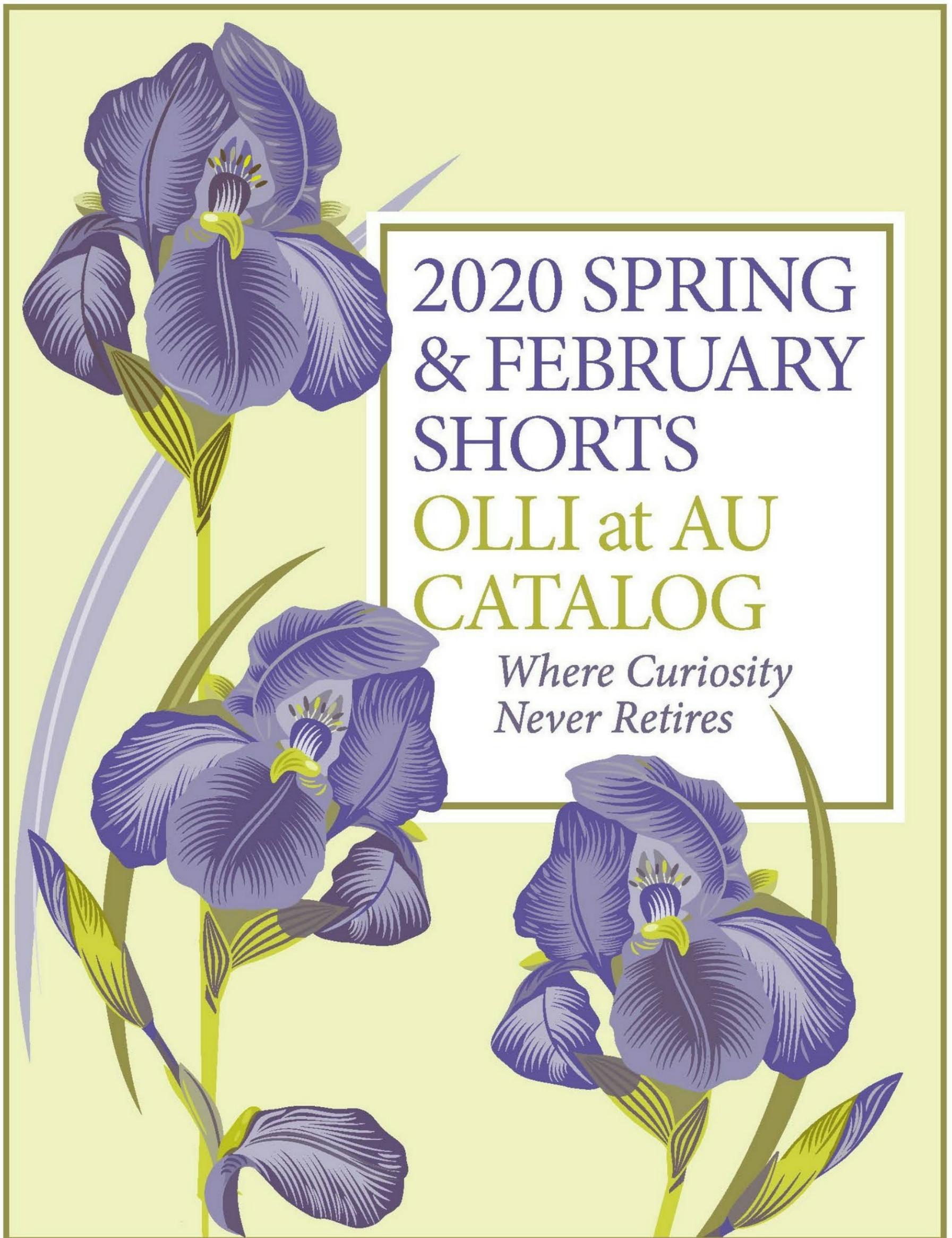


OLLI Holiday Hours

OLLI wishes you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season! The OLLI office will be closed on

December 24 and 25, and January 1.

2020 February Shorts & Spring Semester



Online registration for the February Shorts and the Spring semester is now open.

View the [February Shorts here](#).

View the [Spring semester here](#).

Catalogs are at the printer and will be mailed by December 27. February Shorts will be held from February 3-7, and the Spring semester will begin March 2. Remember: OLLI does not process registration as first-come, first-served. All registrations go into a random, computerized lottery. The February Shorts Lottery is on January 16 and the Spring semester lottery is on February 11. For the best chance of getting into the courses you want, please make sure to register before the day of the lottery.

The Rewards of Being an SGR

It's temptation time again. The new OLLI February Shorts and Spring Catalog is on the way to our mailboxes and the question is how many study groups can one handle. But as you fill out your registration form, or register online, I urge you to check off the box volunteering to be a Study Group Representative (SGR) for that group. I have done so for all of my study groups for the almost nine years I have been an OLLI member and it is an experience that has enriched those years because it has helped me to easily know my fellow study group members as I have their email and telephone contacts and reasons to contact them. Shortly after the Lottery for each session, SGR Coordinators contact those who have volunteered to confirm them being SGR. If there are no volunteers, we call people on the attendance list to ask if they'd be willing.

SGR duties are light and rarely take more than a few minutes for each study group session. Before the semester starts, SGRs receive the contact information for the class and are welcome to send out an e-mail introducing themselves (you don't have to type in all those email addresses, as the office sends a link to e-mail the entire class). At each class session, the SGR makes any necessary announcements and passes out the attendance sheet (or has people check off their name as they arrive). At the end of the class, counts that number of attendees for that session and writes it at the bottom of that day's column. If someone has missed the first two sessions this gives you a chance to contact them to see if they'll be attending, and thus establish more personal contact (the office reminds you when it's time to do this). It's easy and natural. Shortly before the end of the semester, the office will put thank you cards into the class folders for class members to sign. Optional donations are also collected as a gift since our study group leaders are volunteers.

Click [here](#) for the full list of SGR duties, which is sent to SGRs shortly before each session starts.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this more with me, please contact me at: gallagherjacqueline@gmail.com or 202-333-7957.

- Jacqui Gallagher

2020 Winter/Spring Music-Theatre Group

Alliance for New Music-Theatre is pleased to announce their 2020 Winter/Spring season of "Live & About." They have put together a very energetic and eclectic program for this Winter/Spring season with outings to six different productions in the DC area.

"Live & About" is an outreach and community engagement series representing different Washington, DC theatre companies and shows across the spectrum of music-theatre.

Participants will enjoy the experience of attending performances as a group, expanding their appetites and critical appreciation for new forms, and supporting a variety of large and smaller music-theatre companies in our nation's capital. After each show, they will have the opportunity to deepen their experience by engaging with other group members in an informal gathering and sharing in discussions to understand the deeper intentions of the show's creators. Click [here for more information and to register](#).

James Joyce Birthday Celebration

On Friday, January 31, we will celebrate acclaimed author James Joyce's birthday. Readings will be conducted of the eighth and ninth chapters of Ulysses. All OLLI members are welcome at this free event, but registration is required. Registration can be completed through the Events page of our website, found [here](#). We are also seeking readers for the party, so if you are interested, please contact Bob Kolodney at bobkolive@gmail.com.

Awesome Opportunity: Join an OLLI Remote Learning Pilot

In 2020, OLLI will be offering a remote-learning pilot in 2020 to be led by OLLI veteran SGL Carol Light. We are seeking 8-10 reasonably tech-savvy volunteers to take part. Participants will need a laptop or tablet equipped with a video camera and microphone and Zoom, a free videoconferencing software that can be downloaded from the internet. Zoom allows users to participate in group discussions with the capability to see and hear each other and to share materials, including videos.

The pilot will consist of three sessions. The first session will be held at OLLI so we can make sure participants have the necessary hardware and software and review the basics of connecting and participating online in Zoom. Members will participate from home (using Zoom) in the second and third sessions. During the second session, members will view a short video on a topic of general interest, then discuss it just as in any OLLI study group. During the third (and last) session, members will provide feedback on participating remotely, the Zoom format in relation to the OLLI study group model, and how OLLI might use remote learning in the future.

We hope to hold the pilot in January, but please let us know if you are interested in participating regardless of when the pilot is held. To do so, please fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V7Y99MZ>. If you have any questions, please e-mail Mary Fran Miklitsch, maryfran@american.edu, and Carol Light, clightdc@hotmail.com. Further details will be provided along with a survey to determine which three dates in January work best for the most members. I'm a new Text block ready for your content.

Are You a Member of a Retirement Association?

Last year, as part of OLLI at AU's diversity efforts, OLLI representatives spoke at meetings of the retirement organizations of the National Education Association (NEA), the State Department, and the World Health Organization (WHO). Also, the 1818 Society (of the World Bank) recently included an article about OLLI in its newsletter. We hope to continue speaking with such groups. If you are a member of a similar organization, please let us know by calling 202-895-4860 or e-mailing olli@american.edu.

Upcoming Events at American University

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

**WINTER EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS AT
THE AU MUSEUM-KATZEN ARTS CENTER**
Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Free and fully accessible

Heroes & Losers: The Edification of Luis Lorenzana

January 25-March 15, 2020

Luis Lorenzana (b. 1979) is a self-taught Filipino artist whose background in politics has infused his work with a cynicism that belies his longing for a kinder, more equitable world. The exhibition thus touches on the themes of a desperate kind of selfless heroism—and the all-too familiar failure of a democratic political system. These are works that will have relevance to the current American landscape; indeed, to anywhere in the world.

Communicating Vessels: Ed Bisese, Elyse Harrison, Wayne Paige

Presented by the Alper Initiative for Washington Art

January 25-March 15, 2020

The title of this exhibition is borrowed from that of a book written in 1932 by Surrealist poet André Breton (1896-1966), who in turn had borrowed it from a scientific experiment of the same name. The experiment shows that in two vessels joined by a tube, a gas or liquid passing from one to the other rises to the same level, whatever the shape of the vessel. For Breton, the phrase refers to the artist, whether literary or visual, whose work results from communication between the inner life of the mind, emotions and dreams, and the waking perception of the exterior world. The three artists in this exhibition all work from this premise, although with individual styles and imagery. While their work shows continuity with Surrealist ideas of the 1930s and 40s, it also relates to the Chicago Imagists of the 1960s and 70s, reflecting the prevalence of surrealist imagery in contemporary visual art.

Landscape in an Eroded Field: Carol Barsha, Heather Theresa Clark, Artemis Herber

January 25-March 15, 2020

Landscape in an Eroded Field brings together three women artists whose work reflects the evolution of the pictorial landscape tradition in the Anthropocene era. Carol Barsha's closely-observed nature studies and flowery landscapes are paired with Artemis Herber's mythically-themed, architectonic reliefs. These immersive paintings surround a site-specific installation and soundscape designed by Heather Theresa Clark, utilizing her environmental planning background.

Depicting nature and the environment is one of the most ancient and elemental expressions of art. From cave painting to Dutch still lifes to social practice incorporating life forms, artists have always been attentive and responsive to the world around them. This exhibition spans landscape painting that takes no social or political stance to multi-media painting and sculpture that puts climate change at the center of its meaning.

Volkmar Wentzel

Presented by the AU Museum Project Space

January 25-May 24, 2020

Volkmar Kurt Wentzel (b. Dresden, 1915-2006) arrived in Washington, DC in the early 1930s. When the Great Depression led to prohibitive housing costs in DC, he moved to Aurora, West Virginia, to join a community with Robert Gates and several other artists who had become close friends. In 1937, back in Washington, architect Erik Menke introduced Volkmar to a book titled *Paris De Nuit* (1933) by Brassai, a French photographer. Volkmar was enchanted. He purchased a new camera and began photographing the series "Washington by Night." First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, out for a

stroll one evening, encountered Volkmar and purchased several of his Washington pictures. Volkmar completed his Washington photographs and brought them to National Geographic. He was hired immediately. The event led to his 48-year photographic career as a National Geographic photographer.

Robert Franklin Gates: Paint What You See

January 25-May 24, 2020

Robert Franklin Gates: Paint What You See showcases an adventurous artist who greatly influenced the course of Washington art from his arrival from Detroit in 1930, at the age of 24, until his death in 1982 as an AU Professor Emeritus. He was a muralist, painter, printmaker, draftsman, and professor at the Phillips Gallery School and then American University for over forty years. His watercolors earned him early acclaim, signaled by their inclusion in the first very exhibition held at the National Gallery of Art upon its opening in 1941. Gates' paintings can be found in The Phillips Collection, the Baltimore Museum of Art, Dumbarton Oaks, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Corcoran Legacy Collection and the Watkins Memorial Collection at the American University Museum.

Good Form, Decorum, and in the Manner: Portraits from the Collections of Washington Print Club Members

Curated by Tim Doud

January 25-March 15, 2020

Portraits are usually understood in one of two ways: as the depiction of the face of a person, or a representation of someone's impression of a person. This exhibition comprises many works that could be thought of as conventional portraits of individuals in a wide range of media, including woodblock and wood engravings, intaglio prints, mezzotints, monoprints, photography, collage, and an assemblage made with found objects. The show also pushes the boundaries of portraiture by including works that capture the likenesses of animals, places, memories, and events.

Good Form, Decorum, and in the Manner can also be considered a snapshot of the Washington Print Club today by celebrating the prized pieces its members have chosen to highlight. My curatorial interest also lies in the resulting overlaps, intersections, gaps, and dialogues between collectors' collections.

Gallery Talk: Robert Franklin Gates

January 25, 5-6PM

AU Museum Director & Curator Jack Rasmussen will present a lecture on Paint What You See, featuring paintings and watercolors by longtime AU Art Department Professor Robert Franklin Gates. Free and open to all, please RSVP to tinyurl.com/aumuseumkatzen.

Winter Opening Reception

January 25, 6-9PM

Mix and mingle with artists, curators, and fellow patrons and [view six new exhibitions](#) at our Winter opening reception. Free and open to all, no RSVP required.

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, *Deputy Executive Director*

Lesley Diaz, *Academic Programs Coordinator*

Jesse Williams, *Operations Coordinator*

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