



OLLI E-News

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



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ALERTS

- > **MUSIC PROGRAMS.** Mason's Potomac Academy offers two new fee-based music programs for retirees--the Encore Band and the Encore Chorale (pdf flyers: [Band](#); [Chorale](#)).
- > **MIKE MCNAMARA'S ARTICLE PUBLISHED:** *The Washington Times*, Aug 21 ([pdf article](#)).
- > **THE EDITOR THANKS** Backup Editor John West for his super editing of the Aug 1 issue ... and all the writers who submit their articles well before the Wed deadline (it really helps!).

REMINDERS

- > **FALL REGISTRATION** continues through Fri, Aug 29, for Tallwood and Lake Anne courses. Loudoun registration starts Wed, Aug 27, and continues through Wed, Sep 3, with walk-in registration 10:00 to noon Aug 27 and Aug 28 at Loudoun. [How to get the courses you want.](#)
- > **NORTHERN VIRGINIA SENIOR OLYMPICS:** Sat, Sep 20, through Thu, Oct 2. Registration must be postmarked by Fri, Sep 5. See [this article](#) for info, including past OLLI participants.

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HELP THE STORY CONTINUE

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

"ONCE UPON A TIME..."

... There was a wonderful little club consisting of well-educated retirees who desired to continue their journey of learning with like-minded people. They put together a program of stimulating courses for each other during several terms each year. Lo and behold, a wonderful thing happened – these people liked the program so much that they told their friends and neighbors about their club. Before you knew it, the club grew and so did the need for courses and activities to maintain and improve the quality of the program. Although a small staff was hired to help in running operations, the program was still developed by and for the members. Resource groups were invented for six different curricular areas, and these groups took charge of developing the program for each term. And you know what? The quality of the program continued to get better, with a wide array of stimulating courses and special events offered at three different venues."

If you like this story and want it to continue, then please consider attending one or more of the meetings of resource groups scheduled at Tallwood in upcoming weeks:

- Wed, Aug 27, 11:00 – Science, Technology & Health
- Wed, Aug 27, 11:45 – Economics & Finance
- Wed, Sep 3, 10:00 – Special Events
- Thur, Sep 4, 10:00 – History & Current Events

The Religion/Philosophy/Ethics and Language/Literature/Theater groups met this week but welcome the input of OLLI members interested in these subject areas at any time.

Names of the resource group chairpersons are listed in the OLLI catalog on page iv and on the Web site's [Organization page](#). Please contact them if you want further information or if you have ideas for the program.

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FALL CATALOG

The catalog's new look



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

FOR ONLY \$4,100 (MUCH LESS THAN WE USED TO PAY OUR PREVIOUS PRINTER), a record 3,400 copies of the fall catalog were printed to provide extra copies for use during the fall membership drive. Last week members began receiving their catalogs, featuring a new colorful cover designed by Speedy Printers with a photograph by Stan Schretter. Loudoun courses and the Loudoun registration form have been incorporated for the first time as has a list of contributors to Friends of OLLI.



Stan Schretter



Beth Davis



Mary Jane Steele

Kudos to Stan for the superb photo of the George Mason statue at Mason's Fairfax campus, to new Program Associate Beth Davis for learning her job so quickly, and to Mary Jane Steele for taking on the demanding editing job from Jan Bohall for this issue.

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FALL PROGRAM PREVIEW

Highlighting a few of the wonderful courses



By Kathryn Russell, Program Committee Chair

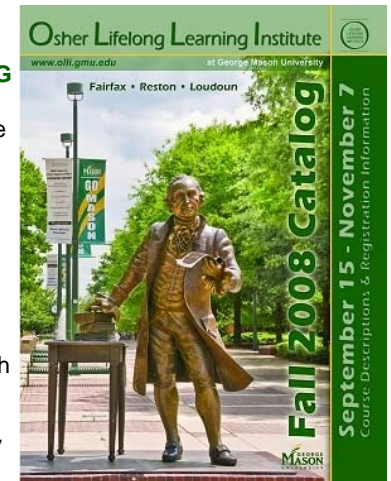
NO DOUBT, YOU'VE ENJOYED PORING OVER THE FALL CATALOG that arrived in your mailbox recently. From its attractive cover photo—highlighting OLLI's connection to Mason—to its impressive course descriptions, this sleek and chic new document is one we'll be proud to share with friends as we spread the word about OLLI.

You'll appreciate, as I do, the fruits of labor by OLLI program planners. Inside you'll find a dazzling line-up of courses with more choices than ever before. We're delighted that many of our dedicated OLLI teachers are returning to share generously of their time and expertise. In addition, we have several new courses from which to choose. For example, notice a new Art course, "101/Impressionism, Post Impressionism and 20th Century Art," which includes a trip to the National Gallery of Art, and a new Finance course, "204/How to Help Your Money Outlive You" at Lake Anne, where you can sharpen your personal finance skills.

Courses in the ever-popular 300/History and International Studies and 700/Current Events sections will explore the past as well as the present. Examples are "301/History of Globalization" (taught by Mason Provost Dr. Peter Stearns), "302/China: History and Culture," and "307/Russia Study Group."

Also look for multi-instructor courses to be very informative, such as:

- "701/American Perspectives: Multinational Issues and the Art of Diplomacy"
- "702/America and the World"
- "703/Public Policy Roundtable"
- "801/Science and Technology Today"
- "802/Global Warming"
- "891/Our Changing Climate" (Loudoun)



If reading, theater, and film are among your favorite activities, you'll want to consider "403/A Close Reading of *The Odyssey*" as well as "404/Willa Cather's Window into the Heartland" and "408/Classic Film Festival." Or trace the development of American theater and culture in "401/The Federal Theater Project." Want to learn a "new" language? "502/Reading Latin" may be one of your choices. And the 600/Religion, Philosophy and Ethics section offers a wide range of topics, including "601/Kings and Prophets" and "603/Plato's *Republic*: Part 1."

Next don't forget to explore the fascinating Special Events. There's the overnight bus trip to visit two of Frank Lloyd Wright's houses as well as other trips closer to home. Mason's annual "Fall for the Book" offers opportunities to become acquainted with writers and their works, including one session at Tallwood.

Now comes the most challenging part—choosing among 78 courses, 21 special events, and 11 ongoing activities at all three sites. But once you've prioritized your choices and filled out the registration form, you can sit back and anticipate an exciting fall term at OLLI.

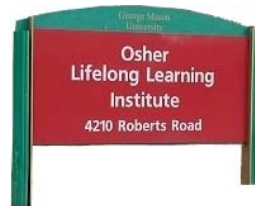
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OLLI OPEN HOUSE

Tue, Sep 9, at Tallwood



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



MEMBERSHIP IS ACTIVELY GEARING UP for the OLLI Open House at Tallwood on Tue, Sep 9, from 10:00 to 12 noon. All the resource groups will be holding court in the three classrooms and the annex with presentation boards around the tables and member/volunteers nearby extolling the virtues of OLLI and its classes and providing all the information that you could think of.

The exterior walls of the breezeway will have posters with pictures showing OLLI life inside and outside of the classroom. Greeters with hand-designed name tags will be on hand to make life and navigation easier for the multitudes of potential new members who show up. Food will abound in TA-1 as attendees wander the many tables hosted by our teachers and resource groups. Large A-frames made by Jack Underhill will grace the front of Tallwood and the intersection of Braddock Road and Roberts Road, touting the Open House. You see, we *have* been busy!

Come one and all and experience the joy of being an OLLI member, but

do not forget to bring a friend who might be interested in OLLI. Attendees will receive a catalog and a wonderful tour and lots to eat.

Also don't forget the Loudoun Open House on Wed, Sep 10, and the Reston Open House on Thu, Sep 11, both at the same 10-to-noon time period.

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EXHIBITS COORDINATOR

MARVINA MUNCH, AFTER MANY YEARS OF SUPERIOR SERVICE to OLLI as the Coordinator of Exhibits at Tallwood, will no longer be able to perform that role. On behalf of the Board and the membership, I want to express our sincere appreciation to her for all the great effort she has put forth in arranging and managing the Tallwood exhibits and helping maintain the exhibit area so members could show their work in the annex. Thank you, Marvina!



Marvina Munch

As a result of Marvina's stepping down, we are asking for a volunteer to assume the role of Coordinator of Exhibits for Tallwood. Anyone interested please contact me.

-- Pat Carroll, President

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MORE ON HELPING OLLI

Estate planning options to consider



By John Woods, Development Committee Chair



FOR MEMBERS LOOKING TO SUPPORT OLLI philanthropically, there are several ways—other than contributing at registration time—that may also help reduce your taxes. Here are some ways, and others are listed in materials being sent to you this week.

- Giving appreciated securities (stocks and mutual funds)
- Contributing through a brokerage charitable trust account
- Having your current or former employer match your gift
- Making a gift to OLLI in your will
- Establishing a charitable gift annuity which can provide income to you for life

Because of the tax implications of these forms of giving to OLLI, you should consult with your tax adviser to make sure that any planned action would be appropriate for your circumstances. For help with these ways of contributing, please contact me or Ms. Una Murphy of the George Mason University Development Office (703-993-8621).

This year we are adding a new level to the donor categories (of course, donors may choose to remain anonymous). The categories, based upon cumulative contributions during calendar-year 2008, are:

- Benefactors (\$500 and above);
- Patrons (\$250—\$499);
- Supporters (\$100—\$249); and
- Donors (\$25—\$99).

Your contributions will make a difference to the quality of the OLLI experience. Contributions are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

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ONLY 15 MINUTES FROM HERE TO THERE ... OR BACK

Reston and Loudoun



By Debbie Halverson, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

A GROUP OF ABOUT 25 PLEASANT PEOPLE

sat under the canopy of the Café Montmartre Restaurant at Lake Anne Plaza last month getting to know one another and enjoying lunch beside the lake and fountain (*photo above right by Stan Schretter*). The Loudoun folk had made the 15-minute drive as part of their regular "lunch bunch" activity, and those of us from Reston wanted to show off our site in an attempt to encourage them to join us in classes in the fall.

Following the meal, we walked over to the church and shared dessert along with greetings and a presentation of what the fall program will be at Reston.

For those of us from Reston, it was a reminder that while the road is short from Loudoun, it is the same length for Restonites going to the Loudoun site and we can take advantage of that fact ourselves.



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WANTED: KOREAN WAR VETERANS



WE CAN USE ADDITIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS—Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force—to share their experiences and observations for our Korean War course on Tuesdays, Sep 23 and Sep 30, 11:30-1:00.

If you would like to participate, please contact Phil True.

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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

PROFILE

*New Board member, new Secretary
Kathleen Meyer*



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

"BEING SECRETARY FOR OLLI'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS," chuckles Kathleen Meyer, when asked what life's biggest challenge has been to date. "I used to have hobbies, like playing bridge and reading, before I took on the OLLI job," she laments. "It certainly keeps me busy." But enthusiasm for OLLI exudes as the new secretary talks about the Music Sampler class she coordinates and the other classes she attends.



Born and raised in Philadelphia, Kathleen arrived in Fairfax in 1977 via Cinnaminson, New Jersey. A Rutgers graduate with a B.A. in English, Kathleen augmented her education with courses at Penn State, University of Pennsylvania, Virginia Tech, University of Virginia, and George Mason University. She worked as a substitute teacher at Woodson and Robinson High Schools before settling into full-time teaching at various Fairfax County public schools. After a 24-year career educating mostly seventh graders at Luther Jackson and Hayfield, she retired.

Kathleen joined OLLI in the winter of 2003. She and her husband live in Country Club View in Fairfax. They have three children and six grandchildren. One son and his family live in Vienna.

Asked what her goals are at this time in her life, Kathleen didn't hesitate. "I want to keep my good health and my wits, and all of the good things that make life worth living," she said. She would also like to relearn the violin, an instrument she hasn't played in 50 years. She recently had her old violin repaired and now 'squeaks' through a piece now and then. "I only play for myself," she says, "at least until I get better at it."

What makes Kathleen special? "Being married to the same man for fifty years, having my children staying married ... AND, not having any of my kids come back home," she laughed.

Photo of Kathleen by Abbie Edwards

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EYE ON RESTON

Open House help needed



By Sharon Gilman, OLLI E-News Staff Writer



THE RESTON OPEN HOUSE IS SCHEDULED FOR THU, SEP 11, from 10:00 to noon, and we are working very hard to make it a success. In order to do so we need lots of help and volunteers.

- We'd like as many members as possible present to meet and greet the newcomers. We want to make them feel special and answer any questions they may have.
- In addition we need volunteers willing to provide finger food and others willing to help set up the room and clean up. Paper goods will be provided.

Our goal is to make this Open House the most successful Reston event of the year! This is a wonderful opportunity to lend a hand to OLLI at the Reston campus and to meet new folks. If you are available and willing to help us, please call Amy George at 703-481-3347 or email her at amyg25@comcast.net.

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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](#) 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	Aug 22	9:30am	Photography Club - TA-1
		10am	Board of Directors Meeting - TA-3
		10:30am	Classic Fiction Book Club - Cascades Library/21030 Whitfield

Place/Potomac Falls
 10:30am Homer, etc - Tallwood Annex
 Monday Aug 25 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
 Wednesday Aug 27 Loudoun Registration Begins
 10am Loudoun Walk-in Registration - Loudoun Campus
11am Science, Technology, Health Resource Group Meeting - TA-Annex
11:45am Economics and Finance Resource Group Meeting - TA-3
 Thursday Aug 28 10am Loudoun Walk-in Registration - Loudoun Campus
 Friday Aug 29 Fall 08 Registration Ends (except Loudoun)
 10:30am Homer, etc - Tallwood Annex
 Monday Sep 1 Office Closed (Labor Day)
 Wednesday Sep 3 Loudoun Registration Ends
10am Special Events Resource Group Meeting - TA-2
 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
Thursday Sep 4 10am History and Current Events Resource Group - Tallwood
 Friday Sep 5 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 10:30am Homer, etc - Tallwood 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.

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Reviewer and Backup Editor
 John West

Database Manager
 Barbara Kyriakakis

Reviewer and Photo Editor
 Michael

Coyne

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.

GMU Webmail. If *OLLI E-News* is being sent to your gmU.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 gmU.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 gmU.edu address. To do this, see [these instructions](#).

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