

HELPFUL LINKS

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



Where Curiosity Never Retires



OLLI NEWS — January 6, 2023

Table of Contents

- In Memoriam: Thomas Carroll
 - Spring & February Registration is OPEN!
 - February & Spring Catalog
 - Help Us Spread the Word About OLLI
-
- February Shorts Study Group Rep Meeting
 - January Lecture Series
 - Virtual Tour: The Heart of DC-Part 5
 - We're Almost There...
 - Staff Working Remotely

In Memoriam: Thomas Carroll

It is with deep sadness that we inform you that Thomas Carroll passed away in late December. Thomas was a long-time OLLI member, and he will be greatly missed. We extend our condolences to Charlotte, his family, and to all who counted Thomas as a friend.

Spring & February Registration is OPEN!

The February Shorts and Spring Semester registration is open! Once again, our Study Group Leaders and Curriculum Committee have outdone themselves to bring you an exciting set of courses, dozens of which are new.

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.](#)

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.

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 are strongly encouraged to attend as well, since SGR duties have evolved since Covid to include three different class formats and some slightly modified duties.

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.

January Lecture Series

LOCATION

January lectures will be held **online via Zoom, with the exception of the January 10 lecture, which will be hybrid (both online and in-person)**. Those who wish to attend that lecture in-person should register via the link below and go to the Spring Valley Building, 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor. **Lectures are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30-11:30 AM, with the exception of the January 12 lecture, which is at 2:00-3:00 PM.**

RESERVATIONS

Reservations are ONLY required to attend the January 10 hybrid lecture in-person. If you plan to attend online, no reservation is required. See the Jan. 10 lecture below for the registration link. **Reservations are not required for any online lectures** (including the January 10 hybrid lecture *if attending online*). We will send the Zoom link the morning of each lecture to those subscribed to the newsletter.

LECTURES



Thinking about Law, Prosecutors and Politics

Chuck Rosenberg

Tuesday, January 10

10:30 AM

Hybrid (both online and in-person; registration required to attend in-person)

[Register to attend in-person](#)

In-person location: Spring Valley Building, 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor.

Chuck Rosenberg held numerous senior positions in the United States Department of Justice, including as the United States Attorney—the chief law enforcement officer—in both the Eastern District of Virginia and the Southern District of Texas.

He served as the senior counselor for national security to one Director of the FBI, and as the Chief of Staff to another. He also served as counselor to the Attorney General of the United States, and as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Attorney General of the United States. In his most recent position in the Justice Department, Chuck was the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. He was appointed to senior law enforcement positions under both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama.

Chuck currently works as a legal analyst for MSNBC and NBC, where he frequently comments on the most important and complex national security, law enforcement, and legal issues. Chuck also serves as a senior counsel for a Washington, DC law firm, and as an adjunct professor at Georgetown

University, where he teaches National Security Law and Policy at the School of Foreign Service. Chuck also hosts the acclaimed podcast, *The Oath*, with more than ten million downloads, and counting. He is also the author of numerous articles for the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Time*, and NBC, among other outlets.



Facing Unpleasant Truths in History, and How to Teach Them

Abby Weiss

Thursday, January 12

2:00 PM

Online

Abby Weiss is the Smith Family Senior Vice President and Chief Officer of Program & Thought Leadership at Facing History & Ourselves. Abby arrived at Facing History in 2020 and oversees all aspects of the organization's program, including delivery, content development, evaluation, and thought leadership. As part of Facing History's Executive Team, she is responsible for developing and leading all organizational strategic and operational programmatic initiatives.

Abby's career in education has been driven by her passion for supporting the learning and development of all students—particularly those who have been least well served by our education system—from early education through post-secondary. Prior to joining Facing History, Abby served as the Chief Program Officer at Jumpstart, a national early education organization. Earlier, she led Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's Child and Youth Readiness Cabinet, bringing together state agency and school district leadership to design and implement interventions focused on improving outcomes for children and their families in under-served communities. More information about Facing History:

<https://www.facinghistory.org>



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 an 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.

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, Helen Blank, Ed Cohen, Lesley Diaz (Staff Liaison), Judy Havemann, Jeanne

Virtual Tour: The Heart of DC–Part 5

Wednesday, January 11

10:00–11:00 AM

Online via Zoom

In our fifth session on the capital's "historic center," Tammy Belden will take you on a virtual walk down one of our country's most historic streets. Lined with historic buildings, Pennsylvania Avenue has played a colorful and significant role in the nation's history. From inaugural and military parades to marches for civil rights, women, and the KKK, the Avenue has been at various times a microcosm of our society at large.

Join us as we explore both the history of the street as well as its many historic sites and buildings. For example, do you know the sculpture on the Avenue that is dedicated to helping Americans avoid the evils of alcohol? There are lots of things to discover.

No registration is required. The Zoom link will be emailed to all those subscribed to the OLLI newsletter the morning of the tour.

We're Almost There...



Help OLLI Fill the Last Bookshelf of our Annual Campaign!

Thanks to you, we have filled the 4th fundraising bookshelf of our Annual Campaign and we are so close to reaching our goal of \$100,000 and filling our final bookshelf. We greatly appreciate the generosity of all those members who have donated already. If you haven't yet donated to OLLI at AU's Annual Campaign, please consider doing so. Your donation will help us close the gap in our operating budget and minimize the withdrawals from our savings. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to a healthy 2023, where curiosity never retires. [Give a gift today!](#)

Staff Working Remotely

Staff Working Remotely

OLLI staff will continue to work remotely until Friday, January 20. **If you need to reach us between now and the new year, we ask that you please contact us 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.*

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

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