



# OLLI E-News

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



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## ALERTS

> **VISION SERIES.** This popular [Mason lecture series](#) continues for 2008-2009. First lecture is "The Young and the Restless: How Generation Y is Changing Our Workforce" on Mon, Sep 15, 7 pm, by Michelle Marks, Assoc. Prof. of Management. Free. Center for the Arts.

> **PLEASE NOTE THIS LOCATION.** "Supreme Court: Current Cases" will be at Woodlands Retirement Community ([map](#)), just a 10-min. drive to Tallwood or a 12-min. drive to Church of the Good Shepherd for 11:30 classes. It's not too late to add #709 if you're interested.

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## OBITUARY

[JOHN LUDDEN](#), OLLI member since 1998.

## THANK YOU, MR. OSHER!

*From the executive director*

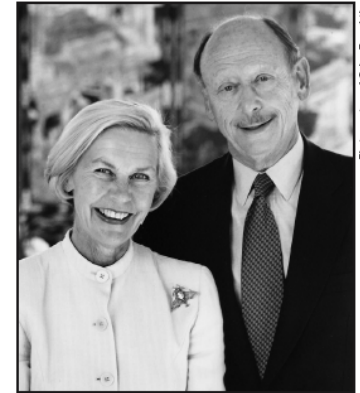


By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

### NUMEROUS ARTICLES HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT BERNARD OSHER,

the philanthropist who established a foundation to provide funding for lifelong learning institutes across the country. His generosity also supports college scholarships for students of nontraditional age and for local community arts programs. At the national Osher Foundation conference in Phoenix this past April, Mr. Osher spoke briefly about how much it means to him to read letters of testimonial from individuals who have benefited from grants and endowments from the Osher Foundation.

In the months since I became your Executive Director, I have heard numerous anecdotes about how OLLI has given meaning and purpose to your retirement years. I would like to encourage you to take a few moments this week to jot down thoughts about what OLLI means to you and email them [to me](#). If you prefer paper and pen, just put your written thoughts in an envelope and send them to me via the OLLI office (4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032). I promise to pass them on to Mr. Osher and share them as appropriate. I know that he will appreciate hearing from you!



*Barbro & Bernard Osher*

Photo courtesy of Osher Foundation

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

*Report on last week's Board meeting*



By [Rod Zumbro](#), Board member

**THE BOARD MET ON FRI, AUG 22, FOR ITS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.** President Pat Carroll announced that Tallwood Site Administrator Ann Hartmann has accepted a full-time position elsewhere but has agreed to

stay at OLLI until Fri, Sep 19.

OLLI leadership met earlier on Aug 22 with the Mason Provost and the Chief of Staff for a semi-annual discussion about our institute. Mason now projects that Mason's University Based Retirement Center (where OLLI will then be located) will be in operation by 2012.

Executive Director Thom Clement reported that we have 768 members. With open houses scheduled for Tue, Sep 9 (Tallwood), Wed, Sep 10 (Loudoun), and Thu, Sep 11 (Reston), OLLI members are encouraged to hand out catalogs and business cards to potential members and to post notices about the open houses (see the office for catalogs, cards and notices).

Treasurer Gordon Canyock discussed the 2009 budget assumptions and the guidance recommended by the Finance Committee for use in developing the 2009 budget. The Board approved the guidance, including that: (1) the baseline budget will have no increase in dues; and (2) dues increases in any optional budget scenarios must not significantly exceed the inflation factor. The Finance Committee was tasked with researching, assessing, and proposing any changes to our existing dues structure prior to the October Board meeting.

The Board accepted the ad hoc committee's recommendations concerning the naming of OLLI facilities that: (1) it is not appropriate to name facilities; and (2) Founder Kathryn Brooks' unique contributions should be honored by the creation of "The Kathryn Brooks Educational Center at Tallwood" and that a sign to this effect should be placed in the vicinity of the breezeway.

The Board discussed proposed enhancements to the social room annex. The \$6,600 proposal was not approved by the Board but the Board did ask the executive director to work on "sprucing up" the annex.

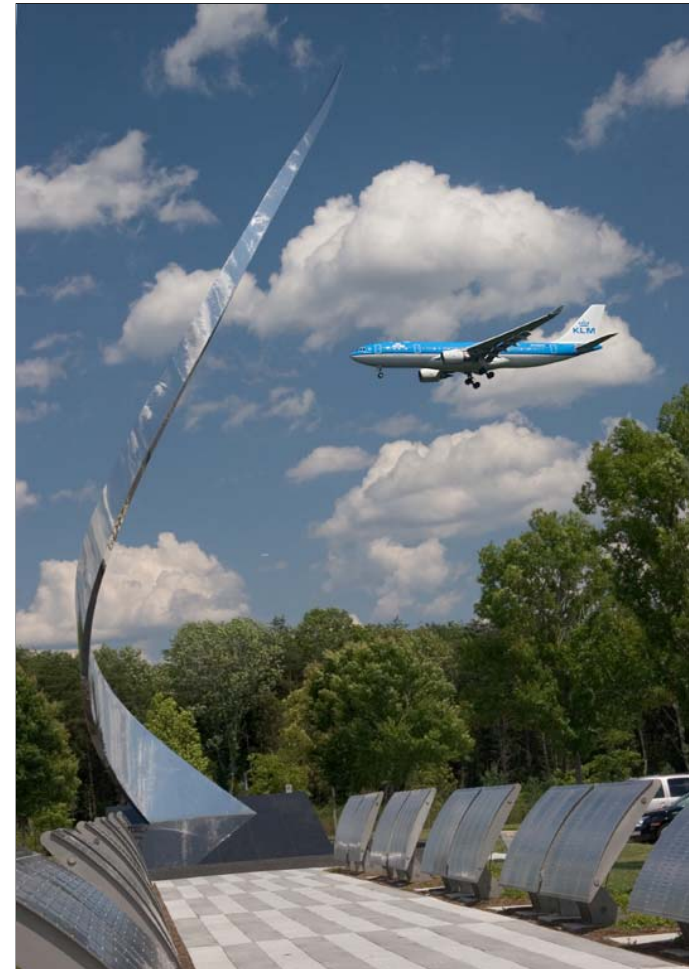
**Loudoun.** After considerable discussion, the Board voted to continue the Loudoun pilot program on a revenue-neutral basis for another four terms (through summer 2009), and the Board authorized an ad hoc committee to develop measurable criteria that will be used to support future decisions regarding the Loudoun pilot program. This effectively endorsed the executive director's plan for Loudoun participants to become OLLI members starting in fall 2008 at a separate dues structure of \$125 per year for Loudoun courses only. The option to take Loudoun and Reston courses for \$200 per year membership was not approved by the Board.

The next meeting of the Board will be held at Tallwood on Fri, Sep 19, at 11:00 (delayed from the normal time because of the New Members' Coffee at 10:00 that day). All OLLI members are welcome to attend.

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## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

*Selected by the OLLI Photography Club*



"KLM," by Ed Parker

**THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN** on one of the field trips during Stan Schretter's photo course this summer. You can view many other photos taken by OLLI Photography Club members on the club's [Web site](#).

**Fall Exhibit in the Social Room Annex.** An exhibit of OLLI Photography Club work will be on display in the annex during the fall term.

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**HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS: HELP NEEDED**

**THE HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS RESOURCE GROUP** will meet 10:00, Thu, Sep 4, at Tallwood. **All OLLI members are welcome, and their suggestions are needed.**

These meetings are held twice a year to brainstorm ideas and suggestions on future courses, lectures, and potential instructors and coordinators for the 300 and 700 series offerings. Thursday's meeting is an opportunity for you to take a direct part in planning interesting and useful courses in these subject areas for the winter and spring 2009 terms and beyond.

If you cannot attend or would like to send in ideas in advance, please provide your thoughts on priorities, topics and potential speakers/instructors. You can provide your input to any one of the four co-chairs: Bob Bohall, Emmett Fenlon, Bob Persell, or Phil True, or if you prefer, you can provide your input to Al Roe or Marilyn Hedtke of the Reston Resource Group ... or to Executive Director [Thom Clement](#) or Program Associate [Beth Davis](#).

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**THE CONVERSATION PROGRAM**

*Help Mason international students*



By [Joan Crawford](#), George Mason University



**THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE AT MASON** will again sponsor "The Conversation Program," an activity for international students who would like to practice their oral English skills by participating in small-group discussions led by a volunteer native speaker of English. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for retired teachers and others who enjoy meeting internationals.

There will be an orientation/informational meeting on the Mason campus Tue, Sep 9, at noon for all volunteer leaders. Leaders meet weekly with a small

group of students for one hour for eight weeks from Sep 15 through Nov 5. Volunteers must be available for the Sep 9 meeting but may arrange substitutions later in the semester. The meetings are scheduled in the middle of the day: Mon and Wed, 12 noon to 1:00, and Tue, 1:00 to 2:00.

If you are interested in volunteering or in learning more about this program, you may contact the following former or current OLLI members who have participated and are available to answer your questions: Vinnie Zagurski, Ann Wagner, Anne Lamar, Bob Ward, and Margaret Breen.

Please contact me via email ([jcrawfo5@gmu.edu](mailto:jcrawfo5@gmu.edu)) or phone (703-993-3660) for further information or to sign up for a specific time slot.

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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 Bob Persell*



By Barbara Kyriakakis, *OLLI E-News* Staff Writer

**"I KNEW WHAT I WANTED TO BE,"** Bob Persell declared, "in high school."

"And what was that?" I asked.

"A professional military officer," he replied.

As I interviewed Bob, I sensed an ambitious man who sets high goals for himself ... then achieves them. In pursuit of his career objective, he entered the University of Virginia on a full Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship and was commissioned as a Navy ensign upon graduation. He subsequently earned master's degrees from George Washington University and the Naval Postgraduate School and graduated from the Naval Destroyer School, the Naval War College and the Navy Nuclear Power Program. After retiring from active duty as a commander in 1985, Bob joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Training and Development Office where he taught courses, served as Deputy and then Director of Training before retiring in 1997.

Bob, as a member of the Board of Directors since June 2008, aims to help make the OLLI program the best it can be. He is a co-chair of the History and Current Events Resource Group and coordinates the History Club. "I enjoy the OLLI experience and would like to teach more courses," Bob says. "I have taken classes as well as taught a Civil War class and a Trip Tale about Mt. Rushmore. I will be teaching a segment of the California History course this fall."

Bob's many hobbies include walking, photography, Civil War history and reading. "One of my goals," he explains, "is to balance the number of books I have read with the number of books in my house. I try hard to give away books as fast as I buy them," he laughs.

Life's biggest challenge for Bob has been balancing his career with his family. "My major achievement in life," he states emphatically, "was selecting Beverley as my wife." Married 46 years, they have two sons and four grandchildren.

*Photo of Bob by Beverley Persell*



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## EYE ON RESTON

*Open House volunteers needed*



By Sharon Gilman, *OLLI E-News* Staff Writer

**REMINDER: THE RESTON OPEN HOUSE** is scheduled for Thu, Sep

11, from 10:00 to noon at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church in Lake Anne. We are hoping to have lots of new members there so we are still in need of volunteers. If you are available and willing to help us, please call Amy George or email her.



**KNITTING GROUP UPDATE** – the Reston OLLI Knitting Group is now open to all women (and men!) who are involved in needlework of any kind – knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, etc. Our next meeting is scheduled for Mon, Sep 22, at 1:00 at the church.

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## MASON HIGHLIGHTS

*Events at nearby Mason*



By Barbara Kyriakakis, *OLLI E-News* Staff Writer

- **Fall for the Book Exhibit** - Photographs by Nancy Crampton, Mon, Sep 1, through Fri, Sep 26, Concert Hall Lobby. Free.
- **"Taste of Fitness"** – Aquatic and Fitness Center, Fairfax campus, Tue, Sep 2, noon to 2:00 and 5:00 to 8:00. This event will showcase the Center's group exercise programs and other services offered. Highlights will include free 15-minute sample classes, raffle prizes and informational booths, discounts for memberships, day passes and service packages. For more info see [this Mason Gazette article](#) or call 703-993-3935.

• **Public Choice Center Seminar** – "Political Institutions and Greenhouse Gas Controls" presented by Lee Lane, American Enterprise Institute, Wed, Sep 3, 4:00 to 5:00, Carow Hall.

• **Cinema Series** – *Son of Rambow*, Thu, Sep 4, 6:00 and 9:00; *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, Fri, Sep 5, and Sat, Sep 6, 6:00 and 9:00, JC Cinema. Free with Mason ID.



• **School of Management Research in Science Seminar** – Professor David Reeb, Temple University, presenter. Enterprise Hall conference room 204, Fri, Sep 5, 9:30 to noon. Title of presentation not available. For more info call 703-993- 3725.

• **33rd Annual Patriot Club Fall Golf Outing** - Mon, Sep 8, Westfields Golf Club, Clifton. Registration at noon with shotgun start at 1:30. All are welcome. The event will feature lunch, silent auction, cocktail hour and buffet dinner. All proceeds go directly to the Mason Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund. Click [here](#) for registration and event information. For questions or more info contact Meg Sturges at 703-993-4147.

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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 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 Meeting - Tallwood**  
 Friday Sep 5 10am Recorder Group - TA-2  
 10:30am Homer, etc - Tallwood Annex  
 Tuesday Sep 9 10am Tallwood Open House - Tallwood  
 Wednesday Sep 10 9:30am Drama Club - TA-1

10am Loudoun Open House - Loudoun Campus  
 10am Book Club at Tallwood - TA-2  
 10am Bridge Club - TA-3  
 Thursday Sep 11 10am Reston Open House - Lake Anne  
 Friday Sep 12 10am Travel Group  
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2  
 10:30am Homer, etc - Tallwood Annex

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## OBITUARY: JOHN LUDDEN

*OLLI member since 1998*



Longtime OLLI member John Ludden, 78, died on Sun, Aug 24. His wife, Edna, said he loved his OLLI courses, especially the writing courses, and the History Club. An obituary is expected to appear in *The Washington Post* today, Aug 29. Photo at left courtesy of Barry Berkey.

OBITUARY FROM FAIRFAX MEMORIAL PARK:

**John Franklin Ludden.** Born in Indiana on May 6, 1930. Departed on Aug. 24, 2008. Resided in Springfield, Virginia.

Beloved husband of Edna; loving father of Charles, Anne Marie Haak, John, and James. John is also survived by eight grandchildren and siblings Sam P. Ludden and Jacquelyn McCormick.

A visitation will be held on Mon, Sep 1, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22032 ([map and driving directions](#)). A mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tue, Sep 2, at 11:00 am at Church of the Nativity, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, Virginia 22015 ([map and driving directions](#)). Interment to follow at Fairfax Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Operation Starfish. Please send donations to the Church of the Nativity, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015 Attn: Starfish Mission; [starfishmission.org](#).

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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. 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; 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](mailto: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; 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

**OLLI E-News Editorial Staff**

**Reviewer and Backup Editor**  
John West

**Database Manager**  
Barbara Kyriakakis

**Reviewer and Photo Editor**  
Michael Coyne

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.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.

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