



OLLI E-News

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



Extra! Extra!

Read All About It!

SECOND ANNIVERSARY EDITION

ISSUE DATE: Friday, July 27, 2007 [Click to read about this newsletter](#)

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FLASH

> **FALL-TERM CATALOG:** Available [online](#) this weekend.

ALERTS

> **OLLI IS CLOSED FOR TWO WEEKS STARTING MON, JUL 30.**
Reopens Mon, Aug 13.
> **OLLI E-NEWS WILL NOT PUBLISH AGAIN UNTIL FRI, AUG 17** due to the office being closed on the next two Fridays. Look for the next issue three weeks from today.

REMINDER

> **FALL-TERM REGISTRATION:** Starts Wed, Aug 22, at 8:00 am for online registration and at 10:00 am for walk-in registration.

ARTICLES AND NOTICES

- > [MEETING CLASSMATES OVER FOOD](#). From the president. *By Debbie Halverson*
- > [BOARD HIGHLIGHTS](#). About last week's board meeting. *By Susanne Zumbro*
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DEPARTMENTS

- > [PROFILE](#). Happy Board Member: Ed Mentz. *By Carolyn Sanders*
- > [CENTER FOR THE ARTS](#). Upcoming arts and music events at Mason. *By Jan Bohall*
- > [COMING ATTRACTIONS](#). Upcoming OLLI non-class events for the next two weeks.

> **CORRECTION.** Our profile of John Woods incorrectly reported that he has a degree in veterinary medicine instead of adult education. Don't take your pets to him! [Revised profile.](#)

MEETING CLASSMATES OVER FOOD

From the president



By Debbie Halverson, President

SOME CLASSES ORGANIZE A GROUP LUNCHEON after the final session of a class. This week those of us in Diane Coppage's close-reading Jane Austin class did just that at the Coyote Grill with the Mason professor graciously doing the arranging.

This popular class, that discussed *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*, had formed for the summer term following a very successful spring course on Austen's *Emma*. By now, we had become Austen aficionados and sharing that affection, we were pleased to continue our discussion over salad and nachos. A very pleasant way to end a term.

Which brings me to the whole concept of deepening our OLLI relationships over food: It isn't necessary to wait until the last session of a course to follow up a particular class with lunch or coffee together. There are many good and informal eating establishments near the campus where the informality of conversation about a topic under discussion could be continued. Reston people have restaurants and a coffee shop just a stone's throw from the door of the Baptist Church where Lake Anne classes meet. Often two or three classmates may repair to one of these following class, perhaps not to dwell so much on the discussion topic as to continue the friendly atmosphere that comes with discussion.

I would suggest that anyone who wishes to gather a few classmates after class could mention that to the liaison who could announce the idea before the class or even as folks are leaving the room. Spontaneity sometimes works better and easier than planning ahead. But that would work too.

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Last Friday's Board of Directors meeting



By [Susanne Zumbro](#), Secretary

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OLLI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

was held at Tallwood on Fri, Jul 20, 2007. The Board approved the President's appointment of Paul Howard to fill a vacant seat on the Board. President Debbie Halverson announced the following board-member assignments:

- > Pat Carroll, chair of the Finance Committee;
- > Kathryn Russell, chair of the Program Committee;
- > Bruce Reinhart, chair of the Program Review Committee;
- > RoseMary Gustin, Rosemary McDonald and Kathryn Russell, members of the Program Review Committee;
- > Jack Underhill, chair of the to-be-reinstated Facilities Committee;
- > Emmett Fenlon, co-chair of the History, International Studies and Current Events Resource Group;
- > Ed Mentz, in charge of corporate relations in Reston, with a focus on retirement groups; and
- > Paul Howard, in charge of audio/visual equipment and related issues as well as a member of the Finance Committee.

Treasurer Pat Carroll reported we currently have a \$56,000 year-to-date deficit. However, July is our tightest month financially, and cash will again build up when fall registration starts on Aug 22. There will be a bank fee for using credit cards for registration and course/event fees.

Executive Director Dick Chobot reported that the University has agreed to repair TA-3 at its expense. An analysis of the survey data has been completed, and several Board members will be meeting to review the materials. The executive director stated that consideration needs to be given to continuing the Loudoun Program for a sufficient period to allow for growth. He proposed presenting a business plan and a recommendation for a specific continuation period at the August meeting of the Board.

The Board authorized the Finance Committee chair to continue to negotiate with the swimming pool management concerning the annual rent amount to be paid by OLLI for use of the parking lot.

The Board passed the following resolutions--

> Regarding the Fall for the Book program at Mason:

>> *That the \$1,527.40 currently obligated [but not spent] for chairs be moved to unobligated funds.*

>> *A sponsorship-level donation of \$1,000 be made by OLLI to Fall for the Book in recognition of the past and current value of Fall for the Book*

programming to OLLI members.

> Regarding committees:

>> *The OLLI Board of Directors directs the President to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Committee Structure to draft recommendations to be available no later than the Board's September meeting.*

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Fri, Aug 17, at 10:00 at Tallwood. OLLI members are welcome to attend. A time for public comments is provided prior to adjournment.

Editor's notes.

1. Our Website's [Organization page](#) lists the names of committee chairs and resource group chairs (as well as officers, directors and staff), and the [Committees page](#) lists committee responsibilities.
2. If you cannot attend board meetings, you can still stay up-to-speed on the details of what goes on by reading the complete, official board minutes at your leisure in the convenience of your home. Members who wish to be put on the email distribution list to receive an email copy of board minutes need only [send an email](#) to the office with "Board Minutes" in the subject line. Minutes are normally distributed within about two weeks after a given board meeting (after directors have approved the draft minutes via email) although the minutes of the July 2007 meeting cannot be distributed until sometime after the office re-opens on Mon, Aug 13.

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SECOND ANNIVERSARY

An OLLI E-News milestone



By [Gordon Canyock](#), Publications Committee chair

ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCHING of *OLLI E-News*, I wish to thank the editor and his staff of dedicated volunteers for the great work they have done to ensure that our publication fulfills our goals:

- > To keep members fully informed on a timely basis about their institute and items relating to its courses and events.
- > To provide news about upcoming events or activities at Mason or other organizations with which OLLI is affiliated that may be of interest to the membership, with occasional news about local events not widely publicized that may also be of interest to the membership.

> To serve as a public forum for communications between the membership and the leadership.

I particularly want to thank our editor-in-chief, Rod Zumbro, for continuing to put in the many hours every week required to ensure the high quality and accessibility of the content as well as its colorful artistic presentation. Special thanks are also due to Karen Hamilton, deputy editor and primary proofreader; John West, principal pinch-hitter when Rod's out of town; Jan Bohall and Barbara Kyriakakis for their weekly articles on events at Mason; and our principal staff writers Elizabeth Crawford, Barbara Kyriakakis and Arleen Richman.

The Publications Committee is always looking for a few good writers, proofreaders, photojournalists, and graphic artists to help with *OLLI E-News* and our various other OLLI publications. If you are interested in helping us maintain the high standards set in the past two years, please [send me an email](#).

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FROM THE EDITOR

Thoughts about your newsletter



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



FROM ITS VERY FIRST ISSUE THROUGH THIS 98TH ISSUE, OLLI E-

News has been "The electronic newsletter for members of the Osher Lifelong Institute at George Mason University." *OLLI E-News* is **your** newsletter, published to keep you informed about what's happening at your institute and to provide you with an open forum for communicating with the OLLI leadership.

Did you know that all issues starting with issue #1 are still available on line? Our Website is OLLI's convenient repository of 'everything you ever wanted to know' about OLLI. To read anything ever published in *OLLI E-News* (or posted on our Website), just select "Search Our Site" under the Help drop-down menu at the top of any OLLI Website page, enter your search term(s) and click the Search button.

The articles and photos are what make our newsletter special and allow it to inform, educate and stimulate you. My thanks to Gordon Canyock for the numerous photos he has taken, often on short notice, so that articles can be illustrated. I want to thank the more-than-40 OLLI members who contributed material to *OLLI E-News* during the past year. Special thanks to the following OLLI members who regularly provided lots of items for all of us to read and think about!

- > President Debbie Halverson (about three dozen articles!), Executive Director Dick Chobot (two dozen articles), former Secretary Carol Henderson and former Vice President Eileen Duggan.
- > Staff writers Elizabeth Crawford (20 articles), Jan Bohall (weekly compilations of arts and music events at Mason) and Barbara Kyriakakis (weekly highlights of other events at Mason plus 12 articles, including the eight-article series on OLLI WW II veterans).

Remember that we encourage submissions from the membership. If you have an idea for an article, tell us about it. If it seems appropriate, we'll ask our staff writers for a volunteer to write the story. Or if you know of a good OLLI-related story and like to write, by all means write it up and let us have it. Published stories will include your byline and photo; you can show your children and grandkids that you are a published author!

RELATED LINKS

- > [Issue #1 of OLLI E-News](#) (Jul 31, 2005)
- > [First anniversary issue of OLLI E-News](#) (Jul 28, 2006)

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FALL REGISTRATION

Third in the series about the new registration system



By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

THE LAST TWO ARTICLES DESCRIBED the rationale for the development of an online registration system and the system's functionality. Hopefully, by now many of you have gone on line and signed up for your User Name and Password. In this article the fall registration procedures will be discussed. There will be some changes, but if you usually register by mail things will be the same. Registration will begin on August 22.

PLANNING YOUR PROGRAM FOR THE FALL. The Fall Catalog will go to the printer by Fri, Jul 27. Shortly thereafter, it will be on the OLLI Website, as

usual, as a pdf document. A registration form that can be filled out on line also will be provided. The print catalog also will be bulk mailed as usual. A word here ... the catalog arrives at your homes at different times. This is totally a function of how each individual post office handles its bulk mail. The OLLI office has no control over when exactly you receive your catalog. The only way this could be controlled would be to mail the catalog first class, a prohibitively expensive option.

But there is good news. You now have another tool for selecting your courses. The online system allows you to "View the latest course information." Course information for the fall will be placed on the site at the same time the catalog is mailed. You can sign on and use the online schedule to plan for the fall term. Remember, you can click on each column heading to sort the column. A User Account is not needed to view this feature.

REGISTERING: You can now register three ways--

1. Mail: Complete your application and mail it to OLLI with necessary checks (membership if due) for course materials and special events. Remember, you will need one check for each special event so that it can be returned if you are wait-listed. Registrations received by mail will be held until the start of registration. They will be entered into the system in the order received beginning on Thu, Aug 23.

2. Walk-In: Walk-in registration will begin on Wed, Aug 22, at 10:00 am. Why 10:00? Since this is the first use of the online registration system, we want to allow two hours on the first day of registration to deal with any problems that might arise. In subsequent terms, walk-in registration and online registration will open at the same time. On day one of registration, staff will have computer terminals set up at Tallwood. Individual registrations will be entered by staff or volunteers as they are received. Payment can be by check or credit card.

3. Online Registration: Online registration will open at 8:00 am on Wed, Aug 22. Last week we explained the functionality of the system. A week before registration begins we will send a blast email with a step-by-step guide to registering on line. Remember, only credit cards can be used for the payment of membership and course/special event fees if you register on line. It is very important that you enter your course selections in priority order. You will be able to check and change your selections and priorities before submitting your registration.

CONFIRMATION: After you register – or your registration form is entered – you will receive an email listing the courses for which you registered. Each course or event will have a "P" next to it. This means the registration is pending. Use this list to check and see that all information is correct. You can use the online drop/add function to change course selections or priorities.

Following the close of registration on Fri, Aug 31, the system software will

sort by priorities and prepare class lists. Confirmation letters will be sent to each registrant as usual. After you have received your confirmation, you can use the online system to drop or add a course in the event you have been wait-listed or have had a change in your personal schedule.

Once the class lists have been created, we will publish the Closed Class list. Late registration will be opened for courses that have not been filled.

A NOTE ON RESTON: I have been giving a great deal of thought as to how a walk-in registration can be offered at Reston/Lake Anne. As you know, we have no wireless connection at the church. I plan to speak with the Community Center and the Library to see if a station can be set up there on the first day of registration. If this is possible, a notice will be sent to all individuals with email who reside in Zip codes immediately contiguous to Reston. If such an email is not received in the week prior to registration, it should be assumed that it was not possible to establish such a site.

Starting up a new system can result in surprises. We ask your patience as we implement this new system and service for members.

The final registration-system article, which will appear when *OLLI E-News* resumes publication on Fri, Aug 17, will address the issue of credit-card payment. I know that this concerns many of you.

RELATED LINKS

- > [Overview of new registration system](#) (Jul 13, 2007)
- > [New registration system: what can I do?](#) (Jul 20, 2007)

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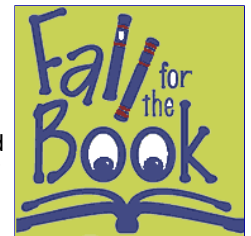
FALL FOR THE BOOK

What is Fall for the Book and why should you help out?



By Paulette Lichtman-Panzer, OLLI member

LAST YEAR I VOLUNTEERED TO HELP OUT with the Fall for the Book program that was described in an article in *OLLI E-News*. I had a ball! I met Kim Edwards (author of *Memory Keeper's Daughter*) at the airport and had the most delightful conversation with her all the way to George Mason. Then I picked up Francine Prose (*Reading Like a Writer* and eight other books) and



learned all about the writing industry. After that, I introduced Jeannette Walls (*Glass Castle*) to her audience at Harris Theater.

The six-day Fall for the Book Festival runs this year from September 23–28. It celebrates literature, learning, and all types of books (both fiction and nonfiction), poetry, and plays. All events are free and open to the public.

Fall for the Book needs volunteers in all categories – to pass out brochures at the door, to greet the authors when they arrive at their venue at George Mason, or to pick them up at the airport and drop them off at the University. So far, one OLLI member has volunteered to help me (thank you, Mona Smith). But I'm hoping others from OLLI will let me know they can assist in some small way. I should be able to tailor the time slot to your availability as I am now on the Fall for the Book Board at George Mason that organizes and publicizes this event.

So all you OLLI literature lovers, please let me hear from you by [email](#) or phone (703-569-4983)!

RELATED INFORMATION

- > [Fall for the Book Website](#)
- > OLLI events
 - >> Bus transportation from Tallwood to Mason with block of seats reserved for OLLI members: [Walter Isaacson](#), Sun, Sep 23, 4:45 bus; [Mitch Albom](#), Tue, Sep 25, bus 7:15; [Rick Atkinson](#), Wed, Sep 26, 2:15 bus; [Nikki Giovanni](#), Fri, Sep 28, bus 11:15.
 - >> At Tallwood: [Meryle Secrest](#), Mon, Sep 24, 4:00.
 - >> At Lake Anne: Author to be announced, Thu, Sep 27, 2:00.

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COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OLLI?

HERE'S HOW to express your views--

> **Publicly** (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](#). 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.

> **Privately--**

- > Contact any [Board member](#) 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 on one of the "parking lots for ideas" in classrooms; or

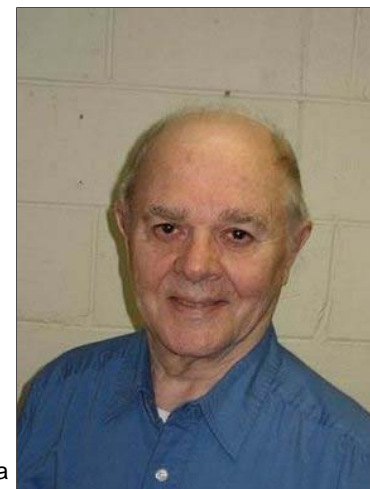
> Contact the office by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384).

PROFILE

Happy Board Member: Ed Mentz



By Carolyn Sanders, OLLI E-News staff writer



HAPPY BOARD MEMBER: That's

what he calls himself, and we're happy to have him on our OLLI Board of Directors.

Ed is a busy man, so I was pleased to catch him at home to chat about his OLLI experiences. He takes most of his classes at Lake Anne and loves the location being so convenient to his home. Actually, Ed is a former two-term president of our organization (2000-2002) so he knew what he was in for when he ran for election to the board. That's a very brave man.

In addition to his OLLI activities, Ed serves as chairman of the Dulles Area AARP Chapter; attends a Bible study; takes part in current event discussions; has breakfast and lunch meetings with friends; plays piano/keyboard; and, when time permits, indulges in playing Bridge. He's also interested in securities analysis. Wow!

Lil, Ed's wife of 43-going-on-44 years, and he have three children and two grandchildren, all of whom live in the area, and are—surprise, surprise—major interests in their lives.

We thank this human dynamo for serving OLLI.

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COMING EVENTS AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Upcoming arts and music events at Mason



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News staff writer



> **Potomac Woodwind Camp Concert:** Fri, Aug 3, at 7:00. Admission, free. Harris Theater.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Non-class events at OLLI for the next three weeks

The following list covering the next three weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master calendar maintained by the office (see the [OLLI Staff Forecast of Non-Class Events](#) for more details and to view the actual OLLI online calendar used by the office). *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 executive sessions).*

Friday	Jul 27	Summer Semester Ends
10am		Classic Fiction Book Club - Reston Regional Library
10am		Recorder Group - TA-2
10am		Finance Comm Meeting - TA-1
10:30am		Homer Book Club - Annex
Monday	Jul 30	OLLI Closed through Friday, Aug 10
Tuesday	Jul 31	8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
Tuesday	Aug 7	8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
Monday	Aug 13	OLLI re-opens
Tuesday	Aug 14	8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
Wednesday	Aug 15	10am Bridge Club - TA-1

Friday Aug 17 10am	Board of Directors Meeting - TA-1
10am	Recorder Group - TA-2
10:30am	Homer Book Club - 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. We encourage OLLI members and staff employees to submit news items and write articles; 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. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact the [OLLI E-News editor](#) or the Publications Committee chair, [Gordon Canyock](#).

Submissions. We encourage members to submit articles and photos for this newsletter. Please limit articles to about 250 words. Submit material to editor Rod Zumbro (email rzumbro@gmu.edu, phone 703-569-2750); email strongly preferred.

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