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OLLI E-News

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



Board Candidates



ISSUE DATE: Fri, Apr 25, 2008

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REMINDERS

- > **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** 10:00 Fri, May 2. Plan to attend! Come early for the Silent Auction 9:00-9:45 and stay after the meeting for the picnic and more Silent Auction.
- > **BALLOTS MAILED TODAY, APR 25.** Hear the candidates speak at one of the meetings, then cast your vote. Vote anytime but ballots must be received by noon on Fri, May 16.
- > **BOARD CANDIDATE SPEECHES:** Tue, Apr 29, 1:00, Lake Anne Church, and Fri, May 2, 10:00, during the Annual Membership Meeting at Tallwood. Click to [read candidate bios](#).
- > **MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTES.** Email your short tribute [to the editor](#) by May 2. [Read more](#).

ARTICLES AND NOTICES

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OLLI SILENT AUCTION NEXT WEEK!

One more week till the big day



By Bob Lawshe, Board member

THE FIRST EVER OLLI SILENT AUCTION, or *Vente Aux Enchères Silencieux*, is coming up next Fri, May 2, at Tallwood immediately following the Annual Membership Meeting.

We have some really nifty things going up for bid: Like original poems to celebrate, commemorate, whatever, a subject of your choice; a charcoal sketch – you chose the subject; and the OLLI players will create and perform an original skit just for you! You just win the bid, talk with the poet, artist, and/or dramatist, and *voilà*, a real treasure is yours.

We also have art work, jewelry, fresh-baked bread, afghans (the wrap), dinners, bridge gatherings, baseball tickets, to name just a few. There is still time to get your donation in. So far we don't have any vacation homes for a week or weekend (or longer), and we know they are out there (Paris would be nice), bird-watching lessons, boat outings, lessons on fishing, bridge and home brewing, etc.

Don't hold back if someone has already donated a similar item – more art work (drawings, watercolors, photos, sculpture) on commission would be nice as would more computer lessons (like how to attach something to an email, set up a home computer or network, have multiple email addresses with Cox or Verizon), dinners, parties, etc. You get the idea. And there must be lots of other things that could be up for bid that we haven't thought of – but you can. We need these items, and we're counting on you to come forward.

Silent Auction Web site. Check out OLLI's Silent Auction Web site at <http://www.olligmu.org/auction08.htm>, where you can see a complete, continually updated list – with photos – of auction items, and you can

download the donation form. This great Web site was created – and is being maintained – by John West based on input provided by Doris Bloch.

And don't forget we'll be holding the OLLI Spring Picnic, or *Un Pique-nique au Printemps*, simultaneous with the auction, where there will be food, the recorder group playing, the drama group dramatizing, readers reading, and lots of fun. All in all it sounds like a wonderful opportunity to find out what's happening at OLLI, meet the candidates, have fun, pick up something neat (like that villa in Spain), and connect with fellow OLLI'ers.

Time schedule. The auction will take place in TA-3. Doors will open at 9:00 and close at 9:55 for the Annual Membership Meeting (including brief Board candidate speeches) starting at 10:00 in TA-1. Following the meeting (approximately 11:45), the auction will reopen until 1:30.

This is the time to let your imagination soar. After all, it's for a really good cause that means a lot to all of us -- The Friends of OLLI (see [last week's article](#) about Friends of OLLI ... and read the next article below about audiovisual improvements funded by Friends of OLLI).

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YOUR HELP IN UPGRADING OUR CLASSROOMS

Planned audiovisual improvements



By [Paul Howard](#), Audiovisual Support Committee Chair

THE OLLI BOARD APPROVED TWO PROPOSALS for making significant enhancements to our classrooms. These include hard-wired network and Internet connections for our Tallwood classrooms, the social room, the annex, and each member of our staff. The most noticeable addition, and most expensive (about 45% of the total expenditure), will be a very bright, high-resolution, high definition-capable video projector for TA-1. This projector will support accurate color rendition, which should vastly improve presentations for the photo club and other users.

Other improvements include: five microphones for Reston and Tallwood; a software/hardware package to allow us to enhance color rendition of existing laptop/projector suites; a sound system for the second classroom at Reston; and provision for an additional laptop at Reston.

The money for these AV items comes from the Friends of OLLI fund to which

many of you have contributed. The estimated total cost is almost \$11,000.

The Tom Swift Squad (i.e., the Audiovisual Support Committee) is also planning other enhancements for Reston and Tallwood. However, the Friends of OLLI fund is down to a level that will not permit these other improvements at this time. **Therefore, we hope that you will be generous in your contributions to the Friends of OLLI and to activities such as the Silent Auction that will provide funds to the Friends of OLLI. Your donations can further enhance our learning environment.**

This just in! With the terrific cooperation of the folks at Reston's Washington Plaza Baptist Church, we hope to have Internet access readily available in our classrooms there starting Mon, Apr 28.

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JUST A FEW MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE BIG DAY

Silent auction info



By Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee Chair

BETWEEN BOB LAWSHE AND ME, we are trying to keep you completely informed about the May 2 events. While Bob has already told you about the Silent Auction Web site, you should also know that you have another opportunity to see what the Silent Auction offers by looking at a listing in the social room on the bulletin board. This paper copy must remain in the social room because we did not print a bunch.

You can download the donation form (*image shown above*) by clicking [this link](#) or you can pick up a form in classrooms or the social room. Leave the completed form in the file folder in the social room (with a photo if available or email a digital photo) as soon as possible, although we can certainly take items at the last minute. But as a courtesy to those who have been working so hard to be organized, we would really appreciate your giving this matter your immediate attention. Note also that we cannot take some bulky items because in the event the item does not sell, we are faced with disposal issues.

At 1:30 when the door to the auction closes, we will figure out who got what and then open the door again for you to collect and pay. We will accept cash,

OLLI Silent Auction Needs You
And Your Help! Now!

Donations can be objects or services - either gratefully received - and we need to know about them shortly if we are to include them in the published list of items. Although welcome, item pick-ups may not make the list. Items themselves may be delivered at a later date, preferably on May 1. Auction Date: May 2, following the Annual Meeting.

Name of Donor: _____

Preferred Contact Method (your e-mail/phone #): _____

Pledged Item or Service: _____

Description (please give full details): _____

Estimated Fair Market Value: \$ _____ Will you require a receipt for IRS purposes? Yes/No

Can you supply a digital photograph of the donation, if appropriate? Yes/No

Please leave this form in the file folder in the classroom or social room and you will be contacted. Many thanks for your generosity. Debbie Halverson (debbieh@oll.com) and Doris Bloch (dbloch@oll.com)

checks or credit cards.

Delivery of items to Tallwood is scheduled for Thu, May 1, between 3:30 and 4:30 in TA-3. At your request, donation forms for IRS purposes will be provided. Should you absolutely be unable to deliver your items during this time period, please consult the bulletin board in the social room for information to make alternative arrangements.

I too am encouraging you to attend all three of the day's events. If you are planning to attend the picnic, do please call the office at 703-503-3384 prior to May 2 to let them know that you are coming and to get your food assignment. Plan to bring a lawn chair if you have one as seating for the picnic will be limited. If you will not be attending the picnic, no need to RSVP.

One additional plea: I know who our regular helpers are, but everyone else, would you please email me to let me know if you can help with the auction? Many thanks, and I'll see you all on Friday.

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REPORT FROM PHOENIX, PART 2

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

AS I MENTIONED IN LAST WEEK'S OLLI E-NEWS, there is tremendous variation among the 119 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the country. At the national Osher conference in Phoenix, Arizona, Pat Carroll and I learned about some of these differences:

For example, **membership** is defined in different ways. At our OLLI at George Mason University, to become a member you pay an annual fee of \$350, and this entitles you to take as many courses and participate in as many activities as your schedule allows at no additional cost. To our surprise, we found that one OLLI has an annual membership fee of \$15. In talking with the director, I discovered that this low fee has helped them to have phenomenal growth in a short amount of time. However, the only thing the members get is a copy of the catalog and a newsletter – there are extra fees for courses and activities. There are some "members" who do not take any classes. At our OLLI, an individual can join at any time of year and then renew membership after a calendar year, generally at the beginning of one of the four terms. In many OLLIs, everyone must "join" at the same time each year, typically at the beginning of the fall term in September. Some OLLIs allow people to become "members" for one term at a time rather than annually.

The differences in **fees and payment options** were also notable among the OLLIs. As I stated above, the cost of memberships varies and to some extent defines what being a member is. Some OLLIs allow for installment payments – everyone pays the same fee, but not all in one payment. The majority of OLLIs charge an additional fee per course. Where this generally allows for a lower membership fee, the total cost for a member who regularly takes two or more classes is significantly higher than at our OLLI. Some OLLIs charge a lower "introductory" fee for new members which is applied to the regular membership fee if the person continues his membership.

A third variation among the 119 OLLIs is in the **number and duration of terms**. OLLI at Mason has four terms each year: eight weeks in the spring and fall terms, four weeks in the winter term, and six weeks in the summer term. Many OLLIs have just two terms – spring and fall, and others add a third term in either the summer or winter, but not both. Some OLLIs have terms of only six weeks, others have 10- or 12-week terms. It is not unusual for an OLLI to totally close down in between terms, with no activities or staff on site. As you know, our OLLI has many activities, clubs and volunteer opportunities that continue in the weeks when classes are not in session.

I will continue my discussion of the variations among OLLIs in next week's *OLLI E-News*. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming "Meet the Candidates" events, including next Friday's Annual Membership Meeting, and for the Silent Auction and Cookout/Picnic also on that day, May 2.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS BY HEARING THEIR STORIES

"Slices and Snippets"



By Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee Chair

WITH THE SECOND HALF OF THE SPRING TERM in full swing, I want to point to two series of classes, one at Reston and the other at Tallwood, that deserve your interest mainly because they are recollections of interesting events that occurred in member lives.

"Slices and Snippets" (course #905) in Reston is scheduled for 2:00 on the remaining Tuesdays in the term. The series for Tallwood is on Thursday mornings at 9:30. Two speakers at each session will tell you about interesting events that occurred in their careers that might have been funny, or scary, or historic. Check the catalog for who is speaking when.

These classes are not full, and you will get yet another insight into the lives of some people you thought you already knew.

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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 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).

SMOKE ALARM GOOD FOR TEN YEARS AVAILABLE FROM FIRE DEPT

Free on request



By Carol Henderson, Board member



A SMOKE ALARM GOOD FOR TEN YEARS? You don't have to change batteries twice a year? That's right, and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will provide such a smoke detector with lithium batteries, and will install it for you. They'd rather do this on request than rescue you after you've fallen off a ladder trying to do it yourself! Not only that, but carbon monoxide detectors are available as well. All this is free on request, courtesy of your county tax dollars. County residents, just call the Fire and Rescue Department at 703-246-3801.

This is just some of the very useful information provided by two lively and

entertaining representatives of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department at an OLLI class in Reston on Mon, Apr 21. Coordinated by Al Roe, the course is #902, "Your County/Your Home," and it's bringing folks from various county agencies to speak to OLLI members each week this term.

The Fire and Rescue Department has a home safety booklet available and provides senior education programs. More information is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire.

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A SCHOLAR AND A GENTLEMAN

Profile of longtime member Earl Canfield



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

EARL CANFIELD HAS HELD HIS LAST MEETING OF HOMER, ETC. in the Tallwood Annex after 10 years of exploring *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey* and now Shakespeare's plays with a small but loyal group. He led the Friday read-aloud members with quiet dignity and little fanfare, guiding them through knotty passages to a degree of understanding of theme and story line. Earl now begins a new adventure, moving with his wife, Johanna, to be near a son in Ames, Iowa.

He joined Learning in Retirement, now OLLI, "in '95 or '96," shortly after retiring from the Congressional Research Service, an adjunct of the Library of Congress. For LRI he taught courses in poetry appreciation, believing that poems need to be read aloud; the class brought favorite poems to read to the group. Earl's recitation from memory of Frost's "Provide, Provide" was a sterling moment from those classes.

In 1998 he stood at a Tallwood Book Club meeting and asked if there was interest in reading classical literature aloud, and so began Homer, etc. The group met first at King's Park Library, later in Supervisor Sharon Bulova's office, and then found a home at Tallwood. Members will now continue to meet under the guidance of Sibyl Vanneman. The last member of the original group, Lilyan Spero, says that Earl "is one of the nicest and most decent human beings I have met. Anyone who comes to this group regularly stays with it until they leave OLLI; there's no drifting away." Earl says that he and Lilyan have read Homer's *Iliad* through twice with the group, and he intends to read it a third time.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A forum for members to voice their views on OLLI matters

WE WILL PUBLISH your brief letters about OLLI and, if a response seems appropriate, we will include an OLLI response from the executive director or the applicable officer or committee chair in the same issue. Submit your letter via [email to the editor](#) or submit it as a "letter to the editor" via the [online suggestion box](#) or the suggestion box in the Tallwood Social Room. To be published in a given Friday's issue, the editor must receive the letter no later than 7:00 pm on Monday so that any applicable OLLI response can also be published. Letters can be published anonymously but you must include your name and email address or phone number so we can verify that you are an OLLI member.

A different perspective on classroom temperature

I was in the class where the instructor collapsed on April 9. It was not too hot for me or my husband. I always dress for the weather and am rarely too warm in the classes. On the contrary, I have left class in TA-1 with a stiff neck from the fans being turned on before summer comes.

We small, cold-sensitive people are usually outnumbered or just quieter. Perhaps it's difficult for everyone to be comfortable, but dress in layers you can remove and don't assume everyone is too warm just because you are.
 -- Valerie Stucky, OLLI member

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CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason,
 Apr 25-May 4



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](#).

GMU Players #3
Measure for Measure
 by William Shakespeare
 Directed by Rick Davis, artistic director of the CFA/Theater of the First Amendment, this play brings

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra
Masterworks 5
 William Hudson, conductor
 Maestro Hudson conducts two popular symphonic renditions, one of Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet

Shakespeare's most sustained investigation of the role of law and justice applied to a wide variety of human circumstances. Stay for a post-performance discussion with the director and members of the Players.

The Saturday afternoon performance is an OLLI Special Event.

Fri, Sat, Apr 25, 26, at 8:00
 Sat, Apr 26, at 2:00
 Thu, Fri, Sat, May 1-3, at 8:00
 Sat, Sun, May 3-4, at 2:00
 Admission: \$8 seniors/students, \$12 other adults

Theater Space (From Level 2 of Parking Deck take the bridge, enter the first door on the left and follow hallway through the gray doors and down stairs.)

Overture-Fantasy, and one of excerpts from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet Suites 1 and 2. He concludes with Beethoven's Symphony No. 5.

Sat, Apr 26, at 8:00
 Admission: \$55, \$45, \$35, \$25
 Concert Hall

Come early for a free, pre-concert lecture at 7:00.

GMU Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band Spring Concert

Tue, Apr 29, at 8:00
 Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults
 Harris Theater

Diavolo



This group is made up of dancers, gymnasts and actors that use oversize structures and surrealistic sets of commonplace items. Performers leap, fly and twirl to portray metaphors for the absurdities of life.
 Fri, Sat, May 2, 3, at 8:00
 Admission: \$44, \$36, \$22
 Family friendly: Children

GMU Opera Tartuffe

by Kirke Mechem
 Fri, Sat, May 2, 3, at 8:00
 Admission: \$15 seniors/students, \$20 other adults
 Harris Theater

2008 GMU Music Scholarship Concert featuring University Symphony Orchestra, Choirs and Concerto Soloists

The groups will perform *Slava!* by Leonard Bernstein as well as selections from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Musicians

GMU Dance Company May Concert

Thu, Fri, Sat, May 1, 2, 3, at 8:00
 Admission: seniors/students \$7, other adults, \$10
 Dance Performance Studio (3rd floor of the Performing Arts Bldg., adjacent to the Concert Hall).

12 and under half price with an adult
 Concert Hall
 Come at 7:15 for a pre-performance artistic discussion in the Grand Tier III Lobby.

well-known to OLLI members include Anthony Maiello, conductor of the Symphony Orchestra, and Dr. Lisa A. Billingham and Dr. Stanley Engebretson, conductors of the University Chorale and University Singers. Provost Peter N. Stearns will make a special guest appearance.

Sun, May 4, at 7:00
 Admission: \$15 seniors/students, \$20 other adults
 Concert Hall

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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other Mason events



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **Student Recitals** - All free.
 - Brach Cobb, saxophone, Sat, Apr 26, 2:00, Performing Arts Bldg. Choral Room and Andrea Lively, violin, 4:00, Grand Tier III, Concert Hall;
 - Mon, Apr 28, Kenny Kohilhaas, guitar, 6:00, Grand Tier III, Concert Hall;
 - Wed, Apr 30, Christian Perez, guitar, 6:00 and Matt O'Keefe, cello, 8:00, Grand Tier III, Concert Hall.
- **Cinema Series** – [No Country for Old Men](#), Sat, Apr 26, 6:00 and 9:00. \$1 with Mason ID. JC Cinema.
- **Middle East Studies Program Film Series** – [Meeting Resistance](#), Mon, Apr 28, 7:00, JC Center; [The Yacoubian Building](#), Tue, May 6, 7:00, JC

- Center.
- **Public Choice Seminar** - [\[pdf working paper\]](#) David Redlawsk, Political Science, University of Iowa. Wed, Apr 30, 4:00, Carow Hall.
- **Physics and Astronomy Seminar** – [Matter Wave Magic](#), presented by [Charles Clark](#), National Institute of Standards and Technology, Thu, May 1, 11:30, 302 Research I.
- **World Café Dialogue on Immigration** – [\[pdf info\]](#) [Making a Difference: What Can We Do in Our Communities](#), Thu, May 1, 7:30, SUB II, Rm 7.

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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 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 Apr 25 Ballots mailed for Board of Directors election
 - 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 - 9:30am Photography Club - TA-1
 - 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
 - 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 - 12:30pm Loudoun Lunch Out - Vintage 50 Restaurant, Leesburg
 - 1pm 960-Spec Event-Lifelong Learning - TA-1
 - 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
- Saturday Apr 26 2pm 961-Spec Event Measure for Measure - Mason TheaterSpace
- Monday Apr 28 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
- Tuesday Apr 29 1pm Reston-Meet the Candidates - LA**
- Wednesday Apr 30 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
 - 2pm 962-Spec Event-Tenor in the Board Room - TA-1
- Thursday May 1 11am Fiction Writers Club - Kings Park Library
- Friday May 2 10am Annual Membership Meeting including candidate speeches - TA-1**
 - 9:00-9:55am and (about) 11:30-11:45am Silent Auction - TA-3
 - 11:30-11:45am (about) OLLI Picnic - Tallwood Grounds
 - 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex

Monday May 5 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
Wednesday May 7 10am Spec Events Res Grp Mtg - TA-2
 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
 2pm **Program Review Comm Mtg - TA-2**
 2pm History Club - TA-1
 Friday May 9 Loudoun Spec Event - Dodona Manor and Lightfoot
 Restaurant
 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 9:30am 963-Spec Event-Hillwood Estate - Bus Trip - Fair Oaks
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex

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Rod Zumbro
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

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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 Editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee Chair [Gordon Canyock](#).

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.

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

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Reviewer and Backup Editor
 John West

Database Manager
 Barbara Kyriakakis

Reviewer and Photo Editor
 Michael Coyne

<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.edu 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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