

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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FEBRUARY 16, 2024

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UPDATES

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BOB COE

Bob Coe's memorial service will take place on **Saturday, March 2 at 2:00 PM** at River Road Unitarian Universalist Church (6301 River Rd, Bethesda, MD). View the invitation and Bob's obituary [here](#).

To attend the service remotely, use this link: <https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/93331286263>

STAFF WORKING REMOTELY

The OLLI staff will be working remotely on Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day. We will be reachable by phone and email, and will return to the office on Tuesday, February 20.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

SHORTS FEEDBACK AND SGL GIFTS

Feedback

Please take a few minutes to submit feedback about each of your Shorts courses. The feedback form is available on the OLLI website under "Classes" and then "Shorts." Here is a direct link: [FEEDBACK FORM](#)

Your feedback is an important part of being a member of a learning community. Whether the feedback praises an SGL for a job well done and/or offers constructive suggestions that might help the SGL, it is a demonstration of your support for our SGLs and OLLI program and is greatly appreciated. ***As always, if you have suggestions for improvement, please be mindful of stating them in a constructive and respectful manner.***

SGL Gifts

All of OLLI's study group leaders are volunteers. Each academic session, members are invited to give them a gift in honor of all of the work they do to prepare and deliver their courses. This is completely voluntary. [SGL gifts](#) can be made on the OLLI website under "Give" and then "SGL Gifts." ***You must log into your account on the website to see the gift form.*** SGL gifts can also be made by mailing or dropping off a check made payable to **OLLI at AU** with the course number(s) listed in the memo field. The OLLI office will collect all gifts and write a check to each SGL.

Feedback and SGL gifts will be accepted through **Friday, February 23.**

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, once 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](#)

SPRING BOOKS

Most February Shorts books are available through Politics and Prose book store 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 not available at Politics and Prose, are available only as pay-to-order, or are available without discount.

200 - Neuroscience of Conflict

Making Peace with Conflict: Using Neuroscience to Ease Difficult Relationships:

Pay-to-order and no discount

391 - Repercussions From Recent Financial Crises: A Global View

Emerging Domestic Markets: **No discount**

480 - The Ups and Downs of Weather

The Ups and Downs of Weather: An Introduction to Meteorology: **Not Available**

589 - American Colonial and Federal Furniture: 1650-1840

American Furniture: 1650 to the Present: **Pay-to-Order and no discount**

601 - Étude de la Culture Quotidienne Française

La France au quotidien: 5e edition: **Not available**

606 - Intermediate German: Building Vocabulary

German Short Stories for Beginners: **Pay-to-Order and no discount**

Practice Makes Perfect German Vocabulary (Practice Makes Perfect Series) 2nd Edition: **Pay-to-order and no discount**

655 - Greek Tragedy

The book *The Greek Plays* has been ordered for the class and includes all the plays listed except "Mourning Becomes Electra" (For this play, the book *Three Plays* has been ordered).

715 - Jewish History: Patriarchs to Israel

A Short History of the Jewish People: **No discount**

724 - Manifest Destiny and US Expansion

Manifest Destiny and American Territorial Expansion: **No discount**

739 - China's Early History

The Open Empire: A History of China to 1800: **No discount**

806 - Medical Qigong

The Healing Art of Qi Gong: Ancient Wisdom from a Modern Master: **Not available**

860 - Plotinus, Eriugena, and David of Dinant

The Essential Plotinus (Hackett Classics): **Not available**

Periphyseon on the Division of Nature: **Pay-to-order and No discount**

861 - Spinoza

Spinoza: Complete Works: **Not available**

CATALOG CHANGES

Below are changes made to classes after the catalog went to print. Class changes are also available on the [spring catalog changes](#) page of the OLLI website and are updated as they occur.

- **391 *Repercussions From Recent Financial Crises: A Global View:*** This study group has been CANCELLED.
- **533 *Music, Media, and the Counterculture 1950-1980:*** This study group will now take place on Wednesdays, beginning March 6.
- **619 *Le Polar: Le Genre Policier Francais:*** This study group will now begin on March 15.
- **681 *What's New in the Essay:*** This study group will now have *The Best American Essays 2023* by Vivian Gornick with ISBN: 978-0063288843 as a required reading.
- **685 *August Wilson's American Century Cycle:*** This study group will now meet on Fridays at 11:45.
- **690 *Everybody's Protest Novel:*** This study group has been CANCELLED.
- **707 *The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte:*** This study group has been CANCELLED.
- **788 *Fateful Documents:*** This study group will now meet IN-PERSON.

SPRING SGR MEETING

OLLI will be having a meeting for spring SGRs on Friday, March 1, at 11:00 AM, online via Zoom. This meeting will explain the SGR duties in detail and be an opportunity to ask questions.

A meeting reminder and Zoom link will be sent to SGRs once they're identified for the spring semester. Please plan to attend if you have not served as an SGR. If you have any questions, please email the office at olli@american.edu.



TEACH A SUMMER COURSE!

If you are passionate about a topic, we invite you to share your talents by leading an OLLI at AU course (or study group, as we call them). **We are currently accepting June and July study group proposals** from within the OLLI membership, the Washington, DC community, and thanks to Zoom, from those outside of the area, as well. **With the shorter sessions, the summer is a great time to get started at OLLI and "dip your toe" in the teaching waters!**

To propose a summer study group, please click one of the links below. You will need to log in with your OLLI username/password or create an account if it's your first time.

June June 3-28 (classes meet once a week for 4 weeks)

Proposal form: <https://www.olli-dc.org/studygroupproposalform>

July Shorts: July 8-12 (classes meet 2-5 times that week)

Proposal form: <https://olli-dc.org/shortsproposalform>

Submission deadline for both sessions: Sunday, April 7.

Know someone who may like to teach? Forward him or her this information or let us know by emailing olli@american.edu.

For more information about teaching at OLLI, or to connect with a Curriculum Committee member, please visit [Become an Instructor](#) on the OLLI website or contact the office at olli@american.edu or 202-895-4860. **Know someone who may like to teach? Forward him or her this information or let us know.**

REMINDER

UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Have you moved recently? Changed your email address? Have a new emergency contact? Be sure to [update your OLLI account](#). Log onto our [website](#) (or, if you're already logged on, click on your name highlighted at the top of the page) and then click **"Edit Account"** on the left-hand side.

LECTURES

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

We are excited to announce the speakers for our upcoming lecture series!

Reservations are required to attend in-person lectures. Registration will open at 10:00 AM on the Friday prior to the lecture. Registration is via an event on the

[OLLI website events calendar](#). The direct registration link will be included in the Friday newsletter the week prior to each lecture. Lectures are free and open to the public, but you must have an OLLI account to register. If you do not have one, you can create an account when going to register. Each registrant may reserve one seat. Your name must be on the list of registrants to enter the lecture and you must be in your seat five minutes before the lecture starts to guarantee your seat.

Spring lectures will be held in-person at OLLI: 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor. **Lectures are on Fridays from 1:30-2:30 PM.**

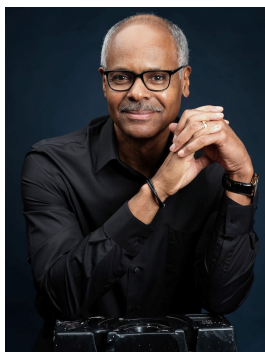


Charles Kamasaki, *Immigration Reform, Might Past Be Prologue?*

March 8 | 1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Charles Kamasaki is Senior Advisor to UnidosUS, formerly the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights organization. Previously NCLR's Executive Vice President, he managed NCLR's research, policy analysis, and advocacy activity over three decades.

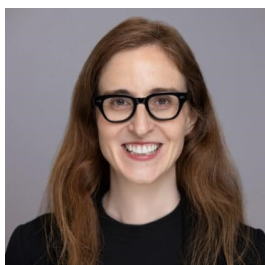


Jeffrey Blount, *Mr. Jimmy From Around the Way and the Impact of Literary Activism*

March 15 | 1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Jeffrey Blount is the award-winning author of three novels. His most recent book, *The Emancipation of Evan Walls*, was the winner of the 2020 National Indie Excellence Award for African American fiction. He is also an Emmy award-winning television director and a 2016 inductee to the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame.



Hayley Finn, *The New Jewish Play*

March 22 | 1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Hayley Finn (she/her/hers) is an accomplished director and producer with over 25 years of experience in professional theatre. Prior to joining Theater J, she was the Associate Artistic Director at the Playwrights' Center. She also served as a Co-Artistic Director of Red Eye Theater from 2019-2023 where she co-produced and curated the New Works 4 Weeks Festival—and she co-led the fundraising and development of a new 150-seat black box theater in Minneapolis.

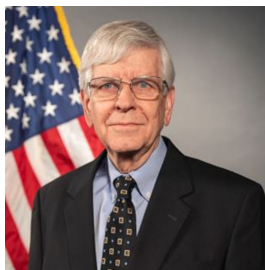


Steve Livengood, *The Temple of Democracy: American History Gets Acted Out in the US Capitol*

March 29 | 1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Steve Livengood is the Public Historian and Chief Guide of the US Capitol Historical Society, a private not-for-profit organization chartered by the US Congress to develop enhanced experiences related to the history of the Capitol Building and the institutions that have been housed there. His specialty is interpreting the building with historical background on the meaning of activities and artworks as the icons of representative democracy, seeing familiar things from a deeper perspective.



Michael Conley, *Honoring Service and Sacrifice: The Story of the American Battle Monuments Commission*

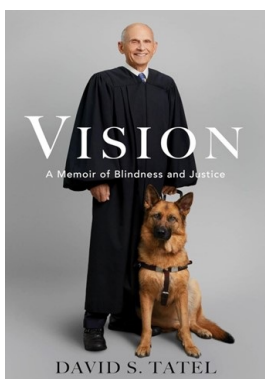
April 5 | 1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Michael Conley is the executive director for management for the American Battle Monuments Commission. He served previously as the Commission's director of public affairs and before that as director of communications and associate executive director of the Commission's National World War II Memorial project.

APRIL 12

No lecture due to OLLI's Annual Meeting from 1:30-2:30 PM. More information will be provided closer to the date.



Judge David Tatel, *Vision*

April 19 | 1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

David S. Tatel served on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit from 1994 to 2023. After graduating from the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago law school he served as the founding director of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and then director of the National Committee. He headed the Office for Civil Rights of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare during the Carter administration and then founded and led the

education practice at Hogan Lovells, where he is now Senior Counsel.



Bryan Cheeseboro, *The Civil War Defenses of Washington: 1861*

April 26 | 1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

With Washington, DC—The National Capital—situated below the Mason-Dixon Line and surrounded on all sides by slaveholding states, the prospects for Union defeat were very real. Many people are aware of the Civil War Defenses of Washington (CWDW) and that it was composed of 68 forts and 93 batteries. But this was the strength of the defenses in 1865, at the end of the war. How did it all begin? Which were the first forts built? Which was the first fort? And was a Confederate invasion of Washington, DC possible? This presentation will look at these and more questions.



Mitzi Perdue, *A View of Ukraine You Haven't Heard*

May 3 | 1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Harvard graduate Mitzi is a writer, a former rice farmer, and a past president of the 40,000-member American Agri-Women. In the 1990s and early 2000s her column, *The Environment and You*, was the most widely syndicated environmental column in the US. Recently she's written a biography of Mark Victor Hansen, the Chicken Soup for the Soul guy. The book, *Relentless*, has won numerous awards for the Best Biography of 2022 and was an Amazon #1 best seller. Royalties for *Relentless* will go for humanitarian relief in Ukraine.

[VIEW MORE INFORMATION](#)

VOLUNTEER

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

As the spring semester approaches, we are looking for office volunteers to come in and assist with administrative tasks as needed. We are looking for people to come in between February 26 and March 8. **If you are interested in volunteering, please email olli@american.edu with your availability.**

SGR COORDINATOR

Are you interested in volunteering with OLLI from the comfort of your own home? Become an SGR Coordinator for the spring semester! 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 spring, but are interested in summer or fall, please let us know! Sign up online https://www.lli-dc.org/get_involved (you must be logged into your account) or contact the office at lli@american.edu with any further questions.

EVENTS



JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER TOUR

In-Person Tour

Saturday, March 2 | 11:30 AM-12:45 PM

Registration Required

Meeting Point: Tour Desk located on Level A at 11:15 AM

OLLI is pleased to offer a group tour at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. Don't miss this intriguing tour of the original Edward Durell Stone building, featuring exclusive access to performance venues, private reception lounges, and special artworks. Our tour ends at the new performance exhibition Arts and Ideals: President John F. Kennedy, which explores how the arts infused and informed the Kennedy presidency through video, photos, artifacts, and the latest in digital technology.

REGISTER

AU EVENTS

AU ARTS

Visiting Artists Series: Sydney Vernon

February 22 | 6:30 PM

Katzen Arts Center, Room 201

[RSVP on Eventbrite](#)

Sydney Vernon superimposes personal family photographs and folklore with both real and imagined histories, quietly critiquing the global depiction of Black life and bodies. Combining elements of painting, drawing, and collage, Vernon's multilayered works blend memory and history into new forms, at once imagining a poetic contextualization and a demand for recontextualization, coalescing symbols

and ornaments with the spirit of her figures.

Urinetown, The Musical

February 22-23 at 8:00 PM | February 24 at 2:00 and 8:00 PM

Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre

Tickets: Free for AU students with ID, \$10 for alumni, staff, faculty, children (under 18), and senior citizens (55 and older), \$15 general public.

It's a privilege to pee. *Urinetown* tells the story of a future fascist society, run by corporate greed, that demands that the public pay to pee. The musical, though fun and tongue-in-cheek, is a warning to us all to not take our freedoms for granted.

AU CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES

Trauma and Recovery: From Fiction to Life

2024 Israeli Writers Series: Conversation with Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

Monday, February 19 | 7:00-8:30 PM

American University: Abramson Family Founders Room, School of International Service Building

RSVP

Please join American University's Meltzer Schwartzberg Center for Israel Studies for an exciting evening in conversation with award-winning Israeli author Ayelet Gundar-Goshen and AU Professor Lauren Strauss. Her new novel, *The Wolf Hunt*, is an exploration of the fault lines in a community, a school, and a family, as an Israeli mother in the Silicon Valley begins to suspect her teenage son of committing a terrible hate crime as a revenge for a terror attack on a local synagogue. Please join us for the conversation, followed by dessert reception with book sale/signing! Co-sponsored by Jewish Studies Program and Department of Literature.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University

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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