

## HELPFUL LINKS

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# Newsletter



**Web:** [www.oli-dc.org](http://www.oli-dc.org) | **Phone:** 202-895-4860 | **Email:** [oli@american.edu](mailto:oli@american.edu)

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## October 31, 2025

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## UPDATES

### HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Happy Halloween from us at OLLI! We hope you had a fun and festive holiday if you celebrate.

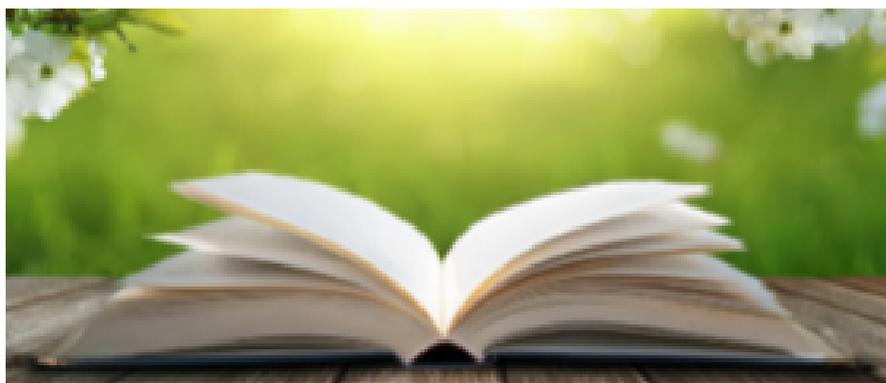


## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

OLLI members will elect members to the Board of Directors in April 2026. A nominating committee has been appointed by the Board Chair and approved by the Board of Directors, consisting of Tammy Belden (Committee Chair), John Aldock, Barbara Beizer, Ed Feinberg, and Dave Hensler. We thank the appointed members for serving in this important committee. The committee will send periodic updates and notices to the membership throughout the nominations process.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING**

### **CALLING ALL FEBRUARY & SPRING PROPOSALS**



We welcome proposals from both new and previous study group leaders! For more information about being an SGL at OLLI, please visit the [Become an Instructor](#) page on the website. If you or someone you know is interested in leading a study group for the first time and would like to speak with someone, please email [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu) with your contact information and we will get in touch with you.

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

### **February Shorts**

February 2-6

Classes meet 2-5 times during one week, either in-person or online.

**PROPOSAL FORM**

### **Spring Semester**

March 2-May 8

Classes meet once a week for 7-10 weeks, either in-person or online.

**PROPOSAL FORM**

**Proposal deadline for both: Sunday, November 23**

## **LECTURES**

### **FALL LECTURE SERIES**

**Fall lectures are being held at OLLI:** 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor.



### **TODAY'S LECTURE**

**Jonathan Moreno, *Absolutely Essential: Bioethics and the Rules-Based International Order***

**October 31 | 1:30–2:30 PM**

**Room A**

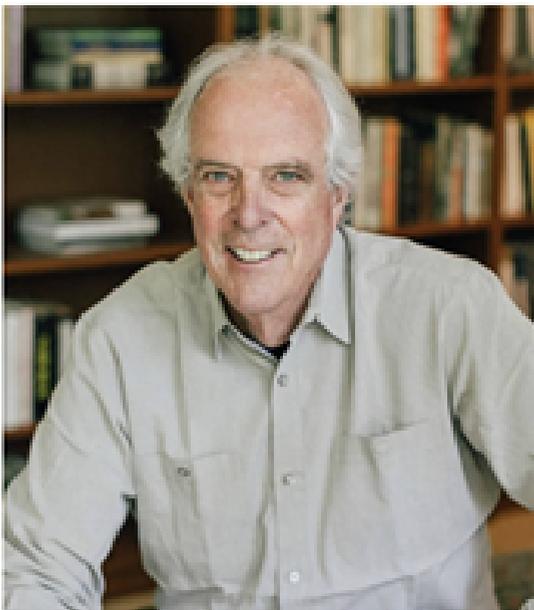
Jonathan D. Moreno is the David and Lyn Silfen University Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania and adjunct faculty at

Johns Hopkins University. A member of the National Academy of Medicine, he has advised three US presidential commissions and international bodies including UNESCO and the Department of Defense. His honors include the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and the Benjamin Rush Medal. Moreno is the author of *Mind Wars*, *Undue Risk*, *Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven but Nobody Wants to Die*, and *Absolutely Essential* (MIT Press, 2025). His work bridges bioethics, health policy, and national security.

Moreno's book, *Absolutely Essential: Bioethics and the Rules-Based International Order* will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the lecture.

**Don't forget to stop by the social space on the 5th floor for sandwich wraps prior to the lecture.**

**REGISTER**



#### **NEXT WEEK'S LECTURE**

**Christopher Tilghman, *A Writer of Historical Fiction Contemplates the Burdens of History***

**November 7 | 1:30–2:30 PM**

**Room A**

Christopher Tilghman is an award-winning novelist and short story writer, best known for his four-volume Mason's Retreat series, including the final installment, *On the Tobacco*

Coast, published in 2024. Set on a historic Maryland farm, the novels explore the intertwined histories of white and Black families across generations. In the context of current debates over American history, Tilghman uses fiction to confront inherited legacies and imagine paths toward understanding. His own family's stories helped shape the narrative. A Guggenheim Fellow and Whiting Award recipient, Tilghman is Emeritus Professor and former Director of Creative Writing at the University of Virginia. He lives in Charlottesville and on the Eastern Shore with his wife, author Caroline Preston.

Tilghman's books, *On the Tobacco Coast* and *Mason's Retreat* will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the lecture.

[REGISTER](#)

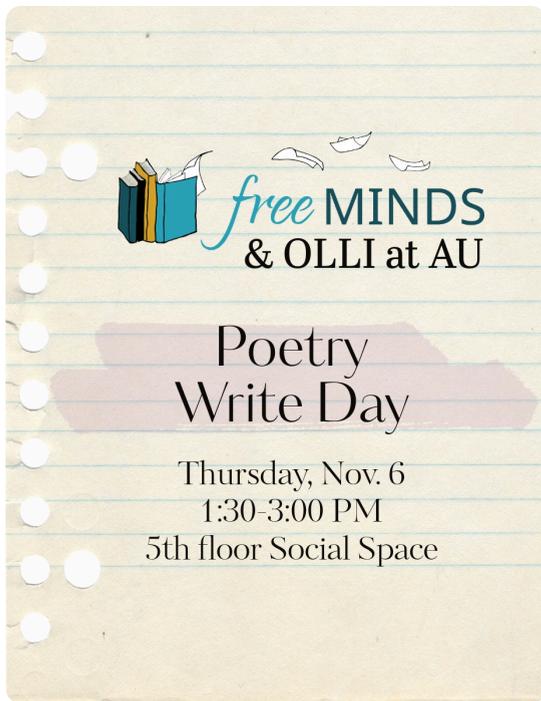
## OLLI EVENTS

### HAPPY HOURS

The next happy hour will take place on **Monday, November 3 at 3:30 PM** at Pizzeria Paradiso across the street from OLLI. There is space for up to 25 people. Each person pays their own way. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

**There is no happy hour following today's lecture.**

[REGISTER](#)



## **FREE MINDS POETRY WRITE DAY**

**Thursday, November 6**

**1:30-3:00 PM**

**Social Space on 5th floor**

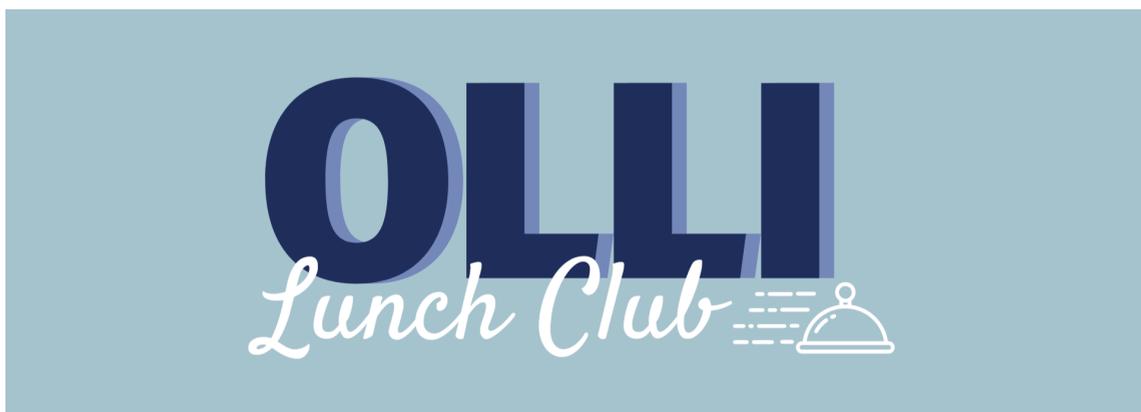
OLLI and the local nonprofit Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop are excited to co-sponsor our 7th "Free Minds Poetry Write Day."

Free Minds conducts literacy programs, including poetry classes, for incarcerated youth in DC.

Participants will be provided with a packet of poems written by incarcerated young men to read and provide encouraging comments. Providing feedback on these poems is an enjoyable community activity and a great way to show these youth that others respect their work and appreciate their dedication.

A few men who have participated in this program will be with us to share their experiences and express their appreciation.

**REGISTER**



**OLLI LUNCH CLUB**

**12:15 PM**

**Millie's Restaurant | Registration Required**

[Thursday, November 6](#)

[Monday, November 17](#)

The OLLI Lunch Club is holding two more luncheons during the fall semester, each at 12:15 PM at Millie's Restaurant across the street from OLLI.

There is space for up to 12 people. Each person pays their own way. **Please register using the links above.**

## OLLI HAPPENINGS



### MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

Dear OLLI at AU Members,

What a great start to the semester! The classrooms are full, the conversations are lively, and it's been wonderful to see so many familiar faces and lots of new ones, too. A huge thank you to our Study Group Leaders for sharing your time and expertise, to our volunteers and classroom representatives for keeping things running smoothly, and to everyone who helps make OLLI such a friendly, welcoming place to learn. As our small thank you to you, we hope you had a chance to enjoy refreshments served in the social space throughout the week.

As we settle into the rhythm of the semester, we're excited for more good discussions, thought-provoking lectures, and plenty of fun along the way. Here's to a great semester ahead, filled with curiosity, connection, and community!

Thank you!

Lauren, Andrew, Annabel, Jesse, Lisa, Lesley, and Tony



## OLLI JACKETS

OLLI is selling navy blue fleece jackets with the OLLI logo embroidered in white on the front left. The jackets have a collar, full zip front, and zippered pockets. *Sample jackets in all sizes are available to try on in the hallway outside the office.* The cost per jacket is \$28 and all sales are final, no refunds. Members will be contacted when their jacket is ready to pick up from the OLLI office. Orders will be placed every two weeks.

**The first order will be placed on Tuesday, November 4.** If you would like to receive your jacket with the first shipment, please order **by the end of the day on Monday.**

Order a **women's** jacket [here](#).

Order for a **men's** jacket [here](#).

### WOMEN'S



### MEN'S

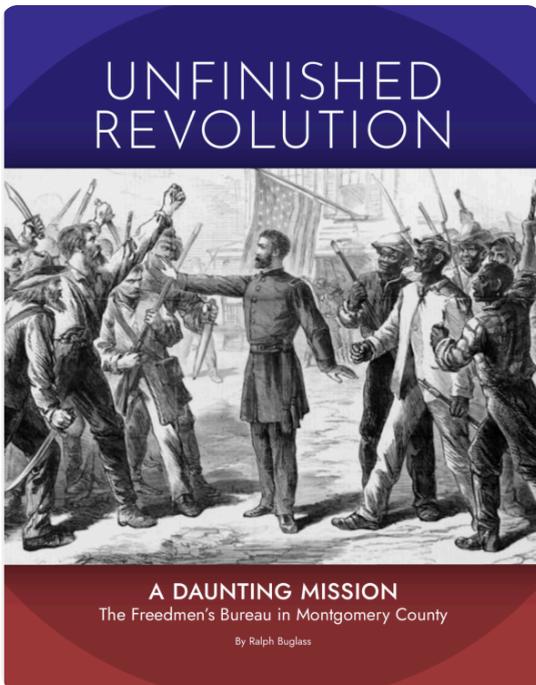


## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**A GENTLE INTRODUCTION TO RICHARD WAGNER**

OLLI Study Group Leader, Dan Sherman, gave a fun and informative Serendipity talk on September 22 titled *A Gentle Introduction to Richard Wagner*. Earlier this month, he gave a talk on Wagner's immense influence on film music that included many clips from classic films. Dan is a board member of the Wagner Society of Washington, DC and he gave this talk (about 90 minutes) for the Society. [Click here](#) to view the recording.

Please feel free to contact Dan at [ratitekeeper@yahoo.com](mailto:ratitekeeper@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or comments about his talks.



#### **AUTHOR AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Ralph Buglass, a current SGL and OLLI member, is the author of a newly published article, "A Daunting Mission: The Freedmen's Bureau in Montgomery County." It is the first article in what will be a series of publications for Montgomery History on the "Unfinished Revolution." Ralph will also be featured as a keynote speaker for the general session at this year's annual Montgomery County History conference on November 8, 2025 at the Germantown campus of Montgomery College. [More info/register.](#)

## YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ART EXHIBITION



TAXI, 2025, 17x22, Photo Collage

### **BEVERLY LOGAN: *RE-VISION***

November 7, 2025 - January 27, 2026

Opening Reception: November 7, 2025 6:30-8:00pm  
RSVP: [pfitzgerald@democraticwoman.org](mailto:pfitzgerald@democraticwoman.org) (202-232-7363)

Woman's National Democratic Club 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW, DC  
Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.  
Call 202-232-7363 to ensure gallery access.

## ART EXHIBITION

Beverly Logan, a current SGL and OLLI member, is hosting an art exhibition at the Women's National Democratic Club from November 7-January 27.

## MEDIA

### OLLI PODCAST

Listen to episodes from OLLI at AU's podcast, [\*Curiosity Never Retires\*](#). This series provides information about some of the wonderful courses and people at the heart of our OLLI at AU, while sparking curiosity and maybe a conversation or two. Each 13–15 minute episode features interviews with instructors about upcoming courses, offering prospective registrants insight into what the course will offer and an introduction to the instructor. At *CNR*, we believe there's never a good time to stop learning or laughing.



### **Penny Hansen, [\*Supreme Court\*](#)**

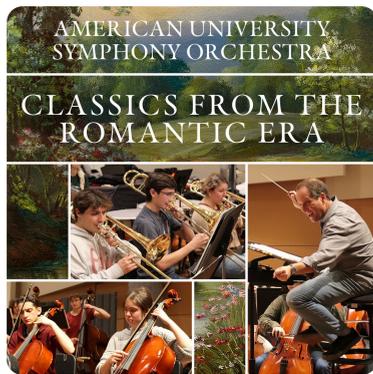
Penelope Hansen directed numerous programs at the Environmental Protection Agency during its first 30 years, implementing the country's first recycling, hazardous waste, Superfund, acid rain, and technology verification programs. She has devoted much of her retirement to studying the Supreme Court and has given OLLI classes on this and other subjects for the last ten years. She was educated at Skidmore College, Johns Hopkins University, and the

## AU EVENTS

### AU MUSIC EVENTS

Discover the sounds of AU this November—featuring music events across vocal and instrumental genres. All events are held at the **Katzen Arts Center in Abramson Family Recital Hall**. Tickets are \$10 for seniors (55+), \$15 for the general public. See specific events below.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)



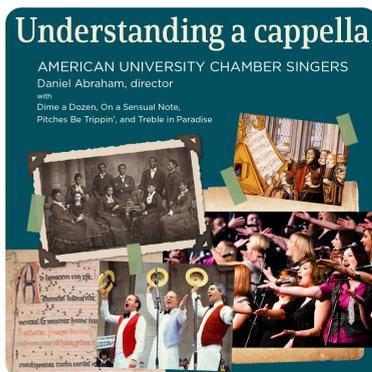
**AU Symphony  
Orchestra,  
*Classics from the  
Romantic Era***

**November 1 | 7:30 PM  
November 2 | 3:00 PM**



**AU Symphonic Band,  
*Vintage Rewind***

**November 8 | 3:00 PM**



**AU Chamber Singers,  
*Understanding A  
Cappella***

**November 8 | 7:30 PM  
November 9 | 3:00 PM**



**AU Jazz Orchestra &  
Jazz Combos,  
*Fall for Jazz***

**November 14 | 7:30 PM**



**AU Chorus,  
*An Echo in my Soul***

**November 15 | 7:30 PM  
November 16 | 3:00 PM**

CCPS PRESENTS

## THE THURBER DIALOGUES ON DEMOCRACY THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY: CHALLENGES AND GLOBAL RESPONSES



**MONDAY, 11/10**  
6:30 - 8PM ET



**FOUNDERS ROOM**  
AU SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE



Moderated By  
**Tom Kahn**  
Acting Director,  
Center for Congressional  
and Presidential Studies,  
School of Public Affairs

**RSVP** [american-spa.swoogo.com/](https://american-spa.swoogo.com/)  
**HERE:** [StruggleForDemocracy](https://StruggleForDemocracy.com)



**Norman Eisen**  
Senior Fellow,  
The Brookings Institution;  
Co-Author  
"Democracy Playbook 2025"



**Jonathan Katz**  
Senior Director,  
The Brookings Institution;  
Co-Author  
"Democracy Playbook 2025"



**MORE INFO/REGISTER**

## AMBASSADORS UP-CLOSE:

SPOTLIGHT ON DENMARK  
AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN SECURITY



Monday, November 10  
4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.  
SIS Founders Room



Michelle Egan  
SIS professor



Jesper Møller Sørensen  
Ambassador of Denmark to  
the United States



Garret Martin  
SIS professor

**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*.

**Web:** [www.oli-dc.org](http://www.oli-dc.org) | **Phone:** 202-895-4860 | **E-mail:** [oli@american.edu](mailto:oli@american.edu)

**Location:** 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW

**Mail:** 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016

Tony Long, *Executive Director*  
Lesley Diaz, *Director of Academic Programming*  
Lisa Olson, *Director of Operations and Projects*  
Jesse Williams, *Operations Manager*  
Annabel McClure, *Programs and Projects Coordinator*  
Andrew Smith, *Operations Assistant*  
Lauren Petrillo, *Administrative Coordinator*

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