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ALERT

> **NEW MEMBER COFFEE:** Fri, Jan 25, 10:30, Tallwood. Everyone welcome, "old" as well as new members. Meet your colleagues, meet the Board, meet the new ED. Refreshments.

REMINDERS

- > **WINTER CLASSES START MON, JAN 21.**
- > **MOST COURSES ARE STILL OPEN.** Just sign up and attend. [Read more.](#)
- > **EXHIBIT IN ANNEX.** Don't forget to stop by the social room annex, where you will see photos of some very cute kids--the grandchildren of OLLI members!

ARTICLES AND NOTICES

- > [WELCOME TO THE WINTER TERM.](#) From the president. *By Pat Carroll*
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- > [IN WITH THE NEW.](#) Welcome our new members. *By Elizabeth Crawford*
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- > [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.](#) A suggestion about the OLLI library.
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WELCOME TO THE WINTER TERM

From the president



By Pat Carroll, President

I AM VERY PLEASSED TO WELCOME YOU to the winter term at OLLI, which starts Monday. The Program Committee has created an excellent catalog of courses for our education and enjoyment. The committee is always open to new ideas for courses and new people to help develop and support the curriculum. The Loudoun Resource Group has a great catalog of courses as well. We are growing the Loudoun campus and adding to the volunteer group at that campus.

I want to thank all of our members who have contributed to the Friends of OLLI. This is very significant in providing the resources for OLLI scholarships to GMU and upgrading the capital equipment such as the registration system and the telephone system that will be installed early this year.

We will be starting the nominating process for elections of the Board of Directors of OLLI. This occurs in May but requires a number of months to create a committee and find volunteers who will serve on the Board for the next three or, if re-elected, six years. This is always a difficult and time consuming task. With the help of our many able volunteers, the process always works well.

Our new executive director, Thom Clement, is on board and hard at work. He has been meeting with the staff, committee chairs and Board members. We will be visiting with key members of the George Mason faculty the next few weeks.

I also want to remind all of our members that the New Member Coffee will be held at 10:30 on Fri, Jan 25, at Tallwood. All are invited, but especially new members.

INITIAL IMPRESSIONS

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING for the beginning of the winter 2008 term at Tallwood and Lake Anne on Jan 21 and at Loudoun on Feb 4. I personally can't wait to see our instructors and facilitators in action as I drop in on as many different classes and clubs as I can manage.

During my first two weeks on the job, my initial impressions of the superb quality and passionate commitment of OLLI-GMU volunteers and participants are being reinforced during every interaction and meeting. In conversations with OLLI members this week, there were two statements that confirmed the value of this vital organization: One person told me that she had "finally found her intellectual peer group" through OLLI-GMU. Another new member shared that "OLLI has been a life-saver" for him during this stage of his life. I know there are literally hundreds of additional testimonials that I have yet to hear.

I have had the privilege of meeting one-on-one with each of the officers and many of the other directors. Each one has offered valuable insight and perspective. I have visited the Lake Anne facilities and enjoyed "Let's Do Lunch" with wonderful OLLI folks at the Jasmine Café. I participated in a great OLLI Open House at the Loudoun GMU campus. I'm quickly getting up to speed with both the history of OLLI-GMU and the emerging opportunities and challenges that we face.

The chairpersons of our Planning Committee, Development Committee, and Program Review Committee have each spoken with me about the importance of developing a strategic plan for OLLI-GMU. There is no question that we have the talent and resources to tackle this project. No doubt we will have different opinions about how to move forward, but we must do so with a common sense of purpose if we want to turn each of our challenges into opportunities for growth.

IN WITH THE NEW

Welcome our new members



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

IT'S JANUARY. THE WEATHER OUTSIDE MAY BE FRIGHTFUL, and the fire may be delightful, but so what? We have some place to go, to the winter 2008 term at OLLI, where we will be happy to see friendly faces, take exciting courses, and eat some cookies. As usual, nametags boasting red dots indicate new members, who have made the wise decision to join us.

Please welcome...

Elliot Bernold Peggie Bloodworth William Brewster James Brown Rita Burke Anne Burnell Dianne Cobb Dennis Deuschl Jerome and Sharon Donovan	Benedict and Arlene FitzGerald Joyce Fuller Amy George Robert Greenspan Jaclyn Johnson Richard Miller Evelyn Murphy Michael Murphy Chris O'Hare	Susan Osborn Judith Penniman Janet Rife Sandy Rittenhouse Richard Ryan Alvin Smuzynski Martin Stark Anna and Charles Sykes Gloria Wootall Lu Wright
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NOTICE FOR MEMBERS WITHOUT EMAIL

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER because you do not have email, you've missed some interesting information about OLLI (only some of which has been overcome by events). Fall-term classes ended the week of Nov 5; since then, seven issues of *OLLI E-News* were published through last week.

To catch up on what you missed, find an Internet-connected computer in a family member's or friend's home or at any branch of the public library and visit the OLLI Website at <http://www.oli.gmu.edu/>. On our home page, just hover your mouse over the top-level "News" menu and click the selection that says "OLLI E-News weekly newsletter." You'll instantly see the dates of the last dozen issues; click any one to view that issue.

-- Rod Zumbro, *OLLI E-News* editor

THE BEAT GOES ON

Honoring the Singing for Fun conductor



By [Gordon Canyock](#), Chorus Alumnus



Joyce DeVoll and Doris Ecklund; photo by Ann Wagner



Singing for Fun in action; photos by Rod Zumbro

ABOUT 20 PRESENT AND FORMER MEMBERS of OLLI's Chorus, the Singing for Fun bunch, threw a farewell party for their retiring conductor, Joyce DeVoll, last Friday in a local community center. Joyce received a ceramic music

box in the form of a Victorian Christmas Tree from her fans as well as many expressions of their eternal gratitude for her nine years as their leader. The Christmas tree appropriately plays "A Partridge in a Pear Tree" to remind Joyce of how much fun they had making fools of themselves acting out the lyrics at our holiday parties.

A special gift was also given to Dolores Ecklund, who has been accompanying the chorus for 12 years and usually has been successful in keeping them on key. Do not despair, Dolores promises to return and the group will reconvene under new leadership in the spring term.

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SIGN UP FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS

Tallwood members can sign up on Wed

MEMBERS INTERESTED IN SETTING UP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS for social purposes outside of the regular OLLI program are invited to sign up in the Tallwood social room annex on Wed, Jan 23, from 1:00-2:00.

You may contribute ideas for groups that have not been previously suggested, especially on the questionnaire that was sent out in the fall. This will also enable those who showed interest on that questionnaire but who forgot to leave their names for later contact.

Submitted by Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee chair

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THE CONVERSATION PROGRAM

Help international students with their English



By [Joan Crawford](#), George Mason University



THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

AT MASON will again this spring sponsor TCP, "The Conversation Program," an activity for international students who would like to practice their oral English skills by participating in small-group discussions led by a volunteer native speaker of English. This is an excellent

volunteer opportunity for retired teachers and others who enjoy meeting internationals.

There will be an orientation/informational meeting on the Mason campus Tue, Feb 12, 12:00-1:30 for all volunteer leaders. Leaders meet weekly with a small group of students for one hour for eight weeks, Feb 12-Apr 9, except for spring break, Mar 10-14. Volunteers must be available for the Feb 12 meeting but may arrange substitutions later in the semester. The meetings are scheduled around the students' class hours: 1:30 and 4:30 Tuesdays, 3:30 Wednesdays.

If you are interested in volunteering or in learning more about this program, the following OLLI members have participated and are available to answer your questions: [Vinnie Zagurski](#), [Ann Wagner](#), [Anne Lamar](#), [Bob Ward](#) and [Margaret Breen](#).

Please contact me by [email](#) or phone (703-993-3660) for further information or to sign up for a specific time slot.

RELATED LINK

- [Mason English Language Institute's Website](#)

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COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OLLI?

HERE'S HOW to express your views--

PUBLICLY	PRIVATELY
<p>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.</p>	<p>IF YOU WANT TO CORRESPOND PRIVATELY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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).

WANTED: TRIP TALES

Share your trip with other OLLI members



By Virlinda Snyder, Trip Tales coordinator



In Italy, Rod Zumbro and Brenda Cheadle admire a \$260,000 Ferrari

Starting next week, visit Italy, Alaska, South America via Trip Tales, course 902, Thursdays at 9:30. The course is not closed, so everyone is welcome.

HAVE YOU BEEN ON A BIG TRIP RECENTLY that you would like to tell your OLLI friends about? We are looking for presenters for Trip Tales in the spring term, Mar 24-May16.

We are planning for the spring term now, and we would like to hear from you! Through Trip Tales, OLLI members have been able to travel to many places around the world and have enjoyed them so much! Let us know soon if you can help by sharing a trip with others.

Please contact me by phone (703-339-5748) or [email](#).

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Selected by the OLLI Photography Club



"Log Jam" by Stan Schretter

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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.



The second bookcase before being filled

A suggestion about the OLLI library

Dear Editor:

I have a suggestion: Another bookcase is needed. Despite zealous weeding/giving away during the yard sale, we are overflowing with donations of books. The lowest shelves are not much use as they are nearly on the floor and are very hard to see and reach.

The way things are now in the social room, there is little room for another book case. I understand that an offer was made by someone (sorry I can't remember who) to redesign the social room. Could some thought be given to including another book case (maybe one with lowest shelves a little higher) in this redesign?

-- Roxanne Cramer, OLLI member

OLLI response by Executive Director Thom Clement--

*We wholeheartedly agree that additional space is needed for display of our growing collection of books in the OLLI-GMU library. Dick Hibbert is working with a small group of volunteers on a design for the Tallwood social room **annex** that would feature cabinets and/or shelves around three walls. If the Board of Directors approves the design and we can fund it partially or in full, then we will need to discuss the availability and accessibility of that space for library books. At this time, Dick Hibbert's group has not worked on a redesign for the social room itself where the current library shelves are located. Stay tuned for updates on this important project!*

Editor's note. You can read about longtime OLLI instructor Dick Hibbert in [this profile](#).

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason, Jan 18-27



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>Band of the Coldstream Guards and the Pipes, Drums and Dancers of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>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</p>	<p>Faculty Artist Series <i>Rick Novak, Tenor</i> Sat, Jan 26, at 8:00 Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p>  <p><i>Band of the Coldstream Guards</i> Details at left</p>	<p>Fairfax Symphony Orchestra <i>Masterworks 3 with Dean Woody, bassoon</i> <i>Brahms' Fourth Symphony highlights the January concert. Dean Woody, the Orchestra's new principal bassoonist, makes his solo debut in Mozart's Bassoon Concerto in B-flat. Ticket-holders will also hear Wagner's suite from Die Meistersinger, including the Prelude (Overture), the Dance of the Apprentices and the Procession of the Meistersingers.</i> Sat, Jan 26, at 8:00 Admission: \$55, \$45, \$35, \$25 Concert Hall Come early at 7:00 for a free, pre-concert lecture.</p>
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Come 45 minutes early to either performance for a free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other events at Mason



By Nancy Ragsdale, OLLI E-News staff writer

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Basketball - Wed, Jan 23, 8:00. GMU Patriots host Old Dominion at the Patriot Center. Adults, \$14; seniors (62+) \$8.00; children 18 and under, \$6. Tickets available at the Patriot Center box office, www.ticketmaster.com, or by phone at 703-573-SEAT. • Women's Basketball - Thu, Jan 24, 7:00. Mason women's basketball team plays William and Mary at the Patriot Center. Adults, \$5; youth/seniors, \$2. 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 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 1pm Social Activity Sign-up - Annex
 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-#1 Holocaust Museum - D.C.- Smithsonian Metro
 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA Annex
 Monday Jan 28 1pm LA Bridge Club - Lake Anne
 Tuesday Jan 29 8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
 Wednesday Jan 30 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
 2pm 954-Paris to Berlin - TA-1
 Friday Feb 1 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 10am Italian Conversation - Annex
 10:30am 956-#2 Holocaust Museum - D.C.-Smithsonian Metro
 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA Annex

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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, [Gordon Canyock](#).

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Database Manager
 Barbara Kyriakakis



Karen Hamilton

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

Photo Editor
 Michael Coyne

Deputy Editor

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.

View [last 12 issues](#)

Search for items in *OLLI E-News*

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.oli.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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