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*Where Curiosity Never Retires*



## OLLI NEWS — SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

### Letter from the Chair



Welcome to the fall semester of OLLI at AU. We are delighted that 1,140 of you are taking courses this year, more than were enrolled at this time in 2019. Most of you have the first week of classes under your belts and I hope you are finding them invigorating. I don't know about you, but I definitely needed a little invigoration after a summer that seemed very long and very isolated.

Our OLLI classes helped many of us get through the summer. We had successful short courses in June and July with more students in those sessions than ever before. In June, the curriculum committee organized an extraordinary course featuring judges discussing their decisions in high-profile cases such as those of Elián González and Terri Schiavo.

Because of Covid-19, OLLI is completely on Zoom. As a result, some of our classes have more seats than normal. Sixty still have space if you would like to register for them.

This note is a thank you to the entire staff who worked all summer from home. The summer has taught us a lot, most notably, it has demonstrated again the commitment and hard work of our staff. Mary Fran Miklitsch and Jesse Williams, for example, have given courses on Zoom to over 1,000 students and study group leaders. Mary Fran, one of our resident Zoom experts, manages OLLI's online format while continuing her duties as Deputy Executive Director--a full time job unto itself. Jesse, OLLI's Operations Coordinator and our other resident Zoom expert, simultaneously monitors up

to seven Zoom classes at a time--three times per day. Lesley Diaz, our Academic Programs Coordinator, is staff liaison to the Curriculum Committee, Lecture Committee, and our Serendipities! program. She coordinates and communicates with all of our study group leaders and lecturers to make sure they have everything they need to make their classes and presentations successful. Niranjn Singh, our Administrative Coordinator, receives dozens of phone calls and upwards of 100-125 emails daily. He maintains the incoming flow of requests, questions, and information with great ease. Tony Long, OLLI's Executive Director, keeps all these balls in the air via 8:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily staff meetings plus dispatching all the administrative requirements of a 1,500-member nonprofit organization with professionalism and aplomb. OLLI is lucky to have this staff.

We must give a special thank you to our Study Group Leaders. Our SGLs, who give so much of their time and talents to OLLI, have taken on the additional challenge of leading classes online. This is no small feat. Stepping out of one's comfort zone to learn new technology while preparing for classes is a gift to us. We are always grateful to our Study Group Leaders, but now more than ever.

To keep social connections, this summer we also experimented with online Coffee Chats. If we can't share coffee and get to know each other in OLLI's "social space," we can still meet people in small groups on Zoom. We will offer more Coffee Chats this fall, which focus on each other. We also plan to have a number of Happy Hours, in which discussion will be focused on specific topics. In addition, we had several Serendipities! -- talks by members or speakers recruited by members -- and these also will continue this fall.

We begin the semester with high hopes that all of us can all learn and engage in old and new ways. Especially now, we appreciate your ideas, support, and patience. Here's to a safe and engaged fall term.

Judy Havemann

*Chair, Board of Directors*

## Fall Classes Underway

Our Fall 2020 program kicked off on Monday, Sept. 21 and concludes on Dec. 4. All Fall OLLI courses are conducted via Zoom. **Zoom invitations are emailed around 4:00 PM for the next day's classes.**

**You can add or drop classes until Oct. 2. The last day for refunds is also Oct. 2.** Refunds are \$270 less a \$10 processing fee. Please email us should you want a refund, or simply logon to your account and click on the refund button.

## Reminder

Academic excellence and civil discourse are hallmarks of the OLLI at AU community. We want our members to share their views in class but be mindful of others' views and feelings. Our SGLs and guest speakers are volunteers who choose to teach for the educational value they are seeking to impart, but they are not monitors or civility enforcers. We all say things when sitting at a computer that we wouldn't say face to face. We ask you to treat your OLLI Zoom class as if it were a physical classroom. Thank you.

## Zoom Link for Lecture Today at 1:30pm

### ***Reflections on Attorney General Barr's 2019 speeches to Notre Dame and the Federalist Society***

**W. Neil Eggleston**

When: Friday, Sept. 25 - 1:30-2:30 PM

Please click the link below by 1:25 PM this afternoon to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/92704888782>

Webinar ID: 927 0488 8782

## Lecture: Fri., Oct. 2, George Derek Musgrove Race and Police Reform in the Nation's Capital

**Friday, Oct. 2, 1:30-2:30 PM**

Online via Zoom

***Race and Police Reform in the Nation's Capital*** with **George Derek Musgrove**

As the country experiences a nationwide protest movement against police violence, it is worth looking back at previous efforts to address the issue to inform our current predicament. Here in Washington, D.C. African Americans have struggled for police accountability for more than 200 years. Identifying specific flashpoints in this struggle, G. Derek Musgrove will draw out several lessons for today. George Derek Musgrove, PhD, is an Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He is the author of *Rumor, Repression, and Racial Politics* and co-author, with Chris Myers Asch, of *Chocolate City, A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*. He is currently working on a web-based map of Black Power Activism in Washington, D.C., broadly conceived as stretching from 1961 to 1998, and a book project tentatively titled *We Must Take to the Streets Again: The Black Power Resurgence in Conservative America, 1980-97*.

**Note: Reservations are not required to attend lectures this fall. We will include the Zoom link in the 10:00 AM Friday newsletter the morning of the lecture.**

## Study Group Statuses for Yom Kippur on Monday

**The following classes WILL NOT BE MEETING on Monday, Sept. 28, Yom Kippur.** SGLs will let their classes know if they will be adding a session onto the end of the semester to replace this class.

140 America and Asia

435 Astrophysics

490 Building a Human: From Embryos to Bioengineering

510 A History of Rock 'n Roll: A Musical Odyssey

516 The New York City Ballet: Past and Future

545 Celebrating 90 Years of Sondheim

591 This is Your Brain on Architecture: Neuroscience in the Trenches

625 Deuteronomy and the Deuteronomistic History

This study group meets for the first time on Oct. 5.

630 Little Known Louisa May Alcott: A Fresh Look at Little Women

631 Understanding Families Through Plays  
681 What's New in Short Stories?  
688 Hamlet: Shakespeare in Performance  
703 US Foreign Policy II  
788 Scientists in the Crosshairs  
834 Mastering Skills of Mindfulness Meditation: Intermediate Level

**The following classes WILL BE MEETING on Monday, Sept. 28. They will be recorded for those who are not in attendance. Links to the recordings will be emailed to members registered for the class(es)**

377 Understanding Trade Issues  
445 Adults Conquering Technology III (ACT III)  
549 The (Mostly) Vocal Music of J.S. Bach  
725 Africa - A Continent on the Move  
805 Discovering Consciousness

## Serendipity! Thurs., Oct. 8: Carl & Kim Weichel

**Thursday, October 8, 3:30-5:00 PM**

Online via Zoom

***1968 - A People Divided, A Country on Edge* with Carl and Kim Weichel**

1968 was a year marked by seismic shifts in American politics, social movements, global relations, and cultural icons that changed the modern landscape. It was a tumultuous one; the assassinations of RFK and MLK, the Vietnam War and violent Civil Rights protests. But '68 was also a shining moment packed with the progress; man saw from space planet Earth; more Americans were going to college, science and technology were making major advances, and women's movement accelerated.

*Carl Weichel has held various positions over his career in marketing, design, and advertising in Australia, South Africa, Canada, and San Francisco, and continues to consult. Carl has led OLLI study groups on Political Polarization, The 1960s, Eastern Religions and Philosophies, and Our Hidden Brain.*

*Kimberly Weichel is a social entrepreneur and nonprofit leader in the fields of women's leadership, cross-cultural dialogue, citizen diplomacy, and peace-building. She has co-led OLLI courses on The UN and The 1960s.*

**Register [here](#). This lecture is free of charge but you must register in order to receive a Zoom invitation. The registration deadline is Thursday, October 8 at 8:00 AM. Registrants will be e-mailed the Zoom invitation the morning of the lecture.**

## Class Handouts

Members can access and download class handouts in PDF format on our [website](#). We will update this page as Study Group Leaders make new material available. The page will be available for the duration of the semester.

## Zoom Tips

- If you are missing an email with a link to your Zoom class, check your Spam and Junk folders.

- If Zoom freezes for more than a few seconds, close your browser, re-open the browser, and join the meeting again. Or try a different browser. For example, if you were using Firefox, quit Firefox, and try Google Chrome instead.
- If you are having difficulty joining or staying on a Zoom class, email a member of the OLLI Tech Support Team for assistance. Download a list of the OLLI Tech Support Team members [here](#).

## Books for Classes

**OLLI is working with Politics and Prose as usual this fall.** To purchase books for classes, members can do any of the following:

- Order from their [website](#)
- Call 202-364-1919 to order over the phone
- Visit Politics and Prose in person at 5015 Connecticut Ave NW

If purchasing books via their website, mention in the notes field that the book is for an OLLI course. Their web orders team will apply the 10% discount to your credit card when it's officially processed. If you call or shop in person, mention the discount when paying.

### **Books not available at Politics and Prose:**

140 - *United States and Asia*

168 - *US Military Capabilities and Forces*

549 - *Faber Pocket Guide to Bach*

620 - *Undici Novelle*

620 - *Racconti Romani*

725 - *Penguin Atlas of African History*

869 - *Proslogion*

### **Books that are only pay-to-order:**

515 - *Peter Camenzind*

793 - *Theodore Roosevelt*

793 - *Woodrow Wilson*

869 - *Summa Theologiae*

677 - *Our Emily Dickinson*

**Politics and Prose encourages online orders over phone orders, as the phone lines can have long wait times.**

## American University News & Events

### **AU EVENTS & NEWS**

#### **AU Five Year Strategic Plan**

Read AU's Five Year Strategic Plan, [here](#).

#### **Examining Antisemitism**

This fall, AU is bringing together distinguished scholars of Israeli, American, and European history to

examine antisemitism over the past seventy-five years in a series of conversations. [LEARN MORE.](#)

### Exploring Social Justice Series

Join American University Library as we begin our **2020-2021 Exploring Social Justice** series! This series, co-sponsored by the American University Library, the Center for Diversity & Inclusion, and the Kay Spiritual Life Center, brings exemplary leaders from diverse backgrounds who have advocated for various human rights and social justice issues. [Register today!](#)

### CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES

American University students are learning online this fall and the AU [Center for Israel Studies](#) invites you to learn along with them during our many [virtual webinars](#). To receive notices about our online events [sign up for our event newsletter here](#).

### SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

- **The Culture of Activism**, streams online at 12:00 p.m. on Sept. 30  
SIS Professor Carole Gallaher speaks with representatives of activist groups about the culture of activism, both global and hyperlocal. [LEARN MORE.](#)
- "Big World" **podcasts** shine a spotlight on complex ideas and issues that matter. Each podcast features an expert from the School of International Service breaking down a big, important topic into small bite sizes. [Listen.](#)
- [Watch](#) videos of past SIS Events.
- A Q&A with Arturo Porzecanski, newly appointed presidential advisor on economic and educational issues that impact Hispanic Americans. [Read More.](#)

### 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*.

**Website** [www.oli-dc.org](http://www.oli-dc.org) | **Phone** 202-895-4860 | **E-mail** [oli@american.edu](mailto:oli@american.edu)

**Study Group Location** 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW

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