

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

June 2014 Newsletter



OLLII

at American University Washington DC



June Lecture Series

Our June Lecture series is underway. The series is posted on our [website](#). The lectures are from 10:00 am-11:50 am Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the Abramson Recital Hall in the **Katzen Arts Center Recital Hall**.

Thank You ...

... to **Barbara Coleman, Brock Hansen, Irwin Lebow, Markley Roberts, and Mark Zweig**, and for donating their class gifts to OLLI ... and to **Stan Newman** for donating his class gift to buy books for a future study group.

... to **Don Quayle, Sue Boley, Jack Chamberlain, Natalie Mulitz, Lou Mulitz, and Barbara Rollinson** for helping with the mailing of ballots for the Board election.

Letter from the Chairman of the Board



The Waitlist

This September we'll be using our new lottery system for the second time. By virtually all accounts, it worked extremely well in its debut last spring.

As with any new system, it takes some getting used to. Some people have been confused about waitlists, especially when they had a class from a study group leader in either of the two prior semesters and are put on the waitlist for that SGL's current class.

The crucial point is this: There is no disadvantage-absolutely none-to selecting as your first choice a class from an SGL you had in either of the two prior classes. You do not miss a turn in the lottery when you do this.

At the end of the registration process, the computer will assign members from the waitlist to the classes they chose on a space-available basis. Members who are moved from a waitlist into one of their higher choices are then dropped from their lowest ranking choice.

Bottom line: If you want to take another class from an SGL from whom you took a class in either of the prior two semesters, go ahead and make it your first choice. You have nothing to lose by doing so.

Dave Palmeter
Chair of the Board

Have Your Fall Catalog Mailed Out-of-Town

If you are spending the summer away and would like your Fall catalog mailed to your summer address, please call the OLLI Office at 202-895-4860 or email us at olli@american.edu.

Aristotle's *Poetics* Online

Fall 2014 Semester Dates

The Fall semester begins on Wed., Sept. 24. Because of the holiday, Thursday classes will begin on October 2.

To follow up on OLLI's successful pilot project for online discussions, led by Sue Willens, OLLI will offer a short (six weeks) discussion of Aristotle's *Poetics* in June and early July, to be led by Dave Palmeter.

The group will use the new Oxford World's Classics translation of *Poetics*, by Anthony Kenney, and will begin June 4 with a discussion of Plato's theory of drama and poetry, with which Aristotle disagreed. It will conclude with defenses of poetry by Sir Philip Sidney and Percy Bysshe Shelley, and an application of Aristotle to detective stories by Dorothy L. Sayers, author of the Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries.

Between Plato at the beginning and Sidney, Shelly, and Sayers at the end, the group will spend four weeks on this short, but important, work by one of the most powerful thinkers of all time -- the first work on dramatic and literary theory in the Western intellectual tradition.

The discussion method will follow that used by Sue Willens: once a week, Dave will post online a comment on the week's reading and some questions. Over the course of the ensuing week, participants will post their own comments and reply to the comments of others. The process will be repeated weekly:

- June 4 Excerpts from Plato's Republic.
- June 11 Poetics: The Various Kinds of Poetry
- June 18 Poetics: The Nature of Tragedy
- June 25 Poetics: Excellence in Tragedy
- July 2 Poetics: Epic
- July 9 Excerpts from the writings of Sidney, Shelley, and Sayers.

All of the readings are contained in the Oxford World's Classics volume. For information on how to join the discussion, contact Tony Long at olli@american.edu or 202-895-4860.

Cool Poems for Hot Days!

Yes, there's still room for you in this free poetry workshop! For the 3rd summer in a row, new and longtime OLLI poets will meet to read and to write poetry. We'll read selected poems from Billy Collins' 2010 Poets Laureate Anthology, and we'll write and share our original poems. To RSVP (or for more information), contact Ginny Finch at ginnyvne@yahoo.com or 202-686-0053.

WHEN: alternate Tuesdays, 1:30-3, beginning June 10.

WHERE: 2939 Van Ness St. NW, #1221 (the Van Ness East building). Metro-accessible, plenty of parking.

OLLI Players

SUMMER PLAYHOUSE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUvXw8cWDi4>



It's almost summertime and OLLI Players (former, future, and undecided) start to think about getting together again to read plays aloud. This is an informal group, open to new members, that will meet on Tuesday afternoons, beginning June 24 but will probably switch to Wednesdays in August.

This summer, we're going to use Agatha Christie, "The Mousetrap and Other Plays". Amazon has it for about \$16 and you can order it from Politics and Prose. There are electronic versions of the book but unless you have a 10 inch or larger e-book reader, you should probably get the paperback as given the number of stage directions, a small screen is hard to read.

Ground rules: let us know if you're coming (so we know when everyone's arrived and can start). If you go away on a fun trip, you will be expected to bring back a souvenir treat for us when you return. Attendance other than those two rules is strictly voluntary: come when you can and don't when you can't.

Please email Carol Light at clightdc@hotmail.com if you would like to be on the mailing list.

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