

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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January 23, 2026

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UPDATES

IN MEMORIAM: VIRGINIA DEROZE

It is with great sadness that we announce that Virginia DeRoze, a longstanding and beloved OLLI at AU member, Scholarship Committee member, and class

coordinator passed away in late 2025. We extend our deepest condolences to Virginia's friends and family.

Virginia's obituary can be found [here](#).

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. 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.

STAFF WORKING REMOTELY

Due to inclement weather, OLLI staff will be working remotely **Monday, January 26**. We will still be reachable by email at olli@american.edu or by phone at (202) 895-4860.

VOLUNTEER

SUMMER CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

OLLI's Summer Curriculum Committee is looking for an OLLI member with an interest in helping recruit new and previous Study Group Leaders (instructors) for the June Minis and July Shorts.

The Summer Curriculum Committee, just as our regular standing Curriculum Committee, is responsible for OLLI's core mission of providing members with the highest caliber of courses. Committee members actively seek out new Study Group Leaders and solicit proposals from previous ones. They acknowledge receipt of summer study group proposals, offer any suggestions of improvement/edits, and communicate with and support Study Group Leaders to ensure a successful experience.

Committee members attend two meetings, one in early February and one in March, and work from home from February-April. Members preferably have interest and/or experience in at least one of the subject areas.

An orientation is provided for new committee members. If you're interested in being considered for this volunteer role, or have any questions, please e-mail olli@american.edu.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

FEBRUARY SHORTS: REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The February Shorts lottery took place on Wednesday, January 21, **but there is still time to register or add another class!** 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. Your courses do not have to be all within within the same week and you may register for as many open courses as fit into your schedule. Now that the lottery has passed, you can add additional courses by logging into your OLLI account.

The last day to register or request a refund is Friday, January 30.

[VIEW CLASSES AND REGISTER](#)

FEBRUARY SGR MEETING

OLLI will be having a meeting for February Shorts SGRs on **Thursday, January 29, 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 the morning of the meeting. 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.

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:

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

Reservations are not required for online lectures. We will send the Zoom link the morning of each lecture to those subscribed to the newsletter.



TUESDAY'S LECTURE

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

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

Online

Carolina Jiménez Sandoval is President of the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and a leading human rights advocate with more than 20 years of experience in research and advocacy across the Americas. She has held senior roles at Amnesty International and the Open Society Foundations, working on issues including grave human rights violations, migration, and refugees, and previously directed the Jesuit Refugee Service on the Colombian-Venezuelan border. She holds a PhD in international studies and advanced degrees from Waseda University, Chuo University, and the University of Cambridge, is a frequent international media contributor, and is a national of Venezuela and Mexico.



FRIDAY'S LECTURE

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

Friday, January 30

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Online

Robert E. Friedman is a leading advocate for closing the racial wealth divide and expanding economic opportunity. A fourth-generation

Californian and graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School, he founded and helped lead Prosperity Now, a national nonprofit advancing economic participation for all. Friedman pioneered key asset-building strategies, including Individual and Child Development Accounts and Baby Bonds, helping shape US and global enterprise development fields. He is the author of *A Few Thousand Dollars* and serves on the boards of the San Francisco and Rosenberg Foundations and the California HOPE Accounts Board.

OLLI EVENTS

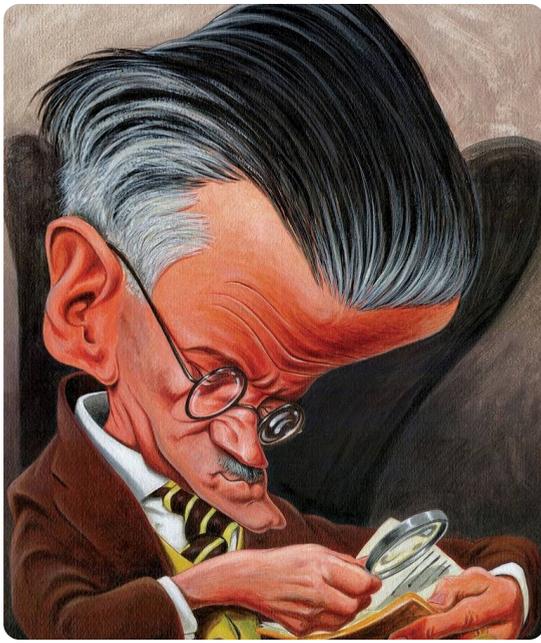
WINTER/SPRING 2026 MUSIC-THEATRE GROUP

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.](#)

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.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

ART EXHIBITION: EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER

Beverly Logan, a current SGL and OLLI member, is hosting an art exhibition from January 28-February 21. The opening reception is Saturday, January 31 from 4:00-6:00 PM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ART EXHIBITION



BEVERLY LOGAN "EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER"

January 28 - February 21, 2026

Opening Reception: January 31: 4pm-6pm

First Friday: February 6: 6pm-8pm

Studio Gallery
2108 R Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

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

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

Sine Institute 250+ at American Fellows Welcome Panel and Reception

SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS

 250+
AT AMERICAN



DEMOCRACY
INNOVATION LAB

KENNEDY
POLITICAL
UNION



January 27, 2026 | 1 PM ET | SIS Founders Room

OLLI SINE INSTITUTE: 250+ AT AMERICAN

Topics covered by the Fellows and Lecturers in seminars offered by the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics throughout the nation's semiquincentennial year will include America's storytelling history, the future of our democracy, civic education and engagement, voting rights activism, and more.

[MORE INFO/REGISTER](#)

BOOK LAUNCH

RUNAWAY CAPITALISM

BY PROF. JAMES H. MITTELMAN

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



SCHOOL of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
OFFICE OF RESEARCH

James
Mittelman



María De Jesus



Julie Radomski



Yang Zhang



Patricia
Aufderheide



Clarence Lusane

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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Jesse Williams, *Operations Manager*

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