

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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January 16, 2026

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UPDATES

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RAYMOND MAXWELL

A celebration of life gathering will be held for Raymond Maxwell on **Saturday, January 17 from 4:00-7:00 PM** at DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20006. RSVP to Raymond's wife, Filomena, by emailing raymax2026@aol.com.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The OLLI office will be closed **Monday, January 19** for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

FEBRUARY SHORTS: REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The February Shorts will be held for two weeks: February 2-6 and 9-13. Each short course runs for 2-5 days during one of the two weeks. You may register for up to three courses in the lottery for the \$100 fee. Once you receive your class assignment letter, you can add additional courses by logging into your OLLI account.

Make sure to register before the February Shorts lottery on Wednesday, January 21.

[VIEW CLASSES AND 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.

Spring:

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

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 AT CMU SPRING CLASS

We are excited to continue our joint program with the OLLI at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Jeffrey Swoger's "A Night at the Movies" course from CMU will be available to OLLI members from American University. Members interested in the course will register through OLLI at AU, at no additional cost, as part of the typical spring semester registration process.

595: A Night at the Movies: The Films of Robert Altman

Jeffrey Swoger

6 Tuesdays (3:15-4:15 PM)

March 10

Online

[View more info.](#)

LECTURES

We are excited to announce the speakers for our upcoming January lecture series. **Reservations are not required for online lectures.** We will send the Zoom link the morning of each lecture to those subscribed to the newsletter.

We thank the Lecture Committee, 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, Irvin Nathan, Marc Pearl, and Paul Vamvas.



***Anna Fierst, A Family Member
Reflects on the Life and Times of
First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt***

Tuesday, January 20

10:30-11:30 AM

Online

Anna Eleanor Fierst is a great granddaughter of Eleanor Roosevelt and is the current chair of the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill in Hyde Park, New York. She is the only

daughter of Roosevelt's oldest grandchild, Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves.

[View more info.](#)



Noreen Sugrue, *The Healthcare Workforce Crisis*

Thursday, January 22

10:30-11:30 AM

Online

Noreen Sugrue is a sociologist with advanced training in sociology and public health. A former NIH Postdoctoral Research Fellow at CDC and Emory University, she was a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for 22 years.

[View more info.](#)

Carolina Jimenez, *Venezuela and US foreign Policy After Nicolas Maduro: A Return to Gunboat Diplomacy?*

Tuesday, January 27 | 1:30-2:30 PM

Online

[View more info.](#)

Bob Friedman, *Creating Wealth: Closing the Racial Wealth Divide*

Friday, January 30 | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Online

[View more info.](#)

OLLI EVENTS

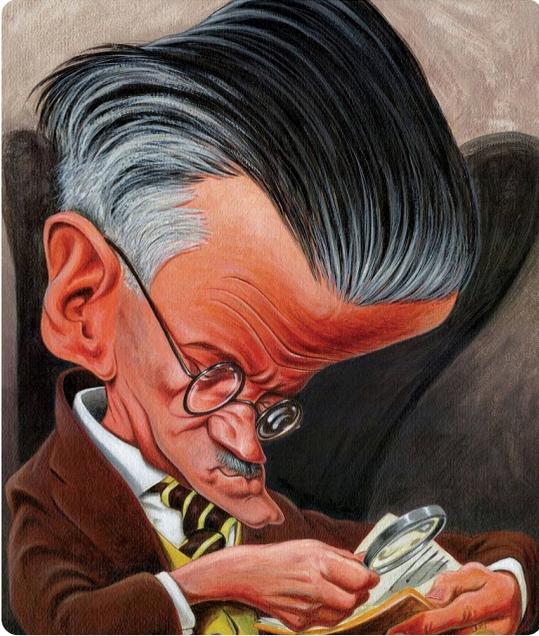
WINTER/SPRING 2026 MUSIC-THEATRE GROUP

Registration Deadline: Sunday, February 1

\$285/person for 5 performances

Join the Alliance for New Music-Theatre in the winter/spring 2026 season of the "Live and About" series. This curated subscription series includes [five performances](#) occurring once per month at various theatres around the DMV. Register below to join this upcoming season.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)



JAMES JOYCE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Monday, February 2

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](#)

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, February 3 | 1:45-3:15 PM

Wednesday, February 4 | 9:30-11:00 AM

Registration Required

Jeff Porter and David Callet will host an extra "Current Events" discussion. Specific topics of discussion will be announced closer to the dates. These groups are open to all OLLI members, but space is limited. Refreshments will be supplied by OLLI board member and Social Committee Chair, Jeff Porter. **Please register for only one of the two sessions.**

[REGISTER FOR FEB 3](#)

[REGISTER FOR FEB 4](#)

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

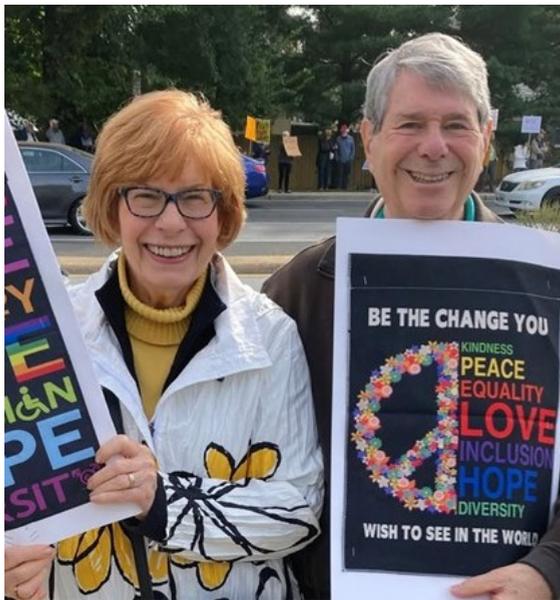
In this talk on the recent occasion of Thomas Mann's 150th birthday, we examine how antinomies – dualisms or antagonisms – still enliven his main characters: Hans Castorp in *The Magic Mountain*, Gustav von Aschenbach in *Death in Venice*, Thomas Buddenbrooks in *Buddenbrooks*, and the composer Adrian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

[View more info.](#)

MEDIA

OLLI PODCAST

Listen to episodes from OLLI at AU's podcast, [Curiosity Never Retires](#).



Leonard King, [Nonviolence](#)

After teaching 43 years at Maret School, Leonard King has taught study groups at OLLI on film history and analysis, European history and ideology, history of China, nonviolence, and moral dilemmas.

AU EVENTS

NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN GREAT POWER POLITICS

SECURITY IN A CHANGING WORLD
EVENT SERIES

As nuclear threats grow, arsenals modernize, and arms control erodes, nuclear experts explore the role of nuclear weapons in great power politics.


Dr. Sharon Weiner
Associate Professor, School of International Service


Dr. Tong Zhao
Senior Fellow at the Nuclear Policy Program and the China Center of the Corneille Endowment for International Peace


Dr. Pavel Podvig
Senior Researcher, UNIDIR's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme

When: January 22nd, 3:30-5 PM
Where: SIS Founders Room


Scan the QR Code to register on Eventbrite!

 SCHOOL of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY & GLOBAL SECURITY

[REGISTER](#)

[ZOOM LINK](#)

BOOK LAUNCH

THE PARTY'S INTERESTS COME FIRST: THE LIFE OF XI ZHONGXUN, FATHER OF XI JINPING

BY PROF. JOSEPH TORIGIAN

Wednesday, January 28th
5:30-7:00 PM, Founders Room



Scan to RSVP

Joseph
Torigian



Michael
Froman



Katie
Stallard



Patrick Thaddeus
Jackson



Evan
Medeiros



SCHOOL of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
OFFICE OF RESEARCH

REGISTER

ZOOM LINK

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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