

OLLI NEWS

Monday, January 23, 2006

ALERT

NEW MEMBER COFFEE 10:30 FRI, JAN 27,
TALLWOOD: New members--and all other members--are
invited for coffee and conversation.

REMINDERS

HISTORY CLUB: meeting at 2:00, Wednesday, Feb
1, Tallwood. Topics include the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire,
perhaps the worst workplace disaster in New York City before
9/11, and a review of 1215: The Year of the Magna Carta.
Any and all members and guests welcome. Contact Bob
Bohall for information.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: OLLI will be closed
whenever Fairfax County schools are closed all day due to
inclement weather. Schools Website.

SPRING TERM DATES: MAR 27 - MAY 19, 2006

ARTICLES

WELCOME TO THE WINTER TERM from President
Charles Duggan, p.1

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS: Senior President Emeritus
Lilyan Spero, p.1

INTRODUCING THE NEW STAFF: Two new staff
employees at Tallwood, p.2

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: New member coffee next Fri,
Jan 27, p.2

DICK HIBBERT--WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?: Profile of a
long-time teacher. P.2

NEW EXHIBIT IN SOCIAL ROOM ANNEX: Photographs
by Dick Hibbert, p.3

DEPARTMENTS

OLLI VIDEO NEWS -- Call for volunteers, p.3

COMING EVENTS AT GMU, p.3

MS. OLLIE ETTAKIT - She's back!, p.4

LETTERS -- Editorial: Class liaisons, p.4

COMING ATTRACTIONS, p.4

WELCOME TO THE WINTER TERM

by Charles Duggan, OLLI President

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME EVERYONE BACK
for the 2006 winter term at the Osher Lifelong Learning
Institute. I stated at the start of the September term that we
were beginning a new era at OLLI. I was referring to the fact
that we had established the position of OLLI executive
director and had hired Richard "Dick" Chobot as our first full-
time professional manager. Dick joined us on September 1st
and has completely immersed himself in managing the affairs
of OLLI. He has enthusiastically worked with our Board and
committees to ensure a smooth transition. If you have not yet
met Dick, please stop by his office and say hello.

Since December 2004, we have had a complete turnover of
our staff. It has been quite a transition. Our latest additions are
two key staff members who joined us this month. They are
Rae Schafer, Program Assistant, and Karen Nash, Finance
Assistant. I am very proud of the team that we have hired and

look forward to the contributions that they will make in the
coming year.

I would also publicly like to thank all the volunteers who
have unselfishly given of their time and talents in this period
of transition. We are looking forward to a wonderful winter
term and a great year.

MEET SENIOR PRESIDENT EMERITUS

LILYAN SPERO

*A continuation of profiles of OLLI Board members by Louise
Richardson, OLLI E-News staff writer*

LILYAN SPERO, ONE OF THE CO-FOUNDERS OF THE
LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INSTITUTE, now Osher
Lifelong Learning Institute, has a positive vision for the future
of our program. After 15 years she finally has no worries
about the stability, finances or permanence of OLLI. She sees
it as a role model for the rest of Virginia and a vital
contribution to the older, retired members of our community.
Hoping OLLI will eventually acquire its own building, Lilyan
looks forward to an "organization that will continue to grow
even better than it is now."

Lilyan modestly gives the most credit for the establishment
of OLLI to Kathryn Brooks who as Education Chairman for
the Area Agency on Aging recognized a critical need for
providing learning opportunities for the area's senior
population. She had heard about the Learning in Retirement
program at American University and enlisted Lilyan's help in
replicating a similar program in Northern Virginia. Kathryn
tried for years to find a university to sponsor the organization.
Then Lilyan's husband Abe was appointed to the Board of
Visitors at George Mason University and was instrumental in
convincing Dr. Johnson, President of GMU, to support the
program. Dr. and Mrs. Johnson immediately became avid
supporters of LRI/OLLI. Eventually after some setbacks and
successes, the original group of 40 to 50 members holding
classes in one room on a GMU site on University Boulevard
has evolved into the current enrollment of almost 700 seniors
meeting at both Tallwood and Lake Anne. This past fall
members could choose from more than 60 classes and special
events.

OLLI is not the only beneficiary of Lilyan's community
service. She was active on the Fairfax Child Care Advisory
Council and successfully led an effort to extend before- and
after-school child-care services to handicapped children and
eventually was appointed to the statewide Child Care
Commission. While serving as Registrar for Fairfax County,
Lilyan instituted a voter registration program that greatly
increased the accessibility of registration facilities and the
number of active voters in the county. For her work in this
area, she received the 1985 Human Rights Award and the
1987 National Association of Cities and Counties National
Award. She has been an active member of the Fairfax
Commission for Women and instituted vital changes in the
manner in which rape cases were investigated and adjudicated.
In 1986 she was named to the statewide Commission on the
Status of Women. In 1988, in recognition of her continuing

achievements on behalf of human rights, she was named to the statewide Commission on Human Rights. Her energy, perseverance and creative thinking were ultimately honored in 1997 when she was named Fairfax County Citizen of the Year.

Over the years Lilyan has continued to contribute her time and energy to OLLI. After serving as President of the Board for two years, she remained on the Board for several more years. She currently attends all the board meetings and has been named Senior President Emeritus as well as Honorary Board Member for Life. She is especially active in organizing classes and planning curriculum. Every time we walk into a classroom, get on a bus for a special event, or just meet and chat with a friend in the social room we have Lilyan Spero to thank.

Editor's Note. You can see and hear Lilyan talking about how LRI/OLLI was established in her video comments that are part of the movie, "The Story of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute." Watch it on your computer or borrow the DVD or videotape from the office. Also, Lilyan was the subject of an interesting article in the Guide to Retirement Living, which you may wish to read.

INTRODUCING THE NEW STAFF

by Dr. Richard Chobot, Executive Director

THERE ARE NEW FACES AT OLLI. On January 3, Rae Schafer joined the staff as Program Assistant. Karen Nash is the new Finance Assistant. Both Rae and Karen have jumped right in to the OLLI task pool, and both have stated repeatedly, and under no duress, that the "water is fine." They will be working in the main office.

Karen has a degree in Accounting from George Mason University and has done work in individual taxation at Northern Virginia Community College.

She has worked as an accountant in support of a variety of small companies. As such Karen is experienced in all aspects of the accounting cycle.

Rae, the wife of an Air Force Officer, is a graduate of Russell Sage College and holds an MBA from Northwestern State University of Louisiana. She has served in a number of teaching and administrative capacities, including service as Associate Academic Dean at a National University learning center. Rae also has extensive experience as a volunteer and has served on a number of community boards. Rae will be working with Dick Chobot and volunteers on program planning and implementation.

Rae and Karen join Ann Hartmann, Diana Richards, Ann Youngren and me as the OLLI Team.

•Ann Hartmann has moved quickly and ably into the position of Office Administrator for OLLI. As such she has responsibility for the administrative oversight of the Tallwood site and serves as the OLLI Registrar.

•Dependable Diana Richards will be back in her Tallwood support role. Diana is responsible for all of those little details – set-up, social room, etc. that make the program run smoothly.

•Ann Youngren, who stepped in so ably last year, will perform the same functions for the Lake Anne Program.

All staff have been trained on operating and troubleshooting OLLI classroom computers and A/V equipment. This will ensure the elimination of some of the problems experienced last year.

This talented staff will enable your Executive Director spend all of his time in classes...not! In addition to general responsibility for the program, I will be working on a variety of new program initiatives, including the new Friday programs. I also will be focusing on a number of special projects to improve OLLI infrastructure and operating efficiency.

This is your OLLI staff. We are here to assist our outstanding volunteers in providing the best program possible for OLLI members...and we are excited to be doing it!

Here is a list for your reference of all OLLI staff employees, with their positions, phone numbers and email links.

OLLI MANAGEMENT AND STAFF EMPLOYEES

Dr. Richard Chobot, Executive Director, 703-503-7866

Ann Hartmann, Office Administrator/Registrar, 703-503-3384

Karen Nash, Finance Assistant, 703-503-3384

Diana Richards, Administrative Assistant, 703-503-3384

Rae Schafer, Program Assistant, 703-503-3384

Ann Youngren, Administrative Assistant at Lake Anne, 703-927-5450 (Telephone number for use only during class periods at Lake Anne when OLLI is in session)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

by Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee chair

ONE OF THE GREATEST DELIGHTS FOR OLLI FOLK... at the start of a new term is the arrival in classes of our new members. We feel certain, as we look forward to exciting classes, some new, some old favorites, that they--our new members--will be enthusiastic as well. And we look forward to meeting them in a more relaxed setting.

Tradition has it that, on the first Friday of the term, we greet you, our new members, at the New Member Coffee. Next Friday, January 27th, at 10:30 at Tallwood, old and new members will mingle over coffee and goodies, the like of which it is impossible to describe, prepared by the Hospitality Committee. The red dot on your name tag will identify you as new to Board members, committee chairs, and many members, all of whom have been new at one time and who will want to be there to welcome you to OLLI.

Members: Toss on your name tag and come on over to Tallwood to meet and greet your colleagues and new friends. We're looking forward to seeing you all.

DICK HIBBERT--WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

A profile of one of OLLI's long-time instructors, by Carolyn Sanders, OLLI E-News staff writer

TRUST ME, FOLKS, I TRIED TO FIND SOMETHING, but, after a couple of interviews, a visit to his underground home, and as a student in an OLLI sketching class during fall semester, the man has me convinced he's very, very good. Since we've just finished the season of presents, let's begin this

sickeningly sweet saga with a story about his wife of more than 50 years, Jennie. I may be wrong, but Jennie seems to adore Dick and definitely gives him way too much credit for being a thoughtful and creative gift giver. She never knows what to expect and says she's always delighted with items Dick gives her.

Jennie herself is a world-class knitter and has a Website you might like to check out. She is an avid gardener and mistress of the greenhouse that provides some of the heat for their dwelling.

These Oregon natives--Dick from Bend and Jennie from Sheridan--have shared an interesting life that took them to Japan for several years before they landed in Northern Virginia. They have four children, two of whom live nearby and two in California. To their credit, some of these kids have sweat-equity in that spectacular "earth-sheltered" house in Fairfax Station, the second home Dick has designed and he and Jennie have helped build. Japanese influence is very apparent in the approach to Jennie and Dick's house, from the sliding wooden garden gate, through the garden itself, and into the dramatic interior. Light fills the spacious, lovingly decorated rooms, and walking on the grassy roof (pronounced "ruff" in the Oregon style) is an experience not to be forgotten.

Dick graduated from Oregon State with a B.S. degree in business and went on to the University of Oregon for another bachelor's degree, in architecture. ROTC led to a two-year hitch on active duty with the U. S. Navy. The Hibberts came here in 1972, and Dick served as a civilian Chief Architect of Naval Housing until 1992. However, he says that his very favorite job was the six years he spent working with the Japanese government in the area of housing relocation. His architectural expertise is often sought for local charity auctions.

Only four of OLLI's wonderful instructors have served longer or taught more classes than has Dick Hibbert. He was actually taking a class in Watercolor and Sketching when the instructor needed a substitute. Dick volunteered and has been on our faculty list for seven years. He also teaches photography and has a class in producing coffee-table books. I found out just how kind Dick can be when I showed up at his house with the point-and-shoot non-digital camera that made the photos accompanying this article. He posed for me without even mentioning that photography is one of his subjects. Guess who will be one of his students the next time he teaches that class!

I cannot promise that Creative Gifting will be added to the list of Dick's classes, but, if it ever is, all you significant others out there should sign up!

Thanks, Dick Hibbert, from your many students, for the memorable experiences you've given us.

NEW EXHIBIT IN SOCIAL ROOM ANNEX: *An exhibit of Dick Hibbert's photographs*

Don't miss visiting the Social Room Annex during the upcoming winter term to see some of OLLI instructor Dick Hibbert's superb photographs in an exhibit arranged by Marvina Munch, Tallwood's interior decorator.

OLLI VIDEO NEWS: CALL FOR

VOLUNTEERS: A chance for your 60 seconds of fame
AT THE SUGGESTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DICK CHOBOT, we will be videotaping brief comments of a few OLLI members about why they joined OLLI and what they are getting out of the organization.

Each set of comments will be edited into a 30-60 second video clip and displayed as part of a future installment of OLLI Video News. This is a marketing idea, and our target audience will be prospective OLLI members and donors, but current OLLI members, and friends and family of the participants, might also enjoy watching these short videos.

Naturally, we are looking for members who are enthusiastic about our wonderful institute and everything it has to offer. If you're interested in participating, email OLLI E-News editor Rod Zumbro, who will be doing the taping during the winter term.

COMING EVENTS AT GMU

by Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News staff writer

For tickets, call 888-945-2468 or visit the Center for the Arts Box Office, Tue-Sat, 10:00-6:00

This weekend--

Theater of the First Amendment, Lift: Icarus and Me

Fri, Jan 20 through Sun, Feb 5, Thursday and Friday at 8:00, Saturday at 2:00 and 8:00, Sunday at 4:00 (February 5 at 2:00)
GMU's Harris Theater, Tickets \$30 on Fridays & Saturdays, \$25 all other performances. Family friendly, all children 12 and under, half price

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Charles Dutoit, conductor

Friday, Jan 20, at 8:00. Admission \$50, \$42, \$25
Concert Hall

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, David Kim, violin

Saturday, Jan 21, at 8:00. Admission \$60, \$55, \$45, \$35
Concert Hall

Next weekend--

The Black Watch and Band of the Welsh Guard

The Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers of 1st Battalion
Saturday, Jan 28, at 2:00 & 8:00. Admission \$44, \$36, \$22
Family friendly: Children 12 & under, half price
Concert Hall

American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra

Sunday, Jan 2 at 1:00. Admission \$10 for seniors/students
Concert Hall

Young Artists Piano Musicale

Sunday, Jan 29 at 6:00. Admission free
Concert Hall Lobby

Keyboard Conversations© with Jeffrey Siegel

Mozart and Chopin: Virtuoso Variations
Sunday, Jan 29, at 7:00. Admission \$35, \$27, \$17.50
Family friendly: Children 12 & under, half price

MS. OLLIE ETTAKIT

Answers to your pressing questions about OLLI etiquette, by Ms. Ollie Ettakit, OLLI News staff manners expert

If you're a late arrival, wait until after class to sign in

Dear Ms. Ettakit:

During the fall term, a reader suggested that late arrivals in class sign in, go to the back of the room, and cross over to find an empty seat. You agreed that the reader's advice might help. Would you please comment on the part about "signing in" as the first thing to do? The inevitable distraction caused by a late arrival is exacerbated by that person taking the time to sign in before taking a seat, instead of simply signing in after class.

-- Anonymous

My Dear Anonymous:

You are so right! What was I thinking? It's obvious, dear reader, that many of us have taken to heart the class liaisons' repeated advice about signing in. Perhaps we are carrying things to an extreme in our effort to do the right thing. After all, while it IS important that we do sign in, it is NOT important that we sign in as soon as we enter the classroom. When we arrive in class late, we are already distracting other attendees; we should exercise common courtesy and minimize that distraction by waiting until after class to sign in.

Email your OLLI etiquette questions to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (who is distraught that she cannot reply personally) via the Publications Committee chair, Gordon Canyock or OLLI E-News editor, Rod Zumbro.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A forum for members to voice their views on OLLI matters

THE EDITORIAL STAFF WILL PUBLISH your brief letters commenting on OLLI activities and will try to include follow-up information from the relevant committee or staff member, in the same or a subsequent issue. Submit your letters via email to Rod Zumbro, OLLI E-News editor or to me, or submit them (please indicate that it is a 'letter to the editor') via the online suggestion box or the suggestion box in the Tallwood Social Room.

-- Gordon Canyock, Publications Committee chair

EDITORIAL -- CLASS LIAISONS

OLLI's winter term starts on Monday. The first class of each course is important because that's when we meet our instructor and find out what will be covered during the course.

This is when our class liaisons get their chance to shine. Unless you are a brand-new OLLI member, you already know by rote the things that the class liaison will remind you about at the beginning of each class: wear your name tag; sign in; put your coffee cups in the trash after class; and -- VERY important these days -- turn off or silence your cell phone, pager and watch alarm.

But on the first day of each class, the MOST IMPORTANT job of the class liaison is to tell attendees about the instructor's background and experience. After all, we are seniors, and we've long since forgotten the instructor biographies we read in the catalog five weeks ago, when we made our course

selections. Now that we're in class and ready to learn, we want to know about the instructor's background and experience; we rely on the class liaison to brief us. If asked, Ms. Ollie Ettakit would say that it is basic classroom courtesy and good manners to introduce the speaker.

Many of you have been class liaisons in the past, and many of you will volunteer as class liaisons in the future. So let us take this time to express our appreciation to our dedicated class liaisons. WE THANK YOU for volunteering to do this extra work on our behalf at every meeting of the class. And please don't forget -- help us out (and be courteous to the instructor) by telling us about the instructor's background and experience at the first class meeting.

-- Rod Zumbro, OLLI E-News editor

LETTERS

Kudos about OLLI E-News

"Wow!! The OLLI e-newsletter is fantastic."

"Awesome newsletter! The layout makes the news easy and fun to read."

"Mr. Editor: Just wanted to register my positive feedback on your excellent issue of the OLLI E-newsletter of December 23, 2005. I found it to be easy to navigate, colorful, exciting, informative, interesting, and, of course, well-edited."

The above are unsolicited comments that we received recently from three non-OLLI members. (We occasionally send information copies of OLLI E-News to a few individuals outside the OLLI community.)

COMING ATTRACTIONS

23 Jan Mon Tallwood Office Hours 9 to 4 until 17 Feb

24 Jan Tue 8:15 Walking Group, Lake Anne church

25 Jan Wed 1:30 Bridge Club TA-3

2:00 Spec Event B: Use Your Voice, TA-1

27 Jan Fri 10:00 Classic Fiction Book club, Reston Regional Library

10:30 Homer, TA Annex

1:00 Long Range Planning Meeting, TA-1

31 Jan Tue 8:15 Walking Group, Lake Anne Church

1 Feb Wed 1:30 Fiction Writer's Club, FFX City Library

1:30 Bridge Club, TA-3

2:00 History Club, TA-1

3 Feb Fri 10:30 Homer Book Club, TA Annex

4 Feb Sat 12:00 Spec Event C: Damn Yankees, Bus Trip

OLLI NEWS

Note: We are experimenting with the format, feel free to comment.

Editor: Rod Zumbro

Assistant Editor: Karen Hamilton

Copyright © 2006 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University. Materials in this publication subject to OLLI-GMU copyright may be reproduced for noncommercial educational purposes as long as credit is given to OLLI-GMU.

OLLI at GMU

4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032-1028

Phone: (703) 503-3384; E-mail: olli@gmu.edu; Fax: (703) 503-2837