

## Board Highlights

By Carol Henderson, OLLI Secretary

At the Oct 21 Board meeting, Treasurer Don Yesukaitis summarized the use of the first \$100,000 grant from the Osher Foundation. Approximately \$80,000 of the first year Osher funds have been spent. Half of that went for the new rest rooms while the balance was spent on audiovisual equipment, furniture, computers, the storage shed, the membership brochure, the OLLI Expo and a small portion on landscaping. The remaining \$20,000 will be spent to remodel the office. The second Osher grant of \$100,000 received this summer is being used for the first year of the executive director's salary and benefits.

President Charles Duggan noted that OLLI has been notified of the award of a \$1 million endowment from the Osher Foundation (a year earlier than hoped for), but nothing formal had been received in writing as yet. Under the terms of Osher Foundation grants, all funds, including the endowment, are deposited with the GMU Foundation. Discussions with the GMU Foundation are ongoing regarding procedures for investment of endowment funds and OLLI's use of income from it.

Executive Director Dick Chobot summarized his staffing plan to reorganize office duties and fill open positions. He also informed the Board that he has developed a proposal requested by the McLean Community Center for one day a week of senior programming there next year. The Program Review Committee (Kathryn Russell, Bob Bohall and RoseMary Gustin) reported that with help from Abbie Edwards and Dick Chobot the winter term course schedule was nearly complete.

In response to an issue raised by Publications Committee chair Gordon Canyock, the Board agreed to a sense of the Board statement regarding anonymous letters or suggestions to the editor of *OLLI News*: The editor will not publish completely anonymous letters or suggestions; the editor will honor a request for anonymity if the author has identified himself or herself and the editor may publish the submission or may arrange for appropriate response; *OLLI News* will not publish slanderous or otherwise offensive material; and the editor retains the option to publish, cut, condense, or omit communications from the membership in exercising editorial discretion.

Board members presented a basket of gifts to departing Administrator Jennifer Maloney and thanked her for more than six years of service.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Nov 18 at 10:00 at Tallwood. OLLI members are welcome to attend.

### OLLI NEWS

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

## The New Guy's Reflections on the Fall Term

By Dick Chobot, Executive Director

Well, it's been eight weeks, and we approach the end of the fall term. Come Jan 1, I will no longer be able to hide behind the Harry Potter-like cloak of new guy invisibility. Let me share some reflections on the last eight weeks.

**Gratitude and Amazement:** I am extremely grateful to all of the members who welcomed me so warmly; the Board, and especially Charles, Pat, Carol and Don, who have "oriented me"; the numerous volunteers who make OLLI a success at so many levels; and my staff colleagues, who are a pleasure to work with. I am amazed at what "we" are able to accomplish, and I hope to make a more significant contribution to OLLI as my knowledge of the organization's needs increases.

**Pride:** Six days after I assumed my position, I attended the EIN Conference. I was pleased to hear the many complimentary, and in some cases envious, observations made about our program. Approximately two weeks ago, I was the recipient of the phone call from Mary Bitterman announcing the endowment. Much of the conversation related to the high regard in which the Osher Foundation holds our program. While I have had nothing to do with the well-earned reputation OLLI at GMU enjoys, it makes me proud to be affiliated with such an organization. It is my goal to further enhance our reputation through my work in the coming years.

**Anticipation:** Now that I have my feet on the ground, and a basic understanding of operations, I look forward to contributing more substantively to program development, administrative enhancements, and strategic planning in collaboration with the Board and Committees. I have set an ambitious agenda for my staff colleagues and myself. I plan to report periodically on our progress.

**Appreciation:** My wife Mary and I have been warmly welcomed into the OLLI community. We are grateful for the manner in which we have been received.

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### Coming Events at GMU Nov 7 – 13

#### GMU Dance Company Fall Concert

Nov 10 – 12 at 8:00, Friday matinee at 2:00  
Admission \$10 seniors, Harris Theater

#### John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers

Nov 11 at 8:00. Admission \$40, \$32, \$20. Concert Hall  
There will be a beer and cheese tasting at 6:30 in the Lobby and pre-performance discussion at 7:15.  
Following the performance, there will be an intimate "Jazz Club" on the Grand Tier. Tickets are available at \$10.



# OLLI News

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
at George Mason University



Fall 2005, Issue 8

[www.olligmu.edu](http://www.olligmu.edu)

November 7, 2005

## Let's Talk Turkey!

*By Susanne Zumbro, OLLI Board Member*

No, I'm not talking about the bird that will soon be gracing your Thanksgiving table, but rather, the country of Turkey!

You are cordially invited to join your fellow OLLI members as well as members of the GMU community on a study trip to Turkey, including Istanbul and the Aegean coast. The trip is sponsored by GMU's Center for Global Education and is scheduled for March 10-19, 2006, during the GMU spring break. The tour will be led by Professor Larry Butler, Associate Professor at GMU and a former Fulbright scholar in Turkey.

In this tour, we will explore both urban Istanbul and the antiquities of the beautiful Aegean coast, getting a taste of the many different cultures that have thrived in this area. The itinerary reflects the experience of Dr. Butler, who has lived in Istanbul and explored Turkey during nearly 30 years of regular visits as an art historian. The tour will begin in the Sultanahmet, the oldest quarter of Istanbul, home to its famous Byzantine and Ottoman monuments. In addition to the great monuments, we will also explore some of the ethnic minority neighborhoods, including the Greek and Jewish areas of Balat and Fener. Moving on to the Aegean coast, we will explore the magnificent Greek, Roman and early Christian antiquities of Ephesus and Kusadasi.

In preparation for this trip, OLLI members may wish to take the four-week course this winter on Turkey, during which attendees will learn about modern Turkey from experts in US-Turkish relations. Various speakers will address the political, military, economic, religious and cultural aspects of the Republic and of the Turkish people, who are among America's closest allies. You are encouraged to sign up for this course whether or not you plan to join us on the trip. Our trip leader, Prof. Butler, will be one of the speakers for this course.

The trip cost is approximately \$2,500 per person. For further details on the trip or to sign up, please visit the trip's Website at [globaled.gmu.edu/spring/turkey.htm](http://globaled.gmu.edu/spring/turkey.htm) (the only way to sign up is at the Website). For more information or questions about the trip, please contact Shannon Phelan, program officer, Center for Global Education at George Mason University, telephone 703-993-3864.

Start packing your bags! This is a not-to-be-missed experience!

## New Paintings in Social Room Annex

*By Marvinna Munch, Facilities Committee member*

Harriet Grever's watercolor class is one of several OLLI activities that meet year round, an indicator of the artists' interest and dedication. Some members of the class have years of experience painting with watercolor as well as acrylic and oil. Other members are less experienced but are fast learning the fine points of painting in this difficult and unforgiving medium. Class members whose work is exhibited are Renata Bardo, Winnie Scheffler, Tom Suzuki, Debbie Halverson, and Harriet Grever.

## Reminder: 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, carrot cake or tiramisu, and live entertainment, provided by OLLI's own Recorder Group, Reader's Theater troupe, and the Singing for Fun chorus. We will have a drawing for the poinsettia centerpieces at the tables, and two \$50 Borders Gift Certificates. Sign up for this event in the office by Nov 28.

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**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra**  
**Christopher Parkening, guitar**  
Nov 12 at 8:00. \$60, \$55, \$45, \$35. Concert Hall

**CHI**  
Part Cirque du Soleil, part Chinese acrobats  
Nov 13 at 7:00. \$38, \$30, \$19. Children 12 and under  
attend at half price, with an adult. Concert Hall

**GMU Various Chamber Ensembles**  
Nov 13 at 7:00. Free. Harris Theater

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### **Ann Hartmann, OLLI Office Administrator**

*By Arleen Richman, OLLI News Staff Writer*

"No, I am obviously not retired," quips Ann Hartmann as she demonstrates her multi-tasking abilities -- a prime requisite for her new position as Office Administrator. Within a five minute period, she responded to two OLLI members who asked questions about different matters, answered three separate phone calls and rushed into the social room to make another round of coffee -- all without appearing stressed. Ann became Office Administrator in late October after the departure of Jennifer Maloney; since Dec 2005, Ann had been working as our part-time financial assistant.

"So please be kind to me and other new staff, especially if we cannot serve you with the efficiency to which OLLI members have become accustomed," pleads Ann. "We no longer have the luxury of relying on continuing long term staff to teach us relative newcomers the ropes of how things work here." Ann, who holds a business degree from Rider University in Trenton, NJ, worked as office administrator for a computer service company before she began working at OLLI, which is conveniently located only a few miles from her home.

The favorite part of working at OLLI is "meeting people with varied backgrounds, especially people who worked for the government and Foreign Service and who are eager to share their life adventures." Ann fondly recalls the various tours of duty she and her Army husband enjoyed -- three in Germany, one in Moscow, and others throughout the U.S. "It was a great opportunity to live in foreign countries," she comments. When they were stationed in Moscow, Ann worked for the Defense Attaché Office.

Ann's husband is the U.S. Army Deputy Director of Foreign Liaison; he works with army attaches in international embassies. Ann quips, "This means I spend a lot of my life eating and drinking for my country and then I hit the gym three mornings a week to atone for my sins." They have three sons, who live at home.

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### **Reminder: OLLI Book Club**

Meets at Tallwood at 1:30 on Nov 9 to discuss *Our Lady of the Forest* by David Guterson, author of *Snow Falling on Cedars*. All OLLI members are welcome to attend.

## **Great Divide Class Meets in McLean Nov 8**

*By Bruce Reinhart, Class Coordinator*

Because Christ Lutheran Church will be a polling place on Nov 8, the Great Divide class will meet in the Alden Theater at the McLean Community Center at 11:30 and will be open to all OLLI members and their guests.

The Honorable Dr. David M Abshire, President and CEO of the Center for the Study of the Presidency (CSP), will speak on "How Can We Achieve Civility and Inclusiveness in Bridging the Great Divide?" The McLean Community Center is just off Route 123 at 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Go to their Website [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org) to get the easy directions and more information on the CSP.

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### **Tribute to Volunteers**

*By Julie Fintel, OLLI News Staff Writer*

OLLI depends on its many volunteers. We are fortunate that we have such willing and capable people to give help where help is needed. We want to thank them for what they do and let them know we appreciate them.

The office volunteers, recruited by Mona Smith, usually give one morning a month to staffing the desk in OLLI's office. Jennifer Maloney, our former OLLI Administrator, had high praise for these volunteers. "To have the desk covered when we are running out to the classrooms is a big help," she said. "And they are especially wonderful with new members who call."

Both Jennifer and Mona singled out Art Cook for his dedication. He works one day a week in the OLLI office. "He has become a permanent fixture," said Jennifer. Michael Coyne, our "computer guru," was also singled out. "He is always available if something goes wrong with the computer system. He will even come in on weekends to fix something."

The other members who volunteer in the office are Margaret Andino, Jan Bohall, Doris Bloch, Marian Brobst, Janet Butler, Art Cook, Elaine Cooper, Russ Curran, Wilvia Galbraith, Marion Grabowski, Bob Helland, Phyllis Hendler, Sue Houser, Nancy Jarvis, Barbara Jones, Carol Kearns, Barbara Kyriakakis, Jean Leshko, Barbara Lynch, Elizabeth Osborn, Judy Riekse, Sue Reinhard, Joan Salemi, Carol Schuster, Lou Schuster, Ann Shell, Hannalore Smallfield, Mona Smith, Carol Towse, Hank Walsh, and Roberta Wulf.

Each class has its liaison, an OLLI member who reminds the class of the basic rules of behavior, makes sure the sign-up sheet is available, introduces the speaker and is available as a go-fer, if needed. Ceda McGew, assisted by Florence Adler and Ann Goerold, is in charge of the class liaisons: Helen Anderson, Mary Jane Bishop, Janet Buck, Gordon Canyock, Pat Carroll, Jane Catson, Art Cook, Joe

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Cowden, Michael Coyne, Jeanne Daussin, Bill Deary, John DeVoll, Eileen Duggan, David Edwards, George Ewing, Charles Faxon, Linda Fisch, Cathy Frisbee, Dora Ginsberg, Ben Gold, Tom Hady, Bob Helland, Bill Helmantoler, Carol Henderson, Art Hill, Mary Kornreich, Helene Layman, Alan Lord, Liz Loweth, Ceda McGrew, Palmer McGrew, Mike McNamara, Kathleen Meyer, Elizabeth Owen, Manny Pablo, Cynthia Patterson, Bruce Reinhart, Terry Robinson, Gayle Ryan, Joan Salemi, Carolyn Sanders, Ellen Schor, Sue Schram, Verlinda Snyder, Edith Speir, Lilyan Spiro, Carol Towse, Audrey Van Vliet, Allan Weissburg, and Susanne Zumbro.

OLLI has many other volunteers who contribute their time and effort to OLLI. We include them all in our thanks.

### **US National Park Service Classes Reward Armchair Travelers and History Buffs**

*By Sarah Munson, OLLI News Staff Writer*

Do you know the oldest U.S. National Military Park? Or the sites of the largest and fewest number of Civil War casualties?

Even if you have visited U.S. National Park Service sites in person, you will be an impressed and informed armchair traveler if you've attended the OLLI classes, eleven of them since 2001, which U.S. National Park Service instructors teach. Each 8-week course has had a theme and featured guest speakers and even field trips.

Michael Kelly and Jennifer Epstein share the current OLLI National Park Service course themed "National Parks." Michael has served 13 years in the Park Service, seven of those in Washington at the National Mall. Jennifer began as a volunteer in the Park Service in 1989, working summers during college. She has been serving in Washington at the National Mall since June 1998. A highlight of her service was working in the Adams House near Boston where she received pay for doing what she loves, historical research. Michael and Jennifer have been teaching at OLLI since the beginning of the Park Service classes in 2001.

Teaching at OLLI is a part of Michael's and Jennifer's National Mall assignment. They appreciate being able to share their accumulated experience in National Parks, which includes Washington, D.C.'s rich history, with OLLI's especially engaged and well-educated audience.

Both instructors agree that working on the National Mall is especially satisfying when visitors share their personal stories, for example, about World War II and the years of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. Three WWII veterans from different theaters related that when they heard that FDR had died in April 1945, each was certain he would not survive the war.

At the October 26 class, guest speakers and Park Service Rangers Kathryn Williams and Doug Demmon gave presentations of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park where Kathryn has served and Fort Pulaski where Doug has served. The former is the oldest national military park and second only to Gettysburg in being the site of the most casualties of the Civil War. It was here in Georgia and Tennessee that North and South came together for the first time after the war to create the park.

Fort Pulaski, at the mouth of the Savannah River, is one of the smaller battlefields and sustained just two casualties of the Civil War, including one from each side. The Civil War battle that possessed the fewest casualties remains Ft. Sumter, during which the only casualty, apparently, was a Confederate horse.

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### **Looking Ahead**

*By Kathryn Russell, Program Review Committee Chair*

As OLLI's fall session begins to wind down, we'll soon turn our thoughts to the holiday season. But after the revelry is over, how will we brighten up those dreary winter days? We'll flock back to OLLI for the coming winter session, of course. Since midsummer, the Program Review Committee (PRC)—with the help of countless people—has been developing the winter lineup of more than 50 courses and 7 special events. We think we have an exciting array of classes for you.

Planning for the OLLI winter has been a challenge. At times we felt we were rounding up the proverbial herd of cats as we chased down leads for classes, contacted teachers, and began to assemble the pieces. Our deepest thanks go out to so many people who have helped put the program together: Members of the Program Committee and Resource Groups, who came up with new ideas and worked to develop classes; Subject Area Chairs, who helped coordinate the development of courses; OLLI and outside instructors, who have volunteered their time; Special Events people, who have created an exciting lineup; the catalogue editors, who are busily cleaning up our dangling modifiers and misspelled words; the staff, who have provided helpful information; many OLLI members who have sent us course suggestions; and our Executive Director, who found himself thrown into the fray from his first day on board.

Now you can look forward to the winter catalog, which will arrive in your mailbox shortly after the mailing date, Dec. 9. Also find the catalog on the OLLI Website a few days before that. Look for some old favorites, but also check out new topics such as these:

"New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina" will focus on that city's past and its uncertain future.

"Overseas Headaches" will highlight the difficult relations between the U.S. and some of our foreign neighbors.

"Renaissance Art Meets Geometry" connects two different

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disciplines to show the influence of geometry on art. "Space and Tourism" presents the results from space exploration and looks to the future of space travel. "Republic of Turkey" probes key issues in the making of this modern democracy. "Julius Caesar" will compare Shakespeare's play to the historical figure.

As always, we're planning for future programs with a commitment to upholding the OLLI standard of excellence. The spring session will present new and exciting challenges. This is where you can help. When you have an idea for an interesting course or special event, email it to Dick Chobot or a Program Review Committee member. Volunteer to teach a course. Tell us about contacts you may have for new resources and instructors. We depend on our OLLI members to help develop the rich pattern of our outstanding program. We want your input!

### Letter to the Editor

#### *Visit to the Supreme Court*

On Friday, Oct 28, 43 members of OLLI went on a field trip to the Supreme Court building. Ben Gold, a Board member of OLLI who has been teaching classes on the Supreme Court, was the organizer of the event. Ben has been a docent at the Supreme Court Building for three years. It was a privilege getting a guided tour from an experienced docent and also an OLLI member. He gave us some very interesting tidbits, sometimes humorous, of the Supreme Court Justices both past and present. After our visit to the court room, we went into one of the conference rooms where we viewed large paintings of the past Chief Justices that filled the walls. Again, Ben had some interesting stories about these black-robed leaders of our Judicial Branch. After our visits to the court and conference rooms, we had an hour to ourselves to take time for lunch, visit the gift shop or view the movie on the history of the Supreme Court. It was a great day and we do thank Ben for doing such an excellent job both as our leader and teacher. According to Ben there will be more field trips to the Supreme Court in future sessions. Keep posted so you can have the opportunity of a great educational experience. --- *Abbie Edwards, Reston*

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

Dear Ms. Ettakit,  
I cannot agree with your recent suggestion that those who have knowledge or experience concerning OLLI courses should not take those courses or should, at least, keep quiet in class. I have asked some of our greatest teachers why they volunteer to teach at OLLI. They often remark that they love the responsiveness of OLLI students. They feel that we have so much to offer. This is especially true of those who usually teach GMU undergraduates. I definitely appreciate the contributions of classmates who have relevant knowledge or experience. If OLLI offers a course on a subject in which I have a strong interest (and am,

therefore, knowledgeable), I will be there. Having the liaison ask the teacher whether she prefers questions during the class, after the class, or not at all, and informing the class of this preference is the best solution to the problem. - Anonymous

*Dear Anonymous Reader,*

*This subject appears to be quite controversial within OLLI, and I am delighted that so many readers have felt the need to comment. It was first raised in the Oct 3 edition of OLLI News and has reverberated ever since. I was perhaps too strong in suggesting that you take only courses in unfamiliar subject areas. I find myself sometimes taking courses where my interest, experience and educational background coincide. As a result, I have been known to comment succinctly on the subject or even briefly challenge an opinion of the lecturer. However, one must do so without embarrassing or hectoring the instructor. I agree that the class liaison or coordinator should clarify at the beginning how the instructor wishes to handle questions and even intervene should members appear to be crossing the line of propriety in their questions or comments.*

#### **Question of the Week**

Do you want to keep using an offsite location like the church for large classes, or do you prefer to hold all classes at OLLI even if class size must be capped at 80?

1. Keep using offsite location
2. Stop offsite classes, use only OLLI
3. Use TA-1 & video to another classroom
4. Find a closer location than church
5. Build a big modular classroom at OLLI
6. Don't care

*Last week's question was "How often do you visit the OLLI Website?"*

*About 72 percent of responders said they checked at least once a week, which is very encouraging to the Webmaster.*

#### **Editor's Notes**

##### **OLLI Movie Day**

The first OLLI Movie Day at Tallwood was a success, from the outstanding Korean movie to the dried persimmon treats. Dick Chobot said he intended to continue this series of movie and commentary on an occasional basis and is open to suggestions.

##### **Please Use Microphones**

Class liaisons and coordinators should ensure that instructors use the microphones and speaker systems in the classrooms and the offsite church location. Even when instructors have what appear to be loud voices, OLLI members with hearing problems can have difficulty with instructors who do not use the available systems.

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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
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-3
		2:00 AM	Speical Event O: Battle over Federal Judges	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 M-F 9 am - noon	
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
9			Winter catalog to printer and posted online	
			Winter catalogs to be bulk-mailed	
16	Fri	9:00 AM	Winter registration begins	
23, 26-30			OLLI closed for winter break	
<b>JANUARY</b>				
9	Mon		winter registration ends	
23	Mon		Winter term begins	

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