



# OLLI

at American University Washington DC



## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter September 2010

### Registration

**Reminder:** Get your registrations in to the office **BEFORE** Tuesday 7 September, Lottery Day.

### Calendar

#### September

10: Board Meeting-1:30, Temple Baptist Church (TBC)

15: Open House- 1pm, TBC

17: Study Group Leader/Study Group Rep (SGL/SGR)-10 am, TBC

20: First Monday classes at River Road U.U.C.

22: First Day of Classes at Temple Baptist Church.

### School of International Service (SIS)

AU and SIS invite OLLI members to

## Welcome to Fall 2010

Kindergarden through whatever, pick a number. When do we graduate? The answer is NEVER! Curiosity Never Retires (the OLLI marching song).



Here we go again, ready to learn, interact, be social and just plain have a good time with all that OLLI has to offer. This semester, we've got 70 courses worth of stimulating experiences to whet your appetite. Admit it. You couldn't wait to return and start talking, listening, arguing, discussing, joking and sharing with friends old and new. You're ready to feel that rush of joy and challenge of learning and exchanging with one another.

OK, enough cheerleading, let's get to, "Nothing but the facts Ma'am/Sir":

1. Come to the **OLLI Open House** on September 15, 1-2:30 pm. Meet OLLI members and Study Group Leaders.
2. Park on streets around church for less than 2 hours (read signs carefully), or use AU parking lots (\$1.50/hr). **Register your auto with AU Public Safety, 202-885-3111, to avoid AU citations, even if you have a Ward 3 permit.** Carpool if possible.
3. Check activities in the catalog and the OLLI website for program announcements. Try to attend all events. In particular, consider the **Tuesday Speakers Program**, 12:15-1:15pm in the Baptist church auditorium. Brown bag it and bring a friend. Coffee and tea are available.

their Open House in the new building on Nebraska Ave. on **Wed. Sept. 22 from 2-4 pm.** Enjoy a tour and refreshments.

### Conversational French

Jaleh Labib will be leading a french conversation lunchtime group on Thursdays from 12-1 in the Temple Baptist Church, room 6. Please [email](#) the office if you are interested in participating. The first session will be Thursday, Sept. 30 at noon. Bring your lunch!

### Condolences

Long-time participant Philip Yaney died on July 20 at 91.

### Article in *The Huffington Post*

OLLI member and Study Group Leader, **Harold Sharlin**, had an [article](#) in The Huffington Post, entitled "Back to School: Time to ReSET" describing his program to involve retired scientists and engineers in the

4. Attend the October 19, **OLLI Town Meeting.** Communicate your ideas and reactions about the OLLI experience. It's your program. Staff and board members will be there to listen and exchange.

5. Consider **volunteering** for a committee (see committee list in catalog or on-line) or offer help for ad hoc OLLI activities and ideas. Contact office to express interest.

6. If you know someone who could make an interesting **Study Group Leader (SGL) or speaker**, let our staff know. If you have a friend or relative curious about OLLI, **invite them** to come and sample a class. Please ask the SGL in advance.

7. Don't let the **lottery** get you down. There are plenty of other great classes to experience.

In the meantime, sit back and relax with a good book or your class text, and warm up for your OLLI courses. Until then, I extend my best wishes to you for a **great semester.**

PS If you see me wandering the halls the first week, please say hello and introduce yourself. I'll be the one with the **red carnation.**

--Ed Goldin, Chairperson

### OLLI OPS

Do you miss OLLI when the semester is over? A surprising number of us do. Some of us have found ways to continue our *opportunities* for intellectual stimulation and friendship. We've formed groups which we design and manage on our own. I belong to three, which range in size from nine to fifteen. I'll describe them so you can get a sense of some possibilities.

**Group 1** has been meeting for more than 6 years. We meet only when OLLI is not in session. Meetings are held once a week and we read books slowly - about 50-100 pages a week. Choosing the books is a collaborative process, and over the years has become quite formal. We take turns leading, do research on authors and/or historical

Washington DC schools.

## Other News

OLLI member Carol Bird Ravenal received a Post-50th Lifetime Achievement Award from her undergraduate college, Brooklyn College this year. She will be lecturing on Edvard Munch at OLLI during the January lecture series.

### Quick Links

[OLLI Website](#)

[American University Website](#)

[AU Library Classes Website](#)

[AU Community Relations Website](#)

background, and really dig in. We have read an astonishing number of classics.

**Group 2** has a more relaxed approach. We meet once a month for 10 months (taking summers off). We take turns leading and it is the responsibility of the leader to pick the book. We found it necessary to adopt a rule that no one is allowed to complain about the book choice, but this selection method has produced wonderful results. We've read an amazingly eclectic variety of books, most of which I would never have read on my own.

**Group 3** meets every two weeks when OLLI is not in session, and much more sporadically during school time. The books are chosen collaboratively. (In this group the topic is science). We do not use a leader; rather we let the discussion flow freely. We've become quite good at detecting flaws in the books, and learned a great deal in the process.

All three of these groups grew out of OLLI classes. Today, each has a closed membership, pegged at what each group considers its optimal size. But others are doing things differently. Willie Blacklow continued his current affairs class after OLLI finished last spring, and the first meeting had over 50 people!

Clearly, the opportunities for forming these kinds of groups are endless. The curriculum committee would like to make them a more prominent part of the OLLI program, so we've decided to give them a name: OLLI Opportunities, or OLLI Ops. Do you know of an existing group? Would you like help in starting a new one? Let us know by getting in touch with me ([bsearle70@msn.com](mailto:bsearle70@msn.com)) or the OLLI office ([OLLI@american.edu](mailto:OLLI@american.edu)).

We plan to publish a list of current and potential OLLI Ops in our next newsletter, and perhaps focus on some of the Ops in other newsletters.

Please let us know the following about each "OLLI OP"

Name:  
Where it meets:  
When it meets:  
No. People:  
Coordinator:  
Contact email and phone:

*--Barbara Searle*

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Ed Goldin, Board Chair/ Anne Wallace, Executive Director/

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