

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



American University

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UPDATES

2024–2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

At the OLLI Annual Meeting, to be held on Friday, April 12, at 1:30, the Board-approved slate of four candidates who were announced in our special announcement on Monday will give brief remarks to introduce themselves. Following the Annual Meeting, the election process will begin when online ballots for the four upcoming vacancies on the OLLI Board of Directors will be sent via email to all OLLI members. Voting will last two weeks, and election results will be announced May 3.

Additionally, OLLI has a process by which any member may be nominated if a petition with at least ten signatures from active OLLI members is presented to the

Nominating and Elections Committee. Once the Nominating and Elections Committee receives the completed petition, along with a brief bio of no more than 100 words, and a photo, it will consider and review such nominations for Board approval through April 5, 2024. Interested candidates should contact the OLLI office for the petition form and other details.

The slate of candidates is listed below for your convenience. Please note that an asterisk by a candidate's name indicates they're a current Board member.



ELLEN BABBY

Through a deep commitment to lifelong learning, Ellen began taking classes a number of years ago. These classes have so greatly enriched her life. Ellen has been keenly interested in expanding her engagement with OLLI and fully enjoys her work on the Lecture Committee, as well as a “Welcomer” to new members. She has held leadership positions in various higher education nonprofit organizations, with the core of her career as Vice President at the American Council on Education. For the past several years, Ellen has served as an independent nonprofit management consultant specializing in strategic planning, organizational development, governance, and advancement. A native of Montreal and author of a book and several articles, Ellen holds a PhD in French literature from Yale University.



STUART FRISCH*

Stuart joined OLLI in 2013 and has served as a member and chair of the Personnel Committee, chair of the Scholarships Committee, and as a member of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committees. He regularly serves as a study group representative and as a welcomer for new members. In Stuart's youth, he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. He spent most of his legal career in government—10 years at the EEOC and 25 years at the Department of Justice—where he was a senior executive. Stuart is a

graduate of Brooklyn College and Harvard Law School.



LISA HARPER

OLLI has transformed Lisa's retirement. When she started teaching at OLLI in 2019, she soon realized: This is her community. She found smart, energetic, well-traveled, multilingual seniors who, like herself, wanted to continue a journey of learning and friendship. Lisa has enjoyed teaching courses in French and English on such diverse topics as French songs, Josephine Baker, Moroccan history, and Ethiopian crosses. Lisa's skillset includes strategic thinking, mission orientation, and the desire to exceed expectations, acquired as she rose to senior management positions at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) over a 45-year career.



LESLEY RUBINGER

OLLI has had an enormous impact on Lesley's life—in three states! When she moved to the Berkshires in 2010, not knowing anyone, it was her OLLI classes that paved the way to new friendships and becoming a board member and editor of the catalog. In 2020, having retired (after a long career in membership and development) to Virginia and in a lockdown, OLLI at George Mason on Zoom was right there to stimulate brain waves and stave off the isolation. In 2021, Lesley joined OLLI at AU and was immediately enthralled with the number and variety of classes. She also serves as catalog editor. In her spare time, Lesley serves as a tour guide at the Kennedy Center and the Holocaust Museum (and chair of the museum's Advisory Board).

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

PRELIMINARY FEEDBACK

The preliminary feedback form is now available on the OLLI website under "Classes" and then "Semesters/Minis." Here is the direct link: [FEEDBACK FORM](#)

Paper copies of the feedback form are also available in each class folder (just ask your SGR for one) as well as outside the OLLI office. If you choose to complete a paper form, just drop it off at the office when you're finished. Feedback is completely anonymous.

Preliminary feedback will be accepted through **Friday, March 29.**



TEACH A COURSE!

We are currently accepting June, July, and fall study group proposals from within the OLLI membership, the Washington, DC community, and thanks to Zoom, from those outside of the area, as well.

To propose a 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 Minis: June 3–28 (classes meet once a week for 4 weeks)

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

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

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

Fall: Sept. 23–Dec. 6 (classes meet once a week for 7-10 weeks)

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

Deadline for summer sessions: Sunday, April 7

Deadline for the fall: Sunday, May 5

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 oli@american.edu or 202-895-4860. **Know someone who may like to teach? Forward him or her this information or let us know!**

LECTURES

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

link below or the event on the [OLLI website events calendar](#). 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 are being 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.**



TODAY'S LECTURE

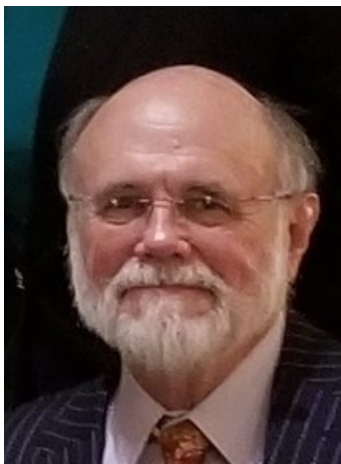
Hayley Finn, *The New Jewish Play*

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.

REGISTER



NEXT WEEK'S LECTURE

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.

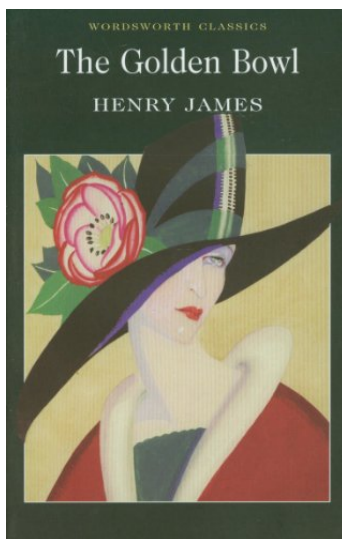
REGISTER

EVENTS

CALLING ALL BAKED GOODS!

Break out your baking pans or feel free to head to the bakery! We are soliciting members to bring in baked goods—homemade or store bought—to share with fellow members in the OLLI Social Space the week of March 25–29 during the 30-minute breaks between classes! We hope that if you have a class on one of those days, you will want to share some baked love! Sign up at the bulletin board in the Social Space.

Please bring your baked items to the Social Space on the 5th floor when you arrive for class. We have some trays for use, but it would be best to have the items pre-cut and ready to be consumed. Napkins will be provided.



SERENDIPITY TALK

Why Read or (Reread) Henry James's Most Difficult Novel, *The Golden Bowl*?

Tuesday, April 9 | 9:45–10:45 AM

In-Person at OLLI: Room 100 on the first floor (next to Room A)

No Registration is required to attend

This brief talk will try to arouse interest in this not easily-read novel of James's "late" period, by exploring the strange, even perverse, relationship of a wealthy father and daughter who both marry but who never succeed in separating themselves from one another, thus all but creating the conditions for their own betrayal—the adultery—at the heart of the novel.

Michael W. Farrell is a former chair of the English department at Georgetown Preparatory School and

an appellate judge for 30 years. He is a lifelong reader of Henry James.



HISTORIAN'S TOUR OF THE US CAPITOL BUILDING (SPACE LIMITED)

In-Person Tour

Saturday, April 20 | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Registration Required | Tickets \$40 per person | No Refunds

OLLI is offering a special private tour of the US Capitol beyond the public's standard tour. This unique experience will be guided by Steven Livengood, Chief Guide and Public Historian of the United States Capitol Historical Society.

As we tour the Capitol, Steve will explain what has happened there—and is happening there—from the viewpoint of the history of human civilization, not just current politics. How was the importance of George Washington's resignation as General in 1783 acted out in Cambodia within the last few years? What action in the Capitol building transformed the meaning of the Statue of Freedom on top of the dome while it was being cast? This is only a sample of what we will hear. This tour is limited to 15 people.

MORE INFO AND REGISTER

OLLI HAPPENINGS

CURTAIN UP FOR OLLI PLAYWRIGHTS!

A year ago, OLLI SGL Joe Oppenheimer led an inspiring class on playwriting, and four intrepid playwrights-to-be took up the challenge. The result was not only some amazing one-act scripts, but starting in April, a series of readings of these works! As part of OLLI's commitment to building community through its courses, as well as its social and cultural events, these readings will give the playwrights the audience they crave, and OLLI members can see world premieres and offer feedback after each reading. Social time will follow. Mark your calendar for the dates below. Each

play reading will take place **at 12:30 PM in Room 100 (on the first floor next to Room A):**

- [April 3: "Scenes from a Homecoming" by Chuck Jones](#)
- [April 10: "Gutter Day" by Sean Finnell](#)
- [April 17: "How Can I Be...?" by Jeanne Kent](#)
- [April 24: "The Writers' Group" by Joe Oppenheimer](#)

OLLI Disclaimer: OLLI does not endorse any of the viewpoints expressed by the playwrights in this series.

AU EVENTS

SINE INSTITUTE OF POLICY & POLITICS

2024 Sine Fellow Manisha Singh, *The Innovation Economy and New Technologies*

Tuesday, March 26 at 3:00 PM

Kerwin Hall 301

[Register](#)

Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs Manisha Singh and former DocuSign Senior Executive Hiro Rodriguez will discuss how new technology from AI to robotics is impacting the economy and workforce at home and abroad.

2024 Sine Institute Distinguished Lecturer Jim Sciutto, *The Return of Great Powers: Russia, China, and the Next World War*

Thursday, March 28 at 6:00 PM

SIS Founders Room

[Register](#)

Seasoned CNN reporter, anchor, and Chief National Security Analyst Jim Sciutto will come to AU to discuss his new book, *The Return of Great Powers: Russia, China, and the Next World War*. Reception to follow.

CENTER FOR CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES AND KENNEDY POLITICAL UNION

Peter Baker and Susan B. Glasser, *Thurber Dialogues on Democracy*

Tuesday, April 9 at 6:00 PM

Malsi Doyle & Forman Theater in McKinley Hall

[Register](#)

Livestream the event [here](#)

[Peter Baker](#) is the chief White House correspondent for The New York Times covering President Biden and his administration. Baker joined The Times in 2008 after 20 years at The Washington Post and has covered the past five presidents, starting in 1996 with Bill Clinton and continuing through George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald J. Trump and now Joe Biden. He is the author of seven books, most recently “The Divider: Trump in the White House, 2017-2021,” with his wife, Susan B. Glasser.

[Susan B. Glasser](#) is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, where she writes a weekly column on life in Washington. Glasser has served as the top editor of several Washington publications, including Politico, where she founded the award-winning *Politico Magazine*, and *Foreign Policy*, which won three National Magazine Awards, among other honors, during her tenure as editor in chief. Before that, she worked for a decade at the *Washington Post*, where she was the editor of Outlook and national news. Her most recent book is “[The Divider](#),” a best-selling history of Donald Trump in the White House, which she co-wrote with her husband, Peter Baker.

AU Professor and Senior Editor and Correspondent on the Washington Desk for NPR News Ron Elving will moderate this event. A reception will be held after the event.

This conversation is part of the Thurber Dialogues on Democracy, an ongoing series of conversations with prominent thought leaders about how to strengthen democracy in the US and abroad, which began in early 2021 with a generous gift from Distinguished University Emeritus Professor Jim Thurber and his wife Claudia Thurber.

AU ARTS

Introducing Micere Githae Mugo—*Making Life Sing*

Film screening and discussion presented by director Ndirangu Wachanga

Hall of Science, Room 113

Tuesday, March 26 | 2:30–4:00 PM

Moderated by Sybil Roberts Williams and Nancy Jo Snider

RSVP

View a documentary about the Kenyan playwright, author, activist, instructor, activist, and poet Micere Githae Mugo (1942-2023). Mugo's life provides a window into the major historical, academic, cultural, and political developments in East Africa, as well as in the study of humanities, particularly in Kenya. Her creative work has created a space to imagine Africa's history and herstory, which she believes was repressed by colonialism, and continues to be suppressed by neo-colonialism, imperialism, and patriarchy.

Ndirangu Wachanga is a professor of media studies and information science at the University of Wisconsin. Wachanga's work is about memory. He is a globally renowned documentarist and archivist.

Sponsored by the African American and the African Diaspora Studies Program, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the AU Honors Program.

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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Lesley Diaz, *Director of Academic Programming*
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Sara Beatty, *Programs and Projects Coordinator*
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