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IN THIS ISSUE **Friday, September 15, 2006** **About this newsletter**

FLASH

> **FALL-TERM CLASSES START ON MONDAY!**
 > **NORTHERN VIRGINIA SENIOR OLYMPICS SEP 16-28:** Opening ceremony, track & field events Sat, Sep 16, Falls Church High School. Swimming on Fri, Sep 22. OLLI members are expected to participate in track & field and swimming. Cheer them on! Read [more](#).

ALERT

> **NEW-MEMBER COFFEE 10:30 FRI, SEP 22, TALLWOOD.** All new members AND current members are invited for coffee and conversation; see the president's [article](#) below.

REMINDERS

> **CLOSED COURSES.** Only a few fall-term courses are closed; ALL others are open, and it's [easy to register](#) now for any open course.
 > **DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR NAME TAG!** Read [this article](#) to find out why.
 > **CLASS LIAISONS.** Remember to tell attendees about the instructor's background and experience at the first class ... and please have the instructor use the microphone (some members can have difficulty hearing instructors whose voices are not amplified). Thanks!
 > **PARKING AT TALLWOOD.** If you find it necessary to park in the neighborhood near Tallwood, please observe the following courtesies to the local residents - Park no closer than 10 feet from any driveway and no closer than 15 feet from any intersections. Let's be good neighbors.

ARTICLES AND NOTICES

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- > **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.** An update. *By Dick Chobot*
- > **IN MEMORIAM: TOM SUZUKI.** *By Mary Jane Steele*
- > **RED ALERT.** List of our new members. *By Elizabeth Crawford*
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- > **DNA IN GENEALOGY.** Special speaker at next Genealogy Club Meeting. *By Nick Cirillo*
- > **THE TALLWOOD SOCIAL ROOM.** All about the Social Room. *By Elizabeth Crawford*

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- > **COMING ATTRACTIONS:** OLLI non-class events for next two weeks.

Editor's Note. OLLI member John West is serving as guest editor of *OLLI E-News* through next week's issue (Sep 22). Please send articles, notices, letters to the editor, etc. for the Sep 22 issue to him [via email](#).
 -- Rod Zumbro, *OLLI E-News* editor

WELCOME TO THE FALL TERM
Where's my Lunchbox?



By Debbie Halverson, President

Maybe it's just me, but if you are like me, Monday, the 18th, can't come too soon. September for me always means new beginnings. I put on my

new school clothes, check my schedule, and think about seeing old friends again. I also like knowing there will be new friends in my classes. They are the ones who will have red dots on their badges. I'll go to the New Member Coffee on Friday morning, the 22nd, at 10:30 at Tallwood because I want to meet them and find out what attracted them to OLLI. Everyone is welcome to this first social event of the term.

If they saw the fall catalog before they decided to join, I know that had to be instrumental in their decision-making. Have you ever seen such a dynamite listing of courses? Some of them were way oversubscribed, and even moving it to our largest available venue couldn't accommodate all who signed up for one course. No wonder our program is recognized as one of the best in the country, and it continues to get better!

Members know the names of the program chairs and resource group chairs because they are listed in the catalog. Many, however, don't know the names of the grass-roots resource people, those who gather regularly to come up with class ideas, names of presenters, and then follow up by making contacts with those people. They enjoy the brainstorming that leads to the results you see in the catalog. Of course, every member could have that experience by joining one of those resource groups.

Then when someone like me walks into class happily anticipating what's ahead of me, you'll know you had a hand in giving me and my fellow members that pleasure.

Happy fall term everyone! Let the learning begin!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome Back!!!



By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

LAST CHRISTMAS, MY WIFE gave me a small plaque that I admired. It contains a quote attributed to Michelangelo in his 87th year... "Anchora imparo... I am still learning". This phrase captures the essence of our OLLI learning community. Welcome back... to an outstanding line-up of courses, speakers and special events.

I would be remiss if I did not begin this message with heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who contribute to the planning, presentation,

governance and operation of our program. Many of these people are listed on page 2 of the Fall catalog; others are found in the ranks of instructors, coordinators, class liaisons, office volunteers and the myriad of other roles that make OLLI go.

While gratitude is being expressed, we also should find an opportunity to thank George Mason for our facility and the other benefits that come as a result of our affiliation. Checking the catalog, I note that 16 Mason faculty and administrators, including the Provost, are involved in the Fall program. A thank-you e-mail to President Merten, or Peter Stearns, the University Provost would not be out of place if you are so inclined.

Here are some additional quick takes that I would like to share with you as we begin the term:

- OLLI will be celebrating its 15th Anniversary on October 20th. Jan Dewire is planning the event, which will be held at Christ Lutheran Church. Look for a flyer with the particulars.
- A committee being led by Ray Beery, a former OLLI President, is well along with the planning for Spring 2007 offerings in Loudoun County. We are receiving support from Mason to make this program a reality. A more extensive progress report on this initiative will appear in a future edition of the E-News.
- The OLLI Special Events Committee is planning an over-night trip (November 15-16) to Williamsburg-Jamestown-Yorktown. We are working with one of OLLI's favorite National Park Service Rangers, Jennifer Epstein. The office will begin taking reservations for the trip in a few weeks when arrangements and pricing have been finalized. Look for details in a future edition of the E-News.
- The September-October schedule for Friday programs and movies will be posted in the next E-News.
- This year OLLI is a Sponsor of Fall for the Book. See pages 24 and 25 of the Fall catalog for information on three programs. A fourth program has been added of Sunday, October 1. More details will follow next week.
- If you have never been to OLLI Reston, plan a visit. Sit in on a course if space is available; take advantage of the ambience of Lake Anne Plaza. It really is a nice place to visit.
- We are evaluating two additional off-site locations in addition to Christ Lutheran Church. These sites are The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and The American Legion Hall in Fairfax City. Let me know what you think of these sites if you attend a course at either.

A hallmark of OLLI is variety. If you can't find something that interests you at Tallwood or in Reston, you may not be looking hard enough! We are still learning.

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IN MEMORIAM: TOM SUZUKI

Remembering a talented OLLI member
By Mary Jane Steele, OLLI E-News staff writer

Tom Suzuki, a member of the OLLI publications committee, died on Sep 3rd after a brief illness. Tom was art director of Time-Life Books from 1976 to 1982. He taught various aspects of book design and typography for 25 years at the Professional Publishing Course of the Stanford University Alumni Association. Tom was also art director of many magazines including *Diabetes Forecast* for the American Diabetes Association and designer and art director of books for the National Gallery, Smithsonian Books, the Sierra Club, and Abrams Publishing Co.

An avid fly fisherman and rabid lover of Porsches, Tom is also remembered as an artist, husband, father, grandfather, brother, mentor and friend.

We extend our condolences to his wife of over 50 years, Virginia Suzuki, his daughter Mariko and her family.

(See also Tom's obituary in the [New York Times](#) and the "Friends of OLLI" [Honor Roll poster](#) he produced earlier this year.)

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RED ALERT

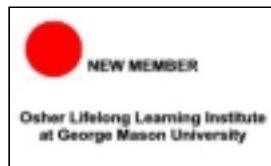
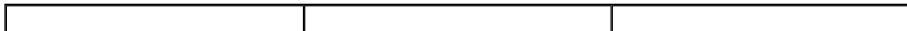
The complete list of new members for the fall term



By Elizabeth Crawford, Membership

Committee member

As you return to OLLI this semester, please look for red dots on the nametags of these 62 new members.



Linda Ahern
Don Allen
Barbara Allen
Vivian Ashner
Constantine Barpoulis
Patricia Barpoulis
Kirk Battleson
Lani Battleson
Joanne Becker
Christina Carr
Dorsey Chescavage
Nadine Christensen
Jim Coverstone
Vera DeFusco
Marian Delmore
Nancy Dungan
Rita Farris
Lisa Ferret
Peg Forrey
Shelly Gersten
Susann Hamilton

Joyce Hellems
Keith Hellems
Johnnie Hicks
Joe Hoenscheid
Judy Hudock-Clark
Carol Johnson
Aaron Klapow
Lanna Klapow
Koula Lolos
Mary Lavoie
Judy Lawson
Sandra Levy
Jerry Lipson
Marguerite Luck
Lynn Magrum
Sherry Mason
Patrick McGinty
Margaret Meath
Rita Murtaugh
Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee
Cecelia Payne

Jo-Anne Plavchan
Mona Poyta
Aristotelis Psitos
Richard Redding
Suzanne Redding
(C.) Carole Richard
Gary Robinson
Bonnie Rupp
Tom Rynne
Rita Schoka
Joanne Schubert
Carol Smith
Jim Smith
Rita Toscano
Ellen Tuyahov
Alex Tuyahov
Kathryn Ward-Johnson
Nancy Wernet
Robert Wesolowski
Sue H. Williams

Please welcome new members in your classes. Let them know right away that joining our group of bright and enthusiastic seniors was an inspired decision. At Tallwood, invite them to have coffee and cookies with you in the Social Room. In Reston, suggest that they explore the stores in Lake Anne Plaza. It is not hard for new members to catch that OLLI spirit, especially with a little help from the rest of us.

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NEW EXHIBIT IN SOCIAL ROOM ANNEX

An exhibit by OLLI Reston Artists

IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PETER BALL that the painting workshop he taught for many years continues meeting regularly in Reston. It is now coordinated by Sigrid Blalock.



Marvina Munch
Exhibits Coordinator

The workshop members' art in acrylic and watercolor is on display in the social room annex during the fall session. Part of the exhibit is devoted to Peter and to the late Linda Fisch, a workshop member.

GENEALOGY CLUB SPONSORS TALK ON DNA IN GENEALOGY

THE NEXT GENEALOGY CLUB MEETING at OLLI will be on Wednesday, Sep 20, at 2. We are fortunate to have Jim Logan, DSc, visiting who will discuss DNA as used in Genealogy. With all the various uses for DNA analysis in forensics, medicine and now ethnic analysis, Jim will put the very special use of these techniques in perspective for the genealogist. All members of OLLI are welcome to attend.

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RESTROOMS AT TALLWOOD



THERE ARE OFTEN LONG LINES AT THE TALLWOOD RESTROOMS, and sometimes people are waiting for

someone to come out of a vacant restroom!

PLEASE do NOT close the door when you leave a restroom. When you leave the door open, anyone can see that the restroom is free. But if you close the door when leaving, most people will assume that the restroom is occupied and they may wait for quite a while before someone checks the door to see if it is locked ... and meanwhile, the restroom line grows longer.

OLLI VIDEO NEWS

- Teacher Appreciation Event
- Member Testimonials
- Egypt Highlights
- Coptic Church Iconography
- The Fall of the House of Tallwood
- Ancient Ephesus
- A Day in Istanbul
- OLLI 2005 Holiday Party

[WATCH NOW](#)

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So be considerate of your fellow OLLI members: **Leave the door open** when you exit the restroom. Thank you!

THE TALLWOOD SOCIAL ROOM

Cookies and More: Taking Advantage of the Social Room



By Elizabeth Crawford, Membership Committee member

OF COURSE YOU KNOW about the coffee and cookies. But do you know that tea bags, hot chocolate packets, and hot water are also available in the Social Room? The microwave and refrigerator may be used by anyone who would like to bring food to eat between classes.

The books in the corner are donated by members for members. Take one home, bring one back. No sign out necessary.

The director, staff, board members, committee chairs, etc. always welcome your comments, but if you don't see them on a given day, please write out your comments and leave them in the Suggestion Box (on the wall near the door to the Annex). Another way to contact board members is to leave a note in their folders (on the table near the refrigerator).

On the table near the door, you will find paper copies of the OLLI E-News along with flyers and announcements of interest. Additional community information is posted on the bulletin board above the table. We even use the space under the table - for the Lost and Found Box, a box for donations of eye glasses and hearing aids, and a third box for donations of stationary and small items that might be of use to residents in a nursing home.

Finally, please check the walls to see Valerie Braybrooke's drawings and names of the plants in the Olliwood Gardens.

By the time that you have walked around to locate all of these services, you will have used up a few calories, so feel free to have another cookie.

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EMAIL PROBLEMS?

Q&A

I'm not receiving OLLI E-News via email. What should I do? *First, check with Ann Hartmann in the office to be sure that your correct email address is listed in OLLI records. Then, check to see if you are receiving other emails from the office email address, olli@gmu.edu. Finally, check your Internet Service Provider's spam/junk mail system; the newsletter may have been filtered out and put into a spam/junk-mail folder rather than sent to your inbox; you may need to "unjunk" the message or identify olli@gmu.edu as an "allowed" email address. While any such email problems are being resolved, you can always look at OLLI E-News [online](#) (on any OLLI Website page, hover your mouse over NEWS and select OLLI E-News from the drop-down menu).*

PROFILE OF ELIZABETH DE ARMENT

Meet one of OLLI's charter members



By Arleen Richman, OLLI E-News assistant editor

OLLI CHARTER MEMBER ELIZABETH DE ARMENT, now age 85, was aware of LRI in its planning stage and “when it opened, there I was,” she recalls. “After retiring from Walter Reed Hospital where I worked as a psychiatric nurse, I missed the mental stimulation and found that LRI filled that need.” Don’t think that Elizabeth was just sitting around after she retired; she continued to be involved in breeding and showing collie dogs and working as a certified poetry therapist (using poetry as therapy).

Elizabeth, who was born in Uniontown, PA, served as an army nurse/anesthetist during World War II. She married a career Army officer, had three sons (the oldest is deceased) and lived on various military bases in Europe and the U.S. When her husband received his last



military posting at the Pentagon, “our family moved to the D.C. area, not intending to stay,” she says chuckling. Many years later, and now divorced, Elizabeth lives alone in a house in Springfield.

She credits LRI with introducing her to a new love – writing poetry. When a literature class that she wanted to take was oversubscribed, “Carol Ferrara suggested I take the poetry workshop. Even though I had never written poetry, I decided to try it, and I have been writing poetry ever since. The poetry workshop is a cohesive group where we bring a piece of ourselves each week to share with others,” she notes.

Another group Elizabeth enjoys is the Investments group. She states that “Initially the LRI board was hesitant to offer any classes in investments because they were concerned about possible liability. But Garrett Ruhl made it happen.” A music lover, Elizabeth fondly recalls the pre-opera classes Helene Layman conducted so those attending various operas would know what to expect.

How does she feel about OLLI today? She is still enthusiastic about the classes but complains that “OLLI is not handicap friendly and the parking at Tallwood is impossible.” However, she continues to drive, either alone or with a friend, once or twice a week to the OLLI she knows and loves.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A forum for members to voice their views on OLLI matters

THE EDITORIAL STAFF WILL PUBLISH your brief letters commenting on OLLI activities and, if applicable, will try to include follow-up information from the relevant committee or staff member, in the same or a subsequent issue. Submit your letters via email to me or submit them (please indicate that it is a 'letter to the editor') via the [online suggestion box](#) or the suggestion box in the Tallwood Social Room.

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

A reminder for new and current members

QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT OLLI?

- **Contact any Board member or the responsible OLLI person** (executive director, committee chair, staff member) personally or via phone or email. Look at our [Organization page](#) for job responsibilities

and in the Membership Directory for phone number or email address, if needed.

- **Use the suggestion box** [online](#) or in the Tallwood Social Room.
- **Contact the office** by [email](#), telephone or in person.
- **Get published in OLLI E-News.** Submit any suggestion, complaint or compliment as a "letter to the editor" (you can use a suggestion box or email the editor; if you include your name and email address or telephone number, we can honor requests to publish your letter anonymously). Submit manners/etiquette questions or comments as a "letter to Ms. Ollie Ettakit" in the same manner.

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COMING EVENTS AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Something for everyone at nearby Mason



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News staff writer



For tickets, visit [tickets.com](#), call 888-945-2468, or go by the Center for the Arts Ticket Office, open Tues–Sat, 10:00–6:00.

<p>Fairfax Symphony Orchestra <i>William Hudson conducting Santiago Rodriguez at the piano</i></p>	<p>Jean Carrington Cook Piano Recital <i>featuring Mason faculty and students</i></p>
<p>Saturday, Sep 16, at 8:00 Admission \$45, \$35, \$25 Concert Hall</p> <p><i>This first concert of the Symphony's 50th Anniversary season brings Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B Minor, op. 74, his 'Pathetique' Symphony; and Rachmaninoff's difficult Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, op. 30.</i></p>	<p>Sunday, Sep 24, at 3:00 Admission \$10 adults, students free Concert Hall</p>

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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

A brief listing of other events at nearby Mason



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News assistant editor

Mark your calendars for Sat. Sep. 30 and come walk with your friends in the [Alzheimer's 2006 Memory Walk](#) that starts at 10 am on Patriot Circle at the Finley Bldg. Register [here](#). Also, best-selling novelist Kim Edwards will be speaking as part of Mason's [Fall for the Book](#) at 7 pm in the Harris Theater followed by a book signing.

- **Constitution Day Event** - History buffs come find out *Why George Mason Refused to Sign the Constitution?* with Professor Robert Dudley, Chair, Public and International Affairs, and University Counsel Thomas Moncure. Free. 12 noon on Sep. 18 outside the Johnson Center at the George Mason statue. (703) 993-8722.
- A new professional lecture series has begun at Mason. Entitled the [Visual Voices Series](#), it gives community members an opportunity to meet leading professionals from the worlds of studio art, art criticism and art history. *Institutional Critique and After: Some Issues in the Art of 21st-Century China* will be presented by Kuiyi Shen on Sep. 21 in the Harris Theater at 7:30 pm. Free. (703) 993-8898.
- Another series entitled [Research in Finance Seminar Series](#) is in full swing with Robert Perrino, University of Texas at Austin, speaking on [Capital Market Conditions and the Volume and Pricing Equity Sales](#). Sponsored by the School of Management, this lecture will be held in Rm 204, Enterprise Hall, on Sep. 22 at 10:30 am. (703) 993-3725.
- And finally, the much touted [Vision Series](#) sponsored by United Bank will present its first lecture entitled *The Flight of the Creative Class: The New Global Competition for Talent*. Speaker: Richard Florida, Hirst Professor of Public Policy. Sep. 25, 8 pm, Concert Hall.

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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 more complete [OLLI Staff Forecast of Non-Class Events](#). Board, committee and resource-group meetings are **highlighted in bold**. OLLI members are welcome at all Board, committee and resource-group meetings (except executive sessions).

- Sept
- 15 Friday 9:30 AM Drama Club **Cancelled**
 10:00 AM Recorder Group TA-2
 10:00 AM **Board of Directors Mtg** Lake Anne Church
 1:30 PM Homer Book Club TA Annex
 - 18 Monday 9:30 AM Fall 06 Term Begins
 - 20 Wednesday 1:30 PM Fiction Writers' Club TA-2
 1:30 PM Bridge TA-3
 2:00 PM Genealogy TA-1
 - 22 Friday 9:30 AM Drama Club TA-1
 9:30 AM Recorder Class TA-2
 10:00 AM Fiction Book Club Reston Library
 10:30 AM Newcomer Coffee TA Annex
 11:30 AM Recorder Group TA-2
 1:30 PM Homer Book Club TA Annex
 - 27 Wednesday 1:30 PM Bridge TA-3
 2:00 PM Special Event B: Cezanne in Provence TA-1
 7:30 PM Spec Event C: Fall for the Book: Deborah Tannen
 GMU - Meet Bus at Tallwood 6:45 pm
 - 29 Friday 9:30 AM Drama Club TA-1
 9:30 AM Recorder Class TA-2
 1:30 PM Homer Book Club TA Annex
 3:00 AM Spec Event D: Fall for the Book: Doris Goodwin
 GMU - Meet Bus at Tallwood 2:15

For the benefit of members without email who did not receive the President's Message of August 21, 2006, concerning dues, we are including that message below in this print edition of *OLLI E-News*.



President's Message



To All Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University

August 21, 2006

OLLI Dues

Dear Fellow OLLI Members:

Sometime back, *OLLI E-News* received a flurry of letters on the broad topic of dues. It's a timely topic for discussion: the 2007 budget-planning period is looming, and from a personal standpoint, I am sensitive to the issue because my dues are up for renewal now.

OLLI's budget, which upon completion will be posted temporarily in the social room at Tallwood, is financed primarily by dues, plus a certain amount of interest income. Other sources, such as the Friends of OLLI fund and the Osher money, have to date been used for costs outside of our operating budget. Some parts of those funds have enabled us to defer dues money from specific costs associated with running the institute, and we thank Osher, and we thank our members, their families, and our friends who have contributed to Friends of OLLI. We must also consider when setting up the budget that our future costs as they relate to our homesite must be considered.

Other opportunities to enlarge our income base are currently being explored and grants as a possible source are being considered. However, grants take time to cultivate and each has its own criteria for awards.

When calculating the budget, the finance committee and then the Board will look at each line item to see if it squares with expectations for our 2007 needs. Divide the total by 710, our current membership total, and we have a figure that we know will be needed from each of us to run our OLLI. This is a very efficient way to structure and administer our dues.

Options that have been proposed include half-year rates, discounts for couples, short rates for those who travel or spend some terms out of town, and per-class rates. These options present the budget-makers with major problems: how to project how many people will drop out for a term; how many single memberships will merge into a double; how many will pay for half a year and then wait another half year to join up again. The number of unanswered questions would throw the budget into a tailspin. Not to mention the costs associated with administering any of these dues options.

Your Board's bottom line is to ensure the financial health of the institute.

Looking at it from the members' side, we see things differently: for some, the figure doesn't materially affect their pocketbooks; for others, and I speak as a single woman on a simple fixed income, that yearly check I write almost always comes at an inopportune time. Nonetheless, since I sign up for many courses each term and because my lifestyle focuses around OLLI, for me it really is a bargain. Other retirees might choose to spend their money on golf-club memberships or trips to interesting places. I figure five classes each term, or 20 over the year, comes to \$14.00 per class, not a bad deal.

For couples the price doubles, a huge outlay, again probably at inopportune times. But let's remember that each member of the couple is getting the full benefit of membership and each person occupies a chair in a classroom, the good news being their one car saves us on parking slots.

A typical rate structure for some LLIs includes an annual fee, say \$55.00, with per-class costs of \$45.00 each. For \$280, I could take only five classes a year. With our fabulous catalog of choices to choose from, I would find it very hard to pick just one or two per term. An LLI in a Midwest city charges \$500 for the year, limiting classes to three per their three semesters, plus a parking fee.

We don't want to lose even one member because he or she cannot afford our rates. We have a scholarship fund for those on short finances. Simply contact the Tallwood site administrator and she will handle the situation with discretion.

We've come a long way: In 1991, LRI dues were \$200. Members could take two courses during each of the two eight-week semesters from a list of 30 classes. Fifteen years later, we currently offer over 200 classes for \$280, no limit on the number we may take. And many of these classes are dynamite!

Will our dues rise in 2007? We can't promise you they won't, but we

can promise that each of our future catalogs will convince us that we are getting our money's worth.

All the best to each of you,

[Debbie Halverson](#)

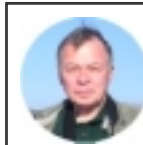
President, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University



Rod Zumbro
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor



Guest editor for this week: OLLI member [John West](#)

About OLLI E-News. OLLI E-News is OLLI's weekly newsletter; it 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 for that week's issue. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact the [OLLI E-News editor](#) or the Publications Committee chair, [Gordon Canyock](#).

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