



OLLI E-News

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



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WANTED: VISIONARY VOLUNTEERS

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

I AM LOOKING FOR A FEW OLLI MEMBERS who share a strong belief in the mission of OLLI and would like to work with one of the groups that emerged from the actions of the Board at its recent planning retreat. During discussions at the Pathways to the Future "Advance" on October 23, the Board agreed that we should form the following working groups:



- Task Force on **Programs** – To focus on increasing involvement of members in the development and presentation of outstanding courses; to further refine the oversight of program development; and to explore available options for presentation of courses at multiple locations.
- Task Force on **Organization** – To focus on analyzing the current structure of the Board of Directors, committees, and resource groups in order to determine any changes which would better meet current and future needs of OLLI.
- **Facilities** Committee – To focus on space needs for classes, socialization, and parking. The committee will divide its tasks based on needs at each of the three locations – Fairfax, Reston, and Loudoun.

As I see it, the two task forces will organize and meet beginning in January/February of 2010, and recommendations by both groups will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval and further action by May or June. The Facilities Committee will become a standing committee that will meet as necessary to make recommendations to the Board. The first responsibility of the Facilities Committee will be to analyze our current usage and come up with a plan for short-term improvements at Tallwood.

As executive director, I look forward to working with dedicated volunteers in each of the newly formed groups. Please [email](#) me and let me know if you are interested in serving on one of these groups.

OLLI BOARD TO MAKE BUDGET/DUES DECISIONS NOV 20

About the OLLI budget process and the upcoming dues decision

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES of the OLLI Board of Directors is to approve the annual budget. The budget is a plan for matching expected income with the necessary expenditures. In developing a budget plan, the executive director works with committee chairs and the Finance Committee to analyze variables related to resources, materials, staff support, and operational costs. A preliminary proposal is submitted to the Board each year during the July/August/September time frame. Through continued discussion, including the annual Town Hall Meeting, budget estimates are refined.



When the proposed budget was discussed by the Board in September, it appeared that we would need some increase in the annual membership dues to meet growing needs and to offset the dramatic decrease in the annual payout from the Osher Endowment. Since that time, we have gathered more accurate numbers about membership growth, which translates into higher than expected income. There has been additional discussion of the concepts of short-range annual budget planning and long-range planning for up to five years.

As you know, the Osher Foundation has also announced a generous one-time gift of \$25,000 to each of the 120 OLLIs around the country. We do not yet know when we will receive that gift or if there are any restrictions on its use. Previous grants from the Osher Foundation have gone for a variety of improvements to OLLI facilities, equipment, and staffing.

At its monthly meeting at 9:30 (*note time*) on Friday, November 20, the OLLI Board of Directors will discuss these new developments and make its final decisions. There are several options being considered, including some that would maintain the current level of membership dues for full members with no increase during 2010. Board members have heard a wide range of views and perspectives expressed by OLLI members at the Town Hall Meeting on November 6 and subsequently. They will carefully weigh these perspectives and options as part of this important responsibility.

As always, members are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors.

By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

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TOWN HALL MEETING ON NOV 6

The forum included discussion about a proposed dues increase



By [Rod Zumbro](#), Board member



Scenes from last Friday's Town Hall Meeting; collage by the writer of photos by Dan Feighery.

[Click here](#) to view a 25-second slideshow of Dan Feighery's Town Hall Meeting photos.

LAST FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, interested OLLI members filled most of TA-1 for OLLI's fifth annual Town Hall Meeting. Following brief opening remarks by President Emmett Fenlon, Executive Director Thom Clement delivered a presentation covering membership, the Board retreat, the proposed 2010 budget and the class schedule change. Treasurer Dave Mason spoke about the long-range budget and dues.

Much of the ensuing discussion centered on the proposed increase of full-membership dues to \$365 per year as a result of a projected funding shortfall of \$6,900 in 2010, as shown on the below chart from the presentation. It was noted that the chart's Total Funding amount for 2010 does not include the recently announced [\\$25,000 Osher gift](#) as expected income (for reasons cited by Thom in his article immediately above) and that a 2009 surplus of \$20,408 is projected.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES			
	2008	2009 (Projected)	2010 (Proposed)
Total Funding	292,764	328,932	332,300
Total Expenses	286,026	306,524	339,200
Funding Over (Under) Expenses	6,738	20,408	-6,900

Some members thought that they could accommodate a \$15/year dues increase because the weekly or monthly increase would be small. Other members pointed out that a dues increase is not necessary because funding is available from sources like the Osher gift or the 2009 surplus. One member stated that he and his wife would not renew their memberships if dues are increased. (You can view the [pdf] presentation online by [clicking here](#); if you have questions or comments about the presentation, please contact the [executive director](#)).

The final 2010 budget will be presented to the Board of Directors next Friday, November 20. After discussion, the Board will vote to approve the budget as presented or with modification.

If you wish to express your views about dues, feel free to do so before Friday. You may contact the [office](#) (your comments will be forwarded to all members of the Board), or you may contact any director individually (see [this list](#)). You are welcome to attend Friday's Board meeting at 9:30 in TA-1.

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & HEALTH RESOURCE GROUP MEETING

Tue, Nov 17: Planning future courses

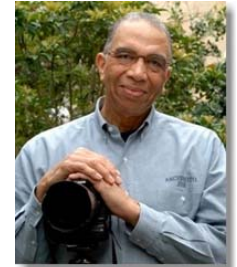
THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH RESOURCE GROUP will meet at 10:00 on Tuesday, November 17, at Tallwood. This meeting will focus on planning for future science, technology and health courses. We welcome the participation of interested OLLI members -- all those who would like to teach a single class or a course, who have suggestions for courses, or who would like to see how a resource group functions. Please contact Resource Group Chair Jayne Hart with your suggestions or any questions.



PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING

Thu, Nov 19: "Attracting the Eye"

THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING **THIS MONTH** will be on Thursday, November 19, at 9:30 in TA-1. We have a great speaker lined up: Joshua Taylor, Jr. (*photo at right*). Josh's program, "Attracting the Eye," is designed to motivate photographers to look at familiar subjects in fresh ways and to utilize design elements to transform everyday subjects into exciting and striking images. The emphasis is on software enhancements, in-camera manipulations, and compositional elements to build strong photographic images. A wide range of photographic subjects will be covered, including landscape, architecture, close-up/macro, and garden photography.



Josh brings to his programs and assignments a background of over 30 years' experience in photography, including newspaper and magazine photography, teaching, and workshops. You can learn more about Josh and see some of his work at <http://www.archiphotoworkshops.com>.

All OLLI members are welcome to attend meetings of the Photography Club.

Contributed by Photography Club Coordinator Dan Feighery.

OLLI COMPUTER CLUB

Sat, Nov 21: "Internet Shopping" and "Buying on eBay"



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



Coordinator

THE NOVEMBER MEETING of the OLLI Computer Club (officially, the OLLI Personal Computer User Group) will be held jointly with the Washington Area Computer User Group on Saturday, November 21, from 12:30 – 3:30 in TA-1. We'll have two main presentations plus a "Learn 30" session as described below.

Internet Shopping -- Tools and Skills, by Geof Goodrum. With "Black Friday" and the holiday shopping season coming soon, now is a great time to sharpen your online shopping skills. Start by comparing prices, finding professional and owner reviews and ratings, and locating the nearest and best-

rated stores for gifts. Also learn about online wish lists to help others find just the right item for you.

Buying on eBay -- Your Alternative Thrift Store, by Tallwood Site Assistant Bill Walsh. eBay is now a center for many types of auction and non-auction transactions for both used and factory-new products. This presentation about buying on eBay will include basic information about creating an account, searching for items, and bidding, as well as tips on what you need to look for to make the transaction a success.

"Learn 30" -- Be safer on the 'Net with a User Account Instead of an Admin Account, by Neal Grotenstein. Most people just use an Admin account for their computers, permitting all Windows capabilities to be used ... including software installs. A User account, since it will not allow unlimited software installation, is a reasonable way to prevent undesirable software from being installed. The discussion will cover what this approach offers and does not offer.

Related Web link: [OLLI Personal Computer User Group](#).

TFA STAGED READING WITH OLLI MEMBERS

Sat, Nov 21: *The Rivers and Ravines*



By Kevin Murray, TFA Managing Director



THEATER OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT, Mason's professional theater company, presents a staged reading of *The Rivers and Ravines*, written and directed by Heather McDonald, at theSPACE in Old Town Fairfax on Saturday, November 21, at 8:00. The wonderful cast of 25 includes OLLI members Gordon Canyock, Roxanne Cramer, Charles Duggan, Paulette Lichtman-Panzer, Jane McCulloch, Thelma Weiner and Susanne Zumbro.

Set during the farm crisis of the early 1980s, the play celebrates the hope and spirituality of a community facing economic hardship. The evening will include a pre-show reception with a cash bar starting at 7:00 and a brief discussion with Heather McDonald after the reading. TFA will also collect canned goods at the door for [Food for Others](#) of Fairfax. Tickets are pay-what-you-can at the door and available at the Center for the Arts Concert Hall box office.

theSPACE is located at 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, in the Old Town Plaza retail complex. Free parking is available in the underground garage, accessible from either Chain Bridge Road or University Drive. Pedestrian entrance is on North Street, next to the fountain.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Selected by the OLLI Photography Club



"Rockscape" by Don Allen.

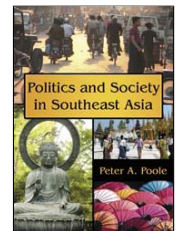
To view the above photo in its original size and other sizes, see [this Web page](#). To see other photos by members of the OLLI Photography Club, visit the club's [Web site](#).

OLLI MEMBER'S BOOK PUBLISHED

Politics and Society in Southeast Asia by Peter Poole

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, PETER POOLE, IS THE AUTHOR of a new book entitled *Politics and Society in Southeast Asia*, available from the [publisher](#), Amazon and other sources.

The Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998 caused severe hardship in Southeast Asia, and many countries tightened their regulation of banks and other financial institutions, adopted more conservative fiscal policies, and made



themselves less vulnerable to Western market fluctuations by forming closer trade and investment ties with their neighbors. This book analyzes the major political and economic reforms that resulted from the Asian financial crisis, looking particularly at how such reforms helped to prepare Asian countries for coping with the 2009 global recession. Peter hopes to offer an OLLI course on this subject in the spring.

As a foreign service officer, he served in Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines, and he has taught at Old Dominion University and the Naval War College. Peter is the co-editor of OLLI's literary journal, *Fairfax Ink*.

OLLI SPIRITWEAR

Order sweatshirts, shirts, caps and tote bags with the OLLI/Mason logo at any time directly from the vendor for delivery to your home. Use [this Web site](#); click on "OLLI-GMU Store" to see the pictures, then click on each item to see more details. *Note: the pictures do not show our logo but it will be embroidered on the items that you order.*



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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MASON ARTS AND MUSIC

Upcoming Mason performances, Nov 13-22



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](#).

**Mason Dance Company
Fall Concert**

Fri-Sat, Nov 13-14, 8:00

Fri, Nov 13, 2:00

The concert will feature a premiere by visiting guest artist Christopher d'Amboise.

Admission: \$10

seniors/students, \$15 other adults, \$7 groups of 10 or more

Harris Theater

**Jazz 4 Justice
Featuring the
GMU Jazz
Ensemble and
Combos
Jim Carroll,
director**

Fri, Nov 13, 8:00

This annual concert is a benefit for pro bono work and community outreach for youth and for the music scholarship fund at George Mason's School of Music. It will feature George Weiner as special guest conductor and Geoffrey Gallante, a nine-year-old trumpet star. Come hear music of Maria Schneider, Alan Baylock, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and other

**Shanghai Symphony
Orchestra
Long Yu, conductor
Di Wu, piano**

Sat, Nov 14, 8:00

Formed in 1879 and now known as "the best in the Far East," the orchestra performs works of China's composers as well as music of the Western world. Their program will include Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with Di Wu, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture* and *China Air Suite* by Bao Yuankai.

Admission: \$50, \$42, \$25
Concert Hall

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

jazz greats.
 Admission: \$15 seniors/students, \$20 other adults
 Concert Hall
 A cash bar will open at 7:15. Jam sessions will follow the concert in the Main Lobby. Bring your instrument; musicians of all levels are welcome.

American Youth Philharmonic
Featuring Matthew Sidney Hazelwood, guest conductor
and Victoria Bass, cello



Sun, Nov 15, 1:00
 The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) provides competitive world-class training and performance opportunities for young musicians, age 7-21. It is the Youth Orchestra in Residence at George Mason's Center for the Arts.

GMU Various Chamber Ensembles
 Sun, Nov 15, 2:00
 This performance was originally scheduled for both Nov 15 and 22. It has been blended into one program, and the concert on Nov 22 is canceled.
 Admission: Free, no ticket required
 Harris Theater

GMU Vocal Jazz Concert
Stan Engebretson, conductor
Julie Neish, asst. conductor
 Sun, Nov 15, 7:00
 Two vocal groups will perform, Soundcheque and the Timesquare Singers, with

Keyboard Conversations®
With Jeffrey Siegel



Chopin the Patriot
 Sun, Nov 15, 7:00
 Mr. Siegel continues his year-long celebration of Chopin with three polonaises that honor Chopin's homeland of Poland and the heroism of its people: the tender G Minor, the brooding C Minor and the heroic A-Flat, plus several buoyant and poignant mazurkas.
 Admission: \$38, \$30, \$19
 Family Friendly: Youth

Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$14 other adults
 Concert Hall

several soloists. Soundcheque's offerings will include "Acapulco" by The Real Group, "Autumn Leaves" arr. by Darren Motton and "Signed, Sealed and Delivered, I'm Yours" by Stevie Wonder, arr. by Engebretson. Timesquare Singers will do "Boy with Dreams" by Terry Barr, "I've Gotta Run" by Ann Marie White and "In Short" by Luke Walker.
 Admission: Free, no ticket required
 Harris Theater

grade 12 and under, half-price with an adult. (**Note change from "age 12 and under" last season.**)
 Concert Hall

Studio Series #2
The Exonerated
Written by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen

Directed by Kate Welsh
 Thu, Fri, Sat, Nov 19, 20, 21, 8:00
 Sat, Sun, Nov 21, 22, 2:00
 The play dramatizes the stories of five men and one woman wrongfully convicted of murder, but later released after years of imprisonment where they were subjected to brutality and degradation. The film version starred Susan

GMU Workshop Jazz Band Concert
 Thu, Nov 19, 8:00
 Admission: Free, no ticket required
 Harris Theater

Aquila Theatre Company
As You Like It
 Fri, Nov 20, 8:00
 Set in a period of revolution in France, Shakespeare's classic comedy tells

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra
Christopher Zimmerman, conductor
Chu-Fang Huang, piano
 Sat, Nov 21, 8:00
 The orchestra will perform Falla's *The Three-Cornered Hat*, Suites 1 and 2; Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*; Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G*; and Ginastera's *Estancia*.
 Admission: \$55, \$45, \$35, \$25
 Concert Hall
 Come at 7:00 for a free,

Sarandon, Danny Glover and Brian Dennehy. Note: This play is intended for mature audiences.

Admission: \$3 Seniors, students, \$6 other adults
 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 story of power hungry men exiling their brothers, girls portraying guys and love found in unexpected places. The production is faithful to Shakespeare, yet perfectly accessible to modern audiences.

Admission: \$34, \$26, \$17
 Concert Hall
 Come at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion on Grand Tier III.

pre-concert lecture on Grand Tier III.

ArtsBeijing 2009 Performance Featuring Beijing Dance Drama Opera and China National Acrobatic Troupe
 Sun, Nov 22, 7:00

This presentation represents contemporary and classical Chinese performance arts. It is cosponsored by the Confucius Institute at Mason, the Washington-Beijing Cultural Exchange Association, the Mu Ping Dance Performance Art Troupe, the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars and the Association of Chinese American Professors at Mason.

Admission: \$65, \$45, \$25
 Concert Hall

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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other Mason events



By Helen Ackerman, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **Understanding Islam Lecture Series: Life After Death.** Fourth in a five-week lecture series promoting peace, diversity, and understanding about the teachings of Islam. Sat, Nov. 14, 4:30 to 6:30, Science & Tech II, Room 7. Free.

- **[Astronomy Observing Session.](#)** Check the stars during the clear nights of fall. The observing session will be canceled if the sky is more than half overcast one hour before the session is scheduled to begin. Tue, Nov 17, about 6:00. Research I, Observatory. Free.
- **American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month: Maze of Injustice - Indigenous Women's Rights.** Features speakers Gabrielle Tayac of the Smithsonian American Indian Museum, and Dave Nicholas, former tribal law enforcement officer. Sponsored by Amnesty International. Tue, Nov 17, 7:00. Johnson Center, Room G. Free.
- **Johnson & Strachan Distinguished Speaker Series: Knox Singleton.** Knox Singleton, president and CEO of Inova Health System, will address the state of our nation's healthcare system and the proposed government reform plan. Tue, Nov 17, 7:00 to 8:30. Johnson Center, Cinema. Tickets required; reserve your ticket [online](#).
- **[Getting to Happy: 7 Steps to a More Contented Life.](#)** Wed, Nov 18, 12:00 to 1:00. SUB II, Room 7. Register online at the HR Training website. Free.
- **American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month: Trail of Tears Intertribal Dance Troupe.** Enjoy Native American dancing, and bring a toy, backpack, or school supplies to help support Lakota children of the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. Thu, Nov 19, 1:00 to 2:30. Johnson Center, Dewberry 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 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 Nov 13	Fall Term Ends
8:30am	Special Event - F967, Abraham Lincoln's Washington City - Bus Trip
9am	Recorder Lessons - TA-3
10am	Travel Club - TA-1
10am	Drama Club - TA-3

10am Recorder Consort - TA-2
 10:30am Special Event - L973, [Tour Geography and Map Divisions](#) - Library of Congress
 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex
 Tue Nov 17 **10am Science, Technology & Health Resource Group Meeting - Annex**
 10:30am Knitting and Needlework Club - Lake Anne Coffee Shop
 Wed Nov 18 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
12pm Planning Committee Meeting - Annex
 Thu Nov 19 9:30am [Photography Club](#) - TA-1
 Fri Nov 20 9:30am [Board of Directors Meeting](#) - TA-1
 10am Drama Club - TA-3
 10am Recorder Consort - TA-2
 11am Homer Group - Social Room Annex
 Sat Nov 21 12:30pm [OLLI Personal Computer User Group](#) - TA-1
Mon Nov 23 - Fri Nov 27 OLLI Office and Tallwood Closed
 Tue Nov 24 10:30am Knitting and Needlework Club - Lake Anne Coffee Shop

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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).

- **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.olligmu.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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