

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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September 19, 2025

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UPDATES

WELCOME OLLI'S NEWEST MEMBER

I want to introduce you to OLLI's newest team member—Lauren Petrillo. Lauren has started with the OLLI team as our Administrative Coordinator. She obtained her B.S. in Music Education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA and she has previously worked as an elementary music teacher at Montgomery County

Public Schools. During her free time, Lauren enjoys writing her own music, gardening, and playing with her two cats, Bubbles and Big Boy.

We are thrilled to have Lauren join our team.

Tony Long

Executive Director

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING



REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN!

There is still time to register for the fall semester 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 or request a refund is October 10.

REGISTER

NEW MEMBER 10% DISCOUNT

Are you, or someone you know, new to OLLI or thinking about coming back after taking a break? Use the button below to register for the fall semester or share it with a friend. 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 session.

FALL DISCOUNT

FALL CATALOG CHANGES

Class changes are available on the [fall catalog changes](#) page of the OLLI website and are updated as they occur.

FALL BOOK LIST

Most fall semester books are available through Politics and Prose bookstore at 5015 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008. Politics and Prose offers OLLI members a 10% discount on books for courses. [Click here](#) for a list of fall semester books that are not available at Politics and Prose, or available, but without discount.

FALL SGR MEETING

OLLI will be having a meeting for fall SGRs on **Thursday, September 25, at 10:00 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 fall semester. Please plan to attend if you have not previously served as an SGR. If you have questions, please email the office at olli@american.edu.

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.

LECTURES

FALL LECTURE SERIES

We are excited to announce the speakers for our upcoming fall lecture series! **Registration is required for in-person lectures.** Registration will open at 10:00 AM on the Friday prior to the lecture. The registration link will be included in the Friday newsletter the week prior to each lecture. 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. **Fall lectures will be held at OLLI: 4801**
Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor.



Edwaard Liang and Elvi Moore,
The Washington Ballet: Past and Present

October 3 | 1:30–2:30 PM

Room A

Edwaard Liang is a Taiwanese-born American dancer and choreographer who grew up in Marin County, California. He began dancing at the age of five and joined the School of American Ballet in 1989. Liang danced with the New York City Ballet starting in 1993 and was promoted to soloist in 1998. He briefly left in 2001 to perform on Broadway in *Fosse*, then returned from 2004 to 2007.

Elvi Moore is the former General Director of The Washington Ballet. She remained at the helm of The Washington Ballet for almost seventeen years. After retiring from the ballet, she founded The Laurel Fund which gave scholarships to young artists in dance, music and theater.



Philip Shenon, *From Pope Francis to Pope Leo: The Modern Papacy*

October 10 | 1:30–2:30 PM

Room A

Philip Shenon is an award-winning investigative journalist and former New York Times reporter of more than 20 years. He is the author of three major books, including the

bestsellers *A Cruel and Shocking Act: The Secret History of the Kennedy Assassination* and *The Commission: The Uncensored History of the 9/11 Investigation*.

Shenon's latest book, *Jesus Wept: Seven Popes and the Battle for the Soul of the Catholic Church* will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the lecture.



David Boul, *The Art of Jack Boul*

October 17 | 1:30–2:30 PM

Room A

An accomplished television producer and former print journalist, David Boul has won seven Emmy Awards over the course of his career. Today, he devotes his energy to honoring and preserving the legacy of his father, Jack Boul, a beloved longtime art professor at American University. Jack Boul's work can be found in the National Gallery of Art, the Phillips Collection, the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, the Katzen Art Center, and numerous private collections. His powerful Holocaust series, originally exhibited at the Corcoran Museum, is now housed in the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.



Josh Silver, *The Community Reinvestment Act*

October 24 | 1:30–2:30 PM

Room A

Josh Silver is a consultant and Senior Fellow at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), where he has worked for over 30 years to strengthen the Community Reinvestment Act, fair lending laws, and financial data transparency. He previously served as development manager at Manna, Inc., a nonprofit housing developer in Washington, DC, and as a research associate at the Urban Institute. Silver holds a master's degree in public affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School at the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree from Columbia University.

Silver's book, *Ending Redlining through a Community-Centered Reform of the Community Reinvestment Act* will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the 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 numerous global organizations, including UNESCO and the US Department of Defense. He has received multiple honors, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and the Benjamin Rush Medal. Moreno is the author or co-author of several influential books, including *Mind Wars*, *Undue Risk*, and *Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven but Nobody Wants to Die*. His upcoming book, *Absolutely Essential*, will be published by MIT Press in 2025.

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

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



Mary Noé, *The Man Who Shot JP Morgan*

November 14 | 1:30–2:30 PM

Room A

Mary Noé is a lawyer, author, and lecturer and holds the rank of Professor at St. John's University. After graduating high school, she worked in a typing pool at the New York office of the FBI. Several secretarial jobs later and after obtaining her Class 2 license, she applied to Varsity Transit for the position of a bus driver for New York City Schools. The New York City Human Rights Division brought an action against Varsity since they would not hire females. She was the only female driver among the 700 male drivers working from Varsity's Brooklyn location. She is a graduate of Brooklyn College and St. John's University School of Law. She has served as an administrative law judge for the New York State Office of Professional Medical Conduct and an Impartial Hearing Officer under a federal law known as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Noé's book, *The Man Who Shot JP Morgan* will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the lecture.



Ama Frimpong, *CASA's Fight to Protect and Defend our Immigrant Community*

November 21

1:30–2:30 PM

Room A

Ama Frimpong is the Legal Director of CASA, where she oversees legal services in immigration, employment, and housing, while also contributing to policy advocacy and organizing efforts. CASA plays a leading role in defending immigrant communities, recently spearheading two high-profile legal challenges: the illegal detention and deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, and the birthright citizenship case before the Supreme Court. In addition to these national efforts, CASA provides daily support to its members, including assistance with citizenship applications and legal defense. The organization also educates immigrants about their constitutional rights and trains citizen volunteers to respond to immigration enforcement actions.



Jeff Rosen, *Pursuit of Liberty: How Hamilton vs. Jefferson Ignited the Lasting Battle Over Power in America*

December 5 | 1:30–2:30 PM

Room A

Jeffrey Rosen is the President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, where he hosts, *We the People*, a weekly podcast of constitutional debate. He is also a professor of law at the George Washington University Law School and a contributing editor of *The Atlantic*. He was previously the legal affairs editor of *The New Republic* and a staff writer for *The New Yorker*.

Rosen's book, *Pursuit of Liberty: How Hamilton vs. Jefferson Ignited the Lasting Battle Over Power in America*, will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the lecture.

OLLI EVENTS



FALL WINE AND CHEESE WELCOMER

**Thursday, September 25 | 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 fall semester wine and cheese welcome event!

Various wines and hors d'oeuvres will be served. New to OLLI? A tour of the OLLI facilities will also be given at 3:15 PM on the fifth floor by the elevators.

Attendance is limited to the first 120 members that register.

SERENDIPITY TALK**Dan Sherman, *A Gentle Introduction to Richard Wagner*****Monday, September 22 | 3:30-5:00 PM****Online via Zoom**

Richard Wagner was one of the most influential composers of all time, giving us operas of staggering power and greatly influencing concert music (and later film music) to this day. Although some find his operas long, loud, and boring, his music is often quite approachable and can be readily enjoyed. This talk will provide an informative and entertaining introduction to Wagner's fascinating life and career, highlighting his music with numerous performance excerpts from his operas. The talk will provide information about Wagner and his place in music, suitable for both those who know little about this essential composer and also those already interested in Wagner and his work.

Dan Sherman has presented many talks on concert music, film and film music, opera, and musical theatre to many groups in the Washington area, including OLLI at AU. He has long loved opera, especially the operas of Wagner, and has given talks on Wagner in performance to several Wagner societies, including the Wagner Society of Washington, of which he is a current board member.

SERENDIPITY TALK**Doug Stowell, *Where on Earth is the US? Are We in the Top 10?*****Monday, October 6 | 3:30-5:00 PM****Online via Zoom**

How does the US compare in meeting the challenges that exist in 2025? We will examine some 24 topics including: GDP, wages, taxes, trade balance, tariffs, environment, energy, education, healthcare, climate change, immigration, safety, prosperity, etc. We will use the "Top 10" format which provides a quick "snap-shot" of the US rank relative to other nations. Our sources are international surveys by highly credible and impartial world-wide organizations.

Doug Stowell is a consumer and political polling veteran in both U.S. and EU markets. His career includes Market Research Director for the Xerox Corp., US Clients Director for the UK firm NOP, Ltd. in London and Sr. Polling Executive - Wirthlin Worldwide in Washington, DC. He launched Market Resource Associates, in 2008 and conducts opinion research on global issues today. He is

a member of the Furman University OLLI in Greenville, SC and conducts Zoom programs for more than 80 organizations world-wide.

No registration is required for Serendipities. The Zoom link will be e-mailed to all those subscribed to the OLLI newsletter the morning of each talk. If you do not receive the newsletter and would like to attend, please join the email list at https://www.oli-dc.org/join_email_list.



US CAPITOL GROUNDS TOUR

Sunday, October 19

1:00-3:00 PM

**68 First Street SE | Registration
Required**

Tickets \$25/person | No Refunds

Originally a wooded river terrace, the [US Capitol Grounds](#) now provide a park-like setting for the nation's [Capitol Building](#), offering a picturesque counterpoint to the building's formal architecture. Join us on a unique and beautiful walk with **Steve Livengood**, Chief Guide and Public Historian of the United States Capitol Historical Society, for a private tour of the US Capitol grounds, originally landscaped by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1874. It was named an accredited arboretum in 2017. Steve is also on the board of The Olmsted Network, the national umbrella organization for the Olmsted legacy.

OLLI

Lunch Club

OLLI LUNCH CLUB

12:15 PM

Millie's Restaurant | Registration Required

[Tuesday, October 7](#)

[Wednesday, October 22](#)

[Thursday, November 6](#)

[Monday, November 17](#)

The OLLI Lunch Club will hold its first luncheon of the fall semester on Wednesday, October 22nd 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.**

AU EVENTS

CCPS PRESENTS: THE THURBER DIALOGUES ON DEMOCRACY

FEATURING FMR. SEN. RUSS FEINGOLD
IN CONVERSATION WITH RON ELVING



OCTOBER 7

6 - 7:30PM ET



FOUNDERS ROOM
IN THE SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

(PARKING AVAILABLE AT SIS OFF NEBRASKA AVE)

**RSVP
HERE:**

[american-spa.swoogo.com](https://american-spa.swoogo.com/Populists-Plutocrats-Dangers-to-Democracy)
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Russ Feingold

Former Democratic
Senator from Wisconsin



Ron Elving

Editor,
National Public Radio;
SPA Executive in
Residence Emeritus

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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