



OLLI E-News

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



ISSUE Fri, Mar 14,
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ALERTS

- > **SUBMISSIONS FOR OLLI E-NEWS.** This week's issue was edited by Backup Editor John West. **Please send material for next week and future issues to Editor Rod Zumbro.**
- > **REINVENTING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.** OLLI members are invited to attend a meeting Sat, Apr 12, 8:00 am on creating supportive communities for all ages. [Flyer](#). [Register online.](#)
- > **THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION** at Mason will make a special presentation in TA-1 Wed, Mar 26, 1:00-1:45 about several exciting trips planned for this summer. A light lunch will be provided. Flyers are available in the social room. Check out the latest information at <http://gmu.edu/global/>.

REMINDERS

- > **SPRING TERM:** Starts Mon, Mar 24 (Loudoun starts two weeks later on Mon, Apr 7).
- > **RESTON MEMBERS:** Volunteers are needed to serve on resource groups. See details [here](#).

ARTICLES AND NOTICES

- > **[YES, YOU CAN SING!](#)** From the executive director. *By Thom Clement*
- > **[SILENT AUCTION AND PICNIC.](#)** Save the Date: May 2nd. *By Debbie Halverson and Bob Lawshe*
- > **[CLOSED SPRING COURSES.](#)** It's not too late to sign up for

- open courses. *By Ann Hartmann*
- > **[EYE ON RESTON.](#)** Space is available in the *Your County/Your Home* course.
- > **[RESOURCE GROUP MEETING.](#)** History and Current Events Resource Group Wed, Mar 18.

DEPARTMENTS

- > **[PROFILE.](#)** OLLI's Special Forces: Bob Bohall, History and Current Events Resource Group Co-Chair. *By Elizabeth Crawford*
- > **[CENTER FOR THE ARTS.](#)** Arts and music events. *By Jan Bohall*
- > **[MASON HIGHLIGHTS.](#)** Other Mason events. *By Barbara Kyriakakis*
- > **[COMING ATTRACTIONS.](#)** Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks.

CORRECTION

- > **[OLLI'S RESOURCE GROUPS](#)** in last week's e-mail edition incorrectly listed the Loudoun contact's e-mail address. Send mail to Ray Beery at rbeery@aol.com.

YES, YOU CAN SING!

From the Executive Director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

As I JOINED IN THE LIVELY DISCUSSION of the Art and Music Resource Group this week at Tallwood, I was drawn into a discussion of a local instrumental music group that actually promotes itself as being “not very good.” Apparently they are enjoying modest success, partly because people are curious about any group that would set such low expectations, and partly because they actually aren't bad! This discussion reminded me of my experiences with adults who tell me that they “can't sing.”

As a former elementary school educator and parent of four sons, I

observed that, up until the age of eight or nine years, everyone can sing. Little children sing at the top of their lungs with no inhibitions. Perhaps you can remember hearing the joyful sounds of children singing. But then something happens to many children, and before you know it, they stop singing. When you ask them why, they will tell you that they “can’t sing.” When you press further for a rationale, you will probably find that someone has told the child that he is off key or that she is too loud, or simply that he can’t carry a tune. What a shame that many of us lose out on opportunities for the pure enjoyment of singing just because someone destroyed our confidence with a thoughtless remark.

Why am I speaking about this as the executive director of OLLI? Because OLLI members are rediscovering their ability to sing – figuratively, at least! Just look around OLLI and you’ll see your friends and classmates thinking about and doing things that are stretching their minds and abilities. Now that you’re enjoying at least some degree of retirement, you are becoming free of the expectations that you can’t participate if you’re not perfect. You are exploring areas of knowledge that always intrigued you but were perhaps out of reach because you didn’t have the time – or motivation – or courage – to try. Perhaps you’re learning about medieval art, or acquiring a new language, or appreciating physics for the first time.

Or perhaps you’re learning that you really CAN sing!

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SILENT AUCTION AND PICNIC

OLLI Présente Une Vente Aux Enchères Silencieux et Un Pique-nique au Printemps, 2008



By Debbie Halverson and Bob Lawshe,

Membership Committee

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 2, 2008! The first-ever *OLLI Vente Aux Enchères Silencieux et Un Pique-nique* (hereafter to be referred to as the OLLI Silent Auction and Picnic) highlights our spring OLLI event calendar. It coincides with the Annual Meeting when the candidates for office of director make their speeches to the membership. This is a must-remember group of events, and you will not want a dental appointment or a trip to the Galapagos to interfere with your part of the fun.

Sounds like a lot of work so why are we doing it? To benefit the Friends of OLLI Fund. This special fund was established in 1998 to create another source of revenue to support OLLI. Disbursements are limited primarily to capital expenditures and George Mason scholarships.

That’s where you come in. We need lots of things for folks to bid on. Think about your talents and then what you could put up for bid. There’s the really good stuff (too good for a yard sale) in your closet. How about the Recorder Group offering to play for someone’s next soirée? Or a gourmet cook offering to put on a really nice dinner for four, or more? Or Bob’s (that’s Lawshe) offering to bake unbelievably fabulous bread? Or Debbie’s designed and created bead necklaces? How about a weekend or longer at your vacation home, landscaping, or computer services, a day of shopping for someone who doesn’t drive any longer. We have talented people in OLLI ... painters, photographers, skilled artists. Someone would pay a pretty penny for your work to benefit Friends of OLLI.



Can’t think of a thing you could offer? Not to worry. We’ll have some fresh ideas to inspire you on the bulletin board when you return for classes in a few weeks.

Here’s how it will work: The main auction will take place at Tallwood and begin fifteen minutes following the end of the annual meeting, running for about two hours. While the bidding is open, we hope to have entertainment... recorders and other OLLI performers available while you munch on burgers and dogs from the grill and member-provided side dishes, potluck style.

In addition just to build the excitement, some items will be auctioned during April at all of our sites.

You will want to get involved in this; put on your thinking cap and come up with what you might offer to auction and be prepared to respond to requests for help. You can even do that now; let Debbie (debbyhalv@aol.com) or Bob (rlawshe@cox.net) know of your desire to do just that.

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CLOSED SPRING 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 spring 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 SPRING COURSES AND EVENTS

112	Music Sampler	SPECIAL EVENTS
310	The Silk Road	960 Lifelong Learning
404	Readers' Theater	963 Hillwood Estates Bus Trip
603	Western Philosophies	965 Chancellorsville Bus Trip
703	Pakistan	
801	The Universe	CANCELED COURSE

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 802 | Microbes: Good, Bad, Ugly | 606 | Question of God |
| 907 | Trip Tales | | |
| 908 | Bridge Refresher | | |

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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EYE ON RESTON

"Your County/Your Home"

THERE IS STILL ROOM IN COURSE 903 for the spring term. *Your County/Your Home* starts Mon, Mar 31, 9:30 at Lake Anne. Learn about Fairfax County services in the Reston area and help OLLI become better known within County circles. Scheduled sessions include:

March 31	Fairfax Reston Police units	Officer Katy Fernbacker
April 7	County Supervisor	Cathy Hudgins
April 14	Reston Hospital	Joanna Fazio
April 21	Fairfax Fire & Rescue	Lt. Baily

Participating departments for the remaining sessions will be announced in future editions of E-News.

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RESOURCE GROUP MEETING NEXT WEEK

History and Current Events Resource Group

THE HISTORY, INTERNATIONAL STUDIES & CURRENT EVENTS Resource Group will meet 10:00, Wed., Mar 18, in TA-3. All OLLI members are welcome, and their suggestions are needed.

These meetings are held twice a year to brainstorm ideas and suggestions on future courses, lectures and potential instructors and coordinators for the 300 and 700 series offerings. It is an opportunity for you to take a direct part in planning interesting and useful courses for the summer and fall 2008 terms and beyond.

If you cannot attend or would like to send in ideas in advance, please provide your thoughts on priorities, topics and potential speakers/instructors. You can provide your input to any one of the three co-chairs: [Bob Bohall](#), [Emmett Fenlon](#), or [Phil True](#).

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HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS ABOUT OLLI
Questions/Comments/Suggestions

PUBLICLY:

Email your "Letter to the Editor" (see [recent sample](#)) or "Letter to Ms. Ollie Ettakit" (see [recent sample](#)) 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 to a letter to the editor 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

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).

balanced picture of the matter.

OLLI'S SPECIAL FORCES

Bob Bohall, co-chair of the History and Current Events Resource Group



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News staff writer

TO OLLI VETERANS, BOB BOHALL NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION.

Newer members will be impressed to hear how much he has done for our organization. Bob served on the Board of Directors from 1999 to 2005 (the maximum number of years allowed in the by-laws), including terms as secretary and president. He has chaired the Economics/Finance Resource Group and now co-chairs History/Current Events. He has been University Liaison Committee Chair, planning the annual and other meetings with Mason officials, and a member of the Program Committee, which has the ultimate responsibility to present a full catalog of courses each semester. In addition, he has coordinated several multi-speaker courses, chaired the History Club, and currently chairs the Nominating Committee.



Bob's secret to keeping so many balls in the air seems to be his relentless organization and note-taking. Meet him in the Social Room, tell him about a course you would like to take, and he will make a note. Before long, you are likely to see the course listed in the catalog. He may even teach it himself. His willingness to research a

variety of topics has resulted in challenging courses such as "Perspectives on Crime and Corrections," "Cabinet War Rooms: Churchill," "Deep Roots: Mythology, Pagans and Us," and "Late Antiquity to Early Middle Ages."

Somewhere throughout the years, Bob could have said, "Been there, done that." Fortunately, Bob continues to believe that time given to OLLI is more than well spent.

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CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason, Mar 14-23



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 National Trumpet Competition

David Krauss, principal trumpet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, will perform Bohme's Trumpet Concerto in F minor. Vincent DiMartino, professor of music at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, will play Chance's Trumpet Concerto. The program will also include Aaron Copland's An Outdoor Overture and Nicholas Maw's American Games.

Fri, Mar 14, at 7:00
Admission: Free, non-ticketed

GMU Jazz Ensemble Concert

Wed, Mar 19, at 8:00
Admission: \$10
seniors/students, \$15
other adults
Concert Hall

Faculty Artist Series **Glenn Smith,** composition recital

Dr. Smith is Director of Theory & Composition at

Concert Hall

Army Blues Jazz Ensemble National Trumpet Competition

Sat, Mar 15, at 3:00
Admission: Free, no tickets required
Harris Theater

Leahy

This Canadian octet of brothers and sisters is capturing fans with compelling fiddle-driven music, precision step dancing and delightful vocals. Building on their Irish and Scottish roots, the group will explore a broad range of genres and cultures.

Sat, Mar 15, at 8:00
Admission: \$44, \$36, \$22
Family friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult
Concert Hall
Come early at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on the Center's Grand Tier III.

Mason. He has written more than 500 pieces, including choral, chamber and orchestral works, as well as jazz and electronic music for concert, dance, video, film and television.

Fri, Mar 21, at 8:00
Admission: Free, no tickets required
Harris Theater

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company Chapel/Chapter

This Harlem-based company is recognized as one of the most innovative and powerful forces in modern dance today. Choreographer and dancer Bill T. Jones combines video, text and autobiographical material with dance in large-scale, abstract presentations.

Sat, Mar 22, at 8:00
Admission: \$44, \$36, \$22
Concert Hall

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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other Mason events



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **NBC4 Community Shred** – “Safe and Secure Community Shred.” Bring up to five boxes of personal papers to have them shredded for free. Drive up only. Sat, Mar 15, 8:00 to 11:00, Mason Parking Lot K.
- **Antique Show** – Sat, Mar 15, 10:00 to 6:00, Mason Field House. Sponsored by Soroptomist International of Fairfax County. \$7. Classic Promotions (301) 654-6483.
- **Departmental Recital** – Mon, Mar 17, 12:30, Harris Theater. Free. Music Department (703) 993-1380.
- **The Middle East Studies Program Film Series** – “Iraq in Fragments” offers a series of intimate, passionately-felt portraits in three parts: A fatherless 11-year-old is apprenticed to the domineering owner of a Baghdad garage; Sadr followers in two Shiite cities rally for regional elections while enforcing Islamic law at the point of a gun; a family of Kurdish farmers welcomes the US presence. Named Best Documentary at the Chicago International Film Festival, and nominated for Best Documentary at the 2007 Academy Awards. USA - Arabic, Kurdish with subtitles in English. Tue, Mar 18, 7:30, JC Cinema. Free and open to the public.
- **Cinema Series** – [P.S. I Love You](#), Thu, Mar 20, 6:00 and 9:00. [National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets](#), Fri and Sat, Mar 21 and 22, 6:00 and 9:00. \$1.00 with Mason ID. JC Cinema.
- **Finance Seminar Series** – “Mind the Gap: Unmapped Holdings and the Performance of US Equity Mutual Funds,” presented by David Hunter, University of Maryland, Fri, Mar 21, 10:30-12:00, 204 Enterprise Hall.

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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 Mar 14 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 10am Italian Club - Annex
 Monday Mar 17 Confirmation Letters Mailed
Tuesday Mar 18 10am History & Current Events Resource Group - TA-3
 10am 18th Cent. French Painting Movie - TA-1
 Wednesday Mar 19 10am Investment Forum - TA 2
 10am Genealogy Club - TA-1
 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
1:30pm Planning Comm Mtg - TA-Annex
 Thursday Mar 20 11am Fiction Writers Club - Kings Park Lib
 Friday Mar 21 10am Italian Club - Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
Monday Mar 24 SPRING TERM Begins
 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
Wednesday Mar 26 1pm Literature, Language, Theatre Resource Group Mtg - TA-2
 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
 2pm 951 Spec Event-Shuffle Now - TA-1
 Friday Mar 28 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 9:30am Photography Club - TA-1
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 10am Italian Club - Annex
10:30am New Member Coffee - Annex
11:30am Board of Directors Mtg - TA-1
 1pm 952-Spec Event-Witchcraft - TA-1
 Monday Mar 31 9am Loudoun Walk-in Registration, 9-12 -

Sterling

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John West
Editor for this issue

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, [Gordon Canyock](#).

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Reviewer and Backup Editor
John West

Database Manager
Barbara Kyriakakis

Photo Editor
Michael Coyne



Rod Zumbro
Editor

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.



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

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;

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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 Email Distribution. Eager to read the latest news from OLLI? The new weekly issue of *OLLI E-News* is usually posted to the OLLI Website 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.

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