

HELPFUL LINKS

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UPDATES

IN MEMORIAM: MIKE DANIELS

It is with deep sadness that we inform you that Mike Daniels, a longtime OLLI member, passed away on Saturday, December 17. We extend our condolences to his family and to all who counted Mike as a friend. Read his obituary [here](#).

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The OLLI office will be **closed Monday, December 25–Tuesday, December 26** and **Monday, January 1** for the holidays. We wish all our members a festive and enjoyable holiday season!

STAFF WORKING REMOTELY

The OLLI staff is currently working remotely. We can still be reached by email at olli@american.edu or by phone at 202-895-4860.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

We are excited to announce that 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. There are 98 spring courses and 36 February Shorts!

OLLI is continuing to offer classes in three formats: **in-person**, **online**, and **hybrid**. The format for each course is listed online and in the print catalog. When registering for a hybrid class, you must select whether you want to attend in-person (hybrid in-person) or online (hybrid online). List both formats if the class is a priority and you're willing to attend either format. You can prioritize up to 12 classes for the lottery. As always, the lottery will then assign you to up to three classes.

FEBRUARY SHORTS

The February Shorts will be held for two weeks: February 5–9 and 12–16. Each Short course runs for 2–5 days during one of the two weeks. You may register for up to three courses in the lottery for the \$100 fee. **Your courses do not have to be all within the same week. After the lottery, once you receive your class assignment letter, you can add additional courses—as many open courses as fit in your schedule—by logging into your OLLI account!** To take more courses, you can even stack several within the same time slot. For example, if you have a course scheduled for February 5–7 (Mon–Wed) at 11:45 AM, you can add another that meets February 8–9 (Thu–Fri), also at 11:45 AM, instead of having to choose between the two.

Make sure to register before the February Shorts lottery on Thursday, January 18.

[VIEW CLASSES AND REGISTER](#)

SPRING SEMESTER

The spring semester is March 4–May 10. Courses meet for a varying length of time (see each study group for the number of weeks). The membership fee remains \$300 and hasn't been increased since fall 2017; the fee allows you to sign up for three courses in 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 lottery on Tuesday, February 20.

[VIEW CLASSES AND REGISTER](#)

FEBRUARY AND SPRING CATALOG

The February Shorts & Spring Catalog has been mailed! Look for your copy in early January.

GIVE THE GIFT OF OLLI

This holiday season, give your friend or family member a gift certificate for an academic session at OLLI. Contact the office at olli@american.edu or 202-895-4860 for more information.



The image is a promotional graphic for a gift voucher. On the left, the word "GIFT" is in a blue banner above "VOUCHER" in large grey letters, with "FOR:" below. The OLLI logo (OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE) and "at American University" are in the top right. A circular seal on the right says "\$ _____ TOWARDS THE _____ ACADEMIC SESSION". A blue bar at the bottom contains the website, email, and phone number.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITITES

VOLUNTEER FROM HOME: SGR COORDINATOR

Are you interested in volunteering with OLLI from the comfort of your own home? Become an SGR Coordinator! SGR Coordinators recruit Study Group Representatives (SGRs) for each class in a given academic session to ensure the classes run smoothly. Some Study Group Leaders select their own SGRs, but for the rest, SGR Coordinators are provided a list of members who have expressed interest in being SGR for each study group, or the attendance list if there are no volunteers. Coordinators then call members before classes start in order to find an SGR for each study group. For the upcoming academic sessions, SGR Coordinators will begin making calls after the lottery. This role operates on a continuous basis, so if you are unavailable for February

or spring, but are interested in fall, please let us know! If interested, fill out the volunteer form using the link below (you must be logged into your account). Contact the office at olli@american.edu with any further questions.

[VOLUNTEER](#)

EVENTS



MOZART CELEBRATION

January 26 | 1:30 PM

Room A in the Spring Valley Building

Join City Choir's Artistic Director Erin Freeman and singers from the 2023 Wolf Trap Opera Studio for a Mozart celebration! Erin Freeman will take you behind the scenes of the monumental C minor mass, an epic opera-meets-chorus masterpiece. You'll also be treated to a few Mozart arias performed by the soloists for City Choir's January performance - rising stars of the opera world trained most recently at Wolf Trap Opera, and hand selected by Erin Freeman and Arianna Zukerman. There will be a Q and A after the performances, followed by a reception. **Registration is required.**

[REGISTER](#)

LECTURES

JANUARY LECTURE SERIES

We are excited to announce the speakers for our upcoming January lecture series! We extend our gratitude to Joe Belden and the Lecture Committee for putting together another phenomenal series.

LOCATION

January lectures will be held **online via Zoom Webinar** from **10:00-11:00 AM**.

RESERVATIONS

Reservations are not required for any online lectures We will send the Zoom link the morning of each lecture to those subscribed to the newsletter.



LECTURES

Craig Gilbert, A Look at America's Ultimate Swing-state: The Presidential Battleground of Wisconsin

Monday, January 8 | 10:00-11:00 AM

Online

Craig Gilbert is a political columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and a Lubar Fellow at the Marquette Law School. Gilbert served as the Journal Sentinel's Washington Bureau Chief for more than 20 years. He has covered every presidential campaign since 1988 and chronicled Wisconsin's role as the nation's most enduring electoral battleground. Gilbert has written extensively about the battle for the swing states of the industrial Midwest, the region's shifting political map, its increasingly polarized political culture, and the deepening urban-rural divide. His work has been recognized by Editor & Publisher, the National Press Foundation, the National Headliner Awards, the Milwaukee Press Club, and the Columbia Journalism Review, which called him the "most political science friendly reporter in America."

Gilbert was a Knight-Wallace fellow at the University of Michigan and a writer in residence at the University of Wisconsin. He is a past and current fellow at the Marquette Law School's Lubar Center, where he works with pollster Charles Franklin, analyzing polling and voting trends. Gilbert previously worked for the Miami Herald, the Kingston (NY) Daily Freeman, and was a speechwriter for New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He has a BA in history from Yale University.



Dee Davis, Rural America and the 2024 Election

Thursday, January 11 | 10:00-11:00 AM

Online

Dee Davis is the founder and president of the Center for Rural Strategies. Dee has helped design and lead national public information campaigns on topics as diverse as commercial television programming and federal banking policy. Dee began his media career in 1973 as a trainee at Appalshop, an arts and cultural center devoted to exploring Appalachian life and social issues in Whitesburg, Kentucky.

Dee is on the board of the Kentucky Historical Society. He is a member of the Rural Advisory Committee of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Fund for Innovative Television, and Feral Arts of Brisbane, Australia. He is also a member of the Institute for Rural Journalism's national advisory board. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Institute for Work and the Economy. Dee is a member of the American Academy of

Arts and Sciences commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship. Dee is also the former Chair of the board of directors of Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation.



Keith Wiley, Demographic Change, Economic Distress, and Uncertain Times: A Closer Look at the Data
Tuesday, January 16 | 10:00–11:00 AM

Online

Keith Wiley, Senior Research Associate at the Housing Assistance Council, is a main author of Taking Stock, HAC’s report on poverty in the US. He has worked extensively with many datasets in an effort to better understand where, when, and how development patterns occur. As part of these efforts, Keith has authored a recent article in the Journal of Housing Policy Debate, entitled “The Role of the CDBG Program in Rural America” and has written several reports analyzing rural lending activities. He also coauthored both a book chapter in The Oxford Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning and a “Resources for the Future” discussion paper exploring residential infill. Keith holds a master’s degree in public policy from American University and a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.



Maureen Corrigan, Banned in the USA

Friday, January 19 | 10:00–11:00 AM

Online

Maureen Corrigan is The Nicky and Jamie Grant Distinguished Professor of the Practice in Literary Criticism at Georgetown University. She is an associate editor of and contributor to Mystery and Suspense Writers (Scribner) and the winner of the 1999 Edgar Award for Criticism, presented by the Mystery Writers of America. In 2019, Corrigan was awarded the Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing by the National Book Critics Circle.

Corrigan served as a juror for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. She is the author of So We Read On: How the Great Gatsby Came To Be and Why It Endures (Little, Brown, 2014). Corrigan’s literary memoir, Leave Me Alone, I’m Reading! was published in 2005. Corrigan is also a reviewer and columnist for National Public Radio and The Washington Post. In addition to serving on the advisory panel of The American Heritage Dictionary, she has chaired the Mystery and Suspense judges’ panel of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize.

OLLI HAPPENINGS



HOLIDAY PARTY

Last week we held our first holiday party since the onset of Covid-19. Members gathered on the 6th floor of the Spring Valley Building to mingle and enjoy some wine, passed hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie, and other refreshments. Gathering with friends and making new ones under sparkling lights and to the tune of festive music was the perfect way to end our fall semester. We extend many thanks to Jeff Porter, Lisa Olson, and the Social Committee for all their work in organizing this wonderful event. We wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season.





THESPIANS OF ALL STRIPES!

A small coterie of OLLI playwrights who took an OLLI playwrighting course are planning to produce a reading of their works this spring. They are looking for actors of all levels of skill and background to perform. In other words, a desire to be an actor in these readings will trump any lack of experience. Play readings do not require memorizing lines or learning stage directions. You would be committing to a few rehearsals and a performance. The dates would be arranged with your schedules in mind. If you are interested please send emails to Joe Oppenheimer (joeaoppenheimer@gmail.com) and Chuck Jones (cjones1860@gmail.com).

MISCELLANEOUS

THE OLMSTEAD NETWORK

Anne Neal "Dede" Petri of the Olmsted Network recently spoke to OLLI in our fall lecture series. If you would like to learn more about Frederick Law Olmsted and his parks, you can subscribe to their [monthly newsletter](#). The Olmsted Network website, www.olmsted.org, has information on upcoming webinars and events, research, and YouTube programs. As we heard in the lecture, there are thousands of Olmsted landscapes around the country. Many of them are threatened by development, inadequate resources, and climate change. The Olmsted Network is the one organization in the country dedicated to safeguarding and advocating for these special places by fostering park conservancies and digitizing groundbreaking scholarship.

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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