

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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October 2, 2026

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UPDATES

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT FIRST WEEK!

This week kicked off our fall 2026 semester. It was great to see everyone back and engaging in their classes. A special thank you to Jeff Porter for his assistance in directing members to their classrooms!

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING



FALL 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 or \$600 for both fall and spring*) allows you to sign up for three courses before the lottery. Now that the lottery has passed, you can add a fourth by logging into your account.

The deadline to add/drop classes or request a refund is October 9.

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 "Register for Study Groups" 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.

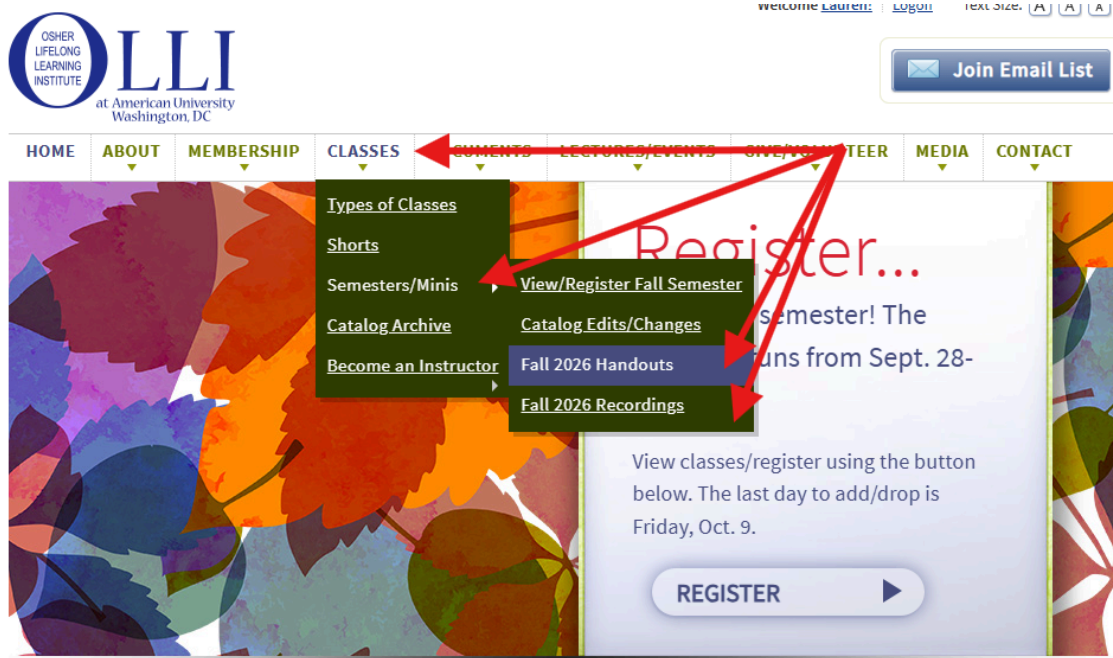
FALL BOOK LIST

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. [Here is the list of fall](#)

[semester books](#) that are not available at Politics and Prose, or available, but with special circumstances.

CLASS HANDOUTS AND RECORDINGS

Most classes during the fall semester are being recorded. One of the benefits of taking classes during a particular session is access to ALL recordings for that session, not only the ones for which you're registered. [Fall recordings](#) and [fall handouts](#) are listed under "Classes," and then "Semesters/Minis" (see image below). Each day's recordings during the semester are posted the following business day. You must first log into your member account in order to view recordings and handouts. Both are available for viewing until two weeks past the end of the session.



WANT TO TEACH A SESSION OF MUSIC?

Have you ever thought it would be fun to teach a class, but been reluctant to take on an entire course? Here's a chance to dip your toe into the SGL pool by teaching **one week** of a collaborative course alongside six experienced presenters.

For the past several years, a group of our (mostly) music-loving SGLs has offered a spring course in which a different presenter leads the class each week. Past courses have included *Music That Made Me Love Jazz*, *Music Festivals*, *Cities That Created the American Sound*, *The Harlem Renaissance*, and *And the Grammy Goes To*.

This spring, we're offering ***The Power of Music***, exploring how music has the power to shape ideas, connect cultures, and endure across generations. Each week, a different presenter will explore a unique manifestation of music's power—from the continuing influence of Bach and his counterpoint technique to the enduring power of the blues; from the rhythms of samba and the tempo of patter music crossing musical genres to the ways music crosses cultural boundaries; from music's ability to inspire social change to the enduring appeal of the American Songbook. The result will be a lively and wide-ranging exploration of music and its enduring influence on people and society.

If music touches your soul and you've ever thought about sharing your passion with others, this could be a great opportunity to give teaching a try—without having to commit to an entire course.

Interested? Contact Larry Gondelman at larrygondelman@gmail.com.

LECTURES

FALL LECTURE SERIES

Registration is required for all in-person lectures and will open at 10:00 AM on the Friday before each lecture. The registration link will be included in that day's newsletter. Each registrant may reserve **up to two seats**, and all attendees must be listed on the registration. To guarantee your seat, please arrive and be seated at least five minutes before the lecture begins. **Fall lectures will be held at OLLI, 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor.** View the full speaker bios [here](#).



TODAY'S LECTURE

REGISTRATION FULL

Bob Blaemire, Unforced Errors: 15 Bad Decisions That Changed American History

Friday, October 2

1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Robert Blaemire began his political career in 1967 with Senator Birch Bayh (D-IN), eventually serving as his Office Manager and Executive Assistant. He later founded Blaemire Communications, a political computer services firm serving Democratic

campaigns and progressive organizations nationwide. The company was acquired by Catalist in 2007, where he remained until 2016 before turning to consulting and writing.

Bob's book, *Unforced Errors: 15 Bad Decisions That Changed American History*, will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the lecture.



NEXT WEEK'S LECTURE

Dennis Ross, *The Iran War & the Failure of Statecraft*

Friday, October 9

1:30-2:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Ambassador Dennis Ross is counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and teaches at Georgetown University's Center for Jewish Civilization. For more than twelve years, he played a leading role in the Middle East peace process under Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton and later served as special assistant to President Barack Obama and as an advisor on Iran to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Dennis' book, *Statecraft 2.0: What America Needs to Lead in a Multipolar World*, will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the lecture.

REGISTER

OLLI EVENTS



HAPPY HOURS

A happy hour will take place each Friday after the lecture (about 2:30 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.

REGISTER

OLLI Lunch Club

OLLI LUNCH CLUB

12:00 PM

Millie's Restaurant | Registration Required

[Tuesday, October 6](#)

[Wednesday, October 21](#)

[Thursday, November 5](#)

[Monday, November 16](#)

The OLLI Lunch Club will hold its next luncheon of the fall semester on **Tuesday, October 6 at 12:00 PM at Millie's Restaurant** across the street from OLLI. This is a great way for new and existing OLLI members to meet each

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

SERENDIPITY TALKS

Michael W. Farrell, *Memory Suppressed and Awakened: W.G. Sebald's Shoah Novel Austerlitz*

Monday, October 12

3:30-4:30 PM

Online

The writer W.G. Sebald, according to the *New York Review of Books*, "stands with Primo Levi as the prime speaker of the Holocaust." This talk deals with Sebald's magnum opus, *Austerlitz*. It tells of Jacques Austerlitz, adopted by Welsh parents after escaping Nazi Europe via a child transport, who passes nearly his entire adult life trying to obliterate the memories of his earliest years as the child of Jewish parents in Prague.

Michael W. Farrell, a previous Serendipity presenter at OLLI on the novelists Henry James and Thomas Mann, is a retired appellate judge and former chair of the English and German departments at Georgetown Preparatory School.

The Shoah writings of the late 20th-century German-English writer W.G. Sebald are of particular interest to him.

Mark Gottlieb, *Planning for Medicare Annual Enrollment: Know Your Options*

Monday, October 19

3:30-5:00 PM

Online

As the annual enrollment period approaches, the Medicare population gets bombarded with promotional materials from a large number of companies. These materials, as well as tv ads, can be confusing and misleading. Study Group Leader Mark Gottlieb has developed this program that sets forth the main components of Medicare and the many supplemental products available to maximize coverage, including all of the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug plans newly approved by Medicare for 2026.

Mark Gottlieb is an independent insurance broker specializing in helping seniors and families prepare for the financial impact of long-term care and chronic illness. With a background in health services and over 25 years in insurance, Mark is passionate about helping people protect their financial security and peace of mind. He has taught "Long-Term Care Expenses in Retirement" at OLLI for five summers.

No registration is required for Serendipities. The Zoom link will be emailed 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.



FREE MINDS POETRY WRITE DAY

Tuesday, October 27

1:00-2:30 PM

Location: TBD

OLLI and the local nonprofit Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop are excited to co-sponsor our 8th "Free Minds Poetry Write Day."

Free Minds conducts literacy programs, including poetry classes, for incarcerated youth in DC. They will provide us with a packet of poems written by incarcerated young men for us to read and provide comments.

We are seeking a community of 20-25 OLLI members who will give the youth's poetry 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.

MORE INFO/REGISTER



HILLWOOD MANSION IN HOLIDAY SPLENDOR TOUR

4155 Linnean Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20008

Thursday, December 10

10:15–11:30 AM

Registration Required | Tickets

\$35/person | No Refunds

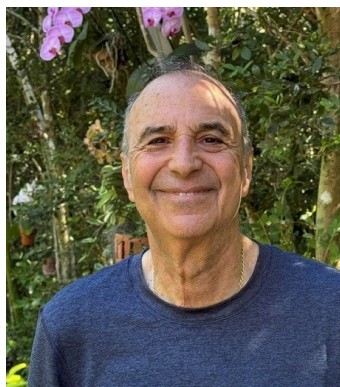
Experience Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens at one of the most beautiful times of the year. During the holiday season, Marjorie Merriweather Post's magnificent mansion takes on an added brightness and warmth, with festive seasonal decorations enhancing its elegant rooms and extraordinary collections.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)

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. At *CNR*, we believe there's never a good time to stop learning or laughing.



Jeff Porter, Kris Taylor, and Barbara Rosen, [Community Building](#)

The Social Committee provides opportunities for members to socialize, meet new people, and build relationships outside the classroom. The committee plans a variety of

activities and gatherings throughout each academic session.



Ellen Stanton, [O Canada!](#)

Ellen Stanton served as an educator at the US Capitol Visitor Center and as lead historical interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon. For several years, she was chair of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission. For more than ten years, she has facilitated classes at the OLLI programs at the University of Denver and American University. Ellen is a graduate of Manhattanville College and received an MSW from the University at Albany, SUNY.

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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