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# OLLI E-News

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



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- > **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING.** George Mason University invites OLLI members to attend a meeting with local congressmen Tue, Oct 13, 4:30-6:30, on Capitol Hill. [Details \(pdf\).](#)
- > **SPACE STILL AVAILABLE:** Shenandoah Valley Bus Trip, Fri, Oct 16. [See details/fees.](#)

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## FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR OLLI'S "ADVANCE"

*From the executive director*



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

**A**S I MENTIONED IN LAST WEEK'S ARTICLE, the OLLI Planning Committee is working with facilitator Dave Buczek to organize an effective one-day "Advance" for the Board of Directors on Friday, October 23. Board members have made suggestions for topics to be discussed at the advance. After careful consideration, the committee agreed that we should use broad, visionary questions that are organized on four key areas from the *Pathways to the Future* report: Program, Membership, Facilities and Organization. We will gather ideas from the participants in four short "breakout" sessions in the morning, followed by afternoon sessions during which we synthesize and prioritize the ideas and then formulate next steps.

The Planning Committee determined that we already have a relevant **Mission Statement** -- *To provide to the members learning opportunities in a stimulating environment in which adults can:*

- *Share their talents, experiences and skills;*
- *Explore new interests;*
- *Discover and develop latent abilities;*
- *Engage in intellectual and cultural pursuits; and*
- *Socialize with others of similar interest.*

What we do not have is a **Vision** for our future. Therefore, we will use four key focus questions to develop that vision:

*Based on the OLLI Mission Statement,*

- ...How do we optimize OLLI's **Facilities** over the next 5-10 years?*
- ...How can we improve our **Program** to meet our future needs?*
- ...How can we streamline our **Organizational structure** to meet future needs?*
- ...What should OLLI's **Membership** look like in 5-10 years?*

If you have suggestions related to one or more of these focus questions, you may wish to speak with one of the members of the Board of Directors prior to the Advance.

Reminder: You can read the *Pathways* report [here \(pdf document\)](#). -- Ed.

## OLLI SPIRITWEAR ITEMS AVAILABLE

*...for ordering now!*



*Canvas tote bag displaying the OLLI/Mason logo.*

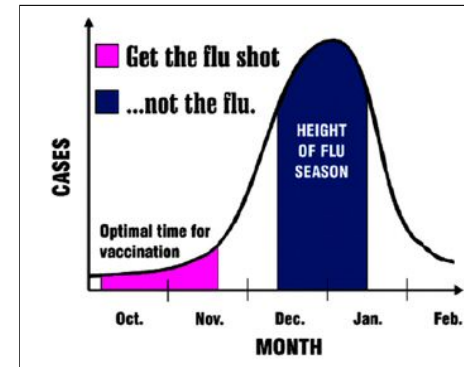
**ORDER FORMS FOR OLLI SPIRITWEAR** (new shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags and caps with the OLLI/Mason logo) are available in each classroom and can also be printed from [this Web page \(pdf\)](#).

You can see the items and read more detailed information by visiting <http://olligmu.promoshop.com/>. Click on "OLLI-GMU Store" to see the pictures, then click on each item to see more details. Note that the pictures do not show our OLLI/Mason logo, but our logo will be embroidered on the items that you order.

Please submit the paper order form to the OLLI office by Monday, October 19. Or, if you prefer, you can order items directly using the online store. *Either way, we will arrange to have the items shipped directly to OLLI and notify you when they are ready to be picked up.*

## FLU SHOT CLINIC

*Fri, Oct 16, 1:00 to 3:00, Tallwood*



**THE OLLI FLU SHOT CLINIC ARRANGED WITH INOVA WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**, from 1:00 to 3:00 at Tallwood. There are still many slots available. You can sign up via [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384) or you can stop by the Tallwood office. The cost of the shot is \$25 and can be paid by cash or check; INOVA does accept Medicare as long as you have your card with you and it includes both parts A and B.

Please note that this clinic is for the seasonal flu only, not for swine/H1N1 flu.

Submitted by [Maria Buczek](#), Tallwood Site Administrator.

## WE BADE ADIEU TO HAPPY THE HIPPO

*Trip to the Zoo*



By Florence Adler, Special Events Resource Group Chair

**ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, A GROUP OF 26 OLLI members,**

wonderfully led by Zoo volunteer Joan Axilbund (also a member of OLLI), toured the National Zoo. We were welcomed by Craig Saffoe, cheetah conservation biologist at the zoo. He shared his passion for his job by describing his responsibilities of care, feeding, exercising and especially the breeding of the cats.

Following his 90-minute talk at the Ed-Zoo-Cation Station, Joan led us down the Asia Trail to see lions, tigers and panda bears and then the baby gorilla Kibibi, her mother and other gorillas and orangutans in the Great Ape building. We saw the Komodo dragon and anteater and visited the exhibit of invertebrates, which included the new giant octopus, Augusta, and a display containing golden orb spiders with no glass in front of it. Zoo scientists and workers were right there to talk to us about them.



*Happy the Hippo.*

We walked past the outdoor elephant yard expansion where, lying in his own outdoor pool in his own enclosure, was Happy, a male Nile hippo, who was born at the zoo in 1981. We were told that Happy was going to be moved on Monday to his new home at the Milwaukee County Zoo because his quarters were being eliminated by the renovation of the Elephant Trails exhibit. We stood around the enclosure and quietly said our good-byes to him. However, we did not shed any tears for him as we learned that he would soon be meeting two female hippos, Patty and Puddles, at his new home in Milwaukee.

- *Photos of Zoo trip in banner image at top of this newsletter by Eleanor White.*
- View the Zoo's update on Happy with a great one-minute video at [this Web page](#).

## OLLI BOOK CLUB

*Meets Wed, Oct 14; book: Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe*



**THE OLLI BOOK CLUB WILL MEET** at 1:45 on Wednesday, October 14, at Tallwood. The book for discussion is *Things Fall Apart*, Nigerian author Chinua

Achebe's novel about the effects of British colonialism on a small Nigerian village at the turn of the century. All OLLI members are welcome. Book preview and reviews available at [this Google books page](#).

Contributed by Book Club Coordinator Ceda McGrew.

## OLLI COMPUTER CLUB

*Meets Sat, Oct 17, 1:00; topic: Digital Photography*



By [Paul Howard](#), OLLI Computer Club Coordinator

**D**URING OUR OCTOBER MEETING AT TALLWOOD, OLLI Photography Club Coordinator Dan Feighery will discuss digital photography. Dan's presentation will focus on understanding some of the things that will help you make a better digital photograph in the camera, as opposed to fixing it later in a photo editing program. Included will be a discussion of the relationship of sensor sensitivity, stopping motion, and image sharpness.

Other important digital camera basics such as crop factor, digital vs. optical zoom, color temperature, dynamic range, and use of the histogram will be covered. Results of a real-world test will show the impact of relatively minor changes in exposure on captured details in black and white elements of an image as well as how layers can be used in photo editing to produce a composite image with proper exposure throughout. Some basic elements of visual design, often useful in composing the picture before snapping the shutter, will be illustrated. Also included will be considerations in choosing a "point and shoot" vs. a digital single lens reflex (i.e., DSLR) camera.

**TV / PC Convergence** (continued from September). Geof Goodrum will demonstrate watching TV shows and movies for free over the Internet from such sites as Fancast and Hulu. This is a great way to catch up on TV shows you (or your video recorder) might have missed. If you are a member of a DVD-rental service such as Netflix, you can also watch selected movies on your PC over the Internet.

Related Web link: [OLLI PC Computer Users Group](#).

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### DEPARTMENTS

## KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

*How to contact OLLI*

**HERE IS A READY REFERENCE** on how to contact OLLI. For email addresses and phone numbers not listed below, please consult the online Membership Directory (log in to [Member Portal](#)).

- President: Emmett Fenlon ([email](#))
- Executive Director: [Thom Clement](#), phone 703-503-7866
- [OLLI Office](#), phone 703-503-3384
- Tallwood Administrator/OLLI Registrar: [Maria Buczek](#), phone 703-503-3384
- Board members: See [Organization page](#) (**Note:** To send an email to the entire Board, send it to the [office](#) or the [OLLI E-News editor](#), and your message will be forwarded to all members of the Board)
- Committee chairs, resource-group chairs: See [Organization page](#)
- Suggestions: [Online suggestion box](#)
- Letters to the editor or letters to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (etiquette matters): *OLLI E-News* Editor [Rod Zumbro](#), phone 703-569-2750

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## PROFILE OF A NEW RESOURCE GROUP CO-CHAIR

*Steve Goldman, co-chair of Philosophy, Ethics and Religion Resource Group*



By Barbara Kyriakakis, *OLLI E-News* Associate Editor

**N**EW RESOURCE GROUP CO-CHAIR STEVEN GOLDMAN is a man with a mission. And fortunately his mission involves OLLI and its religious studies program.

Born in New York City, Steve's education took him to Johns Hopkins University where he received his BA, MA and PhD in International Affairs. He spent his 32-year career in the Federal Service, retiring as Director of the Office of Nonproliferation and Treaty Compliance, a Senior Executive Service position in the U.S. Department of Commerce. After his retirement in early 2007, he



worked two years at a consulting firm and published numerous articles on strategic trade controls. He retired again, and now does what he loves: teaching theology.

The study of theology has been a lifelong interest for Steve; his knowledge is extensive, specifically in the area of Biblical doctrines from the perspectives of both Jewish and Christian faith traditions. As co-chair of the Philosophy, Ethics and Religion Resource Group, he, along with Bob Lawshe and Abbie Edwards, is recruiting teachers for a variety of topics, including prospective courses on The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormon Church) and Islam. His mission is to help develop an interesting and varied religious studies program at OLLI.

Steve's busy schedule not only includes his new co-chair position but also encompasses a wide-range of teaching at all OLLI venues (three courses this fall—one in Fairfax, one in Reston and one in Loudoun.) Steve also teaches courses at OLLI on international trade and national security. In addition, Steve teaches Bible doctrine courses for adults at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Burke, Virginia.

Steve is married, has two children, three grandchildren, and three guinea pigs.

*Photo of Steve by Gordon Canyock.*

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## MASON ARTS AND MUSIC

*Upcoming Mason performances, Oct 9-18*



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](#).

<p><b>Studio Series #1</b>  <b>Fuddy Meers</b>                  by David Lindsay-Abaire                  directed by Dannie Snyder</p>	<p><b>Richard Alston Dance Company</b></p>
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Fri, Sat, Oct 9, 10, 8:00  
 Sat, Sun, Oct 10, 11, 2:00

The play is a postmodern absurdist comedy presented by the GMU Players and the Department of Theater. Claire is a wife and mother with a rare form of amnesia whose memory is erased whenever she falls asleep. As she begins to reconstruct her life, she is kidnapped and her adventures begin. The title arises as Gertie, who purports to be Claire's mother, pronounces the words "funny mirrors" since her stroke. The director has received an OLLI scholarship for her artistic efforts in the community as she studies theater and film at George Mason.

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

Purchase tickets at door one hour before performance

Black Box Theater

*(Lower level of Performing Arts Bldg, next to TheaterSpace. From Level 2 of Parking Deck take the bridge. Enter first door on left and follow hallway; go through gray doors and down stairs.)*

**The Flying Karamazov Brothers**



Flying Karamazov Brothers

Sun, Oct 11, 4:00

Although they are not Russian—and not brothers—and cannot fly, this four-member comedy troupe of jugglers continues to entertain us with appearances from



Richard Alston Dance Co.

Sat, Oct 10, 8:00

Richard Alston, founder and choreographer of the group, is noted for having a close relationship with his music. He combines movement with melody to create dance "that is simply breathtaking." This is the group's debut at the Center.

Admission: \$42, \$34, \$21  
 Concert Hall

Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.

**Faculty Artist Series  
 Piano Trio**

Sun, Oct 11, 7:00

This presentation will include performers Anna Balakerskaia, Zino Bogachek and David Teie from George Mason University's School of Music.

Admission: Free, no tickets required  
 Harris Theater

**Mason Jazz Combo**

"Seinfeld" to Broadway. They offer a zany combination of theater, comedy, music and juggling, with a bit of philosophy thrown in.

Admission: \$42, \$34, \$21

Family friendly: Youth grade 12 and under, half-price with an adult. (Note change from "age 12 and under" last season.)

Concert Hall

Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.

**Concert**  
 Tue, Oct 13, 8:00  
 Admission: Free, no tickets required  
 Grand Tier III

**Virginia Opera  
 La Bohème**



Virginia Opera: La Bohème

Fri, Oct 16, 8:00; Sun, Oct 18, 2:00

Puccini's dramatic score is enhanced by the romantic tragedy of struggling young artists in this well-loved work. Rodolfo and Mimi find their love, but her failing health and their poverty threaten their lives together. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

Admission: Fri, \$86, \$72, \$44; Sun, \$98, \$80, \$48

Concert Hall

Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.

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**MASON HIGHLIGHTS**

*Other events at Mason*



By Helen Ackerman, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **Art Exhibit:** Alumni Mix. Mason art alumni now launched on their professional careers exhibit sculpture, print making, new media, painting, graphic design and photography in this exhibit. Mon, Oct 12, to Fri, Oct 30. Fine Arts Building, Gallery. Free.
- **Krasnow Monday Seminar:** "Human Cognitive Uniqueness in Biomedical Research: A Bridge Too Far?" by Jason Robert, Distinguished Professor in the Life Sciences and Lincoln Associate Professor of Ethics in Biotechnology and Medicine, Arizona State University. [Read abstract](#). Tue, Oct 13, 4:30. Krasnow Building, Room 229. Free.
- **President's Fall Convocation.** Mason President Dr. Alan Merten discusses the state of the university. Wed, Oct 14, 3:00. Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall. Reception will follow.
- **Family Weekend Cinema Series:** [Up](#). Fri, Oct 16, 6:00 and 9:00, Sat, Oct 17, 6:00 and 9:00, and Sun, Oct 18, 3:00. Johnson Center, Cinema. Mason students w/ID, free; Mason faculty and staff w/ID, \$1; general public, \$3.
- **Family Weekend: Book Presentation.** Author Jason F. Wright discusses his book *The Wednesday Letters*. Johnson Center, Cinema, Sat, Oct. 17, 2:00. Fairfax Campus.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

*Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks*

**T**HE FOLLOWING LIST covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master calendar maintained by the office, with direct Web links added when available. 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).

Fri Oct 9 9am Recorder Lessons - TA-3  
 10am Drama Club - TA-3  
 10am Recorder Consort - TA-2  
 10am Travel Club - TA-1  
 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex  
 1pm Special Event - F956, [Defeating Cancer](#) - Tallwood  
 Tue Oct 13 11am Knitting and Needlework Club  
 Wed Oct 14 1:45pm Book Club at Tallwood - TA-2

1:45pm Bridge Club - TA-3  
 2pm Special Event - F957, [Speak Up for a Child](#) - Tallwood  
 Thu Oct 15 11am Fiction Writers' Club - OL-TBA  
 Fri Oct 16 9am Recorder Lessons - TA-3  
 10am Drama Club - TA-3  
 10am Recorder Consort - TA-2  
 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex  
 1pm Special Event - F958, [The World's 10 Greatest Ocean Liners](#) - Tallwood  
 1pm Flu Shot Clinic - TA-1 and Annex  
 Sat Oct 17 1pm [OLLI PC Users Group](#) (OPCUG) - Tallwood  
 Tue Oct 20 11am Knitting and Needlework Club  
 Wed Oct 21 1:45pm Bridge Club - TA-3  
 2pm Special Event - F959, [It Smiles Even in its Tears](#), Lecture - Tallwood  
 Thu Oct 22 1pm - Special Event - L970, [Land of the Midnight Sun](#) - Loudoun  
 Fri Oct 23 8am - Special Event - F960, [It Smiles Even in its Tears](#), Bus Trip  
 9am Recorder Lessons - TA-3  
 9:30am Photography Club - TA-1  
 10am Drama Club - TA-3  
 10am Recorder Consort - TA-2  
 10am Special Event - R968, [Concert of Songs You Love](#) - Lake Anne  
 10am [Board of Directors Retreat](#) - ICAR  
 10:30am Classic Fiction Book Club - Cascades Library  
 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex  
 Sat Oct 24 2pm - Special Event - F961, [Eugene O'Neill's Ah, Wilderness!](#) - GMU TheaterSpace

## OBITUARY

*OLLI/Loudoun member Marilyn Eckert*

**OLLI/LOUDOUN MEMBER MARILYN ECKERT** of Ashburn, Virginia, died on Sun, Oct 4. A memorial service will be held on a Saturday in November, yet to be determined, at St. David's Episcopal Church, 43600 Russell Branch Pkwy., Ashburn, VA 20147. It was Marilyn's wishes, and that of the family, that any contributions be made in Marilyn's memory to St. David's Episcopal Church to benefit Interfaith Relief. Anyone wishing to send a card to Marilyn's family can send one to: The Family of Marilyn Eckert, c/o Peggy Ferrin, 13031 Farthingale Dr., Herndon, VA 20171.

Loudoun Program Assistant Madeline Lynn remembers Marilyn as follows:

*Marilyn Eckert, a Fellow of the American College of Family Medicine, was in private practice in Minnesota and later in West Virginia, where she became Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at the WVU Health Sciences Center. Before retiring she was Interim Associate Director of the WVU Center on Aging, Community Service and Outreach Unit.*

*At OLLI in Loudoun she taught the well-received Physiological Aspects of Aging course, and she inaugurated and led The New Yorker Round Table. Although she did not get to Tallwood often, she had agreed to teach her popular Tai Chi Chih course at Tallwood this fall but became ill over the summer. Marilyn served on the Loudoun Program Planning Committee and on the Loudoun Executive Committee. She was a good friend, a fine person, a natural leader and an active, helpful presence at OLLI in Loudoun. She is sorely missed!*

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About OLLI E-News and the member/volunteers who produce it



Rod Zumbro  
Editor



John West  
Deputy Editor



Barbara Kyriakakis  
Associate Editor

**Review Team:** Gordon Canyock, Michael Coyne, Barbara Kyriakakis, John West, Susanne Zumbro

**Database Manager:** Barbara Kyriakakis; **Photo Editor:** Michael Coyne

- **About this newsletter.** OLLI's weekly newsletter, *OLLI E-News*, is emailed to current OLLI members with email addresses on Fridays. When classes are in session, printed copies of this newsletter are distributed in classrooms. 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. **The 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; **submissions earlier in the week are**

**strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated.** Please limit articles to about 250 words. Submit material via email to Editor Rod Zumbro (email [rzumbro@gmu.edu](mailto:rzumbro@gmu.edu)).

- **Read the latest issue early.** The new weekly issue of *OLLI E-News* is posted to the OLLI Web site Thursday evening. Read it by visiting <http://www.ollie.gmu.edu/pubs.htm#enews>, where you will find a list of the last 12 issues; click the latest issue listed.
- **Viewing or searching past issues.** Your options for finding items in past issues of *OLLI E-News* include viewing the [last 12 issues](#); [searching the content](#) of ALL issues for any word or words; and [searching our archive](#) of all past issues by date or issue number.

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