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Where Curiosity Never Retires



May 29, 2020 OLLI NEWS

Passing the Baton



Working closely this year with Vice-Chair Judy Havemann, Executive Director Tony Long, Deputy Director Mary Fran Miklitsch, and with my colleagues on the Board of Directors has been an enjoyable and important part of my life. This team has worked thoughtfully to meet the special challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and to continue to provide a robust online spring semester of offerings. With great confidence and respect, I am pleased to pass the baton to Judy, who will serve as Board Chair as of June 1.

Judy has been Deputy National Editor, Maryland Editor, Virginia Editor, D.C. Extra Editor, and Executive Food Editor at *The Washington Post*. She reported from Europe and several US states for *The Post* before becoming senior editor of the *Wilson Quarterly* at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She was also director of public affairs for the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has been a member of OLLI since 2016 and, among other responsibilities, brought fabulous speakers to us as Chair of the Lecture Committee and organized the popular Scholars World Series study group. Her commitment to OLLI, creativity, and energy are harbingers of success in her new role.

The team that powers the OLLI engine includes our committed staff and so many volunteers who serve as SGLs, SGRs, committee chairs, and members. Those new to OLLI who haven't yet gotten

involved as volunteers see a professional, organized, and smoothly running program, but I assure you that this happens only because of our competent staff and because so many members step up to help out. My gratitude goes to all, but in particular, I want to mention the six years of Board service that Sue Boley and Denise Liebowitz are now completing. Their commitment, expertise, and willingness to work hard have helped OLLI grow and mature in major ways. They will be replaced on the Board of Directors by John Barger and Dave Hensler.

The overwhelmingly positive and strong response to the June Minis—we have seen a 175% increase in signups over June of 2019!—has helped our team with planning for the fall semester. Every educational institution is struggling to plan for the fall. Please know that we will make decisions with the best interest of our membership in mind. We are working closely with members of the AU leadership team as we make our decisions; that positive collaboration makes our job much easier.

With gratitude for the opportunity to serve,

Martha Cutts

Chair, Board of Directors

June Minis Begin Monday and You Can Add a Fourth Class!

The June Minis will begin next Monday, June 1. If you registered and have not received your assignment letter, please contact the office at olli@american.edu or 202-895-4860. Some classes are still open. **Through Friday June 5**, you can e-mail olli@american.edu to register for a fourth class! (The class must be open.)

To easily view which classes are open, go to [View All Study Groups](#), then doubleclick the column head "Status" at the far right. This will bring open study groups to the top of the list. **The last day to register for (or, drop) a June Mini is Friday, June 5. June 5, is also the deadline to request a refund for June Minis.**

Invitations to the June Mini classes will be emailed today through this weekend. The invitations all have Recurring Links, that is, the links are good for all four times the class meets.

Tip: Save the emails which contain your links, or note the (11-digit) Meeting ID and (6-digit) Password for each of your classes on a piece of paper and tape it to your desk or computer! We are using passwords to increase security. If you click on the link to join Zoom, the password is embedded in the link. If you enter the Meeting ID, you also will need to enter the password.

Tip: Check for OLLI emails in your Spam and/or Junk folders. Because OLLI send mass emails, they are sometimes tagged as spam or junk.

Zoom

Please read these notes carefully.

- **By May 30, all Zoom users must download the most recent version, Zoom 5.0.** To identify which version you have installed, click [here](#).

If you are on a Windows or Apple desktop or laptop, click here to [download 5.0](#).

If you are on an Apple iPad or iPhone, go the Apple Store and download ZOOM Cloud Meetings.

If you are on an Android tablet or phone, go to Google Play and download ZOOM Cloud Meetings.

If you don't download Zoom 5.0 before May 30, it will automatically download when you try to join a Zoom meeting (including OLLI classes).

- We have changed our policy regarding recording classes:

§ SGL must have approval of OLLI staff.

§ SGL must inform members: 1) that the session(s) will be recorded, and 2) the purpose of the recording (e.g., as a make-up session for members who missed the class or for the SGL to review how they teach on Zoom, etc.).

§ Before the recording begins, members must be given the opportunity to turn off their video so they cannot be seen.

§ Recording must be made to the Cloud (so no names are identified), not to any local computer.

§ If the video is for make-up purposes, OLLI staff will provide class members the link to the recorded video.

§ All recordings will be deleted by OLLI within two weeks of the end of the semester.

Tech Support Team

We are delighted that a number of tech-savvy OLLI members have volunteered to assist members in getting into Zoom and using it. [Download the list.](#)

Reading Materials for Classes

Politics and Prose and a other DC booksellers have resumed curbside pickup service. Also, digital books on Kindle or Scribd are inexpensive! Other online bookstores include:

[AbeBooks.com](#), [AddAll.com](#), [Alibris.com](#), [Amazon.com](#), [BookOutlet.com](#), [eBay.com](#), and [Powells.com](#).

To access course descriptions, reading lists, syllabi etc, go to [View All Study Groups](#), click on the class title, and a new window will display all course-related information. If you wish to print course materials but don't have a printer, Staples or Fedex stores will print them for you.

SGL Corner

SGLs should be aware that the attendance list for classes may change until June 5 due to Adds and Drops. Please feel free to request a current attendance sheet at olli@american.edu. SGLs do not need to submit attendance lists to the office at the end of the Minis. Use these lists as a resource for communicating with participating members.

Zoom documentation is available at www.olli-dc.org > Study Groups > Zoom at OLLI at AU.

Zoom has a new Consent to Unmute feature. If the Host (SGL) or Co-Host mutes all participants, then wishes to unmute them, each member will see a pop-up sign asking if they wish to consent to be unmuted.

Register for July Shorts

Registration is open for the **July Shorts (July 13-17)**. Please be sure to register before the lottery date below. The July Shorts will be held via Zoom. **Last date for add/drop of courses, and refunds for July Shorts is JULY 10.**

Click to view courses and register: [July Shorts](#)

Lottery Date: Friday, June 26

June Lecture — Hamilton: Man and Musical

Date: Friday, June 12

Time: 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Location: Online via Zoom

Registrants will be e-mailed the Zoom invitation the morning of the lecture. This lecture is free of charge but you must register in order to receive a Zoom invitation.

Click here to register: <https://olli-dc.org/events/HamiltonLecture>

Alexander Hamilton has always been known as a central player in America's early history, but the smash Broadway musical Hamilton has focused new attention on the life of this fascinating individual. This multimedia presentation draws on both Hamilton's biography and his depiction on stage to examine his accomplishments, his relationship with Aaron Burr, and reflects on the appeal of the musical. The lecture includes recordings from the musical's soundtrack and interviews with its creators.

Dan Sherman is an economist who lives in Alexandria and has been in the Washington area since earning his doctorate from Cornell in 1985. He has a great love of music and theater. Since 2010, Dan has taught courses to several OLLI groups on both, classical composers and great musical theater composers.

Bloomsday by OLLI is Virtual

BLOOMSDAY: A Virtual Celebration, A Zoom-Powered Online Reading will be held from **4:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 16**. **Click to register:** <https://olli-dc.org/events/Bloomsday2020>. To volunteer or for more information email [Bob Kolodney](mailto:Bob.Kolodney@olli-dc.org).

Shakespeare Theatre Company's Annual Mock Trial

Shakespeare Theatre Company's annual Mock Trial, "the funniest, most entertaining event in Washington" (Roll Call) is now in session—and online for the first time. On **June 22, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. EST**, audiences are invited to hear a mock appellate argument before a panel of judges, based on a legal issue arising out of a re-imagined plot point of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This year, by moving the Mock Trial online the event is accessible for all with a reduced price, an affordable \$40 admission.

This year's Mock Trial promises to be "a Washington wonk's dream" (*The New York Times*). In a case of art imitating life, the scenario from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will focus on a canceled performance of "Pyramus and Thisbe" and the legitimacy of the force majeure clause. [Read more.](#)

American University Events

AU Museum

During our closure, we are bringing you [#ArtWhereYouAre](#) with exhibition highlights and selections from our permanent collection on our digital platforms. Until we reopen, connect with our [Museum@Home](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). You'll find e-book catalogs, artist-inspired children's art activities, playlists inspired by exhibiting artists, information on virtual events,

and more.

Raw Hope of Humanity Rising

Please join us for two online public dialogues this Summer, co-hosted by the Third Space Network and the American University Museum. The series Raw Hope of Humanity Rising brings together artists, activists, media critics, cultural and government officials in interdisciplinary panels to discuss the political impact of Covid-19 during the run-up to the 2020 presidential election. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Panel 2: Information vs. Propaganda

Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 6:00-7:30pm

The distortion of truth and information through techniques of propaganda and disinformation that falsely attempt to persuade public opinion.

[Register for Information vs Propaganda](#)

Featuring:

- Randall Packer, Moderator (Creative Director, Third Space Network)
- Hasan Elahi (Artist, Director, School of Art, George Mason University)
- Will Stevens (U.S. Dept. of State Foreign Service Officer, Former Spokesperson, U.S. Embassy in Moscow)
- Siva Vaidhyathan (Professor, Modern Media Studies, University of Virginia)

Hasan Elahi, Tracking Transience 2.0

Panel 3: Idealism vs Cynicism

Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 6:00-7:30pm

The disruption of idealism essential to the core principles of democracy though cynical disdain for the rule of law, wisdom, truth, and logic.

[Register for Idealism vs. Cynicism](#)

Featuring:

- Randall Packer, Moderator
- Zoë Charlton (Artist, Associate Professor, American University)
- Lee McIntyre (Research Fellow, Center for Philosophy and History of Science, Boston University)
- Monica Montgomery (Executive Director, Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center)

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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