

## HELPFUL LINKS

[Parking](#) | [Registration](#) | [Events Calendar](#) | [Past Newsletters](#)



*Where Curiosity Never Retires*

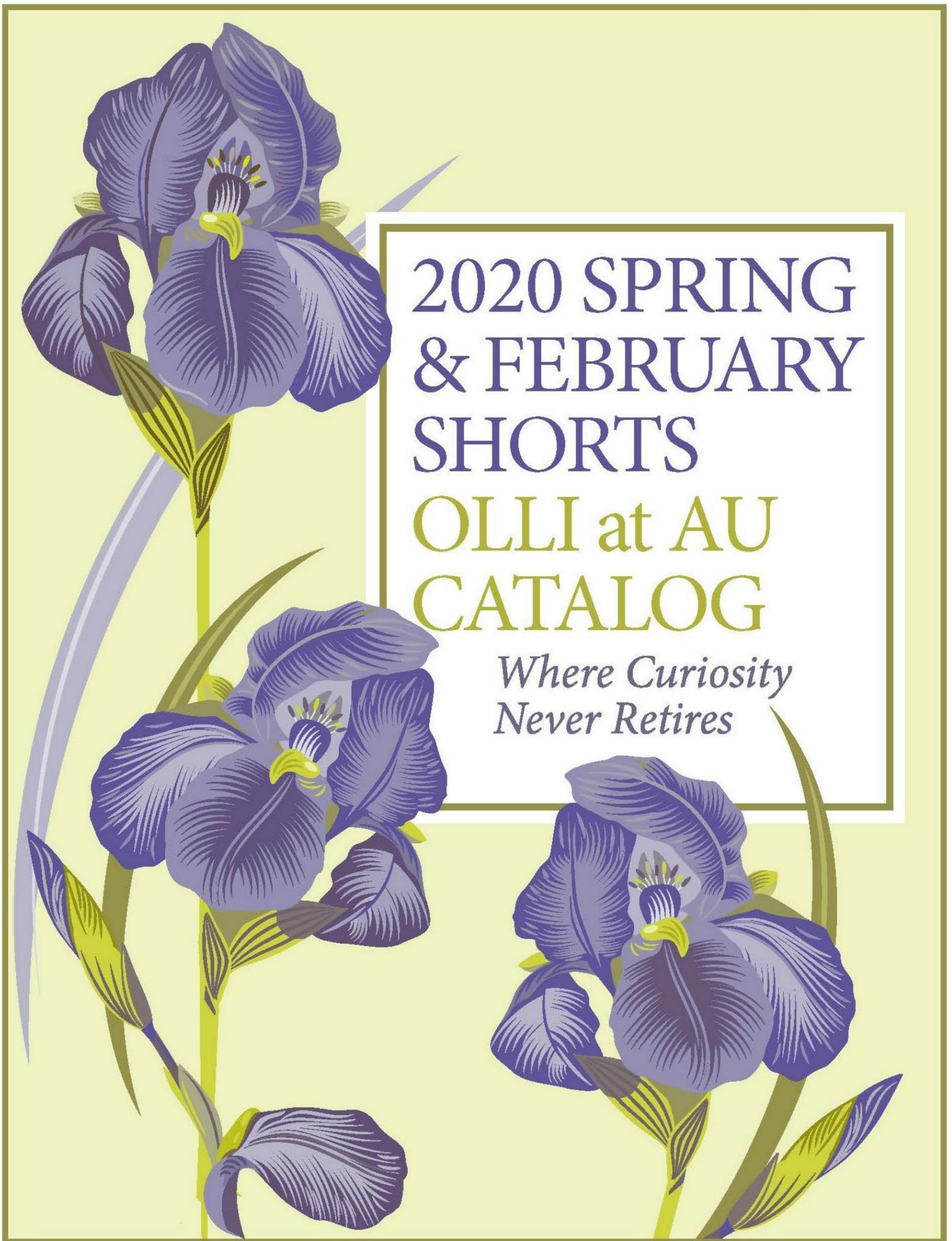
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**January 3, 2020 OLLI News**

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**2020 February Shorts & Spring Semester**



2020 SPRING  
& FEBRUARY  
SHORTS  
OLLI at AU  
CATALOG

*Where Curiosity  
Never Retires*

**Registration for the February Shorts and the Spring semester is open.** You can register online by clicking one of the links below or by mailing in a paper registration form from the [catalog](#).

View the [February Shorts here](#).

View the [Spring semester here](#).

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.

## Catalog Correction

Spring study group **#475 *The Stories Behind the Vaccines*** was missing some of its scheduling information in the print catalog. Please see below for the number of sessions and time:

### **475 *The Stories Behind the Vaccines***

Eight Tuesdays (1:45 PM - 3:15 PM)

Starts on March 3

Click [here](#) to view more information about this course.

## Next Week's Lectures

There is still space remaining in next week's Tuesday and Thursday lectures. Please see below for information about each lecture and to register:



**Craig Kraft**

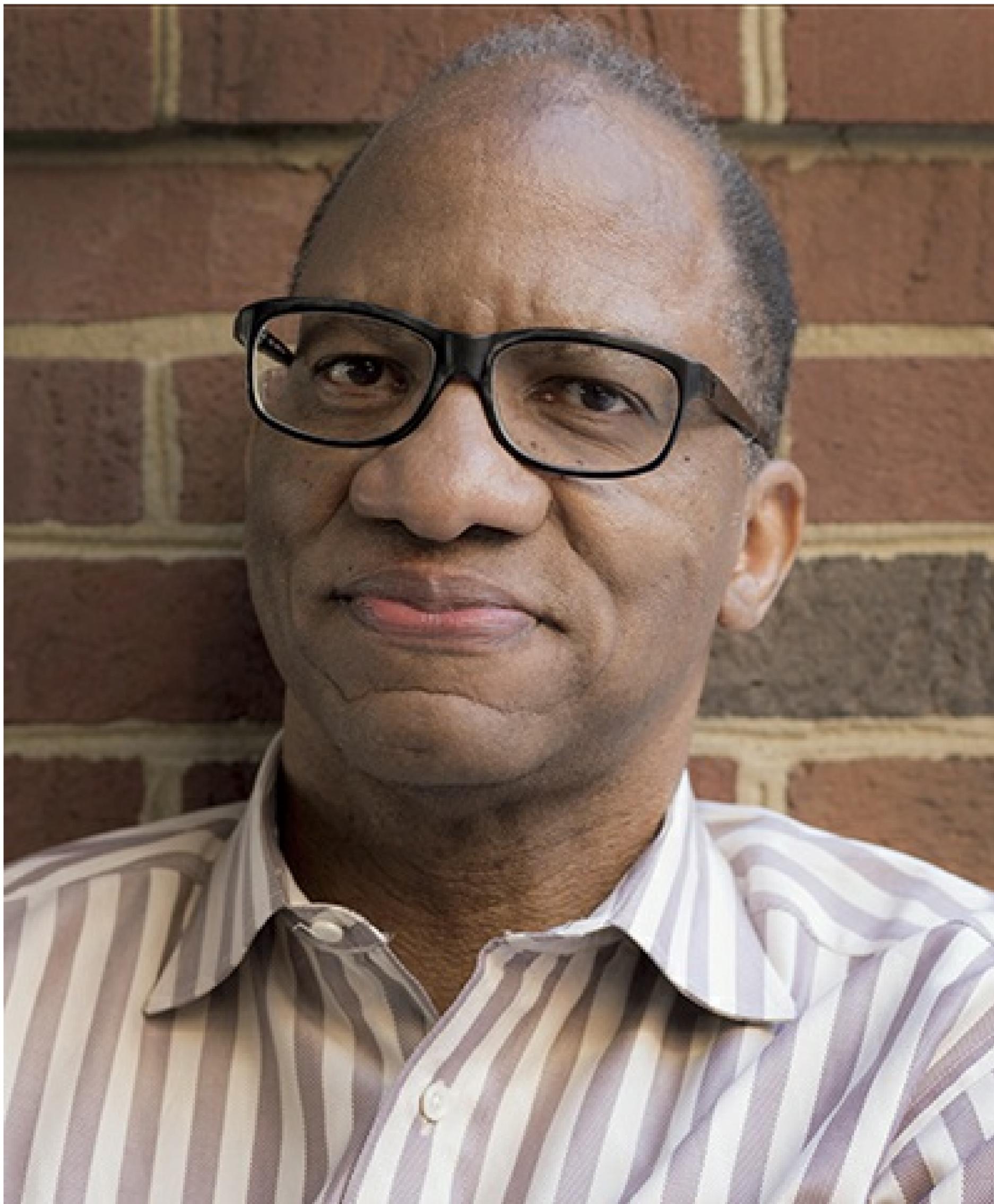
***Light Sculptor***

**Tuesday, January 7—10:00-11:00 AM**

**4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Room A (1st floor)**

Over the past 38 years, light sculptor Craig A. Kraft has gained national recognition for his innovative neon light works. His sculptures have been featured in over 135 exhibits throughout the US, and internationally in Korea and Mexico. A member of the faculty of the Smithsonian Institution Studio Arts Program for 24 years, Kraft received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Most recently, Kraft has investigated the universal urge to connect through mark making: to this end he has traveled to France, Spain, Sulawesi, Indonesia, and this past October, to Namibia. As an artist, turned explorer and writer, Kraft also has begun a series of articles published by *Timeless Travels*, a magazine specializing in art, archaeology, and travel.

**Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olli-at-au-light-sculptor-tickets->**



**Wil Haygood**

***Unraveling the Life of Sammy Davis Junior***

**Thursday, January 9—10:00-11:00 AM**

**4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Room A (1st floor)**

Accomplished journalist and award-winning author Wil Haygood became a staff writer at the *Boston Globe* in 1984, where he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, before joining the *Washington Post* in 2002. As

an investigative reporter, Haygood has traveled all over the world, including France, Germany, India, South Africa, where he witnessed Nelson Mandela's liberation from prison, and Somalia, where he was kidnapped and ransomed by rebels. During his time at the *Washington Post*, Haygood wrote the article, "A Butler Well Served by This Election," which became the basis for the 2013 award-winning motion picture *The Butler*, directed by Lee Daniels and starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey. He is also the author of numerous books, one of which, *In Black and White: The Life of Sammy Davis Jr.*, has just been optioned for a TV miniseries by Lee Daniels and Tom Hanks.

**Register on Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olli-at-au-unraveling-the-life-of-sammy-davis-junior-tickets-86513248455>

## 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, the SGR counts the 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, you have the 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](mailto: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](#). **The registration deadline is Monday, January 6 at 8:00 AM.**

## 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 the OLLI website, found [here](#). We are also seeking readers for the party, so if you are interested, please contact Bob Kolodney at [bobkolive@gmail.com](mailto:bobkolive@gmail.com).

## 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](https://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.

## **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, *Deputy Executive Director*

Lesley Diaz, *Academic Programs Coordinator*

Jesse Williams, *Operations Coordinator*

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