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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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> **ALERT: MOST SPRING COURSES ARE STILL AVAILABLE.** You can sign up online or in the office for ANY non-closed course now in session or starting later in the term. Please consult the [closed courses list](#) and "Changes to Courses" on that page.

> **REMINDER: SEE PHOTOS AND READ BIOGRAPHIES OF BOARD CANDIDATES** on posters at OLLI sites or on [this Web page](#).

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## SURVEY RESULTS

*From the executive director*



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

**ON THU, MAR 26, I SENT OUT A SURVEY** entitled, "OLLI at George Mason University Survey Test" via email to approximately 800 OLLI members. The survey consisted of three questions related to how OLLI members would respond to future surveys. Since we have had mixed results from previous surveys, I am trying to gain information to help us make intelligent decisions as we attempt to gather information from our members. The volunteer leaders of OLLI, including your Board of Directors and chairpersons of the Program Committee and Membership Committee, are continually seeking information about such things as member satisfaction, course preferences, and interests in various activities.

As of this writing, 400 OLLI members have responded to the survey. Here is the breakdown of the responses:

### Question 1: If you received a survey like this from OLLI, which of the following choices most accurately reflects how you would respond?

- 59% said they would "definitely respond."
- 39.7% said they "might respond."
- 1.3% said they "would not respond at all."
- 12 people skipped the question.

### Question 2: OLLI included a paper "Member Survey" in the mailing with confirmation letters for the spring 2009 term. Please indicate which statement most accurately reflects your response to that survey.

- 28.8% said that they "had not yet completed the survey, but they planned on doing so."
- 24.8% said that they "completed the survey and turned it in to an OLLI staff member."
- 22.5% said that they "completed the survey and mailed it to the OLLI office."
- 24.2% said that they "do not plan on completing the survey."
- 94 people skipped the question.

### Question 3: Which type of survey do you prefer?

- 57.7% said they are more likely to complete a survey that they receive via email (such as this one).
- 38.5% said they would be equally likely to complete a paper survey as an email survey.
- 4.3% said they would be more likely to complete a paper survey.
- 8 people skipped the question.

By the way, we are still analyzing the results of the paper "Member Survey" that was mailed with the confirmation letters on Mar 12. As of this date, we have received 208 responses.

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## NOTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

*Annual Membership Meeting – May 8;  
Closing date for elections to the Board – May 15*



By Kathleen Meyer, Secretary

**THE OLLI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRI, MAY 8, 2009**, at 10:00 at Tallwood, with the following agenda:

- Reports from the OLLI president and executive director on the state of the institute; and
- Brief speeches by the candidates for election to the Board with an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates, moderated by the Nominating Committee Chair.

### ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each OLLI member will receive by mail a ballot and an addressed envelope marked **BALLOT ENCLOSED**. Use this ballot to vote for up to six candidates; you may mail the ballot to OLLI or drop it in a ballot box at Tallwood, Reston, or Loudoun. Since you do not sign the ballot or return envelope, your vote remains completely anonymous. To be counted, all ballots must be received **by noon on May 15, 2009**.

Do not lose your ballot: *No member having lost, damaged or destroyed his/her mailed ballot may receive a second ballot.* Making more than six choices will invalidate your ballot. Similarly, more than one ballot per envelope, or any



ballot not in the furnished **BALLOT ENCLOSED** envelope or not received by May 15, will be invalid. If you have questions about the election process, contact any Nominating Committee member: Susanne Zumbro, John West, Rosemary McDonald, Ted Parker, Bob Lawshe or Gordon Canyock.

The OLLI bylaws require that the secretary notify members of the date, time, place and agenda of the Annual Membership Meeting from 25 to 60 days in advance, and notify members of the closing date of elections at least 25 days in advance. The bylaws allow for electronic transmission. This notice has been emailed to the OLLI membership, mailed to those without email, included in this issue of *OLLI E-News*, and provided as a handout in classrooms to comply with the bylaws.

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## OLLI BOOK CLUB



**THE OLLI BOOK CLUB** will meet at 1:30 on Wed, Apr 8, at Tallwood. The book for discussion is *Big Cherry Holler* by Adriana Trigiani. Set in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, it is the second book in her Big Stone Gap trilogy. ([Read Google Book info.](#)) All OLLI members are welcome.

Submitted by OLLI Book Club Co-Coordinator Ceda McGrew.

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## FAKE NEWS A BIG HIT

*Read sample member comments*



By [Rod Zumbro](#), OLLI E-News Editor

**WITH ALL THE SERIOUS LEARNING GOING ON AT OLLI**, we thought some levity was needed. We're happy that most of you enjoyed our April Fools' Day issue (available online at [www.olligmu.org/enews1apr2009.htm](http://www.olligmu.org/enews1apr2009.htm) for those who missed Wednesday's email newsletter). By the way, credit for the brilliant idea of using high-school photos in the bylines of the writers goes to Deputy Editor John West.

A minority of the membership complained, but the large majority of members who emailed us liked the issue. All of us who worked on the special issue thank you for your kudos; we are most grateful. Here is a sampling of member comments--

- Congratulations! You have outdone yourselves. The Apr 1 edition of the E-News is hilarious ... the articles are clever and witty ... the high school pictures, ingenious. Thanks for the entertainment. AN AWESOME ISSUE!
- BZ! [That means "Well done!" for you non-Navy folks -Ed.]. Great job! It was hilarious.
- Good job! I love it.
- Ha Ha! Cute. Loved the photos! (Notice I didn't say OLD photos!)
- Thou Foolish Ones: Thanks to you and the others, for another April Fools' edition. Yearbook pictures especially enjoyed. Well done.
- Great OLLI-E-News! Particularly the "current" photos of the contributors! The April Fools' Day OLLI E-News is always one of the most anticipated and appreciated issues of the year! Keep up the great work!
- Congrats on another highly creative April Fools' Day edition of the E-News!
- What fun!
- I LOVED it! Especially parking garage and the Coming Attractions! What a hoot! Keep it up! I actually DID LOL [laugh out loud]!
- Such fun! I am gullible – and it took me a while to remember that it was April Fools' Day! Thanks for some good laughs!
- Congratulations on your imaginative special issue!
- I'm glad to see you chose to ignore the bah, humbuggers from last year and to turn out a fun publication. Thanks to all of you.
- A great April Fools' edition! Great ideas and great graphics! Thanks for all the hard work you put into it.
- Loved the newsletter! I think we should go for the Tesla; that will surely help our image!
- Brilliant! You had me for the first two or three items – then I got it!
- You had me for at least 30 seconds!
- I just finished reading the April Fools' newsletter and can't stop laughing. What a great job you and the other contributors did. I especially liked the women's driving tips. Thanks for all the work you do on the newsletter.
- Please give my compliments to the entire E-News "staff." This is really funny stuff! You all are very creative!

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## OLLI "SPIRIT WEAR"

*New items available: polo shirts, jacket, visor*



See [order form \(pdf\)](#) for description and pricing of each item.

**Due to the positive response we've received** from OLLI members for "Spirit Wear" items, we have arranged for some new items: polo shirts and a lightweight jackets are now available in a variety of colors, and a sun visor is also available.

The [order form \(pdf\)](#) describes the items in detail and the pricing; order forms are available in each classroom. Orders are due to the OLLI office by Mon, Apr 20. Prices include a small amount that will go as a donation to the Friends of OLLI.

Submitted by Executive Director [Thom Clement](#).

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## OLLI TRAVEL CLUB

**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN TRAVEL** – and who isn't? – plan on coming to the next meeting of the OLLI Travel Club at 10:00 on Fri, Apr 10, at Tallwood. We'll be discussing--

- A possible OLLI trip to the Galapagos next February,
- Places people have visited in Italy and Spain, and
- A variety of other topics attendees bring up.

If you can't attend but would like to be on distribution for minutes and other travel tidbits, send your name and email address to Shelly Gersten. Also, please send to Shelly any suggested topics for discussion or trips you might be interested in organizing.

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### TALLWOOD WALKING GROUP

*Goal is camaraderie as well as exercise*



*Tallwood Walking Group about to hit the W&OD Trail in Jan 2009; left to right, Shelly Gersten, Vivien Witheford, Al Sanders, Joanne Becker, Andre Pugin, Sherry Hart, and Don Allen. Photo by Doris Bloch.*

**DURING OLLI TERMS, THE TALLWOOD WALKING GROUP** meets one morning a week, an hour before the first class of the morning begins. The group gathers together in the pool parking lot, walks in the Tallwood neighborhood for about 45 minutes, and arrives back at Tallwood for the start of classes.

All levels of walking ability and speed are accommodated – our goal is camaraderie as well as exercise. We also walk weekly when OLLI is out of session, but then we often plan later starting times, longer walks and more varied locations.

This term we are meeting on Monday mornings at 8:30. We will wait five

minutes for stragglers, then set off. If you are interested in joining us, contact Sherry Hart or Doris Bloch for more information or to be added to the group's weekly email list.

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## ISTANBUL AND EPHEBUS

**TRIP TALES ATTENDEES THIS PAST WEDNESDAY WERE TREATED** to a masterful presentation with superb photographs by OLLI travelers Ann and Lorrin Garson on their cruise in the Adriatic and Black Seas. Their Trip Tale included visits to Istanbul and ancient Ephesus, both in Turkey.

For members interested in either of these cities, [OLLI Video News](#) offers newly available one-click videos of Istanbul and Ephesus that play instantly. To watch these short videos, visit the following parts of the OLLI Video News page.

- [Istanbul movie](#)
- [Ancient Ephesus movie](#)

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### 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

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## MASON ARTS AND MUSIC

Upcoming Mason performances, Apr 3-12



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

**FOR TICKETS**, call 1-888-945-2468 (phone orders are handled by [tickets.com](http://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](http://CFA tickets page).

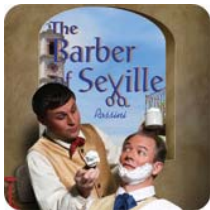
### Faculty Artist Series Anna Balakerskaia and Friends

Fri, Apr 3, 8:00

Part of the Keyboard Studies faculty of the George Mason Department of Music, Dr. Balakerskaia specializes in piano and chamber music. Concertgoers will hear music by Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Schnittke and Shostakovich.

Admission: Free, no tickets required  
Harris Theater

### Virginia Opera



#### The Barber of Seville

Fri, Apr 3, 8:00 & Sun, Apr 5, 2:00

Rossini's spirited music sweeps us along with the outrageous intricacies in this story of a singing barber whose meddling may help, or not, the handsome Count Almaviva to marry lovely Rosina. Her guardian has other plans. Sung in Italian with English

### Cherryholmes



Sat, Apr 4, 8:00

Each member of this family band has a distinct style and plays bluegrass with enthusiasm. The band has won the International Bluegrass Music Association's *Entertainer of the Year* award.

Admission: \$44, \$36, \$22  
Family Friendly: Children 12 and

supertitles.

Admission Fri: \$86, \$72, \$44  
Admission Sun: \$98, \$80, \$48  
Concert Hall

Come 45 minutes early for each performance for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.

under, half price with an adult  
Concert Hall  
Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.

### Thomas Brawley Memorial Chamber Concert Featuring GMU Music Department Faculty

This annual concert honors Prof. Thomas Brawley who was part of the George Mason Department of Music.

Sun, Apr 5, 3:00  
Admission: Free, no tickets required  
Harris Theater

### GMU Symphony Orchestra Music for Medicine Concert In partnership with the Medical Society of Northern Virginia

Tue, Apr 7, 8:00  
Prof. Anthony Maiello will conduct the orchestra in their annual concert to benefit the Medical Society of Northern Virginia Foundation. Featured will be faculty artists Jim Carroll on alto sax, Dennis Edelbrock on trumpet, mezzo-soprano Patricia Miller, tenor Rick Novak, and Harold Summey and Harry Watters on trombone.

Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults  
Concert Hall

### GMU Players Studio Series #4 Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead

By Tom Stoppard  
Thu, Fri, Sat, Apr 9, 10, 11, 8:00  
Sat, Sun, Apr 11, 12, 2:00  
The play is an absurdist, existentialist tragicomedy that expands upon the misadventures of two minor characters from *Hamlet*. They are shown as clowns or fools in a world beyond their understanding. They stumble through philosophical arguments, not realizing the implications to themselves.

### Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Sat, Apr 11, 8:00  
This innovative ensemble explores powerful social, political and emotional issues through its creative choreography, grounded in classical dance, original music and unusual multi-media effects. The group's intensity, passion and technical skill delights its audiences.

Admission: \$42, \$34, \$21  
Concert Hall  
Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.

Admission: \$3 seniors/students, \$6 other adults  
 Black Box Theater (*Lower level of Performing Arts Bldg, adjacent to Concert Hall. From Level 2 of Parking Deck take the bridge. Enter first door on the left and follow hallway; go through gray doors and downstairs.*)

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## MASON HIGHLIGHTS

*Other Mason events*



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **2009 Virginia State Science & Engineering Fair** – Exhibits open to public on Sat, Apr 4, 2:00 to 4:00, Patriot Center.
- **Cinema Series** – *The Spirit*. Sat, Apr 4, 6:00 and 9:00; Sun, Apr 5, 3:00 and 6:00, JC Cinema. \$1.00 with Mason ID.
- **International Week Activities** (see [Web site](#) for more):
  - **Cultural Dance Showcase** – Sat, Apr 4, 7:00 to 10:00, Harris Theater, featuring Hawaiian, Asian Indian, Chinese Taiji, Mongolian, Vietnamese, Bolivian, Guzheng and Korean dance performances.
  - **Bazaar & Mid-Day Performances** - Food sales, cultural exhibits, demonstrations, documentaries, vendors, music and dance performances. Mon, Apr 6, 12:00 to 3:00; Tue, Apr 7 through Fri Apr 10, 11:00 to 3:00. North Plaza, Johnson Center.
  - **Polyglot Performances** – A showcase of student performances, including Kolobok (Gingerbread man), a Russian play; German pop songs; French vignettes; a Japanese play about a magic fan that falls to the earth; and classic Italian folk songs. Mon, Apr 6, 5:00 to 8:00, Harris Theater.
  - **Speaker** – "Friends of Congo," presented by Kamblae Musavuli, speaking on the current humanitarian situation in the Congo. Mon, Apr 6, 7:30, Sub II, Rms 5-7.
- **Middle East Studies Lecture** – "America's Kingdom: Myth Making on the

- Saudi Frontier," presented by Robert Vitalis, Wed, Apr 8, 7:30, JC Bistro.
- **Visiting Writers Series** – Kristin Prevallet, poet, essayist, and translator. Reading, Thu, Apr 9, 7:30, 163 Research I. Reception prior to reading in lobby.
  - **Visual Voices** – "Iron Graphics: Designing For Totalitarian States," presented by Steve Heller, Thu, Apr 9, 7:30 to 9:00, Harris Theater.
  - **Zimbabwean Film Series** – *Neria*, Thu, Apr 9, 7:00; *House of Hunger* (short story collection), Tue, Apr 14, 7:00, both in Eisenhower Media Room, President's Park. Discussion after films.
  - **Post-Socialist Films from China, Eastern Europe & Russia** - *Gate of Heavenly Peace*, an award-winning and critically acclaimed documentary on the 1989 Tiananmen protests in China. Tue, Apr 14, 7:00, JC Cinema.

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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 [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).*

- |     |        |        |   |
|-----|--------|--------|---|
| Fri | Apr 3  | 8am    | Special Event 954 - Richmond: Capitol Square - Bus Trip |
|     |        | 9:30am | Tom Swift Training - TA-1                               |
|     |        | 10am   | Recorder Club - TA-2                                    |
|     |        | 10am   | Drama Club - TA-3                                       |
|     |        | 11am   | Homer Group - Social Room Annex                         |
| Tue | Apr 7  | 11am   | Fiction Writers Club - Kings Park Library               |
| Wed | Apr 8  | 1:30pm | Bridge Club - TA-3                                      |
|     |        | 1:30pm | OLLI Book Club - Tallwood                               |
|     |        | 2pm    | Special Event 956 - The Coptic Church - TA-1            |
| Fri | Apr 10 | 10am   | Recorder Club - TA-2                                    |
|     |        | 10am   | Drama Club - TA-3                                       |
|     |        | 10am   | Travel Club - TA-1                                      |
|     |        | 11am   | Homer Group - Social Room Annex                         |
| Wed | Apr 15 | 1:30pm | Bridge Club - TA-3                                      |
|     |        | 2pm    | Special Event 957 - On the Trail with Bluebirds - TA 1  |
| Thu | Apr 16 | 11am   | Fiction Writers' Club - OL-TBA                          |

Fri Apr 17 10am Recorder Club - TA-2  
 10am Drama Club - TA-3  
**10am Board of Directors Meeting - TA-1**  
 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex  
 3:30pm Teacher Appreciation Reception - GMU Center for the Arts  
 Sat Apr 18 12:30pm OLLI Personal Computer User Group - TA-1

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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](mailto: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.ollie.gmu.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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