



OLLI News

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at George Mason University



Summer 2005, Issue 5

www.lli.gmu.edu

July 18, 2005

Scandinavian Adventures

By Roxanne H. Cramer, OLLI News Staff Writer

Tom Hady, a highly skilled photographer, began his talk on Scandinavian Adventures by stating "Photography is painting with light." And seeing his show on Thursday, June 30, proved his point. Using a combination of old and new technology—ranging from slides to film to digital photography — he has put together a beautiful PowerPoint presentation.

Tom and his wife Marilyn began their tour in Copenhagen and showed us that much of that city is made up of canals. His rooftop photos gave some idea of how the Danes use sheltered corners to enjoy the sun and grow flowers and other plants. Old thatched (or perhaps sod) roofs are not uncommon in the countryside. And sleek modern windmills are beginning to appear. At the next stop, the southern Baltic island of Aland, we saw many very old windmills. It's apparent that the Scandinavians often keep the old but at the same time embrace the new.

Stockholm, "Venice of the North," seems to be more a city of islands in the middle of the water rather than a city on land with lots of lakes. It is home to much public sculpture, some appearing in the most unexpected places. For example, Tom photographed a whimsical sculpture of a manhole apparently on a sidewalk with a workman half way out! The Hadys arrived in time for the midsummer celebrations and he was able to catch the Swedes celebrating in a big way.

Both Tom and Marilyn have roots in Sweden, and so this trip was very

meaningful to them. They were able to see villages where their families had lived and churches they had attended and even visit some relatives. Tom had taken a Swedish course and between that, the phrase book and lots of good will, they had a wonderful reception. In a museum, Tom even found a piece of wood carving done by an ancestor, which he had never seen before.

They meandered through Sweden into Norway, their favorite country. Some of the photos of fjords were indeed breathtaking. Up that spectacular coast they continued, far north of the Arctic Circle and around the North Cape, stopping for a short time in the land of the Sami people (Lapps). Of course he took the obligatory picture of some reindeer. From there it was on to Murmansk, a rather desolate and not exactly picturesque outpost city in Russia. Tom pointed out that the few photos he did take there were the best he could do with Murmansk!

It was a delightful trip, and we in the audience almost felt as though we had been there too.

Nigerian Culture

By Velma Berkey, Class Coordinator

Space is now available for everyone who wanted to take this Summer's Course 41. It will be held Wednesday, July 20 at 10:00 in TA-2. All are invited to attend.

*Copyright © 2005 Osher Lifelong Learning
Institute at George Mason University*

The Back-to-School Bus

By Louise Richardson. OLLI News Staff Writer

It's not just OLLI seniors who can be productive after retirement. Fairfax County has refurbished a retired bus to help retirees find answers to their mobility problems.

Although some of our members who don't drive have found alternative means of transportation, many of us rely so heavily on our cars that we are unfamiliar with local transit resources. Quite possibly in our youth, climbing aboard buses and streetcars was a part of our daily lives, but we now find the prospect intimidating and confusing. Nevertheless, the day may come when illness, injury, or age may infringe upon our driving ability and limit our life style choices. Before that happens, we can plan ahead and educate ourselves about our public transportation system.

In anticipation of the growing senior population, Fairfax County has set up a Senior Transportation Program with the purpose of offering more accessible transportation options to older residents. One aspect of this program is Travel Training, which teaches its participants how to plan and negotiate the various transit options in the area. Much of this training is offered aboard a Mobile Accessible Travel Training (MATT) bus that was specially renovated from a public bus that was scheduled to be retired in 2003. Now in its reincarnation, it provides a valuable education and communication instrument for helping seniors use the public transit system.

Denis Paddeu, a specialist in senior citizen transportation issues, shows off the MATT bus with paternalistic pride. Its many high-tech tools can re-acclimate seniors who have not used public transit for many years and

who recognize that knowledge of the system may be liberating if one day they may not be able to drive. Our Special Events Committee has scheduled Mr. Paddeu and his bus for a training session in October. Watch for it in the Fall Catalog.

OLLI Members on FCFA Board

By Gordon Canyock, Acting Editor

The Friends of the Center for the Arts at George Mason University is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support, discovery, and exploration of the performing and visual arts and providing financial and volunteer support to the CFA. It affords its members the opportunity to share, expand and enrich their experience of the arts. There is considerable cross-fertilization of ideas between OLLI and the FCFA. Nine members of its 21-member Board of Directors are also OLLI members: Gordon Canyock, Pat Carroll, Eileen Duggan, Lynn Gramzow, Jane Tombes, Susanne Zumbro, as well as three who joined OLLI this summer -- Ida Portland, Thelma Weiner, and Joan White.

For more information about the performing and visual arts at GMU or on the benefits of joining Friends of the Center for the Arts, ask any one of these nine members.

OLLI News Online

By Gordon Canyock, Acting Editor

We are experimenting with a deadline of Tuesday for submission of articles to the editor and Thursday for delivering the final copy to GMU's Print Services. If you want a sneak preview of the next week's edition, it should be available by Thursday each week.

The Sound of Music

By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI News Staff Writer

Performance groups, visiting artists, a survey of musical genres, courses on jazz or the American musical, a tutorial on using music databases to download sheet music from the 1890s to the 1920s, trips to musicals such as *The Lion King*. Such a list might be published to entice students into a quality music program. Would you be surprised to learn that it is a description of music offerings at OLLI? As we study the catalog each semester to find courses that will fit into our busy schedules, we may lose sight of the wide range of choices offered in areas such as music.

A look at 2004-2005 catalogs reveals an abundance of riches. For those who like to listen or watch, courses have featured recordings or DVDs of well known performances and obscure treasures from the instructors' private collections. Lectures and discussions enlighten members on periods in the history of music. Special events have included performances of the Virginia Opera and other groups and artists at GMU. Occasionally the performers come to OLLI, for example Seymour Greene, who once played his trombone for kings and presidents.

Performers may join Singing for Fun, which has been offered each fall and spring for several years. A core group returns each semester while other singers come and go as their schedules permit. Enthusiasm takes the place of auditions. The 20-30 OLLI Troubadours lead the singing at the holiday luncheon and entertain at events like the OLLI Expo. They also sing at nursing homes or assisted living facilities in the area. And not just sing. Remember the Dancing Itos? Now the Dancing OLLIs can be added to the annals of performance magic.

A new and growing group is the Recorder Consort. After the spring semester ended, eight devoted members have continued to meet during the summer. Music is chosen so that players of differing abilities can choose harder or easier parts. New members are welcome even if their fingers have slowed some and their recorders have become dusty.

OLLI is grateful to visiting instructors of music and especially to members Esther Daniels, Norman Rosenberg, Joyce DeVoll, Stephen Vandivere, Mary Jane Bishop, Bill Deary, Margaret Andino, and Florence Adler, who teach or coordinate these classes and events.

Through GMU, OLLI offers additional music opportunities beyond what is listed in the catalog. Events on campus are posted on the bulletin board in the Social Room at Tallwood. The GMU ID card, available in the office, may entitle OLLI members to discount tickets for certain performances depending upon which department or group is sponsoring each event.

Shakespeare has said, "The man who hath no music in himself,/ Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,/ Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils;/ The motions of his spirit are dull as night." That said, it is good to know that many forms of music are available at OLLI for any spirits that choose to be uplifted.

OLLI News

Published weekly when classes are in session

Acting Editor Gordon Canyock
Proofreader Karen Hamilton