



OLLI

at American University Washington DC



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

May 2010

May Luncheon --Last Chance

The Annual Luncheon will be held at Kenwood Country Club on Wednesday, May 12. To reserve a place, please mail your name and a check for \$30 to the OLLI office TODAY. You can also reserve a place by using the forms at the Church. (Checks should be made out to OLLI.)

Calendar

June

[Terrific Lecture series](#) now posted on the OLLI website on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in June from 10-11:50 am. Lectures will be at the Katzen Arts Center, starting on June 1 with a lecture by Rabbi Mordecai Schreiber entitled

Jeremiah: The Prophet Who Shaped our World.

Study Group Leader Workshop

Its not to soon to sign up

Kudos from the Chair

As I approach the end of my tenure as Chairman of the Board, I look both forward and backward. Immediately ahead I see a series of lectures planned for the month of June and marvel at the diversity of subjects and the excellence of the lecturers. I am pleased but not surprised because, as I look back, I am aware of a consistently high standard set all year by the excellent performance of the Lecture Committee, and wish to compliment Barbara Rollinson, Committee Chairperson, and members Mickey Klein, Hope Bogorad, and Tina Fried Heller.



Still looking back, I am very impressed by the expansion of our program. We offered more courses than ever before and attracted the largest membership in the history of OLLI at AU. We had 600 members selecting from 62 class offerings last fall. And the number of courses will increase this fall. Most of these courses result from the hard work of the Curriculum Committee. My thanks and appreciation go to last year's Committee Chairperson, Gloria Kreisman, and this year's Chair, Dave Palmeto and the Committee Members, Myrna Whitworth, Linda Miller, Betsy White, Ed Goldin, Barbara Searle, Alan Frey, Sidney Steinitz, Gina Guglielmo, and Sandra Levenbook.

I was particularly pleased to note the increased participation of American University faculty in the courses offered by the School of International Service and the School of Public Affairs. I felt privileged to participate in both, and I especially wish to thank Tina Fried Heller for her efforts in arranging these programs. I look forward to increased interaction with the AU faculty in the future.

Volunteerism is what OLLI is all about, and we certainly appreciate the efforts made by all members. But we also know who does the heavy lifting, and I do wish to congratulate and thank the OLLI staff for their efforts this year. Jacqui Gallagher, Staff Assistant, has kept things totally organized and running smoothly at the River Road Unitarian Church location. Barbara Lenhoff, Staff Assistant, does everything necessary to help Lena and Anne. Chris Chinn, Audio Visual Manager,

for the fall study group leader workshop. We plan to hold our four-session workshop in September. [Email](#) the OLLI office if you are interested in participating.

Condolences

We mourn the losses of OLLI members, Julie Hoard and Robert Nathans.

Cool Stories for Hot Days--NEW Summer Book Group

WHEN: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1:30-3pm, June-August.

WHERE: 2939 Van Ness St. NW (Van Ness East), Apt. 1221. Note: This condominium is metro-accessible and has valet parking.

FORMAT:
Participants will take turns leading a discussion on selected short stories from *The Best American Short Stories, 2004* (editor, Lorrie Moore). For the first session (June 1) participants should read Sherman Alexei's *What You Pawn I Will Redeem*.

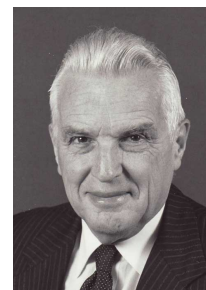
makes sure that we can all see and hear so we can benefit from the courses we take. Barbara Johnson is our magical and visionary editor. Our Program Manager, Lena Frumin, makes sure information is available and programs are running smoothly. And, on top of it all, is Anne Wallace, our esteemed Executive Director. Anne, you have always been there for me this year and for all other members as needed. I have been aware of your many frustrations regarding our physical space needs and have admired your tenacity and patience. We are grateful for the talent you have exhibited in making OLLI work so well and want you to know that we appreciate all you do for all of us.

And, finally, I simply want to thank all OLLI members for your support and friendly congeniality this year. It has been a pleasure to be among you and I look forward to the future with confidence of continuing a great learning experience.

--Don Quayle

The People of OLLI: Brad Patterson

One of the first things new members discover is that OLLI commands an extraordinary faculty of Study Group Leaders. And Brad Patterson, the SGL for "The Presidential Office," is an outstanding example.



Washington Post columnist David Broder says Brad "has made a specialty of examining the workings of the White House and probably knows as much as anyone ... how to organize the presidency." Brad has served 14 years on the White House staff, as Deputy Cabinet Secretary under President Eisenhower, as Executive Assistant to Leonard Garment under President Nixon, and as Assistant Director of the Office of Presidential Personnel under President Ford. So the career Washington public administrator knows all about the 135 offices known as "the White House staff" with their 5,900 members who do everything from assisting the chief executive by writing the drafts of presidential policy to preparing the president for summit conferences to crafting the president's language for state occasions such as State of the Union addresses and for what some call "Rose Garden rubbish," such as pardoning the Thanksgiving turkey. One of the offices is responsible for presidential security and overseeing who rides on Air Force One. (Brad, a political independent, volunteers that riding on AF1 is "really fun!")

In one way Brad was crucial to the development of the organization of

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May 20.

the White House staff. Although President Franklin Roosevelt officially created the White House Staff in 1939, before Eisenhower, most presidents ignored the office.

In 1954 Brad helped create a review of the White House staff organization requested by Eisenhower. As a result of the report, the president created the first cabinet secretariat in US history and appointed Brad as the Assistant to Cabinet Secretary Rabb. The president was a doodler, and Brad's Bethesda home boasts a White House agenda memo that includes what appears to be a self-portrait sketch of a confused-looking Ike.

Brad has summed up his experiences in three books about the White House staff, *Ring of Power: The White House Staff and Its Expanding Role in Government* (Basic Books, 1988), *The White House Staff: Inside the West Wing and Beyond* (Brookings Press, 2000) and *To Serve the President: Continuity and Innovation in The White House Staff* (Brookings Press, 2008.)

Those White House years had tense moments too. During the Nixon administration, as part of the Trail of Broken Treaties protest, Indians invaded and occupied, Wounded Knee, Alcatraz Island, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BAI) building in Washington. Three or four hundred people with arms, Molotov cocktails, and gasoline barricaded themselves in the BIA for three days. Appointed to begin negotiations with the angry activists whose leader told him that they were prepared to die, Brad followed the administration approach of restraint, which he feels was responsible for preventing potential loss of life. One image captured by the press shows a senior Indian leader in full native dress and Brad in full Washington bureaucrat dress: dark suit, white shirt, tie, and briefcase.

But for all his access to power, the house that Brad and Shirley, his wife of 66 years, designed speaks of a love of nature, with a living room overlooking a grove of woods dotted with bird feeders, and decorated with paintings by family members - not with autographed photos of the power elite. Exotic sculptures and objects from around the nation and the world reflect the family's openness to new worlds and new experiences. These experiences included a 5:30 am worship service conducted by red-robed monks in Nepal that inspired "a sense of a real religious service going back to the 13th century," and riding camels in

the deserts of Morocco. But the Middle East travel also introduced Brad to sights of poverty which "have never left" him.

He has always been a vigorous camper and backpacker and, in 1992, prepared for a two-week expedition in the Himalayas to see Mt. Everest by walking up and down Metro's longest escalator wearing ankle weights. He was 72-years-old at the time.

The enthusiastic Brad also worked tirelessly to get a second high school in Bethesda and has been active in his River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, serving on the Board twice. He and Shirley are devoted to their four children, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

--Jacqui Gallagher

Quick Links

[OLLI Website](#)

[American University Website](#)

[AU Library Classes Website](#)

[AU Community Relations Website](#)

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Lena Frumin, Program Manager/ Barbara Johnson, Newsletter