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Where Curiosity Never Retires



February 14, 2020 OLLI NEWS

A Note From The Chair



On this Valentine's Day, I can't help but share with you some examples of why I love OLLI at AU. As I walked-almost floated- home from my final day of February Shorts last week, I thought to myself: Where else would I be able to walk into classrooms on a given day and find groups of senior citizens in classes like these:

- Conversational Hebrew

- Violin Virtuosos from Paganini to the 21st Century
- How World War II Affected the Work of JD Salinger and Kurt Vonnegut
- The Rise of Digital Money

When I retired, I could not have imagined sitting in class with such bright, curious, committed peers listening to a fantastic teacher present his quantitative, linguistic analysis of portions of Plotinus's *Enneads* and the ancient Sanskrit *Maitrī Upaniṣad*. I had just as much fun in that class as I did in my Short on the 1923, 1924, and 1933 Nationals baseball World Series games. The hard work of our Study Group Leaders is a labor of love. Combine that with the enthusiasm and intelligence that class members bring to class, and you have an energizing and thoroughly enjoyable experience. With love and gratitude to the entire OLLI community!

Martha Cutts

Chair, Board of Directors

Welcome to Niranjn Singh

We would like to give a warm welcome to Niranjn Singh, OLLI's new Administrative Coordinator. Niranjn is very excited to join OLLI. He is of East Indian origin, and holds an MBA from the University of Rochester, New York. He brings a passion for education and learning, having supported operations at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Niranjn also has taught conventional classes and tutored at-risk and international students at the Community College of Baltimore County. In another part of his professional life, Niranjn has been a consummate sales professional, and has always valued communications which inform for clarity, inspiration, and better decision-making. In his spare time, Niranjn attempts to practice yoga and Chi Gong. He hopes to use all his experience, education, and sense of humor to help serve OLLI's mission of making lifelong learning an amazing experience for OLLI members.

Reminder to Update Your Cell Phone Number

If your phone number changes, please update it in your record online or e-mail or call the OLLI office so we can update it. Sometimes we send alerts via text message, so it's important for us to have each members' most updated cell phone number.

We Still Need YOU: Become a "Welcomer"

Spring semester is fast approaching and **we still need volunteers to serve as Welcomers for new OLLI members**, which promise to be a bumper crop this spring. As a Welcomer, you are normally the first person from OLLI to reach out in direct contact with our new members, providing basic information about OLLI programs and activities and answering any questions they might have. We want them to feel as welcome and comfortable as possible as they join our community. Volunteers are key to keeping the wheels turning at OLLI. If you have been thinking about volunteering, this is a good way to begin. If you are interested, please contact Welcomer Coordinator John Barger on at jbarger@starpower.net.

Spring Semester Books Available

A list of books for spring courses that are either not available or available as pay-to-order from Politics and Prose bookstore is listed on the OLLI website. OLLI members receive a 10% discount when purchasing books for their study groups from Politics and Prose. For detailed information on book availability, please click [here](#). For books not available in-store, suggestions of other online booksellers are listed.

Open Spring Study Groups

The Spring semester will begin March 2. The lottery took place this week, but **there are still study groups that are open**. View the full list of spring study groups [here](#). The column on the right will let you know the status (open or closed) of each study group. Double click on the column head "Status" to bring all of the open study groups to the top.

New Member Orientation & Open House

Mark your calendar! The annual New Member Orientation & Open House for the spring semester will take place on **Tuesday, February 18 at 10:00 AM**. This is an organized program, so if you want to hear the ins and outs of OLLI, come at 10:00. The program 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 and introduce each other to newcomers! There will be coffee and refreshments afterward (approximately 11:00 AM) in the Social Space on the 5th floor and well as the opportunity to take a tour of OLLI.

Book Donations

With the spring semester arriving shortly, this is an opportunity to clear out your bookshelves for the new books you will soon be buying! Bring in any OLLI books you no longer want from previous study groups and leave them on the shelf opposite the coffee area in the Social Space on the 5th floor. There are slips of paper and pens for you to indicate the OLLI study group you used them for (if you remember!). Just clip the identifying slip onto the book and place it on the shelf. If you see a book you'd like, take it!

Upcoming Events at American University

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

UPCOMING ARTS EVENTS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY

MUSICAL THEATRE

The Boy Detective Fails

February 13-15, 8 PM

February 15, 2 PM

Greenberg Theatre, 4200 Wisconsin Avenue NW

Young Billy Argo is a miraculous boy detective in the great tradition of the Hardy Boys and Encyclopedia Brown. With the able assistance of his sister and his best friend, Billy can solve any crime that comes his way—except for the most challenging and disturbing puzzle of all. This unique and remarkable musical is by turns hilarious, hopeful, troubling, and deeply moving.

<https://auartstix.universitytickets.com>

\$15 general admission; \$10 alumni, seniors, children under 12

MUSIC

Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas: AU Chamber Singers

February 22, 7:30 PM

February 23, 3 PM

Abramson Family Recital Hall, Katzen Arts Center

It is a story of endless love, evil conspiracies, and defiance of the gods—Purcell's musical tale of the forlorn Queen, Dido of Carthage, and her love for the Trojan prince, Aeneas. AU Chamber Singers, vocal soloists, and a period-instrument band present all the glory of Purcell's stunning music in a semi-staged performance of his most beloved tragic opera.

<https://auartstix.universitytickets.com>

MARCH

MUSIC

The Gorenman Bach Project: Yuliya Gorenman, Piano

March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Abramson Family Recital Hall, Katzen Arts Center

Internationally acclaimed concert pianist and American University musician-in-residence Yuliya Gorenman continues her exploration of Bach's keyboard masterpieces in the fourth recital of The Gorenman Bach Project. \$25/\$10

ART

Becoming Guanyin: Artistic Devotion of Buddhist Women in Late Imperial China

March 25, 3 p.m.

Abramson Family Recital Hall, Katzen Arts Center

Visiting art historian Yuhang Li of the University of Wisconsin-Madison lectures on Buddhist women's devotion to China's most popular female deity, as expressed through painting, embroidery, jewelry, and other arts. Free.

LITERATURE

Visiting Writers: Monica Sok

March 25, 7 p.m.

Abramson Family Founders Room, School of International Service

Monica Sok's poetry offers "quiet wisdom without sentimentality." She reads from her forthcoming debut collection, *A Nail the Evening Hangs On*. Free.

THEATRE

The Birds by Aristophanes

March 26-28, 8 p.m.

March 28, 2 p.m.

Greenberg Theatre, 4200 Wisconsin Avenue NW

First performed in the spring of 414 BC, the story is simple and timeless: humans frustrated with life on earth seek a utopia. They find it in the trees with the birds. And then things get messy and complicated. With a distinct contemporary Greek influence, this production includes songs, dances, the building of an aerial city, fights, flights, marriage, an eventual usurpation, and more. \$15/\$10

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY 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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