



OLLI E-News

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



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> **DIRECTOR RESIGNS.** Ben Gold has resigned from the Board after serving four years. The next president will appoint a substitute director to fill the remaining two years of Ben's term.
 > **OLLI POETS.** If you missed the poets reading their work in their Special Event on May 6, you can read many of the poems at OLLI's Document Storage; here's a [direct link](#).

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TIME GOES QUICKLY...

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

IN CASE YOU BEGIN TO TAKE FOR GRANTED the marvelous experiences you're having at OLLI, I want to share the following heartfelt "farewell" letter received from OLLI member Phil True (*photo at right*).

It seems only very recently that Fern and I joined OLLI, but in reality it was five years ago that we signed on the dotted line. I guess that means that when you're having fun, time goes quickly. It surely has and we have been enlightened, entertained and simply satisfied and happy with our association with OLLI, not only the great programs that are offered but also the chance to get to know so many people, including the "movers and shakers" that make OLLI the great organization that it is.



The success of OLLI, of course, would not have been possible without ... a great staff who [have worked] hard to make each class a success. The improvements in five years have been notable, particularly in the use of the Internet and the upgrade in audiovisual equipment.

We wish we could contact each and every person who has contributed so much to the success of OLLI ... [but] this brief note will have to do. We will be moving ... to Glen Allen, Virginia, primarily to be near our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter. But a word of advice: don't wait until you are in your 80s to make a move. Attempting to move after 30 years in one house ain't no easy matter -- in fact, it is very stressful.

I have enjoyed my participation in OLLI immensely, from the long-running "What's In the Daily News...", where opinions are free and results not expected, to "Intelligence Failures." But I've also enjoyed running several other courses, including ones on World War II, plus coordinating programs such as "American Perspectives." I think the course I enjoyed most, if that is the right word, was facilitating the Ken Burns "The War" series, both at Tallwood and at Reston. It brought back many memories to me and to most of the OLLI members in the course.

In his letter, Phil expresses thoughts similar to many of those I hear from OLLI members. As you enjoy your busy schedules, take time to become more involved in OLLI and you'll find that your efforts will enrich your experience as it did for Phil and Fern.

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CONFIRMATION EMAILS AND LICENSE TAGS

Update on registration



By [Maria Buczek](#), OLLI Registrar

IN THE PAST TWO ISSUES OF *OLLI E-NEWS*, you have been reading about changes to the online registration system. For those of you who have used the new system to register for the summer term, I hope you have found it to be very user friendly and have enjoyed some of the new features like the Calendar View. Whether you have used the online registration system to register for the summer term or have turned in a paper registration, if OLLI has an email address for you, your confirmation letter will be sent via email. Confirmation emails will go out Jun 8 or Jun 9 so don't forget to check your email then.

To make this new procedure go as smoothly as possible, please help us by adding olli@gmu.edu to your email address book or contacts. This will ensure that your confirmation email (and other emails from OLLI) will not go into your spam or junk mail folder.

Only those members without a known email address will receive a confirmation letter via postal mail. By sending out the confirmation letters through email, OLLI will save about \$500 per term or \$2,000 per year! This does not include the many staff and volunteer hours it takes to assemble and label approximately 850 letters. We are going green by not using around 2,000 sheets of paper and 850 envelopes.

If you change your email address, it is important that you notify OLLI or preferably, update your email address yourself through the [Member Portal](#) by clicking the Membership Tab, then clicking "Edit Personal Information." Please remember that to use the Member Portal you must first create a user account if you don't already have one. Instructions for doing this are on page 28 of your summer catalog and are also listed on the Member Portal when you click on "Get a User Account."



OLLI wants your license tag number! Photos by Rod Zumbro.

New summer-term members have noticed on the registration form that we have requested their car license tag numbers. There have been times when we have needed to contact the owner of a vehicle. For example, if a car's headlights are left on, we can easily find the owner of a vehicle (if the tag number is in our database), look up which class the member is in, and notify the member before the battery dies. For all members, you can add license tag information through the Member Portal (again by editing your personal information following the instructions above) or by emailing it to the Tallwood office at olli@gmu.edu.

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THE TULIP POPLAR TREE AT TALLWOOD

Why it was removed late last week



Slideshow of photos by Bill Walsh, except photo of "Lady and her tree" by John West.

THE GIANT TULIP POPLAR TREE located down the hill from TA-3 was removed on Thursday of last week. As far back as 2003, OLLI landscaper Valerie Braybrooke discovered a huge hole on the far side of the tulip poplar. She could step into the hole and brandish a six-foot pole up into the hollow trunk. Many heavy branches have fallen since then, and the tree has tried to mend the hole by extending its bark across the open wound. Tulip poplars are one of the most brittle of local trees. Gusty winds catch the leafy branches and pop their tops easily. Our huge tulip poplar was not only wounded

and sick but a liability as well.

After consultation with the Mason Grounds Department, it was agreed that the tree would need to be removed at some point. Other alternatives, such as cabling support, were considered. However, since Mason agreed to cover the \$3,000 cost of removal, we authorized the University to proceed.

We are currently arranging for inspection of the Tallwood trees by Virginia Tech arborists to plan for aesthetics as well as safety.

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

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DOCSTORE: OLLI'S "SECRET" RESOURCE

Course materials and much more, available to all



By [Paul Howard](#), Audiovisual Support Committee Co-chair



TUCKED AWAY IN THE LEFT-HAND "QUICK LINKS" TABLE on our home page, there's a link to "DocStore" -- which contains many of the materials for current and past OLLI courses. Here class attendees and other interested members can find book lists, PowerPoint slides, Web links, and related information provided by instructors for further research on the topic of their courses.

Many of the materials are provided in the Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf), which allow users to expand the size of text or included graphics up to 800 percent. The Adobe Reader used to view pdf documents even includes a feature that allows your computer's text-to-speech "voice" to read the document out loud (typically, you select Read Out Loud/Activate Read Out Loud from the top-level View menu).

The Document Storage site allows course materials and resources such as past OLLI catalogs, committee and club documents, tech tips, and *OLLI E-News* issues to be archived without the need for investments in file cabinets, extensive physical storage space, or printing expenses by OLLI. With accessibility via a Web browser, these resources are available to everyone 24 hours a day. The

key to exploring is a simple link to the DocStore:

<http://www.olligmu.org/~docstore/index.html>.

Instructors are encouraged to contact Webmaster [John West](#) to arrange for their material to be archived for the benefit of OLLI members.

Editor's note. Paul originated the concept of OLLI's DocStore; he designed it and set it up more than a year ago. Eventually, John West took over responsibility for DocStore and has expanded it to include more information.

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OLLI AT VIVA! VIENNA! FESTIVAL

Many volunteers helped during great weather



By Carole Richard, Booth Coordinator



Combined OLLI and GMU Friends of the Center for the Arts and Friends of Music booth at Vienna festival. Photo by Gordon Canyock.

THE OLLI BOOTH AT THE VIENNA FESTIVAL last weekend, staffed 10:00 to 6:00 on Sun, May 24, and Mon, May 25, was a resounding success. Fifteen people signed up for more information and several more

took catalogs while expressing interest and a desire to join. Even the "gods" seemed to smile on the occasion because it didn't rain a drop in Vienna while much of the rest of the county, including the writer's Fair Lakes area, was inundated on Monday afternoon.

Sharing the booth with both the Friends of the Center for the Arts and the Friends of Music at Mason proved to be a bonanza for all concerned. As Janet Cochran said, it was like cross-pollination -- music lovers have curious minds, and people interested in learning love to listen to music. It didn't hurt that half the volunteers from the two Friends groups were also OLLI members.

Many thanks to all the OLLI member-volunteers who worked there: Marian Brobst, Garrett and Janet Cochran, Beverly George, Debbie Halverson, Manny Pablo, Al and Alice Roe, Martha Scanlon, Claire Smith, Eleanor White ... and especially to Benny and Ernestine Meyer, who arrived early Sunday morning with tent, table and "stuff" to help set up the booth, and to Jack Underhill (aided by his son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Dong), who worked not only to help dismantle the booth but also to *schlep* the whole lot over to Jack's van (Jack returned everything the next day to OLLI). No wonder the whole endeavor was successful!

OLLI members staffing the booth on behalf of [Friends of the Center for the Arts](#) or [Friends of Music](#) were Doris Bloch, Gordon Canyock, Bill Hunt, Ida Portland and Jane Tombes.

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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
May 29-Jun 7*



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>Acting for Young People Stages: <i>Sally Surfer and the Wild Wild Web</i> Sun, May 31, 1:00 Sally learns that things online are not always as they appear; she learns rules of Internet safety from friends and family. This audience-interactive show, for ages 8 and older, includes puppetry and music. Admission: Free, no tickets required TheaterSpace <i>(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 the gray doors and downstairs.)</i></p>	<p>American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra <i>Symphony Spectacular</i> American Youth Philharmonic—Luis Haza, conductor American Youth Symphony—Carl J. Bianchi, conductor Thomas Cupples, trumpet Sun, May 31, 3:00 The 2009 Mason Summer Music Festival kicks off with a stunning showcase of the American Youth Philharmonic. The National Symphony Orchestra trumpeter, Thomas Cupples, joins this always-impressive group for another display of youthful energy and brilliance. Admission: \$10, senior/student, \$14 other adults Family Friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult Concert Hall</p>
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<p>Doc Nix and Friends Sat, Jun 6, 8:00 Join Doc Nix, Matt Nolan and a company of musicians, dancers, video artists and DJs for an evening of improvisational performance and state-of-the-art video and gaming technology. Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults Concert Hall Come early at 7:15 for a pre-performance discussion with Doc Nix and Matt Nolan.</p>	<p>Roland Dyens, guitar Sun, Jun 7, 3:00 The internationally acclaimed French composer, virtuoso guitarist and chair of the Guitar Department at the prestigious <i>Conservatoire Nationale de Paris</i> will inspire you with his passionate classical guitar performance. Admission: \$30 Concert Hall See this pdf flyer for an opportunity to attend Master Classes with Monsieur Dyens.</p>
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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other Mason events



By Helen Ackerman, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

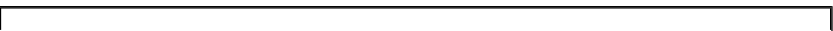
- **Town Hall Meeting.** Find out about all the ongoing changes on the Fairfax campus. Fri, May 29, 10:30 to 12:30, Johnson Center, Cinema.
- **Farmers' Market.** Buy local produce and delicious treats. Note: New location, Parking Lot K. Wed, June 3, 11:30 to 3:30.

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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 May 29 10am Recorder Consort - TA-2
- 10am Drama Club - TA-3
- 10am On-Line Registration Help Session - Annex
- 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex
- Mon Jun 1 10am OLLI Players - TA-1
- 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
- Tue Jun 2 10am OLLI Players - TA-1
- 10:30am Knitting and Needlework Club - Lake Anne Coffee Shop
- 11am Fiction Writers Club - Kings Park Library
- Wed Jun 3 **Summer Registration Ends**
- 10am Investment Forum - TA-2
- 10am OLLI Players - TA-1
- 10am **Special Events Resource Group Meeting** - Annex
- Thu Jun 4 10am OLLI Players - TA-1
- Fri Jun 5 10am Recorder Consort - TA-2
- 10am Drama Club - TA-3
- 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex
- 4pm OLLI/Reston Picnic - Lake Anne
- Mon Jun 8 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
- Tue Jun 9 10:30am Knitting and Needlework Club - Lake Anne Coffee Shop
- Wed Jun 10 10am Book Club - TA-2
- Fri Jun 12 10am Recorder Consort - TA-2
- 10am Drama Club - TA-3
- 10am Travel Club - TA-1
- 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex

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About OLLI E-News and the member/volunteers who produce it



Rod Zumbro
Editor



John West
Deputy Editor



Barbara Kyriakakis
Associate Editor

Review Team: Gordon Canyock, Michael Coyne, Barbara Kyriakakis, John West, Susanne Zumbro

Database Manager: Barbara Kyriakakis; **Photo Editor:** Michael Coyne

- **About this newsletter.** OLLI's weekly newsletter, OLLI E-News, is

emailed to current OLLI members with email addresses on Fridays. When classes are in session, printed copies of this newsletter are distributed in classrooms. 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; **submissions earlier in the week are strongly encouraged and 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.oli.gmu.edu/pubs.htm#enews>, where you will find a list of the last 12 issues; click 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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