

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

May 2014 Newsletter



OLLII

at American University Washington DC



SPRING FLING - Last Call

You have until close of business tomorrow to reserve your spot for the SPRING FLING next Thursday 15 May.

June Lecture Series

Our June Lecture series is posted on our website. Starting Tuesday June 4th at 10am, and running for 3 weeks on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The series will be held at the **Katzen Arts Center Recital Hall**.

Thank You ...

to **Brock Hansen** and **Bruce Eisen** for donating their class gifts to OLLI.

OLLII Hiking Group

Hope everyone is recovered from our uncomfortable winter and is ready for a nice walk this Friday,

Letter from the Chairman of the Board



This is my final newsletter as chairman of your Board. David Palmeter will take over on June 1.

I want to thank you all for making OLLI at AU such a great organization. It provides us with the opportunity to continue to learn and to meet people with fascinating life experiences. Now, I want you to ask yourself how you

can make OLLI at AU better. If you have an idea about what you can do, please feel free to let me know.

In the spirit of continuing education, here are some fascinating results from a survey of 3,000 OLLI members who attend OLLI programs at eight universities around the country:

- Approximately two-thirds of participants are women
- The largest group is ages 65-69, followed by ages 70-74
- More than half have completed a graduate program!!!
- Approximately 86% have completed college
- More than 60% of the age group 50-54 use an iPad or Facebook; usage decreases with age to 10% for age 90 and above
- More than 40% of those under age 55 have taken online courses; the percentage declines with age to 20% for age 90 and above
- Almost all of those under age 50 are working part-time or full-time, or looking for work; the percentage still working or looking for work for ages 70-74 is more than 15%
- More than 20% of those ages 50-54 have relocated recently; over 40% of those over age 75 have relocated
- The most popular topic areas (in order of popularity) are --
 1. History
 2. Fine Arts
 3. Current Affairs
 4. Literature
 5. Religion and Philosophy
 6. Health and Wellness
 7. Technology
 8. Science and Math
 9. Crafts

I'm not sure what this means for OLLI at AU, but I hope it gets you thinking more about what you want from OLLI and how you might

May 9, at 10 AM. We will meet at the Eastern Market Metro Station (Blue Line) and do the walk (with some modifications) described in the flier linked below. When you exit the Metro escalator, walk straight ahead toward 8th Street. I will have a straw hat on. This should be a great hike with lots to see.

Read the [Eastern Market Walk flier](#).

Regards,
Ray Johnston

Fall 2014 Semester Dates

The Fall semester begins on Wed., Sept. 24. Because of the holiday, Thursday classes will begin on October 2.

contribute to OLLI. If I don't see you at the OLLI party on May 15, have a wonderful summer and don't forget about OLLI's June Lecture Series.

Sincerely,
Phil Schwartz

Cool Poems for Hot Days!

It's BACK ... "Cool Poems for Hot Days!"

When: Alternate Tuesdays, 1:30-3, beginning JUNE 10

Where: Ginny Finch's place, 2939 Van Ness St., NW, #1221. Metro-accessible, plenty of parking.

For the 3rd summer in a row, new and longtime OLLI poets will meet to read and to write poetry. We'll read selected poems from Billy Collins' 2010 *Poets Laureate Anthology*, and we'll write and share our original poems. To RSVP (or for more information), contact Ginny at ginnyvne@yahoo.com.

Aristotle's *Poetics* Online

To follow up on OLLI's successful pilot project for online discussions, led by Sue Willens, OLLI will offer a short (six weeks) discussion of Aristotle's *Poetics* in June and early July, to be led by Dave Palmeter.

The group will use the new Oxford World's Classics translation of *Poetics*, by Anthony Kenney, and will begin June 4 with a discussion of Plato's theory of drama and poetry, with which Aristotle disagreed. It will conclude with defenses of poetry by Sir Philip Sidney and Percy Bysshe Shelley, and an application of Aristotle to detective stories by Dorothy L. Sayers, author of the Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries.

Between Plato at the beginning and Sidney, Shelly, and Sayers at the end, the group will spend four weeks on this short, but important, work by one of the most powerful thinkers of all time -- the first work on dramatic and literary theory in the Western intellectual tradition.

The discussion method will follow that used by Sue Willens: once a week, Dave will post online a comment on the week's reading and some questions. Over the course of the ensuing week, participants will post their own comments and reply to the comments of others. The process will be repeated weekly:

- June 4 Excerpts from Plato's Republic.
- June 11 *Poetics*: The Various Kinds of Poetry
- June 18 *Poetics*: The Nature of Tragedy
- June 25 *Poetics*: Excellence in Tragedy
- July 2 *Poetics*: Epic
- July 9 Excerpts from the writings of Sidney, Shelley,

and Sayers.

All of the readings are contained in the Oxford World's Classics volume.
For information on how to join the discussion, contact Tony Long at
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