



OLLI News



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at George Mason University

Spring 2005, Issue 6

www.olligmu.edu

May 2, 2005

REMINDER

By now your calendar should be well marked, but just in case you've overlooked it, the OLLI Annual Meeting is NEXT FRIDAY, MAY 6, 10:00 at Tallwood. This is your opportunity to question the candidates running for the six Board vacancies and to hear what they plan for OLLI's future. And you'll hear OLLI president Charles Duggan's annual report on the year past and his plans for the coming year.

If you have any question about those plans or the election or voting process, incumbent Board members and officers and the Nominating Committee will be there to answer them. And, of course, it is at this meeting that voting for the Board candidates begins. Finally, we understand that the Hospitality Committee is planning their usual spread of goodies for us after the meeting.

Submitted by
Nominating Committee 2005

Story of OLLI Now on Website

The *Story of OLLI* is now available for viewing over the Internet. Webmaster Michael Coyne, with the help of video producer Rod Zumbro, has set up a dedicated server from which people with broadband can access and view the video.

Go to <http://www.olligmu.org/ollistory.htm> and then read the instructions, selecting the movie player of your choice. This is a wonderful way to see the video at any time in the comfort of your home.

If you have been telling your friends about OLLI and want them to view the video, just send them this Web address. It's that easy.

If you would rather watch the video on DVD or videotape, or show it to potential OLLI members, you can borrow a copy from the office. Just remember to bring it back.
Charles Duggan, President

Movers and Shakers



Former chairs of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Jean Packard and Jack Herrity joined current chair Gerry Connolly (center) in a panel discussion at OLLI's Movers & Shakers course on April 11 moderated by Gordon Canyock.

Approximately 90 people attended, including Kate Hanley – another former chair.

Photo and caption by Gordon Canyock

Profile: French Conversation with Odette O'Donnell

If you were to walk into Odette O'Donnell's



Conversational French class, you'd think you were in a Parisian Café. The conversation is flowing, and there is a lot of interaction and camaraderie.

Conversational French, which Odette has taught at OLLI the past seven years, differs from the other two language classes OLLI offers. It is an advanced language class, not intended for beginner or mid-level students wishing to brush up on their French language skills but for those who are well versed in the language and its nuances. This class is versatile, not rigid; there is no set curriculum or book followed. Instead the conversation is allowed to evolve. Class members take turns speaking on whatever subjects they wish.... entirely in French. Odette listens, asks questions and helps them with grammar etc. Sometimes songs are sung, or a French movie is viewed. This class enables OLLI members fluent in French to sharpen their listening and speaking skills while always learning under Odette's tutelage.

Odette grew up in a French-speaking home. She was born and raised in Teheran to a Syrian father and Armenian mother. Since neither parent could speak the other's language, they communicated in French. She attended college in Teheran, taught French at the French School there, subsequently met her husband, an American, married and came to America. In the US, Odette came by teaching accidentally. When a government official learned she was fluent in both French and Farsi, Odette was offered a teaching position at one of the federal government's language schools where she taught for 23 years.

When asked what she enjoyed most about the class, Odette replied: "The students, their reactions, watching their progress as they become even more fluent". Six of the class members have attended since the class was formed. One of them, Helene Layman, spoke French before learning English. She enjoys Odette's "beautiful Parisian accent and wonderful sense of humor". Helene said this is one class she never wants to miss. For Sigrid Carlson, the class fulfills its purpose; it has brought back everything she learned in school.

Odette's teaching philosophy of giving all she can to help students evolve their French skills is certainly evident in this class. Everyone has a great time.

Luci Martel, Publications Committee
Photo by Richard Lanterman

(Watch for profiles of OLLI's other language instructors, Renata Pia Bardo and Catalina Velez, in future issues.)

British Cabinet War Rooms

The History Club will meet at Tallwood on Wednesday, May 4, from 2:00 to 3:30, to hear Bob Bohall discuss his visit to the Cabinet War Rooms in London, from which Sir Winston Churchill in May 1940 announced: "This is the room from which I shall direct the war." The basement chambers were located in the Office of Works building, the strongest structure in Whitehall and conveniently close to Number 10 Downing Street and Parliament. Work started in 1938 and was completed just a week before the German invasion of Poland in 1939. The Rooms are a remarkable underground warren of meeting rooms, claustrophobic sleeping quarters and bulky communications equipment. You can see the Map Room with its huge wall maps, the Atlantic map with a mass of pinholes (each representing at least one convoy). Next door is Churchill's bedroom-cum-office, which has a bed and a desk with two BBC microphones to broadcast his famous speeches. The telephone room next door provided a direct line to the White House. Churchill and his cabinet ministers met there throughout much of World War II, sheltered from the German bombs and missiles that wracked the city above them. The lights were switched off with the Japanese surrender in August 1945 and reopened to the public in 1984. Bob will utilize tapes, his own recollections and supplemental research to bring you the story.

Michael Styles History Club Coordinator

Credit Where Credit is Due

No matter how often we make this pitch, it remains the fact: OLLI runs on its volunteers.

We haven't space to acknowledge all our volunteers publicly in the newsletter, but if you will look at the membership bulletin board in the Social Room Annex at Tallwood, you will see their names listed, with our gratitude.

We have included the office workers, the class liaisons, and the ad hoc workers because we have their names on lists. And if your name should be on those lists and is not, let us know because some may have been inadvertently overlooked.

There are many more of you who volunteer, including Board members, committee members, and occasional helpers, whose names are not on a list. You deserve credit as well.

We've reminded you in the past but here again, the pitch: if you are a volunteer and don't already have a volunteer sticker for your name tag, they are available in the office. Please wear them with pride.

Debbie Halverson, Membership Chair

A Reminder to OLLI Early Birds

OLLI's office hours, when classes are in session, are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We open one-half hour before class begins and close one-half hour after class ends.

The first part of the day is the busiest for the staff as they are setting up coffee, putting out refreshments, opening the classrooms and setting up for instructors. During this time we ask everyone to stay out of the staff's way so that they can get their jobs done quickly and efficiently.

If you need something from the staff, please ask them the day before or wait until classes start at 9:30 . If you arrive at Tallwood before 9:00 , please limit your movements to the social room, the rest rooms and, weather permitting, the patio.

Charles Duggan, President

Copyright © 2005 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University. Materials in this publication subject to OLLI-GMU copyright may be reproduced for noncommercial educational purposes as long as credit is given to OLLI-GMU.

*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at George Mason University
4210 Roberts Road
Fairfax, VA 22032
Phone: 703-503-3384*

Coming Events at GMU:

www.gmu.edu/cfa/calendar/may/

GMU Dance Company

May 5, 6, 7, Thurs, Fri, Sat. at 8:00

\$7 adults, \$5 seniors/students

Dance Performance Studio

Call 703-993-1376.

Rennie Harris

Facing Mekka

Sat, May 7, at 8:00

\$40, \$32, \$20

Concert Hall

(Suitable for middle-school aged children and older).

The Acting Company

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

Sun, May 8, at 7:00

\$34, \$26, \$17

Concert Hall

GMU Music Honors Recital

Sun, May 8, at 3:00

Free

Harris Theater

For more information, call the GMU Music Department at 703-993-1380 or Center for the Arts at 703-993-8888.

AVT Student Show

May 2-June 2

Reception Thurs, May 5, 5:00 – 7:00

Free

Johnson Center Gallery/Fine Arts Gallery

Jan Bohall

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
MAY			
4 Wednesday	1:30	Special Events committee	TA-2
	1:30 PM	Fiction Writers	Annex
	1:30 PM	Bridge, Scrabble	TA-3
	2:00 PM	History Club	TA-1
5 Thursday	1:00 PM	Readers' Theater planning meeting	House
6 Friday	10:00 AM	OLLI Annual Membership Meeting	TA-1
	10:30 AM	Homer book club	TA-2
11 Wednesday	1:30 PM	Book Club	TA-2
	1:30 AM	Bridge, Scrabble	TA-3
	2:00 PM	"Butterfly Gardens" special event	TA-1
12 Thursday	1:00 PM	Readers' Theater planning meeting	House
13 Friday	10:00 AM	OLLI Expo	all TA facilities
	10:00 - 3:00	Course 312 to the Supreme Court summer catalogs scheduled to be bulkmailed	bus trip
18 Wednesday	11:30	voting ends	
	11 AM-2 PM	Senior Expo at RCC/Hunter Woods	
	1:30	Fiction Writers	Annex
	1:30	Bridge, Scrabble	TA-3
	2:00 PM	"Patricia Miller" special event	GMU chapel
20 Friday		spring term ends/summer registration begins	
	10:30 AM	Homer book club	Annex
23 Monday		Election results announced to membership	
27 Friday	10:00 AM	Classic Fiction book club	Reston Reg. Library
	10:30 AM	Homer book club	Annex
30 Monday		OLLI closed for Memorial Day holiday	
JUN			
3 Friday	10:00 AM	Program Committee meeting	TA-1
	10:00 AM	Board meeting to elect officers	TA-3
	10:00 AM	Recorder Consort	TA-2
	10:30 AM	Homer book club	Annex