



OLLI News

*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at George Mason University*



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President's Message

OLLI Receives Second Osher Grant

I am very happy to report to you that OLLI has received a second \$100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The foundation was very complimentary in their grant letter of our program and stated that ours "is a mature program which serves as a model for others – both locally and regionally and within the larger national Osher Institute network." We should be proud that we are looked on as one of the finest lifelong learning programs in the country.

This second year grant will be used primarily to hire an executive director. There are many reasons why the Board determined that this is the time to seek full time professional management of OLLI and we are grateful that the foundation has agreed to fund the position. The demands of our current operation have increased dramatically over the past few years. This, combined with the challenge of working with GMU to develop a future home for OLLI, far surpasses the ability of our volunteer Board and part time staff to handle effectively. An experienced executive director will provide continuity of leadership to our program and assure its ongoing high quality.

A search committee has been formed and we will keep you posted as the search progresses.

Charles Duggan, President

Sunshine on a Cloudy Day

As this is the first opportunity, at least in print, to thank all who helped out, participated in and attended the OLLI Expo, we'd like to do this here. Thank you each and all.

The Expo, held on a dreary day in May, was anything but dreary for those who heard the Singing for Fun class cheerfully perform "Side by Side", or those mingling and chatting over sandwiches, cheese, coffee and sweets in the social rooms and on the lawn.

The crowd that included about 120 people, regrettably only 37 newcomers, moved from event to event, some attending George Heatley's "Silk Road" class, others enjoying several Readers' Theater or Recorders Consort performances. A more reflective group listened as the poetry class delivered their choice pieces. There were other attractions, notably annex walls beautifully displaying artworks by the watercolor classes and the book creators. Many newcomers watched "The OLLI Story" in TA-2 and picked up free class passes to be used in the summer or fall terms.

A good percentage of those newcomers who attended came as the result of member invitations, showing once more that members are our best ambassadors for spreading the word about our favorite LLI.

Cooperation and generosity of spirit were very evident on that dreary May day, but that's no surprise: it's what we are, we OLLI folks, "sunshine on a cloudy day."

Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee Chair

New Members Coffee

A New Members Coffee will be held at 10:30, Friday, June 24, for all those who are new members. Everyone else is invited also. Come and enjoy the conversation with your fellow members.

Sandra Driesslein, Hospitality Chairman.

Treasure at OLLI

We can all remember movies in which fearless adventurers faced unspeakable danger as they traveled to exotic places in search of treasure or some object that would explain the mysteries of life. Here at OLLI most of us are too busy to fight crocodiles or dodge snake pits, so the organization has provided a much simpler way to acquire a small treasure. Just by getting up out of our seats and walking to the sign-in table, we pass the only physical test necessary to acquire copies of the Member & Volunteer Handbook. While it may not explain the mysteries of life, the handbook does unravel any mystery surrounding the workings of OLLI.

What does OLLI provide besides classes? For an answer, turn to page 1. How is OLLI organized? Who does what? Turn to page 3. For frequently asked questions and answers, turn to page 6. Finally, please read the section on volunteering. It explains why OLLI needs volunteers and how volunteers contribute and benefit. With 22 areas in need of volunteers, there is something for everyone to do. The little yellow handbook is a guide for new members and a reminder for old members who want to take full advantage of their OLLI membership. Anyone wishing to wrestle with crocodiles or swing from vines may consult the handbook to find out how to propose a new course.

Elizabeth Crawford, Membership Committee

Book Club at Tallwood

The next meeting of the OLLI Book Club will be Monday, July 11 at Tallwood from 10:00-11:30, NOT Wednesday, July 13th as listed in the catalog. The book selection is *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith. All are welcome. For more information contact Kathryn Russell at 703 323 0158.

Ceda McGrew, Coordinator

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