

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

January 2014



Our Sympathies ...

to Lois Berkowitz on the death of her husband **Ed Berkowitz** who has been an OLLI member since 2008.

to the family and friends of **Mary Shoemaker**, one-time Study Group Leader and long-time member, died on Nov. 30.

Thank You ...

... to **Bob Hausman, Dave Palmeter** and **Jacques Read**, who donated their class gifts to OLLI. Thanks very much.

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 Ever Living Tree by Grace Lebow

Upcoming Exhibit at River Road Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda, Maryland January 6 - February 14, 2014
Reception: January 5, 3:00-5:00 P.M.

Please RSVP:

gracelebow@comcast.net

Grace's work can be viewed at her website at Gracelebow.com.

Letter from the Board Chair, Phil Schwartz



LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

I want to wish everyone a very happy and educational new semester (and New Year). We are set to have another wonderful semester with a record-breaking 92 classes. One of my favorite study groups this past fall was "New Media Landscape," a series of presentations by AU School of Communication professors, which explained the mind-boggling array of media competing for our attention. They are coming back this spring. One of my wife's favorites was "The Dodgers and Brooklyn: A Horsehide Love Affair." For me, these two study groups represent the array of classes available at OLLI: from the legends of our youth to the current bombardment of information.

This January we will usher in a new registration process. While we still cannot guarantee that everyone will get her or his first choice of study groups, we can assure that fewer people will get shut out of their preferred choices, with the understanding that those who have taken the most popular courses during the previous two semesters may have to wait to take them again. You will be asked to indicate how many study groups you want to attend and you may list up to six study groups in order of preference. You can include among your six preferences, several study groups that are offered on the same day and at the same time because the computer will not allow you to be assigned to a study group if the time conflicts with a study group that you have already been accepted to. **We will demonstrate the new registration process and answer any questions at Temple Baptist Church on Monday, January 6th, from 10:00 to 11:30 am.**

The Spring 2014 catalogs will mail on Jan. 3. Please look them over carefully. We have a wide range of subjects and a record number (92) of study groups. (OLLI continues to attract many new and knowledgeable SGLs, who are excited about leading groups of students who are eager to continue learning.)

I hope you enjoy looking back, looking forward, and learning with a group of people who are also perpetually intrigued by the process of lifelong learning.

**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

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](http://amalfi-festival.org/guest/alumsOlli.php)

-
For more details, contact:
music@amalfi-festival.org or
301-587-6189.

Sincerely,
Phillip Schwartz, Chair of the Board of Directors

January 2014 Lecture Series

The January 2014 Lecture Series is now available online. You can
download a [PDF of the January Lectures](#) or you can visit the [OLLI
website](#) to review them.

OLLI Playgoing Group: ACT NOW!

**Note: Discounted tickets require early payment. Please sign up
today for a January 22 deadline.**

In February, our OLLI Playgoing Group will attend "**Yellowface**" at
Theatre J, Sunday matinee, Feb. 9 at 3:00 pm. Ticket prices \$35.
David Henry Hwang, author of *M. Butterfly*, blurs the lines between truth
and fiction with hilarious results in this unreliable memoir. Hwang leads a
community protest against the casting of a famous white actor as the
Eurasian pimp in *Miss Saigon*, condemning the practice as "yellowface."
His position soon comes back to haunt him when he mistakes a
Caucasian actor for mixed-race, and casts him in the lead Asian role of
his own new play. Hwang struggles to "save face" amidst family politics,
international intrigue and government investigations.

*Please send your \$35 check made out to Theatre J and send it to arrive
by January 21 to Joan Wessel, 4101 Cathedral Ave. NW, #904,
Washington, DC 20016.* Feel free to invite your friends and family at this
great price! **Pick up your ticket(s) in your name at the Theatre J Box
Office the day of the performance.** Please put your email address on
your check; if we have to cancel, we'll return or rip up your check.

Again, we need to pay early for discounted tickets, so send in your
reservation now!

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

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

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

February 2014 Newsletter



OLL I

at American University Washington DC



A HUGE OLLI THANK YOU TO...

Sylvia Brown, who donated \$25,000 to OLLI during our end of year appeal. Sylvia has been a member since the beginning and has rarely missed a semester. She was very effusive in letting us know how important OLLI has been in her life after retirement. **THANK YOU SYLVIA!!!**

And to all of you who donated additional funds, we were able to deposit \$39,321 to the Future Fund. We are making headway toward insuring our future space needs. **THANK YOU ALL!**

Thank you ...

to **Chris Bradley** who donated his class gift to OLLI. We appreciate it!

and to **Irwin Lebow, Carol Light, Barbara**

Letter from the Board Chair, Phil Schwartz



Bring a Friend to OLLI

After I attended OLLI for a couple of semesters -- and I began to fully appreciate how fabulous it is -- I decided to ask a few of my old work cohorts if they wanted to join me in continuing their lifelong learning. As you know, the Washington area is blessed with a disproportionate share of well-educated individuals. I have observed that motivated workers share a commitment for lifelong learning, to keep abreast of what is happening in the world as well as with constantly changing developments in their fields.

When I described OLLI to my former associates, I was effusive about the study group leaders, who are willing to lead classes with no remuneration other than the reward of sharing experiences with a diverse group of people eager to learn. My friends were convinced to try OLLI, then were momentarily overwhelmed by the length and breadth of the study groups offered. They are now advocates of OLLI.

OLLI may be able to obtain an additional endowment this year from the Bernard Osher Foundation if we are able to get enough new members to join OLLI this semester. Newcomers can find the list of all study groups online and register online.

Anyone registering by Feb. 3 will be eligible for the lottery on Feb. 4, which randomly assigns members to study groups. After Feb. 3, members can still register for study groups which are not full. So, please consider sharing your OLLI experience with friends and help OLLI secure additional funding. And, enjoy your Spring Semester!

Sincerely,
Phillip Schwartz, Chair of the Board of Directors

Reading Changes for Spring 2014 Semester

Study Group 180: Today's Supreme Court:

- add optional book: *The Brethren* by Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong.

Rollinson, Phil
Schwartz, Selma
Rosenthal, Natalie &
Lewis Multz, Jim
McHugh, Dee Payne,
and **Don Quayle** for
helping prepare the
2013 fundraising
mailing.

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."

Study Group 299: Self-Sufficiency and You:

- delete book: *When Technology Fails* by Matthew Stein
- add book: Ed Begley, Jr.,'s *Guide to Sustainable Living* by Ed Begley, Jr. This book should be purchased on amazon.com

Study Group 411: Animals Without Backbones:

- *Animals Without Backbones 3rd edition* by R. Buchsbaum, M. Buchsbaum, J. Pearse, V. Pearse should be purchased used on amazon.com. It is much less expensive than Politics & Prose.

Study Group 583: The Coming of Modernism:

- *Modernism: The Lure of Heresy* by Peter Gay is a required book for the class.

Study Group 830: World War I and the New Atheism:

- delete book: *Change & Necessity*
- add book: *The Blind Watchmaker* by Richard Dawkins can be purchased on amazon.com

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

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

March 2014 Newsletter



OLL I

at American University Washington DC



Our Condolences

go out to the family and friends of **Art LeVan** who died in early February.

Dropping or Adding Study Groups

Members can add or drop study groups directly on the website. Login, then go to Register for Study Groups under "Study Groups" in the main menu. The screen will display your registration record. You can add or drop classes on this page.

Check the Website

For any important information, including closings due to weather, please check the website at olli-dc.org.

Spam & Hacking

Letter from the Board Chair, Phil Schwartz



DO YOU WANT TO TRY SOMETHING NEW?

There is a new way for you to expand your lifelong learning experience. OLLI is offering a four week on-line discussion group with Susan Willens as its Study Group Leader. There will be no charge for participating this semester. This discussion group is an adaptation of the two regular study groups that Susan will be leading this semester. The four essays to be discussed online (one each week) are in the text, *The Best American Essays 2013*, by Robert Atwan and Cheryl Strayed, published by Houghton Mifflin.

Susan has posted introductory comments and questions concerning the first essay, "Night," by Alice Munro, on the OLLI discussion group website. If you wish to participate, you may register by emailing the OLLI office. Once your account is setup, you can access the online discussion group from the OLLI website under the STUDY GROUPS tab. You will then be able to post comments either in response to Susan's remarks, in response to other members' remarks or with your own thoughts related to the reading. Registered members may contribute whenever they wish during the time a new essay will be up for discussion and may be read throughout the semester.

Discussions for the four essays will follow the schedule below:

"Night" - March 3 - March 16

"Confessions of an Ex-Mormon" - March 17 - March 30

"Some Notes on Attunement" - March 31 - April 6

"Ghost Estates" - April 7 - 14

Susan will read and comment on the online conversation for each essay. No special equipment is needed, only a computer with internet access.

OLL I hopes that this online process will work well. It can be improved and expanded. Using this format, OLLI will be able to accommodate more members in discussion groups than the traditional classroom.

Thanks to John Bowen for this reminder: When e-mailing a group, don't put all the individual addresses in the "To" line. Instead, put them in the "Bcc" line, and only your own address in the "To" line.

I have registered for this course. I am interested in the essay as a means of passing along information. I hope you will also consider taking this course as we continue to extend new programs to OLLI members.

Have a great semester.

Phil Schwartz
Chair of the OLLI Board of Directors

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Spring Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 11

Danilo Trisi, *The War on Poverty at 50: Large Positive Impact, But More Work Remains*

Danilo Trisi will provide an assessment of poverty trends over the last 50 years, explaining the factors that have led to declines in poverty as well as the demographic and economic shifts that have kept poverty higher than it might otherwise have been. He also will discuss the role of the safety net in reducing poverty, the many challenges that remain, and policy areas where further progress can be made.

Danilo Trisi is a Research Analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, one of the nation's premier policy organizations working at the federal and state levels on fiscal policy and public programs that affect low- and moderate-income families and individuals.

April Trip to Winterthur

Join other OLLI members for a tour of the **Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, including entry to the Costumes of Downton Abbey exhibit.** The tour includes Garden Tram, weather permitting.

The cost is \$60 which includes the bus, entrance fee, and Downton Abbey exhibit. There is a cafeteria-style restaurant at the Winterthur Visitor Center. There is a limit on how many attendees we can accommodate, so register now!!

Look for fliers at OLLI sites in the upcoming week.

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

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

April 2014 Newsletter



OLLII

at American University Washington DC



Fall 2014 Study Group Proposals Due

Members may submit proposals for Fall 2014 Study Groups online.

The deadline is Wednesday, April 23, by close of business.

The Study Group Proposal Form can be found on the OLLI website under the "Study Groups" menu item.

Fall 2014 Semester Dates

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

Volunteering to Support History in DC Schools

Are you a retired secondary school history teacher interested in staying connected to history and to middle or high school students?

"I SHOULD SAY SO!"



Many of you probably know that the "O" in OLLI stands for Osher. Bernard Osher made his fortune in the Savings & Loan business and started the Bernard Osher Foundation to support lifelong learning opportunities throughout the U.S. Recently, the Bernard Osher Foundation asked us whether OLLI at AU provides

continued excellence in curriculum and programming. My response is: "I should say so!"

This year we have:

- Offered nearly 90 study groups each semester ranging from politics to science to literature to art to philosophy.
- Built membership to well over 1,000.
- Twelve dedicated Curriculum Committee members recruiting, overseeing, and evaluating our outstanding study group leaders.
- Four study groups involving American University faculty from various schools and departments.
- Presented study groups primarily for seniors on using computers, writing memoir or family history, and protecting and maximizing retirement income.
- Given a first-time, on-line course for those who can no longer physically attend classes -- and those who want to be involved in more discussions.
- Provided more than 200 members participation in 11 OLLI Shorts -- intense learning opportunities for 2-hours daily for 3, 4, or 5 consecutive days in February.
- Offered one-hour weekly lectures each semester and three two-hour lectures per week in January and June.
- Delivered a four-session class each semester on how to lead a study group. Led by an outstanding veteran, this class is encouraged for new study group leaders and those who want refresh their teaching techniques.
- Furnished opportunities for fascinating trips, hiking and theater experiences.
- And many of our members support us with annual contributions to supplement their membership fees.

"I should say so!"

The National Archives, which coordinates DC's National History Day program, is looking for skilled volunteers to help teachers involve students in National History Day during the 2014-15 school year.

As you may know, National History Day makes history come alive for students who discover the historical, cultural, and social experiences of the past. Students choose historical topics related to next year's theme -- Leadership and Legacy -- and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews, and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing historically significant conclusions, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances, or documentaries. In the spring students enter these products into competitions at local, state, and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators.

To learn more about volunteering with National History Day, you are invited to attend

If you want to learn more about OLLI or comment on your own OLLI experiences, **please attend our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, from 12:15 to 1:15 pm, at Temple Baptist Church.** You also will be able to hear from the six nominees who are running for your Board of Directors.

On Thursday, May 15, please join our year-end celebration at River Road Unitarian Universalist Church from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. And please have a wonderful time attending your remaining (snow-free) study groups this semester.

Regards,
Phil Schwartz, Chairman of the Board

Spring Lecture Series

Tuesday, April 15, 12:15-1:15pm
Temple Baptist Church Lower Level

Trish Savage, *Planting Bulbs This Spring*

While spring bulbs are best planted in the fall, summer-blooming bulbs can be planted now. A general discussion of bulbs (species and varieties), site selection (acidity, moisture, drainage, and light), soil preparation (aeration, amendments, and fertilizer), and planting techniques will supplement a colorful slideshow presentation -- with an emphasis on bulbs that can be planted after this spring's last-freeze date.

After she retired, Trish Savage studied horticulture and landscape design at Radcliffe and SUNY-Cobleskill. She graduated from Schenectady County's Cornell Master Gardener Program in 2003.

April 26 Trip to Winterthur

Trip to Winterthur
Saturday, April 26, 2014

Registration deadline is close of business, Wed., April 16.

Winterthur is situated at the former estate of Henry Francis du Pont near Wilmington, Delaware. The estate houses a prized collection of American decorative arts and the du Pont's personal acquisitions. There is a 60-acre garden to enjoy as well. For more information check the Winterthur website - www.Winterthur.org

- We'll leave AU at 8:15 am SHARP to arrive at the estate via private bus (with a restroom!). Meet the bus at the AU parking lot (at New Mexico and Nebraska Avenues) at 8:00 am. Parking is

an exploratory meeting on Wednesday, April 23 from 3:30 to 4:30 with Elly Greene (OLLI member and DC National History Day Advisory Council member), at Elly's house in Chevy Chase D.C. Please email Elly at elly.greene@verizon.net to respond and/or with questions and she will send directions.

free on Saturday.

- Upon arrival at Winterthur, we will take a 25-minute tram ride to view the gardens.
- At noon we will have a one-hour tour of the house.
- Lunch on your own: The Garden Cafe or the Cottage Cafe (check website for menus). You may bring your own lunch.
- At 2:00 pm, we have a tour of the special DOWNTON ABBEY exhibit.
- We will leave at 4:00 pm for the trip back to AU.

To sign up, download a PDF of the flier from the OLLI website. Mail the completed form with your check to: Liz Nicholas, 4109 Stanford St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. **Any questions? Feel free to call Liz Nicholas at 301-652-7652 or email her at liznicholas@earthlink.net**

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

May 2014 Newsletter



OLL I

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.

OLL I 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
olli@american.edu or 202-895-4860.

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

June 2014 Newsletter



OLLII

at American University Washington DC



June Lecture Series

Our June Lecture series is underway. The series is posted on our [website](#). The lectures are from 10:00 am-11:50 am Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the Abramson Recital Hall in the **Katzen Arts Center Recital Hall**.

Thank You ...

... to **Barbara Coleman, Brock Hansen, Irwin Lebow, Markley Roberts, and Mark Zweig**, and for donating their class gifts to OLLI ... and to **Stan Newman** for donating his class gift to buy books for a future study group.

... to **Don Quayle, Sue Boley, Jack Chamberlain, Natalie Mulitz, Lou Mulitz, and Barbara Rollinson** for helping with the mailing of ballots for the Board election.

Letter from the Chairman of the Board



The Waitlist

This September we'll be using our new lottery system for the second time. By virtually all accounts, it worked extremely well in its debut last spring.

As with any new system, it takes some getting used to. Some people have been confused about waitlists, especially when they had a class from a study group leader in either of the two prior semesters and are put on the waitlist for that SGL's current class.

The crucial point is this: There is no disadvantage-absolutely none-to selecting as your first choice a class from an SGL you had in either of the two prior classes. You do not miss a turn in the lottery when you do this.

At the end of the registration process, the computer will assign members from the waitlist to the classes they chose on a space-available basis. Members who are moved from a waitlist into one of their higher choices are then dropped from their lowest ranking choice.

Bottom line: If you want to take another class from an SGL from whom you took a class in either of the prior two semesters, go ahead and make it your first choice. You have nothing to lose by doing so.

Dave Palmeter
Chair of the Board

Have Your Fall Catalog Mailed Out-of-Town

If you are spending the summer away and would like your Fall catalog mailed to your summer address, please call the OLLI Office at 202-895-4860 or email us at olli@american.edu.

Aristotle's *Poetics* Online

Fall 2014 Semester Dates

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Cool Poems for Hot Days!

Yes, there's still room for you in this free poetry workshop! 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 Finch at ginnyvne@yahoo.com or 202-686-0053.

WHEN: alternate Tuesdays, 1:30-3, beginning June 10.

WHERE: 2939 Van Ness St. NW, #1221 (the Van Ness East building). Metro-accessible, plenty of parking.

OLLI Players

SUMMER PLAYHOUSE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUvXw8cWDi4>



It's almost summertime and OLLI Players (former, future, and undecided) start to think about getting together again to read plays aloud. This is an informal group, open to new members, that will meet on Tuesday afternoons, beginning June 24 but will probably switch to Wednesdays in August.

This summer, we're going to use Agatha Christie, "The Mousetrap and Other Plays". Amazon has it for about \$16 and you can order it from Politics and Prose. There are electronic versions of the book but unless you have a 10 inch or larger e-book reader, you should probably get the paperback as given the number of stage directions, a small screen is hard to read.

Ground rules: let us know if you're coming (so we know when everyone's arrived and can start). If you go away on a fun trip, you will be expected to bring back a souvenir treat for us when you return. Attendance other than those two rules is strictly voluntary: come when you can and don't when you can't.

Please email Carol Light at clightdc@hotmail.com if you would like to be on the mailing list.

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

September 2014 Newsletter



OLL I

at American University Washington DC



Fall 2014

Semester Dates

The Fall semester begins on Wed., Sept. 24. **There are no classes on Thurs., Sept. 25** because of the holiday. Thursday classes will begin on Oct. 2.

Class Reminder

PLEASE do not attend any classes that you are not registered for. Our space is pretty maxed out, and it is not fair to those on the waiting lists. Thanks for your cooperation.

Letter from the Chair of the Board



Welcome back to OLLI if you are a returning member, or, if you are a new member, welcome. We're delighted to have you onboard!

The 89 courses, eight Tuesday lectures and the field trips that more than 200 volunteers have organized for us promise an enjoyable and stimulating Fall semester.

As you know, OLLI operates with two full-time staff and two part-time staff in the office. During the academic year we have one part-time staff person at each of our class sites. Without volunteers -- to lead study groups, to serve as study group representatives, to schedule lectures, to build curriculum, to organize bus trips, to work on OLLI's social program, to stuff envelopes -- we would not be in operation.

Our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who have made this semester possible.

And thanks too to those who responded to our request for contributions last month. Your support is crucial to continuing OLLI's long-term viability.

Dave Palmeter
Chair, Board of Directors

4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, DC 20016

Tel: 202.895.4860 Email: OLLI@american.edu

Website: www.OLLI-DC.org

Dave Palmeter, *Board Chair* / Anne Wallace, *Executive Director*
Tony Long, *Curriculum Coordinator* / Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Program Coordinator*



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

October 2014 Newsletter



Equipment and more equipment

The office is acutely aware of concerns we have had regarding our a/v equipment at TBC. We are in the midst of again troubleshooting with Ambrose. In the meantime, if you encounter any problems, please let Ambrose handle them. Thanks very much.

It's who you know....

Washington think tanks, research institutes, and policy organizations can be a rich resource for OLLI at AU, and we would like to recruit more of their experts to participate in our program offerings. If you have a good connection to one of these nonpartisan,

Letter from the Chair of the Board



When I joined OLLI several years ago, I was interested in taking courses in philosophy, my undergraduate major, but there were none. I complained to Ed Goldin, then a member of the Curriculum Committee, who laughed and told me that, if I wanted a philosophy study group, I would have to lead it myself.

After letting the idea percolate for a while, I took Ed's suggestion seriously and started to prepare a group to discuss Aristotle's *Ethics*. Luckily for me, OLLI had just begun its highly-successful Study Group Leader's course. Soon I became an SGL without prior teaching experience—a group that numbers half of all SGLs.

We are very fortunate to have many retired educators leading our groups, but we don't have enough of them. Without others stepping up, OLLI wouldn't be OLLI.

Every OLLI member is capable of leading a study group. Simply being a member of OLLI demonstrates that. While those some of us have no formal teaching experience, we do have intellectual interests that we can share with others in a study group.

I have found that, while preparation requires effort, leading a group is a lot of fun -- much like being in a book discussion group where you always get to pick the book. Why not give it a try?

Dave Palmeter
Chair, Board of Directors

Annual Food Drive for Capital Area Food Bank

For the past few years, OLLI members have been supporting an important and worthwhile cause -- the **Capital Area Food Bank** (CAFB). You can find more information about the Food Bank online at www.capitalareafoodbank.org. Please bring canned or non-perishable food to Temple Baptist Church from Monday, Oct. 20 through Thursday,

independent organizations that we might approach, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Tony Long. **tlong@american.edu**

Oct. 30. If you wish to contribute by writing a check, you may either mail it to: Selma Rosenthal, 4201 Cathedral Ave. NW #822 E, Washington DC 20016, who will collect and forward the checks, or you may send a check directly to the Capital Area Food Bank, 4900 Puerto Rico Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Musical Adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank

Many OLLI members who have taken our classical music courses, presented by the AU music faculty chaired by Nancy Snider, know that Nancy is a gifted cello performer and teacher and a good friend of OLLI.

Nancy has produced an innovative musical adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank, titled "The Voice of Anne Frank", co-produced by award-winning Czech actress Mirenka Cechova. The program, a combination of cello music, dance, readings from the Diary, as well as special lighting and sound, is designed not only to portray Anne Frank's extraordinary story but to give it contemporary meaning. The production has been acclaimed in performances in South Africa, Israel, and Holland but never performed in the U.S. until now.

Nancy has received a commitment to do two performances at the Terrace Theatre of the Kennedy Center, on Monday night, November 24 at 6pm and Tuesday morning, November 25 at 11am. The Tuesday morning performance is directed particularly towards school children grades 8 to 12 and there will be a question and answer session with the performers following the program.

Admission is free of charge. Tickets for the November 25 performance can be ordered by calling 202-416-8835. The November 24 evening performance is on a first come basis. The Terrace Theatre holds about 500 persons.

See you at the Kennedy Center.

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

November 2014 Newsletter



It's who you know....

Washington think tanks, research institutes, and policy organizations can be a rich resource for OLLI at AU, and we would like to recruit more of their experts to participate in our program offerings. If you have a good connection to one of these nonpartisan, independent organizations that we might approach, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Tony Long. tlong@american.edu

Letter from the Chair



When Fall registration began, I asked you to consider making a contribution to the OLLI Future Fund. The result has been gratifying. So far this semester, 310 donors have given a total of \$23,749 to the Fund -- an average of more than \$75 per donor. We are very grateful to all of those who have given.

Fundraising has become more intensive at OLLI in recent years as our needs have grown. We do not yet know what our costs will be when we move into the current American University Law School building, but we do know that they will be higher. Costs will be associated with moving our property, but these will be comparatively small. We also will incur costs with a much-needed upgrade to our audio/visual equipment. These will be more significant than the move itself. And there may be costs associated with remodeling, which could be even more significant.

In addition to these one-time costs, there will be the continuing cost of higher rent. This is where the Future Fund becomes vital. We hope to raise the Fund to a level at which a conservative annual distribution to OLLI's operating expenses will reduce, if not eliminate, the need for a significant increase in annual membership fees, without diminishing the principal.

As the end of the year approaches, we will again be asking those of you who have not yet contributed to consider a tax-exempt donation to OLLI. And we hope that those of you who have so generously given this year will be able to make an additional contribution before the year ends. You will, of course, be entitled to a tax deduction for your gift, but you will receive much more -- the satisfaction of knowing that you've done your part to insure your institute's future.

Dave Palmeter
Chair, Board of Directors

Dates to

Town Meeting Next Week

Remember:

Veterans' Day: All classes will be held on Tuesday, November 11, EXCEPT those at St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church.

Annual OLLI Civil War Trip with Ed Bearss:
Wednesday, November 19, 2014. Please register by Friday, November 14.

Thanksgiving:
OLLI will be closed and no classes will be held from Wednesday, November 26 through Friday, November 28.

Just a reminder that next Tuesday, November 11 is the fall Town Meeting from 12:15 - 1:15 pm in the Lower Level of Temple Baptist Church. Because of the Town Meeting, there will be no lecture.

Special Invitation

On behalf of Dean Jeff Rutenbeck and the AU School of Communication, OLLI members are invited to join us for Czech Films - The Play's The Thing: Vaclav Havel, Art & Politics-- a film series coinciding with the 25th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. The Czech Film Series will begin with an opening night reception of Mediterranean foods (antipasto, cheeses, grilled vegetables) at 6:30 p.m, followed by two films at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 7. The reception and screenings will take place at American University in the McKinley Building, the new home of the School of Communication.

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

December 2014 Announcements



OLL I

at American University Washington DC



HOLIDAYS

Dear OLLI Members:

We wish you a Happy Holiday season.

The OLLI office will be closed December 24, 25, and 26. We will reopen Monday, December 29. We will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2015.

We wish you a safe and joyous New Year!

ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUPS

In January and February of 2015, we will offer the two online discussions listed below. For both groups, the only equipment necessary is a computer with internet access.

You can now register for either or both group(s). To do so, you must email the OLLI office indicating which group(s) you want to join.

SELECTED ESSAYS OF MONTAIGNE

Led by Bob Coe

This course will take place over a period of eight weeks. We will be discussing online one of Montaigne's essays each week, except for the longer, last essay which will take two weeks. I will ask a few questions relating to each essay before the start of the week. Note that none of the essays, except On friendship, was covered this fall in OLLI's 10-week Montaigne course, which will be repeated in the spring. The online course will be open to OLLI members and their friends.

Read a full description of this discussion group.

RISING INEQUALITY: A LONG-RUN AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Led by Al Hirsch

Several past OLLI study groups have dealt with the recent extremes of economic inequality in the U.S. A French economist, Thomas Piketty, has recently come forth with a new (best-selling) work and a novel approach to the subject. The book is *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. Piketty views income and wealth inequality in a long-run historical and a global context. He also peers ahead to inequality's (possible) future trajectory through the 21st century based on vast amounts of long

historical multi-country data and simple (i.e., comprehensible) theory. He proposes a global tax on wealth as a (partial) remedy. Because of the book's considerable length (577 pages), we will read and discuss selected portions of it over a period of 8 weeks.

Read a full description of this discussion group.