

## 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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## February 20, 2026

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## UPDATES

### 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](mailto:olli@american.edu) by **today, 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.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

### SPRING SEMESTER REGISTRATION

Although the lottery was this week, there is still **time to register for the spring semester** (March 2–May 8) or add another class! You can see the status of each course (open or closed) on the OLLI website. The membership fee is \$330 for the semester and 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 March 13.**

[VIEW CLASSES/REGISTER](#)

### SPRING BOOK LIST

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

### **Not Available**

- 601** *Vocabulaire Progressif du Français*
- 608** *Encuentros 1: Comunicación y Cultura*
- 610** *Primiracconti Undici Racconti*
- 611** *Sanskrit Manual*
- 644** *T.S. Eliot Complete Poems and Plays*
- 657** *Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
- 677** *Geary's Guide to the World's Great Aphorists*
- 690** *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- 806** *Healing Art of Qi Gong*
- 860** *Introduction to Metaphysics*

### **Pay to Order**

- 499** *Basic Immunology*
- 739** *Revolution and its Past*
- 740** *A Modern History of Japan*
- 761** *Europe Between the War*

### **Not Returnable**

- 477** *Rock Art of the Qsur*

### **Pay-to-Order and Not Returnable**

- 200** *Making Peace with Conflict*
- 206** *Great War and the Death of God*

### **SPRING CATALOG CHANGES**

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

**529: The Life and Music of Antonin Dvorak** will now meet for 8 weeks.

**563: How to Develop a Photographer's Eye (Section B)** has been added to the spring semester. View more info/register [here](#).

**668: Fiction Writers' Bootcamp** is CANCELLED.

**707: The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte** is CANCELLED

**741: History of Atlantic Slavery** is CANCELLED.

**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**



### **BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR OLLI!**

Membership growth is an important part of keeping OLLI strong, and word of mouth is our most effective recruiting tool. As we get ready for the spring semester, the OLLI membership committee encourages members to tell their friends and neighbors all about OLLI! Encourage them to check out the OLLI website and listen to our podcast series, "[Curiosity Never Retires](#)," where they can learn about our wonderful courses and SGLs.

If you know of an apartment complex, village, or community group that might be interested in OLLI, please contact us or stop by the office. We will provide you with new spring flyers, catalogs, and other materials you can use to promote our program, or we can schedule an information session for your group!

## **LECTURES**

### **SPRING LECTURE SERIES**

We are excited to announce the speakers for our upcoming spring 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. **Spring lectures will be held at OLLI:** 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor.



**Jennifer Steele, *Resilience in the Age of Artificial Intelligence***

**March 6**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a "future" scenario—it is unfolding in real time, raising urgent questions about the place of humans in the age of automation. Dr. Jennifer L. Steele, a professor in American University's School of Education and affiliate faculty in Public Administration and Policy, will explain what we mean by "AI," what makes it different from other kinds of machines, and how it is reshaping the modern economy. Drawing on her research on educational opportunity, school-to-workforce transitions, and the labor market effects of AI—as well as her experience as a former RAND policy researcher and K-12 teacher—she will also discuss the skills we can strengthen as thinkers, mentors, and citizens to remain resilient in a rapidly shifting world.



**Dan Glickman, *Detoxifying American Politics***

**March 13**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

Dan Glickman, former US Secretary of Agriculture, served in Congress

representing Kansas from 1977 to 1995. He is the former executive director of the Aspen Institute Congressional Program and a former chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America. He is currently a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center, chairman of the board of Hunger Free America, and serves on several boards, while also advising The Russell Group and APCO Worldwide and teaching as an adjunct professor at Tufts University.



**Richard Kahlenberg, *Class Matters: A Book Talk about Race, Class, Colleges, and American Politics***

**March 20**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

As DEI faces backlash and Democrats lose working-class voters, a new approach is needed. In *Class Matters*, Richard Kahlenberg argues that higher education should prioritize economic disadvantage rather than race to achieve real racial and economic diversity. He contends that race-based admissions have often shielded systems that favor wealthy students while excluding talented working-class applicants. A leading advocate of class-based affirmative action, Kahlenberg played a key role in debates leading up to the Supreme Court's 2023 decision ending racial preferences. A Harvard-educated scholar and Progressive Policy Institute director, he has been

described by *The New York Times* as a “liberal maverick.”



**Tom Green and Nathaniel Zelinsky, *Defending the Rule of Law***

**March 27**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

Tom Green is President of the Washington Litigation Group and a member of its steering committee. A former partner at Sidley Austin, he has represented public officials in major national cases, including Watergate, Iran-Contra, and the prosecution of former House Speaker Dennis Hastert. A Dartmouth and Yale Law graduate, he is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a Vietnam veteran who served as an Army artillery officer with the First Air Cavalry Division.

Nathaniel Zelinsky is Senior Counsel and a steering committee member of the Washington Litigation Group, overseeing daily operations and litigating major First Amendment and separation-of-powers cases. He argued *Barnes v. Felix* before the Supreme Court in 2024, winning a unanimous decision, and previously served as a special prosecutor in the George Floyd criminal prosecutions. A former Supreme Court and appellate associate, he clerked on the DC and Sixth Circuits and holds degrees from Yale and Cambridge.

John Aldock is Secretary, General Counsel, and a steering committee

member of the Washington Litigation Group. A retired Goodwin Procter partner, he previously served as the firm's General Counsel and led its DC office, and he chaired the Advisory Committee on Rules of the US District Court for the District of Columbia for more than four decades. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a nationally recognized business litigation lawyer, honored by Chambers USA and Best Lawyers in America.



**Erin Freeman and Dana Marsh, *Performance Practices of the Bach B Minor Mass***

**April 3**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

Erin Freeman is a conductor and artistic leader serving as Artistic Director of the City Choir of Washington and Wintergreen Music, Director of the Saint Louis Symphony Chorus, and Principal Conductor of the Richmond Ballet. She has appeared with major orchestras and ballet companies across the US and internationally at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Musikverein in Vienna, and has led GRAMMY-nominated recordings. A finalist for Performance Today's Classical Woman of the Year, Freeman holds degrees from Northwestern University, Boston University, and the Peabody Conservatory.

Dr. Dana T. Marsh has served as artistic director of the Washington Bach Consort since 2018 and is praised by *The Washington Post* as a “superb choral conductor.” Trained as a chorister at St. Thomas Choir School and Salisbury Cathedral, he holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Oxford. Marsh has collaborated with leading early-music ensembles in the US and UK, appeared as guest conductor at Washington National Cathedral, and has recorded for major international labels. He is a music professor and director of the Historical Performance Institute at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.



**Richard Bell, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World***

**April 17**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

In *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*, Professor Richard Bell reframes the Revolution as a global conflict stretching from India and Africa to Central America and Australia, showing how it reshaped trade, punishment, migration, and daily life worldwide, even triggering the first global refugee crisis. Told through vivid stories of individuals often left out of traditional histories, the book offers a striking new perspective on America’s founding. Bell is a professor of history at the

University of Maryland and the award-winning author of four books, including *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home*.



**Jeffrey Rogg, *The Revolution Sub Rosa: America's Shadow War for Independence***

**April 24**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

Dr. Jeffrey Rogg is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of South Florida's Global and National Security Institute and previously taught at the Joint Special Operations University, The Citadel, and the US Naval War College. He serves as vice president of the Society for Intelligence History and assistant editor of *Intelligence and National Security*. His scholarship and commentary have appeared in leading journals and outlets including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. He is the author of *The Spy and the State: The History of American Intelligence* (Oxford University Press, 2025). He holds degrees from Swarthmore College, Villanova University, Georgetown University, and The Ohio State University, and served six years in the Massachusetts Army National Guard as an infantryman.



**Scott Tucker and Theodore Thorpe III, *Sacred Music in the Western Classical and African-American Traditions***

**May 1**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

Theodore Thorpe III is a dynamic force in Washington’s music community—conductor, vocalist, pianist, organist, composer, arranger, and choral master. He has appeared as artistic director, conductor, and soloist at venues such as the Carnegie Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He serves as music director at Alfred Street Baptist Church, an artistic director for Washington Performing Arts, and director of choral activities at Alexandria City High School, where his ensembles earn top ratings and national recognition. A Yamaha “40 Under 40” music educator (2023), Thorpe is celebrated for inspiring students and leading performances for nationally televised events and historic occasions.

Scott Tucker is an accomplished choral conductor known for preparing choruses for leading orchestras and conductors worldwide. As Artistic Director of the Choral Arts Society of Washington (2012–2022), he led more than two dozen collaborations with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,

earning critical acclaim, including for Britten's War Requiem. He has also prepared choruses for appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Tucker conducts a broad repertoire spanning major choral masterworks and distinctive contemporary pieces.



**Marian Flaxman, *Food as Medicine –the Microbiome and How it Impacts All Aspects of Our Well-Being***

**May 8**

**1:30 PM**

**In-Person at OLLI**

Marian Flaxman is the Communications and Advocacy Lead and host of *Conversations from the Precision Nutrition Kitchen* at the [Cornell Joan Klein Jacobs Center for Precision Nutrition and Health](#). Inspired by her childhood experience with obesity and her daughter's severe food allergies, she has dedicated nearly two decades to advancing nutrition and health policy. After a decade in natural food industry management, she studied public health at American University and earned an MS in Biomedical Science Policy and Advocacy from Georgetown University School of Medicine, focusing on the gut microbiome and chronic disease prevention. She continues her work in Washington, DC, championing microbiome science and "food as

medicine” policy, inspired daily by her three daughters.

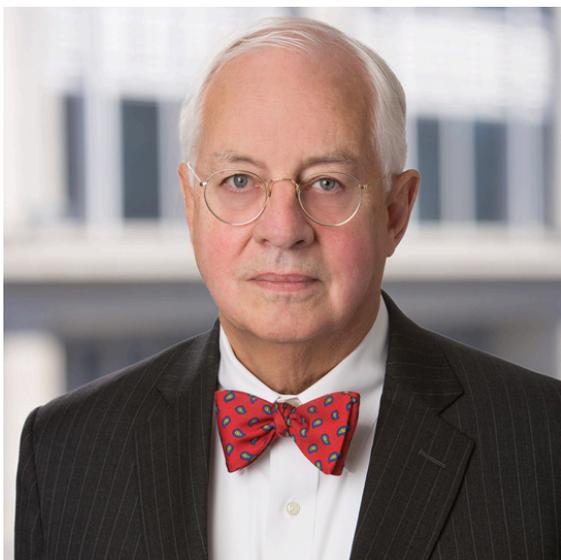
**OLLI does not endorse any of the viewpoints expressed by the speakers in its series.**

We thank the Lecture Committee and all those who suggested and contacted speakers: Ellen Babby, Joe Belden, Tamara Belden, Helen Blank, Jim Blasiak, Edward Cohen, Lesley Diaz (staff), David Flaxman (Co-Chair), Lisa Harper (Co-Chair), Jeanne Kent, Lynn Lewis, Marc Pearl, and Paul Vamvas.

## 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.



**David Hensler, [\*Modernist Washington\*](#)**

David Hensler is a trial lawyer who has studied modernist architecture for over 30 years. He has taught two prior courses at OLLI on Modernism (2024) and Art Deco Architecture in Washington (2025). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mies van der Rohe Society. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

## OLLI EVENTS



## **SPRING 2026 WINE AND CHEESE WELCOMER**

**Thursday, February 26**

**3:00-4:30 PM**

**\$15/Person**

### **Registration Required**

Join us for an in-person spring semester wine and cheese welcome event on Thursday, February 26 from 3:00-4:30 PM, at the Spring Valley Cafe located on the 6th floor of the OLLI building. Various wines and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Attendance is limited to the first 125 members that register. We look forward to seeing you.

If you are new to OLLI and would like a tour of OLLI facilities, we will have tours starting at 2:45 PM followed by the Wine and Cheese Welcomer. Please meet on the 5th floor by the elevators for the tours at 2:45 PM.

**REGISTER**

## **SERENDIPITY TALK**

**Robert S. Olick, *Rules for Dying 50 Years After Quinlan: Putting Patients and Families First***

**Monday, March 9 | 3:30-5:00 PM**

**Online via Zoom | No Registration Required**

Today we take for granted the right to refuse unwanted medical treatment and to create advance directives at the end of life. Yet that right was first recognized just 50 years ago in the landmark case of Karen Ann Quinlan, when the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed that patients—and their families acting on their behalf—may refuse life-sustaining treatment. This talk begins with Quinlan's story and traces how its principles shaped national law and policy, establishing today's end-of-life consensus. It concludes with an examination of the current

status, future prospects, and ongoing challenges surrounding the right to choose the time and manner of one's death.

[View more info.](#)

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



## **THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL TOUR**

**Saturday, March 28**

**10:45 AM-12:00 PM**

**\$15/Person | No Refunds**

**Registration Required**

Discover the [George Washington Masonic National Memorial](#), rising 333 feet above Alexandria on Shuter's Hill! Built starting in 1922, this striking granite landmark was funded entirely by citizens across the country and even laid with the same ceremonial trowel Washington used at the U.S. Capitol in 1793—a real connection to history you can almost feel.

This private guided tour begins in the Memorial Hall, followed by the Replica Lodge Room, and concluding on the Observation Deck.

**This tour requires a minimum of 10 registrants to take place.**

**REGISTER**

**AU EVENTS**

## 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.



### ROGER'S & HAMMERSTEIN'S OKLAHOMA!

February 19-20 | 8:00 PM

February 21 | 2:00 and 8:00 PM

Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre

4200 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016

Tickets: \$10 for seniors (55+)

[TICKETS](#)



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

featuring Female Ambassadors to the U.S.



H.E. Ambassador  
**Catalina  
Crespo-Sancho**  
of Costa Rica



H.E. Ambassador  
**Mathilde  
Mukantabana**  
of Rwanda



H.E. Ambassador  
**Dina Kawar**  
of Jordan



H.E. Ambassador  
**Svanhildur Hólm  
Valsdóttir**  
of Iceland



**Kelly Adams-Smith**  
Adjunct Professorial  
Lecturer, SIS  
Former Diplomat, U.S.  
Senior Foreign Service



**Betsy Fischer Martin**  
Executive Director,  
Women & Politics Institute

Wednesday, March 4 | 10:30 AM | SIS Founders Room, American University



**TICKETS**

## OTHER EVENTS

WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY  
Presents

# DANA TAI SOON BURGESS DANCE COMPANY

*An Asian American  
Dance Journey*

Apr. 24 - May 3





**WOOLLY MAMMOTH**  
Ticket Sales: (202)393-3939    More information at [dtsbdc.org](http://dtsbdc.org)

Photo: Matalong Du

### DANA TAI SOON BURGESS DANCE COMPANY (DTSBDC)

Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company, previous lecturers at OLLI at AU, return to Woolly Mammoth Theatre with their signature grace in storytelling in honor of Asian American Heritage Month.

**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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**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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