



Where Curiosity Never Retires



October 5, 2018 OLLI News

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AU Safety and Security Services

If you would like to receive AU alerts to your smartphone, please download [the Rave Guardian app](#).

A Note From Our Chair



THE LONG VIEW

With a large and growing program to manage every day, it's important that the Board and staff not lose sight of **the big OLLI at AU picture**. When the Board established a Strategic Planning Committee last Fall, OLLI at AU was entering its second year in its excellent new facility in AU's Spring Valley Building. After years of focusing on the move, we were finally able to lift our heads and look ahead to **long-term growth of programs and membership and the impact of that growth on space and financial stability**.

In establishing the new committee, the

Friday Lectures

Please note that all Friday lectures will be held in **Room A on the first floor** for the remainder of this semester.

Cantate Chamber Singers

One of our area's premier chamber choirs **would like to offer OLLI members discounted tickets to their October and December concerts.** Visit their website - cantate.org - and enter **OLLI** as the discount code to receive \$35 tickets for only \$20! Brochure available for viewing at the OLLI office. For any other questions about this offer, **please contact Bridget Young at 202-641-7099.**

Board identified several **inter-related key issues** to be addressed in the plan:

- Membership growth
- Space to accommodate that growth
- The quality of the academic program
- The character of the OLLI community
- Financial management and fundraising
- The OLLI-American University relationship

With assistance from Compass, a strategic consulting service that provides pro bono management advice to nonprofit clients in the Washington area, the planning committee and Board, over a nine-month period, **developed growth scenarios, analyzed the market of life-long learning opportunities in the Washington area, conducted member surveys and focus groups, interviewed AU faculty and senior administrators as well as directors of comparable OLLIs around the country, and prepared five-year projections linking growth of membership, budget, and classroom space.**

At its September meeting, the Board of Directors approved a strategic plan that sets the direction of OLLI at AU for the coming five years. It is ambitious, specific, and with realistic steps to achieve its goals. I hope you will **take a few minutes to look at the plan, the data we developed, the conclusions we drew, and the implementation actions we recommended** – all **124 pages** of it! (There is a **summary** for the less wonkish among us.)

Denise Liebowitz
Chair, Board of Directors

Study Group Registration

Please note that it is OLLI's policy that **you may not attend classes in which you are not officially registered.** Thank you for your cooperation!

Seeking Advice and Opinions!

As OLLI contemplates a late-August 2019 program for grandparents and their 6 to 12-year-old grandchildren, we are looking for 8-10 grandparents who would be willing to be part of a 90-minute focus group to explore this idea. If you are interested, please let us know by e-mailing olli@american.edu.

Trip Coordinators

Each academic year, OLLI offers several trips for members to locations such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, and various sites in the DC area. **Trips give OLLI members the opportunity to learn, converse, and socialize outside of the regular classroom.**

We are looking for one or two people who would like to assist with coordinating trips.

Trip Coordinator duties include:

- Suggesting new trip locations
- Helping decide upon the trips for each semester
- Contacting the location to find out details about the exhibit/site and inquire about dates available, docents, accessibility, admission cost/group discounts, and food options

If you are interested in being considered for this volunteer position, please e-mail olli@american.edu.

Preliminary Class Feedback

After you complete the third session for each class you're attending this fall, please take time to provide your feedback. **An e-mail will be sent on Monday, October 8 to all members with a link to the anonymous online feedback form.** The form can also be accessed directly, starting

on Monday, by visiting the OLLI website (<http://www.ollidc.org>). Click on “Study Groups” in the bar across the top and then scroll down to “Fall 2018 Preliminary Feedback Form.” **The form will be available for feedback through Monday, October 22.**

The information from this preliminary feedback **helps study group leaders to know what is going well and what changes they might make.** If you prefer to complete a paper feedback form, we have them available in the office.

Write Rite Workshop

We would like to remind you that on **Friday, October 19, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**, OLLI and the Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop will co-sponsor our fourth “*Write Rite*” (formerly “*Write Lunch*”), led by Jenny Pierson and Ellen Siegler. Please click [here](#) to register to attend the workshop.

Free Minds conducts literacy programs, including poetry classes, for incarcerated youth in DC. They will provide us with a packet of poems written by incarcerated young men for us to read and to provide comments.

We are seeking a community of 20-25 OLLI members who will give the youth's poetry encouraging comments. Providing feedback on these poems is an enjoyable community activity and a great way to show these youth that others respect their work and appreciate their dedication. **A few men who have participated in and benefited from this program will be with us to share their experiences** in the program and express their appreciation. If you have questions, **contact Jenny Pierson:** piersonjen17@gmail.com or 202-248-8288.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Free Minds.

Upcoming Events at American University

NOTE: If you have a question about any AU-specific event, **please contact the sponsoring department directly.**

Signature Series at the AU School of Communication

Films Across Borders: Stories of Women

Date: October 5 - December 18

Films Across Borders: Stories of Women is a multi-cultural series of cinematic works by and about women. Showcasing 50+ films in 14 venues throughout the DC area from October 5 to December 18, the series highlights the importance of gender-balanced perspectives and gives voice to vital and diverse female viewpoints through dramatic features, documentaries and shorts.

Screenings and featured speakers will explore key issues around the female gaze, women in film, and the ways in which women, fighting for equality on screen and behind the camera, raise awareness about key social issues, inspire action and pave the way for stories of other underrepresented populations.

Date: Tuesday, October 16

Time; 7:00 PM

Location: Constitution Hall, Room 1

The Trouble With My Name

With *The Trouble with My Name*, Javier Ávila has reached massive appeal as a powerful voice for minorities in the United States. The show is a 70-minute piece that sheds light on what it means to be a diverse citizen in this changing political climate. It draws on the arts, education, and entertainment to deliver a powerful message about who we are as a society. Through his poetry, autobiography, and humor, Javier examines the complexities of identity as a cultural construction. *The Trouble with My Name* provides an excellent

platform for a continued conversation about race, identity, representation, inclusion, and relevant topics that affect us all.

To RSVP, click [here](#).

Date: Wednesday, November 14

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Malsi Doyle and Michael Forman Theater, McKinley Building

Light refreshments in theater lobby at 6:30 pm before program begins.

Naila and the Uprising

Naila and the Uprising chronicles the remarkable journey of Naila Ayesha, a young woman in Gaza during the First Intifada, whose story weaves through the most vibrant, nonviolent mobilization in Palestinian history.

Featured panel discussion with Julia Bacha, film director and Rebekah Wingert-Jabi, producer and editor. Moderated by Caty Borum Chatoo, Director, Center for Media & Social Impact.

Reservations suggested:

<https://nailaandtheuprisingfilmsacrossborders.eventbrite.com>

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Our Mission:

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University is an association of, by, and for the people in the Washington, DC area who wish to continue to study and learn. OLLI at AU is dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process and that curiosity never retires.

Website www.lli-dc.org | Phone 202-895-4860 | E-mail lli@american.edu

Class & Study Group Location 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Mailing Address 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW | Washington, DC 20016

Location of Classes/Office: 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 5th Floor

Tony Long, *Executive Director* | Mary Fran Miklitsch, *Director of Planning*
Lesley Diaz, *Academic Programs Coordinator* | Jesse Williams, *Operations Coordinator*

Terri Greene, *Administrative Coordinator*

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