

HELPFUL LINKS

[ABCs of OLLI](#) | [Parking](#) | [Registration](#) | [Events Calendar](#) | [Past Newsletters](#)



Newsletter



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February 6, 2026

Table of Contents

UPDATES

- Jesse's Back!
- Nominating Committee
- OLLI Weather Policy

ACADEMIC

PROGRAMMING

- February Book List
- Hearing Loops

- Class Recordings and Handouts
- Spring Semester
- Catalog Changes
- New Member 10% Discount

OLLI EVENTS

- James Joyce
- Current Events
- February 9 Serendipity

MEMBER

HIGHLIGHTS

- Art Exhibition

AU EVENTS

- Young at Heart
- Runaway Capitalism
- Spotlight on Spain and Portugal

UPDATES

JESSE'S BACK!

We are so happy to welcome Jesse Williams back to OLLI at AU after his extended health journey. He was truly missed last semester, and we couldn't be happier that he is doing well and is back with us. During his time away, many members, instructors, and friends reached out with notes, cards, emails, and well wishes, reflecting the deep sense of care that defines the OLLI at AU community. Jesse wants everyone to know how much that support meant to

him; the encouragement and kindness made a real difference and lifted his spirits throughout his recovery.

Now he's delighted to be back for the February Shorts and is looking forward to the spring semester with renewed energy and appreciation. Please join us in welcoming Jesse back. Our community is strongest when we support one another, and it's a joy to have him with us again.

Tony Long

Executive Director

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In April, OLLI will elect four members to serve on the Board of Directors. The Nominating and Elections Committee will prepare a slate of nominees in March. After the Board approves the list, it will be shared with the membership.

The committee welcomes nominations from OLLI members, including self-nominations. Board members serve a three-year term and may run for a second consecutive term. Board service requires strong commitment. Members are expected to attend Board meetings, support OLLI's development efforts, and participate in other OLLI activities, such as SGL luncheons and the Annual Meeting. Board members must remain current OLLI members throughout their term. While serving as a committee chair is optional, committee participation is strongly encouraged.

To nominate someone, please submit the person's name along with one or two short paragraphs describing their background, involvement with OLLI, and why you are recommending them. Send nominations to olli@american.edu by **Friday, February 20**.

The approved slate of nominees will be announced in the OLLI newsletter on March 13. Any nominees not selected for the slate may still run as an at-large candidate by either self-nominating or being nominated by another member. To do so, a petition signed by at least ten OLLI members must be submitted by **Friday, March 27**. The OLLI office will provide petition forms and instructions upon request.

OLLI WEATHER POLICY

We follow American University's weather policy. If AU is closed, OLLI's online and hybrid classes will be held as scheduled (hybrid classes will be online only). In-person classes will be moved online, if possible. Members will receive an email with the status of their classes for the day, and Zoom links as applicable. We will work with in-person SGLs regarding makeup sessions for any

class that can't move online. *If AU has a delayed opening, all OLLI classes will still be held at their originally scheduled times.*

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

FEBRUARY BOOK LIST

Most February shorts 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. Below is a list of February Shorts books that are not available at Politics and Prose, or available, but without discount.

Not Available

9600 *Ein Sommer in Heilderberg*

No Discount

9791 *ENDURANCE - A Parallel History of the American Experience in Vietnam*

Prepayment Order and Not Returnable

9793 *To Save a City: 1948-1949, Roger Miller*



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.

CLASS RECORDINGS AND HANDOUTS

Most classes during the February Shorts are being recorded. One of the benefits of taking classes during a particular session is access to all class recordings for that session. [February Shorts recordings](#), as well as [February Shorts handouts](#), will be listed under "Classes," then "Shorts" on the OLLI website (see image below). February Shorts recordings are added each afternoon. **You must first [log into your member account](#) in order to view the recordings and handouts.** Recordings are available for viewing up until two weeks past the end of each session.

Welcome [Lauren!](#) | [Logoff](#) Text Size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

[Join Email List](#)

HOME ABOUT MEMBERSHIP **CLASSES** DOCUMENTS LECTURES/EVENTS GIVE/VOLUNTEER MEDIA CONTACT

Types of Classes
Shorts
Semesters/Minis
Catalog Archive
Become an Instructor

View/Register February Shorts
February Shorts 2026 Handouts
February Shorts 2026 Recordings

REGISTER.

SPRING SEMESTER: REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The spring semester is March 2-May 8. Courses meet for a varying 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 18.

[VIEW CLASSES AND REGISTER](#)

CATALOG CHANGES

Below are changes made to classes after the catalog went to print. Class changes are also available on the [February & spring catalog changes](#) page.

February Shorts:

9620: Experience Poems and Pictures is CANCELLED.

Spring:

707: The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte is CANCELLED

741: History of Atlantic Slavery has been added to the spring. View details/register [here](#).

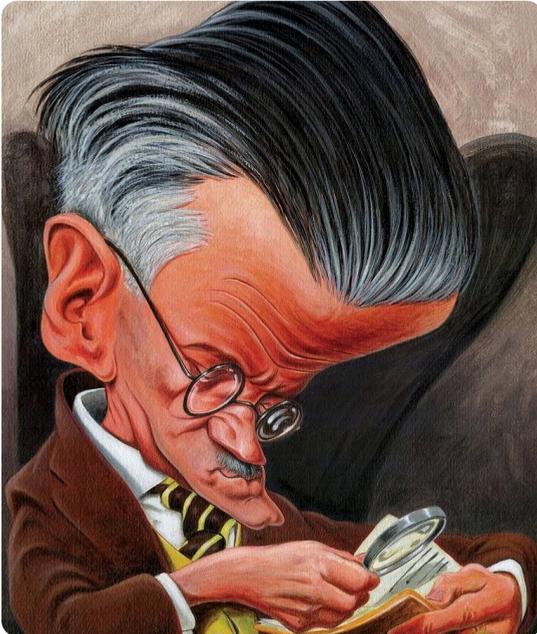
834: Mindfulness Meditation Intermediate level will now start Monday, March 9.

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

OLLI EVENTS



JAMES JOYCE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, February 18

3:30-5:15 PM | Room A

We will celebrate James Joyce's birthday with a reading from *Ulysses*, a film showing, and a party starting at 3:30 PM. **The program is free, but registration is required to facilitate planning.** More information/resources at event website: [James Joyce Birthday Party 2026](#)

MORE INFO/REGISTER

SERENDIPITY TALK

Michael W. Farrell, *Thomas Mann at 150: How His Antinomies Still Enliven His Characters*

Monday, February 9 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Online via Zoom | No Registration Required

In this talk on the recent occasion of Thomas Mann's 150th birthday, we examine how antinomies – dualisms or antagonisms – still enliven his main characters: Hans Castorp in *The Magic Mountain*, Gustav von Aschenbach in *Death in Venice*, Thomas Buddenbrooks in *Buddenbrooks*, and the composer Adrian Leverkühn in *Doctor Faustus*.

[View more info.](#)

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.](https://www.oli-dc.org/join_email_list)

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

ART EXHIBITION: EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER

Beverly Logan, a current SGL and OLLI member, is hosting an art exhibition from February 14-February 21. The opening reception will be held on February 14 from 4:00-6:00 PM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ART EXHIBITION



BEVERLY LOGAN: *“EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER”*

February 6 - February 21, 2026

Opening Reception: February 14: 4pm-6pm

First Friday: February 6: 6pm-8pm

Studio Gallery
2108 R Street
Washington, DC 20008

Gallery Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1pm-6pm
Saturday 11am - 6pm

AU EVENTS

YOUNG
at
HEART
WITH KOJO NNAMDI

WAMU PODCAST: YOUNG AT HEART

WAMU is launching a new original podcast: *Young at Heart*. Hosted by Kojo Nnamdi, this six-part series explores one of life's inevitable transitions: when we move on from our work life. Through personal stories and conversations, the

podcast examines how people rethink purpose, community, and creativity in the years that follow full-time work.

Young at Heart is available now on [WAMU's website](#) and other common podcast platforms.

BOOK LAUNCH

RUNAWAY CAPITALISM

BY PROF. JAMES H. MITTELMAN

Monday, February 9
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.



James
Mittelman



Maria De Jesus



Julie Radomski



Yang Zhang



Patricia
Aufderheide



Clarence Lusane

[REGISTER](#)

[ZOOM LINK](#)

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY CENTER

SPOTLIGHT ON SPAIN, PORTUGAL, AND THEIR 40
YEARS IN THE EU



Thursday, February 12
4:00-5:00 p.m.
SIS Founders Room



Ángeles Moreno Bau
Ambassador of Spain to
the US



Francisco Duarte
Lopes
Ambassador of Portugal to
the US



Michelle Egan
SIS professor



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*.

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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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