



OLLI E-News

The electronic newsletter for members of the
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University



ISSUE Friday, January 11,
DATE: 2008

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ALERTS

- > **BOARD MEETING FRI, JAN 18:** 10:00, TA-1. All members welcome.
- > [BOARD HANDBOOK](#). Revised Dec 2007 -- tells "Everything you always wanted to know about Board operations & policies but were afraid to ask." Recommended for light reading.
- > **RESTON MEMBERS ARE INVITED** to the Lake Anne Church on Thu, Jan 17, 10:00-noon, to sign up for social activity groups. Other ideas for special interest topics will be welcomed.

REMINDER

- > **WINTER CLASSES START MON, JAN 21.**

ARTICLES AND NOTICES

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OBITUARY

[BILL HOFFMANN](#): Former OLLI member, committee chair, Board member.

WELCOME MESSAGE

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

I AM ABSOLUTELY THRILLED TO CONTINUE MY OWN JOURNEY of lifelong learning as the new executive director for OLLI-GMU. I have been quite impressed with each of the members that I have met so far, and I look forward to personally greeting every member during the coming weeks and months.

I want to commend my predecessor, Dick Chobot, for the excellent work he did as the first executive director for OLLI-GMU. In my discussions with Dick last month, he shared some of the goals and projects he had been working on during his more than two-year tenure here. I am planning to pick up where Dick left off by working closely with the Board of Directors and committee chairs to strengthen and expand our programs and activities.

My first priority is to establish relationships with the many active OLLI-GMU volunteers and participants. In addition, I will be meeting with leadership at Mason and the OLLI National Resource Center. I will continually seek opportunities to reach out to the community.

My job is to energetically implement the policies that are established by the Board of Directors and to support the hard work of our many volunteers. I hope to earn the trust placed in me as your new executive director, and I'm excited about what the future holds for OLLI-GMU!

Editor's note. To learn about our new executive director's background and experience, see President Pat Carroll's recent [article](#), which includes a link to a feature story in the Connection Newspapers. You may also wish to read the executive director's [job description](#).

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CLOSED WINTER COURSES

It's not too late to sign up for open courses



By [Ann Hartmann](#), Tallwood Site Administrator/OLLI Registrar

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION LETTER SOON, showing the courses in which you have been enrolled. Many courses are not full, and it's not too late to sign up. You may register for any of the still-available courses by filling in a Change of Schedule Request form available in the Tallwood social room. If you are unable to come by Tallwood to fill out this form, you may [email](#) or call the office (703-503-3384) with your request.

Here is the list of closed courses and events for the winter term (*note: this list of [oversubscribed courses](#) is also always available on our Website under the "Our Program" drop-down menu*). All other courses are still available for you to sign up.

CLOSED WINTER COURSES AND EVENTS

101: Beginning Watercolor Painting	SPECIAL EVENTS
105: Photoshop Elements for Photography	953: Holocaust Museum Tour
203: Estate Planning--Key Points to Consider	954: From Paris to Berlin--An 850-Mile Journey
401: Literary Roundtable	955: Holocaust Museum Tour
404: The Arthurian Legend--Past and Present	956: Holocaust Museum Tour
411: Readers' Theater	957: Presidential Lying
413: The Deep Hidden Meaning--I Know What It Says	958: Holocaust Museum Tour
502: Basic Beginning Spanish	CANCELED COURSE
603: Ethical Conflicts	202: Understanding Risk to Help You Invest Soundly
702: Spotlight on Africa	
703: Making Sense of the Arab World and US Policy	
704: Public Policy Roundtable	
903: Contemporary Bridge Bidding	

Note: If your plans have changed such that you will no longer be able to

attend one of the courses in which you are enrolled, **PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE** by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384) as soon as possible so that if that course is full, members on the waiting list can be given an opportunity to enroll.

NEW: You may also do this online by visiting the [OLLI registration portal](#); after logging in, click the Courses menu and select Withdraw. Thank you!

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WEBSITES CREATED BY OLLI MEMBERS

Do you have a personal Website?



By [Michael Coyne](#), OLLI Webmaster

Websites Created by OLLI Members

Several OLLI-GMU members have created their own Websites. Feel free to visit any of these Websites by clicking on a link below, which will open a new browser window.

- [Kathie's Art](#) by Kathie West.
- [Personal Library of Archived Documents](#) by Ludwig Benner, Jr.
- [The Investigation Process Research Resources Site](#) also by Ludwig Benner, Jr.
- [Palmer McGrew's Stories](#) by Palmer McGrew
- [Rod's Strand of the Web](#) by Rod Zumbro
- [Eleanor's Garden on the Web](#) by Eleanor White
- [Class of '51](#) by Michael Coyne
- [OLLI's own Web server](#)
- OLLI's [Investment Forum](#) site

A view of part of the Websites of Members page

ONE BIG ITEM OF NEWS HAPPENED while OLLI members were on vacation. The number of links to member pages on the Websites of Members page of the OLLI Website increased from five to six!

You've never heard of Websites of Members? That may be because nothing much has changed on that page since Rod Zumbro redesigned OLLI's Website some five years ago. We have a link to Rod's home page--his pictures and videos. Palmer McGrew has some 58 short stories--see if you can find the one that mentions "Three Danish beauties." Eleanor White has family pictures--the Lunch in Turkey picture from 1965 is not the oldest. And there are two links to Ludwig Benner's professional papers at the NTSB and a link to a member's pictures of his Kansas home town in the early 1950s.

Now we have a new link. Kathie West has provided the link to her Website that has 15 images of her art work and a certificate from Thomas Jefferson High School in recognition of her work as a drama teacher. If you have given up on the Websites of Members page, Kathie's link is one you don't want to miss. At any time, go to the OLLI Website's top-level "Other" menu and click on Websites of Members ... but for right now, just click [here](#).

If you have a personal Website you think might be enjoyed by fellow OLLI members, or as in Ludwig's case, by the entire world, [send me](#) the link.

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SUPPORT OUR WAR-FIGHTING TROOPS

How you can help



By Helen Goff, OLLI liaison to the Mason Military Outreach

committee

LAST NOVEMBER, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF OLLI joined students and staff at George Mason University to plan a strategy for supporting our military who are in harm's way and to package donated items to be sent to the troops. Everyone is invited to be a part of this important outreach. How can you help?

If you know of a service member serving in a war zone, please send the service member's name and mailing address to me via email or phone. The service member will be included in upcoming mailings. For security reasons, packages addressed to "any service member" are not delivered.

If you would like to donate items or money or volunteer your time, here's how--

- **Items:** Must fit in a box approximately 12" x 16" x 3". Some suggestions are tuna/chicken/ham lunch kits, hard candy, pens, trail mix, foot powder, envelopes, gallon zip-lock bags, current magazines and books, shave gel, nail clippers, 72" brown & black shoe laces, note pads, chapstick, beef jerky, single-serving food items, DVDs, batteries, hand sanitizers, and other small heat-resistant items that you may want to donate. For a more detailed list of items that can be donated, see this [MMO flyer](#) (pdf).
- **Money:** Help with shipping costs. Make your check payable to "GMU Foundation" and put "MMO" (this identifies the Mason Military Outreach program) on the "For" line. Give your check to the office or mail it to me for delivery to Mason.

• **Volunteer time:** Help package boxes to the troops. The next volunteer opportunity has not been scheduled but will be published in *OLLI E-News*.

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OLLI MENTIONED IN RECENT ARTICLE

More publicity for us



A RECENT ISSUE of the *Guide to Retirement Living/Source Book* includes an article about the Widowed Persons Service of Northern Virginia, founded by OLLI member Audrey Markham Sullivan, that has several positive mentions of OLLI -- including our Loudoun program. Free copies are normally available in the Tallwood social room; the article is on pages 184-188. Or you can read the article [online](#).

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UPCOMING EXHIBIT OF GRANDCHILDREN PHOTOS

Submit your photos for the winter-term exhibit



By Marvina Munch, Exhibits Coordinator
THE INITIATIVE OF DEBBIE HALVERSON, Membership Committee chair, in encouraging grandparents to display photos of their grandchildren has prompted another opportunity for such a display at Tallwood during the winter session.



Example: Two grandchildren (Sarah and Hannah) with their grandpa

Photos may be of grandchildren of any age and do not have to be current. A limit of two photos per member applies.

A marked box for the photos is in the annex. In addition, photos can be delivered to Marvina Munch from 10:00 to noon in the annex on Tue, Jan 15, and to Debbie Halverson at the Reston Luncheon in the Jasmine Cafe on Wed,

Jan 16. Call Debbie for additional delivery opportunities in Reston before the 16th.

Include on the backs of photos names of grandparents and, if desired, of grandchildren.

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COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OLLI?

HERE'S HOW to express your views--

• **Publicly** (if you would like your comments published in this newsletter): Email your "Letter to the Editor" or "Letter to Ms. Ollie Ettakit" to the [editor](#). **Anonymous submissions are acceptable if you provide contact information so we can verify that you are an OLLI member.** Whenever an official response is clearly appropriate, the editor will obtain and publish the OLLI response in the same issue so members will have more complete information and a balanced picture of the matter.



• **Privately--**

- Contact any [Board member](#), [committee or resource group chair](#), or the [executive director](#);
 - Send an email to the entire Board (email the [editor](#) or the [office](#) to have your message forwarded to all members of the Board);
 - Submit a suggestion [online](#) or in the box in the Tallwood social room;
- or
- Contact the office by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384).

OLLI'S SPECIAL FORCES

Profile of Averett Tombes, chair of the Science/Technology/Health Resource Group and Jane Tombes, co-chair of the Language/Literature/Theater Resource Group



By Elizabeth Crawford, *OLLI E-News* staff writer

TO FIND EXAMPLES OF THE "NEW," ACTIVE, 21ST-CENTURY SENIOR, one need only turn to Ave and Jane Tombes. Grateful for 50 years of marriage, four children, and eleven grandchildren, they are full of energy and happily devoting a lot of it to OLLI.

A member of OLLI for four years, Ave has been chair of the Science, Technology and Health Resource Group for three years. His background as a professor of biology, dean, and vice president at several universities, and later as founder of a consulting company for higher education, has made him a perfect choice for this position. A lot of work is involved in chairing this resource group by himself, but he relies on his contacts in academia to recruit instructors and is not reluctant to make cold calls to area universities to find additional instructors as necessary. He appreciates the recent assistance of Jayne Hart, whom he has known since they were colleagues at Mason thirty years ago.

Jane has been co-chair of Language, Literature and Theater for two years. She is well qualified with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in literature and many years of teaching, arts management, and theater direction and production experience. Jane completed a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Professional Communication at the age of 63, as she says, while she "still had the brains." No one who knows her would question that. She enjoys sharing the resource group work with Doris Bloch and Kathie West, whose areas of expertise and contacts blend well to present a varied slate of courses.

In their spare time, Ave and Jane share an interest in physical fitness, travel, and the arts. They work out together at Mason, and Jane has been active for several years in the Friends of the Center for the Arts. She attends area arts performances and Smithsonian Associates lectures as often as possible. Ave participates in Northern Virginia Senior Softball and is a champion runner. He earned gold medals in the 50-, 100-, and 200-yard dashes in the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in 2006 and silver medals in these races in the Virginia Senior Olympics in 2007. He is training for the gold in 2008.

At OLLI, both Ave and Jane have already earned the gold for all they do to provide us with an outstanding selection of courses.

Editor's note. Ave recently resigned as resource group chair. Any member interested in chairing the Science, Technology & Health Resource Group should contact Program Committee Chair Kathryn Russell.

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CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason, Jan 11-20



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News staff writer

FOR TICKETS, call 1-888-945-2468 (phone orders are handled by tickets.com) or visit the Center for the Arts Box Office, Tue-Sat, 10:00-6:00. More info on tickets at the CFA tickets page.



United States Marine Band -- "The President's Own"

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

with Pinchas Zukerman, violin/conductor

The program will include Elgar's Serenade for Strings, Op. 20; Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26; and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36.

Fri, Jan 11, at 8:00
Admission: \$60, \$52, \$30

Concert Hall
Come early at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

United States Marine Band

Sousa Season Opener: On the Road with Sousa
Director, Col. Michael J. Colburn, conducting

The program will include Mascagni's Intermezzo Sinfonico from Cavalleria rusticana; von Weber's Invitation to the Dance; Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite No. 1; and Verdi's Bolero, with mezzo-soprano SSgt Sara Dell'Omo. Also featured will be a special appearance by "The March King's" great grandson, John Philip Sousa IV.

Sun, Jan 13, at 2:00
Admission: Free, no tickets required
Concert Hall

Band of the Coldstream Guards and the Pipes, Drums and Dancers of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

The Coldstream Guards is the oldest regiment in the British Army on regular active duty, dating back to 1650, and one of the oldest regiments in the world. Band members of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards are soldiers in Scotland's cavalry and gained fame with their recording of "Amazing Grace" in the 1970s. Both will present medleys of sea songs, evocative bagpipe renditions and marches, including a tribute to Sousa.
Sun, Jan 20, at 2:00 and

7:00
Admission: \$48, \$40, \$24
Family friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult
Concert Hall
Come 45 minutes early to either performance for a free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

- **31st International Saxophone Symposium, The United States Navy Band**, featuring Claude Delangle, Cliff Leaman, Timothy Roberts. Fri, Jan 18, at 8:00. Admission: Free, no tickets required. Concert Hall.
- **Commodores Jazz Ensemble**, featuring Eddie Daniels. Sat, Jan 19, at 8:00. Admission: Free, no tickets required. Concert Hall.

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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other events at Mason



By Nancy Ragsdale, OLLI E-News staff writer

- **Men's Basketball** - Sat, Jan 12, 2:00 at the Patriot Center. Mason men's basketball team is hosting Northwestern. As part of Armed Forces Day, the New Guard American Drill Team will perform at halftime. Adults: \$14; seniors: \$8; youth: \$6. Tickets available at the Patriot Center box office, www.ticketmaster.com, or by phone at 703-573-SEAT.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master calendar maintained by the office (see the [Forecast of Non-Class Events](#) for more details, including active links to more information on

certain events, and to view the actual OLLI online calendar used by the office).
*Note: Board, committee, resource-group and 'membership-type' meetings/events below are **highlighted in bold**. OLLI members are welcome at all Board, committee and resource-group meetings (except during executive sessions).*

- Friday Jan 11 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
- 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
- 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
- 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA Annex
- Monday Jan 14 10am Program Review Committee Meeting - Annex**
- Tuesday Jan 15 8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
- Wednesday Jan 16 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
- 10am Genealogy Club - TA-1
- 10:30am Hospitality Committee - Annex**
- 12:30pm Let's Do Lunch - Jasmine Cafe-Lake Anne
- Thursday Jan 17 10am Investment Forum - TA-1
- 10am Reston Social Activity Sign ups - Lake Anne Church
- 11am Fiction Writers' Club - OL-TBA
- 12:30pm A/V Support Committee - Annex**
- Friday Jan 18 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
- 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
- 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
- 10am Board of Directors Meeting - TA-1**
- 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA Annex
- Monday Jan 21 Winter Term Begins
- 1pm LA Bridge Club - Lake Anne
- Tuesday Jan 22 8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
- Wednesday Jan 23 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
- 2pm 951-Investigation Services-FFX Cty - TA-1
- Friday Jan 25 9am 952-Bus Trip Nat'l Building Museum - Departs Fair Oak Mall Lot#44
- 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
- 9:30am Photography Club - TA-1
- 10am Classic Fiction Book Club - Reston Regional Library
- 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
- 10:30am New Member Coffee - TA-Annex**
- 10:30am 953-#1Holocaust Museum - D.C.- Smithsonian Metro
- 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA Annex

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OBITUARY

Former OLLI member Bill Hoffmann

We regret to report the death of Bill Hoffmann, an OLLI member from 1999 through 2005. He chaired the Facilities Committee when we acquired TA-2 and TA-3 and served on the Board of Directors from 2000 through 2003. Following is the obituary from *The Washington Post*.

WILLIAM H. HOFFMANN Col. US Army (Ret.)

William "Bill" Hoffmann, age 81, and a resident of Fairfax Station, Virginia died on Wednesday, October 31, 2007 of pulmonary fibrosis and ALS. He was born in New York City in 1926 and lived in Northern Virginia for these last thirty years. He spent twenty-seven years in the US Army and retired in 1974 as a full colonel. He was a veteran of both Korean and Vietnam Wars and helped to build the European Pipeline in Germany after World War II. His last military assignment was at the Joint Chief Staff where he was recognized for saving the army 2.5 million dollars. During his military career he earned two legions of merit, three bronze stars, one combat infantry badge and one Purple Heart badge. After retiring from the army, he went to work at Amtrak and was responsible for preparing financial reports that he submitted to Congress. He retired from Amtrak in 1991. Col. Hoffmann received his BS degree from the United States Military Academy in 1949 and earned a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Maryland in 1970. During his retirement he was an active member of George Mason Learning and Retirement Institute and helped them to plan and build a new addition. His wife Virginia Hoffmann died in July, 1991. Survivors are his daughter, Dale Marie Hoffmann, and her fiance James M. Walton, his granddaughter Julie Marie Duncan, and his sister Joan Sherman of Sarasota, Florida. A Memorial Mass will be on Thursday, January 3rd at 7:00 P.M. at Saint Mary's Historic Church in Fairfax, VA. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery with Full Military Honors at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, January 4th. Friends should arrive at the cemetery's Administration Building by 10:30 a.m. Donations may be made to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, 801 18th Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 2006-3517. Inscribe "Breakfast Fund" on the memo line. Contributions may also be made to the ALS Association Development Department, 27001 Agoura Road, Suite 150, Calabasas Hills, CA. 91301

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Rod Zumbro
Editor

About OLLI E-News. OLLI E-News, OLLI's weekly newsletter, is emailed to OLLI members with email addresses on Fridays. When classes are in session, printed copies of this newsletter are distributed in classrooms, primarily for members without email. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact the [OLLI E-News editor](#) or the Communications Committee chair,

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Database Manager
Barbara



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

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[Gordon Canaryock.](#)

Submissions. We encourage members to submit news items, articles and photos for this newsletter; deadline to the editor is 7:00 PM Wed (Mon for letters to the editor for which an OLLI response is appropriate) for that week's issue. Please limit articles to about 250 words. Submit material to editor Rod Zumbro (email rzumbro@gmu.edu, phone 703-569-2750); email strongly preferred.

Note about HTML graphics. If you do NOT see photos and clickable links in this message, you might want to ask a teenaged grandchild or a neighborhood teenager or college student to fix things for you. Or you could change your email settings yourself. Here's how to view html-formatted messages like this newsletter in five popular email systems:

- **Microsoft Outlook Express and Windows Mail.** Click Tools; select Options; in the Read tab, uncheck "Read all messages in plain text."
- **Mozilla Thunderbird.** Click Tools; select Options and click the Privacy icon; click the General tab. Uncheck "Block loading of remote images" and uncheck "Block Javascript." Click OK. Now click View; select "Message Body As ... Original HTML" (not Plain Text). Also in View, select "Display Attachments Inline" so that selection is checked.
- **Yahoo Mail.** Click Mail Options/General Preferences; under Security, uncheck "Block HTML graphics in email messages from being downloaded."
- **AOL.** Upgrade, if possible, to an AOL version above 5.0.

Read the Latest Issue Before Distribution. Eager to read the latest news from OLLI? The

Kyriakakis

Photo Editor
Michael Coyne

new weekly issue of OLLI E-News is usually posted some time Thursday evening. So Thursday night or first thing Friday morning, just go to <http://www.ollie.gmu.edu/pubs.htm#enews> where you will find a list of the last 12 issues, and click the issue with Friday's date.

GMU Webmail. If OLLI E-News is being sent to your gmU.edu email address, **we recommend against using GMU Webmail (i.e., iPlanet "Messenger Express")** to read this newsletter **unless you are using Firefox** as your browser; in Firefox, just click the text/html link to view the newsletter. This does not normally work with Internet Explorer (although you may be able to make it work by clicking Open after clicking the text/html link and then selecting Internet Explorer as the program to use to view the link).

- You could forward the newsletter to your alternate Web-based email account such as Yahoo Mail or Hotmail and read it there ... or read it online at the [OLLI Website](#) each Friday.
- Perhaps the easiest solution for those of you with GMU email accounts is to configure your desktop email system such as Microsoft Outlook Express, Microsoft Windows Mail or Mozilla Thunderbird to retrieve mail sent to your gmU.edu address. To do this, see [these instructions](#).

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