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Where Curiosity Never Retires



December 6, 2019 OLLI News

Holiday Party & Art Show

The OLLI Board of Directors invites you to our annual **Holiday Party & Art Show** taking place on **Tuesday, December 17, 2019 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM**. The location will be in our Spring Valley building in the cafeteria on the 6th floor. There will be guest musicians, The AU Artifacts, wine and hors d'oeuvres. The cost to attend is \$30, no refunds. We hope to see you there! To register, click [here](#).

2020 Programs

Please note that catalogs for the **Spring 2020 semester** and **February 2020 Shorts program** will become available within the last week of this month. There will be a mass mailing of the catalogs and they will also be available online. February Shorts will be held from February 3-7, and the Spring semester will begin March 2.

Wanted: Study Group Rep Coordinator

OLLI is looking for an additional volunteer to serve as Study Group Representative (SGR) Coordinator alongside Ginny DeRoze and Jacqui Gallagher. For each academic session - Fall/Spring, February and July Shorts, and June Minis - coordinators help to find SGRs for the study groups. *(SGRs play a vital role in ensuring classes run smoothly: taking attendance, making announcements, calling class members who haven't attended so a waitlist spot can be opened up, letting the office know of any technology problems in the classroom, and circulating the class thank you card, among other duties.)*

Some study group leaders select their own SGRs. Otherwise, SGR Coordinators are provided with a list of members who have expressed interest in being SGR for each study group, or the attendance list if there are no volunteers. Coordinators then call members before classes start in order to find an

SGR for each study group. For more information about being an SGR Coordinator, or if you're interested in volunteering for this role, please e-mail olli@american.edu.

Awesome Opportunity: Join an OLLI Remote Learning Pilot

In 2020, OLLI will be offering a remote-learning pilot in 2020 to be led by OLLI veteran SGL Carol Light. We are seeking 8-10 reasonably tech-savvy volunteers to take part. Participants will need a laptop or tablet equipped with a video camera and microphone and Zoom, a free videoconferencing software that can be downloaded from the internet. Zoom allows users to participate in group discussions with the capability to see and hear each other and to share materials, including videos.

The pilot will consist of three sessions. The first session will be held at OLLI so we can make sure participants have the necessary hardware and software and review the basics of connecting and participating online in Zoom. Members will participate from home (using Zoom) in the second and third sessions. During the second session, members will view a short video on a topic of general interest, then discuss it just as in any OLLI study group. During the third (and last) session, members will provide feedback on participating remotely, the Zoom format in relation to the OLLI study group model, and how OLLI might use remote learning in the future.

We hope to hold the pilot in January, but please let us know if you are interested in participating regardless of when the pilot is held. To do so, please fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V7Y99MZ>. If you have any questions, please e-mail Mary Fran Miklitsch, maryfran@american.edu, and Carol Light, clightdc@hotmail.com. Further details will be provided along with a survey to determine which three dates in January work best for the most members.

Fall Final Feedback

As you finish your study group(s) for the semester, please take a few minutes to complete the final feedback form that is available on the OLLI website [here](#).

Paper copies are also available in your study group's class folder (just ask your SGR for a form), outside the OLLI office, and in the Social Space. If you choose to complete a paper form, just bring it to the office when you're finished. As always, the forms are completely anonymous.

Feedback will be accepted online through Monday, December 9.

James Joyce Birthday Celebration

On Friday, January 31, we will celebrate acclaimed author James Joyce's birthday. Readings will be conducted on the eighth and ninth chapters of *Ulysses*. All OLLI members are welcome at this free event, but registration is required. Registration can be completed through the Events Calendar page of our website, found [here](#). We are also seeking readers for the party, so if you are interested, please contact Bob Kolodney at bobkolive@gmail.com.

Member Essays

The class members in this fall's class, *Best Recent Essays to Read and Write*, read a dozen recent American essays. They ranged widely in subject matter from spying in North Korea to the Women's March in Washington, as well as more personal topics. We observed their organizing principles, their levels of language, their closeness to the reader. Then, some class members began to write their own essays. They read them to the class, listened to comments, and accepted applause. We felt that those writers who wanted to share their work should do so. We hope you will enjoy them. ~ Susan Willens

Please click [here](#) to view the essays.

Extra Books After a Study Group?

With the semester coming to a close, this is a reminder that if there are any books from the semester that you no longer need, they may be donated to the **OLLI book exchange located in the Social Space on the 5th floor**. Members are welcome to donate books from past study groups, as well as take books you'd like. There is a box with slips of paper to fill out, pens, and paper clips in the book exchange area. If you donate a book, please fill out the paper with as much information as possible (title, number, and leader of the study group in which it was used) then clip it to the cover of the book. The book exchange will be ongoing.

Are You A Member of A Retirement Association?

Last year, as part of OLLI at AU's diversity efforts, OLLI representatives spoke at meetings of the retirement organizations of the National Education Association (NEA), the State Department, and the World Health Organization (WHO). Also, the 1818 Society (of the World Bank) recently included an article about OLLI in its newsletter. We hope to continue speaking with such groups. If you are a member of a similar organization, please let us know by calling 202-895-4860 or e-mailing olli@american.edu.

Upcoming Events at American University

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

LATE FALL EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS AT THE AU MUSEUM-KATZEN ARTS CENTER

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

Free and fully accessible

Radical Link: A New Community of Women, 1855-2020

Curated by Sarah Gordon

November 9-December 15, 2019

Radical Link is the latest project by Tel Aviv-based multi-media artist Michal Heiman. Traversing time, space, gender, race, and institutional practices of asylum, Heiman offers a new way to extend solidarity to those who engage in acts of resistance by creating a new community. It includes women who have been subjugated by the Surrey County Asylum in London, and the San Servolo Asylum in Venice, asylum seekers, artists, activists, prosecutors, gatekeepers, and those who have suffered under the violence of racism and misogyny. Through the strategies of intervention and the use of archival materials, photographs, films, sound work, and her presence in the gallery, she generates the political, cultural, gendered, and psychic conditions of a potential "radical link."

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated book, including essays by curator Sarah Gordon; Sharon Sliwinski, Professor of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario; Orna Ben-Naftali, Émile Zola Chair for Human Rights and Lecturer at the Haim Striks School of Law; and artist Michal Heiman.

Dark World: Photographs by Frank Hallam Day

November 9-December 15, 2019

Over the past dozen years, Frank Hallam Day's personal work has been devoted largely to exploring the world at night. The visually intriguing dark world offers mysteries and ambiguities, and lends itself to the introspective creative space he prefers. His work comments on a number of salient themes: the relationship between contemporary society and nature and the pace of technological change, aging, isolation, and obsolescence. The markedly formal, unabashedly elegiac images also investigate influences from the history of painting to a degree unusual in contemporary photography. Day's work has been described as "intimate yet subtly epic." He looks for an "annunciatory light" transforming everyday things, like plastic market bags and public phones, into objects of special significance. In the words of Louis Jacobson at the Washington City Paper, he "showers a ray of almost spiritual light into the night's dark corners."

Ongoing Exhibitions:

Topographies of Life: Pam Rogers, Lynn Sures, Mel Watkin

September 3-December 15, 2019

Curated by Jennifer Riddell, Presented by the AU Museum Project Space

Using the medium of drawing to varied and distinctive effect, Rogers, Sures, and Watkin trace human connections to the natural world—across time and varied landscapes. The three artists work from both a consciousness of drawing's ties to illustration and evidence; and, the medium's unique ability to transmit the artist's "hand" and personal response to their subject. From the deserts of Kenya, forests of the Midwest, to the Potomac watershed, these artists are deeply attuned to the mutually affecting relationship between the anthropological and natural worlds.

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.

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