



# OLLI News

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
at George Mason University



Fall 2005, Issue 6

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

October 24, 2005

## OLLI Awarded \$1 Million Endowment

Last Monday, the President of Bernard Osher Foundation informed OLLI that we have been awarded a \$1 million endowment. The funds will be received by the GMU Foundation and managed by them for our account. The nature of an endowment is that the principal is not to be touched but we can use the annual earnings that are realized.

### Traveling with CGE:

#### A first-rate travel experience!

by Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI News Staff Writer

“Barbara, wake up!” My husband’s nudge snapped me out of my light slumber as my head bounced hard against the cold bus window.

Annoyed I shot back, “WHAT!”

He pointed. Awestruck, I shut my gaping mouth with “Sorry, dear,” and stared at the magnificent sight that met my gaze – the celebrated, snow-capped Austrian Alps. On our third spring break excursion in three years with George Mason’s Center for Global Education, we were looking forward to new and unique adventures in Germany and Austria – and found them.

Our past experiences with this travel group proved to be fun, educational and exciting and this trip was no different. Our 10-day journey included a private concert for our group in the Salzburg Fortress, ballet tickets to Giselle performed at the Vienna Opera House, and a visit to the Spanish Riding School to see a

training session of the Lipizzaner stallions with an unexpected surprise visit by the Queen of Norway. Many other tours were included in the package as well as airfare for less than \$2000.

Accompanied by a knowledgeable GMU professor and a CGE staff member, each of the trips exceeded our expectations. Rome, Positano, Naples, Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast, Paris, and the Loire Valley – our previous destinations were brought to life by outstanding tours, interesting lectures, several gourmet meals, and small three-star hotels so we could savor the flavor of the area we were visiting.

**Editor’s Note:** According to Susanne Zumbro, who has headed up an informal group exploring travel options at the request of the OLLI Board of Directors, GMU’s Center for Global Education is planning a trip to Istanbul and the Aegean Coast of Turkey March 10-19, 2006. OLLI members have been invited to join them. Check it out at: [globaled.gmu.edu](http://globaled.gmu.edu). Also in the works for OLLI members is a trip to Ireland, September 7-21, 2006. More information on both trips will be forthcoming.

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## Story of OLLI- In Your Own Words

By Manny Pablo, Membership Committee

Overwhelmingly, members have joined OLLI because of the recommendation of a friend. You may belong to a group who would benefit by hearing the story of OLLI. By all means let them know the value of OLLI. But if you are reluctant to speak, we have a Speakers Bureau willing to share our story.

Susanne Zumbro and I spoke to the Fairfax Women's Club on Thursday, Nov 13 at the Country Club of Fairfax. The audience of 30 was surprised to learn of nearby OLLI, and seven requested catalogs while the rest tucked away a copy of our tri-fold for a future website visit, phone call, or drop-by contact.

Besides the Women's Club of Fairfax, speakers have visited or will visit NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees), Senior Centers in Lake Ridge and in Herndon, and the Fairfax Garden Club next spring. Some have used our DVD, like the Duggans; some will speak off the cuff, like Debbie Halverson; some have re-staged performances of Readers' Theater, like Susanne and I. There are as many styles as there are presenters.

So where do you come in? First off, as we have seen, every OLLI member can tell the story of OLLI individually. And if your group is more than you are comfortable with, call on our Speakers Bureau, who will gladly speak for you to a larger number. And for those of you ready for the next step, volunteer for the Speakers Bureau and tell our story to many! It is a story told many ways, by conversation, with slides, with the help of the "OLLI Story" DVD; with partners or alone. But it is a story worth telling.

To schedule the Speakers Bureau, notify Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee Chair. She has a whole subcommittee waiting to speak out.

### OLLI NEWS

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

## Coming Events at GMU

by Jan Bohall, OLLI Catalog Editor

For tickets call 888-945-2468 or visit the CFA Box Office,  
Tue – Sat, 10:00 – 6:00

### GMU Music Faculty Recital

Dr. Sonya Sunhee Kim, piano

Mon, Oct 24 at 8:00

Admission free, Concert Hall, Center for the Arts

### GMU Symphony Orchestra

Tue, Oct 25 at 8:00

Admission \$5 for seniors, Concert Hall

### GMU Players Mainstage

*Uncle Vanya*

Thu, Oct 27 at 8:00; Fri & Sat, Oct 28 – 29 at  
2:00 & 8:00; Sun, Oct 30 at 2:00.

Admission \$7 for seniors, Harris Theater

### King's Singers and Sarband: *Sacred Bridges*

Fri, Oct 28 at 8:00.

Admission \$44, \$36, \$22. Concert Hall.

Pre-performance discussion at 7:15.

### Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel

*Mozart and Schubert: Romantic Fantasies*

Sun, Oct 30 at 7:00

Admission \$35, \$27, \$17.50. Concert Hall.

### Young Artists Piano Musicale

Sun, Oct 30 at 6:00

Admission free. Concert Hall Lobby

### GMU Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Sun, Oct 30 at 3:00

Admission free. Johnson Center Bistro

**Reminder:** OLLI has a no-refund policy if you are unable to attend a fee activity, paid with your registration. OLLI's policy, as stated in member confirmation of schedule letters and in the course catalogs, is that members are expected to sell their spots to someone else if they are unable to attend a fee activity. Waitlists for events are posted at Tallwood and Lake Anne. If there is no waitlist, members are welcome to post notices on the bulletin board advertising spots for sale.

## Jazz 4 Justice

By Kitty O'Hara, OLLI News Staff Writer

GMU and the Fairfax Law Foundation are joining once again to present an evening of music by the GMU Jazz ensemble in the Concert Hall of the Center for the Arts at GMU on Friday, Nov 18, at 8:00. This is your opportunity to enjoy some great jazz and help support a number of worthy programs at the same time. The concert is expected to be a sellout with over 2,500 people in attendance.

The proceeds will help support the GMU music department and the Fairfax Law Foundation. The Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that, since 1982, has provided an array of educational and charitable services to benefit the Northern Virginia community. Their programs include, among others: educational programs for at-risk youth; courthouse educational tours for junior high students in Fairfax County; pro bono programs; and programs for victims of domestic violence.

Jazz for Justice has received national recognition awards from the America Bar Association as well as awards from the Virginia State Bar. For more information or to make a contribution to the Foundation, contact Ed Weiner at 703-273-9500. Seniors may purchase tickets at the CFA box office for \$5.

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### Don't Have Email? Please Reconsider!

By Rod Zumbro, OLLI E-News editor

"Where do you suggest that I buy a computer?" A long-standing OLLI member was asking for advice. "No one writes letters anymore; everyone sends emails." She told me she had been inspired by my recent article about the Internet tutorials offered at libraries. Her strategy was well thought out. "I'm going to buy a computer and then call the library for an appointment."

Did you know that fully 85 percent of OLLI members have email? If you are one of the few OLLI members without email, you are missing out on a fascinating world of instant

communications that is incredibly efficient compared to postal mail and the telephone.

You may say, "I know nothing about computers, and I don't want one." Well, you don't need one to do email. All you need is a Web-based email account, which you can easily open for free, and then use from any Internet terminal at public libraries everywhere. However, most people want the convenience of a home computer. Prices are lower than ever, with full-featured, name-brand computers starting at \$300. If you need help setting up a new computer, just ask one of your children, or a niece or nephew, or a teenage grandchild to help you.

You will need Internet access (providers include AOL, Earthlink, MSN, Verizon, and Cox), but new computers typically come with several months of free dial-up access. Many of us have switched to "broadband" service available from cable-TV providers, telephone companies and separate "DSL" (digital subscriber line) providers because broadband is much faster and allows you to use the telephone while you stay online.

The Internet means not only email but also the Web, where you can conveniently do many things online that you would otherwise have to do via the telephone or in person. Examples include placing library books on hold and renewing them; getting maps and driving directions; finding telephone numbers and addresses; checking the weather locally or where you plan to visit; reviewing travel options and making airline, hotel, car-rental or cruise arrangements; renewing your driver's license; paying bills; making investments; checking movie schedules at local theaters; looking at restaurant menus; and finding the latest information about virtually anything. You can even look at the OLLI catalog several days before you receive your mailed copy!

If you don't have email, please reconsider. We'd like you to join the rest of us in this amazing world where we're all connected.

## Ms. Ollie Ettakit Speaks ...

Dear Ms. Ollie Ettakit,  
Many members are parking along the eastern edge of the pool lot where the spaces are unmarked and in doing so leaving a lot of extra space. This cuts down on the number of cars that can park there. Those of us who arrive only a few minutes before class starts have trouble finding any free spaces. I sure wish people would be more careful and park closer.

--- *Anonymous, Reston*

Dear Thoughtful Reader,  
I hesitate to comment on this letter, knowing that some of you will view this as a minor problem and will even hasten to say that people should make an effort to get to class on time or even early. However, this is a matter of etiquette, which is really consideration for others' needs.

The problem is that when last minute OLLI members arrive, they find very few spaces left when, in fact, if the early birds had parked a tiny bit closer to each other, there would have been several extra spaces for those almost latecomers!

My fear is that latecomers will start driving too fast in order to get one of the few remaining parking spaces. We wouldn't want the headline in the *Fairfax Journal* to read "78-year old grandmother of 8 ticketed for speeding on Roberts Road."

The best solution, of course, is to have your chauffeur drop you off at the door. A second option would be to carpool, although I have not been able to find any slug lines in the area for OLLI. If you insist on driving yourself and arrive late when only those unmarked spaces are available, then I would urge you to park close, but not too close to the car next to you, leaving sufficient room to open your door and for the other car's driver to open his door. I loathe getting dings in my Rolls-Royce Phantom, don't you?  
--- *Ms. Ettakit*



## Make a Suggestion!

- Drop your suggestion in the Suggestion Box in the Social Room at Tallwood; or
- Go to the Contact Us page of the OLLI Website at <http://www.olligmu.edu/> and click the Suggestion Box icon.

## Town Meeting: OLLI at the Crossroads

by *Debbie Halverson, Membership Chair*

Were I living in a cave, I'd still be aware that these are exciting times for our OLLI. We're about to celebrate our 15th year as a learning institute, and we are coming of age big-time. Not to appear smug, but still pleased with the recognition of where in the world of LLIs we stand, we find ourselves in the happy situation of asking ourselves, "Where do we go from here?"

On Friday, Nov 4, from 10 to noon, Tallwood will be the scene of a significant dialogue between you, the members, and your Board of Directors. We're calling it "Town Meeting: OLLI at the Crossroads." You need to be there because you will have a unique opportunity to make your views known in all areas of OLLI activity. A panel of directors who head up various committees that determine the workings of OLLI will set the stage with their present views as to finances, facilities, program, membership, publications, direction, development, and they will also include thoughts about the future. After that, you may ask for clarification and offer your own suggestions.

Following the panel presentation, you will be asked to cluster in small groups to be presented with specific questions eliciting your opinions and thoughts for OLLI as we open up new worlds of activity and try to solve old problems. Refreshments will be served and a very nice door prize drawn.

In the next few weeks, you will be enticed by a sample of the types of questions we will pose; you will see a large reminder board and you will see a stack of flyers with tear-off slips to return to the office or to a designated place in Reston, indicating whether you will attend. We'll draw for the door prize from the returned slips, but you must attend the meeting to be eligible.

We're banking on your enthusiasm for OLLI to make this meeting a priority on your calendar so that you can have a say in its future. And not to worry; you'll be reminded of our Town Meeting many times again.

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## Editor's Notes

### New Member Profiles

As an experiment this past summer, the editor of *OLLI E-News* sent an email to all new online members asking if they would like to be profiled. The net result was one profile. The editorial staff has decided, therefore, to discontinue that series. We will continue to profile Board members, committee chairs, and long-time instructors and would appreciate your feedback on these articles.

### Question of the Week

*The response to last week's question, "Should registration procedures for oversubscribed courses be changed from first-come, first-served to a lottery system?" was overwhelmingly "No."*

### This week's question is: Should OLLI News/OLLI E-News continue publishing letters to the Editor and to Ms. Ettakit?

1. Yes--continue both features
2. Yes--but not anonymous letters
3. Yes--but include OLLI answers to letters
4. Yes--but not critical/controversial ones
5. No, drop both
6. Drop only Ms. Ettakit

*[Place your vote in the Social Room Suggestion Box]*

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## Letters to the Editor

### Singing for Fun

The Singing for Fun class is naturally grateful to instructor Joyce DeVoll, but I would like to thank our accompanist, Dolores Ecklund. Dolores has accompanied the OLLI troubadours for the last several years, even while recovering

from hand surgery. Each week her opening measures signal the start of ninety minutes of musical good times. Without Dolores, the class would have to be called Singing for a Lot Less Fun.

---Elizabeth Crawford, Fairfax Station

### Advertising OLLI

Recently I was at Westminster at Lake Ridge retirement center and saw the OLLI catalog at their activities sign up table. I added a couple of the OLLI business cards. Debbie Halverson, Membership Chair, told me that OLLI members Ceda and Palmer McGrew gave a presentation at Westminster and left the catalog. This led me to a couple thoughts. It would be good to assemble a list of retirement centers in the OLLI coverage area and then see if there are already OLLI members who could give presentations and leave information. I think the same could be true for a number of churches in the area that have seniors programs. Debbie and I agreed to seek inputs from OLLI members, getting the names of retirement centers and churches that could be contacted, and if there are any OLLI members involved with those organizations. Please send your suggestions to [debbyhalv@aol.com](mailto:debbyhalv@aol.com).

--- John Woods, Alexandria

### Reminder:

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 playwright, Paul Zacheis, will be in the audience and available for questions and comments afterward. The 90-minute play is a comedy reminiscent of *Blithe Spirit*, but set in contemporary America, and tackles the issues of love, fidelity, and mother-daughter relationships.

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DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
24	Mon	11:30 AM	Course 901, continued	TA-3
25	Tue	1:00 PM	Fundraising meeting/Development Comm.	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
31	Mon	11:30 AM	Course 901, continued	TA-3
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
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
5	Sat	8:00 PM	GMU Theater of the First Amendment	Old Town Hall
		1:00 PM	Readers' Theatre special performance	TA-1
7	Mon	11:30 AM	Course 901, continued	TA-3
9	Wed	11:30 AM	Recorder, Part II	TA-2
		1:30 PM	Book Club	TA-2
		1:30 PM	Bridge Club	TA-3
		1:30 PM	Fiction Writers	Annex
		2:00 PM	History Club	TA-1
11	Fri	10:00 AM	Facilities Committee meeting	TA-2
		10:30 AM	Homer Book Club	Annex
			Fall term ends	
15	Tue	9:30 AM	Course 408 make-up class	TA-2
16	Wed	10:00 AM	Course 306 additional class meeting	TA-1
		10:00 AM	Bridge Club	TA-3
		10:30 AM	Fiction Writers	Annex