



July 2008 -- Celebrating the third anniversary of OLLI E-News

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ALERTS
<p>> ARTICLES FOR NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE: Backup editor John West will be editing the <i>OLLI E-News</i> issue of Fri, Aug 1, so please email all articles and notices to him.</p> <p>> PHISHING EMAILS. Members with GMU email addresses have been receiving phishing emails from "GMU Support" asking for their username, password, etc. These emails are NOT legitimate; do not respond to such emails, and immediately delete them.</p>
ARTICLES AND NOTICES
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OBITUARY
<p>HANK MCQUEENEY. OLLI member since spring 2008. Died Sun, Jul 20, 2008.</p>

SIMPLY THE BEST!

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

AT THE ANNUAL OSHER CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, people came up to me and commented on

the wonderful things they had heard about our OLLI at George Mason University. Along with the outstanding quality of our program, perhaps the best known example of our excellence is our weekly newsletter, the *OLLI E-News*.

This week marks the third anniversary of our "electronic" newsletter. This premiere OLLI publication has been an integral part of the success of our organization for the past 156 weeks. OLLI members have come to rely on the email version that arrives in their inbox each Friday with news about members, classes, research, and links to many items of interest. We now send the *OLLI E-News* to close to 1,100 email addresses, including current members, former members, other OLLIs, and important persons at George Mason and in the community. Now that we have grown to over 850 participants spread out over three sites, we need this vital communications link to bind us together based on our common needs and interests.

I'd like to thank editor Rod Zumbro, deputy editor Karen Hamilton, and the numerous OLLI members who write articles and submit photographs for each edition of the *OLLI E-News*. We are grateful for your hard work to provide such a fine publication for our use and enjoyment. You are simply the best!

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HAPPY THIRD BIRTHDAY TO OLLI E-NEWS

How an innovative idea came to fruition



By [Gordon Canyock](#), Communications Committee Chair

ON JUNE 3, 2005, I ASSUMED THE POSITION of Publications Committee Chair and within a month found myself also serving as the editor of our hard-copy newsletter, *OLLI News*, when no one volunteered to replace the former editor, Rick Rivkin. At that time, our newsletter was printed weekly only when classes were in session and had a 10-day lead time for article submissions. I found the job to be very time-consuming, especially editing and formatting to fit within the allotted number of pages.

Three weeks later, Rod Zumbro and I met at a local Caribou coffee shop to discuss options for speeding up the process, including online publishing. Rod agreed to think about it, and on July 22 he sent me a sample email newsletter intended for occasional use after the 2005 summer term ended the following week. By July 27, when we met at Caribou again (we both like lattes), Rod was in full swing editing the first experimental issue of *OLLI E-News*, which he emailed to the membership on July 31, 2005.



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IN THIS ISSUE July 31, 2005 [About this newsletter](#)

Rod and I believed that because of its "html" format (photos, clickable Web links and use of color), *OLLI E-News* would be able to provide more interesting and useful information for members about what was happening at OLLI and Mason. We hadn't planned to publish it on a regular schedule but rather only when sufficient material was available. We anticipated producing an issue perhaps twice a

month during our breaks from classes.

We decided to continue to print the traditional hard-copy *OLLI News* for classroom distribution when classes were in session ... but also to email the same content in the *OLLI E-News* html format the previous Friday. The membership reaction was overwhelmingly positive. Publications committee writers and members of the board enthusiastically wrote and submitted articles, which has provided sufficient content to allow us to publish *OLLI E-News* every week since the first issue except when OLLI was closed for vacations.

We did publish the hard-copy *OLLI News* weekly during the fall term of 2005, but by January 2006 we permanently replaced it by simply printing a condensed pdf version of the email newsletter for classrooms, with considerable cost savings for our annual budget.

I thank not only Rod for his innovative leadership and tireless efforts in editing *OLLI E-News* but also all the other staff members who have given so much of their time to make this publication such a great success, especially deputy editor Karen Hamilton, photo editor Michael Coyne, backup editor John West, and regular contributors Jan Bohall, Elizabeth Crawford and Barbara Kyriakakis.

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INFORMATION IS OUR BUSINESS

From the editor



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

RECENT KUDO

Dear Rod and Gordon,
I continue to be impressed and delighted with *OLLI E-News* each week. Congratulations on that marvelous undertaking.
– Palmer McGrew, OLLI member

AS A LONGTIME MEMBER (SINCE 1993) AND FORMER OLLI WEBMASTER, I have a unique perspective on how OLLI has been providing information to the membership – one of my interests. The core mission of *OLLI E-News* has always been to keep the membership fully informed on a timely basis about happenings at OLLI. Our grand experiment seems to be working well. Here are a few observations.

- Unlike the way OLLI did its newsletters prior to three years ago, *OLLI E-News* is published not only during terms but also during the 26 weeks per year when classes are not in session.
- Our Wednesday evening deadline for the Friday issue and our email format allow us to publish fresh and late-breaking news.
- Our short articles, often illustrated with an image and enhanced with color and clickable Web links for additional information, are designed to stimulate your interest and keep you engaged with your colleagues and the larger OLLI community.
- Because we use free Web-page design software to create the newsletter and email to distribute it, there is no cost involved except to print copies for classrooms during terms.
- The newsletter is the 'best it can be' because of a small, dedicated group of eagle-eyed reviewers who carefully look at each draft issue and suggest changes and corrections to keep the editor and writers honest.

Our "staff writers" – members of the Communications Committee who enjoy writing – regularly produce excellent articles on their own initiative and upon request when we ask for a volunteer to write about a particular subject. I'm also pleased whenever I receive unsolicited articles from members ... such as new member Nancy Diesel's recent [story](#) of bonding with other class members and member Jayne Hart's article in this issue about the Dana Hofford concert.

So don't hesitate to write an article and send it in. And if you like to write, consider volunteering to be a staff writer. The job doesn't pay big bucks but think about it – you'll have something published online that might impress your grandkids.

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DON'T MISS OLLIWOOD!

OLLIwood gardens now at their peak



By Debbie Halverson, OLLI E-News Staff Writer



OLLIwood gardens in July 2008. Photos by Gordon Canyock.

THE UNBELIEVABLY BEAUTIFUL OLLIWOOD GARDENS are now at perfect peak. Too bad the term is over before I can get this article to you to encourage anyone who hasn't been able to get to Tallwood of late to see this profusion of color and beauty. I know ... It sounds like I'm going over the top in my exuberance, but quite honestly I can't find enough superlatives to describe how wonderful the gardens are. If you can find an excuse to get to Tallwood before the two-week vacation period starting the first week in August, you'll find it worth the trip.

Garden guru Valerie Braybrooke led a few of us down the garden path to the newly created section behind where Tallwood house once stood. Flagstones lead to this peaceful spot where you can sit at one of the two tables and enjoy your lunch or just read, contemplate or visit with an OLLI friend. No need for shade umbrellas here; a natural canopy of trees overhead dapples the spot with enough shade to make it a pleasant place to relax. You'll notice also a stairway leading down to the

open field below; this garden feature was there all along but hidden beneath a tangle of intruding vines and undergrowth. I'm sure imaginative minds already are thinking of ways to make this a stairway to something special. Horseshoes anyone?

We are so proud of our Dirty Knee Club and we are so spoiled! It just keeps getting better and better.

NEW VOICE MAIL SYSTEM FOR OLLI



IF YOU'VE CALLED THE OLLI OFFICE THIS WEEK, you've noticed a different voice and a different way to reach us by phone. We are still making refinements to the system, but we are hopeful that it will allow us to provide more efficient service to OLLI members and to the community.

For those of you who really need (or prefer) to talk to a live person, here's what's important: If you get the recording when you call the office number, you may press "0" (the zero for operator) immediately to talk with the receptionist. We generally have a receptionist between 9:00 and noon each morning when classes are in session. Receptionists are OLLI members who volunteer to answer the phones when OLLI staff members are busy with their primary responsibilities. In order to talk to a staff member directly, press the STAR key.

It may take you a time or two to get the hang of the new system, but we think you'll find it user-friendly.

-- [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

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MUSICAL MAGIC

Guitarist/singer Dana Hofford's concert



By Jayne Hart, OLLI member



Roxanne Cramer ("Mom"), Dana Hofford and Mariel Roxendal.
Photo by the writer.

A VERY SPECIAL EVENT TOOK PLACE IN TA-3 LAST FRIDAY MORNING when Dana Hofford drew us into his beautiful world of music through his guitar playing, singing and story telling. Dana, who lives in Sweden where he conducts choral groups, teaches voice and guitar and performs, is the son of OLLI member Roxanne Cramer. He initiated the musical hour with some Simon and Garfunkel standards, including *Scarborough Fair*, and then did a moving rendition of *Moody Blues*. These musical moments of nostalgia transported us back to the days of our youth!

Another highlight of the morning was the vocal duet, *Vännern*, in Swedish, with his fiancée Mariel Roxendal. This was followed by a series of his own compositions with wonderfully poetic lyrics. His description of how his musical life and compositions have evolved during his 25 years in Sweden was fascinating, beginning with his guitar playing in the subways of Stockholm. His approach centers on the idea that "everybody has gifts, let's use whatever we have to make people happy." He even convinced all of us that we, too, can make "beautiful" music when he divided us into three groups and led us in the singing of rounds, including *Dona Nobis Pacem*. All in all, an uplifting experience!

Thank you, Dana, and Mom, for making this happen!

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CONSUMER TIPS GALORE

Presentation by NBC4's Consumer Reporter Liz Crenshaw



Liz Crenshaw with coordinator Florence Adler. *Photo by Gordon Canyock.*

IN THE SUMMER CLASS WITH THE HIGHEST ATTENDANCE (#23, "Does It Really Do That?", Jul 22), NBC4's Consumer Reporter Liz Crenshaw entertained attendees with a terrific presentation, both informative and humorous, and answered questions about consumer matters. She also provided a

handout with the following information that might be helpful to OLLI members.

<p>NBC4 Washington, DC Consumer Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: http://www.nbc4.com <p>Note: Click "consumer watch"</p>	<p>National Do Not Call Registry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call: 1-888-382-1222 • Online: http://tinyurl.com/e53zc 	<p>Official U.S. Government Web Portal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call: 1 (800) FED-INFO • Online: http://firstgov.gov 	<p>Consumer Action Handbook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call: 1 (888) 8-PUEBLO • Mail: Send your name and address to-- Handbook Pueblo, CO 81009 • Online: http://tinyurl.com/d2nki
<p>Get Off Mailing Lists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail: Send your name and address to-- Mail Preference Service Direct Marketing Association PO Box 643 Carmel, NY 10512 • Online: http://tinyurl.com/2hcjdx 	<p>Reduce Pre-Approved Credit Card Offers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call: 1-888-5-0PT OUT <p>Note: This goes to the credit bureaus; you will have to give your Social Security number.</p>	<p>Identity Theft (Federal Trade Commission)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: http://tinyurl.com/34vedb 	<p>Annual Free Credit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call: 1-877-322-8228 • Online: http://tinyurl.com/6w3tg

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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 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.
- Attend monthly meetings of your Board of Directors and make your views known during the period for public comments.

PRIVATELY:

- Contact any [Board member](#), [committee or resource group chair](#), or the [executive director](#);
- Send an email to the entire Board (directors are listed on the [Organization page](#), and email addresses are listed in the online [Membership Directory](#) ... or you are welcome to 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).

DEPARTMENTS

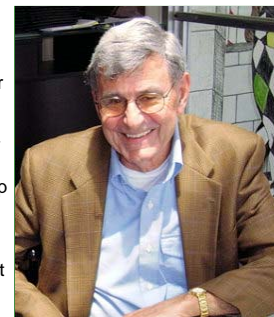
OLLI'S SPECIAL FORCES

Bruce Reinhart, Religion/Ethics/Philosophy Resource Group Co-Chair and Program Review Committee Chair



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

TO OLLI MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAKEN RELIGION MEGA-COURSES, Bruce Reinhart needs no introduction. As a new member in the winter of 2005, he volunteered to invite speakers for a course on multi-faith diplomacy, and he has been coordinating courses like "The Great Divide: A Search for Civility and Inclusiveness" and "Ethical Challenges in a World of Change" ever since. He served on the Board of Directors from 2005 to 2008 and became co-chair of the Religion/Ethics/Philosophy Resource Group in 2006. Currently, he is also chair of the Program Review Committee, which sets policy and oversees the OLLI academic program for quality and balance.



Bruce's background seems to have led him almost inevitably to his work at OLLI. A graduate of North Central College near Chicago and the Garrett Theological Seminary affiliated with Northwestern University, Bruce served as a Methodist and Presbyterian minister for 12 years. He also completed a Master's degree in Education from Northwestern and a doctorate in Adult Education from UC Berkeley and spent 15 years as teacher, researcher, and administrator at Ohio State, Los Angeles City College, and UC Los Angeles. Subsequently, he moved to Washington, DC, and worked as an international consultant on labor force issues in foreign countries and Manager of Elementary and Secondary Education for Impact Aid at the U.S. Department of Education. From that experience the last of his four books emerged: the American Library Association's Choice Award-winning *In the Middle of a Muddle: How Not to Reinvent Government*.

This fall Bruce and his wife, Carlene, will take a cruise to several ports of Japan. They enjoy traveling together, taking courses at OLLI, and working out daily. Truly a Renaissance man, Bruce is interested in the realms above the skies, here on earth, and under the sea. Yes, in his spare time, Bruce is also a scuba diver.

Photo of Bruce by Gordon Canyock

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Non-class events at OLLI for the next several weeks

The following list covering the next several 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 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	

Monday, Jul 28 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
 Friday, Aug 1 10:30am Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
Monday, Aug 4--Friday, Aug 15 OLLI closed for summer break; no OLLI E-News published

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OBITUARY: HANK MCQUEENEY

OLLI member since spring 2008

We regret to report the death of Hank McQueeney, an OLLI member since spring 2008. Following is the obituary from the Georgetown Chorale Web site (Hank was a long-time tenor with the chorale and the husband of its director).

On Sun, Jul 20, surrounded by loved ones at home in Martinsburg, WV from metastatic melanoma. He is survived by his dearly loved wife, Elaine Rendler-McQueeney, devoted daughters Mary (James) Beach, Kathleen (Joseph) Evangelisto and Susan McQueeney, grandchildren Addie, Kevin, Emma, Matthew, Colin and Will, brother Robert McQueeney of Manomet, MA and step-mother Rita McQueeney of Mansfield, MA. His first wife, Catherine Danehy, preceded him in death in 2000.

A native of Boston, Hank graduated from BC High and Boston College. After serving in the Navy aboard the USS Ticonderoga, he received a masters degree in public health from the University of Michigan in 1968. In 1975 he began the first of his twenty-three years of service in hospital administration at Georgetown University Hospital where he touched the lives of thousands of patients, employees and colleagues. Upon his retirement Hank continued the Ignatian ideal of service to others and received his LPN degree in 2004. He loved music and was a member of The Georgetown Chorale.

Family will receive friends on Mon, Jul 28, from 3 to 7 pm at Holy Trinity Chapel (3513 N Street, N.W.) followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Trinity Catholic Church (36th Street bet. N & O Streets, N.W.) at 7:30 pm. Reception to follow at the church's McKenna Center. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Eastern Panhandle Free Clinic, 11065 Middleway Pike, Charles Town, West Virginia 25414 where Hank worked as a nurse volunteer.



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.

Note about HTML graphics. If you do NOT see photos and clickable links in this message, you might want to ask a teenaged grandchild or a neighborhood teenager or college student to fix things for you. Or you could change your email settings yourself. Here's how to view html-formatted messages like this newsletter in five popular email systems:

- **Microsoft Outlook Express and Windows Mail.** Click Tools; select Options; in the Read tab, uncheck "Read all messages in plain text."
- **Mozilla Thunderbird.** Click Tools; select Options and click the Privacy icon; click the General tab. Uncheck "Block loading of remote images" and uncheck "Block Javascript." Click OK. Now click View;

View [last 12 issues](#)

Search for items in OLLI E-News

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Reviewer and Backup Editor
John West

Database Manager
Barbara Kyriakakis

Reviewer and Photo Editor
Michael Coyne

select "Message Body As ... Original HTML" (not Plain Text). Also in View, select "Display Attachments Inline" so that selection is checked.

- **Yahoo Mail.** Click Mail Options/General Preferences; under Security, uncheck "Block HTML graphics in email messages from being downloaded."
- **AOL.** Upgrade, if possible, to an AOL version above 5.0.

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.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 gmue.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 gmue.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 gmue.edu address. To do this, see [these instructions](#).

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