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ISSUE DATE: Fri, Feb 8, 2008 [Click to read about this newsletter](#)

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**ALERTS**

- > **NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTED.** President Pat Carroll has appointed Bob Bohall as chair of the Nominating Committee for May 2008 elections to the Board (the appointment is subject to Board approval).
- > **BOARD MEETING 10:00 FRI, FEB 15.** Open to all members; attendance encouraged.
- > **SPRING CATALOG:** Expected to be available online sometime next weekend (spring term is Mar 24-May 16, 2008).

**REMINDERS**

- > **NEW MOVIE SCREENING AT MASON TO BENEFIT TFA.** [Read all about it.](#)
- > **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW:** Help Mason international students with their English. [More.](#)

**ARTICLES AND NOTICES**

- > [KEEPING MENTALLY SHARP.](#) From the executive director. *By Thom Clement*
- > [THE OLLI--VOL.](#) Looking for volunteers. *By Elizabeth Crawford*
- > [LANDSCAPING BUDGET INCREASED.](#) Improvements possible because of a donation to Friends of OLLI. *By Gordon Canyock*
- > [BEVERLY COSHAM TO GIVE VALENTINE CONCERT SAT, FEB 9.](#)
- > [OLLI MILITARY OUTREACH UPDATE.](#) Donations still solicited. *By Helen Goff*
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**DEPARTMENTS**

- > [MS. OLLIE ETTAKIT.](#) Members respond to last week's suggestion.
- > [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.

**IN MEMORIAM**

[BARBARA BLOCK:](#) FORMER OLLI MEMBER

**KEEPING MENTALLY SHARP**

*From the executive director*



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

**I HAVE HAD NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS WITH FOLKS** about their attraction to OLLI. Of course, most OLLI members would say that they enjoy "pure learning" – just for the joy of it. However, one of the key factors that seems to motivate older adults to pursue lifelong learning is the desire to keep mentally sharp. I've spoken with OLLI members as well as outside representatives of companies who have a burning interest in the relatively new concept of "brain exercise."

Imagine my reaction when I picked up this week's issue of *U.S. News & World Report* and saw that the cover story was entitled "Keeping Your Brain Fit." The gist of the story is about the new scientific findings that support the benefits of systematic activities that stimulate growth of new brain cells and slow down the normal shrinking of the brain with age. Activities such as a healthful diet, crossword puzzles, and high-tech brain games seem to have a positive effect. According to the article, "Recent studies of both animal and human subjects have found that several factors go hand in hand with better mental performance, including education, professional success, and intellectual, social, and physical activities."

If this doesn't support the mission of OLLI, I don't know what does!

**THE OLLI--VOL.**

*Looking for volunteers*



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News staff writer

**ONCE UPON A TIME**, a small boy noticed his grandmother's name tag and asked, "What is an OLLI--VOL.?" She replied:



"Long ago, in the land of the Virgin Queen, some farsighted inhabitants joined together to form the magical society of OLLI. As this society grew, there was more and more work to be done. From the OLLI members, a select group arose, dedicating themselves to this service. They became known as the OLLI--VOL.'s. In their work, they used primitive tools such as the rake and hoe or advanced tools such as the projector and computer. They proclaimed the wonder of OLLI to the outside world. They fed the OLLI members at frequent kingdom gatherings. They planned opportunities for learning and excursions for play. They introduced sages who were invited to the kingdom to share their wisdom. They recorded important OLLI events for the edification of the populace.

Today's OLLI--VOL.'s are a joyous lot. They use their talents for the good of all and enjoy the fellowship of shared labor. The OLLI--VOL. scroll now records 150 names, but spaces remain for those who understand the importance of maintaining the magic."

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."  
-- Winston Churchill

**ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT OLLI:**

- To volunteer, contact [Debbie Halverson](#), Membership Committee chair.
- For more information, see our Website's [Volunteer page](#).
- See "Volunteer Opportunity" article in this issue.

**LANDSCAPING BUDGET INCREASED**

*Improvements possible because of a donation to Friends of OLLI*



By Gordon Canyock, Treasurer

**THANKS TO AN ANONYMOUS DONOR** to Friends of OLLI, the landscaping budget for 2008 has been tripled from \$750 to \$2,250. Although Friends funds are generally intended for unspecified capital equipment purchases, this donation of \$1,500 (part of an overall \$4,000 gift) was specifically earmarked by the donor for landscaping improvements at Tallwood.

John Woods, Development Committee chair, was thrilled by the member's largesse. Valerie Braybrooke, Landscaping Committee chair, commented, "While the necessary reduction in our original landscaping budget for 2008 allowed for not much more than maintenance of our current gardens, the recent donation is another compliment for what has become a popular outdoor classroom. The additional funds will stir the creative juices among all the Dirty Knee Clubbers and enable us to design and install a new bed in the OLLIwood Gardens for all to enjoy."

**NOTICE.** OLLI is planning other projects to improve our program and facilities. Donations to Friends of OLLI can help to fund such projects, so members are encouraged to donate at any time by sending a check to the office. For more information, see the [Friends of OLLI Stewardship Report for 2007](#).

**BEVERLY COSHAM TO GIVE VALENTINE CONCERT**



**OLLI INSTRUCTOR AND SINGER/ACTRESS BEVERLY COSHAM** will sing in a "Love on the Rocks" concert at the Alden Theater at the McLean Community Center on Sat, Feb 9, at 7:30. Senior tickets are \$20 for this Valentine Concert by the McLean Symphony, featuring Beverly and her trio. Call the box office at 703-790-9223. A Champagne and Chocolate Reception immediately follows the concert.

Beverly will be teaching her popular "Great Ladies of Song" course at Tallwood this spring, along with a new course, "The Gentlemen Songsters," at Reston. She concludes each session with her own rendition of an old favorite.

Submitted by Carol Henderson

## OLLI MILITARY OUTREACH UPDATE

*Donations still solicited*



By Helen Goff, OLLI liaison to the Mason Military Outreach

Committee

**AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING** of the Mason Military Outreach the plan was to have a meeting in January to package donated items for the troops. I contacted the Mason coordinator and learned that they have decided to delay the meeting until March. I will update you when a new date is established.

A couple of members have asked me why the Department of Defense does not accept packages addressed to "Any Soldier." The reason is that there is concern that a mentally unstable person or a person opposed to the war would send harmful materials such as anthrax to our soldiers.

I have emptied the contents of the collection box in the social room once and have the donations stored for the March meeting; in addition to donations of items, OLLI members have donated \$24 in cash towards postage required to mail packages to our service members. A big thank-you to all who are helping with the program. Please continue to support this worthy cause. In deciding what to donate, please avoid items that are religious in nature as we do not know the religion of the recipient of the items donated.

Again, thank you for your donations and support of this program.

**Specifics.** See the [previous Military Outreach article](#) for information on desired items for donations.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU** come to or phoned the office for answers ... and the smiling face or friendly voice of another OLLI member helped you?

**More Smiling Faces, Friendly Voices Needed! No Special Talents Required!**

As you know, in an effort to keep down the cost of your membership the reception desk is only manned by volunteers. These volunteers perform a great service for the organization and have fun doing it without a major time commitment.

The advantages to being an OLLI office volunteer are many. While helping out the OLLI staff by covering



the office during times when they are busy setting up classrooms, working on programming, catalogs, registration or refilling the coffee and cookies, you get to know the workings of the organization from the inside out. You get to meet and share with many members you may never have met otherwise and of course, there is the marvelous staff, to boot!

Typical duties include answering phones, greeting and assisting visitors to the office, mailing out catalogs, and calling members about class changes or cancellations. The time involved is three hours, from 9:00 to noon, or the occasional afternoon shift. Typically, our office volunteers serve no more than once a month (more frequently if they wish).

Give it a try once, and see how you like it. Call one of us, or just go in the OLLI office and sign up on the calendar, which is posted to the left as you walk in. We would love to have you on the occasional special project list, such as mass mailings: please let us know if you can help with stuffing, stamping, and sealing!

Office volunteer coordinators: Mona Smith and Elizabeth Osborn.

### HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS ABOUT OLLI Questions/Comments/Suggestions

#### **PUBLICLY:**

Email your "Letter to the Editor" (see [recent sample](#)) or "Letter to Ms. Ollie Ettakit" (see sample below) 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 to a letter to the editor 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).

## WHAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TAXES

*But Were Afraid to Ask*



**OLLI IS PLEASED TO OPEN** the Tue, Feb 12, session of the winter-term course "Tax Preparation Simplified" to all OLLI members who would like to



hear Linda de Marlor's presentation, "What You Have Always Wanted to Know About Taxes But Were Afraid to Ask."

Linda will give a short PowerPoint presentation and then field questions on real estate, legal and financial issues. She has appeared on hundreds of national television and radio shows, teaches tax law to educational institutions, speaks four languages and can do taxes in six languages. She is an annual presenter to the Widowed Persons Service of Northern Virginia.

Don't miss this chance to ask questions of a nationally recognized expert. The class runs from 9:30–11:00 in TA-3.

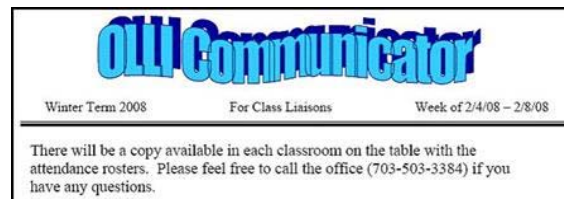
**MS. OLLIE ETTAKIT**

*Answers to your pressing questions about OLLI etiquette*



By Ms. Ollie Ettakit, *OLLI E-News* staff manners expert

*Gentle Readers:*  
 Ms. Ettakit is gratified by the letters she has received in response to the [suggestion last week](#) from a member about repeated liaison announcements (nametags, trash, electronic devices and signing in). The letters are shown below -- including one from a member who used such cute graphics that Ms. Ettakit simply could not resist including the letter in its original format.



*Ms. Ettakit knows that there can be no solution that will please everyone but she likes Executive Director Thom Clement's new format for communicating with liaisons (see snippet above). The document includes the following advice, "After the first class, you may use your judgment if you see a need to remind class participants of one or more of [these announcements]."*

*Members respond to last week's suggestion*

We would be more sympathetic with the complaint about repetitive announcements if they did not lead to turning off cell phones in almost every class immediately following the announcement, groans over forgotten nametags, and several members trooping up to check the sign-in sheet. When I am a class liaison, I try to inject a little humor into the announcement and find that, like a "spoonful of sugar," it helps the medicine go down.

-- Palmer McGrew, OLLI member

I so agree with last week's writer about the durned announcements! I've tried to be clever with the announcements, but it really does insult people's intelligence (and we are an intelligent lot, aren't we?) to have a daily reminder of how not to be a clod. The first class session for an auditory reminder should suffice!

Whew, that felt good!



**LIZ** Bateman [OLLI member]

I disagree with Anonymous [last week's writer]. Simply having a sign, no matter how attractive, will not serve as well as announcements about turning off cell phones, putting trash in basket, etc. Witness the small flurry of activity when the cell phone announcement is made: people are checking their cell phones to be sure they're off. Although those of us who take many classes may tire of the announcements, nevertheless we DO need brief verbal reminders.

-- Roxanne Cramer, OLLI member

I am sure Ms. Ettakit is mortified that the editor missed a common oversight in her column of last Friday. She wrote that class attendees would probably prefer that liaisons quickly "turn the class over" to the instructors. Of course she meant to say, "turn control of the class" or even "yield control of the class" because turning over the class would be rather memorably disruptive.

Please pass on to her that we empathize with her distress and totally understand how the pressures of a deadline can lead any of us, even the most punctilious, astray.

-- Manny Pablo, OLLI member (and an astute follower of Ms. Ettakit's example)

Email your OLLI etiquette questions to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (who is distraught that she cannot reply personally) via *OLLI E-News* editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee chair [Gordon Canyock](#).

**CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

Arts and music events at Mason, Feb 8-17



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](#).

<b>Studio Series #3</b> <i>After Ashley</i>	<b>Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra</b> Jim Carroll,	<b>State Symphony of Mexico</b> Maestro Enrique	<b>Young Artists</b> Musicales
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	<b>artistic director</b> <b>Byron Stripling,</b> trumpet	<b>Bátiz, conductor</b> <b>Leonel Morales,</b> piano	
Fri, Feb 8, at 8:00 Sat, Feb 9, at 2:00 and 8:00 Sun, Feb 10, 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).	<i>This outstanding group of metro area jazz musicians welcomes Stripling, who for many years was lead trumpeter in the Count Basie Orchestra, and has played and recorded extensively with the bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman and Dave Brubeck.</i>	<i>The program will include Buxtehude's Chacona in E-minor, Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 in D-Major ("Reformation") and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D-minor, Opus 30.</i>	Sun, Feb 10, at 6:00 Concert Hall Lobby
	Fri, Feb 8, at 8:00 Admission: \$38, \$30, \$19 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.	Sat, Feb 9, 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 a free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.	
<b>Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel</b> <i>Russia – Rebels on the Red Carpet!</i>	<b>Mark Morris Dance Group</b> <i>Dido and Aeneas music by Henry Purcell</i>	<b>American Youth Philharmonic</b>	<b>GMU Symphony &amp; Chamber Orchestra Concert</b>

<p><i>Mr. Siegel will present works of Shostakovich, Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff.</i> Sun, Feb 10, at 7:00 Admission: \$38, \$30, \$19 Family friendly: Children 12 and under, half price with an adult Concert Hall</p>	<p><i>Purcell's full-length opera tells the tragic love story of Virgil's Aeneid. Morris conducts a chamber orchestra, chorus and vocal soloists which combine to enhance the rich choreography and the expressive technique of the dancers.</i> Fri, Feb 15, at 8:00 Sat, Feb 16, at 8:00 Admission: \$50, \$42, \$25 Concert Hall Come early at 7:15 for a free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.</p>	<p>Sun, Feb 17, at 1:00 Admission: \$14, \$10 Concert Hall</p>	<p>Sun, Feb 17, at 7:00 Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults Concert Hall</p>
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## MASON HIGHLIGHTS

*Other events at Mason*



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News staff writer

- **Student Recital** – Corinne Salada, clarinet. Sun, Feb 10, 1:00, Grand Tier III, Concert Hall.
- **Krasnow Monday Seminar** – "Bringing Consciousness to Neuroscience: A Computational Perspective," presented by Alexei Samsonovich, Krasnow Institute, Mon, Feb 11, 4:00 to 5:00, 229 Krasnow Bldg.
- **College of Science Seminar** – Arieh Ben-Naim, "Entropy of mixing and

- entropy of assimilation, an information theoretical view." Mon, Feb 11, 4:30, 301 Research I.
- **Vision Speaker Series** – "This Old Chinese House: Traditional Village Architecture and Its Fate Through Revolution and Reform," presented by Carma Hinton, Robinson Professor. Mon, Feb 11, 8:00, Concert Hall. Free but [tickets](#) required. Reception follows.
  - **Introduction to Library Research** – Basic elements of the research process and introduction to the Mason library system, including electronic resources, and how to organize and evaluate information. Tue, Feb 12, 3:00 to 4:30, 228 JC Library Room.
  - **Public Choice Seminar** – "[Groupthink in Academia](#): Majoritarian Departmental Politics and the Professional Pyramid," presented by Daniel Klein, Mason Department of Economics. Wed, Feb 13, 4:00 to 5:15, Carow Hall.
  - **Workshop in Philosophy, Politics & Economics** – "[Printing & Interest Restrictions \[pdf\]](#) in Islam & Christianity," presented by Jared Rubin, California State University at Fullerton. Thu, Feb 14, 1:00 to 2:00, 318 Enterprise Hall.
  - **Cinema Series** – [Across the Universe](#), Thu, Feb 14; [Bee Movie](#), Fri and Sat, Feb 15 and 16, 6:00 and 9:00. \$1 with Mason ID.
  - **Drop-In Musicology [pdf]** – "Wonderful World of Facsimiles: Next-Best Thing to Being There," presented by Steve Gerber. Fri, Feb 15, 1:30, 228 Johnson Center.
  - **Men's Basketball** - Homecoming Game – Mason v. UNC Wilmington, Fri, Feb 15, 6:00, Patriot Center. [Tickets](#): \$14; \$8; \$6.

## 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 | Feb 8 | 9:30am  | Drama Club - TA-3                                |
|        |       | 10am    | Italian Club - TA-Annex                          |
|        |       | 10am    | Recorder Group - TA-2                            |
|        |       | 10:30am | 956-#3 Holocaust Museum - D.C.-Smithsonian Metro |


1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA Annex  
 Monday Feb 11 1pm LA Bridge Club - Lake Anne  
 Wednesday Feb 13 10am Book Club at Tallwood - TA-2  
 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3  
 1:30pm (*Revised time, class ends 3:00*) 957- Presidential Lying - TA-1  
 Friday Feb 15 WINTER TERM Ends  
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex  
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2  
**10am Board of Directors Mtg - TA-1**  
 10:30am 958-#4 Holocaust Museum - D.C.-Smithsonian Metro  
 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA Annex  
**Wednesday Feb 20 10am Science, Tech & Health Resource Group Mtg - Annex**  
 10am Investment Forum - TA1 or TA 2  
 10am Genealogy Club - TA-2  
 10am Bridge Club - TA-3  
 Friday Feb 22 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3  
 9:30am Photography Club - TA-1  
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex  
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2  
 1:30pm Homer, etc. - TA Annex

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Barbara Block, former OLLI member*

**BARBARA BLOCK** was a member of OLLI from Sep 2004 through Sep 2007. The following death notice appeared in The Washington Post.

BARBARA ANN BLOCK (Age 69) — Passed away peacefully on Thu, Jan 31, 2008 at her residence in Lake Suzy, FL. Mrs. Block is preceded in death by her first husband, George J. Lattuner, and a brother, William J. Hubbard. Mrs. Block is survived by her devoted husband, Thomas R. Block; loving children, Sharon M. (Gary) Hallman and Susan E. Lattuner; one adoring grandchild, Kyle R. Hallman; brother Robert J. Hubbard. Friends may call at the EVERLY FUNERAL HOME, 10565 Main St., Fairfax, VA on Thu, Feb 7, 2008 from 6 to 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11



a.m. on Fri, Feb 8 at St. Marys of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032.  
 Inurnment will be held on Tue, Feb 12, 2008 at 10 a.m. at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family request memorial contributions be made to The American Cancer Society, 124 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA 22180.



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

**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](mailto:rzumbro@gmu.edu), phone 703-569-2750); email strongly preferred.

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**Read the Latest Issue Before Email**

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

**OLLI E-News Editorial Staff**

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**Photo Editor**  
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