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*Where Curiosity Never Retires*



April 24, 2020 OLLI NEWS

**A Note From The Chair**



In its April meeting last week, the Board of Directors discussed a number of issues as indicated that we would in the Annual Meeting of April 3. We felt that these were questions our members might be asking, so I want to provide you with some answers. The extraordinary circumstances in which we all find ourselves call for fresh thinking and creativity. The uncertainty surrounding what the next six months will look like for all of us makes it particularly challenging to plan ahead, but here is our current thinking.

- Those who were enrolled in a class that was cancelled this Spring will get preference in the lottery if the class is offered in the fall.
- OLLI's Summer Curriculum Coordinator, Marie Matthews, has continued her work and registration for June Minis and July Shorts opens Monday. The Curriculum Committee is currently at work on the fall semester. Flexibility is the byword; we are positioning ourselves to respond quickly and efficiently to whatever the situation demands.
- Online classes can be rewarding and productive, and some forms of instruction lend themselves well to presentation on Zoom. And there are even some advantages, such as not having to worry about parking! These classes are, however, admittedly different from being in the room with the Study Group Leader. We also miss out on the social interactions during and before or after classes. The Board will work closely with staff to look at the pricing of our offerings for the future. There will be no changes from our normal pricing for the June Minis or July Shorts, but we realize that even once we are back on campus, we may want to offer some classes or lectures online. Determining how our business model might change as we go forward will take thoughtful consideration, and we are beginning that work.
- At this time, we will not approach American University to request relief for any or all of the rent we pay. While there has been a financial impact on our organization, we are fortunate to be in a position to weather this, and we realize that many businesses and non-profits are suffering to a far greater degree than we are.
- For the same reason, we have not and do not plan to apply for federal relief funds. Applications for these funds require certification of need, and we do not meet that criterion.

Many of you have expressed your appreciation for the way the staff have responded to the challenges of recent months and the ability of OLLI at AU to continue to offer so many of its programs. The real heroes are, as usual, our Study Group Leaders, so many of whom tackled a new technology and new way of teaching. Their creativity, e.g., posting large sheets of paper on the basement wall to be used as a white board or enlisting the help of a spouse to monitor raised hands or questions via chat, has carried the day. I was so proud to learn that within the Osher network, OLLI at AU is among the leaders in making the transition to online programming.

Stay well!

Martha Cutts

Chair, Board of Directors

## Summer Registration Opens Monday

**Registration for the June Minis and July Shorts begins this Monday, April 27.** There is no print catalog for the summer sessions, so registration will be online through the [OLLI website](#). Starting Monday, you will find the June Minis registration under "Study Groups" in the menu across the top. You will find the July Shorts under "Shorts."

Below are the dates for each session:

- June Minis (June 1-26)
  - Lottery: Monday, May 18

- July Shorts (July 13-17)
  - Lottery: Friday, June 26

**Due to Covid-19, the June Minis will be conducted online over Zoom. The July Shorts will also be over Zoom *unless there is a change in circumstances closer to that time.*** We will have more information for members and several optional Zoom training sessions available.

## Bloomsday by OLLI is Going Virtual

Our Zoom-Powered Celebration (involving readings from "Ulysses" as is customary) will take place at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, June 16. If you would like to participate as a reader please contact Bob Kolodney at [bobkolive@gmail.com](mailto:bobkolive@gmail.com).

## Class Gifts for Study Group Leaders

As Study Group Leaders teach on a volunteer basis, it has been long-time tradition among the members to collect (completely voluntary) monetary donations to accompany a thank you card. Because classes are meeting remotely this semester, members have asked how they can still contribute.

We have created a page on the website where you can donate to your SGL using a credit/debit card, as well as add a message if you wish. OLLI will collect all of the donations, write a check to each SGL, and send them any messages that were received.

Click here to make a donation to your SGL(s): [Spring 2020 SGL Gifts](#)

### 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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