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OLLI E-News

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



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- > **REMINDER: SPRING CLASSES START MONDAY.** Please **WEAR YOUR NAME TAG** as a courtesy to others. Some classes are closed; you can still sign up for all others ([details](#)).
- > **REMINDER: FAIRFAX INK SUBMISSIONS** are due by Wed, Apr 1. [Info](#).
- > **ALERT: NEW MEMBER COFFEE 10:30 FRI, MAR 27.** All members welcome; refreshments.
- > **ALERT: MASTERCLASS ON APR 4.** Of possible interest to OLLI opera fans. [Flyer \(pdf\)](#).

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TWITTER, FACEBOOK AND ALL THAT JAZZ

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

ARE YOU TWITTERING?

According to our OLLI membership database, over 90% of OLLI members have an active email address. As you know, people everywhere are increasingly using email and the Internet to communicate, to shop, to do research, and to share music, photos, and even movies. We would all agree that computers and the Internet have dramatically changed the world in which we live.

I recently read an online article entitled "[More older adults head for their keyboards](#)," by Nancy M. Laughlin. According to Laughlin, "Surveys show the top reason seniors want to get online is to connect with family and friends. They also are fans of sites offering news, games, shopping and information on health, investments, hobbies, travel and caregiving." I think she could also add "lifelong learning" to this list.

Over the last two years, OLLI has made dramatic progress toward utilization of computer technology in our classrooms. Paul Howard and the "Tom Swift Squad" (Audiovisual Support Committee) have been instrumental in helping us identify needs and obtain appropriate equipment in all three OLLI locations. The addition of reliable Internet capabilities has enlivened the lectures in many of our courses. This trend will continue. We can now access original historical documents and primary historical sources instantly. We can listen to original recordings of all types of music and video in every classroom. The possibilities are endless.

Our own *OLLI E-News* is probably the best newsletter published by any lifelong learning institute in the country. It is not only sent via email to almost 1,000 households every week but also posted to our excellent Web site for anyone to read. Do you read it regularly? Pretty good, huh?

When necessary between weekly newsletters, we can communicate with all connected members within minutes by sending an email "blast."

Dr. Stephen Ruth of George Mason University recently challenged OLLI members in a Reston class to tap into a wider variety of "computer-based learning". Although we have made much progress, we have only begun to scratch the surface. As members and instructors become more sophisticated users of technology, OLLI will raise its standards. I encourage you to take

advantage of technology in as many ways as you can.



Join Facebook by signing up [here](#), then search for "olli at mason" and join.

OLLI has a "friends group" on Facebook. It would be fun if more members would join in discussions there. And while you're online, maybe you could [learn to twitter!](#)

CHANGING TIMES

Welcoming our new members



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

MANY RETIREES SEE THE SPRING OF 2009 as a period of hard times. Certainly, our retirement accounts and stock portfolios may not be where we would like them to be. However, OLLI members have an advantage. We can take some courses that provide distraction or others that give us historical perspective. Equally important, OLLI members provide a support group to help each other find the good times that are always out there somewhere.

We welcome the new members who have joined us this spring...



Peter Alberse, Fairfax
 Carolyn Becraft, Burke
 David Brady, Ashburn
 Joyce Broom, Great Falls
 Sandra Carpenter, Reston
 Bob Hamilton, Fairfax
 Pauline Hill, Alexandria
 Gaela Hime, Fairfax
 Deb Jacobs, Fairfax
 Michael Kastle, Vienna
 Nancy Kuhn, Alexandria
 Lou Mazzatenta, Clifton
 Patricia McCarthy, Ashburn (L)
 Bob & Jane McCulloch, Fairfax
 Michael Mickney, Fairfax

Marianne Moulton, Reston
 Ann O'Neil, Falls Church
 Sarah Psitos, Burke
 Anita Reduto, Ashburn (L)
 Francine Samuelson, Fairfax
 Diana Schmidt, Burke
 Jerry Schweigert, Fairfax
 Jo Ann Seeley, Alexandria
 Susan Soza, McLean
 Mary Kay Stine, Reston
 M. Throne, Ashburn
 Mike Throne, Ashburn
 Karen Vaughn, Fairfax
 Ronald Villiger, Fairfax
 William Wishard, Lake Ridge

Editor's note. L=Loudoun-only member. All others are full members (approximately half of them signed up to try us out for the spring 2009 term at the [special introductory rate](#)).

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD ANNOUNCED

Recommendation from the 2009 Nominating Committee



By [Bob Lawshe](#), Nominating Committee Chair

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO RECOMMEND to the membership the following slate of nominees as candidates to fill six openings, each for a three-year term (June 2009 – June 2012), on the OLLI Board of Directors. The nominees are (in random order): Shelly Gersten, Rod Zumbro, Pat Cosslett, Thelma Weiner, Carole Richard, Dick Young, David Mason, Paul Howard, and Valerie Braybrooke.



Click [this candidates page](#) to read candidate biographies.

Nomination by petition. OLLI's Procedures and Guidelines for the Nominating Committee also allow for nominations by petition. To be added to the ballot, a petition candidate must receive written support from at least one percent of the membership, or eight members. Petition nominations must be received by the Nominating Committee by Fri, Apr 10. Any such nomination may be submitted to me or any other member of the Nominating Committee. Thank you.

Nominating Committee: Susanne Zumbro, John West, Rosemary McDonald, Ted Parker, Bob Lawshe, and Gordon Canyock

50 AND FABULOUS EXPO



50 AND FABULOUS IS A COMPREHENSIVE EXPO at Fair Oaks from 3:00 to 6:30 on Tue, Mar 24, showcasing resources for life transitions including finance, health and wellness, travel and leisure and government services in Fairfax County. The expo is sponsored by the Dulles Regional Chamber and the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging.

OLLI will have a table display at this event. If you would be willing to help at the display table for 30 minutes or an hour, please contact Carole Richard (email ccarole@cox.net).

The expo will be at the Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA 22033 (next to Fair Oaks Mall). [Click here](#) for Google map and directions.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

AND THE ADVENTURES OF THE TOLLING BELL
OLLI Players' next Channel 10 production



By Kathie West, OLLI Drama Club Coordinator



Cast photo by the writer.

THE OLLI PLAYERS' NEXT FILM, *Sherlock Holmes and The Adventures of the Tolling Bell*, was filmed at Channel 10 on Monday. It was done as an old-time radio show with homemade sound effects and keyboard. Once again The OLLI Players pulled the show together with only five days of rehearsal.

The actors were in full 1949 regalia, complete with Holmes's signature hat worn proudly by Charles Duggan playing Holmes. Other cast members were Bob Osborn as Watson, Mo Mason as Mary, Dave Mason as Gilly, Thelma Weiner as Mrs. Lakland, Harriet Kaplan as Mrs. Michol, and Manny Pablo as Tom. The sound effect girls were Carolyn Sanders, Linda George, Eileen Duggan, and the writer, and the keyboard was played masterfully by Alan Wenberg.

Next Friday I will be interviewing Peter Blau, president of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Washington. The interview will be edited into the taping.

This show and other OLLI filming have been produced by another OLLI member, Sharon Donovan. We will let you know when this film will be aired on Channel 10.

SILENT AUCTION

An update on the May 8 event



By [Bob Lawshe](#), Board member



THE SILENT AUCTION HAS ITS OWN WEB SITE! Go to the OLLI Home Page and click "Silent Auction" in Quick Links at the far left (or [click here](#)). On the Silent Auction page you can look at the current auction catalog (continually updated) and find out everything about the auction – you can even download a donation form, also available in each classroom and social areas at our sites; please use the forms early and often.

This year we are hoping to have a lot more donations from local businesses. So we prepared a solicitation letter and, no surprise, put it on the Web page for you to download easily and pass out to potential business donors. The solicitation letter can be used to introduce OLLI to local business and should help you interest them in supporting our silent auction.

We also added two new categories of items – "Big and Bulky" and "Getaways."

- **Big and Bulky** is intended for items that are just too big and bulky to get to Tallwood but which can be viewed at a member's home or elsewhere. Bidding will still take place during the auction but you will pick up your winnings from the donor.
- **Getaways** are just that ... and include a weekend, a week, or longer at a vacation/timeshare/second home/etc., here or abroad, in season or off, at a time mutually arranged by the donor and the winners. If you have such a place, now's the time to step forward.

Remember that all proceeds benefit the Friends of OLLI, meaning proceeds will directly enhance the OLLI experience for the membership. We are counting on you to make this year's silent auction a success! Thank you.

DEPARTMENTS

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

How to contact OLLI

HERE IS A READY REFERENCE on how to contact OLLI. For email addresses and phone numbers not listed below, please consult the online Membership Directory (log in to [Member Portal](#)).

- President: Pat Carroll ([email](#))
- Executive Director: [Thom Clement](#), phone 703-503-7866
- [OLLI Office](#), phone 703-503-3384
- Tallwood Administrator/OLLI Registrar: [Maria Buczek](#), phone 703-503-3384
- Board members: See [Organization page](#) (to send an email to the entire Board, send it to the [office](#) or the *OLLI E-News* [editor](#), and your message will be forwarded to all members of the Board)
- Committee chairs, resource-group chairs: See [Organization page](#)
- Suggestions: [Online suggestion box](#)
- Letters to the editor or letters to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (etiquette matters): *OLLI E-News* Editor [Rod Zumbro](#), phone 703-569-2750

MASON ARTS AND MUSIC

Upcoming Mason performances, Mar 20-29



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](#).



<p>Composer's Concert College Music Society Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Fri, Mar 20, 8:00</p> <p>The concert will feature ten premieres of works by the College Music Society faculty composers and performers. Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p> <p>The complete schedule of lecture-recitals, papers and performances of the two-day conference is available on this pdf document.</p>	
<p>Russian National Ballet Theatre <i>Cinderella</i> Fri, Mar 20, 8:00</p> <p>The jubilant music by Prokofiev and the sumptuous costumes, with</p>	<p>Russian National Ballet Theatre <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> Sat, Mar 21, 8:00</p> <p>Tchaikovsky's magnificent score, with the brilliant choreography of</p>

<p>the lush scenery and the hilarious double-roles of the stepsisters, make this a special performance. Admission: \$54, \$46, \$27 Family Friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult Concert Hall Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.</p>	<p>Petipa, brings this classic tale to life, of the beautiful princess who waits to be awakened by the kiss of her prince. Admission: \$54, \$46, \$27 Family Friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult Concert Hall Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.</p>
<p>Academy of Ancient Music <i>Brandenburg Concertos</i> Sun, Mar 22, 4:00</p> <p>One of the world's foremost period-instrument orchestras, this ensemble will be led by Director Richard Egarr on harpsichord. It will perform all six of Bach's concertos, each distinct from the others in style and instrumentation. Admission: \$48, \$40, \$24 Concert Hall Come at 3:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.</p>	<p>GMU Select Women's Chorale Sun, Mar 22, 7:00 Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p> <hr/> <p>GMU Dance Company 2009 Gala Concert Fri, Mar 27, 8:00 & Sat, Mar 28, 8:00 Admission: \$12 seniors/students, \$20 other adults Concert Hall</p> <hr/> <p>GMU Opera <i>Street Scene</i> Fri, Mar 27, 8:00 & Sat, Mar 28, 8:00 Admission: \$15 seniors/students, \$20 other adults Harris Theater</p>
<p>An Evening of Vocal Jazz With special guest VOCAL LINE Jens Johansen, conductor Sun, Mar 29, 7:00</p> <p>This group from Copenhagen has performed throughout Europe and on Denmark's national radio and television. They have released five Danish albums of their music. Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults Harris Theater</p>	

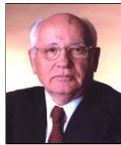
MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other Mason events



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

• **Top That! – Waffle Day 2009.** Hosted by the Johnson Center on Mon, Mar 23, 11:30-12:30 in Dewberry Hall. Open to the entire University community. Sing-a-longs, games and most of all, waffles you can eat with toppings of your choice (while supplies last, so come early).



• **Roundtable with Mikhail Gorbachev, William Webster and Sergey Kislyak** – "1989: Looking Back, Looking Forward." Wed, Mar 25, 10:30 to noon, Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall. Roundtable will be followed by breakout discussion, summary discussion and filmmaker panel; see [this page](#) for schedule details. Tickets, \$20, at the Center for the Arts box office or [online](#) (note: Gorbachev's Mar 24 keynote address is sold out).

- **Health and Fitness Expo** – Health-related demonstrations, information tables, screenings, prizes, and alternative therapy demonstrations. Thu, Mar 26, 10:00 to 6:00, Johnson Center Dewberry Hall. Free.
- **Visual Cultures Symposium** – "Unthinking Television: Visual Cultures Beyond the Console," presented by Lynn Spigel, Frances E. Willard Professor of Screen Cultures, Communication, Northwestern University. Free. Thu, Mar 26, 9:00 to 4:30, JC Cinema.
- **Post-Socialist Films from China, Eastern Europe & Russia – To Live (Huozhe).** Tue, Mar 31, 7:00, SUB II, Ballroom 1 (front). Will coincide with campus visit and talk on Fri, Mar 27, by Yu Hua, author of the novel, *To Live*, on which the film is based.
- **Global Interdisciplinary Programs Film Series 2009**
 - **La Misma Luna** with guest speaker Professor Debra Shutika. Mon, Mar 30, 4:00 to 7:00, JC Cinema.
 - **Crossing Over** with guest speaker Bernardo Rios, producer. Documentary about basketball in Los Angeles' Oaxacan community, and the use of basketball as a way to maintain ties to traditional culture and community. Tue, Mar 31, 1:00 to 4:00, JC Cinema
 - **The Other Threat** with guest speaker Professor Bassam Haddad, director. This documentary reveals the reality of Arab/Muslim immigration in England and Spain, two European countries afflicted with terrorism for decades. Wed, Apr 1, 1:00 to 4:00, JC Cinema.
 - **Kudah Key Liye** – Guest speaker TBA. Thu, Apr 2, 1:00 to 4:00, JC

- Cinema.
- **Immokalee, U.S.A.** with guest speaker George Koszulinski, director, Substream Films. Tue, Apr 14, 4:00 to 7:00, JC Cinema

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 [Upcoming Non-Class Events](#) to view the real-time 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 20 10am Recorder Club - TA-2
- 10am Board of Directors Meeting - TA-1**
- 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex
- Saturday Mar 21 12:30pm OLLI Personal Computer User Group - Tallwood
- Monday Mar 23 Spring Term Begins**
- Wed Mar 25 1:30pm Silent Auction Meeting - TA-1
- 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA3
- 2pm Special Event 951 - Everything's Coming Up Roses - TA-1
- Fri Mar 27 9:30am Recorder Club - TA-2
- 9:30am Photography Club - TA-1
- 10am New Member Coffee - TA-2**
- 10am Drama Club - TA-3
- 10:30am Classic Fiction Book Club - Cascades Library
- 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex
- 12:30pm Loudoun Let's Eat Out - O'Faolain's, 20921 Davenport Dr, Sterling
- 1pm Special Event 952 - Health Literacy - TA-1
- 2:00pm Reston Team Meeting - Lake Anne
- Wed Apr 1 11:30am Special Event 955 - Air & Space Museum - Meet at Museum
- 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA3
- 1:30pm Special Events Resource Group Meeting - TA-2**
- 2pm History Club - TA-1
- 2pm Special Event 953 - Poetry Reading: Eric Pankey - TA-2
- Fri Apr 3 8am Special Event 954 - Richmond: Capitol Square - Bus Trip

10am	Recorder Club - TA-2
10am	Drama Club - TA-3
11am	Homer Group - Social Room Annex



Rod Zumbro
Editor



John West
Deputy
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Associate
Editor

About this newsletter. OLLI's weekly newsletter, *OLLI E-News*, 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 Editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee Chair [Gordon Canyock](#).

- **Submissions.** We encourage members to submit news items, articles and photos for this newsletter. **The deadline to the editor is 7:00 pm Wed** (7:00 pm Mon for letters to the editor for which an OLLI response is appropriate) for that week's issue; earlier submissions are greatly appreciated. Please limit articles to about 250 words. Submit material via email to Editor Rod Zumbro (email rzumbro@gmu.edu).

- **Read the Latest Issue Early.** The new weekly issue of *OLLI E-News* is posted to the OLLI Web site Thursday evening. Read it by visiting <http://www.olligmu.edu/pubs.htm#enews>, where you will find a list of the last 12 issues, and clicking the latest issue listed.

- **Viewing or searching past issues.** Your options for finding items in past issues of *OLLI E-News* include viewing the [last 12 issues](#); [searching](#) the content of ALL issues for any word or words; and [searching our archive](#) of all past issues by date or issue number.

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