



# OLLI NEWS

*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
at George Mason University*



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Summer 2005, Issue 3

[www.lli.gmu.edu](http://www.lli.gmu.edu)

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## **My “OLLI Story”**

*By Debbie Halverson, Membership Chair*

Please permit me a little walk down memory lane. It was just over two years ago that I moved from New Jersey into beautiful Fairfax County to be closer to family members; now isn't that a familiar story to many of you?

Sometime in early August of 2003, I picked up a brochure that told me about LRI. I knew immediately that this was for me and couldn't wait for the fall term to begin.

I was so warmly greeted at the fall open house, I felt at home right away. As the president that year welcomed us, he likened the experience of choosing from the many classes in the catalog to a kid-like quandary in front of a candy counter. My choices were difficult to make but I was, in each case, deliciously satisfied.

While the classroom experience would be the main focus of my membership, there was also the social aspect to round it out. I've found large lecture classes wonderfully stimulating, but the getting-to-know-you thing happens in smaller discussion classes, workshops, clubs, and performance groups, in my case, the “Singing for Fun” class; these are the places where friends are made. There are so many similar opportunities at OLLI like the special event trips...bus rides invite conversation and laughter...and the restaurant lunches, like the one coming up in August at an Afghan restaurant where you can savor ethnic food and compare your choice with that of the person across from you.

As one thing always leads to another, my enthusiasm led to participation in volunteer activity, to working on committees, teaching a class, making more friends.

My OLLI story began the day I picked up that brochure. For those of you who are new members, your stories are just beginning. For the rest, I'll bet you have equally happy ones to share.

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## **Editorial Change**

*By Gordon Canyock, Acting Editor*

After serving two years as editor of OLLI News, Rick Rifkin has retired his red pen and green eyeshades. He's done a great job and we wish him well.

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## **Restaurant Name Change**

*By Art Cook, Program Committee Member*

Those members who signed up for Class Number 39 this summer are reminded that the restaurant has changed its name from Saigon Palace to Hong Kong Palace. It's at 6208 Leesburg Pike (Seven Corners Shopping Center). The luncheon will begin at noon on Wednesday, July 13. The price (\$20) and menu are the same.

## **Fall Preview**

*By Carol Ferrara, Program Coordinator*

The Program Committee is in the final stages of preparing the fall 2005 term. New classes feature several with multiple expert speakers: "A Hard Look at the Media" includes GMU professors as well as several media professionals including Bill Kristol; "The Great Divide: A Search for Civility and Inclusiveness" looks at the causes of polarization in our society and what we can do about it; "Global Warming" includes GMU professors and other scientific experts; "China in the 21st Century" explores China's culture, history, economy and future as a major world player; in "Northern Virginia 2015," professionals examine the future of our area, including economic drivers and transportation; "Entitlements and Healthcare" includes outside specialists who will look at the future, both short- and long-term, of Social Security and healthcare; GMU's performing arts department presents "Introduction to the Arts and Wellness"; and "Immigration in a Post 9/11 World," includes representatives from federal immigration and enforcement services. Our GMU-sponsored Music Sampler class will have a new twist this semester and will relate the music, literature, art and science of different periods.

Other new classes include "Heroes across Cultures and Times," by Amelia Rutledge of the GMU English Dept.; "War and Literature," by Leslie Smith of the GMU English Dept.; "Behind the Scenes at the Theater," by Judith Plummer; "Short Poems for Busy People," by OLLI member Mike McNamara; "Inexpensive Wines," by wine aficionado Eric Henderson; "Opera Spotlight on La Traviata and Romeo and Juliet"; "Science and Technology," by Jim Wentworth.

## **Way Way Off Off Tallwood**

*By Carolyn Sanders, OLLI News Staff Writer*

Where do fine aged hams go for the summer when the Tallwood stage is dark? Why, they go to one another's homes where food and drink can be shared, news can be exchanged, and plays can be read! They call it "RT Lite."

This summer Gordon Canyock and Susanne Zumbro are selecting the plays and will assign parts to the actors. With a brief time for review, those actors will perform cold readings for the captive audience of fellow thespian wannabees who will, in turn, critique the performances. We theater buffs call that "fun."

The first meeting of the summer, on June 24th, at Paulette Lichtman-Panzer's house was both well attended and most entertaining. As to be expected, "ham" biscuits were on the menu.

And, where do we hams go on vacations? To the theater, of course. We must keep up with the competition! Happy Hamming!

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## **New OLLI Members**

*By Jennifer Maloney, Administrator*

Twenty-six new members have joined OLLI for the summer term. We welcome Glen Adams, Marilyn Beckwith, Sherry Hart, Jayne Hart, Phyllis Hendler, Curt Herrick, Jim Hubbard, Tom Lash, George Lateur, Margaret Lord, Vicki Mechner, Virginia Mullin, Carol Murphy, Fred Nelson, Bill Ott, Theodore Parker, Almuth Payne, Lavona Poe, Bob and Ida Portland, Michelle Van de Houten, Thelma Weiner, Fran Weisse, Kathie West, Joan White, and Barbara Yost.

## **Tom Hady's Photos on Exhibit**

*By Marvinna Munch, Facilities Committee*

The current Social Room Annex exhibit showcases Tom Hady's technical skill, artist's eye, and longtime interest in countries of the far north. Featured are photos taken in Nova Scotia, Labrador, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, the Orkneys, and northern areas of Russia. This is a "must see" exhibit, especially for attendees at "49 and North," a talk by Tom with Marilyn Hady on June 30 at Tallwood. Last year Tom was the principal speaker at an OLLI program on Iceland at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne.

## **In Memoriam**

Jackie Bivens, 86, a long-time member of OLLI until her move to Oklahoma in 2002, passed away on June 23, 2005, in Muskogee and has been interred in San Antonio, TX. Born in Dallas, she graduated from the University of Texas in Austin. After the War, she and her husband settled in San Angelo and raised their two children. She taught English at Angelo State College and also was a travel agent, traveling herself all over the world, finally settling down in northern Virginia in 1976. At OLLI, she enjoyed participating in the Bridge Club and Readers Theater. Friends may wish to remember Jackie by making memorials to the First Presbyterian Church Foreign Missions, 500 W. Broadway, Muskogee, OK 74401.

## **In Memoriam**

Ellis A. Woody, 85, a founder and former board member of OLLI, died May 29, 2005. Mr. Woody was born in Tennessee, served in the Navy in World War II and worked for the FAA for most of his career. "Woody" served in many capacities at LRI: he helped write the first bylaws, taught courses, chaired the program committee and volunteered in many ways to make sure LRI prospered. He was a moving force in the growth of the program. His direct manner and sense of humor often carried the day at board meetings. OLLI owes a debt to Ellis Woody for the time and talents he gave in founding and developing the Institute into the successful organization we are today.

## **Help Wanted: Writers**

*By Gordon Canyock, Publications Chair*

OLLI News is looking for feature writers to develop stories about OLLI courses and other activities. If you might be interested and would like to try your hand writing an article for publication, please contact the Acting Editor at (703) 425-4607 or [gordon9120@cox.net](mailto:gordon9120@cox.net).

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