

## HELPFUL LINKS

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*Where Curiosity Never Retires*



## March 6, 2020 OLLI NEWS

### Safety in Room A: The Lecture Hall

Please take your time and look carefully when going up or down steps in Room A. If you have a vision impairment, please ask others for assistance. Non-skid caution tape has been added to the top level to mark the step down, as well as to all of the steps on the back stairs, and to the ramp on the far side of the room. In addition, caution tape of a color combination other than yellow and black has been added to the steps adjacent to the ramps on either side of the room going from the first level to the upper levels.

We will continue to monitor the situation and seek help as needed to make the room as safe as possible. If you have a suggestion for safety, please email [olli@american.edu](mailto:olli@american.edu) or call the office at 202-895-4860.

### Coronavirus

As we start the new semester and there are some concerns about the spread of Coronavirus, please be assured that OLLI is following American University's and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's advice. We have posted reminders in classrooms and social spaces on how to stay healthy, but the current recommendations are best summarized as follows:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a sleeve or tissue
- If you are sick, stay home and clean frequently touched objects (phones, keyboards, television remotes, etc.)

We put hand sanitizers in each room and have more on back order. Until we receive the new order, if you have a personal size hand sanitizer, it would be helpful if you carried that around with you, whenever possible.

We will keep you aware of any new developments, but in the meantime, please use the below links for additional information.

#### **American University's statement**

<https://www.american.edu/ocl/healthcenter/s2020-coronavirus.cfm>

#### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website on the Coronavirus**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

#### **District of Columbia Health**

<https://dchealth.dc.gov/coronavirus>

## **We Share Classrooms**

Please be aware that AU classes meet in several OLLI classrooms before our 9:45 AM classes. The AU classes end at 9:30 AM. If there is a class in a room when you arrive, please do not enter the classroom until after it lets out. Entering while the class is still in session is disruptive and disrespectful. We share these rooms with AU. Thank you for respecting our AU colleagues.

## **Lead a Summer Study Group!**



**OLLI is now accepting study group proposals for both upcoming summer sessions.**

This year, the **June Minis are June 1-26** and the **July Shorts are July 13-17**. June Minis meet once a week for 4 weeks and July Shorts meet 3-5 times over the course of one week. **We welcome proposals from both new and veteran study group leaders.**

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

**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 13.**

[June Minis 2020 Proposal Form](#)

[July Shorts 2020 Proposal Form](#)

## Warning from Social Security Inspector General

The Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, is warning of a new tactic by government imposters to reach — and victimize — Americans by phone. We have received reports of text messages on cell phones that appear to come from Social Security. The texts warn about a Social Security number problem. They ask the recipient to call a number back to resolve the problem and avoid legal action.

This trick appears to be the latest development in continuing widespread scams meant to deceive Americans into providing money and personal information to scammers. Social Security will never send a text asking for a return call to an unknown number. Social Security will only send text messages if you have opted in to receive texts from the agency and only in limited situations, including the following:

- When you have requested or subscribed to receive updates and notifications from Social Security by text.
- As part of Social Security's enhanced security when accessing your personal my Social Security account.

Our office wants you to know Social Security will never:

- Threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Require payment by retail gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or by mailing cash.
- Send official letters or reports containing your personal information via email.

If you owe money to Social Security, the agency will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights. You should never pay a government fee or fine using retail gift cards, cash, internet currency, wire transfers, or pre-paid debit cards.

## Reminder to Update Your Cell Phone Number

Please check your member record and update your cell number if necessary. You also can email or call the OLLI office to update it. Sometimes we send alerts via text, so we need current cell numbers.

## Adding a Spring Study Group

**There are still spring study groups that are open.** View the full list of study groups [here](#). The column on the right will let you know the status of each study group. Double click on the column head "Status" to bring the open study groups to the top. Members can register for classes through March 20.

During the third week of the semester (March 16-20) members can add a fourth study group to their schedule. If you would like to add a fourth study group, please call the office during that week (202-895-4860).

## Upcoming Events at American University

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

## MARCH

### Key Executive Women in Leadership Forum

March 10

AU Washington College of Law



**SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
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**DISCOUNT OFFER!**  
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**WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP**  
**FORUM**

**USE PROMO CODE:**  
**KeyFriends\_WILF**

Get 50% off your ticket!

Join us as we celebrate Women's History Month, 100 years of Women's Suffrage and the many women who have dedicated their lives to the public service.

American University  
Washington College of Law  
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

## 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. [Tickets](#): \$10 for seniors

## 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. [More info](#)

## THEATER

### The Birds by Aristophanes

March 26-28, 8 p.m. and 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. [Tickets](#): \$10 for seniors

## LECTURES & TALKS

### "Love, Fear and Guilt: American Jews and Israel in the 1948 War"

### Helen and Daniel Sonenshine Lecture with Professor Derek Penslar

Tuesday, March 31, 7:00-8:30 PM

### American University East Campus, Constitution Hall

Please join us for this inaugural Helen and Daniel Sonenshine lecture!

Derek Penslar, William Lee Frost Professor of Jewish History at Harvard University, will speak on American Jews' attitudes towards Israel during the Israeli War of Independence.

[Click to RSVP](#)

## FILM

### BREAKING BREAD - Directed by Beth Elise Hawk (*Israel*)

Sunday, March 22 11:00 AM

### Cafritz Hall, Edlavitch DCJCC, 1529 16th Street NW, Washington, DC

Join the Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues and the Edlavitch DCJCC for the 10th annual in-depth exploration of the daily lives and challenges of **The 21%: The Lives of Arab Citizens of Israel**. View a special screening of *Breaking Bread* followed by a moderated conversation and a *Shuk*.

[Click to RSVP](#)

## 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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