

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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March 27, 2026

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UPDATES

2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This year's Nominating Committee (Tammy Belden, Chair; John Aldock; Barbara Beizer; Ed Feinberg; and Dave Hensler) developed a slate of four candidates to fill the four positions on the Board of Directors that will become vacant in June 2026. The committee believes these candidates have amply demonstrated the skills, experience, background, and energy needed for OLLI at AU leadership. The Board of Directors has reviewed and approved this slate of candidates,

which will appear on the ballot for the election scheduled for April 10, after the annual meeting.

Additionally, OLLI has a process by which any member may be nominated if a petition with at least ten signatures from active OLLI members is presented to the Nominating Committee. Once the Nominating Committee receives the completed petition, along with a brief bio of no more than 100 words, and a photo, it will consider and review such nominations for Board approval through **today, Friday, March 27**. Interested candidates should contact the OLLI office for the petition form and other details.

On behalf of the OLLI Board of Directors and the membership, thank you to the Nominating Committee members for this critically important work. [Click here to view the 2026-27 nominees.](#)

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

CALLING ALL PROPOSALS

We welcome proposals from both new and previous study group leaders! For more information about being an SGL at OLLI, please visit the [Become an Instructor](#) page on the website. If you or someone you know is interested in leading a study group for the first time and would like to speak with someone, please email olli@american.edu with your contact information and we will get in touch with you. To propose a study group, click the applicable button below. You will need to log in with your OLLI username/password or create an account if it's your first time.

June Minis

June 1-26

(Once a week for four weeks)

JUNE PROPOSAL

July Shorts

July 6-10

(2-5 times during one week)

JULY PROPOSAL

Proposal deadline for summer sessions: Sunday, April 5

Fall Semester

September 28-December 4

(Once a week for 7-10 weeks)

FALL PROPOSAL

Proposal deadline for fall semester: Sunday, May 3

If you are a current or prospective Study Group Leader planning a course, you may want to consider some of the creative teaching formats used in OLLI classes to encourage discussion and participation. Some courses are team-taught by two instructors who bring different perspectives and expertise, while others invite guest presenters to join individual sessions and share their knowledge on specific topics. These approaches can enrich the class experience and make teaching even more engaging and enjoyable. If you are an SGL—or are thinking about becoming one—feel free to contact a member of one of [OLLI's Curriculum Committees](#) to learn more about how instructors have structured their classes.



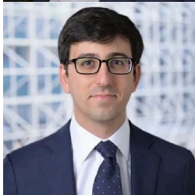
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The [Spring 2026 Membership Directory](#) is now available on the OLLI website. Members must be logged in to access the directory. Go to "Documents," and then "For Members Only."

LECTURES

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Registration is required for in-person lectures. Registration will open at 10:00 AM on the Friday prior to the lecture. **Spring lectures will be held at OLLI:** 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor. Visit the [Spring 2026 Lectures](#) page for a full list of this semester's lectures.



TODAY'S LECTURE - **REGISTRATION IS FULL**

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

March 27

1:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

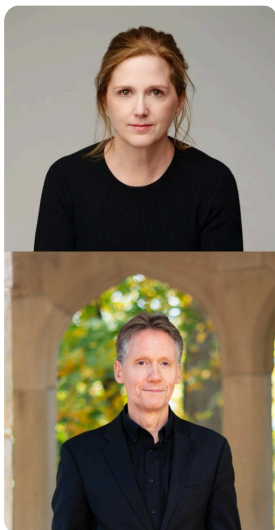
Senior DC lawyers came out of retirement last August to form the Washington Litigation Group, a non-profit law firm offering free legal assistance to persons and institutions unlawfully targeted by the USG for exercising their constitutional rights and to bring affirmative litigation to curb government overreach. John Aldock, a firm founder

and OLLI member, will interview Tom Green, WLG founder and President, and Nathaniel Zelinsky, WLG managing attorney on how and why the firm was created, its mission, and its efforts to date to defend the rule of law.

Tom Green is President of the Washington Litigation Group and a former Sidley Austin partner who has represented public officials in major national matters, including Watergate, Iran-Contra, and the prosecution of Dennis Hastert. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a Vietnam veteran.

Nathaniel Zelinsky is Senior Counsel at the Washington Litigation Group, where he litigates major constitutional cases. He argued *Barnes v. Felix* before the Supreme Court in 2024, winning unanimously, and previously served as a special prosecutor in the State of Minnesota v. Derek Chauvin case.

John Aldock is Secretary and General Counsel of the Washington Litigation Group and a retired partner of Goodwin Procter. He chaired the Advisory Committee on Rules for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for more than 40 years and is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.



NEXT WEEK'S LECTURE

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.

[REGISTER](#)

OLLI EVENTS

AMERICA 250 EVENT: PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

OLLI will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a special event on June 29 and 30. This two-day program will feature a series of short presentations on topics related to the "America 250" theme.

We invite members of the OLLI community to participate in this celebration by offering a brief presentation (approximately 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for Q&A). While America 250 commemorates a historic milestone, presentations may explore the influence of the Declaration of Independence across many aspects of American life. Topics are not limited to history and may include art, music, politics, culture, and more.

To propose a presentation for consideration, please email the following information to olli@american.edu

- Your name
- Title of presentation
- Brief description of the presentation
- Your bio
- Your availability on June 29 and 30

Submission deadline: next Friday, April 3



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 CONCERT SERIES: RITUALS

April 1, 2026

4:00-6:00 PM

Katzen Arts Center in Abramson Recital Hall

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW

FREE | Registration required

We are excited to announce the first event in OLLI's new concert series. Each concert is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will follow along with an opportunity to purchase CDs for \$18.99.

Soprano Laura Choi Stuart and pianist Tanya Blaich present a recital and discussion featuring the art songs of three contrasting composers: Charles Ives' American experience of community and family, ancient rituals and passions of Reynaldo Hahn's *Études latines*, and the intimate domestic rituals of William Bolcom's vivid miniatures in *Briefly It Enters*. RITUALS is a full recital program shaped into an album-length narrative—song as ritual: memory repeated, language tasted...life, love, and death revealed in a few concentrated minutes.

Laura Choi Stuart will also be appearing as the soprano soloist in a performance by the City Choir of Washington of the great Mass in B minor by JS Bach at National Presbyterian Church on May 31 at 5:00 PM. For more information and tickets [click here](#).

ART SONGS by Charles Ives,
Reynaldo Hahn,
& William Bolcom

Laura Choi Stuart, SOPRANO
Tanya Blaich, PIANO



OLLI CONCERT SERIES
RITUALS

APR | **4** |
01 | PM

FREE
Registration
Required

Abramson
Recital Hall
KATZEN ARTS
CENTER

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW | Parking \$2/hr

Please share the above flyer and information with your community listserv. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the OLLI office at olli@american.edu or 202-895-4860. Thank you for being an ambassador for OLLI in your local community!

MORE INFO/REGISTER



MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

Join us April 6-10!

As a form of appreciation for our amazing members, each day, we will have refreshments (see times below) in the Social Space located on the 5th floor:

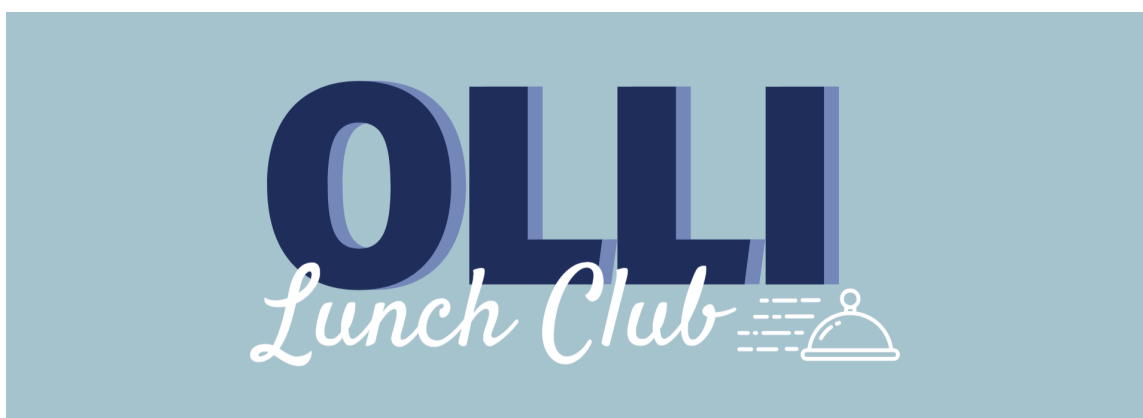
Monday, April 6–Thursday, April 9

9:00 AM–2:00 PM: Breakfast treats, desserts, and savory snacks

Friday, April 10

9:00–11:30 AM: Breakfast treats, desserts, and savory snacks

11:30 AM–1:00 PM: Sandwich wraps prior to the lecture



OLLI LUNCH CLUB

12:00 PM

Millie's Restaurant | Registration Required

[Wednesday, April 8](#)

[Thursday, April 23](#)

The OLLI Lunch Club will hold its next luncheon of the spring semester on Wednesday, April 8 at 12:00 PM at Millie's restaurant across the street from OLLI. There is space for up to 12 people. Each person pays their own way. **Please register using the links above.**

SERENDIPITY TALK

Dan Sherman, *Celebrating Rachmaninoff*

Monday, April 13 | 3:30-5:30 PM

Online via Zoom | No Registration Required

Born into the Russian aristocracy, Sergei Rachmaninoff quickly showed gifts as a composer and as a pianist. He went on to a spectacular international career, often performing his own works, including piano concertos that are very popular today. This talk will review Rachmaninoff's life and career, demonstrating the range and richness of his work through recordings (including some by Rachmaninoff) and his dazzling compositional style.

[**View more info.**](#)

Dan Sherman also recently gave a talk titled "How Richard Wagner Shaped Film Music: Korngold, Hollywood, and Star Wars." [**Click here**](#) to watch the full talk on YouTube.

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)

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MASONIC MEMORIAL TOUR

Last Saturday, March 21, was a spectacular day to tour the George Washington National Masonic Memorial with OLLI. The weather cooperated which allowed for spectacular views atop the observation deck, while the tour itself was led by an accomplished guide who provided comprehensive information about George Washington, the Masons, and their history and place in the world today. If you have not yet visited this treasure in Alexandria, VA, put it on your list!



OLLI SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Last Friday's happy hour gathering at Pizzeria Paradiso was well attended with lecture attendees. What better way to follow-up a great lecture than with your OLLI friends!

On Tuesday, March 24, a group of OLLI members had lunch at Millie's Restaurant across the street. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, go to the Events Calendar on our website for more information. Happy Hours are held each Friday after the lecture and the OLLI Lunch Club meets on various days throughout the semester. These events are organized by OLLI's Social Committee Chair, Jeff Porter.



AU EVENTS



250+ AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

The 250+ at American initiative offers a year of multidisciplinary programs that invite AU's community to reflect on the nation's past, engage in the present, and imagine the future.

[MORE INFO/EVENTS](#)

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*.

Web: www.oli-dc.org | Phone: 202-895-4860 | E-mail: oli@american.edu

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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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