



Where Curiosity Never Retires



May 3, 2019 OLLI NEWS



A Letter From Our Chair

DIVERSITY: SPREADING THE WORD

Building a more diverse and inclusive community is a paramount goal for OLLI at AU. Like other OLLIs, we have been trying to increase the racial, ethnic, and socio-economic make-up of our membership, and like them, have found it an uphill challenge. When nearly all our newcomers report learning of OLLI through word of mouth, it is no surprise that most new members are a lot like current members. In our 2018 membership survey, fewer than four percent of respondents identified as other than Caucasian.

Our Diversity and Inclusivity Committee is working hard to shake up this entrenched homogeneity and has focused on reaching out to a wider audience. In January, the committee organized short-format OLLI courses at two churches with diverse congregations. The intention was to introduce church members and neighbors to OLLI and eventually draw them to the Spring Valley Building.

The committee has passed out flyers to libraries, “villages,” and senior centers in neighborhoods with significant minority populations. They also have reached out to alumni groups from Howard University and Spelman College, recruited study group leaders to offer courses that address policy and cultural issues relating to diversity, and tested a pilot project to offer new members who participated in our January program one class in the spring semester for a reduced fee. Most recently,

the committee brought on a graduate intern from AU's Kogod School of Business to develop marketing and messaging strategies for OLLI to appeal to minority communities.

While some of these steps have resulted in small wins, experience teaches that nothing works as well as old-fashioned, word-of-mouth marketing. Telling a friend, neighbor, or colleague about OLLI, giving them a catalog, and maybe suggesting a class or two is the time-tested way to attract new people into our community. The short-format course offerings in June and July are a great way for newcomers to sample the OLLI curriculum. During the June Minis and July Shorts registration periods, please make a special effort to reach out to at least one prospective member who would bring to us a different background or perspective. OLLI is better when it includes everyone. Tell a friend.

Denise Liebowitz

Chair, OLLI Board of Directors



2019 Board of Directors Election

Election for four seats on the OLLI Board of Directors is ongoing. Only OLLI members from the 2018-2019 academic year can vote. You should have received an email containing your Elector ID and a computer-generated password. Use that information to log in to olliatau.simplyvoting.com to vote. Note that voting is not on the OLLI website. **Voting ends on Friday, May 10 at 5:00 PM.** The results will be announced the following week.

Spring Final Feedback

After finishing the last session for each class that you have attended, please take time to complete the anonymous final feedback form that is now available. You can access the form [here](#). The feedback form will be available through Friday, May 10.

We Invite You to a Shakespeare Viewing

Members of this spring semester's study group *Shakespeare in Performance: Tackling Taming of the Shrew* voted that this is the version they most wanted to see in full. This surprisingly popular, frequently funny, and ambiguous "problem play" will be a full-length production, along with a brief intermission, followed by time for comments and reactions. The viewing will take place on **Friday, May 17, from 1:45 AM - 3:00 PM in Room A** on the first floor of our Spring Valley Building. All OLLI members are welcome!

2019 Bloomsday: Readers Wanted



If you would like to participate as a reader in this year's OLLI Bloomsday Celebration, please contact Bob Kolodney at bobkolive@gmail.com. **The reading will run from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Friday, June 21 in the lecture hall (Room A) at 4801 Mass. Ave. NW**, and will consist of Chapters 5 (Lotus Eaters), 6 (Hades) and 7 (Aeolus) of *Ulysses*. It will be followed by an off-site cast party to which all attendees are invited. If you would like to attend on June 21, please click [here](#). This is a free event, but reservations are required.

Summer Sessions

Registration is underway for a selection of study groups OLLI is holding this summer, during the June Minis **from June 3-28. July Shorts will run from July 15-19**. There will **not** be printed catalogs for these courses, they will be listed online only. June Minis are listed under the *Study Groups* tab on our website (or, click [here](#)) and the July Shorts are listed under [Shorts](#). **The lottery for the June Minis will take place on May 20. July Shorts registration will open on June 10, and the lottery will take place on July 1.** Stay tuned!

Upcoming Trip to the Arlington National Cemetery!

We will be hosting a trip to the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Saturday, June 8. People come from all over the world to visit this remarkable resting place for over 400,000 of our U.S. servicemen and women and their families. Please join us as we tour the site and

discuss its history, traditions, and many of the former soldiers buried there. **The walking tour will last about two hours. There is no fee and it is very convenient to get to, with a metro stop just one block from the entrance and very reasonable parking onsite.** This trip will be led by our trips coordinator, Tammy Belden. For more details and to register, please click [here](#). You can also call the OLLI office to register (202-895-4860) or e-mail to olli@american.edu.

OLLI Volunteering Fair

OLLI member Bob Croog is proposing a **volunteer fair, to serve as a bridge between our members and members of surrounding communities.** All are welcome, including representatives of other volunteer organizations. For example, there are some OLLI members who volunteer with local public school systems, so those districts may send their volunteer coordinators to speak at the fair. **This event is set to take place on July 10, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Spring Valley Building, where all OLLI classes are held** (exact room will be determined). For more information, please contact Bob Croog: rdcroog@gmail.com, 301-215-7852.

Upcoming Events at American University

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

AU Museum at the Katzen Arts Center

MFA Thesis Opening Reception & Gallery Talk

May 4, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Celebrate the accomplishments of AU's Department of Art MFA thesis candidates by welcoming *Turbulence* to the museum. A gallery talk with the artists will be held from 5-6PM, followed by the opening reception from 6-7PM. Free and open to all, no RSVP required.

JRA Distinguished Artist Lecture: Elizabeth Brim

May 5, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

As a blacksmith, Elizabeth Brim has forged a place for herself in a male-dominated field. She plays on that contrast in her work with her "unique juxtaposition of the feminine and the ferrous." She not only makes wonderful and sought-after artistic objects, but also salient social commentary. Free and open to all, no RSVP required. To register for Brim's accompanying workshop, click [here](#).

The Moving Print: An Evening of Print & Performance

May 9, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Two premier dance companies collaborate to present an exploration of the printmaking process through dance. Director/Choreographer Leah Glenn, of Leah Glenn Dance Theater and artist Steve Prince, a participant in the exhibit Forward Press: 21st Century Printmaking, present "*Youngest of Nine*," "*Fault Lines*," "*Idiosyncrasies*," "*Oasis*," and "*Runnin'*." Director/Choreographer of DC's own UpRooted Dance, Keira Hart-Mendoza, and Susan J. Goldman of Lily Press®, present a selection of collaborative pieces; "*Paper Dolls*," "*Targets*," and "*Malevich's Black Square*." Free and open to all, to reserve a spot, please RSVP [here](#).

Drawing Portraits: Learning to See Like an Artist with Beverly Ress

April - May, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Six-week class, Sundays

In this course, you will improve your ability to capture a likeness from life. Weekly topics cover visually shifting from the right to left brain, working with the picture plane, cementing the basics of portraiture, working with light and shadow, and finally, creating a skillful self-portrait. Read more about DC artist and longtime teacher Beverly Ress [here](#). *Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, and May 5 and 12, \$225 for the six-week class. To register, click [here](#).*

AU Center For Israel Studies

Screening of *The Passengers*

Saturday, May 11, 6:15 PM, E Street Cinema

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 PM, AFI Silver Theatre

These screenings are co-presented by AU's Center for Israel Studies and will be followed by a conversation with the filmmaker Ryan Porush. The Tuesday, May 14 conversation will be moderated by Laura Katz Cutler, Managing Director of the Center for Israel Studies at American University, and includes Porush and David Elcott of the Wagner School of Public Service at NYU, who is depicted in the film. To purchase tickets for *The Passengers*, please 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.

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