



OLLI E-News

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



ISSUE Friday, December 7,
DATE: 2007

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FLASHES	<p>> TONIGHT: TFA First Fridays at Old Town Hall, 7:30, free. Info.</p> <p>> MON, DEC 10: WINTER REGISTRATION STARTS (online opens at 8:30; walk-in at Tallwood opens at 10:00). <i>Remember, there is no longer any advantage to registering immediately or early.</i></p>
ALERTS	<p>> BOARD MEETING: 10:00 Fri, Dec 14, TA-1. OLLI members invited.</p> <p>> HISTORY CLUB NEWSLETTER. Dec 2007 issue now posted.</p>
REMINDERS	<p>> WINTER CATALOG: Available on the OLLI Website and the Registration Portal; catalogs bulk mailed this week to members.</p> <p>> FAREWELL RECEPTION for Executive Director Dick Chobot: Wed, Dec 12, 12:30-2:30, Tallwood. More info.</p>
ARTICLES AND NOTICES	<p>> IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE WINTER TERM! Preparing for registration. <i>By Dick Chobot</i></p> <p>> THE 2008 BUDGET. From the treasurer. <i>By Gordon Canyock</i></p> <p>> LOUDOUN WINTER PROGRAM UPDATE. About the Loudoun program. <i>By Rae Schafer</i></p> <p>> MORE ON SAVING TAXES BY HELPING OLLI. Transfer appreciated securities to benefit OLLI. <i>By John Woods</i></p> <p>> BOOK CLUB MEETING. <i>Mountains Beyond Mountains.</i></p>
DEPARTMENTS	<p>> PROFILE OF DIRECTOR AL ROE. The newest</p>

Board member. *By Carolyn Sanders*

> **CENTER FOR THE ARTS.** Arts and music events. *By Jan Bohall*

> **MASON HIGHLIGHTS.** Other events at Mason. *By Barbara Kyriakakis*

> **COMING ATTRACTIONS.** Upcoming non-class events.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE WINTER TERM!

Preparing for registration

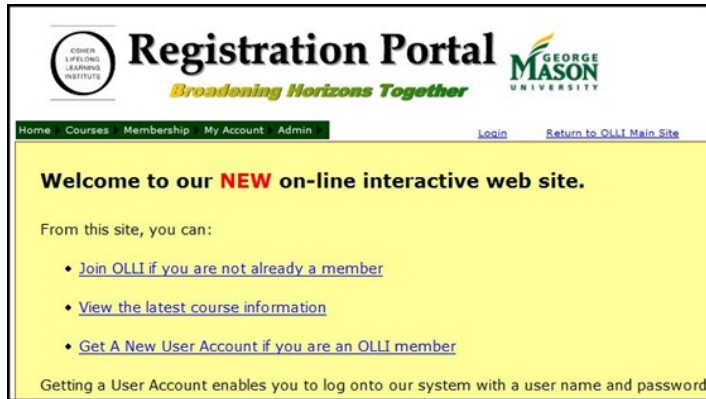


By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

*It was three days before registration,
And all through OLLI
Fingers were itching
To register for courses, one, two, three (or more).
The catalog was posted
And examined with care
In hope that favored courses
Still would be there.*

LET'S START with some basic information:

- You can register three ways: online, walk-in or by mail. **There is no longer any benefit to being in line early for walk-in registration or to being among the first to register online.**
- You can plan your schedule before registration by consulting the OLLI catalog in print, online at the [OLLI Website](#), or online at the [Registration Portal](#).
- If you are up for membership renewal or are a new member, membership must be paid at the time of registration.
- To view the Winter 2008 schedule on the [Registration Portal](#), click "View the Latest Course Information" on the home page (see image below).



- **Online registration opens at 8:30 on Mon, Dec 10** (online registration will be activated at that time). **Registration will close on Fri, Dec 21.** Late registration will be activated after initial class assignments have been made.
- Telephone HELP for individuals registering online will be available at the main office number (703-503-3384) beginning at 8:30 on Mon, Dec 10.
- **You need a User Account to register online** (see last week's *OLLI E-News* [article on establishing a User Account](#)).
- If you register online and have fees to pay, it will require using a credit card.
- There is a [fillable registration form on the Website](#) that you can complete online and then print and mail in or bring to registration at Tallwood.
- **Walk-in registration at Tallwood will be open at 10:00 and run until noon on Mon, Dec 10.**
- Registrations received by mail will be processed beginning on Tue, Dec 11.
- If courses are not over-subscribed, you will be enrolled in the courses you have requested. For the few over-subscribed courses, registration is filled by priority group (priority ones first, then priority twos, etc.), and when there are not enough slots, remaining available slots for that priority group will be filled by 'lottery' using computer-generated numbers.

Let's assume you have chosen to register online.

- Access the online [Registration Portal](http://www.olliatgmu.org) (www.olliatgmu.org).
- Click on the Login link near the top center of the home page.

- Enter your User Name and Password (**the password is case sensitive**), then click the Log In button.
- If you forgot either item, you can secure them via email by clicking on the links immediately below the Login box on the Home Page. Remember, if you are called upon to enter your name, it must be exactly as it appears in the OLLI Membership Directory.
- Hold the mouse over the Courses drop-down menu and then select Register/Add Course.
- If you are scheduled to RENEW, you can check the box at the top of the page.
- Use the purple/gray table of courses to select your desired courses. The initial priority order will be the order in which you select the courses.
- When you have finished your selection you can display the list of selected courses by priority by clicking the Sort by Priority button near the top right of the yellow table.
- If you wish to change a priority up or down, you can do so by using the Arrow Keys in the Change Priority column.
- If interested, you also can check the Liaison box. This means you are willing to serve as the class liaison for this course.
- When you are satisfied with the list, click the Submit button.
- If you have fees to pay, you will be directed to the secure site for credit card payment. This is the VeriSign/PayPal site, not an OLLI site. No online credit card information is retained on the OLLI server.
- Once the online registration process is complete, you will receive an email notice that receipts the payment and provides the list of courses/events for which you have registered. **Note that the email notice is NOT a confirmation of placement/enrollment.** This will come later in the form of a confirmation letter after registration is closed.

Other features and functionalities of the online registration site were described in an [article appearing the July 20, 2007 OLLI E-News](#). It is suggested that you review this article in the next few weeks so that you can appreciate and utilize other features of the system.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for improvement of the online registration system, or the registration process in general, please communicate them to the executive director or Ann Hartmann.

[Back to top](#)

THE 2008 BUDGET

From the treasurer



By [Gordon Canyock](#), Treasurer

AS YOU'VE ALREADY READ IN LAST WEEK'S OLLI E-NEWS, the draft budget proposed by the Finance Committee was approved unanimously at the Nov 16 Board meeting. The budget is available to any member upon request to me, but I'd like to acquaint all of you with the highlights.



For the average member the most important facts probably are that the budget is balanced (income and expenses are each about \$291,000, not including Loudoun) and does not necessitate an increase in dues, which complied with the guidance received from the Board. We achieved that result primarily by reducing the executive director's compensation by 40 percent and reducing staff hours by 10 percent. Of course, we still need to find a replacement willing to accept the executive director position at that reduced level in order for the budget to remain balanced and dues to remain unchanged.

The Board's guidance was predicated on concerns about the impact of another significant raise in dues after the major increase last spring. While membership has not declined as a result, I have noted a decrease thus far this year in contributions to Friends of OLLI.

For the first time, we have established in the operating budget a line item for purchase of new audio-visual and computer equipment (capital purchases have in the past relied on Friends of OLLI funds). We would prefer not to have to spend that money as the rest of the budget is very tight. So I encourage all of you to consider making a much-needed donation in response to the recent Friends of OLLI solicitation.

Looking to the future, obviously we cannot count on reducing the executive director's pay every year and finding someone new who is willing to work for less. As Treasurer, I want to forewarn you that I will likely push for an annual increase of about \$10-15 in dues starting in 2009 to cover inflation and to rebuild our cash reserves, which have been significantly depleted this year. While we have retained \$50,000 in a "rainy day" fund, that is not a great deal of protection against the hurricanes that might come our way in the future.

I encourage all of you to [email me](#) with any questions you may have about the budget.

[Back to top](#)

LOUDOUN WINTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Winter term is Feb 4-29

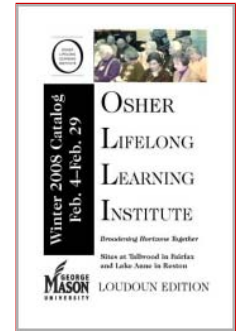


By [Rae Schafer](#), Program Assistant

THE LOUDOUN WINTER TERM is Mon, Feb 4, through Fri, Feb 29. The Loudoun program winter catalog has been posted [online \(pdf\)](#) and will be in the mail to the Loudoun program mailing list by Fri, Dec 14.

Catalogs will also be available at the Mason at Loudoun campus and in the Tallwood office. Walk-in registration at the Mason at Loudoun campus is scheduled for Mon and Tue, Jan 7 and Jan 8, from 9:00 until noon. Mail-in registration will continue until Fri, Jan 18.

Reston and Tallwood OLLI members may register for Loudoun courses at no additional cost on a space-available basis. Registration confirmation letters for Loudoun will be mailed during the week of Jan 28.



[Back to top](#)

MORE ON SAVING TAXES BY HELPING OLLI

Transfer appreciated securities to benefit OLLI



By John Woods, Development Committee chair



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY to support OLLI philanthropically and have securities that have appreciated to the point you are concerned about the capital gains taxes you will incur, here is a suggestion: **Have your broker transfer your appreciated securities (stocks and/or mutual funds) to the George Mason University Foundation to benefit OLLI.**

By doing this, you will not have to pay the capital gains taxes and will be able to deduct the full value of the securities in your itemized deductions on your income taxes. As I mentioned last week, our Friends of OLLI fund is at a critical

low level and there are a number of needs for funds to enhance our program and facilities.

Here is some additional information:

- The securities should be transferred directly to the GMU Foundation from the broker or through a donor advised fund; if you were to sell the securities and opt to give OLLI a cash gift from the sale, you will have a capital gains tax liability that you would not have by transferring securities.
- If you have capital losses, do not transfer these securities; sell them and take the capital loss on your taxes and give the cash to OLLI.
- Make sure you have held the securities for more than a year; you can deduct the full value of the securities if long-term gains, but only the cost of those securities if short-term gains.

If you are interested in making this type of contribution to OLLI and want more information, please contact Una Murphy at the GMU Development Office (703-993-8621). You may also check out the [Planned Giving Guide](#) on Mason's Website.

Please inform Karen Nash in the office or me that this is being done so we can make sure the money is put into our Friends of OLLI account and that you receive credit for the contribution. Several of our OLLI members have made these types of contributions to OLLI in the past. This is a win-win situation – you save taxes, increase your tax deductions and help OLLI.

Of course, before you do anything, you may want to check with your tax adviser to make sure this action is appropriate for your circumstances.

[Back to top](#)

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OLLI?

HERE'S HOW to express your views--

• **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--**

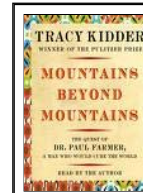
- Contact any [Board member](#), [committee or resource group chair](#), or the

[executive director](#);

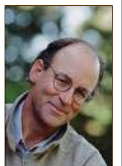
- Send an email to the entire Board (email the [editor](#) or the [office](#) to have your message forwarded to all members of the Board);
- Submit a suggestion [online](#) or in the box in the Tallwood social room or on one of the "parking lots for ideas" in classrooms; or
- Contact the office by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384).

BOOK CLUB MEETING

Mountains Beyond Mountains



THE OLLI BOOK CLUB WILL BE MEETING at Tallwood on Wed, Dec 12, at 10:00. The book for discussion is [Mountains Beyond Mountains](#) by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder (photo at right).



All OLLI members are welcome.

[Back to top](#)

PROFILE OF DIRECTOR AL ROE

The newest Board member



By Carolyn Sanders, *OLLI E-News* staff writer

OLLI BOARD MEMBERS ARE BUSY PEOPLE, and Al Roe who was confirmed as a director at the Nov 16 Board meeting is no exception.

Retired from Mobil in 1993 after 29 years of service in the field of marketing education—making good use of his degree in Business Administration from Westminster College in New Wilmington,



Pennsylvania—Al and Alice, his wife of 50 years, like to travel and garden ... when they aren't taking classes at OLLI, of course.

Al's career took them to London for six years. That city was a good jumping off place for visiting and exploring all over Europe plus Australia, Singapore, and Bangkok. With two children and two grandchildren in New Jersey and one child and three grandchildren in Atlanta, Georgia, they often visit those areas and look forward to exploring more of the United States.

Last year's gardening project was landscaping their Vienna backyard. It now includes a pond that is regularly visited by a not-so-welcome blue heron. The Roes particularly like watching hummingbirds at their feeders along with many non-migratory woodpeckers, cardinals, chickadees, and other birds native to our area.

We welcome this native of Western Pennsylvania, having been born in the small town of Pitcairn a few miles east of Pittsburgh, to our Board and thank him for his service to it and to OLLI's Planning Committee.

[Back to top](#)

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason, Dec 7-16



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](#).

King's Singers Joy to the World

The group will perform their traditional yule concert, which will include *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*; *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*; *The Coventry Carol*; and *Away in a Manger*.

Fri, Dec 7, at 8:00

Admission: \$46, \$38, \$23

Concert Hall

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

GMU Opera Divas! Divas! Divas!

An evening of opera celebrating the soprano. Includes music from Puccini's *Tosca* and Mozart's *The Impresario*.

Fri, Dec 7, and Sat, Dec 8, at 8:00
Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults

Harris Theater

GMU Dance Company December Concert

Fri, Dec 7, and Sat, Dec 8, at 8:00
Admission: \$7 seniors/students, \$10 adults

Dance Performance Studio, on 3rd Floor of Performing Arts Bldg. (adjacent to the Concert Hall).



See details at right

Rockapella

A Rockapella Holiday

MATINEE ADDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

This five-man group will perform holiday classics a cappella in their winning combination style of soul, rock, R&B and jazz. Included will be *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, and *Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer*, as well as new pieces like *Little Mary Snowflake*, and their signature *Snowstar*.

Sat, Dec 8, at 3:00 and 8:00

Admission: \$40, \$32, \$20

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

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

GMU Music Holiday Concert Featuring University Symphony Orchestra and Choirs

Sun, Dec 9, at 7:00

Admission: \$15 seniors/students, \$20 other adults
Concert Hall



See details at right

Canadian Brass

A Canadian Brass Christmas

The brass quintet is heading into its 36th performance season, giving nearly 100 concerts a year. The program ranges from Bach to Glenn Miller and includes festive Hanukkah and Christmas music.

Fri, Dec 14, at 8:00

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

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

Come early at 7:15 for an artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra and the Capitol Bones Big Band A Stan Kenton Christmas

Inspired by Stan Kenton's Merry Christmas (1961), the concert features top jazz musicians from the D.C. area and includes Vince Guaraldi's *Christmas Time is Here*;

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops—A Selection of Holiday Favorites

The concert features the Reston Chorale and the W.T. Woodson High School Select Vocal Ensemble.

Bob Wells and Mel Torme's *The Christmas Song; Greensleeves; and Big Bad Drummin' Dude.*

Sat, Dec 15, at 8:00
 Admission: \$40, \$32, \$20
 Family friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult
 Concert Hall
 Come early at 7:15 for an artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

Sun, Dec 16, at 3:00
 Admission: \$55, \$45, \$25
 Concert Hall



See details at left

[Back to top](#)

MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other events at Mason



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News assistant editor

- **Cinema Series** – [Good Luck Chuck](#) – Sat, Dec 8, 6:00 and 9:00, JC Cinema. \$1.00 with Mason ID.
- **Toys for Tots** - Bring unwrapped toys to donate to the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. Tue, Dec 18, 3:00 to 5:00, JC Cinema Lobby. (703) 993-3178.
- **Human Trafficking in Southern Russia** - Panel discussion featuring perspectives from five law enforcement officials and scholars from Southern Russia who identify, investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes and assist its victims. This event is sponsored by the Mason School of Public Policy's Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center. Thu, Dec 13, 2:00, Arlington, Original Building, Room 329. Free and open to the public. Seating is limited; reservations suggested. Call TraCCC at 993-9757 or email at tracc@gmu.edu to secure a seat.
- **Men's Basketball** – Mason vs. Liberty, Sun, Dec 30, 5:30, Patriot Center. **Tickets:** \$14.00 for adults; \$8.00 for seniors over 62; \$6.00 for children 18 and under.
- **Women's Basketball** – Mason vs. American, Wed, Dec 19, 7:00; Mason vs. Fordam, Sat, Dec 22, 1:00; Mason vs. Winthrop, Sun, Dec 30, 1:30; Patriot

Center. **Tickets:** \$5:00 for adults; \$2.00 for seniors and youth.

[Back to top](#)

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 [Forecast of Non-Class Events](#) for more details, including active links to more information on certain events, and to view the actual 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 Dec 7 11:30am OLLI Holiday Party - International Country Club Fairfax
- Monday Dec 10 Registration Begins for Winter Term
- Tuesday Dec 11 8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
9:30am Readers Theater - TA-1
- Wednesday Dec 12 10am Tallwood Book Club - TA-2
10am Bridge Club - TA-3
12:30pm Reception for Dick Chobot - TA-1
- Thursday Dec 13 10am Investment Forum Club - TA-1
- Friday Dec 14 10am Board of Directors Mtg - TA-1**
10am Italian Club - Annex
1pm Movie - TA-1 [Helen of Troy](#) (2005)
1:30pm Homer Etc. Book Club - Annex
- Tuesday Dec 18 8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
- Wednesday Dec 19 10am Bridge Club - TA-3
10am Genealogy Club - TA-2
- Friday Dec 21 Registration Ends
- Monday Dec 24 OLLI CLOSED until Jan 7 - Holidays

[Back to top](#)

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

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff



Rod Zumbro
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Deputy
Editor

are distributed in classrooms, primarily for members without email. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact the [OLLI E-News editor](#) or the Communications Committee chair, [Gordon Canyonk](#).

Submissions. We encourage members to submit news items, 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.

Note about HTML graphics. If you do NOT see photos and clickable links in this message, you might want to ask a teenaged grandchild or a neighborhood teenager or college student to fix things for you. Or you could change your email settings yourself. Here's how to view html-formatted messages like this newsletter in five popular email systems:

- **Microsoft Outlook Express and Windows Mail.** Click Tools; select Options; in the Read tab, uncheck "Read all messages in plain text."
- **Mozilla Thunderbird.** Click Tools; select Options and click the Privacy icon; click the General tab. Uncheck "Block loading of remote images" and uncheck "Block Javascript." Click OK. Now click View; select "Message Body As ... Original HTML" (not Plain Text). Also in View, select "Display Attachments Inline" so that selection is checked.
- **Yahoo Mail.** Click Mail Options/General Preferences; under Security, uncheck "Block HTML graphics in email messages from being downloaded."
- **AOL.** Upgrade, if possible, to an AOL version above 5.0.

Assistant Editor, Database Manager
Barbara Kyriakakis

Assistant Editor
Arleen Richman

Photo Editor
Michael Coyne

View [last 12 issues](#)

[Search](#) for items in *OLLI E-News*

Read the Latest Issue Before Distribution.

Eager to read the latest news from OLLI? The new weekly issue of *OLLI E-News* is usually posted 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.

GMU Webmail. If *OLLI E-News* is being sent to your gmue.edu email address, **we recommend against using GMU Webmail (i.e., iPlanet "Messenger Express")** to read this newsletter **unless you are using Firefox** as your browser; in Firefox, just click the text/html link to view the newsletter. This does not normally work with Internet Explorer (although you may be able to make it work by clicking Open after clicking the text/html link and then selecting Internet Explorer as the program to use to view the link).

- You could forward the newsletter to your alternate Web-based email account such as Yahoo Mail or Hotmail and read it there ... or read it online at the [OLLI Website](#) each Friday.
- Perhaps the easiest solution for those of you with GMU email accounts is to configure your desktop email system such as Microsoft Outlook Express, Microsoft Windows Mail or Mozilla Thunderbird to retrieve mail sent to your gmue.edu address. To do this, see [these instructions](#).

[Back to top](#)

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