



# OLLI E-News

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



ISSUE DATE: Fri, Feb 15, 2008

[Click to read about this newsletter](#)

- [OLLI Website](#)
- [What's New](#)
- [Catalog Info](#)
- [OLLI Videos](#)
- [Suggestion Box](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

## NEWSFLASH

**SPRING-TERM CATALOG:** Available [online](#) now and expected to be bulk-mailed by Tue, Feb 19. (The separate Loudoun catalog should be available by the end of February.)

## ARTICLES AND NOTICES

- > [LOCAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES](#). From the Executive Director. **By Thom Clement**
- > [SEEKING NOMINATIONS...](#) Of candidates to serve on the OLLI Board. **By Bob Bohall**
- > [KNOW YOUR DIRECTORS](#). About the members of your Board. **By Rod Zumbro**
- > [SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT FOR LECTURES](#) in History and Current Events.
- > [TECH TIPS](#). From OLLI's Tom Swift Squad. **By Paul Howard**
- > [READERS' THEATER COMES TO A LECTURE CLASS](#). A unique presentation.
- > [GRANDCHILDREN PHOTOS EXHIBIT](#). Being dismantled, will be available for pickup.
- > [SCIENCE, HEALTH & TECHNOLOGY](#) Resource Group: All are invited to Feb 20 meeting.

## DEPARTMENTS

- > [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#). Three members write about liaison announcements.
- > [CENTER FOR THE ARTS](#). Arts and music events. **By Jan Bohall**
- > [MASON HIGHLIGHTS](#). Other Mason events. **By Barbara Kyriakakis**
- > [COMING ATTRACTIONS](#). Upcoming non-class events.

Banner image above: Board members and the executive director at a recent Reston meeting.

Left to right: Debbie Halverson, Bruce Reinhart, Abbie Edwards, Thom Clement; inset, Al Roe, Rosemary McDonald. Photos by Paul Howard, also attending.

## LOCAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

*From the Executive Director*



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

**HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE TO LIVE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA** with easy access to the many resources and cultural opportunities of the Washington Metropolitan area. OLLI members are even more fortunate to have such a great forum for networking and sharing between people with similar interests and attitudes about active learning.

These thoughts crossed my mind this week when I attended a lecture in the Visions Series sponsored by the Mason Provost, Dr. Peter Stearns. The lecture by Mason Professor Carma Hinton was a fascinating visual journey to China focusing on the relationship between its many cultural and generational changes and their impact on architecture. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and what impressed me even more was that I ran into an OLLI member in the lobby when I came in, another OLLI member sitting in front of me and OLLI President Pat Carroll and his wife sitting beside me in the audience!

Wherever there are opportunities for learning and intellectual stimulation, you're likely to find fellow OLLI members. And there is certainly is no lack of these opportunities in our area. How fortunate we are!

[Back to top](#)

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS...

*Of candidates to serve on the OLLI Board*



By [Bob Bohall](#), Nominating Committee Chair

**THE OLLI NOMINATING COMMITTEE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING** if you have an interest in being a candidate to serve on the Board of Directors or if you have suggestions regarding members who should be considered as potential directors. The committee will be meeting next Wed, Feb 20, and would like to get off to an immediate start.

Please visit, call, or email any of the committee members:

- [Bob Bohall](#)
- [Brenda Cheadle](#)
- [Abbie Edwards](#)
- [Paul Howard](#)
- [Cloe Ingram](#)
- [Ann Wagner](#)

Also Executive Director [Thom Clement](#) will be pleased to pass along any of your suggestions to the committee. Help make the best better and continue the fine programs we have at OLLI. Thank you.

[Back to top](#)

## KNOW YOUR DIRECTORS

*About the members of your Board*



By [Rod Zumbro](#), OLLI E-News Editor, Board member

**WHEN A MEMBER WHO KNOWS ME AS EDITOR SAW MY NAMETAG** this week, he was surprised to see that I am on the Board. So I wonder: *How many of you know who your directors are?*

You really should know since they are the people who are governing OLLI on your behalf. You can recognize them by the light-green nametags they wear, and you can take your comments, suggestions and concerns to any of them.

Following is a list of directors showing when their terms expire. You'll notice that three directors -- [Abbie Edwards](#), [Carol Henderson](#) and [Susanne Zumbro](#) -- will soon complete their sixth consecutive year on the Board; they have served OLLI faithfully, devoting enormous amounts of time to making our institute the best it can be, and they deserve the gratitude and appreciation of us all.

### Honorary Board Member for Life (non-voting):

Founding Member and Senior President Emeritus Lilyan Spero

### Terms of elected Board members

Expires June 2008	Expires June 2009	Expires June 2010
Abbie Edwards*	Valerie Braybrooke	Emmett Fenlon
Ben Gold	Gordon Canyock*	Debbie Halverson*
Carol Henderson*	Pat Carroll*	Bob Lawshe
Bruce Reinhart	RoseMary Gustin*	Rosemary McDonald

- |                 |             |            |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Jack Underhill  | Paul Howard | Al Roe     |
| Susanne Zumbro* | Rod Zumbro  | John Woods |
- \* *Second Board term; cannot run for re-election when term expires.*

For more information about Board members, including profiles with photos, visit the [Organization page](#) of the OLLI Website.

[Back to top](#)

## SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT FOR LECTURES HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS

**THE HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS RESOURCE GROUP** would like your ideas and suggestions regarding lectures for the summer 2008 term.

If you would like to teach or have an interesting lead regarding a class please get in touch with Co-Chairs [Bob Bohall](#), [Emmett Fenlon](#) or [Phil True](#). Executive Director [Thom Clement](#) or Program Assistant [Rae Schafer](#) will also be happy to pass along your comments.

[Back to top](#)

## TECH TIPS

*From OLLI's Tom Swift Squad*



By Paul Howard,  
Audiovisual Support Committee  
Chair, Board member

### DO YOUR EYES GET FATIGUED

after a session on your computer? In helping folks with their machines, I've noticed that they often open every application to the full width of their display screens. There's a reason many word-processing programs come with margins settings that lead to a line length of about six and a half inches. That's a good length for your eyes to scan with minimal movement on a printed page of



normal 8-½ inch wide paper.

If the window you've opened results in a very long line length on your computer display, your eyes will get tired quickly when scanning back and forth across that excessive length. I find that a window width of about 9 inches provides visual comfort for me for tasks such as word processing and reading email. This provides a line length of about 8 inches on the display. Grab the side of the application window with your mouse and drag it to a comfortable, smaller size.

Most application programs will have a "view" choice on the pull-down menu bar at the top of the screen. Options contained under "view" typically include "zoom" or some similar choice that allows you to increase the size of the type on the screen, which can add to visual comfort. Web browsers such as Internet Explorer or Firefox typically use the Control (Ctrl) key and the plus (+) key to increase type size; you may need to hold down Ctrl and hit the + key several times to increase the type size enough to be comfortable for you.

Don't forget the 20-20-20 rule for using a computer: Every 20 minutes, focus your eyes on an object at least 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds. This helps rest your eyes and will make your computer sessions less tiring.

[Back to top](#)

**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 [recent sample](#)) 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).

**READERS' THEATER COMES TO A LECTURE CLASS**

*A unique presentation*



The Feb 13 Tallwood cast: instructor/narrator David Mason and actors Mo Mason, Karen Hauser, Susanne Zumbro and Gordon Canyock. *Photo by Rod Zumbro*

**ATTENDEES IN THE FINAL CLASS OF THE "FAMOUS TRIALS" COURSE**

were treated to an educational, entertaining blend of lecture and Readers' Theater performance this past week at both Lake Anne and Tallwood.

Class instructor David Mason, OLLI member and OLLI Readers' Theater actor, came up with the idea of illustrating portions of his lecture with staged readings relating to the 1910 trial of Ossian Sweet, a black physician living in Detroit who was charged with murder and was defended by Clarence Darrow.

There was general agreement after the class that the actors, all course attendees who are also members of the Readers' Theater troupe, gave Oscar-nominee performances. The concept made the trial "come alive" and deserves repeating in a future course.

[Back to top](#)

## GRANDCHILDREN PHOTOS EXHIBIT

By Marvina Munch, Exhibits Coordinator



**THANKS TO THE GRANDPARENTS** who shared with us photos of their grandchildren, all of whom are beautiful and, undoubtedly, above average.

The exhibit will be in place through the end of winter classes this week. Those photos that were mounted on mat board will be dismantled and available in the marked box in the annex by Fri,

Feb 22.

**Next up: The Poets**

[Back to top](#)

## SCIENCE, HEALTH & TECHNOLOGY

**THE SCIENCE, HEALTH & TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE GROUP** will meet Wed, Feb 20, in the Tallwood annex to plan programs for next fall and winter terms. Any member who is interested in these subjects is welcome to attend. For further information, please contact [Ave Tombes](#).

[Back to top](#)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*A forum for members to voice their views on OLLI matters*  
**WE WILL PUBLISH** your brief letters about OLLI and, if a response seems appropriate, we will include an OLLI response from the executive director or the applicable officer or committee chair in the same issue. Submit your letter via [email to the editor](#) or submit it as a "letter to the editor" via the [online suggestion box](#) or the suggestion box in the Tallwood Social Room. To be published in a given Friday's issue, the editor must receive the letter no later than 7:00 pm on Monday so that any applicable OLLI response can also be published. Letters can be published anonymously but you must include your name and email address or phone number so we can verify that you are an OLLI member.

### *Three members write about liaison announcements*

With regard to last week's discussion in *OLLI E-News* on whether class liaisons should continue to read the 'rules' (turn off cell phones, etc.) or rely on a posted sign, I urge keeping the current system. It has become a tradition ... and we don't want everything to become dry and rational.

-- Mel Gottlieb, OLLI member

I agree with Roxanne's opinion [keep the announcements]. Although the announcements are tedious, just yesterday I walked into my 11:30 class and found an empty coffee cup under the chair. (This particular announcement *shouldn't* be necessary, but apparently it is.) The cell phone announcement is especially important because it is terribly rude for a phone to ring during class, and any of us may forget to check. Until we all develop perfect memories and perfect manners, we'll have to err on the side of caution.

-- Valerie Stucky

I did want to respond to the liaison announcements that precede introduction of speakers. Both procedurally and factually, there is no reason why *five minutes before* official class time the liaison cannot make the "pitch" to the audience. At five minutes before class time just about everyone has arrived. And did you ever try filling five minutes in front of a microphone? It is more than sufficient; it can be interminable.

OLLI has had good fortune in the caliber of speakers and the audience is eager to have time to interact (e.g., during Q&A). It is frustrating to see the speaker (and coordinator, if there is one) standing by while the liaison is talking about the "sign-up" sheet or disposing of coffee cups (Yes, more often than not, that is about it). There is nothing so urgent that cannot be delivered five minutes before the official class time begins.

-- Joan Salemi, OLLI member

### **OLLI response by Executive Director Thom Clement--**

We truly appreciate suggestions and viewpoints from OLLI members about class announcements and other topics. It seems that we have two main purposes for announcements: 1) to keep everyone informed about recent or urgent matters of interest; and 2) to provide gentle reminders about classroom courtesy and OLLI policies.

We'd like to strike just the perfect balance in every class during every term, always keeping in mind the valuable time of our instructors, speakers, and class participants. To achieve this balance, there is necessarily an interaction between the printed announcements themselves, the personal communication style of the class liaison, and the receptiveness of the audience. As I've said before, the *OLLI Communicator* will always be a "work in progress"...

[The *OLLI Communicator* is the executive director's weekly document used for communicating with liaisons. -- Ed.]

[Back to top](#)

## CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason, Feb 15-24



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News Staff Writer



**FOR TICKETS**, call 1-888-945-2468 (phone orders are handled by [tickets.com](http://tickets.com)) or visit the Center for the Arts Box Office, Tue-Sat, 10:00-6:00. More info on tickets at the [CFA tickets page](#).

<p><b>Mark Morris Dance Group</b> <b>Dido and Aeneas</b> <i>music by Henry Purcell</i></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></p> <p>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><b>American Youth Philharmonic</b></p> <p>Sun, Feb 17, at 1:00 Admission: \$14 seniors/students, \$10 other adults Concert Hall</p>	<p><b>GMU Symphony &amp; Chamber Orchestra</b> <b>Concert</b> <i>with Norma Zindahl, guest pianist</i></p> <p>Sun, Feb 17, at 7:00 Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults Concert Hall</p>
<p><b>Virginia Opera</b> <i>Eugene Onegin</i></p>	<p><b>GMU Players #2</b> <i>Humble Boy</i>, by Charlotte Jones</p>	



Fri, Feb 22, at 8:00  
Sun, Feb 24, at 2:00

*A jaded young Russian aristocrat carelessly rejects the love of a beautiful, passionate young girl, much to his later regret. Tchaikovsky brings to life many aspects of Russian life in his opera, which is based on the epic poem by Pushkin. Sung in Russian with English subtitles.*

Click this [Virginia Opera Web page](#) for details, including full synopsis, video preview, stage director's notes and "about the composer."

Admission: Friday \$86, \$72, \$44  
Sunday \$94, \$78, \$48  
Concert Hall

A cheese-tasting will be offered on Fri at 6:30 in the Lobby of the Concert Hall.

Come 45 minutes early to each performance for an artistic discussion in the lobby of the Grand Foyer.

**Note: The 2:00 performance on Sun, Feb 24, is an OLLI Special Event.**

Thu, Feb 21, & Fri, Feb 22, at 8:00  
Sat, Feb 23, at 2:00 and 8:00  
Thu, Feb 28, & Fri, Feb 29, at 8:00  
Sat, Mar 1, at 2:00 and 8:00  
Sun, Mar 2, at 2:00

*The setting is an English country garden, in this play directed by Kristin Johnsen-Neshati of the Mason theater faculty. Felix is a gentle scientist whose stammer returns when he is asked to speak at his father's funeral. His mother, Flora, has little patience with him and believes that he plots to disappoint her. There will be a post-performance discussion with the director and members of the company.*

Admission: \$8 seniors/students, \$12 other adults  
Harris Theater

**Note: The 2:00 performance on Sat, Feb 23, is an OLLI Special Event.**

[Back to top](#)

## MASON HIGHLIGHTS

*Other Mason events*



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **Homecoming Block Party and Tailgate** – Join in the fun at the Mason pep rally with appearances by the Masonettes, Mason cheerleaders and Gunston. Tents include Mason’s family friendly area with interactive games and crafts for little Patriots, as well as refreshments. Everyone invited. Sat, Feb 16, 3:00. Parking in Lot A.
- **Men’s Basketball Homecoming Game** - Mason v. UNC Wilmington. Sat, Feb 16, 6:00, Patriot Center. [Tickets.](#)
- **Physics & Astronomy Seminar** – "Formation of Habitable Planets and the Origin of Water and Volatiles," featuring Nader Haghighipour, University of Hawaii. Mon, Feb 18, 12:00, 302 Research I.



*Visiting Writer Jennifer Egan*

- **Visiting Writers Series** – Jennifer Egan, author of three novels, *The Invisible Circus*, *Look at Me*, and *The Keep*. Tue, Feb 19, 7:30, Center for the Arts Concert Hall, Grand Tier III.
- **Cinema Series** – [Amazing Grace](#), Thu, Feb. 21. [Why Did I Get Married?](#), Fri, Feb 22. Showings at 6:00 and 9:00, \$1 with Mason ID. JC Cinema.
- **Spring Arts Bus Trip** – Sat, Feb 23. Bus leaves promptly at 6:00 am from the Finley Bldg. Purchase tickets (\$65.00) at the Center for the Arts Box Office, 703-993-2787. Click [here](#) for standard day itinerary. Free parking in faculty/staff lot H near the Finley Bldg. Bus returns at 12:45 am Sun, Feb. 24.
- **Massage Therapy** – Aquatic and Fitness Center. Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00. Call for an appointment, 703-993-4028.

[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           | Feb 15        | WINTER TERM Ends  |
|                  | 10am          | Italian Club - TA-Annex   |
|                  | 10am          | Recorder Group - TA-2   |
|                  | <b>10am</b>   | <b>Board of Directors Meeting - TA-1</b>                                    |
|                  | 10:30am       | 958-#4 Holocaust Museum - D.C.-Smithsonian Metro                            |
|                  | 1:30pm        | Homer, etc. - TA Annex  |
| Tuesday          | Feb 19        | Spring Catalog Mailed to Members  |
|                  | 2pm           | 803 Makeup-Nanotechnology - TA-3  |
|                  | 2pm           | 305 Makeup VA Women - LA Church   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Feb 20</b> | <b>10am Science, Health &amp; Technology Resource Group Meeting - Annex</b> |
|                  | 10am          | Investment Forum - TA1 or TA 2  |
|                  | 10am          | Genealogy Club - TA-2   |
|                  | 10am          | Bridge Club - TA-3  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Feb 21</b> | <b>10am Membership Committee Meeting</b>                                    |
| 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  |
| Saturday         | Feb 23        | 2pm 959-Humble Boy - Mason-Harris Theatre                                   |
| Sunday           | Feb 24        | 2pm 960- Eugene Onegin - Mason-Center for Arts                              |
| Wednesday        | Feb 27        | SPRING TERM Registration Begins   |
|                  | 10am          | Investment Forum - TA1 or TA 2  |
|                  | 10am          | Bridge Club - TA-3  |
| Friday           | Feb 29        | 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3  |
|                  | 10am          | Italian Club - TA-Annex   |
|                  | 10am          | Recorder Group - TA-2   |
|                  | 1:30pm        | Homer, etc. - TA Annex  |

[Back to top](#)



Rod Zumbro  
Editor



Karen  
Hamilton  
Deputy  
Editor

View [last 12 issues](#)

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

**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.

**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.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.

Copyright © 2008 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University. Materials in this publication subject to OLLI-Mason copyright may be reproduced for noncommercial educational purposes as long as credit is given to OLLI-Mason.

**OLLI E-News Editorial Staff**

**Database Manager**  
Barbara Kyriakakis

**Photo Editor**  
Michael Coyne