

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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January 24, 2024

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ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

THE FEBRUARY SHORTS LOTTERY IS TODAY!

The February Shorts lottery will occur at 10:00 AM today, **but there will still be time to register or add another class!** The February Shorts will be held for two weeks: February 3-7 and 10-14. Each short course runs for 2-5 days during one of the two weeks. 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. The deadline to add/drop classes and request a refund is **Friday, January 31**.

[VIEW CLASSES/REGISTER](#)

FEBRUARY 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.

9708 *Vintage Roots: Uncovering Spain's History Through Wine:*

iVino!: The History and Identity of Spanish Wine: **Pay-to-order & no discount**

The Timeline History of the English Language: **Not available**

SPRING SEMESTER

The spring semester is March 3-May 9. Courses meet for a varying length of time (see each study group for the number of weeks). The membership fee is \$330 and 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 Wednesday, February 19.

[VIEW CLASSES/REGISTER](#)

NEW MEMBER 10% DISCOUNT

Are you new to OLLI or thinking about coming back after taking a break? Use the button below to register for the spring semester. A 10% discount will be applied for those who are new or who have not taken classes in five or more years. Click "**Choose Lottery Selections**" and then log in or create an account. You will see the discount when paying for the semester.

[NEW MEMBER DISCOUNT](#)

CATALOG CHANGES

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

February Shorts Class Changes:

9202 *Cartooning: The Lost Art*: will now be held February 10, 12-14 (will not meet February 11)

9204 *Can We Talk...About Your Health Care Wishes?*: CANCELLED

9601 *Auf Deutsch, Bitte*: CANCELLED

9605 *African American Poetry: Selected Topics*: CANCELLED

9607 *The Man Who Came to Dinner*: CANCELLED

ANNOUNCING A NEW JOINT VENTURE

We are always looking for opportunities to expand our program, which is why we are excited to announce a new pilot program with the OLLI at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

The pilot program will make available Larry Gondelman's "Nothing Under the Sun" course from AU and Jeffrey Swoger's "A Night at the Movies," from CMU to OLLI members from both programs. Members will register for the courses through their respective programs, at no additional cost, as part of the typical registration process.

Larry and Jeffrey already teach at AU and CMU and are deeply familiar with both programs. We are thankful to them both for starting the pilot for us.

The CMU course, "A Night at the Movies" is open for registration online and will be included in our spring lottery. Below is the course description:

551: A Night At The Movies: International Films

Jeffrey Swoger

Six Tuesdays (3:15-4:45 PM)

March 11

Online

This course focuses on films by filmmakers from outside our borders. By doing so, we gain insight into other cultures, other points of view, and unique storytelling. This course will feature films from a 1931 thriller to a touching film from 2018. They are directed by artists from Germany, Greece, Spain, Mexico, Portugal, and Italy. Class members will view the assigned movies on their own prior to class and be prepared to discuss in class. Participation in these discussions should include all members.

LECTURES

NEXT WEEK'S LECTURES

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.



Giovanni Russonello, *Jazz in DC*

Tuesday, January 28 | 10:30-11:30 AM

Online via Zoom

Giovanni Russonello is a writer, editor, educator and organizer working at the intersection of music, politics and US history. Gio is presently writing a book about Gil Scott-Heron and Washington, DC, in the 1970s and 1980s, under contract to Metropolitan/Macmillan. A 2024 DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities fellow, he also edits capitalbop.com, an award-winning web magazine covering the DC jazz scene, which he co-founded in 2010. The only person to have served as both a politics columnist and a music critic for the New York Times, he has also contributed reporting, reviews and essays to the Atlantic, the Washington Post, NPR Music, JazzTimes, Politico and others.



Richard Bell, *The Reverse Underground Railroad: Slavery and Kidnapping in Pre-Civil War America*

Thursday, January 30 | 10:00-11:00 AM

Online via Zoom

Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of the book *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home* which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of

Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. He serves as a Trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

OLLI EVENTS



TODAY'S *CARMEN* CELEBRATION

1:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI in Room A

Registration Required

Join City Choir's Artistic Director Erin Freeman and singers from the 2024 Wolf Trap Opera Studio for a celebration of one of the most popular operas of all time: Bizet's *Carmen*.

Erin Freeman will share what makes *Carmen* so memorable, from its stunning melodies to its feisty rhythms, from its beautiful French language to its dramatic historical context. You will be treated to musical performances by soloists for City Choir's January performances – 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.

REGISTER

SERENDIPITY TALK

Peter Meyers, *Confessions of a Criminal Defense Lawyer*

Thursday, February 6 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Online via Zoom

Peter Meyers will share his challenges in representing indigent and marginalized defendants charged with serious crimes—murder, assault, rape, robbery, and drug offenses. Peter will share his experiences in communicating with clients and their families and the strategies that he adopts to defend them against a

criminal justice system that is stacked against them. His talk will also address, and invite discussion, of key policy questions: Police stops are safeguards adequate to prevent bias? Does our sentencing policy make sense—as applied to juvenile and adult offenders? Do we have the right approach to possession and or distribution of illegal drugs? What is the typical experience of a DC prisoner and are inmates being rehabilitated?

Peter Meyers brings both real-world and academic experience to this topic. For over 30 years, he has taught at George Washington University Law School where he formerly headed the criminal justice appeals clinic and currently teaches a course on the regulation of illegal drugs. Peter has been practicing as a criminal defense attorney in the District of Columbia for over 40 years.

SERENDIPITY TALK

Dan Moskowitz, *Music That Mirrors the Spirit of Its Times: The Past Nine Decades*

Thursday, February 13 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Online via Zoom

On what will be his 90th birthday, Dan Moskowitz will lead us on a journey of popular songs from the past decades that embodied some of the zeitgeist of their era, from Rudy Vallee's Depression era "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime" to Beyoncé's 2016 "Formation."

For more than ten years, magazine writer Dan Moskowitz has led courses and delivered Serendipity talks at OLLI at AU about many aspects of American popular music.

No registration is required for either Serendipity. The Zoom link will be emailed to all those subscribed to the OLLI newsletter the morning of the talks. If you do not receive the newsletter and would like to attend, please join the email list at https://www.ollie-dc.org/join_email_list.



SPRING WINE AND CHEESE WELCOMER

Wednesday, February 12

3:30-5:00 PM

Spring Valley Café, 6th Floor

\$15/person | Registration Required | No Refunds

OLLI Facilities Tour at 3:15 PM

Join us for an in-person spring semester wine and cheese welcome event! Various wines and hors

d'oeuvres will be served. Attendance is limited to the first 120 members that register. The deadline for registrations is Friday, February 7, at 4:00 PM.

New to OLLI? A tour of the OLLI facilities will be given at 3:15 PM on the fifth floor by the elevators.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)



WAMU AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO TOUR

In-Person Tour

Wednesday, February 26 | 10:30 AM–12:00 PM

4401 Connecticut Ave NW

Registration Required

Join us for a private tour of [WAMU](#). Our visit promises to be a fun and educational behind-the-scenes look at how a public radio station operates, as well as its relationship to National Public Radio (NPR). The tour will include a visit to WAMU's radio production studios, performance spaces, operations and work areas.

We're scheduled to observe Jenn White's program [1A](#) in progress, produced by WAMU. 1A's name is inspired by the First Amendment, and the program explores a wide variety of national and international issues involving policy, politics, and technology as well as subjects such as art and theater, pop culture, and humor. The program is hosted by Jenn White and is distributed nationally by NPR.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)



ALLIANCE FOR NEW MUSIC-THEATRE

Live & About Winter/Spring 2025 Season

Alliance for New Music-Theatre has put together another eclectic program for the 2025 winter/spring season with outings to five different productions in the DC area. Participants will enjoy the experience of attending performances as a group, expanding their appetites and critical appreciation for new forms, and supporting a variety of large and smaller music-theatre companies in our nation's capital. After each show, they will have the opportunity to deepen their experience by engaging with other group members in an informal gathering and discussion to understand the deeper intentions of the show's creators.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)

AU EVENTS

"Balancing Faith and Duty: The Ultra-Orthodox Draft and Challenges in the Israeli Military"



A Discussion with Niva Golan-Nadir

Research Associate, Center for Policy Research, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at SUNY, Albany and Research Fellow at the Institute for Liberty and Responsibility at Reichman University, Israel

 MELTZER SCHWARTZBERG
CENTER for ISRAEL STUDIES
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

Balancing Faith and Duty: The Ultra-Orthodox Draft and Challenges in the Israeli Military with Dr. Niva Golan-Nadir

Thursday, January 30 | 1:00 PM

Online via Zoom | Registration Required

Please join American University's Meltzer Schwartzberg Center for Israel Studies for a virtual discussion with Dr. Niva Golan-Nadir on the issue of Israel's ultra-orthodox (or "Haredi") draft. The discussion will examine the evolution of the

Ben-Gurion compromise, which initially exempted 400 Haredi men from the draft and now applies to 80,000, as well as how the current war has catalyzed civic protests against this arrangement.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)

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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