

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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February 28, 2024

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UPDATES

2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This year's Nominating Committee (Mark Nadel, Chair; JoAnne Friedenthal; Larry Gondelman; Lesley Rubinger; and Lynn Lewis) have developed a list of four candidates to fill the four positions on the Board of Directors becoming vacant in June 2025. 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.

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 March 7, 2025. Interested candidates should contact the OLLI office for the petition form and other details.

Please note that an asterisk by a candidate's name indicates they're a current Board member. The Board-approved candidates are:



Joe Belden

Joe Belden has taught OLLI study groups since 2017 and chaired the Lecture Committee since 2023. He has served on a number of nonprofit boards and writes regularly for *The Daily Yonder* and other publications. From 1989 to 2015 he was Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Assistance Council (www.ruralhome.org). He also worked at USDA, on Capitol Hill, and for other nonprofits. Belden is the lead author of books on affordable housing and food issues. He is a graduate of the University of Texas Austin and the Baylor University Law School.



Edward Feinberg

Ed Feinberg joined OLLI in 2017. He has been a member of the OLLI Nominating Committee and is currently serving on the Curriculum Committee and the strategic planning committee. Ed has taught the course, *Survivors and Descendants of the Holocaust: A Search for Meaning*, for the past four fall semesters. He was the founding director of what evolved into a large, multidisciplinary early intervention program that serves young children with disabilities and their families. A psychologist by training, Ed has served on many nonprofit boards and has been an adjunct instructor at George Washington University and Johns Hopkins

University. He is a docent at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Penny Hansen*

Penny Hansen has been a member of OLLI since 2011 and an ongoing study group leader since 2014. Her ever-evolving course, *Today's Supreme Court: A Class for Citizens*, has been presented 21 times. In 2021, she added a new class, *Populism and the Presidency* to her OLLI efforts, and now serves as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Prior to retirement, she had a 30-year career at the Environmental Protection Agency, implementing the country's first recycling, hazardous waste, Superfund, acid rain, and environmental technology verification programs. She was educated at Skidmore College, Johns Hopkins University, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Her post-EPA life focused on consulting on environmental issues domestically and around the world, along with other volunteer work. She is a proud fourth generation Washingtonian and a passionate believer in an educated citizenry.



Diana Jamieson*

Diana has been an enthusiastic member of OLLI for 12 years and spreads the message that OLLI classes have enriched her life. She has often been a study group representative and has served on the Nominating Committee for two years, once as chair of the committee. She previously was a mental health professional in the field of clinical social work. Since retirement she has worked as a Hospice volunteer and continues to be a docent at a historic house in DC.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

Registration

There is still **time to register for the spring semester** (March 3–May 9) or add another class! You can see the status of each (open or closed) on the OLLI website. The membership fee (\$330 for the semester) allows you to sign up for three courses before the lottery. Now that the lottery has passed, you can add a fourth study group by logging into your account.

The deadline to add/drop classes and request a refund is March 14.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)

Spring Books

Most spring semester 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 courses. Below is a list of spring semester books that are not available at Politics and Prose, are available only as pay-to-order, or are available but without discount.

NOT Available

581 Profile of the Eternal City - *Rome Profile of a City*

601 Le Français par la Littérature - *La Civilisation*

678 Experience Poems and Pictures - *Experience Poems and Pictures*

682 Contemporary Jewish Short Stories in Context - *Three Floors Up*

739 China's 20th-Century Revolutions - *Revolution and its Past*

806 Medical Qigong - *Healing Art of Qigong*

860 & 861 Plato's Tragedy, Comedy, and Epic - *Plato*

Pay-to-order (and no discount)

200 The Neuroscience of Conflict - *Making Peace with Conflict*

550 Expressionism: A German Destiny - *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*

589 American 20th-Century Furniture: What's Hot, What's Not - *Both Books on American furniture*

600 Intermediate Italian - *Gioielli Caffè E Firenze*

740 Japan's "Modern" Century - *Modern History of Japan*

No Discount

724 Manifest Destiny and US Territorial Expansion - *Manifest Destiny*

733 The Coming of the Civil War - *Free Soil Free Labor*

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

Spring Catalog Changes

Below are spring 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.

113 *Shakespeare and Politics*: CANCELLED

201 *Theories of Consciousness*: CANCELLED

240 *Hearing Matters*: CANCELLED

476 *Practical Primary Care Medicine*: Will now meet for seven weeks

480 *The Ups and Downs of Weather*: CANCELLED

492 *The New Biology of Life*: CANCELLED

495 *How to Build a Nuclear Warhead (and Why You Should Probably Not)*: Now online

597 *Ballet to Broadway: The Influence of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo*: CANCELLED

599 *Color Theory and Practice*: Now starts Friday, March 21

675 *Time's Winged Chariot: Poetry About Growing Up and Growing Older*: CANCELLED

707 *The Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte: Part Two*: No longer being recorded

725 *Red Sea: Exploring the Waterway Uniting and Dividing Africa and the Middle East*: will now start on Wednesday, March 12

755 *The Holocaust in Film*: CANCELLED



Hearing Loops

All of the classrooms at OLLI have hearing loops installed. "Hearing loops" are state-of-the-art "Listening Assistive" technology. There are three main parts to a hearing loop: the wire that is installed around and across the room, a microphone, and a transceiver (which picks up and amplifies the sound from the microphone). The

system both amplifies the speaker's voice and suppresses background noise. We urge everyone who has hearing loss to take advantage of the hearing loops. The sound is remarkable. It's as if the person speaking is sitting right next to you.

Classroom Assignments

Click on the image below to view classroom information. The room assignments will also be on signs in each elevator lobby of the parking garage, in the main lobby on the first floor, and as you walk out of the elevator on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th floors.

1st Floor

- Room A

2nd Floor

- Room 201

4th Floor

- Room 401

5th Floor

- Rooms 1-6
- Social Space
- OLLI office

OLLI SPRING 2025 CLASS LOCATIONS

Room A: 1st Floor Room 201: 2nd floor Room 401: 4th floor Rooms 1-6 and OLLI office: 5th Floor

MONDAY 9:45 AM	TUESDAY 9:45 AM	WEDNESDAY 9:45 AM	THURSDAY 9:45 AM	FRIDAY 9:45 AM
<small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> 3 From Boom To Crash 3/3 4 Memoir Writing Workshop 3/3 5 How the World Became Modern 3/10 6 Meditation Class 3/3 MONDAY 11:45 AM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A Art Deco Architecture 3/3 1 Climate Change 3/3 2 The Manhattan Project 3/3 3 Understanding Families 3/3 4 Shakespeare on Film 3/3 5 Les Flics, Les Truands 3/3 6 Thurgood Marshall 3/3 MONDAY 1:45 PM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A Bach: Part II 3/3 1 War and Memory: War Film 3/3 4 Lecture et Conversation en Français 3/3 5 Primary Care Medicine 3/10 6 Water, Water (Isn't) Everywhere 3/3	<small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> 1 Poetry Craftshop (Section A) 3/4 2 The Neuroscience of Conflict 3/4 3 Elementary Logic 3/4 5 World of Charles Baudelaire 3/4 6 Introductory Oceanography 3/4 TUESDAY 11:45 AM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A Artists Always Paint Themselves 3/4 2 American 20th-Century Furniture 3/4 3 1955-1975 Years of Change 3/4 4 Pictures with Your Smart Phone 3/4 5 How to Live Healthier, Happier 3/4 6 Transforming the National Mall 3/4 201 Latin 3/4 TUESDAY 1:45 PM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A Math and Music 3/4 1 "Remember the Ladies" 3/4 3 Current Events & Public Policy II 3/4 5 Today's Supreme Court 3/4 6 Art and Words of Picture Books 3/4	<small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> 1 Animals in English Literature 3/12 2 Tricksters from Loki to Banksy 3/12 3 Current Events & Public Policy I 3/5 4 Writing Your Family History 3/5 5 The War Years 3/5 6 Financial Literacy 3/5 WEDNESDAY 11:45 AM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A Genealogy of Songs 3/5 1 Public Education 3/5 4 Poetry Craftshop (Section B) 3/5 5 Holocaust: Part 2 3/5 6 Le Français par la Littérature 3/5 WEDNESDAY 1:45 PM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A Expressionism: German Destiny 3/5 1 Intermediate Italian 3/5 3 Red Sea 3/12 5 Crime and Punishment 2025 3/12 6 Love, Death, and Shakespeare 3/5	<small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> 3 Theodore Roosevelt 3/6 5 Ibsen, Strindberg, Chekhov 3/6 THURSDAY 11:45 AM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A China's 20th-Century Revolutions 3/6 1 The "Double" in Dostoevsky's <i>The Double</i> and Virginia Woolf's <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> 3/6 3 Memorable Love Stories 3/6 4 Pictures with Your Smart Phone 3/6 6 Intermediate German 3/6 THURSDAY 1:45 PM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A Japan's "Modern" Century 3/6 3 The Impact of the Great War 3/6 4 Fiction Writers' Bootcamp 3/6 5 Manifest Destiny 3/6 6 How to Think Like a Programmer 3/6	<small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A The Ancient Mediterranean 3/7 1 Color Theory and Practice 3/21 3 Essential Tech Literacy 3/7 4 Medical Qigong 3/7 5 Plato's Tragedy, Comedy, and Epic 3/7 6 Civil War and Reconstruction 3/7 401 Jewish Short Stories 3/7 FRIDAY 11:45 AM <small>RM. STUDY GROUP</small> A Film Analysis 3/7 3 The Human Body 3/7 5 Plato's Rhetoric, Dialectic 3/7 6 Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte 3/7

LECTURES

Lectures are on Fridays from 1:30–2:30 PM in-person, in Room A. Registration is required for in-person lectures.

In accordance with AU's "Good Neighbor Policy," all members are required to park in the building's garage while attending OLLI.

PROPOSALS WANTED AND SPECIFIC TOPICS IN NEED

OLLI at AU is always looking for new class topics and Study Group Leaders to teach them. Below is a list of some of the top priorities. Do you or someone you

know have an interest in leading a study group about one of these topics?

1. Geography
2. Art History
3. Africa (different regions and their history)
4. Ancient Civilizations of the Americas (Mayan, Aztec, Inca, etc.)
5. Spanish (beginner level)

The shorter February Shorts and summer sessions (June Minis and July Shorts) are a great way to get started in teaching at OLLI. During the February and July Shorts, study groups meet 2-5 times during one week. During the June Minis, study groups meet once a week for four weeks. Alternatively, the regular semester is a good option for anyone wanting to delve into a topic in greater depth. OLLI offers an orientation for new SGLs before every session.

OLLI is currently accepting study group proposals for the [June Minis](#), [July Shorts](#), and the [fall semester](#). The submission deadline is **Sunday, April 6** for the summer and **Sunday, May 4** for the fall. Please let the office know at olli@american.edu if you or someone you know might be interested in teaching one of these topics, or another one.

LECTURES

NEXT WEEK'S LECTURE

Registration is required for in-person lectures. Registration is open via the direct link below or the event page on the [OLLI website events calendar](#). Each registrant may reserve up to two seats. Your name(s) 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. **All spring lectures will be held in-person at OLLI:** 4801 Massachusetts Ave NW, in room A on the first floor.



Debra Bruno, *New York's Enslaving Past—Memory and Historical Reckoning*

March 7 | 1:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI: Room A

Debra Bruno is a longtime Washington journalist and teacher. She has worked at *Moment Magazine*, *Legal Times*, and *Roll Call*. From 2011-2014, she was a freelance writer in Beijing, covering subjects as diverse as rowing in a dragon boat for the *Washington Post*, and about Chinese hutongs for *Atlantic's CityLab*. After returning from China,

she learned from a historian friend that if she had ancestors in New York's Hudson Valley, especially if they were Dutch, they were likely enslavers. She hadn't known about New York's 200 years of enslavement and was stunned to realize that her small hometown of Athens held so many hidden stories. That story is now a book—*A Hudson Valley Reckoning: Discovering the Forgotten History of Slaveholding in my Dutch American Family*.

REGISTER

OLLI EVENTS

SPRING WINE AND CHEESE WELCOMER

Thanks for making our Spring Wine and Cheese Welcomer this past Wednesday a success! About 90 OLLI members, both old and new, came together for conversation, delicious food and beverages, and to create community. What a way to kick off the semester!



The Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Tour

Saturday, March 22

1:30-3:00 PM

575 3rd Street NW

Registration Required | Tickets \$25/person |

No Refunds

Join us on a docent led tour of the [Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum](#), which explores the Jewish experience in the national capital region and inspires visitors to connect,

reflect, and act—connect personally and collectively, reflect on the relevance of the past to today, and act on behalf of their communities and values. With its experimental spirit, the Museum connects the past to the present through thought-provoking exhibitions, dynamic programming, and creative public experiences.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)

OLLI HAPPENINGS

HAPPY HOURS

A happy hour will take place each Friday after the lecture, at about 2:45 PM, at Pizza Paradiso across the street from OLLI. The first happy hour will take place next **Friday, March 7**. There is space for up to 25 people. Each person pays their own way.

OLLI LUNCH CLUB

OLLI Lunch Club will hold its first luncheon of 2025 on **Tuesday, March 11** at 12:30 PM at Millie's Restaurant across the street from OLLI. There is space for up to 12 people. Each person pays their own way.

If you are interested in either the happy hours or the OLLI Lunch Club, please contact OLLI's Social Committee Chair, Jeff Porter, at djporter2@mac.com to reserve your spot.

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*.

Web: www.oli-dc.org | **Phone:** 202-895-4860 | **E-mail:** oli@american.edu

Location: 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Mail: 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016

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