

HELPFUL LINKS

[- Parking](#)

[- Registration](#)

[- Events Calendar](#)

[- Past Newsletters](#)



Where Curiosity Never Retires



September 6, 2019 OLLI News

Fall Open House

The annual open house for the fall semester will take place on **Tuesday, September 17 at 10:00 AM**. It will be held in our Spring Valley building at **4801 Mass. Ave NW, on the 1st floor in Room A**. Please join us as we welcome returning members back for another semester and introduce each other to OLLI newcomers! There will be coffee available.

Fall Registration

The lottery was conducted on Tuesday, September 3. As such, classes have started filling up or are full. If a class is closed, you may join its waitlist. Over 40 classes are still open. Please visit our website to view study group statuses, as registration is still open. **The fall semester starts the week of September 23**. To view study groups and register online, please click [here](#).

Our Sympathies

Giorgio Borgiotti, former Study Group Leader and member, died on August 17. Giorgio taught *"Motion, Space and Time: Newton's and Einstein's Revolutions in Science"* and other physics courses at OLLI beginning in 2013. Prior to joining OLLI, he was on the Engineering and Applied Sciences faculty at George Washington University. A celebration of Giorgio's life will be held on September 22 at 10:30 am at the Cosmos Club. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.

Updates on Courses and Books

There is a listing of book availability at the Politics and Prose bookstore on our website. Some books are not available and some are pay-to-order only. For books not available in-store, suggestions of other online booksellers are listed. For detailed information, please click [here](#).

Correction

In last week's article on *Serendipities!*, our new program, we incorrectly listed Jeff Porter's e-mail address, it is jeff.portermia@gmail.com. Jeff is the point of contact if you are interested. For more information on *Serendipities!* and to fill out a proposal form, please click [here](#).

OLLI Book Exchange

There is now an 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 they would like. **It would be especially helpful to donate any books that are on the [booklist](#) for this upcoming fall semester.**

There is a box with slips of paper, pens, and paper clips in the book exchange area. If you donate a book, please fill out one of the slips of paper with as much information as you know (title, number, and study group leader from the class in which the book was used) then clip it to the cover of the book. **The book exchange will be ongoing.** Jacqui Gallagher, the organizer, hopes this will be an activity that will enable members to share interests and make new connections – both intellectual and personal. If you have any questions, please contact Jacqui at gallagherjacqueline@gmail.com or 202-333-7957.

A Talk with Steve Sherman: Polish Tour

Steve Sherman will give a presentation of his recent 10-day study tour of Poland (Gdansk, Warsaw, Krakow). He was honored to be part of a delegation of American Jewish leaders invited by the Polish government to learn about Poland and to foster Polish and Jewish dialogue. The tour occurred at a time of controversy between Poland and the Jewish diaspora/Israel, as well as at a time when Poland is seeking stronger ties with the U.S. Meetings were held with Jewish community members (temples/JCCs) and government representatives (Ministries of Justice/Foreign Affairs). The group had special tours of museums like Solidarity, WWII, History of Polish Jews, and Auschwitz, and attended the Jewish Cultural Festival.

Poland has had a long, rich and tragic history of uneasy co-existence with its Jews. In 1939, Poland was the cultural center of the Jewish world, but was also experiencing rising anti-Semitism. WWII brought the near annihilation of Poland's three million Jews by the Nazis, and many of its remaining survivors were expelled by Poland's anti-Zionist Communists in 1968. Non-Jewish Poles were also victims as Poland was attacked and divided up by Germany and the Soviet Union. Today, Poland has a fledgling Jewish community of about ten thousand and there are efforts to grow and revitalize it. Poland has preserved Auschwitz with its historical lessons and is seen by more than two million annual visitors. In contrast, the Parliament has enacted, almost unanimously, a law penalizing those who accuse Poland of complicity in Nazi atrocities. Poland is also seeking a NATO base in its country because of its concern about possible Russian aggression.

Steve spent most of his career as a trial attorney with the U.S. Justice Department. He also served in President Clinton's White House Counsel's Office, clerked for a U.S. District Court Judge, and was a past Chair of the Federal Bar Association Tax Section. He served on the Federal Inter-agency Holocaust Committee and is the son of Polish holocaust survivors.

This event will be held on Thursday, September 12 at 11:00 AM in our Spring Valley building (4801 Mass. Ave. NW) in Room A on the first floor. To register, click [here](#).

We Want You: Become a Welcomer

We are still short of volunteers needed to welcome each new OLLI member individually before the start of classes. Welcomers contact new members by phone to go over basic information about OLLI and our facilities (including parking!), answer questions, and then touch base a couple of times during the semester. Each Welcomer is normally responsible for 3-4 new members. Although many of our veteran Welcomers will be on the job again this fall, we need additional volunteers. If you are interested in serving as a Welcomer, please send an e-mail to olli@american.edu.

We will review Welcomer responsibilities in detail at an **orientation meeting on Monday, September 9 at 11:00 AM**. ***The meeting will now take place in Room 3 on the 5th floor*** of our Spring Valley building. All first-time Welcomers are urged to attend. If you are willing to serve as a Welcomer but cannot attend the meeting, please let us know.

Steven Pearlstein to Speak at Book Club Meeting

The third annual OLLI Book Club will discuss the incisive and provocative book by acclaimed Pulitzer Prize author and *Washington Post* columnist Steven Pearlstein, *Can American Capitalism Survive?* This book is particularly relevant, given the current political climate. We hope many members will read the book and come to the discussion, which will be led by Pearlstein. **The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, September 18, at 10:00 AM in Room A**. There is no cost to attend. Please click [here](#) to register. If you have any questions, please contact our office at olli@american.edu.

Upcoming Events at American University

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

FALL EVENTS AT THE AU MUSEUM-KATZEN ARTS CENTER

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

Free and fully accessible

Early Fall Opening Reception

Saturday, September 7, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Free and open to all

Grace Hartigan and Helene Herzbrun: Reframing Abstract Expressionism

September 3-October 20, 2019

Curated by Norma Broude, American University Art History Professor Emerita

Free and open to all, no RSVP required

Grace Hartigan (1922-2008) and Helene Herzbrun (1922-1984) were both remarkable painters of the second Abstract-Expressionist generation who lived and worked as influential artists and teachers in the Baltimore/Washington region for many decades. Accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, with an essay by Norma Broude, this show brings together more than two dozen large-scale and rarely seen works by Hartigan and Herzbrun from private and public collections, many in

the Baltimore/Washington area. For more details, click [here](#).

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.

There will be a gallery talk on Saturday, September 7, from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM, followed by the Fall Opening Reception. Please RSVP for the talk [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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