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ISSUE DATE: Fri, Jul 11, 2008 [Click to read about this newsletter](#)

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ALERTS

- > **RESTON FESTIVAL.** Visit the OLLI booth at this weekend's [Reston Festival](#), Jul 12-13.
- > **MASON NETWORK UPGRADE:** 7:30am to 6:00pm, Sun, Jul 13. Will probably have some effect on the OLLI Web site and gm.u.edu email accounts during this period. [Details.](#)
- > **BOARD MEETING:** 10:00 Fri, Jul 18, TA-1. All members welcome.
- > **HISTORY BUFFS:** Read the new [History Club newsletter \(pdf\)](#) and new [book list \(pdf\)](#).
- > **ARTICLE ABOUT OLLI.** Read article in this week's *Springfield Connection* (see [pdf version](#), page 18) and in the Herndon and Great Falls editions, or see the [online article](#).

ARTICLES AND NOTICES

- > **I CAN ONLY IMAGINE...** From the executive director. *By Thom Clement*
- > **NEW PICNIC TERRACE.** Follow the pathway between Smallwood House and TA-2. *By Valerie Braybrooke*
- > **MEMBERSHIP NEWS.** From the membership chair. *By Kathie West*

DEPARTMENTS

COMING ATTRACTIONS. Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE...

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

I WAS RECENTLY READING AN ARTICLE

in the online newsletter of the American Society on Aging that I thought would be of interest to OLLI members. The author describes a recent documentary film entitled *Do Not Go Gently: The Power of Imagination in Aging* that takes a deep look at the passion and imagination of people ages 85-plus.



The program was shown on PBS television and is now available on DVD. Narrated by 90 year-old Walter Cronkite, it takes a look at emerging knowledge about the way our communication changes in later years. Film director Melissa Godoy (*photo at right*) suggests that "there are many ways of relating and communicating. When memories fail, there are other meaningful ways that the brain can be accessed through the imagination. People put too much stock in traditional, rational communication. Sometimes, a painting or a dance works better."

Also referenced in the article is *The Creative Age* (2001), by Gene Cohen, whose lifelong work showed that creativity is an ancient gift that has been accessed by people in their later years for centuries. Director Godoy: "I now see the 80s, 90s and 100s as an additional stage of human development with needs – to learn, share and to create."

If you'd like to read more about this program and other materials on this topic, check out the [ASA Connection newsletter](#).

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NEW PICNIC TERRACE

Follow the pathway between Smallwood House and TA-2



By [Valerie Braybrooke](#), Landscaping Committee Chair



Susanne Zumbro, Kathie West and Helen Anderson enjoy the new Picnic Terrace.

Photo by Gordon Canyock.

OLLI HAS A NEW ROOM. The Picnic Terrace is open for business. OLLI members have expressed that their second most important activity is socializing, but we have an obvious paucity of socializing spaces. So the Dirty Knee Club has built two outdoor spaces among the gardens to help relieve the problem. Last year the patio in Solomon's Loop, with its six chairs, was in use the moment the last Thyme was planted between the pavers. I barely had time to remove my fingers from underfoot before Carr Whitener was seated with his newspaper, looking as if he lived there.

The new area has been built at the edge of our campus where most members have never wandered before. To get there we put in what looked like

the Pathway to Nowhere, curving south between [Smallwood House](#) and TA-2. The Nowhere turned out to be a flagstone terrace with tables and chairs at the top of two rows of big, old Azaleas evidently planted by residents of the late Tallwood House.

This new outdoor room beneath Tallwood's tall oaks was made possible only with an anonymous member's generous donation. The labor in its construction was provided by the team of sixty- and seventy-somethings of the Dirty Knee Club. The Picnic Terrace is this year's example of a combination of Time, Energy and Money put to use for the pleasure of all OLLI members.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

From the membership chair



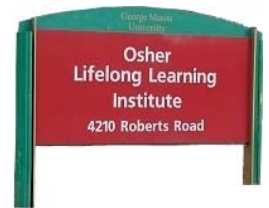
By [Kathie West](#), Membership Committee Chair

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE IS HARD AT WORK contacting all the new members of 2008. Our big goal this year is "to recruit and to retain." We are following up with the new members to see how they like OLLI and what classes they are taking. Some members of the committee have arranged brown-bag lunches with the new members. Another committee member has set up a tea at her house for new members.

We are also gearing up for the OLLI Open House on Sep 9 at Tallwood and on Sep 11 in Reston. Tell all your friends about OLLI and invite them to come! More news to follow as the dates approach.

Finally, don't forget the Reston Festival this weekend. It should be great fun.

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HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS ABOUT OLLI

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

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

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.

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).

DEPARTMENTS

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](#) 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 Jul 11 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
10:30am Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
- Monday Jul 14 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
10am [Book Club at Tallwood](#) - TA-2
- Wednesday Jul 16 12pm Finance Comm Meeting - TA-Annex**
- Thursday Jul 17 11am Fiction Writers Club - OL-TBA
- Friday Jul 18 9:30am [Guitarist Dana Hofford](#) - TA-3
10am Recorder Group - TA-2
10am Board of Directors Meeting - TA-1
10:30am Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
- Monday Jul 21 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
- Thursday Jul 24 Loudoun Summer Term Ends
- Friday Jul 25 SUMMER TERM Ends
9:30am Photography Club - TA-1
10am Travel Group - TA-3
10am Recorder Group - TA-2
10:30am Classic Fiction Book Club - Cascades Library, Potomac Falls
10:30am Homer, Etc. Book Club - 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 Editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee Chair [Gordon Canyock](#).



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

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 <http://www.olligmu.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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