



OLLI News

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at George Mason University



Fall 2005, Issue 5

www.lli.gmu.edu

October 17, 2005

Jennifer Maloney Leaves OLLI

By Carol Henderson, OLLI Secretary

Jennifer Maloney has accepted a position at GMU. Her last day as OLLI Administrator will be Oct 21. While her departure announcement has already been publicized, we know members would appreciate a little more background. Jennifer says the skills she developed at OLLI were instrumental in her ability to move to this full-time job as she and her husband embark on ten years of college tuition for their three children. Fortunately, the new post is still just a five-minute commute from her home.

Jennifer joined the then-LRI staff in March 1999, and members quickly grew to rely on her and Joanne Lingerfelt, who arrived about the same time. Jennifer remembers that Carol Ferrara trained both new staffers just as the office was beginning to automate and use database software for registration and program purposes. Membership has grown significantly since 1999, and the program is vastly expanded. When Joanne left in December 2003, Jennifer became the OLLI Administrator.

Jennifer has done everything from supplying the all-important coffee and cookies to troubleshooting audiovisual equipment, training office volunteers, serving as registrar and becoming the corporate memory. She said she has enjoyed particularly the opportunity to work on the catalog together with program and editing volunteers. In her pre-OLLI days, she had a communications background, spent ten years as a management analyst for the federal government and taught preschool.

What she will miss most about OLLI is the interaction with members, instructors and

volunteers. She noted she has learned more about power cables and A/V equipment than most people learn in two lifetimes. Her advice on this score: "don't be afraid of the machines!" She also admitted that though she is some years away from OLLI member status, she's learned the value of lifelong learning and will consider continuing her education.

Almost everyone who's taken or taught an OLLI course has been helped in one way or another by Jennifer. We're grateful for her knowledge and dedication to the Institute and wish her well in the next phase of her career at GMU.

Farewell to Jennifer

By Carol Henderson, OLLI Secretary

Jennifer Maloney will be honored on Thursday, Oct 20, her last day of class sessions as OLLI Administrator. Stop by the Tallwood social room that day for cake and to sign a card for Jennifer; join Dick Chobot at 1:00 for a brief farewell ceremony. The OLLI Board will thank Jennifer for her service at the beginning of the Board meeting at 10:00 on Friday, Oct 21.

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newsletter delivered to your inbox
every Friday.

OLLI E-News

Photos, colors, clickable links.

Pool Parking Lot Repair

By Ben Gold, Facilities Committee Chair

It took a long time and lots of nagging, but on Oct 1, repairs were finally made to the Tallwood parking lot. Charles Duggan had written to the Pool Association requesting that something be done to take care of what was becoming a serious danger not only to our members' cars, but to the members themselves, who had to walk through the pot-holed lot. Jim Patterson of the Pool Association was very cooperative and had promised that repairs would be made a few weeks back. All of us who have had to deal with contractors can understand that things did not work out as planned. But Mr. Patterson, with a little prodding from OLLI, kept after the contractor, and the repairs were finally made. These are temporary repairs only. Sometime next year, as part of a major construction project at the swimming pool, the entire parking lot will receive a complete resurfacing. We can only hope it will happen at a time that will not cause major disruption.

Bernard Osher Again in Forbes 400

By Charles, Duggan, President

OLLI member Joe Fulton has pointed out to me that in the October 10, 2005 edition of *Forbes* magazine, Bernard Osher has once again made the list of "The 400 Richest Americans." This year he is listed at \$900 million and is tied with seventeen others at 384 on the list. The listing for the 78 year old philanthropist reads as follows: "With sister Marion and her husband, Herbert Sandler, co-founded Golden West Financial 1963. Took over auction house Butterfield & Butterfield 1970. Built company into one of nation's largest auction houses, sold to eBay for \$200 million in stock 1999. Plans to give away entire fortune: 'I hope to live long enough to do it.' Avid fly-fisherman supports arts, Jewish causes, and continued education for people over 50 through Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes."

I have been told that the statement that he "plans to give away entire fortune" is true. This is the

reason why he conceived a network of 100 OLLIs, all with the potential of receiving three \$100 thousand grants followed by an endowment of at least \$1 million.

We are very fortunate to have been chosen to be part of the Osher network.

Explain Your Happy Face

by Debbie Halverson, Membership Chair

We are delighted to report that our membership total is creeping very close to the 700 mark. New members have been enticed by our stimulating program and propelled by their own inner needs to learn and grow in their mature years. Our members have played a major role in achieving this happy marriage of need meeting supply by their enthusiasm and devotion to OLLI and what it offers.

Your response to a recent questionnaire in *OLLI e-News* asking members to tell us what brought them to OLLI revealed that 70% of you joined because a friend, neighbor or spouse encouraged you to do so. Others heard about us in several ways ... through GMU connections, newspaper articles, flyers and from our website. We will continue to use the latter opportunities to promote our institute, but obviously our best efforts should go into helping our members make an unselfish pitch to those with whom they associate every day.

Short of having a 3X5 card in your wallet with a canned speech written on it, you might want to be prepared with what you want to say when the opportunity arises. I'm always alert to those opportunities; maybe that's part of my job as membership chair. But having your antennae up is important; it's easy enough to let a conversation slip by without mentioning the key to the smile on your face and the lilt in your step. Your full and fulfilled life comes from the mental exercise you get by participating in OLLI classes and activities. Tell people that.

When they say, "What is this OLLI thing?", you can be armed with information. You can tell them about our program and the various classes they could take...over 200 of them during the year. Mention your personal favorites and those of some of your other OLLI friends. Be specific. Also, you can tell them that with over 300 OLLI's in the country, ours has one of the most comprehensive and impressive roster of classes...and it's right in their back yard! You can hand them a business card or a brochure that you have wisely tucked into your purse or wallet. Point out to them the address of our website (www.OLLI.gmu.edu), a very comprehensive website. Offer to have a catalog sent to them at the next mailing.

How else to be promotive? Notice where you could put up a poster in a place where seniors frequent, maybe in the community room of your resident village or the gym where you do your workout. Think of places where we could offer our speakers' bureau presentations to address groups of prospective members. Such groups don't need to be very large, only of a sort that could find our program worthwhile.

I wish we could offer each of you who brings in a new member some kind of bonus. But since that's not practical, and since it gives you pleasure to see your friend's happy face anyway, let's let that be your bonus.

Meet the Directors

By Julie Fintel, OLLI News Staff Writer



Susanne Zumbro and Sandra Driesslein

OLLI student, active volunteer, mother and grandmother, **Susanne Zumbro** is a busy person and a valuable member of OLLI. She is Chair of the Administration Committee, which has served as a liaison between the paid staff at OLLI and the Board. Previously, Susanne was Chair of the Membership Committee.

Susanne was born and raised in Philadelphia, attended the University of Pennsylvania, and received her Master's degree in Library Science from Villanova University. It was a job with the U.S. Senate that brought her to the Washington area, where she worked in the Office of Legal Counsel for three years. Subsequently, she worked as a law librarian for several firms in Washington and Northern Virginia.

A job and raising five children should be more than enough to keep anyone busy. But it seems that Susanne always has the time and energy to do more. While still working she held office in both the local and national associations for law librarianship. After retirement, she has been a coordinator for OLLI's Readers' Theatre and is on the Board of GMU's Friends of the Center for the Arts. Her English major in college may influence her choice in OLLI courses. She considers the Readers' Theatre her favorite course; "in fact," she says, "it has made me a drama lover." She also tries to take any Shakespeare course offered by Kathryn Russell.

Her latest project is heading a committee to form a Travelers Club for OLLI members. She hopes to be able to offer two major trips a year for those interested in seeing other countries with like-minded companions.

When I asked Susanne what she did in her spare time, she laughed and said, "I do the laundry." She also manages to find time for her 12 grandchildren.

If there is a reason for a party, get in touch with **Sandra (Sandy) Driesslein**. As chair of OLLI's Hospitality Committee, she and her 13 committee members will arrange for the festivities. Among other events, they are

responsible for the New Members Coffee, the annual holiday party, the OLLI Open House, and the annual general membership meeting. "If there is a hint of a party," let us know," she says.

Sandy was raised in Texas and still keeps her ties to her beloved state by spending every winter in San Antonio. After she married, she and her husband, an Air Force officer, lived the usual military life of moving often. While spending six years in Germany, they took advantage of being in Europe to travel to places in Germany and other European countries. That's probably where the travel bug bit her because she and her husband are still traveling. They've already been to Mexico this year. They have plans to go to the Caribbean and Florida at Thanksgiving and England and China in the future.

Sandy received her undergraduate degree from Southwest Texas State University and her master's degree from Webster College in St. Louis. She had a 43-year-long career in the Civil Service as a Human Resources officer. Her final job was at the Pentagon.

Sandy's many interests, besides her classes and activities at OLLI, are genealogy, skiing, and especially reading. She has a large library of all sorts of books, from ancient classics like Beowulf and Homer to romances for relaxation.

Sandy and her husband have six children and four grandchildren.

Reader's Theatre Special Performance

By Gordon Canyock, OLLI News Editor

Members of OLLI Readers' Theatre troupe will present the world premiere reading of "Oh, Frank" at 1:00 on Saturday, Nov 5, in TA-1. Cookies and coffee will be available starting at 12:30 for early birds who wish to claim the best seat. The play will run for about 90 minutes without intermission.

The playwright, Paul Zacheis, will be in the audience and available for questions and comments afterward. The reading stars Sandy

Lisiewski and Charles Duggan, and features Susanne Zumbro, Eileen Duggan, Gordon Canyock, and John Dietz. Lynn Gramzow will be the narrator and introduce the play. It is a comedy reminiscent of *Blithe Spirit*, but set in contemporary America, and tackles the issues of love, fidelity, and mother-daughter relationships.

Meet Your Directors

By Elizabeth Crawford



Bruce Reinhart, Jan Dewire, Bob Bohall

Bruce Reinhart is a new member of the Board, with more than his share of freshman enthusiasm, coupled with wide experience as a clergyman, university professor, research administrator, international consultant, and federal civil servant. He is currently the Subject Area Chair for philosophy, religion, and ethics courses. Among his suggestions for an ever-better OLLI is to take advantage of the many centers, institutes, think tanks, associations, and other resources in the DC area. He is off to a good start as moderator of "The Great Divide: A Search for Civility and Inclusiveness," which is offering students a wide array of speakers. Bruce envisions OLLI "growing in numbers, expanding in offerings, and building a community of learners that work together to share the knowledge, understandings, and enjoyment of learning."

Jan Dewire, a member of LRI/OLLI since 1991, has seen and done it all. Through the years, Jan has been both Vice President and President of

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the Board of Directors, Program Director for two years, and Special Events Chair for three years. In addition, she has been active on almost every committee at one time or another. Lately Jan offers her help for specific events. For the last five or six years, Jan and Carol Henderson have been Co-Moderators of the Literary Roundtable that meets weekly at the Reston Used Book Shop at Lake Anne whenever classes are in session. Friends have asked Jan why she has continued to run for the Board and to devote her time to OLLI for so many years. She says that OLLI is "a fabulous organization for the active mind." Further, having been there at the beginning, Jan says she has remained to see "how it would all come out." Citing the beginning of a new era with the hiring of the first executive director, Jan says, with a flourish of understatement, that OLLI is turning out "rather well."

Bob Bohall joined LRI in 1998 and, having quickly made his mark, was elected to the Board of Directors in 1999. He has held positions such as Secretary (2001-2002) and President (2002-2004) and served on almost every committee. A frequent instructor and class liaison over the years, for this semester Bob helped to develop the popular "Focus on the Media" course where he introduces the speakers each week. Two of Bob's other current jobs for OLLI require him to expand and contract, but as an economist he does it with ease. As OLLI-GMU Liaison, Bob macromanages the relationship between OLLI and GMU, planning the annual meeting and other meetings with GMU officials. Then, with fellow Program Review Committee member RoseMary Gustin, Bob micromanages as he assists Kathryn Russell, Chair, in the large job of obtaining instructors from GMU and elsewhere for the winter 2006 courses at Tallwood. To the members Bob says, "OLLI is fun and has a bright future. The members and staff are super. Do not be afraid to get involved. Everyone can help make a difference."

Coming Events at GMU

by Jan Bohall, Catalog Editor

GMU Band and Wind Symphony

Monday, Oct 17, at 8:00
Admission \$5 for seniors
Concert Hall
Center for the Performing Arts

GMU Players Mainstage

Uncle Vanya
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Oct 20-22 at 8:00
Saturday & Sunday
Oct 22-23 at 2:00
Admission \$7 for seniors
Harris Theater

Society for Photographic Education Mid-Atlantic Region

Juried Exhibition
Friday, Oct 21-Nov 13
Admission Free
Fine Arts Building Gallery (B104),
and the Johnson Center Gallery

Munich Symphony Orchestra Phillipe Entremont, conductor/pianist

Saturday, Oct 22, at 8:00
Admission \$50, \$42, \$25
For tickets, call 888-945-2468
Includes a pre-performance discussion at 7:15 in
the Grand Tier Lobby
Concert Hall
Center for the Performing Arts

Marvin Hamlisch *The Broadway Songbook*

Sunday, Oct 23, at 7:00
Admission \$40, \$32, \$20
For tickets, call 888-945-2468
Includes a pre-performance discussion at 6:15 in
the Grand Tier Lobby
Concert Hall
Center for the Performing Arts

OLLI NEWS

Editor.....Gordon Canyock
Proofreader.....Karen Hamilton

OLLI Movie Day

By Dick Chobot, Executive Director

The "New Guy" strikes.... I have decided that we need occasional movies at OLLI. So I have decreed (I always wanted to decree something!!) that Friday is **Occasional Movie Day**. The first Occasional Movie will be on Friday, Oct 28, at 12:00 in TA-1.

The movie is a 2000 Korean award winner titled *Joint Security Area*. The movie is based on a novel by Park Sang-yeon titled *DMZ*. The story centers on an incident in the Joint Security area around Panmunjom involving the abduction by North Korean soldiers, and the subsequent escape, of a South Korean sergeant. The subplot relates to the connection of the two soldiers, one North Korean and one South Korean, who are major characters in the tale. The story suggests some of the same friend versus friend conflicts that afflicted many of the combatants in the US Civil War. The film also was praised for "...its sumptuous cinematography." A complete review of the film can be found at: <http://www.mediacircus.net/jsa.html>.

To enhance your viewing pleasure, in addition to the popcorn that we plan to provide, an introduction and commentary on the film will be offered by Hyunjun Min. Mr. Min holds an MA degree in Cinema Studies from CUNY in New York and is currently a doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of Maryland. Jung An, a member of OLLI, was kind enough to suggest Mr. Min, who is involved in the current DC Korean Film Festival at the Freer Gallery and AFI Silver Theater and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD.

Speaking of the DC Korean Film Festival, final showings are scheduled on Oct 14 and 16 at the Freer Gallery; and on Oct 17 and 20 at the AFI Silver Theater. For details go to www.asia.si.edu/koreanfilm.

If you plan to join us on Oct 28, please sign up in the office at Tallwood. This will allow for space and popcorn planning. See you at the movies!

Poets of Tallwood

By Gordon Canyock, OLLI News Editor

Those of you who attended the 9th Annual Poetry Reading by the Poets of Tallwood on Oct 12 were treated to a delightful afternoon of sometimes droll, sometimes poignant verse, followed by dessert and coffee.

Nancy Jarvis, Mike McNamara, Jack Underhill, Audrey Lueck, Doris Ewing, Claire Hasselbeck, Vera DeWeese, Sarah Munson, Elizabeth De Arment, and Bill Helmantoler read three or four selections from their works, followed by Barry Berkey, Marvin Munch, Audrey Van Vliet, and Dave Mason, who took advantage of the "open mike" to read a poem or two of their own. The emcee, Bill Helmantoler, welcomed the audience and noted that in 2004, eight of our poets were published in *The Poets Domain*, Volume 21. This year, seven poets will be published in Volume 23, due out on Oct 31.

Several authors agreed to allow *OLLI News* to publish the poems they read at this special event and the editor will include them in future issues. To whet your appetite, here is a sample from the pen of Elizabeth De Arment:

Skyward Reflections

The October sky, full of movement,
Invites philosophic thought.
The airplane travels in ruler-straight line
Keeping its date with scheduled time.
The hungry hawk freely soars on high,
Scanning for prey with piercing eye.
The autumn leaves wildly scamper to and fro
Letting the wind decide where they go.

And so it is with earthly mortals:
Some never deviate from charted path,
Some circle and search to find their way,
Some let the wind blow them where it may.

Ms. Ollie Ettakit Speaks.....

[Editor's Note: Unfortunately, Miss Manners was recalled to her position with the Post and is no longer available to answer your queries. We spared no expense in finding a suitable replacement, however, and with today's issue we introduce our own arbiter of Institute customs and mores, Ms. Ollie Ettakit.]

Often people arrive late to class and rudely march across the room right in front of the speaker. It sure would be nice if they signed in, then went to the back of the room and crossed over to find an empty seat.

--- Anonymous, Burke

The best solution, of course, is to arrive on time. I fully understand that sometimes being tardy is unavoidable. Unfortunately, I have noticed that most members scurry across the front of the room, seemingly embarrassed, but unaware of the option of retreating to the rear, where there is a pathway to the other side of the classroom. Perhaps your kind advice will reduce these embarrassing situations.

Editor's Notes:

This issue of OLLI News contains the same content as Friday's OLLI E-News. There are no articles remaining from the summer. If you have already read it in the email version and have no need for a printed copy, please return it to the stack for someone else to read.

Reminder: To write Ms. Ollie Ettakit or the editor, email me at gordon9120@cox.net or place a note in the OLLI News folder or the Suggestion Box in the Social Room at Tallwood.

Letters to the Editor

Instructor Evaluations

An OLLI member wrote that while most of the classes he/she attended were excellent, there were several speakers that were not effective and were a waste of his time. He suggested that we adopt an evaluation process. I think it is important that each of us acknowledge that our speakers are gracious in their willingness to give their time, experience and expertise without pay. To date the effectiveness issue has been

resolved via registration numbers; successful presentation fills future seats. It would be most ungracious and ungrateful for us to invite speakers and reward them with a report card.

---- Joan Salemi, OLLI Program Committee

Tear Down of Tallwood House

Larry Spaine, GMU Facilities, has reported that a request to tear down the old house is in Richmond for action. Spaine's crews are moving utility lines. The architect will work up a plan to close up the small annex containing the restrooms once the main house is demolished.

--- Dick Chobot, Executive Director

Reader's Theatre Seeks an Audience

Every Thursday at 11:30, Readers Theatre meets and performs readings of various short plays, skits, and scenes from plays. Being hams, we would love to have members drop in and be our audience. There is always room in the back.

--- Lynn Gramzow, Coordinator

Question of the Week in OLLI E-News

"Should registration procedures for over-subscribed courses be changed from "first-come, first-served" to a lottery system?"

Currently, when a course is oversubscribed, members are enrolled based on two criteria: first, on the priority they gave that course on their registration form; and second, on the date and time of receipt of their registration form. A lottery system would be used in lieu of "first-come, first-served" for oversubscribed courses only. For example, if everyone who gave the course priority #1 could be enrolled, but there was not enough room for all of those who selected the course as priority #2, a lottery would be held among all priority #2 registrants, with enrollment based strictly on the lottery results (not on the time and date of receipt of their registration forms).

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

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
OCTOBER				
17	Mon	5:00 - 7:00 PM	J. Wine, Bistro and Song	Café Montmartre
18	Tue	1-3 pm	Art display work	Annex
19	Wed	11:30 AM	Recorder, Part II	TA-2
		1:30 PM	Fiction Writers	Annex
		1:30 PM	Bridge Club	TA-3
21	Fri	10:00 AM	Board meeting	TA-1
		10:30 AM	Homer Book Club	Annex
22	Sat	2:00 PM	L. Uncle Vanya	GMU
25	Tue	1:00 PM	Fundraising: Development Committee meeting	Annex
26	Wed	11:30 AM	Recorder, Part II	TA-2
		1:30 PM	Bridge Club	TA-3
		2:00 PM	M. Transportation Options	TA-1
28	Fri	10 AM - 3 PM	N. Supreme Court building	Bus trip
		10:00 AM	Classic Fiction Book Club	Reston Reg. Library
		10:30 AM	Homer Book Club	Annex
		12:00 PM	Korean Film Festival	TA-1
NOVEMBER				
2	Wed	11:30 AM	Recorder, Part II	TA-2
		1:30 PM	Special Events Committee meeting	TA-2
		1:30 PM	Fiction Writers	Annex
		1:30 PM	Bridge Club	TA-3
		2:00 PM	History Club	TA-1
4	Fri	9:00 AM	Course 311 field trip to Wash DC monuments	bus trip
		10:00 AM	Program Committee meeting	TA-2
		10:00 AM	General OLLI membership meeting	TA-1
		10:30 AM	Homer Book Club	Annex
		12:30-3:30 PM	Flu clinic for those qualified	Annex
		PM	GMU Theater of the First Amendment	Old Town Hall
5	Sat	12:30-2:30	Readers Theater Special Performance	TA-1
9	Wed	11:30 AM		
		1:30 PM	Recorder, Part II	TA-2
		1:30 PM	Book Club	TA-2
		1:30 PM	Bridge Club	TA-3
		2:00 PM	Fiction Writers	Annex
11	Fri	10:00 AM	History Club	TA-1
		10:30 AM	Facilities Committee Meeting	TA-2
			Homer Book Club	Annex
15	Tue	9:30 AM	Fall term ends	