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.
A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

For the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University, 2020–2021— the first full year of the Covid 19 pandemic and shutdown— was a year of uncertainty and challenge. It was clear that the pandemic and related shutdown would likely worsen over the year. We faced a crucial question: how does our organization and community—that derives its strength, energy, and enthusiasm from face-to-face exchange of ideas and information—maintain its character without direct personal interaction?

The Board, staff, committees, donors, and other volunteers, although distanced, worked together to maintain our program. Critical to our success was the outstanding performance by our staff—led by Tony Long and Mary Fran Miklitsch, and supported by Lesley Diaz, Jesse Williams, Sara Beatty, and Niranjan Singh—who worked tirelessly to ensure a largely seamless and painless shift of classes and activities to remote operations. They provided Zoom training to more than 1000 members and SGLs, kept members informed of evolving AU and OLLI policies under the pandemic, and arranged for a Zoom assistant in every class that requested one.

After a large drop in spring 2020, enrollment rebounded in the fall—to the highest number ever—and remained strong. Most SGLs who had cancelled their 2020 spring courses returned in the fall. The fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters had more than 90 classes each. Our donors also responded, with nearly 24 percent of members contributing to our Friends of OLLI Fund, breaking previous fundraising records.

To help members remain in touch with each other in a time of isolation, we introduced the virtual Coffee Chat. Members were provided time to “mingle” with other members via Zoom. Many expressed gratitude for the chance to see and talk with old friends and colleagues.

Our lecture series broke attendance records. More than 400 people logged in to Norman Ornstein’s lecture. In January, Chair Judy Havemann orchestrated a four-part series entitled “Revisiting Washington's Black History.” Partnering with the DC History Center, the series focused on Black Washington’s role in American music; Howard University’s history; how covenants, redlining, and segregation shaped Washington’s neighborhoods; and the story of a family that has lived in the Washington area since the late 1600s when its first members arrived here enslaved. Hundreds of people participated.

While Zoom presented challenges, it also created opportunities. Members for whom joining class in person would be difficult or impossible now could attend via Zoom. Using Zoom’s recording feature, we taped most classes, then made them available the same day and throughout the semester to all members. We also began developing a permanent library of recordings of selected study groups.

In 2020–2021, OLLI at AU adapted, experimented, and adjusted. Throughout the most challenging year in our nearly 40-year history, we not only survived, we thrived. I am confident we will continue to do so.

John Bargeron
Chair, Board of Directors
The Lecture Committee presented lectures via Zoom in 2020-21. This allowed more OLLI members and other individuals to attend as we were not limited by physical space. Below are just some of the year’s lectures.

- Michael Abramowitz, *The Threats to Freedom and the Work of Freedom House*
- Marie Arana, *Silver, Sword, and Stone: Three Crucibles in the Latin American Story*
- Raymond Caldwell, *Making Theater Meaningful in DC and Beyond*
- W. Neil Eggleston, *Reflections on Attorney General Barr’s 2019 Speeches to Notre Dame and the Federalist Society*
- Glenn Frankel, *The Hollywood Blacklist and the Making of High Noon*
- Dorothy Butler Gilliam, *Thoughts on Journalism and Diversity: A Conversation with Judy Havemann*
- Rose Gottemoeller, *Negotiating the New START Treaty*
- Christine Grady, *Connecting Bioethics and COVID*
- William Howell, *Populism and the Presidency*
- Mark Leithauser, *Moving Walls and Making Space: Designing Exhibits at the National Gallery*
- George Derek Musgrove, *Race and Police Reform in the Nation’s Capital*
- Norman J. Ornstein, *Governing Ahead: Where Do We Go From Here?*
- Adam Rothman, *Georgetown Slavery, Memory and Reconciliation Initiative*
- Sandy Ungar, *How Free is Free Speech?*
STUDY GROUP LEADER SERVICE AWARDS

20-24 Years
Linda Freeman
Larry Heilman
Irwin Lebow
Arnold Leibowitz
Jenny Pierson

15-19 Years
Eleanor Heginbotham
Iris Lipkowitz
Helen Schwartz
Peter Wolfe
Michael Yahuda

10-14 Years
Lewis Cohen
Bruce Eisen
Susan Goodman
David Hurwitz
Rose Mosner
Dave Palmeter
Mary Poole
Ray Squitieri
Wendel Swan
John Vorhes
Andrew White
Susan Willens

5-9 Years
Graham Atkinson
Josh Berman
Brad Bickford
Paul Brown
Phillip Brunell
Ralph Buglass
Hanne Caraher
Fredric Clarke
Marion Connell
Dan Coyle
William Daney
Jeffrey Drobis
Stephen Elkin
Mark Gottlieb
P. Lance Graef
Eleanor Greene
Monica Grigera
Frances Grigsby
Rita Hadden
Penny Hansen
Kenneth Hinga
Delrie Hobbs
Edward Ingebretsen
Arthur Katz
Eric Kearsley
Erich Keel
Minerva Keller
Bob Kolodney
Lisa Leinberger
Arthur Levine
Karen Gail Lewis
Carol Light
Ellen Moody
Daniel Moskowitz
Mark Nadel
Lois Neuman
Louis Nevins
Charles O'Connor
Richard R. Palmer
John Parascandola
Judith Plotz
Jacques Read
Don Ross
Catherine Sandifer
Diane Swan
Al Taran
Susan Urofsky
Paul Van Nice
Carl Weichel
Kim Weichel
Chris With

Up to 5 Years
Judy Alden
Ibrahim Anli
Monica Batra
Joe Belden
Helen Blank
Martin Blank
Monroe Brett
John Burton
Ilsa Bush
Gary Cahn
Russell Canan
Albert Cheh
Richard Chipkin
Ronald Collins
Joseph Cotruvo
Robert Croog
Susan Drobis
Robert Feldhuhn
David Flaxman
Lisa Friedman
Nick Glakas
Christian Godart
Larry Gondelman
Margery Gordon
Jeffrey Gorsky
Bill Hadden
Rabbi Shua Hecht
Heather Heckel
Gerry Hendershot
Jim Holman
Catharine Keatley
Al Kilborne
Mina Kim
Leonard King
Alan Kogan
Katharine Kravetz
George Lesser
Lynn Lewis
Noelle Lewis
Keith Lindgren
Raymond Maxwell
Caroline Mindel
Gregory Mize
Barbara Moldauer
Arrigo Mongini
James Nathan
Chris Nelson
Jerome Paulson
David Pomerantz
Jeffrey Porter
Resha Putzrath
Hunter Rawlings
Joseph Reo
Victor Rezmovic
Richard Ringell
Carin Ruff
Lange Schermerhorn
Susan Schneider
Marjorie Shaw
Dan Sherman
Jay Sherwin
Milton Shinberg
Anastasia Snelling
Joseph Snyder
Patricia Spector
Delbert Spurlock
Mark Stevens
Karen Stewart
Matthew Swartz
Candace Thurman
Michael Usdan
James Verdier
Reggie Walton
Edward Ward
Guillermo Warley
Frederick Weisberg
Natalie Wexler
Xenia Wilkinson
Peter Wilson
Paul Zeitz
### BY THE NUMBERS

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<tr>
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<tr>
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“I enjoy being able to attend OLLI classes and lectures on Zoom; I know it was a ton of work to make this transition, so thanks to the whole OLLI team for that.”

—Mauri Osheroff

“I am amazed at how well things are going with my Alcott study group and am grateful for the professional electronic support OLLI is providing. The class really seems to want things to succeed. . . . People are courteous and don’t interrupt each other. But OLLI participants always are like that!”

—Linda Freeman
Each year, the Treasurer, Finance Committee, and the Executive Director develop the annual budget. The budget for 2020-21 presented challenges much the same as last year in that it was difficult to predict membership enrollment, which typically accounts for approximately 80% of revenue for the year. We were fortunate this year to have stable membership revenue and a robust fundraising program coupled with a decrease in operating expenditures because our program was online for the entire year, which resulted in a net surplus for the year.

NOTES

*Rent expenses represent a small portion of the total expenses due to continued rent abatement from American University because of the pandemic.

The balance of the OLLI at American University investment account on June 30, 2021: $1,788,525.

These are unaudited figures.
In addition to the usual four Lecture Series, during the 2020-21 academic year, OLLI offered Serendipities!—talks by OLLI members and friends, virtual tours of culture and institutions in DC and Rome, Coffee Chats and Happy Hours, a four-part series on Washington’s Black History, a lecture and performance on Mozart, and more.

Serendipity! Book Chat: Esther Safran Foer, I Want You to Know We’re Still Here: A Post-Holocaust Memoir

Three Coffee Chats
Serendipity! Talk: Bill Hadden, The CDC
Serendipity! Talk: Carl and Kim Weichel, 1968—A People Divided, A Country on Edge

Two online Happy Hours
Online tour at Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art: Art Across Cultures
Serendipity! Talk: Joe Hassett, Yeats Now: Echoing Into Life
Serendipity! Talk: Nick Glakas, Franklin & Winston—The Partnership That Saved The World
Online tour of Planet Word—DC’s Latest Museum!
Serendipity! Talk: Carl Weichel, Christo vs. Warhol; Eclectic Art and Eccentric Personality
Serendipity! Talk: Joe Snyder, Genghis Khan—The Man Who Conquered Eurasia
Online tour of the Eisenhower Memorial

Viewing of Hamlet by William Shakespeare
End-of-year online social gathering
Revisiting Washington’s Black History, four-part series
James Joyce Birthday Celebration
Serendipity! Talk: Bernard Kempinski, Introduction to the Railroads of the Civil War
Online tour of the American Visionary Art Museum
Third online Happy Hour
Online tour of the U Street Murals in Washington, DC
Online tour of the Jewish Community in Rome, Italy
Nancy Jo Snider, Mozart and the King lecture and performance

Bloomsday Celebration
Summer in-person Happy Hour
Serendipity! Talk: Dan Sherman, Rodgers Without Hammerstein
Online tour of Rome, Italy: Cinema and Food
Serendipity! Talk: Dan Sherman, Tradition: The Music of Bock and Harnick

“I want to thank you for all of your amazing dedication and hard work. The Zoom workshop today was quite useful. Greatly appreciated!”

—Marilyn Smith
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 (31)  
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Sharon Babcock  
Jane Bajbor in honor of those who died in defense of our country  
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Linda and Tom Veblen
James Verdier
Mary Verdier
Joyce and John Vialet
Susan Vincent
Edward Ward in memory of Brock Hansen
Gray Warren-Boulton in memory of my beloved brother, Bobby
Alice Weinstein in honor of the staff who Zoomed to perfection. Thanks.
Les Weinstein and Lynn Jatlow
Andrea Weiss
Francine Weiss in memory of Ellen Siegler
Joan and John Westley
Betsy White
Barbara Wierzynski in memory of Joel Havemann
Susan Willens
Elsa Williams
Karen Williamson in honor of Diane Renfroe
Peter and Betty Wilson
Barbara Wise in honor of Susan Rogers, sister
Mark Wolfman
Pandit Wright
Amy Young
Ellen and Bernard Young
Sally and Anders Zeijlon

Raymond J. Rasenberger Scholarship Fund
   KMA Zuckert

Anne N. Wallace Fund for Staff Development
   Joyce Chandler

In Honor of Carolyn Small Alper
   The Alper Family Foundation

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.
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