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ALERT

SENIOR OLYMPIANS: If you compete in the [Northern Virginia Senior Olympics](#) (Sep 20-Oct 2), send your story and photo(s) to the [editor](#) for a future article about OLLI participants.

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WHAT IS THIS "OLLI ETIQUETTE" ANYWAY?

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

IF YOU PARTICIPATED IN CLASSES THIS WEEK, you may have seen our new "OLLI Etiquette" posters in classrooms or heard reference to them from the class liaisons. You may be wondering why we have them and who dreamed up another silly idea!

Let's begin with a definition of the term *etiquette* according to the Encarta encyclopedia: *the rules and conventions governing correct or polite behavior in society in general or in a specific social or professional group or situation.* During several discussions with resource groups, the Program Committee and the Membership Committee, our volunteers have indicated that a few people in their classes don't always demonstrate courtesy to their classmates, their instructors, and/or to the staff and volunteers who are involved in setting up classes and the classrooms themselves. Let me emphasize: we're talking about a relative handful of people here. Some people have also shared their annoyance with repetitive reminders about throwing away coffee cups and turning off cell phones.

Beginning last spring, the class liaisons have been provided with a weekly *OLLI Communicator* that provides announcements, reminders for class participants, and reminders for the liaisons about their duties. It has been stressed that the person serving as the liaison does not need to make repeated announcements or reminders unless the need arises in a particular situation.

To further streamline the process of doing announcements and reminders, someone suggested that rules for appropriate classroom behavior be posted in classrooms. The "OLLI Etiquette" posters are the result of these suggestions and discussion. In case you haven't seen them yet, here are the seven points of "OLLI Etiquette."

- ✦ Arrive prior to the start of class
- ✦ Leave seats near the aisles for people that come after you
- ✦ Turn off cell phones and other devices (except hearing aids!)
- ✦ Avoid spills by holding coffee cups and using lids
- ✦ If you must leave class early, please be courteous
- ✦ Ask questions appropriately
- ✦ Take your trash with you when you leave

Obviously, some of the rules are open to interpretation and may need clarification in different situations. For example, "ask questions appropriately" can mean different things to different people. Generally, it means that questions should be asked in a way that does not monopolize the time of the class and in ways that show courtesy to the instructor.

Editor's note. Members are welcome to email their OLLI etiquette questions to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (who is distraught that she cannot reply personally) via *OLLI E-News* Editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee Chair [Gordon Canyock](#). See "How to Express Your Views About OLLI" below for [details](#).

OLLI INSTRUCTOR TO SPEAK MONDAY EVENING



Ben Gold

On Mon, Sep 22, from 7:00-9:00 pm OLLI member/instructor and Supreme Court docent Ben Gold will share his insights into how the Court operates and how cases are selected. He will present historic thumbnail sketches and anecdotes of the 17 Chief Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court and discuss the composition of the current Court and the issues they will likely face.

This presentation is part of "Reston Presents," a bi-monthly lecture and presentation series that highlights the multifaceted talents of local residents. Free, open to all. Location ([map and directions](#)):

*The Reston Association Conference Room
1930 Isaac Newton Square
Reston, VA 20190*

A FAMILIAR FACE ATTENDS OPEN HOUSE

Word of mouth: the best way to recruit



By Debbie Halverson, *OLLI E-News* Staff Writer



Scenes from the Reston Open House; photos by Abbie Edwards.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HEARD ME SAY, "Word of mouth by members is the best way to recruit new members for OLLI"? We have learned that is our best method for gathering in those whom we believe would enjoy the OLLI experience.

A little over a week ago, the OLLI Reston contingent held our own Open House two days following the Open House at Tallwood. The reception was very well done, and as always with these events, we had no idea how many people would attend. We knew that many postcard invitations were sent to Mason alums, we had placed posters in many churches, etc. And we knew the publicity for the other open houses was the same for ours at Reston. A hard-working group of Reston volunteers put together a very nice buffet and OLLI's membership chair, Kathie West, brought the special poster material that had been used at Tallwood. Our program volunteers were at the ready, and we had a good turnout.

I was at the sign-in post brightly at 10:00 when I looked up to see a non-OLLI but familiar face approaching the sign-in table. Quickly shifting my recognition gears, I placed her as someone who attends my church and whom I have known in that capacity for almost five years. I had never thought she might have an interest in OLLI. Her attendance came as a result of receiving the Mason alum postcard. I don't know if she will ultimately join, but I should have recognized a potential OLLI member sooner. Point made; *mea culpa*.

Turns out, in checking the sign-in sheets, all but two indicated on the line "How did you hear about this open house?" that they had come to ours because a friend, a current member, had suggested it..

Keep it up, good friends.

PHONE SYSTEM UPDATE

NEW TECHNOLOGY CAN ALWAYS PRESENT CHALLENGES, and we've been wrestling with some of those with our new phone system at OLLI-Tallwood. We will revise and simplify some of the voice response messages over the next few months, but here are a couple of tips which will help us help you now.



During the hours when we have a volunteer receptionist (9:00–12 noon) working at the front desk, you can press "0" – zero – from most points within the voice response system and get to the receptionist. Similarly, you may press the "star" key – * – to get the system directory. You may also press the "star" key and the extension of the person you wish to speak with, as follows:

- * 0 – Receptionist
- * 3 – Bill Walsh
- * 4 – Karen Nash
- * 5 – Ann Hartmann
- * 6 – Beth Davis

- * 8 – Thom Clement
- * 9 – Main voice response menu

We encourage you to leave a complete voice mail message if the staff member you're trying to reach is currently unavailable. Be sure to leave your telephone number and/or email address if you need a reply.

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

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Selected by the OLLI Photography Club



"A New Zealand Scene" by Andy Schoka

(The photo in its original size of 1024x683 pixels can be seen at [this page](#))

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. Don't miss the superb exhibit of OLLI Photography Club members' work on display in the annex during this term.

MASON'S TFA PRESENTS A STAGED READING

Tuesday evening in downtown Fairfax

THEATER OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT, George Mason University's professional theater company, presents a staged reading of Alan Bennett's hilarious farce *Habeas Corpus* at the Old Town Village Gallery on Tue, Sep 23, at 7:30 pm. Directed by Kevin Murray, the reading is a part of the Fall for the Book festival.

Habeas Corpus highlights the sexual excesses of the British middle classes in the 1960s. Britannia may have once ruled the waves, but now the Empire is forced to look in the mirror. It's not a pretty sight; its old duds are either a little tight at the crotch, bursting at the seams, or out of style. So what else is there to do then but start dropping your knickers? The *Guardian* called the play "...a gorgeously vulgar...densely plotted farce that is a celebration of sex and the human body...a combination of hurtling action with verbal brilliance."

Alan Bennett – author of *The Uncommon Reader*, this year's "All Fairfax Reads" selection – has been a household name in British theater ever since he starred in and co-authored the satirical review *Beyond the Fringe* with Dudley Moore, Peter Cooke and Jonathan Miller in 1960 at the Edinburgh Festival. Later the same show played to packed houses in London's West End and in New York. With such works to his credit as *The Madness of George III* and *History Boys*, he is now regarded by many as the premiere English dramatist of his generation.

This event is free; there will be a brief intermission. The Old Town Village Gallery is located at North Street and Chain Bridge Road in downtown Fairfax ([map and directions](#)). Free parking is available in the parking garage on University Drive. Old Town Village provides many opportunities to enjoy food and beverage before or after the performance, or during intermission.

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

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

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.

[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

MASON ARTS AND MUSIC

Upcoming performances at Mason, Sep 19-28



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News Staff Writer



FOR TICKETS, call 1-888-945-2468 (phone orders are handled by [tickets.com](#)) or visit the Center for the Arts Box Office, Tue-Sat, 10:00-6:00. More info on tickets at the [CFA tickets page](#).

[Fairfax Symphony Orchestra](#)

Paul Haas, conducting
Guest artist: Alexander Ghindin,
piano

Sat, Sep 20, 8:00

The initial concert of the FSO's 2008-09 season brings the first of six finalists for music director, to succeed William Hudson. The program will include Joshua Penman's *Songs the Plants Taught Us*, Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4 in F Minor*.

[Keyboard Conversations](#)

with Jeffrey Siegel
Haydn and Mozart—Humor and Heartache

Sun, Sep 21, 7:00

In this first of four performances at Mason this season, Mr. Siegel weaves stories about these composers and their work with his virtuosity at the piano. His program includes Haydn's C-Major *Fantasy*, D-Major Sonata and Andante and Variations, as well as Mozart's Finale from C-Minor Sonata, his Andante

Admission: \$55, \$45, \$35, \$25
 Come early for a free ConcerTalk by Paul Haas at 7:00 Concert Hall

and the *Turkish March*.
 Admission: \$38, \$30, \$19
 Family friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult Concert Hall

ARTS by George!

Brian Stokes Mitchell

Sat, Sep 27, Gala 5:00, Concert 8:00



This event supports student scholarships at the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the Center for the Arts Great Performances at Mason program.

The gala starts at 5:00 and features a silent auction of arts-related items and experiences, music by students and faculty, delectable food and beverages, a concert by Mr. Mitchell, and a post-performance champagne reception on-stage with the artist. Baritone Brian Stokes Mitchell has won a Tony for his work in *Kiss Me Kate*, and has starred in *Porgy and Bess*, *Man of La Mancha* and *South Pacific* among other Broadway hits. He promises show tunes, ballads and such classic love songs as "Embraceable You," "They Can't Take That Away From Me" and "The Impossible Dream."

Admission: Gala, \$200; Concert only, \$60, \$52, \$30
 Concert Hall

Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

GMU Wind Symphony Concert

Sun, Sep 28, 3:00

Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults
 Concert Hall

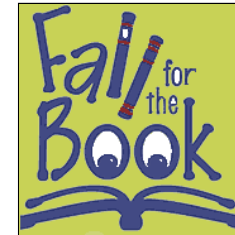
MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other events at nearby Mason



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

Fall for the Book: A Few Highlights



Mon, Sep 22--

- **Celebrating Chinua Achebe and African Writers:** 10:00 to 11:00, JC Cinema. Reception: 6:00, JC Bistro. Mr. Achebe reads from *Things Fall Apart* and accepts the 2008 Mason Award: 7:30 to 9:00, Concert Hall.
- **Photojournalist David Bacon** discusses labor, immigration and international politics: 12:30, Concert Hall, Tier III.
- **Espionage Expert Fred Hitz**, author of *The Great Game: the Myth and Reality of Espionage* and *Why Spy? Espionage in an Era of Uncertainty*, offers an insider's perspective on espionage today: 3:00 to 4:00, Concert Hall, Grand Tier III.

Tue, Sep 23--

- **University Library Book Sale:** 9:00 to 3:00, JC Dewberry Hall North.
- **Special Fall for the Book Panel** - Lee Talbot, Larry Rockwood, Agi Kiss, Robert Goodland, and Jason Clay. Panel Discussion of *Foundations of Environmental Sustainability*: 2:30, 163 Research I.

Wed, Sep 24--

- **Mason Provost Peter Stearns** wraps together his observations and research to offer insights into America's present by looking into its past. Followed by a reception and exhibition of Dr. Stearns' books: 4:30, 163 Research I.

Thu, Sep 25--

- **Ethicist Rushworth M. Kidder**, founder of the Institute for Global Ethics, discusses ideas from his books *Moral Courage* and *How Good People Make Tough Choices*: 3:00, Harris Theater.

Fri, Sep 26--

- **Baseball Historian Harvey Frommer**, author of *Shoeless Joe* and *Ragtime Baseball* and *The Yankee Encyclopedia*, discusses the history of baseball in D.C.: 2:00 to 3:00, JC North Plaza.
- **Novelist Porter Shreve** reads from *When the White House Was Ours*. Reception 3:00; event 3:30 to 4:30, JC North Plaza.

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 [Upcoming Non-Class Events](#) to view the real-time 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 Sep 19 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
10am New Member Coffee - TA- Annex
11am Reception for Ann Hartmann (everyone invited) - TA-1
11:30am Board of Directors Meeting - TA-1
1:30pm Art & Music Resource Group Meeting - Tallwood
 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA- Annex
1:30pm Finance Committee Meeting - Tallwood
- Wednesday Sep 24 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
- Friday Sep 26 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 9:30am Photography Club - TA-1
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 10:30am Classic Fiction Book Club - Cascade Library/21030 Whitfield Place/Potomac Falls
 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA- Annex
- Wednesday Oct 1 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
1:30pm Special Events Resource Group Meeting - TA-2
- Thursday Oct 2 11am Fiction Writers' Club - King Park West Library

- Friday Oct 3 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA- Annex



Rod Zumbro
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Deputy 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](#).

Submissions. We encourage members to submit news items, articles and photos for this newsletter; **deadline to the editor is 7:00 pm Wed** (7:00 pm 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.

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.

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OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

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John West

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Barbara Kyriakakis

Reviewer and Photo Editor
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