



Where Curiosity Never Retires



MARCH 1, 2019 OLLI NEWS

A Letter From Our Chair



TRANSPARENCY

In preparing a new five-year strategic plan last year, the OLLI at AU Board of Directors heard a number of requests for greater transparency and more targeted communication with the membership. In surveys and focus groups, members said they wanted more information about administration, budget, finance, and mission. In adopting the strategic plan this past September, the Board committed to do a better job and immediately took steps to open a window into the “nuts and bolts” of the organization.

The OLLI at AU website now contains more information than it ever did before. Click on the “About” tab on our home page and, under “[Corporate Documents](#),” you will find this year’s budget, our tax filings, the strategic plan, member survey results, Board bylaws and policies and procedures documents, our first annual report, and more. Click on the “Membership” tab and, under “[Members Only](#),” you’ll find our investment policies as well as minutes of Board meetings.

In recent months in our Friday newsletter, we have made an effort to fully explain the Board nomination and election process, advertise for volunteer positions, and alert members to special events. In my letter that appears (more or less) each month in the newsletter, I have written about

OLLI's evolving relationship with American University, our budget and financial condition, our interface with the Osher national network, our fundraising program, and other governance topics. (Miss a newsletter? Click on the "*Lectures and Events*" tab and under "[OLLI News](#)" you'll find them all.)

For some members, maybe most members, this is probably way too much information. I believe most of our members are focused on their classes, their OLLI friends and colleagues, and are happy to not have to fuss with the behind-the-scenes details. But for those who called for more sunshine and accountability, we have made an honest effort to deliver.

Denise H. Liebowitz

Chair, OLLI Board of Directors

Warning from the Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration asked various organizations to share this message:

We have become aware of reports of fraudulent telephone calls from individuals claiming to represent the Social Security Administration (SSA). In them, unknown callers are using threatening language to warn unknowing victims that they will be arrested or face other legal action if they fail to call a provided phone number or press the number indicated in the message to address the issue. In some instances, these unknown callers switch tactics and communicate that they want to help an individual with activating a suspended Social Security number. **Such calls are a scam, and are not coming from official SSA representatives.**

Social Security is committed to protecting the privacy and security of the people we serve. SSA states that no one should engage with such callers, and to report any suspicious calls to Social Security's Office of the Inspector General **by calling 1-800-269-0271** or [submitting a report on the OIG website](#). SSA also urges you to read and share our [Social Security Matters blog](#), which provides more information on the nature of these fraudulent calls, as well as instructions on how to report such activity.

Spring Registration

There are still over 40 study groups with seats available. You may change your study group selection online or by contacting the office now **through Friday, March 15, when registration ends**. If you need a copy of your Class Assignment Letter, please [email the office](#) or call at 202-895-4860. **Please note that changes have been made for a few Spring study groups**. Visit the [Catalog Updates](#) page on our website under the Study Groups tab for the latest information.

Beloved OLLI Member Passes Away

It is with great sadness that we inform you that a member for 16 years, **Elaine Vande Hei**, died Sunday morning, February 24. The mass and celebration of life will be held on **March 9 at 11:00 AM at St. Ann's Church** here in DC, followed by a light lunch. St. Ann's is located just one block from the Tenleytown-AU metro station, 4001 Yuma Street NW.

Update on Election of Board Members

Following is a list of key dates and deadlines remaining in this year's election process.

- *March 15.* The Board's approved list of candidates is sent to members.
- *April 8.* Deadline for at-large candidate to submit self-nomination petitions, complete with 10 supporting signatures, to the Office.
- *April 26.* OLLI Annual Meeting. Each candidate will be allowed 2-3 minutes to address the group.
- *April 26 - May 10.* Online voting takes place.
- *May 13.* Results of the election are announced.

Lead a June Mini or July Short

OLLI always welcomes new study group leaders from within the OLLI membership and from the Washington, DC community who would like to share their knowledge and passion with members. The shorter summer sessions at OLLI can be a great time to lead a study group for the first time. There are June Minis (study groups meet once a week for 4 weeks) and July Shorts (study groups meet 3-5 times over the course of one week).

OLLI is now accepting study group proposals for both upcoming summer sessions. This year, the **June Minis are June 3-28** and the **July Shorts are July 15-19**. We welcome proposals from both new and veteran study group leaders.

If you would like to propose a study group, please click one of the links below. You will be prompted to login with your OLLI username/password or create an account if it's your first time. **The proposal deadline for both sessions is April 15.**

[June Minis 2019 Proposal Form](#)

[July Shorts 2019 Proposal Form](#)

For more information about being a study group leader at OLLI, please visit our [Become A Study Group Leader page](#). If you have questions about teaching at OLLI and would like to speak with someone, please e-mail olli@american.edu with your contact information and we will get in touch with you.

Volunteer Judges Needed for DC's National History Day

DC's National History Day program that is run through the National Archives is looking for volunteers to judge this year's competition that will take place Wednesday, April 10 (middle school division) and Thursday, April 11 (high school division). If you enjoy talking with teenagers and are interested in history -- we would be delighted to have you join us as judges for one or both of these days. Training on how to be an NHD judge will be provided.

For more information about National History Day please check out their Web site at <https://www.nhd.org/>. If you are interested please contact Elly Greene, at elly.greene@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events at American University

NOTE: For any AU-specific event, **please contact the sponsoring department directly.**

AU CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES

***Impossible Exodus: Iraqi Jews in Israel* with Orit Bashkin**

Tuesday, March 5, 6:00 PM

AU Butler Board Room

Free with [RSVP](#)

Please join the AU Center for Israel Studies to hear Orit Bashkin (University of Chicago) speak about her new book, *Impossible Exodus*, which explores the lives of Iraqi Jews in Israel. Books available for sale and signing at reception.

"Golda Meir: A Life in Politics" with Francine Klagsbrun, Amos Perlmutter Memorial Lecture

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

AU East Campus Constitution Hall

Free with [RSVP](#)

Author Francine Klagsbrun will discuss Golda Meir and her legacy. Klagsbrun's book, *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel*, a biography of the fourth prime minister of Israel, won the 2017 Jewish National Book Award. Klagsbrun is a celebrated author of more than a dozen books and countless articles in national publications. Moderated by Pamela Nadell, Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History.

THE AU MUSEUM AT THE KATZEN ARTS CENTER

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

202-885-1300 | museum@american.edu

<https://www.american.edu/cas/museum/>

Nancy at Ninety Gallery Talk

Saturday, March 2, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Free and open to all, no RSVP required

Curator Claudia Rousseau will interview Nancy Frankel about her extensive career as a sculptor and how music and organic geometry have influenced her practice. With Sam Noto and Jacqui Crocetta.

Interference Concert

Thursday, March 7, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Free and open to all, no RSVP required

The musical collective INTERFERENCE will present contemporary and classical works that draw connections to the notion of process music, including minimalism, algorithmic music, and chance determinism. Featuring a combination of acoustic and digital music instruments, computer performers, and visual components.

JRA Distinguished Artist Lecture with Tim Harding

Sunday, March 10, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Free and open to all, no RSVP required

In describing his work, fiber artist Tim Harding uses words more applicable to painting and photography. He speaks about pixels and light/shadow, figure/ground, and references the Pointillists or Hockney and Rothko. Harding brings together elements of fine art and applied art to create textile pieces that defy categorization and allow them to be considered for their intrinsic beauty. To register for Harding's accompanying workshop, click [here](#).

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

Study Group Location **4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW**

Mailing Address 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016

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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