



**OSHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE  
AT AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY**

**2019-2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

As the coronavirus raced across America in February 2020, it was unclear how the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University would fare. OLLI at AU's entire curriculum consisted of in-person classes, lectures, and events. We had never offered a fully virtual study group, and most Study Group Leaders had never taught one. Nonetheless, OLLI went completely online with 45 classes in less than a week, added members as the pandemic lingered, and ended the fiscal year on July 1 with a budget in the black. How?

On March 9, Executive Director Tony Long emailed members: "We are currently working with Study Group Leaders (SGLs) to explore contingency plans should we need to delay or cancel classes." The next day, the phone rang in the OLLI office. An OLLI member who had attended a shiva the previous week and then taken OLLI classes, had learned that another mourner had just tested positive for the virus. OLLI notified members and cancelled classes for the next day. Slightly later that day, American University closed.

OLLI staff sprang into action. Executive Director Tony Long developed a master plan: staff would determine which Study Group Leaders (SGLs) were willing to teach online, prepare training materials for SGLs, and aim to resume classes online the following Monday. Fortunately, earlier in the year, two SGLs, Carol Light and Victor Rezmovic, working with Deputy Executive Director Mary Fran Miklitsch and Operations Coordinator Jesse Williams, had offered pilot courses on Zoom.

Academic Programs Coordinator Lesley Diaz and Williams contacted each of the 90-plus spring SGLs to find out who was willing to move class online. Nearly half agreed to do so and signed up for Zoom training. With only two weeks experience at OLLI, Administrative Coordinator Niranjan Singh juggled countless emails, phone calls, and messages.

Throughout the week, Tony consulted continually with OLLI Board Chair Martha Cutts and the entire Board. OLLI posted a list of classes that would continue and offered full refunds to anyone who preferred to wait until we were back in person. Of 1193 spring members, 61 percent opted to try classes on Zoom. Of the 467 members who requested a refund, 32 percent donated the money to the Friends of OLLI Fund. On Monday, March 16, classes resumed. The spring semester ended with plaudits for all. The SGLs, especially, proved in using Zoom that they are, indeed, "lifelong learners." The June Minis, held online, set records for enrollment.

Judith Havemann  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

## OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

In spite of the pandemic, a total of 164 Study Group Leaders (SGLs) presented 218 courses during the 2019–2020 academic year. While enrollment was lower in Spring due to Covid-19, by June, the number of Minis offered and the number of members who attended broke records. Throughout the spring and summer, staff provided documentation and training on Zoom to assist SGLs and members in participating online. The willingness of all to learn how to use Zoom and participate in online classes underscored our members’ commitment to lifelong learning. We finished the academic year with our highest enrollment ever.

*“... I wanted to send along a note of tremendous appreciation for the truly amazing work—above and beyond even reasonable expectations...*

*Communications have been clear, concise and helpful, and a huge shift in delivering courses has been achieved quite adequately.* ”

— RALPH BUGLASS



### BY THE NUMBERS

	2019-2020	2018-2019
Number of unique OLLI at AU members	<b>1561</b>	1546
Number of study groups and shorts offered*	218	243
Number of new study groups and shorts offered	100	117
Number of Study Group Leaders	164	241
Number of new Study Group Leaders	29	31
Number of members who donated to OLLI at AU**	323	351

*\*The cancellation of more than half of the Spring 2020 study groups due to moving online quickly was offset in part by the increased number of June Minis and July Shorts.*

*\*\*OLLI couples who are donors are counted as a single donor.*

## LECTURES

One advantage of meeting remotely is that our audience size was not limited. As usual, the Lecture Committee provided wide-ranging lectures, a few of which were:

- Scott Clarkson, “The Insolvent Printmaker: The Life and Bankruptcy of Rembrandt van Rijn”
- Jason DeParle, “International Migration Through the Eyes of One Family”
- Judy Feder, “Time for a Change? The Future of US Health Insurance”
- Wil Haygood, “Unraveling the Life of Sammy Davis Junior”
- Radha Muthian, “The Capital Area Food Bank: 30 Million Meals a Year and That’s Only the Beginning”
- Marlene Trestman, “Bessie Margolin: An Unsung Crusader for Workers’ Rights”
- Gayle Jessup White, “Revisiting Monticello”
- Helen Zughaib, “Unfinished Journeys: Tracing the Arc of the Arab Spring”



## OLLI-IAP PARTNERSHIP

The OLLI-IAP Partnership is a program linking OLLI members with AU International Accelerator Program (IAP) students. IAP students are foreign students seeking a Master's degree. The Partnership kicked off Fall 2019 with 29 OLLI members and 37 IAP students. New group programming included a semester launch event, three discussions over lunch on specific topics, and an end-of-semester dinner celebrating the graduating students and our partnership. In Spring 2020, the Partnership continued to grow but was upended by AU's shutdown due to COVID-19. While some of the students moved to other locations in the US or returned to their respective home countries, most of the partnerships continued to meet virtually or outdoors while masked. Group programming moved to Zoom and was welcomed as a way to build community and maintain contact. Many participants feel that they have developed what will be lifelong relationships.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Individuals and groups helped to arrange special events, in person and online. As in previous years, there were James Joyce celebrations, Free Minds Poetry Workshop sessions, the annual Holiday Party, and *Serendipities!*, presentations by OLLI members or individuals recommended by members. Other special events included:

- Bastille Day celebration
- Book Club with Steven Pearlstein on his book, *Can American Capitalism Survive?*
- Dan Sherman presentations: "Citizen Kane: What Makes It Great" and "Hamilton: Man & Musical"
- "Live & About" Music-Theatre Group
- *Serendipities!* by Matt Fink and Steve Sherman
- Tours of Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the US State Department Diplomatic Rooms, the Museum of the American Revolution, and the "Edward Hopper and the American Hotel" exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts



*“Thanks so much for the clear instructions and suggestions. And, of course, for all the work you are doing to keep OLLI moving forward during these very hard times.*

*I’m brand new to OLLI, just signed up for my first two classes this term, and am so impressed with your organization.”* ”

— MARTHA ADLER

*“Thanks! OLLI is an excellent role model for grace under pressure.”*

— MARY LEONARD

*“In these times of widespread and stressful personal isolation, OLLI interconnections through Zoom provide a service that, frankly, is more important than the subject matter of the various classes. At least that’s the way I see/feel it. I thank you....”*

— LARRY COHN

## STUDY GROUP LEADER SERVICE AWARDS



### 20-24 YEARS

Linda Freeman  
Larry Heilman  
Irwin Lebow  
Arnold Leibowitz  
Jenny Pierson

### 15-19 YEARS

Robert Coe  
Iris Lipkowitz  
Helen Schwartz

### 10-14 YEARS

Lewis Cohen  
Bruce Eisen  
Leslie Frantz  
Susan Goodman  
Bob Hausman  
Eleanor Heginbotham  
Jaleh Labib  
Virginia Newmyer  
Dave Palmeter  
Mary Poole  
Karuna Srimati  
Andrew White  
Susan Willens  
Peter Wolfe  
Michael Yahuda

### 5-9 YEARS

Josh Berman  
Brad Bickford  
Don Bliss  
Ben Boley  
Evelyne Bonhomme  
John Bowen  
Paul Brown

Phillip Brunell  
Ralph Buglass  
Hanne Caraher  
Dan Coyle  
Stephen Elkin  
Monica Grigera  
Rita Hadden  
Penny Hansen  
Carol Hausman  
David Hurwitz  
Arthur Katz  
Erich Keel  
Lisa Leinberger  
Karen Gail Lewis  
Ellen Moody  
Daniel Moskowitz  
Rose Mosner  
Mark Nadel  
Louis Nevins  
Charles O'Connor  
Richard R. Palmer  
Ronald Parlato  
John F. Peterson  
Judith Plotz  
John Poole  
Jacques Read  
Elizabeth Seastrum  
Arthur Siebens  
Martin Silfen  
Marilyn Smith  
Ray Squitieri  
Diane Swan  
Wendel Swan  
Al Taran  
Paul Van Nice  
John Vorhes  
Mark Zweig

### 1-4 YEARS

Judy Alden  
Graham Atkinson  
Joe Belden  
Barbara Bird

Martin Blank  
Richard Boardman  
Monroe Brett  
Karen Buglass  
Ilsa Bush  
Gary Cahn  
David Callet  
Russell Canan  
Woody Carter  
Joseph Casazza  
Albert Cheh  
Richard Chipkin  
Fredric Clarke  
Susan Cole  
Marion Connell  
Robert Croog  
William Daney  
Leonard Deerkoski  
Jeffrey Drobis  
Susan Drobis  
Elaine Férat  
Whitney Fishburn  
David Flaxman  
Lisa Friedman  
Anat Gelb-Price  
Larry Gondelman  
Jeffrey Gorsky  
Mark Gottlieb  
P. Lance Graef  
Bill Hadden  
Lisa Harper  
Rabbi Shua Hecht  
Heather Heckel  
Gerry Hendershot  
Kenneth Hinga  
Jim Holman  
Edward Ingebretsen  
Catharine Keatley  
Al Kilborne  
Mina Kim  
Leonard King  
Stephen Klatsky  
Alan Kogan



Bob Kolodney  
Jerry Leach  
David Lee  
Chuck Lefton  
Arthur Levine  
Lynn Lewis  
Raymond Maxwell  
William Metler  
Roger Meyer  
Caroline Mindel  
Gregory Mize  
Arrigo Mongini  
James Nathan  
Elsa Newmyer  
John Parascondola  
Stuart Pierson  
Frederick Pollack  
David Pomerantz  
Jeffrey Porter  
Joseph Reo  
Victor Rezmovic  
Richard Ringell  
Don Ross  
Nolvia Saca  
Catherine Sandifer

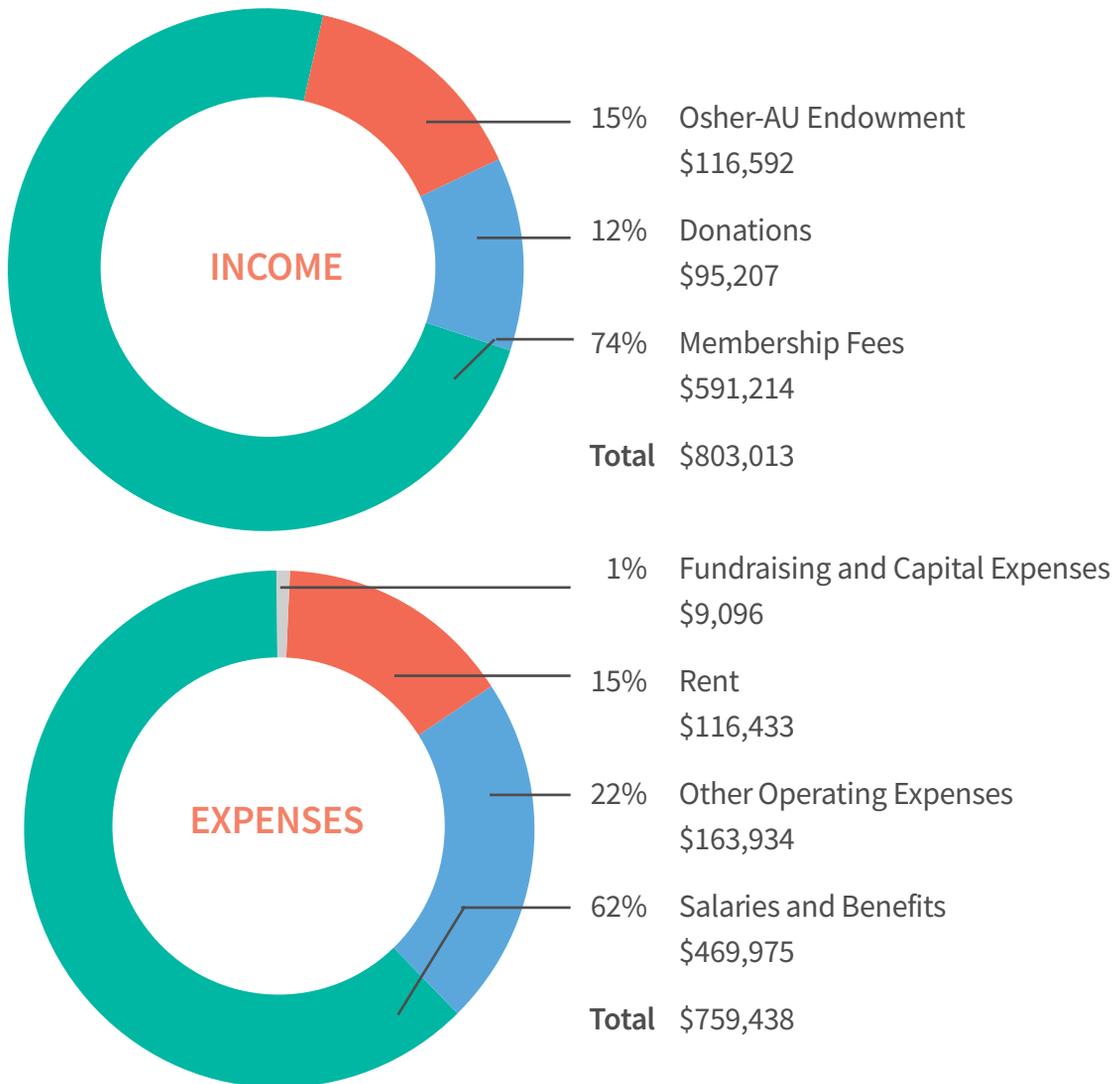
Lange Schermerhorn  
Susan Schneider  
Dennis Shaw  
Elizabeth Shelton  
Dan Sherman  
Elaine Showalter  
Robert Somers  
Patricia Spector  
Karen Stewart  
Matthew Swartz  
Jeffrey Thomas  
Candace Thurman  
Susan Urofsky  
Michael Usdan  
Paul Vamvas  
James Verdier  
Reggie Walton  
Edward Ward  
Carl Weichel  
Kim Weichel  
Vera Wilhelm  
Xenia Wilkinson  
Peter Wilson  
Anders Zeijlon  
Paul Zeitz

*“Many, many thanks. ... All of you at OLLI have been terrific, creatively ensuring that we are able to continue with our classes in the midst of this crisis. You provided a sense of continuity while everything else was interrupted or cancelled. Greatly appreciate your efforts.”*

— CECILIA OTERO

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Together, the Treasurer, Finance Committee and the Executive Director develop each year's budget. This is a challenging task given that OLLI's finances are largely dependent on membership enrollment. In 2019-2020, the task was even more challenging given the transition to online classes because of the pandemic. Although OLLI offered refunds in the Spring because nearly half of the classes were cancelled, many members donated their refunds back to OLLI. Moving online offered the financial benefit of increased class sizes. Enrollment in the June Minis increased significantly. We continue to have as a primary financial goal keeping tuition reasonable and affordable.



## NOTES

Net surplus FY 2019-2020: \$43,574, which includes net earnings on the OLLI at AU investment account.  
The balance in the OLLI at AU investment account on June 30, 2020: \$1,166,425.  
These are unaudited figures.

## 2019-2020 DONORS



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University has earned the Silver Seal of Transparency from Candid (formerly the Foundation Center and GuideStar), which “indicates that a nonprofit has provided key information in its Nonprofit Profile. By providing up-to-date information, nonprofits allow potential donors and funders to make educated decisions about the work they do to make the world a better place.”

### FRIENDS OF OLLI FUND

---

Anonymous (4)	Joseph and Margaret Chachkin	Janna Dresden
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Stanley Asrael	Wayne Clark	<i>a great job especially</i>
Mark Austrian	Bob Coe	<i>during Covid</i>
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Carole and Henry Berman	Martha and Steven Cutts	Matthew and Ellanor Fink
Moira Black	<i>in celebration of the great</i>	Judith Fogt
Mary Blakeslee	<i>OLLI staff and all that</i>	Leslie Forrest
Don and Nancy Bliss	<i>OLLI offers us!</i>	Linda and Jay Freedman
Ben and Sue Boley	Richard D’abreu	Jo Anne and Jack Friedenthal
Meredith Branson	Michael and Nancy-Jean	Bernard Friedman
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Barbara Clarke  
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Lawrence Levit  
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Karen Gail Lewis  
Lynn Lewis  
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Cindy Lisec  
Geraldyn Lobel  
Lee Lockwood  
Tony Long  
Steve Lovett  
Winifred Lumsden  
Peggy MacKnight  
Raj Madan

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Jane Mahoney  
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Herbert Marks  
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Susan Martin  
Lawrence McCarthy  
Deborah McIlroy  
Roberta and John McInerney  
Paula McMartin  
Lee Merryman  
Mary Fran Miklitsch  
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Linda B. Miller  
*in honor of Tony's leadership*  
Lori Milstein  
Caroline Mindel  
Lanny Moldauer  
Marisela Montoliu Munoz  
Mary Moore  
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Laurie Sedlmayr  
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Arlene Stein  
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*in celebration of  
OLLI-DC rich program*  
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Stacey Thal  
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Faith Tanney  
Toba Penny

Ellen Siegler  
Kristina Stahlbrand and  
Dean Pineles  
Eva Tank-Nielsen

Joan Wessel  
Elsa Williams

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## ANNE N. WALLACE FUND FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT

---

Thomas and Annie-Claude D'Agostino  
*in honor of Thomas P. D'Agostino*

David Palmeter and Faith Tanney

*We have made every effort to ensure all of the above information is correct. We apologize for any errors. Please contact us if a correction is needed.*

*To every individual who contributed  
to OLLI at AU in 2019-2020 whether by leading a course,  
participating, volunteering, speaking, and/or donating ...*

Thank you.

## MISSION

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) 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.

## HISTORY

Established in 1982 as the Institute for Learning in Retirement as part of the Continuing Education Department of American University, OLLI at AU was invited to become an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in 2005. As a member of the larger Osher Lifelong Learning Institute network, we are one of 124 institutes nationwide funded in part by the Bernard Osher Foundation, which is dedicated to educational opportunities for seasoned learners.

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**4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW**

**Washington, DC 20016**

**202.895.4860**

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