



# OLLI News

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
at George Mason University



Fall 2005, Issue 7

www.lli.gmu.edu

October 31, 2005

## REMINDER Flu Shot Clinic

*By Dr. Richard Chobot, Executive Director*

The second Flu Shot Clinic is scheduled for Friday, Nov 4, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Tallwood. This is immediately following the OLLI Town Meeting. At the moment we have fewer than 30 individuals signed up for the clinic. I have heard that Safeway cancelled all clinics scheduled for their stores after October 23. Yesterday, a member told me that her doctor had yet to get his supply of vaccine. If you are at all interested in getting a flu shot, I would encourage you to take advantage of this clinic. The cost is \$21. You can pay by cash or check. If you have Medicare Part B, INOVA will submit the paperwork. If you have Part B, but have signed benefits over to an HMO, you will have to pay for the injection. There will be no pediatric vaccine available at the clinic. Please sign up in the Tallwood office so that I can let INOVA know how many doses of the vaccine to bring.

equipment. A summary report of this spending by the OLLI treasurer appears in this edition of the OLLI News.

Now we have been blessed by the unexpected announcement that the Bernard Osher Foundation thinks so highly of us that they are rewarding us with a \$1 million dollar endowment. Great news, but remember, an endowment is money that cannot be spent, it must be invested. What does this mean? Well, when we receive the funds, the money will be invested and managed by the GMU Foundation and only the earnings generated by the investment will be available to us. This is great news for our future, but we do not yet know how soon these earnings will be available.

This now gets us back to the question, "Why do we need the Friends of OLLI?" The answer is the same reason why we needed the Friends in the past. We use the funds to buy equipment and to fund scholarships to GMU. Yes, we used most of the first year OLLI grant for major capital expenditures to address some critical needs, but that doesn't mean that we won't

*Continued on p.2*

## Why Do We Need Friends of OLLI?

*By Charles Duggan, OLLI President*

This is a question that members of the Development Committee are being asked, and they have asked me to address it with the membership. Some members are saying, "If we have the Osher funds, why do we need the Friends?" I hope this message will answer that question.

As you all know, OLLI has been fortunate to receive a large amount of money from the Bernard Osher Foundation. First, there were the two \$100,000 grants, which were spent for such items as the rest rooms and audiovisual

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continue to replace equipment as older items break down. As for the scholarships, this is the way we pay GMU back for the near free use of Tallwood and the generous way individual faculty members give up their free time to teach many of our courses. We don't pay these instructors, but we can say thank you by giving modest scholarships (three at \$2,000 each) to a couple of selected departments at the university. If we didn't have the Friends of OLLI funds available for these scholarships, we would simply have to raise member dues to support them.

There is one more reason to support the Friends of OLLI and that is to start building a reserve for the future. I have been reminding everyone for the past two years that "Tallwood is not forever." Just look around and you know that our facility will not last much longer. We have been advised that Tallwood House will be demolished over the winter (don't worry, they'll save the rest rooms), and sooner or later GMU will want to use our seven acres. The university says that they will take care of us, but they are not yet sure how. Realizing this, the Board of Directors has formed a Long-term Planning Committee to explore possible options. As options develop, it is prudent that we create a reserve fund to be prepared for the unexpected.

I hope this explanation helps, and I ask you to join us in your generous support of the Friends of OLLI. We have a wonderful institute and each of us has benefited well beyond the cost of annual dues. Your contributions will assure that we have a strong future.

If you want to discuss this further, please come to the OLLI Town Meeting on Nov 4 and members of the Board will be happy to answer your questions.

**Reminder – Special Event P**  
 Eleven discount tickets at \$60 each for the Virginia Opera Company's 2:00 performance of *Romeo and Juliet* on Dec 4 are available in the office to both members and non-member guests.

**Fairfax County Library Offerings**

*By Kitty O'Hara, OLLI News Staff Writer*

Fairfax County libraries will be hosting free presentations by the Social Security Administration to explain the new Medicare prescription drug benefits between Nov 1 and Dec 17. The new prescription drug coverage will be available beginning Jan 1, 2006. While registration is not necessary, the library suggests that you call the branch where you're interesting in attending two weeks before the briefing.

The following is the November schedule: Centerville Regional – Nov 12 at 2:00; Chantilly Regional – Nov 21 at 10:30; Dolley Madison – Nov 5 at 10:30; George Mason Regional – Nov 18 at 11:00; John Marshall – Nov 12 at 1:00; Kings Park – Nov 16 at 7:00; Kingstowne – Nov 1 at 7:00; Martha Washington – Nov 9 at 7:00; Richard Byrd – Nov 7 at 10:30; Sherwood Regional – Nov 2 at 2:00; and Thomas Jefferson – Nov 4 at 1:00.

Some other programs at the libraries that might be of interest to OLLI members in November include a lecture by OLLI Board member Abbie Edwards entitled "Staying Happy & Healthy in Retirement" at Chantilly Regional Library on Nov 2 at 7:00; a presentation on the Drive Well Program to help older adults stay safe on the road at Fairfax City Regional Library on Nov 10 at 7:30; and a session from an expert on Elderhostel at Dolley Madison Library on Nov 12 at 10:30. You do need to register in advance for these programs.

**Reminder**  
 Town Meeting Nov 4, 10:00-12:00 at Tallwood  
**OLLI at the Crossroads**  
 Join the discussion to define OLLI's future

**OLLI NEWS**

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

## A Few Words from the Treasurer

*By Don Yesukaitis, Treasurer*

A few of our members have asked some of our directors how much and where we've spent our Osher grant funds. Before I answer that for you, I wanted to give you a brief background on the protocols followed by the Osher Foundation. First, as with other lifelong learning institutes (LLI) throughout the country who receive Osher funds, the funds are given to the university with which the LLI is affiliated, which in our case is the George Mason University Foundation that acts as the steward for and accounts for the expenditure of the funds. In addition, prior to receiving any funds, the LLI must indicate, and Osher must concur with, how the funds are intended to be used. In our case, our initial \$100,000 grant was restricted to helping us provide needed capital and grounds improvements as well as to assist us in our membership recruitment and marketing activities. In essence, the funds were and have been used to help us fulfill and expand our educational mission to our members. Our normal annual operating expenses are covered by member dues and donations by members and/or others who wish to contribute to our LLI. Consistent with fulfilling and expanding our mission, our second Osher grant is being used as requested and approved by Osher to fund the first year cost of our recently-hired executive director, Dick Chobot.

The first grant has been spent, after OLLI board approval, as follows (Rounded to nearest \$100):

Building repairs and new restrooms:  
\$37,500  
Furniture, A/V equipment and computers:  
\$24,600  
Membership brochures and Expo:  
\$12,800  
Landscaping, including a shed costing \$2,000:  
\$5,500

Spent to date: \$80,400

Remainder: \$19,600 (A)

(A) Intended to be spent in whole or in part on modular furniture to increase office efficiency

I also wanted to mention to you that the Finance Committee, in cooperation with other committee chairs and Dick Chobot, is currently working on the preparation of the calendar year 2006 operating budget, which we hope to present to the board for discussion at its next meeting on Nov 18. As always, members are invited and encouraged to attend our board meetings.

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## OLLI Annual Holiday Party

*By Sandy Driesslein, Hospitality Chair*

OLLI will hold its Annual Holiday Party from 11:00 to 3:00 on Friday, Dec 2, at the Country Club of Fairfax. The price for each member is \$30.00, payable to the office. There will be hors d'oeuvres, salad, stuffed chicken or pasta primavera, and carrot cake or tiramisu.

Entertainment will be provided by OLLI's own Recorder Group during the cocktail hour, the Reader's Theater troupe between the meal and dessert, and the Singing for Fun group immediately following dessert. We will have a drawing for the poinsettia centerpieces at the tables, and two \$50 Borders Gift Certificates.

Don't forget to sign up for this event in the office by Nov 28. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

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## Theater of the First Amendment

Presents

### *Words at Night*

A salon-style evening of literary readings by local writers

Writers, actors and the community will come together in a unique event at 8:00 pm on Nov 4. Please join us as we gather in the Old Town Hall as professional actors offer dramatic readings of short stories and excerpts of novels written by authors from our own community. The following are among the selections:

*Triumph in Exile*, Victoria D. Schmidt's 2002 historical account of Germaine de Staël, an uncommon woman who helped depose Napoleon Bonaparte.

*The Rust Preventer*, by Jessica Anthony, imagines the life of a man left behind in WW II on a deserted island, accompanied by his only friend, a little monkey named Pamela.

*Almost Home*, by Mark Farrington, is a touching look at a young boy's attempt to connect with his ailing grandmother.

*Across the Wire*, by Rachel Lazarus, takes us to a land suffering under military occupation, in which a mother and her son do what they can to survive while dreaming of the freedom that lies beyond their world.

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## Coming Events at GMU Oct 31 – Nov 6

By Jan Bohall, OLLI Catalog Editor

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

### Aterballetto

Contemporary dance, Italian style in an all-Stravinsky evening

Saturday, Nov 5 at 8:00

\$44, \$36, \$22

Concert Hall, Center for the Arts

Ask about the free pre-performance discussion at 7:15.

### Opera Verdi Europa: *Macbeth*

Sunday, Nov 6 at 4:00

\$40, \$32, \$20

Concert Hall

Ask about the free pre-performance discussion at 3:15.

### Choral Classics

#### GMU Singers and Chorale

Works by Bach, Brahms, Mozart and more

Sunday, Nov 6 at 7:00

Free

Providence Presbyterian Church  
9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax

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## LLI Review – Call for Papers

By Anne Sprague, OLLI News Staff Writer

Writers anywhere? A new journal set for publication in late spring 2006 has announced a call for papers. Called *The LLI Review, the Annual Journal of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes*, its publisher will be OLLI's National Resource Center. The mission for this peer-reviewed journal is to present "thoughtful and engaging commentary on issues related to learning among persons over age 50." Subjects are varied and will range from poetry and brief fiction to articles describing a completed empirical research study. If you are interested in making an important contribution to knowledge about older learners, please contact E. Michael Brady, Ph.D., OLLI, at the University of Southern Maine, Bailey Hall 400-B, Gorham, ME 04038. (Mbrady@usm.maine.edu or call 207-780-5312). For further information, check the Website: [http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli/national/lli\\_review\\_cfp.jsp](http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli/national/lli_review_cfp.jsp). The deadline for submissions is Jan 15, 2006.

## Question of the Week

### How often do you visit the OLLI Website?

More than once a week

Weekly (not including vote on Question)

Monthly

Quarterly (e.g., view catalog online)

Annually

Never

*Last week's question was "Should OLLI News & OLLI E-News continue publishing letters to the editor and to Ms. Ollie Ettakit?"*

*Members voted overwhelmingly (about 85 percent) in favor of continuing both features; 13% voted to drop Ms. Ettakit, 2% wanted both dropped.*

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## Ms. Ollie Ettakit Speaks .....

### Celfonitis

Dear Gentle Readers,

Almost every day in class we are shaken from our rapt concentration on the often inspired and informative words of our lecturer by the harsh tones of a cell phone ringing impudently in someone's purse or pocket. I would encourage all class liaisons to remind the audience to silence their cell phones. In my humble opinion that is even more important than reminding the class to remove their coffee cups afterward.

P.S. It is heartening to hear that 85% of you approve of my commentary.

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### Editorial

Many of the signed letters to the editor that we have published to date were ascribed to "Anonymous" at the writer's request. This has recently led some readers to drop unsigned letters for us in the suggestion box. We need to know that the letter is intended for publication, that it is not a prank, and that we can contact the writer for clarification and acceptance of editing, if necessary. We will not publish any letter whose authorship is unknown to the editor. In view of this policy, we suggest that anyone who has sent an unsigned letter, either directly to the editor or via the suggestion box, and now wants it to be considered for publication as a letter to the editor, resubmit it with name and phone number or email address included.

Our readers may, however, continue to request anonymity from the editor, in which case we will identify you as "Anonymous," i.e., we will not print your name as the writer without your consent. We will ask you to consider at least letting us use your town and/or initials. If you use the suggestion box, please address your note to "Editor *OLLI News*" so that whoever empties the box knows to give the note to us. Written or online suggestions that are not identified as letters to the editor will be passed on to the appropriate person within the OLLI leadership. If you want a response to any such suggestion, please include your name and phone number or email address.

Letters to the Editor are but one means of communicating with OLLI's leaders. Unless you specifically want your letter published in *OLLI News*, we encourage you to go directly to a committee chair, director, or the Executive Director with your concerns. If for whatever reason you prefer to use the editors of *OLLI News* as your ombudsman or your conduit to the membership, we will give careful consideration to publishing your letter and we will at the very least respond to you personally.

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### Letters to the Editor

#### Keeping Tallwood Beautiful

This morning I observed the Dirty Knees Gang removing a tree behind the soon to be a memory Tallwood House. The tree will be replanted at a more suitable/less vulnerable location. I for one appreciate the efforts of this group -- even though they tried to shame me into picking up a shovel -- to keep OLLI beautiful.

And while we're at it...I arrived at the office this morning to find a member of the University Cleaning Crew sweeping the leaves off the sidewalks and decking outside TA-2 and 3. While this may seem like a small thing, it lessens the chance of slips and falls. We should recognize that this is one of a number of ways in which the University contributes to the support of OLLI. Janitorial services would be a significant cost if it came out of the OLLI budget. Just thought you would like to know.

--- Dick Chobot, Executive Director

#### Hamlet

Those of us taking Course 403 had a special treat last Wednesday when GMU Professors Rick Davis and Ken Elston read and commented on four scenes from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The presentation complemented Kathryn Russell's approach of comparing different productions. The dynamic, humorous, and informative interpretations by these two talented actors was one of the highlights of the fall.

--- Joan White, Fairfax

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<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
		8:00 PM	GMU Theater of the First Amendment	Old Town Hall
5	Sat	1:00 PM	Readers' Theatre special performance	TA-1
7	Mon	11:30 AM	Course 901, continued	TA-3
8	Tue	11:30 AM	Course 701 final class (note location change)	TA-1
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
		10:00 AM	Membership Committee meeting	TA-1
		10:30 AM	Homer Book Club	Annex
			Fall term ends	
14	Mon		OLLI office hours resume M-F 9 am - noon schedule	
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
18	Fri	10:00 AM	Board meeting	TA-1
		10:00 AM	Recorder group	TA-3
		10:30 AM	Homer Book Club	Annex
24 - 25			OLLI closed for Thanksgiving holiday	
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
2	Fri	10:00 AM	Program Committee meeting	TA-2
		10:00 AM	Classic Fiction Book Club	Reston Reg. Library
		10:00 AM	Recorder group	TA-3
		10:30 AM	Homer Book Club	Annex
		11:00 AM	Holiday luncheon	Fairfax Country Club
		8:00 PM	GMU Theater of the First Amendment	Old Town Hall
			Winter catalog to printer	