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OLLI E-News

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



ISSUE Friday, October 5,
DATE: 2007

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ALERT	MONDAY IS NOT AN OLLI HOLIDAY. OLLI will be open and classes will be held on Mon, Oct 8 (Columbus Day, observed).
REMINDER	YARD SALE. Sat, Oct 27. Helpers needed; see recent article .
ARTICLES AND NOTICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. Filling the ED position; successful fall registration. <i>By Pat Carroll</i> > STUDY GROUP WORKSHOP TO BE OFFERED. Learn more about facilitating study groups. <i>By Kathryn Russell and Brenda Cheadle</i> > IT'S FLU SHOT TIME! October flu shot clinic. <i>By Dick Chobot</i> > OLLI BOOK CLUB. Meets 2:00 Wed, TA-2. All welcome. > AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE. Averted tragedy. <i>By Al Smith</i> > THINK OF THE TRIP TALES YOU COULD TELL! The Peace Corps 50+ Program. <i>By Dick Chobot</i> > WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION. To kickoff the Arts at Mason Festival. <i>By Eileen and Charles Duggan</i> > SHARE A WW II MEMORY ... ON VIDEOTAPE. Tue, Oct 9. > MASON FILM FESTIVAL. A weekend of exceptional documentaries. <i>By Jane Tombes</i>
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Filling the ED position; successful fall registration



By Pat Carroll, President

THE OLLI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET on Mon, Oct 1, to review options presented by the Executive Committee for hiring a new executive director. After lengthy discussion, it was proposed and approved to fill the executive director position on a full-time basis, without benefits and within the available funds in the 2008 budget.

I have appointed Carol Henderson to chair the Selection Committee, and she is very busy seeking the best candidates to staff this most important committee. I asked that she select four currently sitting members of the Board of Directors, two members of the non-board membership, and Lilyan Spero. I will be advising the membership after the board meeting on Oct 24 of the makeup of the committee, the selection criteria, the job description and the operating procedures of the committee.

In addition, I would like to advise all members that we had a very successful registration this term. Overall we had 88 new members and a net increase of 12 in our total membership. Loudoun had 80 members register in the pilot program plus 10 regular OLLI members for a total of 90. The community has obviously decided that the OLLI program is as great as we all have known.

I will be out of the country for the next three weeks, but the other officers of your board as well as the executive director and the staff at all three locations will be available to answer questions.

STUDY GROUP WORKSHOP TO BE OFFERED

Learn more about facilitating study groups

By Kathryn Russell, Program Committee chair, and Brenda Cheadle, Literature, Language and Theater Resource Group member

SOME STUDENTS LOVE TO SIT QUIETLY IN ROWS and enjoy a superb large-group lecture. Others want to join in the discussion and often raise their hands during lecture to interject questions or comments. As OLLI teachers—and former public school teachers—both of us have had many opportunities to observe different learning styles in the classroom. We've discovered that many LLI's address this need for class participation through the study group format. Students who have participated in study groups say that they're able to explore topics in greater depth and at the same time enjoy more social interaction.

Study groups, though, are by no means unorganized, unstructured chit-chat sessions. Instead, they are focused discussion groups led by one or more facilitators who encourage student participation, usually through carefully prepared questions that keep the group on track. Classes become, then, a sort of "Socratic dialogue" with students taking a more active role in directing their own study.

We would like to encourage interested OLLI members to learn more about facilitating study groups. During the last four weeks of this fall session, we will offer a workshop for members who are interested in learning more about successful study groups. We will meet at 2:00–3:30 at Tallwood on Wednesday afternoons, Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7. Participation in this informal workshop **does not** obligate you to become a group leader.

Please contact us ([Kathryn](#); [Brenda](#)) for more information. Or if you're unable to attend at this time but would perhaps be interested in participating in the future, indicate this in your response, as we may hold another workshop in the winter session. We hope to see you there!

IT'S FLU SHOT TIME!

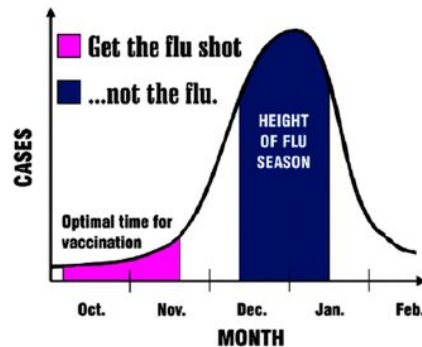
October flu shot clinic at Tallwood



By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

OLLI IS ONCE AGAIN HOLDING A FLU SHOT CLINIC at Tallwood

in cooperation with the INOVA Fight the Flu Program. Flu shots only work for a single season since the strains of the virus gradually change over the course of a year.



Flu shots will be given on Fri, Oct 19, from 1:00 to 5:00. Sign-up sheets are available in the Tallwood office. We also are trying to schedule a clinic at Lake Anne if the church will allow it ... more information to follow.

You should consider getting a flu shot if you:

- Have chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure or heart disease
- Are 50 years of age or older
- Have contact with people at high risk for complications of the flu
- Are a health care provider
- Provide essential community services
- Have demanding family or work responsibilities
- Have holiday or winter vacation plans
- Are around children frequently

Special Considerations:

- People who are allergic to chicken eggs, thimerosal (often found in contact lens solution) or other mercury compounds, or other vaccine components should not receive this vaccine.
- Persons with a past history of Guillain-Barré syndrome should not receive the vaccine.
- People who are ill with a fever or who have an active respiratory infection will not be given the vaccine.
- You will be asked to wait near the clinic area for 15-20 minutes after receiving the vaccine. Please inform the nurse immediately of any symptoms such as hives, rash, swelling of the lips, tongue or mouth, or breathing difficulty. If such a reaction occurs later, seek medical attention immediately.

Procedures:

- The shot will be given in the upper arm, **please wear clothing that allows the sleeve to be pushed or rolled up.**
- The flu shot works for a single season; the strains of the virus change annually. This shot contains those strains that are anticipated to be the most common this year.
- The charge for each shot is \$25.00. We accept cash, checks and money orders but **we are unable to accept credit cards.** Checks and money orders should be made out to Inova Flu Shot Program. The nurse will have a stamp available for those who wish to use it on their checks.
- Shots will not be given to individuals under 18 ... not a real issue here

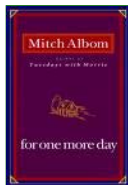
unless you are really lying about your age or want to bring your grandchildren.

- No pneumonia vaccine will be available.
- Medicare Part B is accepted as payment in full. Participants must show their Medicare card to the nurse if they wish to use this benefit. **Medicare beneficiaries who have assigned their Medicare benefits over to an HMO or other managed care plan must receive their shot from their primary provider unless they wish to pay for it at our clinic.**

OLLI BOOK CLUB

Meets at Tallwood at 2:00 Wed

FOR ONE MORE DAY



THE OLLI BOOK CLUB will meet at 2:00 in TA-2 on Wed, Oct 10. The book for discussion is award-winning journalist Mitch Albom's second novel, *For One More Day*. Albom recently spoke at Mason as part of the 2007 Fall for the Book Festival where he was awarded the Fairfax Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Literary Arts. All OLLI members are welcome.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

Averted tragedy




By AI Smith, OLLI member

KEN BURNS'S DOCUMENTARY ON WORLD WAR II reminds us that these veterans are dying at a rate of more than 1,000 a day, but I didn't think I could have been one more of them on a recent visit to Greece.

After ascending the Acropolis and visiting a few Greek islands I reached the last stop before heading home from Athens with my wife. Our 37-member tour group visited Nauplion and headed for a relaxing dip in the hotel pool. I usually swim a lap or so from the deep end in the ice-cold pool but made the almost-fatal mistake of doing a reverse with a disabled left arm in a pool without lifeguards. As I struggled to reach the ladder, I apparently swallowed water and sank to the bottom of the pool. They tell me that a companion of Philippine ancestry assisted by a mysterious German pulled me up, and I was given CPR. I recovered at a Greek hospital after a few days, but that is another story.

Editor's note. We're happy that AI is still with us! *OLLI E-News* ran a story earlier this year about AI's World War II experiences. You can read the [article online](#).

THANKS TO GUEST EDITOR JOHN WEST	COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OLLI?
<p>I WANT TO PUBLICLY THANK JOHN WEST for taking over so ably for me as guest editor for two weeks while I was out of the country. Without John's expertise and willingness to serve as my backup (I'm not sure how I came up with the intriguing title of "guest editor"), you might have had to miss the weekly news about OLLI that you've come to rely upon.</p>  <p>John West, Guest Editor, Sep 21 & 28</p> <p>In his quiet, unassuming and humorous way, John continues to help make this newsletter the best it can be. In addition to serving as backup editor (and as Webmaster assistant), John is part of a small, important team of reviewers that includes deputy editor/proofreader Karen Hamilton and Publications Committee chair Gordon Canyock; the team carefully reviews the draft of each issue and provides me with comments, corrections and suggestions before we go to press. Thank you, John!</p> <p>-- Rod Zumbro, <i>OLLI E-News</i> editor</p>	<p>HERE'S HOW to express your views--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Anonymous submissions are acceptable if you provide contact information so we can verify that you are an OLLI member. 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-- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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).
<p>DONATION OF COMPUTERS. As a follow-on to the recent tech tip on</p>	

[donating a computer](#), OLLI member Bob Naylor quotes a *Post* article about upcoming dates for such donations: computer equipment and peripherals accepted free, with \$10 fee for CRT monitors, at American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean, on Sat, Oct 13, 9:00-2:00; and the same at Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon, on Sat, Nov 10, 10:00-4:00.

THINK OF THE TRIP TALES YOU COULD TELL!

The Peace Corps 50+ Program



By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

NEXT FRI, OCT 12, FROM 1:00-3:00 in TA-1, Dorothy Schoeneman will present a program on the Peace Corps 50+ Program. Dorothy herself is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer or RPCV, having served from 1999 to 2001 in Mali. She also is the regional recruiting coordinator for the 50+ Program.

When I met recently with Dorothy and Julius Kassovic, the 50+ Program Manager, I was surprised to learn that:

- Hundreds of individuals our age have served and are currently serving in the Peace Corps. We are valued for our experience.
- While serving, medical coverage and dental is provided; and, in case of illness, transportation to and treatment at an American-standard medical facility.
- Intensive language instruction is provided before placement, as well as language support during placement ... and remember, the literature on brain health extols the value of complex cognitive tasks like learning a new language.
- Peace Corps service does not affect a volunteer's Social Security benefits.
- The Peace Corps covers the cost of transportation to assigned location, medical and dental care, and a monthly living allowance.
- Vacation is accrued (two days a month).
- Upon completion their assignment (usually two years, plus three months in training), volunteers are given just over \$6,000, which can assist in readjustment back home.

The few individuals I have known who have served as Peace Corps

volunteers have agreed with the slogan, "*The toughest job you will ever love!*" Come and check it out next Friday.

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

To kickoff the Arts at Mason Festival



By Eileen and Charles Duggan, OLLI members

IN EARLIER EDITIONS OF *OLLI E-NEWS*, we alerted OLLI members to mark their calendars for the first annual Arts at Mason Festival that will be held next summer: Jun 12-29, 2008. The festival will present offerings in theater, dance, music, film, visual arts and more.

To officially introduce the Mason community to the festival, the festival board has invited all of us to attend a complementary wine and cheese reception on Wed, Oct 17, at 6:00 in TheaterSpace on the Mason campus. This will be your chance to hear in detail what specific performances and special events are planned.

So, please come out and join your fellow arts lovers in the unveiling of what will become an annual arts event in Northern Virginia.

TheaterSpace is on the first floor of the Performing Arts building, the red brick building immediately behind the Center for the Arts. Directions can be found at www.gmu.edu/cfa/directions. If you can make it, please rsvp to Jessica Timmins at the Theater of the First Amendment by phone (703-993-2195) or [email](#).

SHARE A WW II MEMORY ... ON VIDEOTAPE

Opportunity for OLLI members to share a World War II memory

MANY OLLI MEMBERS served in the Armed Forces or on the home front perhaps saving scrap, or just recall stories told by uncles, older brothers, what happened and how they were affected. Many folks have had memories triggered by the viewing of Ken Burns's "The War."

WETA would like to include all those memories if you would like to share them. Whether or not you are registered for the course, **you are invited to take part in the video recording of memories**--to be videotaped by WETA on Tue, Oct 9, at 1:00 in TA-1 (right after the 11:30 class on "The War").

MASON FILM FESTIVAL

A weekend of exceptional documentaries



By Jane Tombes, Literature, Language and Theater Resource

Group co-chair

MASON'S COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS is holding the Mason Film Festival on Fri-Sun, Oct 19-21, at the Johnson Center Cinema on Mason's Fairfax Campus. The festival will celebrate and bring exposure to Mason's Film and Visual Studies program, the first film and video studies program at a Virginia public university.

The 2007 festival features numerous documentaries, including--

- *Operation Homecoming*, a unique documentary from WETA/PBS that explores the firsthand accounts of American service men and women through their own writings;
- *War/Dance*, by 2007 Sundance best director Sean Fine, that chronicles the journey of three children living in a Ugandan displacement camp as they compete in their country's national musical and dance festival; and
- *Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea*, a 2003 hilarious and sad tale of an eccentric community living on the shores of the Salton Sea, "America's worst ecological disaster."

The festival culminates with the 1981 film *The Night The Lights Went Out In Georgia* by director Ron Maxwell, who helped launch 2006's inaugural festival. Films created by Mason students and by Fairfax County Public School students are also included in the weekend's screenings.

Ticket prices—Day Passes: \$15, \$10 for students and seniors; Weekend passes: \$30, \$20 for students and seniors (buy two days, get one free). The Center for the Arts Box Office will sell day and weekend passes in advance; tickets for individual screenings will be sold at the door. The Johnson Center Cinema is located on the ground floor of the George W. Johnson Center, next to the Jazzman's Café. Paid parking is located in the deck adjacent to the Concert Hall and FREE parking is located in university lot K.

Volunteers are needed during the weekend to help with tickets, ushering, and the Friday evening reception. If you are interested, please contact me (atombes@cox.net or 703-319-1888) or Mason's Jim Maiwurm (jmaiwur1@gmu.edu or 703-303-4144) as soon as possible.

OLLI'S SPECIAL FORCES

Phil True, co-chair of the History, International Studies & Current Events Resource Group



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News staff writer

AMONG THE PATHS THAT LEAD TO

OLLI, Phil True's was rather unusual: he met us first several years ago as a guest lecturer in a course on China. He must have been impressed with what he saw because he and his wife, Fern, became members a few years later.



Phil (*photo at right by Gordon Canyock*) became involved in various aspects of OLLI soon after he joined and, eighteen months ago, he was invited to co-chair the History, International Studies and Current Events Resource Group. Since this group covers two areas, 300s and 700s, Phil and co-chairs Bob Bohall and Emmett Fenlon arrange an average of 60 courses each year. Putting together so many courses involves a lot of work, but Phil enjoys brainstorming with his co-chairs to enrich our program. His 47 years at the CIA as analyst, manager, and instructor prepared him well to plan, coordinate, and/or teach courses in history, intelligence, and international affairs.

Among other courses, Phil has taught and is now teaching "What's in the Daily News?" A serious news junkie, he chooses topics for discussion each week and enjoys the role of referee as his students debate different sides of an issue. Further contributions to OLLI include copy editing the catalog for the Publications Committee and providing book reviews for the History Club. Volunteers like Phil make OLLI the great organization that it is.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason, Oct 5-14





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](#).

**Studio Series #1
The Boys Next Door**

Fri, Oct 5-Sun, Oct 7
Fri, Sat at 8:00
Sat, Sun at 2:00

Admission: \$3 seniors/students, \$6 other adults

Black Box Theater (Lower level of the Performing Arts building, adjacent to the Concert Hall. From Level 2 of Parking Deck take the bridge. Enter first door on the left and follow hallway, go through gray doors and downstairs).

Ballet Folklórico de México

This award-winning national dance company of Mexico is renowned for its spectacular folk dancing, and its classically trained dancers, with extravagant costumes and lavish sets.

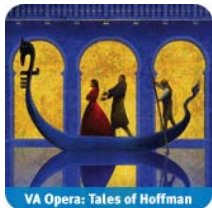
Sat, Oct 6, at 8:00
Sun, Oct 7, at 4:00

Admission: \$44, \$36, \$22

Family friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult
Concert Hall

Come early at 7:15 and at 3:15 for a free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

**Virginia Opera Series
The Tales of Hoffmann**



Offenbach's opera deals with the forces of mysticism versus enlightenment. A young poet in a tavern with friends relates stories of his three great loves, Olympia, Antonia and Giulietta, and evil geniuses who thwart his intentions. Hoffmann, despairing, is rescued by the muse of poetry who revives his romantic soul. The opera will be sung in French with English supertitles.

Note: The Sunday performance is an OLLI special event (See Fall

Catalog, page 27).

Fri, Oct 12, at 8:00

Sun, Oct 14 at 2:00

Admission: \$86, \$72, \$44—Fri
\$94, \$78, \$48—Sun

Concert Hall

Come early at 7:15 and at 1:15 for a free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other events at Mason



By Barbara Kyriakakis, *OLLI E-News* assistant editor

- **Cinema Series** – *Talk to Me* on Thu, Oct 11; *Ratatouille* on Fri, Oct 12, and Sat, Oct 13; all showings at 6:00 and 9:00 in the JC Cinema. \$1 with Mason ID.
- **Astronomy Observing Session** – Mon, Oct 15, 8:30, Research I Observatory. Open to public. Session will be canceled if the sky is more than half overcast one hour before the session begins.
- **Workshop in Philosophy, Politics & Economics** - "Debate on the Myth of the Rational Voter," presented by Dan Klein and Bryan Caplan. Tue, Oct 16, 1:00 to 2:30, Enterprise Hall, Room 318.
- **Mason's Fall Convocation** – "Celebrating the Present, Preparing for the Future." Wed. Oct 17, 3:00 in the JC Dewberry Hall. President Merten will lead the program. Two anniversaries will be recognized: the 50th anniversary of Mason opening its doors when it was satellite campus of the University of Virginia and the 35th anniversary of being named an independent university by the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia. Refreshments after the convocation.
- **Center for Social Science Research Lecture** - "Understanding America's Immigration Crisis," presented by Douglas Massey, professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University and Director of the Mexican Migration Project at Princeton University. Thu, Oct 25, 12:00, JC Cinema.

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 [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	Oct 5	9:15am	Spec Event 959 Pope-Leighy House - Bus Departs Fair Oaks Mall
		9:30am	Drama Club
		10:00am	Recorder Group
		11:30am	Fiction Writers - TA-1
		1:30pm	Homer Etc. Book Club - Annex
Monday	Oct 8	1pm	Lake Anne Bridge Club - Lake Anne Church
Tuesday	Oct 9	8:15am	Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
Wednesday	Oct 10	1:30pm	Bridge - TA-3
		2pm	Spec Event 960 Glass as Art Form - TA-1
		2pm	Tallwood Book Club - TA-2
Friday	Oct 12	9:30am	Drama Club
		9:30am	Spec Event 961 Wineries - Bus Departs Fair Oak Mall Lot 44
		10am	Recorder Group - TA-2
		10am	Program Committee meeting - TA-1
		10am	Italian Conversation Club organizational meeting - Annex
		1:00pm	Peace Corps 50+ Program presentation - Tallwood
		1:30pm	Homer Etc. Book Club - Annex
Sunday	Oct 14	2pm	Spec Event 962- VA Opera (<i>Tales of Hoffmann</i>) - GMU- Center for the Arts
Monday	Oct 15	1pm	Lake Anne Bridge Club - Lake Anne Church
Tuesday	Oct 16	8:15am	Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
		9:30am	Finance Committee meeting - TA-2
Wednesday	Oct 17	1:30pm	Bridge - TA-3
		2pm	Genealogy Club - TA-2
		2pm	Facilitator Workshop - Annex
		2pm	Spec Event 963-Where 100,000 Fell - TA-1
Friday	Oct 19	9:30am	Drama Club
		10am	Recorder Group - TA-2
		1:30pm	Homer Etc. Book Club - 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 the [OLLI E-News editor](#) or the Publications Committee chair, [Gordon Canyock](#).

Submissions. We encourage members to submit 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.

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