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Where Curiosity Never Retires



OLLI NEWS — March 17, 2023

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!



No pinches for the OLLI staff this year! Happy St. Patrick's Day from all of us in the office. Wishing you a fun and festive day if you celebrate.

Board of Directors Election

After inviting recommendations from the OLLI membership, this year’s Nominating Committee (Diana Jamieson, Chair; Penny Hansen; Lisa Leinberger; Mark Nadel; and Victor Rezmovic) has developed a list of four candidates to fill the four positions on the Board of Directors becoming vacant in June 2023. The Committee believes these candidates have amply demonstrated the skills, experience, background, and energy needed for OLLI at AU leadership. The list, which the Board has approved, will appear on the ballot for the election that is scheduled for April. Please note that an asterisk by a candidate's name indicates they're a current Board member. The Board-approved candidates are:



JOHN BARGERON*

An OLLI member since 2014, John Barger is a former Chair of the Board and current Coordinator of the Welcomer program. He previously served as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2019 Board elections and has served as SGR for multiple classes over the years. John’s professional experience includes more than 35 years with the US State Department, specializing in the Middle East and transnational organized crime. He has served in Jerusalem, Cairo, Tel Aviv, and Managua, and as Chief of Civilian Observers with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), the peacekeeping force between Israel and Egypt based in the Sinai. Other foreign affairs experience includes a two-year detail to the Pentagon to work on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Before joining the State Department, John taught modern European history at Cedar Crest College. He has degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (graduate) and Emory University (undergraduate).



DAVID FLAXMAN

David Flaxman is a summa cum laude graduate of the Honors College of Michigan State University and has a master's degree in mathematical logic from Johns Hopkins University. In a long successful career in the Information Technology industry, he invented software, built companies, and consulted numerous large enterprises. He now is engaged primarily as a musician, performing with several distinguished choral groups in DC and serves as president for two of them. He speaks French and Italian and currently teaches music and Italian for OLLI.



DAVE HENSLER*

Dave Hensler is the current Chair of the OLLI Board, the former Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, and a member of the Finance Committee. Dave assisted OLLI in getting a substantial increase in its annual payment from the AU Endowment and in improving the investment return on the Friends of OLLI Fund. In Dave's view, the Board's principal responsibilities should be to continue the good work that OLLI's recent leadership has done in strengthening the OLLI staff, rationalizing the budget process, and increasing the classroom space available to OLLI, as well as to prepare OLLI to meet the unexpected challenges that will inevitably occur. Dave is currently a Trustee and the Board Chair-elect of the Foundation of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Dave is also the outside General Counsel, on a pro bono basis, for the largest Native American scholarship fund. He is a Senior Counsel at Hogan Lovells US LLP.



JEFF PORTER

Jeff Porter joined OLLI in the Spring of 2017. He initially was a class member of Current Events and Public Policy before becoming a Study Group Leader for the class. Jeff became the Chairman of the Social Committee in the Spring of 2019. He has arranged a variety of events for OLLI. Among these are happy hours, coffee breaks, and SGL luncheons. He was also very instrumental in helping to coordinate OLLI's 40th Anniversary celebration. Prior to the pandemic, he arranged several gatherings in the OLLI Social Space where members could interact with one another. Jeff started his career teaching English in the Milwaukee Public Schools. After eight years in 1978 he moved to the DC area and operated lobby shops in area office buildings. Since then he served as a manager at the former Sutton Place Gourmet and most recently as the Director of Catering at Whole Foods P St. Jeff is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin where he earned a BA in political science and then a MA in curriculum and instruction. Jeff is most enthusiastic about OLLI when members can satisfy their thirst for knowledge while at the same time engage in social activities and make new friends.

The OLLI Annual Meeting will take place on Friday, April 21 and candidates will give brief remarks to introduce themselves. Online balloting will begin after the Annual Meeting and election results will be announced on May 12. Members interested in being placed on the ballot as at-large candidates can do so by filing a self-nomination petition supported by the signatures of 10 OLLI members. Candidates meeting the 10-member signature requirement will automatically appear on the ballot. The deadline for submitting at-large petitions is Friday, April 7. As part of the petition, candidates should provide a photo (a smartphone photo will be fine) and a brief bio of no more than 100 words. Interested candidates should contact the OLLI office for the petition form and other details.

Volunteer in the OLLI Office

The OLLI office is in need of some volunteers to come in on **Monday afternoons, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Friday mornings** to assist with phone calls and emails, as well as other administrative tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please email olli@american.edu with your availability.



Today's Lecture: ONLINE

LOCATION

Today's lecture is now being held online via Zoom. No registration is required.



Ralph Begleiter, *Adventures of a Global Journalist*

March 17

1:30-2:30 PM

Online via Zoom

Click to join lecture: [Zoom link](#)

What was it like to be present at the creation of a network with global viewership of 24-hour news? Based on his two decades as a foreign correspondent for CNN, Mr. Begleiter will share some of his experiences covering major world crises as well as the winding down of the Cold War.

Next Week's Lecture

The March 31 lecture is online and the remainder are in-person. **In-person spring lectures are being in Room A on the first floor at OLLI: 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Lectures are on Fridays from 1:30-2:30 PM. Registration is required to attend in-person lectures.**

Registration opens at 10:00 AM on the Friday prior to each lecture and is via an event on the [OLLI website events calendar](#) or the direct link below.



Natwar Gandhi, *How an Immigrant Helped Save the Nation's Capital from Financial Ruin*

March 24

1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

[Register](#)

How did Natwar Gandhi, an impoverished immigrant with seven dollars in his pocket make his way to the United States, remake his life, and ultimately, become the chief financial officer of Washington, DC, playing a key role in transforming the nation's capital from a near-bankrupt municipality into a financially healthy major American city?

Natwar M. Gandhi retired in January 2014 after serving 13 years as independent Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the District of Columbia, where he was responsible for Washington, DC's finances,

including its approximately \$12 billion in annual operating and capital funds. As the independent CFO, Gandhi managed the District's financial operations, including more than 1,200 staff members. Gandhi also sat on the boards of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority and Destination DC.

During Gandhi's tenure as CFO, the District was transformed from a deficit-plagued, junk bond rated jurisdiction with \$550 million negative fund balance into a financially healthy municipality with a string of balanced budgets and a fund balance of \$1.5 billion at the end of 2013. Gandhi secured multiple rating upgrades for its general obligation bonds, which are presently rated in AA and AAA categories.

During 2014–2016, Gandhi was Distinguished Policy Fellow at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. Presently, he consults with the World Bank in its efforts to create financially sustainable cities around the world. He is also a member of Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University and a member of Boards of Honorary Trustees at Shakespeare Theater Company as well as Arena Stage. He belongs to the Metropolitan Club of Washington, DC.

His recently published memoir, *Still the Promised Land* is the fascinating and deeply personal story of how an impoverished immigrant made his way to the new world, remade his life, and ultimately, became the Chief Financial Officer of Washington.

Serendipity! Talk

Dan Sherman, *The Incomparable Katherine Hepburn*

Tuesday, March 21

3:30-5:00 PM

Online via Zoom

Born to a wealthy family, Hepburn shot to early fame, winning the first of her four Oscars (a record) when only 26 years old, though she soon became “box office poison.” She quickly brought about her own comeback with *The Philadelphia Story* and became an icon of screen in both dramatic and comedic roles. This webinar will include many performance excerpts (including her single stage musical!) and discuss her screen persona as an independent woman, her legacy, and her life, including her relationship with Spencer Tracy.

Dan Sherman has taught several courses on musical theater and film musicals at OLLI, along with many other venues in the area. He holds his PhD in economics from Cornell and recently retired as Managing Director at the American Institutes for Research.

No registration is required. The Zoom link will be e-mailed to all those subscribed to the OLLI newsletter the morning of the talk.

Talk & Tour: Enslaved Washington DC

Edward Ingebretsen, *Talk & Tour: Enslaved Washington DC (1790-2021)*

Part One - Virtual Talk

Thursday, March 30

3:30-4:30 PM

Online via Zoom

This event is in two parts. Part one, this virtual talk, led by Ed Ingebretsen, examines the history of enslavement in the original Federal City and the fact that the District of Columbia was designed as an enclave of slaver power in 1790. Ed explores geography, policy, and unacknowledged historical sites, providing an archeology of memory that has been eliminated from view.

In part two on Saturday, April 22, Ed will lead an in-person, "walking pilgrimage" in DC, where he shares the history of the district and its founding as a slave market. [Register to attend the tour.](#)

Edward Ingebretsen holds advanced degrees in theology, philosophy and education, and a PhD from Duke University in American literature and culture. He has lived in DC since he began teaching at Georgetown University in 1986 where he is currently Professor Emeritus.

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

Member Appreciation Week

Next week, **March 20-24**, will be **Member Appreciation Week** at OLLI! Each day, we will have refreshments and games (prize awarded to game winner - see times below) in the **Social Space** located on the 5th floor:

Monday (Mar 20)

9:00 AM - Morning breakfast treats

9:15 AM - Spelling Bee game starts

Tuesday (Mar 21)

11:15 AM - 1:45 PM - Afternoon dessert treats

11:20 AM - Scattergories game starts

Wednesday (Mar 22)

11:15 AM - 1:45 PM - Afternoon dessert treats

1:20 PM - Spelling Bee game starts

Thursday (Mar 23)

9:00 AM - Morning breakfast treats

9:15 AM - Scattergories game starts

Friday (Mar 24)

12:30 PM - Sandwich wraps available, prior to the weekly lecture

12:30 PM - Sudoku game starts

Enter a chance to win a copy of Brad Bickford's latest book, *How to Live Healthier & Happier & Longer in Retirement: 8 Essential Pillars*. You will find information about this in the Social Space throughout the week.

Fall Classes are in the Digital Library

A selection of our Fall 2022 classes is now available for viewing in the Digital Library. Please note that in order to incorporate closed captions, we did not edit down the videos. To view the start of the class, fast forward approximately 20 minutes as you would when viewing recordings during an

academic session. To enable closed captioning, click the “CC” icon to the far right of the play button and select “English (auto-generated) CC.”

The Digital Library is now located on the website under "Classes." Go to the [Digital Library](#).

Spring 2023 Member Directory

The Spring 2023 Member Directory is now available for download from the [OLLI website](#). Members must be logged into the website to access the directory. Click on the "Documents" tab, and then "[For Members Only](#)."

Volunteer With The Young Center

The Young Center is looking for Spanish speaking individuals to serve as Volunteer Child Advocates for detained immigrant children in the DC area. At the Young Center we train volunteers to act as Volunteer Child Advocates for detained immigrant children. Volunteers meet regularly with a child in detention to form a connection and get to know their story. Volunteers then collaborate directly with attorneys and social workers to determine the best interests of the children and to advocate for those interests. [View the flyer](#). You can find more information about the Young Center’s work [here](#).

AU Events

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Spring Schedule

February 4-May 21

Friday-Sunday

11:00 AM-4:00 PM

Reservations are not required for your visit. Admission is always free. Regarding groups and any questions about your visit, email museum@american.edu or visit their [website](#).

Gail Rebhan: *About Time*

Presented by the Alper Initiative for Washington Art

February 4-May 21

[Register](#)

For better and worse, nothing stays still. DC artist Gail Rebhan (b. 1953) knows that well and this, her first museum retrospective, explores her many different ways over four decades of using and reconfiguring the time-slicing medium of photography to reflect on macro-and-micro-dynamics of interactions inside families—her own and that of other immigrants—on the centuries of change in diverse areas of the nation’s capital, and on the marks of time revealed on her body (along with periodic attempts to fight it) from young adult, to mother of two sons, then caregiver of an aging father, to the present as she continues making art and living while facing the start of her seventh decade. OLLI is excited to be a co-sponsor for this exhibit. There are several Gallery Talks for which you can register.

AMERICAN UNIVERISTY ARBORETUM

Guided Tour of the American University Arboretum

Monday, April 3

7:00 PM

[RSVP](#)

Did you know that the American University campus is an accredited Arboretum with over 4,000 trees and more than 500 different species and varieties of woody plants? Please join us for a guided walking tour, under the light of the moon, of the AU Arboretum and Gardens. Stroll with us through campus and learn about the history of the university along with learning about the trees and gardens and the sustainable features throughout campus.

Please arrive in front of the School of International Service (SIS) building at 7:00 PM for refreshments and check-in. Parking is free after 5:00 PM in our AU garages. The closest garage is the School of International Service garage. The entrance is at the corner of Nebraska Ave NW and New Mexico Ave NW. This is a family friendly event and pets are welcome.

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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