



ISSUE Friday, December 14,
DATE: 2007

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NEWSFLASH	POSSIBLE CANDIDATE PRESENTATION, TODAY. It is very likely that the candidate recommended by the ED Search Committee to fill the executive director's position will give a 10-minute presentation to the Board at 12:30 today in TA-1. Members are invited to attend.
ALERT	FRI, DEC 21: WINTER REGISTRATION ENDS. <i>There is no longer any advantage to registering immediately or early, but you DO have to register before registration ends!</i>
REMINDER	> WINTER CATALOG: Available online at the OLLI Website and the Registration Portal ; catalogs bulk mailed last week to members.
ARTICLES AND NOTICES	> UPDATE. From the executive director. <i>By Dick Chobot</i> > A VERY GOOD HOLLIPARTY. 140 members attended. <i>By Carolyn Sanders</i> > GETTING A BIGGER BANG FROM YOUR OLLI CONTRIBUTION. Obtain a matching grant from your former employer. <i>By John Woods</i> > PHOTO OF THE MONTH. Selected by the OLLI Photography Club. > WE ONLY PART TO MEET AGAIN: FAREWELL TO DICK CHOBOT. Wednesday's reception for Dick. <i>By Elizabeth Crawford</i> > VERSE IN HONOR OF DICK CHOBOT. Read, on behalf of OLLI members, to Dick at his reception. <i>By Carol Henderson</i> > NEW JUSTINIAN PAINTING IN ANNEX. A between-terms exhibit. <i>By Marvin Munch</i>

DEPARTMENTS	> CENTER FOR THE ARTS. Arts and music events. <i>By Jan Bohall</i> > MASON HIGHLIGHTS. Other events at Mason. <i>By Barbara Kyriakakis</i> > COMING ATTRACTIONS. Upcoming non-class events.
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UPDATE

From the executive director



By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

THANK YOU! A heartfelt thank-you to those who planned and attended a reception in my honor this past Wednesday. It is great to be appreciated. Likewise, let me thank all of you for the opportunity to be a part of the OLLI learning communities in Fairfax, Reston and Loudoun these past two plus years. As I have stated repeatedly, this has been one of the most enjoyable professional experiences of my life.

APOLOGIES. There was a slight glitch this morning that required us to briefly take down the online registration system. The problem was quickly corrected and the system placed back on line.

- For those Mac users who had problems with registering, Ben Gold sends the following:

	<p>Tell Mac users to download Firefox. Firefox works fine on the Registration Portal, while Safari does not. Firefox can be downloaded free at: http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/all.html. (Note: Go down the "Mac OS X" column to the "English (US)" row and click on the Download link; or, for your convenience, here is the direct link.)</p>
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CATALOG. Finally, for those who are just receiving the OLLI Winter Catalog, be aware that it was bulk mailed on Dec 3 and 4. We send out test copies to assess when the catalogs are received. My copy arrived on Tue, Dec 11. I attribute this to the manner in which bulk mail is handled at individual postal facilities and the general press of holiday catalogs. Hopefully the availability of

the catalog on the OLLI Website and the course list on the Registration Portal will ameliorate some of the future inconvenience caused by bulk mailing.

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A VERY GOOD HOLLI-PARTY

140 members attended



By Carolyn Sanders, OLLI E-News staff writer



Readers' Theater and Drama Club cast of characters

IT WAS A BLAST—JUST ASK ANY of the 140 members, staff, and guests who were in attendance! The International Country Club was festively decorated, the food luscious, and the staff very attentive to the needs of each of us.

Music by OLLI's very own Recorder Group, led by Robert McLean, greeted us as we arrived and visited with one another before President Pat Carroll called us to something resembling order, and lunch was served. The music is always a treat, and this year was simply super. Thanks to all of you players.

As dessert was served, George Ewing took the mike and regaled us with his favorite poem, "Dangerous Dan McGrew." Good job!

The annual raffle gave time for some very ordinary looking folks to head out to

the restrooms for costume changes and "ordinary" gave way to "extraordinary" very quickly as the OLLI Players—a.k.a. the Readers' Theater group and Drama Club—transported us to Dulles Airport where the Christmas Eve special flight to Rome had been delayed. Directed by the venerable Kathie West, with a very able assist by Karen Hauser, this story included everything from an imminent birth attended by a traveling veterinarian to a wedding of long-lost sweethearts to cremains awaiting blessing by the Pope. Disgruntled spouses, a jilted girlfriend, an incorrigible grown child and her long-suffering parents, a clever con-artist, a hippie turned preacher, an art critic and many other characters joined in the fun. The players, all of whom developed their own acts, wish to remind you, their faithful audience, that is what it was, an act—well most of it was, especially the cleaning lady.

Seasonal songs led by Palmer McGrew and a troupe of real singers closed the annual event on a high note.

A standing ovation is due to Sandy Driesslein and her Hospitality Committee for such excellent planning, lovely centerpieces, beautiful programs and nametags. Hooray!!

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GETTING A BIGGER BANG FROM YOUR OLLI CONTRIBUTION

Obtain a matching grant from your former employer



By John Woods, Development Committee chair



SEVERAL OLLI MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED to Friend of OLLI this year had their former employers contribute matching grants.

This is great for OLLI as often these matching grants will double the overall contribution. So, if any of you have former or current employers who provide charitable matching grants, please take advantage of this.

A few points:

- Here is the Mason Website related to matching grants for more information--
<http://supportingmason.gmu.edu/waystogive/matching.html>.
- Check with your company to find out exactly the procedure you and OLLI

need to follow to activate the matching grant. In some cases your contribution will have to be made to the Mason Foundation, which will then notify your company to activate the grant. In other cases you can contribute directly to OLLI and we can contact the company.

- When you make this type of contribution to OLLI, please let Karen Nash and me know so that we can monitor the matching grant.

Our annual Friends of OLLI campaign is beginning to bring in contributions, which we greatly appreciate. However, the Friends of OLLI account is at a critically low level. We hope more of you will help us so that we will be able to strengthen our programs and facilities. Thanks for your help.

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Selected by the OLLI Photography Club



"Truly Stumped" by Bob Persell

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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
- Contact the office by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384).

WE ONLY PART TO MEET AGAIN: FAREWELL TO DICK CHOBOT

Wednesday's reception for Dick



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News staff writer



*Photos of Dick's reception by Gordon Canyock
(also see banner image at top of newsletter for more photos)*

ON WED, DEC 12, A GOOD CROWD GATHERED at Tallwood to say farewell to Executive Director Dick Chobot. President Pat Carroll opened the reception with remarks about Dick's contributions, dedication and service to OLLI.

OLLI poet Carol Henderson entertained us all with her tribute to Dick (published in the next article, below).

Former President and current Membership Committee Chair Debbie Halverson thanked Dick for his service and gave him a gold poinsettia--not a gold watch, which would signal retirement, nor a gold star, which would not be significant enough. Instead, she chose a living plant, which will continue to grow and remind Dick of his contribution to our growing and vibrant organization.

Board member Valerie Braybrooke gave Dick an amaryllis on behalf of the Dirty Knee Club. A small pink flamingo will remind Dick not to follow through on his irreverent suggestion to add a large pink flamingo to the horticultural perfection of the OLLIwood Gardens.

Finally, Dick expressed thanks, also on behalf of his wife, Mary, for "the



happiest two years of his career" at OLLI. He has been inspired by the members' commitment to lifelong learning and their willingness to volunteer to make the program successful. He leaves with wonderful memories and no regrets.

To Dick we say, "Happy trails to you, and (as the message on the cake said) we only part to meet again."

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VERSE IN HONOR OF DICK CHOBOT

Read, on behalf of OLLI members, to Dick at his reception



By Carol Henderson, Board member

**For Dick Chobot
First Executive Director
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University**

When we met Dick, his name didn't flow.
Was it "Chaw-Butt"? No, it's "Show-Beaux"!

He brought wide experience, a Ph.D.;
Did history, poli sci, philosophy.

In education, he'd staffed and he'd taught,
And in the nonprofits, he'd done all he ought.

Blue collared, adjuncted, and consulted, too.
And so came to OLLI to be challenged anew.

He opened his door and brought everyone in,
Added his chatter to social room din.

He took right away to the social room groove;
Ate more cookies than his Mary would approve.

He assembled great staff, a fine fine array—
Madeline, Bill, two Anns, Karen and Rae.

Re-layed out the office for the good of the staff;
Led his great team on our behalf.

Strengthened our program, Fridays and more;
Taught courses himself while minding the store.

The program soon grew from good to fine,
And registration is now online.

Volunteers are an asset, he often said;
And he thanked them for all they contributed.

Saw membership grow and Loudoun begin,
Urged us to hold on and make it a win.

Stayed under budget with Gordon, Pat and Don;
Handbook and bylaws he advised us upon.

For pool lot and affiliation, he'd hew
New agreements to see us through.

Insurance and audits, he knows the biz;
Assessments and surveys, he's a whiz.

Upgraded A/V and padded our chairs;
Got defibrillators because he cares

Not just for our minds, but our tushes and hearts;
He knows where intellectual stimulation starts.

Appreciated the Mason maintenance bunch,
Thanked them all, had them to lunch.

Endeared himself to Osher and GMU;
Brought movie days and clinics for flu.

Had lots of ideas, many that worked;
Others just simmered, some of them perked.

We found he'd start things we'd never try;
He found that some things the Board wouldn't buy.

He learned that we need lots of spaces to park,
But we didn't much like to drive after dark.

Overnight trip results were mixed.
TA-3 was closed, shored up and fixed.

TA-3 survived but Tallwood House fell;
Are we there for years yet? Who can tell?

From Tallwood to Smallwood to UBRC,
A challenge--facilities continue to be.

The OLLI environment he did scan,
And recommended OLLI have a plan.

To bring some order to the Board
He tried, and at least moved us toward

Efficiency with calendar consent.
Talked us up wherever he went.

Spread OLLI's name far and wide;
Wrote us up in *Retirement Living Guide*.

Represented us well and raised our fame;
In Osher, aging and more he spread our name.

Brought OLLI more visibility
In county, state, and community.

At Osher meetings, respect he earned,
As he shared with others what he learned.

He worked with Charles and Debbie and Pat,
Tried hard to gauge the Board's thermostat.

Sometimes a temper, always a wit,
His love for OLLI will never quit.

Wise on staying creative as you age;
He'll be an asset on any stage.

A talented man whose praises we've sung;
We know he'll stay "Forever Young"!

He's helped us more than we can tell;
We thank him so much and wish him well.

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NEW JUSTINIAN PAINTING IN ANNEX

A between-terms exhibit



By Marvina Munch, Exhibits Coordinator



BETWEEN TERMS a new painting by Leonard Justinian (*photo above*) is on display with the photograph he used as reference. We rarely see an artist's version of his subject, in this instance a photo of the great white heron. Unfortunately we will not see a miniature (four inch) painting of the heron, which is now on exhibit in Florida.

Leonard will teach Beginning Watercolor Painting, course 101, in the winter term. For additional information about Leonard, see his [bio page](#) on the Website of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters.

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CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason, Dec 14-23



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>Canadian Brass A Canadian Brass Christmas</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Fri, Dec 14, at 8:00 Admission: \$50, \$42, \$25</p> <p>Family friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult Concert Hall</p>	<p>Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra and the Capitol Bones Big Band A Stan Kenton Christmas</p> <p>Inspired by Stan Kenton's Merry Christmas (1961), the concert features top jazz musicians from the D.C. area and includes Vince Guaraldi's <i>Christmas Time is Here</i>; Bob Wells and Mel Torme's <i>The Christmas Song</i>; <i>Greensleeves</i>; and <i>Big Bad Drummin' Dude</i>.</p> <p>Sat, Dec 15, at 8:00 Admission: \$40, \$32, \$20</p>	<p>Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops—A Selection of Holiday Favorites</p> <p>The concert features the Reston Chorale and the W.T. Woodson High School Select Vocal Ensemble.</p> <p>Sun, Dec 16, at 3:00 Admission: \$55, \$45, \$25 Concert Hall</p>
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Come early at 7:15 for an artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.



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.



William Hudson, Music Director

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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other events at Mason



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News assistant editor

• **Recital** - Joe Hinton, trombone; Natalie Parrell, trumpet. Free. Sat, Dec 15, at 6:00 in the Harris Theater.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Non-class events at OLLI for the next few weeks

The following list covering the next several 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 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
Tuesday Jan 8 8:15am	Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
Wednesday Jan 9 10am	Tallwood Book Club - TA-2
10am	Bridge Club - TA-3
Thursday Jan 10 10am	Investment Forum Club - TA-1
Friday Jan 11 10am	Recorder Group - TA-2
10am	Italian Club - Annex



Rod Zumbro
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 Communications Committee chair, [Gordon Canyock](#).



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

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.

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Note about HTML graphics. If you do NOT see photos and clickable links in this message, you

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Assistant Editor, Database Manager
Barbara Kyriakakis

Assistant Editor
Arleen Richman

Photo Editor
Michael Coyne

items in OLLI E-News

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.

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.oli.gmu.edu/pubs.htm#enews> where you will find a list of the last 12 issues, and click the issue with Friday's date.

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