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Where Curiosity Never Retires



November 22, 2019 OLLI News

OLLI Will Be Closed Wednesday Through Friday of Thanksgiving Week, NOVEMBER 27-29.

Letter From Our Executive Director

GRATITUDE

The start of the holiday season is always a time of reflection and gratitude for me. I have much to be thankful for in my life: a supportive and loving family, wonderful friends, and good health. Anyone who has any of these is lucky indeed. To have them all is a gift to be treasured.

Now that I am in year two as Executive Director of OLLI at AU and can take some time to reflect on my new role, I realize that I have the cherry on top of the gratitude ice cream sundae.

OLLI is a community of people who share a passion for learning and who come together to make something so much more than its individual parts. Of the many things for which I am grateful, here are some:

OLLI Study Group Leaders who tirelessly prepare and lead top-tier classes;

OLLI committee members who dedicate themselves to supporting OLLI and all of its programs;

OLLI Board of Directors, past and present, who ensure OLLI achieves its strategic goals and honors its core mission;

OLLI members who attend and contribute to OLLI's amazing array of classes;

OLLI donors who give so generously to make certain that OLLI thrives now and in the future;

OLLI colleagues—Mary Fran, Jesse, Terri, and Lesley—who care so much for our members and for each other and who strive every single day to provide the very best services;

American University for its commitment to OLLI; and

The many friends at OLLI who have added so much to my life.

So, as you reflect on all that you are grateful for this holiday season, I want you to know that I am

grateful for you—the OLLI community who make my job a joy and who challenge me to be the best I can be.

I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season full of gratitude!

- Tony Long

Passing of Beloved Member

Long-time OLLI member Dorothee Riederer died on November 13. A visitation will be held Friday, November 22, from 5-7 p.m. at Joseph Gawler's Sons, Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC, dogs welcome. A memorial celebration will be held Sunday, November 24, from 4-6 p.m. (remarks at 4:30 p.m.) at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, 9101 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. Dorothee taught English at Stone Ridge for 40 years.

Holiday Party & Art Show

The OLLI Board of Directors invites you to our annual Holiday Party & Art Show taking place on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The location will be in our Spring Valley building in the cafeteria on the 6th floor. There will be guest musicians, The AU Artifacts, wine and hors d'oeuvres. The cost to attend is \$30, no refunds. We hope to see you there! To register, click [here](#).

Snack Potluck

Thank you to all who participated in the snack potluck this week! It was a great success and much appreciated. **Kudos to our Social Coordinator Jeff Porter for putting it together.**

Semester End Fun: *America in The Fifties*

d A Taste Of Literature, Sports And Recreation In The 1950's



Candace R. Thurman and Richard R. Po



As an awe-inspiring end to the semester for the study group *America in the Fifties*, **study group leader Candace Thurman** had some fun playing dress-up befitting the theme!

Trip to Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

We will be taking a trip to Richmond, VA on Friday, January 24, 2020 to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) and explore the premiere of the Edward Hopper and the

American Hotel exhibition, the first in-depth study of hospitality settings depicted in the works of one of the most celebrated American artists. Edward Hopper (1882–1967) found artistic value and cultural significance in the most commonplace sites and settings. Hopper’s spare depictions of familiar public and private spaces are often understood within the contexts of isolation, loneliness, and ennui of early and mid-20th-century America. Join us to get an exclusive glimpse of Hopper’s immersion into the world of hotels, motels, hospitality services, and mobility in general. The exhibition has simulated spaces and other unique design components, including an actual functional hotel room. Please note that refunds for trips are available only if the trip is cancelled. We will meet at a location, later to be determined, at 8:00 AM to board a chartered bus. The tour starts at 11:00 AM. We will return from VA to DC by 8:00 PM. To register, click [here](#).

Curriculum Committee: Opening in the 100s

Our Curriculum Committee is looking for an OLLI member with a background/interest in politics, law, and government who would possibly join the committee. This person would oversee the 100s subject area, as a minimum of one committee member is assigned to each area of the curriculum.

The Curriculum Committee is responsible for OLLI’s core mission of providing members with the highest caliber of courses. Committee members plan and review the academic programming for fall, spring, and February Shorts; recruit study group leaders; and solicit proposals in their subject area. Members attend six meetings a year (from Sept-May) and work outside of meetings on study group leader recruitment.

An orientation is provided for new committee members. If you’re interested in being considered for this volunteer role, or have any questions, please e-mail olli@american.edu.

Fall Final Feedback

As you finish your study group(s) for the semester, please take a few minutes to complete the final feedback form that is available on the OLLI website [here](#).

Paper copies are also available in your study group’s class folder (just ask your SGR for a form), outside the OLLI office, and in the Social Space. If you choose to complete a paper form, just bring it to the office when you’re finished. As always, the forms are completely anonymous.

Feedback will be accepted through Monday, December 9.

Member Essays

The class members in this fall’s class, *Best Recent Essays to Read and Write*, read a dozen recent American essays. They ranged widely in subject matter from spying in North Korea to the Women’s March in Washington, as well as more personal topics. We observed their organizing principles, their levels of language, their closeness to the reader. Then, some class members began to write their own essays. They read them to the class, listened to comments, and accepted applause. We felt that those writers who wanted to share their work should do so. We hope you will enjoy them.

- Susan Willens

Please click [here](#) to view the essays.

Extra Books After a Study Group?

With the semester coming to a close, this is a reminder that if there are any books from the semester that you no longer need, they may be donated to the **OLLI book exchange located in**

the Social Space on the 5th floor. Members are welcome to donate books from past study groups, as well as take books you'd like. There is a box with slips of paper to fill out, pens, and paper clips in the book exchange area. If you donate a book, please fill out the paper with as much information as possible (title, number, and leader of the study group in which it was used) then clip it to the cover of the book. The book exchange will be ongoing.

Serendipities!

Our Social Committee-sponsored series called *Serendipities!* is underway. Throughout the year, OLLI members who wish, for example, to share a thought-provoking or unusual experience, talk about a book they have written, or be part of a small panel on a timely topic can express their interest by e-mailing Social Committee Chair Jeff Porter at jeff.portermia@gmail.com or by filling out a *Serendipities!* proposal form [here](#).

Our next talk will be given by Phyllis Green, retired park superintendent of Isle Royale. Isle Royale is a wilderness island in the remotest corner of Lake Superior. Home to the longest predator and prey study in the world, this National Park was faced with a dwindling wolf population and a growing population of moose. If you are curious about why the Park decided to restore the top predator and how complicated it was to do so, **please join us on Wednesday, December 4, in Room 3** (AU Spring Valley building, 4801 Mass. Ave NW). Phyllis will provide a brief orientation to this remote park as well as a photo documentary on the journey across two states and one province to restore the wolf population on Isle Royale. There will also be a Q & A session. No registration is required.

Study Group Topics and Leaders

Many OLLI members have suggested topics they would like for future study groups, by way of the survey last spring and on the bulletin board in the Social Space. OLLI at AU is always looking for new class topics and study group leaders to teach them. Below is a list of some of the top suggestions by members. **Do you or someone you know have an interest in leading a study group about one of these topics?** The shorter February Shorts and summer sessions (June Minis and July Shorts) are a great way to get started teaching at OLLI. During the February and July Shorts, study groups meet 3-5 times during one week. During the June Minis, study groups meet once a week for four weeks. Alternatively, the regular semester is a good option for anyone wanting to delve into a topic in greater depth. OLLI offers an orientation for new SGLs before each fall and spring semester.

OLLI is currently accepting study group proposals for the [February Shorts](#) and the [Spring Semester](#). The submission deadline is Monday, December 2.

Please let the office know at olli@american.edu if you or someone you know might be interested in teaching one of these topics or another one. We'll be happy to contact you to answer any questions and provide more information.

1. Art History
2. Architecture
3. Archaeology
4. Latin
5. Geology
6. Civil War
7. Classical music
8. Greek mythology (*A proposal has been submitted!*)

9. Civil Rights Movement
10. Vikings
11. Women's history
12. *Crime and Punishment*
13. *Buddenbrooks* by Thomas Mann

Study Group Proposals



The OLLI office is now accepting study group proposals for both the February Shorts and Spring Semester 2020. February Shorts are February 3-7 and the Spring Semester is March 2-May 8. During the February Shorts, study groups meet between 3-5 times over the course of one week. In the Spring Semester, study groups are 8-10 weeks long and meet once a week. OLLI's Curriculum Committee and Board of Directors review proposals for each academic session and approve the final list of classes.

New proposals from first-time study group leaders are welcome! For more information about leading a study group, please click [here](#). You may also call the OLLI office at 202-895-4860 and we'll be happy to answer your questions.

If you would like 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 Monday, December 2 at 8:00 AM.**

[February Shorts 2020 Proposal Form](#)

[Spring 2020 Proposal Form](#)

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.

LATE FALL EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS AT THE AU MUSEUM-KATZEN ARTS CENTER

Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Free and fully accessible

Radical Link: A New Community of Women, 1855-2020

Curated by Sarah Gordon

November 9-December 15, 2019

Radical Link is the latest project by Tel Aviv-based multi-media artist Michal Heiman. Traversing time, space, gender, race, and institutional practices of asylum, Heiman offers a new way to extend solidarity to those who engage in acts of resistance by creating a new community. It includes women who have been subjugated by the Surrey County Asylum in London, and the San Servolo Asylum in Venice, asylum seekers, artists, activists, prosecutors, gatekeepers, and those who have suffered under the violence of racism and misogyny. Through the strategies of intervention and the use of archival materials, photographs, films, sound work, and her presence in the gallery, she generates the political, cultural, gendered, and psychic conditions of a potential “radical link.”

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated book, including essays by curator Sarah Gordon; Sharon Sliwinski, Professor of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario; Orna Ben-Naftali, Émile Zola Chair for Human Rights and Lecturer at the Haim Striks School of Law; and artist Michal Heiman.

Dark World: Photographs by Frank Hallam Day

November 9-December 15, 2019

Over the past dozen years, Frank Hallam Day’s personal work has been devoted largely to exploring the world at night. The visually intriguing dark world offers mysteries and ambiguities, and lends itself to the introspective creative space he prefers. His work comments on a number of salient themes: the relationship between contemporary society and nature and the pace of technological change, aging, isolation, and obsolescence. The markedly formal, unabashedly elegiac images also investigate influences from the history of painting to a degree unusual in contemporary photography. Day’s work has been described as “intimate yet subtly epic.” He looks for an “annunciatory light” transforming everyday things, like plastic market bags and public phones, into objects of special significance. In the words of Louis Jacobson at the Washington City Paper, he “showers a ray of almost spiritual light into the night’s dark corners.”

Ongoing Exhibitions:

Topographies of Life: Pam Rogers, Lynn Sures, Mel Watkin

September 3-December 15, 2019

Curated by Jennifer Riddell, Presented by the AU Museum Project Space

Using the medium of drawing to varied and distinctive effect, Rogers, Sures, and Watkin trace human connections to the natural world—across time and varied landscapes. The three artists work from both a consciousness of drawing’s ties to illustration and evidence; and, the medium’s unique ability to transmit the artist’s “hand” and personal response to their subject. From the deserts of Kenya, forests of the Midwest, to the Potomac watershed, these artists are deeply attuned to the mutually affecting relationship between the anthropological and natural worlds.

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.

Website www.oli-dc.org | Phone **202-895-4860** | E-mail oli@american.edu

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Tony Long, *Executive Director* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Deputy Executive Director*
Lesley Diaz, *Academic Programs Coordinator*
Jesse Williams, *Operations Coordinator*
Terri Greene, *Administrative Coordinator*

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