

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletter

February 2015 Newsletter



OLLII

at American University Washington DC



REGISTRATION REMINDER!

In order for your **paper registration** to be included in the Lottery, it must be in the OLLI office by close of business Friday, Feb. 6.

In order for your **online registration** to be included in the Lottery, it must be submitted by midnight, Sunday, Feb. 8.

Spring 2015 Open House

The Spring Open House will be on Wed., Feb. 25, from 10:00-11:30 am in the Lower Level of Temple Baptist Church.

Letter from the Chair



OLLII Shorts

OLLII Shorts began five years ago with 130 members and six study groups -- led by Eleanor Heginbotham, Ginger Newmyer, Colin Owens, Barbara Searle, and Lois Steinitz. The program has grown steadily. This month, 210 members took advantage of 13 shorts.

OLLII Shorts grew out of a retreat held in May 2010 by then outgoing Board chair Don Quayle and incoming chair Ed Goldin. Linda Miller came up with the idea, in a workshop headed by Willie Blacklow. The Shorts program, with Bob Coe as its coordinator, is a way to offer members something different from our standard once-a-week study groups. They are an integral part of our offerings.

The newest addition to OLLI's offerings, coordinated by Katy Adams, is our online discussion group program. Last Spring, OLLI offered its first online discussion group, which was led by Sue Willens. Two more online discussions are ongoing now -- led by Bob Coe and Al Hirsch -- and more are being planned for later this year. And, of course, the "main event" -- a Spring semester with nearly 90 course offerings, will begin in less than a month.

In short (no pun intended!), we now have a wide-ranging group of offerings -- from lectures and Shorts to online discussions and semester-long weekly courses. All of these depend on the efforts of our volunteers. Consider joining them. If you do, you not only will be contributing to an organization we all treasure, but you will be giving yourself a very rewarding experience, as well.

Dave Palmeter
Chair, Board of Directors

OLLII Member Ed Cohn: Man of the World

Those OLLIites who have shared Study Groups with Ed Cohn know that

the quiet, white-haired man with the refined accent will be the source of original, perceptive observations reflecting a wide intellectual and cultural perspective.

This is because the 93-year-old has lived a consciously created life. He remembers precisely the first moment that decisively shaped him. In fifth grade, when he learned about Europe's overseas expansion, "It opened my eyes to other parts of the world, different geographical influences, histories, cultures, and languages."

This was reinforced when as a ten-year-old he and his family spent 15 months in Europe during his father's sabbatical. Traveling in Germany, Italy, France, Greece, and Switzerland, Ed experienced different languages, landscapes, architecture, and cultures. Ed emphasized that the combination of events "had a profound influence on how I have lived my life. It inspired my curiosity in other cultures and gave me a love of travel."

His professional career developed these passions and ranged from the Office of Economic Warfare and the Marshall Plan to the U.N. Development Programme and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Serving in Turkey and then working in Afghanistan led him to believe that development was not just a matter of economic transformation; it was also of social and cultural transformation. During assignments in India, Central America, and East and West Africa, Ed continued to ponder broader questions of participation and development. What are the social, cultural, and economic conditions enabling democratic political systems to function? One important factor, in his view, is how people relate to each other in daily life. Trust in non-related people, tolerance of diversity, and a conciliatory rather than a confrontational approach to resolving disputes are crucial. Ed is convinced that if democracy is to take root and function, it must be indigenous and not introduced from outside.

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