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*Where Curiosity Never Retires*



## OLLI News, July 24, 2020

### In Memoriam: Denny Shaw

We are sad to announce the death of Dennis ("Denny") Shaw, an OLLI SGL. Denny led several study groups since July 2018 on writing a personal legacy letter to loved ones. Memorial services will be at the Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, MD at a yet-to-be-determined date. Donations can be made in Denny's name to Montgomery County Hospice. We extend our condolences to his family.

### Save the Date: A Summer Serendipity Zoom Book Chat

Join Esther Safran Foer to discuss her new memoir, *I Want You to Know We're Still Here* at 10:30 AM, Thursday, July 30. A Zoom link will be emailed before the talk. Register [here](#).

Esther Foer is a longtime business consultant, the former CEO of the Sixth and I historic synagogue in downtown DC, and the mother of three best-selling authors. Her son Jonathan wrote the hilarious and amazing novel, *Everything is Illuminated*, a fictionalized account of a search for his family roots in Ukraine. Published in 2002, it was the basis for a movie three years later. His mother's book tells the real and extraordinary story.

Esther will be in conversation with Susan Coll, author of five books and the president of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation. The chat will leave plenty of time for questions.

### Try Something New: Coffee Chats

At 11:00 AM on Tuesday, August 4, OLLI will debut the first of several online "Coffee Chats" for OLLI members.

**How it works.** These are informal social gatherings, with no leaders, conducted via Zoom. After a few minutes of instruction at the beginning on how the process works, everyone will be randomly sorted into small groups of eight people for a 12-minute "coffee chat." At the end of the 12 minutes, you will be randomly re-sorted into a different group for another 12-minute session. There will be four

group sessions in all, which means the Coffee Chat will run slightly under an hour.

**What do we talk about?** Talk about whatever you want: how you are faring during the pandemic, what you are currently reading, OLLI classes you have taken or plan to take in the fall, the weather, whether we are alone in the universe, etc. Just make sure everyone has a chance to talk.

**Feedback.** At the end, please participate in a brief poll to tell us what you think about the Chats format and how we might improve them.

**Note.** You must register in advance. Click [here](#) to register. OLLI will email the invitation link on the morning of the event. Be sure to register no later than 4:00 PM, Monday, August 3.

## July SGL Gifts & Feedback

It has been a long-standing tradition among OLLI members to collect (completely voluntary) monetary gifts to accompany a thank you card for our (volunteer) Study Group Leaders.

Gifts will be accepted through close of business, today, Friday, July 24. OLLI staff will send a check to each SGL, accompanied by any messages that were received. Click [here](#) to make a gift to your SGL(s), using a credit/debit card, as well as add an optional message.

### Feedback

As you finish your July classes, please take a few minutes to complete the anonymous feedback form that is available online. You can complete the form under the Study Groups tab on the website, or access it by clicking [here](#). Feedback will be accepted through today, Friday, July 24.

Your feedback will be read by the Curriculum Committee and shared with Study Group Leaders. Our Study Group Leaders appreciate constructive feedback, So please let them know what you thought worked well and/or what might be helpful for the next time.

## Fall Registration Is Underway

The Fall 2020 semester runs September 21 through December 4. Lottery day is Tuesday, September 8.

Our Study Group Leaders, the Curriculum Committee, and OLLI staff have been working for months to prepare for the upcoming semester. Please click [here](#) to see the array of almost 100 courses available and, to register. For members who prefer to print a copy of the catalog, you can [download a PDF](#) from the OLLI website. We will not be printing or mailing catalogs this semester. If you do print the catalog, please register online.

All OLLI courses this fall will be conducted via Zoom. The discounted rate of \$270 entitles you to register for up to four courses (three prior to lottery day and a fourth after you receive your assignment letter). We are also happy to inform you that many courses this fall will have increased capacity so fewer classes will be impacted by the lottery.

**If you registered for a spring class that was cancelled and is now rescheduled for the fall, you will be given priority registration for that class if you identify it as one of top three preferences.**

Please let your friends know that registration is open and they can attend from anywhere in the world! If they can log into Zoom, they can attend an OLLI class.

## **SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION**

### **Journalism Alumni Panel**

Free, Streams online at 1:00 p.m. on July 28

#### [Register](#)

SOC professor John Watson moderates *Protests, Pandemic and Politics*, a discussion about recent events featuring the Washington Post's Moriah Balingit, CNN's Chandelis Duster, and WRC-TV's Brandon Benavides.

## **SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

"Big World" **podcasts** shine a spotlight on complex ideas and issues that matter. Each podcast features an expert from the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC, breaking down a big, important topic into small bite sizes. [Listen](#).

## **AU MUSEUM**

During the museum's closure, [AU Museum](#) is bringing you exhibition highlights and selections from its permanent collection on its digital platforms. Until the museum reopens, connect at [Museum@Home](#) and follow the museum 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.

## **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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