

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

June 2011



OLLII

at American University Washington DC



Calendar

[June lecture series](#)

July 7: Field Trip to Philadelphia, PA
[\(form on calendar page\)](#)

OLLII Losses

We mourn the loss of OLLI member Paul Fernandez.

Thanks!

Thanks to Tony Cafoncelli, Barbara Coleman, Enrique Lerdau, and Dave Palmeter for donating their class gifts to OLLI.

Thanks!

Thanks to Patricia Bruck, Penny English, Joyce Johnson, Natalie Muiltz, Lisa Roney, Therese Rousseau, and Betsy White for their help with our recent mailing. Also many thanks to Jaleh Labib for organizing the mailing.

Catalog Mailing

Letter from the Board Chair

It's June and the weather is finally warm.

June is also the time for the OLLI Board of Directors to begin its new term for 2011-2012. Welcome to the new Board members, Larry McCarthy and Phil Schwartz, and many thanks to the outgoing members, Beverly Zweiben and Ray Rasenberger.

In the May Newsletter, Ed Goldin, our outgoing Chair, summed up the exciting year we just completed.

We had a growing enrollment that reached 620 in the spring, 68 courses, and introduced OLLI Shorts. Our year closed with the annual luncheon when we were entertained and impressed with readings of poetry by members of Jennifer Pierson's Poetry Craftshop.



I am looking forward to continuing what has been accomplished in the past year. We expect membership to continue to grow in 2011-2012 and it looks as if we will have about 75 courses to offer.

A major theme for next year will be our celebration of the 30th Anniversary of OLLI at AU. We plan to have several events marking this milestone and to honor our founding mothers and fathers and the long time contributors who have made OLLI a vital educational resource for lifelong learning.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the June Lecture Series and during the coming school year.

--Bob Goodman

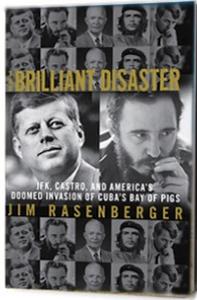
June Speaker Series

Our Speaker Series started out this Tuesday. The series will be held at the Katzen Arts Center from 10-11:50 am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through the month of June. Park in the Katzen garage at \$2.00/hour. You may

Please let us know if you wish the catalog to be sent to you at a different location than the one we have on file.

New book

OLLI members Ray and Nancy Rasenberger's son, Jim, has a new book out called *Brilliant*



Disaster, describing the Bay of Pigs debacle.

Board and Committee Chairs

Chair

Bob Goodman

Vice Chair

Linda Miller

Secretary

Ruth Darmstadter

Treasurer

Bob Coe

Members

Ed Goldin

Tina Fried Heller

Mickey Klein

Larry McCarthy,

Don Quayle

Carl Rappaport

Selma Rosenthal

Phil Schwartz

Administration

Jaleh Labib

Audit/Budget/Finance

Edmund Stelzer

park behind the Temple Baptist Church and walk over behind Nebraska Hall (only if your car is registered with AU). **If you have registered your car with AU's public safety service since Fall 2010 you don't need to reregister, but if you have not, please call 202.885.3111 or email dpscuserservice@american.edu and give them your name, phone number, email, car make/color and car license/state.**

Viewing Chagall

Sign up early to join the group going to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see the Exhibit on Mark Chagall and his Circle on **Thursday, July 7, 2011**. Download and mail in the form found on the [OLLI website calendar page](#).



Sondheim Follow-Up: Follies

by JoAnn Udovich SGL, *Sondheim Turns 81*

Many "Sondheim Turns 81" participants have been making their way to the Kennedy Center to see the current lavish revival of James Goldman and Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* directed by Eric Schaeffer.



More than the cavalcade of musical set pieces that have traditionally defined this show, this production privileges the complex relationships between the four main characters. Bernadette Peters inhabits and interprets the psychology of her character Sally in a manner that I found simply profound. Though anachronistic, I sensed Dot from *Sunday in the Park with George* in her performance of Sally. Both women characters find themselves in frustrating situations where the man they love is distracted by relationships with objects, although George from *Sunday* is certainly a very different character, and interested in very different objects, than Ben in *Follies*. The dancing, the sets, and the costumes are all very satisfying to look at, reminding that the visual in the theater stands along side the aural in ways that are difficult to consider outside of actual performance.

Follies is ultimately about women of a certain age, about the wisdom or at least the emotional insight of women in their maturity, and about the nature of women's emotions in general. And here are Olli-age actors, singing and dancing across the stage of the Eisenhower Theater (trailed by their younger *doppelgänger*) eight times a week. Bernadette Peters is 63, plays a character who is 49, and still looks even younger. Elaine Paige, too, is 63. Terri White is 56. Linda Lavin (Phyllis Homes' cousin)

Catalog Editors

Cathy Kruvant
Gloria Kreisman

is 73. Rosalind Elias is 84. The cast is a refreshing break from the near invisible place older women have in our society, and more remarkable in the context of the original production in 1971 when Sondheim was just 40 and the youth culture was at its height.

Curriculum

Dave Palmeter

The four main characters not only interact with each other, but are in dialogue with themselves as they were thirty years earlier. Here are the expectations they had as young people; and here is how it all turned out. Both male leads have failed lives, economically comfortable, but personally bankrupt for complex, largely non-stereotypical, and perhaps timeless reasons. And what are their wives to make of this? In many ways they are simply stuck. Stuck because of the decisions they made and the feelings they had thirty years ago.

Facilities & Dev.

Ray Rasenberger

Hospitality

Clare & Marianne
Soponis

The privileging of the four main characters also serves to privilege Sondheim's original musical voice. This show is best known for Sondheim's *tour-de-force* exploration and imitation, in all of those individual set pieces, of every significant style of both music and lyrics for the commercial stage extending back nearly a hundred years. Yet it is the music for the rest of the show, where Sondheim's contrapuntal writing, motivic development, and colorful harmonies (concepts our study group considered at length) serve both the character development and the plot, as this production illuminates.

Investment

Judith Berson

Membership & Publicity

Jack Chamberlain
Larry McCarthy

Newsletter Editor

Helen Schwartz

I think I can speak for all of us who have been to the Kennedy Center in the last few weeks that our perception of Sondheim's achievement has been forever changed and enhanced by our class time together. The production runs through June 19. For more information, feel free to speak with any of the following, who have attended the performance: Carolyn Alper, Fran Burka, Kate Headline, Phyllis Homes, Gloria Kreisman, Sara Landau, Bruce Montgomery, Natalie Multz, Ginger Newmyer, Ellie O'Toole, Gerry Padwe, and Alison Taylor.

Personnel

Myrna Whitworth

Study Group Rep Coordinator

Jaleh Labib

Study Group Training Session Coordinators

Selma Rosenthal

Thirtieth Anniversary Committee Chairs

Kate Headline
Helen Schwartz
Phil Schwartz

Trip Coordinator:

Barbara Rollinson

Quick Links

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[AU Community Relations Website](#)

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, DC 20016

Tel: 202.895.4860 Email: OLLI@american.edu

Website: www.OLLI-DC.org

Bob Goodman, Board Chair/ Anne Wallace, Executive Director/

Lena Frumin, Program Manager/ Helen Schwartz, Newsletter Editor