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Where Curiosity Never Retires



September 27, 2019 OLLI News

Letter From The Chair



I hope the first week of classes has been a good one for all! Many thanks to volunteer Sue Edson who was in the hallway each day, along with Tony Long, helping members to find their way. As we begin the semester, I want you to meet the office staff who work so hard to make our experience easy and worthwhile, so here is the OLLI office team:

Tony Long - Executive Director

Tony Long is the fourth Executive Director of the Osher lifelong Learning Institute at American University (OLLI at AU) in its 38-year history. He started at OLLI at AU in 2013 as its Curriculum Coordinator and then as its Deputy Executive Director before assuming the ED role in 2018. Tony's charge is to provide the highest quality academic programming, to practice sound financial management, and to implement strategic initiatives set forth by the Board of Directors. He earned an MA in Government Studies from Johns Hopkins University and taught university-level composition and research writing for nine years prior to coming to OLLI at AU.

Mary Fran Miklitsch - Deputy Executive Director

Mary Fran began her career as a typesetter for a small graphic design firm in Washington, DC. She then became Publications Manager at the trade association NFIB. Following a move to the Boston, MA area, she became the Graphics Manager at the New England Journal of Medicine. Upon her return to DC, she worked in tech support for a magazine design company and had her own web design firm for 14 years before joining OLLI at AU. Mary Fran has a BA in Psychology and has studied Fine Arts at the Maryland Institute College of Art, the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and the former Corcoran School of Art. She had her 15 minutes of fame as a participant in DC's Party Animals and Pandamania projects and has been in numerous juried art shows. (The artwork in the OLLI office is done by Mary Fran!)

Lesley Diaz - Academic Programs Coordinator

Lesley has a BA in education and is a former elementary school teacher. Having caught the travel bug early on, she has lived in Saudi Arabia, Japan, and Cuba (as well as several different states), and taught most recently at an international school in Peru. Although no longer a teacher, Lesley enjoys still working in education, now with adult learners at OLLI. She has been with OLLI at AU since June 2018 after moving to the Washington, DC area from Richmond, VA. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, cooking, and gardening.

Terri Greene - Administrative Coordinator

Terri began her career in administration in the nonprofit sector in 2007, at a member-based organization that works with business owners and executives and high-ranking military personnel on national security issues and business practices in downtown Washington, DC. After an extensive tenure there, she brought her talents to OLLI at AU, in August 2018. As Administrative Coordinator, Terri manages front desk reception, as well as assisting in member registrations and database management, and financial assistance. She is a former Education and English major and holds a Paralegal degree. She also engages in jewelry crafting, selling various pieces, as well as catering events with her cooking expertise.

Jesse Williams - Operations Coordinator

Jesse attended the university of the District of Columbia, where he studied Criminal Justice. Prior to joining OLLI, Jesse worked at Facility Logix as a Project Management Administrator. He has previous work experience in office management. During his spare time, Jesse enjoys spending time with his family and grilling.

Martha Cutts,

OLLI Board of Directors Chair

Fall Registration

I hope you enjoyed the first week of classes! Over 40 classes are still open. If a class is closed, you may still join its waitlist. Please visit our website to view study group status. **Registration is open until October 4, as well as availability for refund.** To view study groups and register online, please click [here](#). Also, when receiving class assignment letters in your e-mail, please notice that your nametag is on the second page in the attachment.

Starting the third week of classes, October 4, you will have the option to add a fourth study group to your schedule.

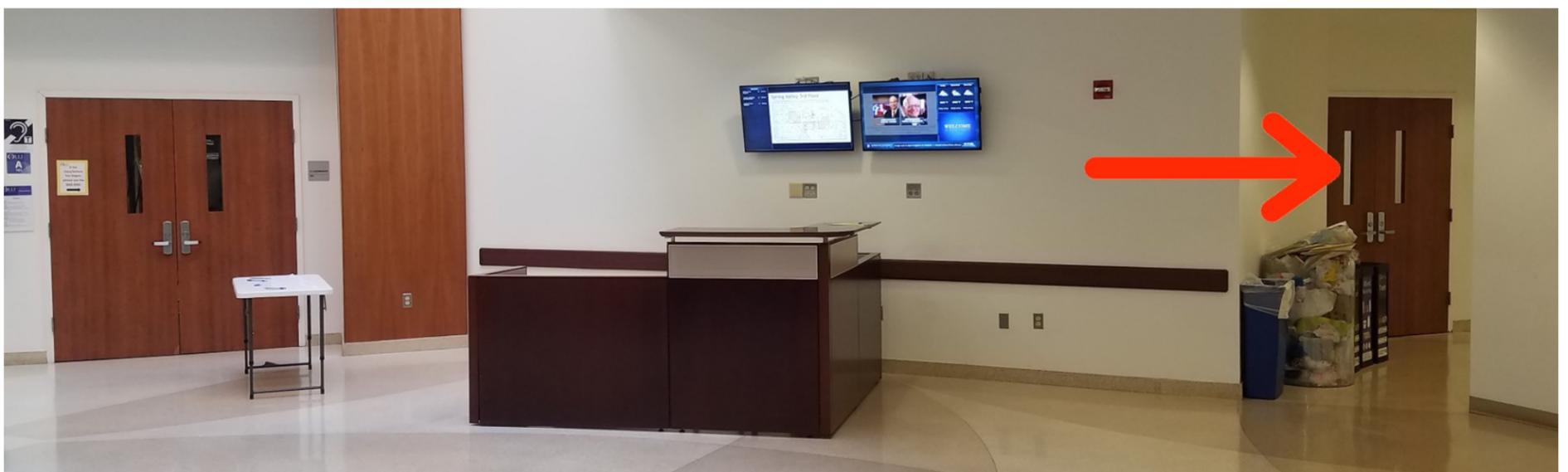
We would also like for you to check out the new bulletin board we have placed in the social space! This is where you can find all kinds of local news and updates within the OLLI community.

Waitlists

If you're on a waitlist for a study group, **we will e-mail or call to let you when/if a spot has opened up for you.** We give members a deadline of 8:00 AM the following business day to either reply to the e-mail or call us. If we don't hear from you by then, we will contact the next person on the waitlist to offer them the spot. Please make sure to check your e-mail and voicemails regularly because if the deadline has passed, we will not be able to admit you to the class after offering the spot to the next person. We will be working on contacting people on waitlists through the second week of classes for any study groups that have seats open up.

Reminder About Room A

When attending a study group or Friday lecture in Room A on the first floor, **please make sure to enter through the back door if the class/lecture has already begun.** The back door is shown in the photo below, marked with the red arrow. It can be disruptive to the speaker and class members when members enter through the front door after the start time. We thank you for your help with this.



The Smithsonian American Art Museum: Reflecting the American Experience and Global Connections

There is still space remaining in next Friday's lecture, *The Smithsonian American Art Museum: Reflecting the American Experience and Global Connections* given by Stephanie Stebich. The lecture will take place Friday, October 4, from 1:30-2:30 PM in Room A on the first floor of 4801 Massachusetts Ave NW. **If you would like to register, please click here: <https://olli-dc.org/events/2019Oct4Lecture243439857> . You will be prompted to create a username and password.**

Stephanie Stebich is responsible for the nation's premier collection of American art and major

exhibition, research, publication, education and digital-media programs at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery. She was named director of the Smithsonian Museum in January 2017 and serves on the Smithsonian's Capital Board as well as the Smithsonian-London Strategic Advisory Board. In May 2018, she was named co-chair of the Smithsonian's American Women's History initiative.

Free Minds Poetry Workshop

On **Tuesday, October 15, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM**, OLLI and the local nonprofit Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop will co-sponsor our fifth "Free Minds Poetry Workshop." Jenny Pierson and Ellen Siegler are coordinating this event. This event will be held in the Social Space on the 5th floor of our Spring Valley building at 4801 Mass. Ave.

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 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 in the program and express their appreciation.

If you have questions, contact Jenny Pierson at piersonjen17@gmail.com or 202-248-8288. To register, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Trip: Museum of the American Revolution

OLLI will be hosting a trip to Philadelphia, PA to visit the Museum of the American Revolution on Saturday, October 26. The museum has a vast collection of several thousand objects, works of art, manuscripts, and printed works from the period of the American Revolution. It is located just two blocks from Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the U.S. Mint, which you can also visit. On the day of the trip, we will meet at nearby Temple Baptist church, where parking will be available for the day, to board the bus to Philadelphia, and return in the evening. **The cost will be \$55**, which includes museum admission and transportation. For more details and to register for this trip, you may visit the events calendar on our website, or click [here](#).

Serendipities!

We have started our new Social Committee-sponsored series that we are calling *Serendipities!* 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. We also encourage you to fill out the *Serendipities!* survey [here](#).

Hearing Loops



All of the classrooms at OLLI have hearing loops installed. "Hearing loops" are state-of-the-art "Listening Assistive" technology. There are three main parts to a hearing loop: the wire that is installed around and across the room, a microphone, and a transceiver (which picks up and amplifies the sound from the microphone). The system both amplifies the speaker's voice and suppresses background noise.

Members who have hearing aids with t-coils can simply turn on their t-coils to take advantage of the loops. If you don't know whether or not your hearing aids have t-coils, consult your audiologist.

Members who do not have t-coils in their hearing aids, as well as members who have difficulty hearing but do not have hearing aids, can use a hearing loop receiver with headphones (or their own earbuds). You may wear the headphones with your hearing aids in or out. If you have your hearing aids in with the receiver on, and it makes a high-pitched sound or whistle, the hearing aids and receiver are both amplifying the sound, creating a feedback loop.

The receivers and headphones are available in each classroom from the plastic bin in each classroom. Each pair is in an individual plastic bag. Place the receiver on over your head (like a lanyard) so it hangs vertically or stand it up on the table vertically. (The vertical position is essential for the receiver to work correctly.) Put on the headphones. Turn the receiver on. (You'll see a green light.) Then, turn the volume dial on the receiver up slowly to find the appropriate volume for you.

For OLLI, one of the advantages of the hearing loops in the smaller classrooms is that the SGL and all class members' voices are amplified, allowing all to participate in discussions. Room A is too large to utilize the same configuration. Instead, the SGL uses a lapel microphone and if there are questions, a handheld microphone is passed around.

We urge everyone who has hearing loss to take advantage of the hearing loops. The sound is remarkable. It's as if the person speaking is sitting right next to you.

Updates on Courses and Books

There is a listing of book availability at the Politics and Prose bookstore on our website. Some books are not available and some are pay-to-order only. For books not available in-store, suggestions of other online booksellers are listed. For detailed information, please click [here](#).

OLLI Book Exchange

There is now an 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 they would like. **It would be especially helpful to donate any books that are on the [booklist](#) for this upcoming fall semester.**

There is a box with slips of paper, pens, and paper clips in the book exchange area. If you donate a book, please fill out one of the slips of paper with as much information as you know (study group title, number, and leader from the class in which the book was used) then clip it to the cover of the book. **The book exchange will be ongoing.** Jacqui Gallagher, the organizer, hopes this will be an activity that will enable members to share interests and make new connections - both intellectual and personal. If you have any questions, please contact Jacqui at gallagherjacqueline@gmail.com or 202-333-7957.

Senior Wellness Health Fair

Join Forest Hills of DC for a Senior Wellness Health Fair on **Saturday, October 5, 10:00 AM -**

2:00 PM, located at 4901 Connecticut Avenue NW. Take advantage of free health screenings, including a Blood Pressure and Balance Clinic, and receive your no-cost flu shot — provided by CVS Pharmacy — so bring your insurance cards. Nutritional tips for healthy eating will be available. Also, bring your questions about Assisted Living at Forest Hills of DC. Information will be provided on our Respite Programs and the Memory Care Day Program at Forest Side.

Stop in and get to know your local five-star Assisted Living community. Parking conveniently located on campus. For questions, please call Janice Johnson, RN, Nurse Educator at (202) 966-7623.

Upcoming Events at American University

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

A State at Any Cost: The Life of David Ben-Gurion Book Talk with Israeli Historian Tom Segev

Tuesday, October 15

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Abramson Family Founders Room, SIS Building

The Center for Israel Studies is pleased to invite you to hear Tom Segev, Israel historian, author, and journalist who will discuss his new biography of David Ben-Gurion, highlighting the history of Zionism and Israel. Tom Segev is one of Israel's most established journalists, and he has had a number of books in the New York Times' Best Books of the Year lists. Books will be available for purchase and signing at reception after the event.

Free with RSVP <https://tinyurl.com/SegevAU>.

FALL EVENTS AT THE AU MUSEUM-KATZEN ARTS CENTER

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

Free and fully accessible

Grace Hartigan and Helene Herzbrun: Reframing Abstract Expressionism

September 3-October 20, 2019

Curated by Norma Broude, American University Art History Professor Emerita

Free and open to all, no RSVP required

Grace Hartigan (1922-2008) and Helene Herzbrun (1922-1984) were both remarkable painters of the second Abstract-Expressionist generation who lived and worked as influential artists and teachers in the Baltimore/Washington region for many decades. Accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, with an essay by Norma Broude, this show brings together more than two dozen large-scale and rarely seen works by Hartigan and Herzbrun from private and public collections, many in the Baltimore/Washington area. For more details, click [here](#).

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.lli-dc.org | Phone **202-895-4860** | E-mail lli@american.edu
Study Group Location **4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW**

Mailing Address 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016
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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