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Where Curiosity Never Retires



OLLI NEWS — January 13, 2023

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Holiday Closure

The OLLI office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 16 and will re-open the following day.

February & Spring Registration is OPEN!

February Shorts

The **February Shorts lottery has been extended to Tuesday, January 17** in order to give members more time to register. The February Shorts will be held for two weeks: January 30–February 3 and February 6–10. Each Short course runs for 2–5 days during one of the two weeks. **Your course selections do not have to be all within the same week.** You may register for up to three courses for the \$100 fee. Once you receive your class assignment letter, you may add a fourth course by logging into your account on the OLLI website. **Make sure to register before the February Shorts lottery on Tuesday, January 17.** [View classes and register.](#)

Spring Semester

The Spring Semester is February 27–May 5. Courses meet for a varying length of time (see each study group for the number of weeks). The \$300 membership fee allows you to sign up for three courses before the lottery. After the lottery, when you have received your class assignment letter, you can add a **fourth study group** by logging into your account. **Make sure to register before the Spring Semester lottery on Tuesday, February 14.** [View classes and register.](#)

February & Spring Catalog

The February Shorts & spring catalog is in the mail! Look for your copy in your mailbox. In the meantime, [view a digital PDF of the catalog.](#)

February Shorts Books

Most February Shorts books are available through [Politics and Prose](#) bookstore at 5015 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008. Politics and Prose offers OLLI members a 10% discount on books for study groups. Below is a list of February Shorts books that are either not available at Politics & Prose or are available without discount.

Not available

955: *American Furniture: 1650 to the Present*

981: *Plato: Complete Works*

Available without discount

971: *Subversives: Antislavery Community in Washington, DC., 1828-1865*

980: *The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness*

You can also buy books and help support Black-owned bookstores in the District, Maryland, and Virginia, including the following stores. Many offer online ordering and shipping.

- In DC: [Loyalty Bookstore](#), [Mahogany Books](#), [Sankofa](#), and [Solid State Books](#)
- In Maryland: [Black Stone Bookstore & Cultural Center](#), [Everyone's Place](#), and [Wisdom Book Center](#)
- In Virginia: [Books and Crannies](#), [Harambee Books & Artworks](#), [House of Consciousness](#), [Positive Vibes](#), and [Urban Moon Books](#)

Books also can be ordered online or purchased at other book stores. The following are some online suggestions for purchasing books, in alphabetical order: [AbeBooks.com](#), [AddAll.com](#), [Alibris.com](#),

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [BookOutlet.com](https://www.BookOutlet.com), [BookFinder.com](https://www.BookFinder.com), [eBay.com](https://www.eBay.com), and [Powells.com](https://www.Powells.com).

Help Us Spread the Word About OLLI

Share OLLI with your friends and family. Now is the time to tell your friends and family, near and far, that we invite them to join the OLLI experience this February and spring. OLLI at American University is one of 125 OLLIs around the country. Each is unique in course content and delivery, but all are dedicated to lifelong learning in their communities. Whether your friends explore our program or an OLLI near them, they will be in for a treat by taking an OLLI class.

Are you on a neighborhood or senior center listserv in DC or Maryland? We are looking for volunteers to post about February and spring registration at OLLI on their local listservs. Please contact the OLLI office at olli@american.edu for more information.

Next Week's Lectures



Changes in Congressional Life and Politics

Thomas Petri

Tuesday, January 17

10:30 AM

Online

US Representative Tom Petri represented Wisconsin's 6th Congressional District for 18 terms until his retirement in 2015. He was a senior member of both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Known for his innovative and creative solutions to government problems, Rep. Petri pursued legislative initiatives in several areas, including student loan reform, the federal highway program, cost-sharing for federal water projects, tax and welfare reform, and health care reform. In addition to his legislative work, Rep. Petri served at various times in his career as the Chairman of the US House of Representatives-British Parliament exchange, the House French Caucus, and the House German Caucus, and was an active participant in US House-Japanese Diet discussions. In appreciation of his efforts, in Nov. 2014, Japanese Emperor Akihito conferred on Rep. Petri honorary membership in the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver level, and in early 2015, Queen Elizabeth II made Petri and honorary Officer of the British Empire.

Petri is from Marinette, Wisconsin, and received undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University. He was clerk to United States Judge James Doyle of the Western District of Wisconsin in 1965. Petri served in Somalia as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1966-1967, and then in the White

House focusing on anti-drug efforts. A lawyer in private practice in Wisconsin, Petri also served in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1973-1979.



The Aral Sea: Environment, Society, and State Power in Central Asia

Sarah Cameron

Thursday, January 19

10:30 AM

Online

Sarah Cameron is an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, College Park. At present, she is at work on a book-length project, from which this talk draws, examining the transformation of Central Asia's Aral Sea and its environs over the course of the 20th century. In 2022, Dr. Cameron was named an Andrew Carnegie Fellow, and funds from the Carnegie Foundation will support her research on the Aral Sea. Additionally, she is the author of *The Hungry Steppe: Famine, Violence, and the Making of Soviet Kazakhstan* (Cornell University Press, 2018), which examines one of the most heinous crimes of the Stalinist regime, the Kazakh famine of the 1930s. The book won numerous awards in the United States. It also provoked intense discussion in Kazakhstan where the famine remains a largely forbidden topic, in part due to Kazakhstan's close relationship with Russia. Dr. Cameron received her PhD in history from Yale University.

No registration is required for next week's online lectures. The Zoom link will be emailed to all those subscribed to the OLLI newsletter the morning of each.

OLLI does not endorse any of the viewpoints expressed by the speakers in its series.

We thank the Lecture Committee and all those who suggested and contacted speakers:
John Aldock, Ellen Babby, Joe Belden, Helen Blank, Ed Cohen, Lesley Diaz (Staff Liaison), Judy Havemann, Jeanne Kent, Lynn Lewis, Mark Nadel (Chair), Irv Nathan, Diane Renfroe, and Delbert Spurlock

February Shorts Study Group Rep Meeting

OLLI will be having a **meeting for February Shorts SGRs on Friday, January 27 at 10:00 AM, online via Zoom**. This meeting will explain the SGR duties in detail and be an opportunity to ask questions. Those who have served as SGR previously are also strongly encouraged to attend, since SGR duties have evolved to now include three different class formats.

A meeting reminder and Zoom link will be emailed to SGRs once they're identified for the February Shorts. If you have any questions, please e-mail the office at olli@american.edu.

Virtual Tour Available Online

A recording of the most recent virtual tour, **The Heart of DC - Part 5** presented by Tammy Belden on Wednesday, January 11th, is now available on the OLLI website, olli-dc.org, under the **Lectures/Events** tab. Click on [Special Events Recordings](#) and go to the bottom of the page to see the **Virtual Tours**.

Staff Working Remotely

OLLI staff will continue to work remotely until Friday, January 20. **The best way to reach us through then is via email at olli@american.edu.**

AU Events

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

The museum is currently closed for installations and will reopen Saturday, February 4. [View more information here.](#)

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY 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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