

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

November 2013



OLL I

at American University Washington DC



Pulitzer Prize- Winning Author Visits OLLI Class

On October 22, Edward P. Jones, winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for literature and winner of a MacArthur Foundation genius grant, visited OLLI's class, Enjoying Contemporary African-American Literature. Mr. Jones graciously answered the class' many questions about his stories, his life growing up in Washington, DC, and the creative process that led to his authorship of *Lost in the City*, a collection of stories that illuminate the lives of people in Washington and the neighborhoods of the city that most OLLI members have encountered briefly, if at all. It was a lively discussion that enhanced our understanding and appreciation of Mr. Jones' work. How did we persuade Mr. Jones to visit? Chalk it up to beginner's luck.

Letter from the Board Chair, Phil Schwartz



I hope you have all been enjoying your study groups at OLLI this semester. Those of you who attended the Town Meeting on October 29, heard an excellent presentation from Mary Fran Miklitsch, OLLI Program Director, describing the new registration process which we hope to have in place in time for the next semester.

For those of you who missed it, I'd like to give you a short summary.

In previous semesters, some members who requested 3 study groups received 3, some received 2, some received 1, and some received none. The goal of the new lottery is to assign study groups more equitably.

- As in the past, members may register online or by submitting the paper registration form to the OLLI office by hand or by mail.
- A member will indicate how many total study groups she/he wants to take -- 1, 2, or 3.
- A member may list up to 6 study groups she/he is interested in taking, in order of her/his preference. There will be no "alternates" as in the past. However, a member may list among her/his preferences any study groups she/he would like to take if she/he isn't assigned a higher preference(s).
- As in the past, all members registering will be randomly assigned a number for processing.
- As many members as possible will be assigned one study group before any member is assigned a second study group. If a member's first choice is open, she/he will be assigned to that study group. If a member's first choice is oversubscribed, the computer logic will waitlist the member for that study group, then assign her/his second choice, and so on, before moving to the next member.
- As many members as possible will be assigned a second study group before any member is assigned a third study group.
- As in the past, if a member requests a study group or Study Group Leader and has taken that particular study group or Study Group Leader within the last two semesters, the member will be added to the waitlist if the study group is oversubscribed.

Ellen Siegler

Online Study Group Feedback

Please visit the OLLI homepage (olli-dc.org) and click on the link to provide feedback for any Study Group you are attending. Constructive feedback for our Study Groups helps the Study Group Leaders, the Curriculum Committee, and the office staff.

OLLI Lectures

Click [here](#) to view the OLLI Lecture Series. If you want to suggest a speaker for the Series, please fill out the form [online](#) or pick up a copy at class sites.

Did you know?

You can click on underlined text in this newsletter and it will take you to a website or open an email. Underlined text like this is called a "link."

- The computer logic will not assign a member to a second or third study group at the same day and time as a study group to which she/he is already assigned.
- We will no longer maintain a waitlist from semester to semester.

The new lottery design is part of an overhaul of our database and website, which are very outdated and are not working as they should. We aim to have the new systems up and running for next semester's registration. Ample time has been built into the schedule to allow for thorough testing before we go live.

Thanks for your participation in OLLI and for your assistance as we implement a system that will give everyone a better chance of taking part.

Regards,
Phil Schwartz, Chair of the OLLI Board

Land of the Sirens: Art & Music on Italy's Amalfi Coast!



Insiders' Tour for Opera Lovers to the Amalfi Coast Music & Arts Festival, Maiori, Italy

*Lead by Bruce Eisen, instructor of opera
appreciation classes
& opera aficionado extraordinaire*

July 6 - July 14, 2014

An unforgettable musical and cultural experience ~
as you explore this magnificent area of the Mediterranean,
renowned for its historic landmarks and stunning landscapes.

During your idyllic stay in southern Italy, join opera singers, painters & renowned professors of music and art to partake of the rich offerings of an international music & arts festival in the incomparable setting of Italy's Amalfi Coast.

To register, go to: <http://amalfi-festival.org/guest/alumsOlli.php>
For more details, contact: music@amalfi-festival.org or 301-587-6189.

OLLI Ops Theatre-Going Group

The OLLI Theatre-Going Group invites you to join us for an edgy comedy entitled ***Appropriate*** by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, **Sunday matinee at 2 pm, Nov. 17**. Tickets cost **\$38** each. In this searing and audacious comic drama, the estranged members of the Lafayette family return to Arkansas, and their crumbling old plantation home, to settle the accounts of their recently deceased patriarch. Sorting through mementos and junk, they discover a

gruesome relic that sends the family spiraling into a dark history of repressed memories and family secrets. **Checks due by November 8, made out to OLLI and sent to Cynthia Chase at 3654 Upton St NW, Wash DC 20008. Sorry, no refunds possible.**

In December, we're partnering with Footlights DC to go on **Saturday, December 7 at 3:00 pm** to the Studio Theatre. This popular venue is presenting the first two plays in Richard Nelson's quartet of plays about the Apple siblings and their extended family. Set at successive meals over the course of four years, the tensions and compromises, affections and resentments of the Apple Family's personal lives play out against a rapidly changing America. The first play is ***That Hopey Changey Thing***. It's 7 pm on the eve of Obama's first midterm election, and Barbara's hosting dinner for the family at her Rhinebeck, NY home. Over the course of a meal, the Apples delve into lost family history, the social meaning of manners, and the fragile state of the American body politic. Tickets cost **\$35** each. **Please send your check by November 15, made out to OLLI and addressed to Cynthia Chase at 3654 Upton St NW, Wash DC 20008. Sorry, no refunds possible.**

OLLI Directory Errata

A few members were inadvertently left out of the Fall 2013 OLLI Directory:

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From American University

Books That Shaped America

A series of community conversations about the extraordinary influence of these books in American society

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

November 19, 2013, 7:30-9:00pm

Gianni Lounge, Mary Graydon Center, Room 200

A community dialogue led by University Librarian, Nancy Davenport.

For more information, visit: www.american.edu/spexs/btsa

Muslim Journeys: American Stories

Book discussion series at American University Library

Professor Randa Serhan, Director of Arab World Studies, discussion leader.

November 7: *A Quiet Revolution* by Leila Ahmed

November 14: *The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam* by G. Willow Wilson

6:00pm, Training & Events Room, AU Library First Floor

Middle Eastern fare served at each event.

RSVP is required. Email LibEvents@american.edu

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Phil Schwartz, *Board Chair* / Anne Wallace, *Executive Director*

Tony Long, *Curriculum Coordinator* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator*