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Photos by Paul Van Hemel and Dan Felghery, Sep 26 2014

Fall Term New Member Coffee, September 26.

## October 3, 2014

**Editor of the Week: Leslie Vandivere**

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### Alerts & Notices

Click [here](#) to see open and closed courses.

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### Meet Roberta Sherman



*by Alice Slayton Clark, Communications Associate*

As you must know by now, Mason moved its Loudoun campus this fall to Signal Hill, a site adjacent to the Northern Virginia Community College (NoVA) in Sterling. The goal of the move was not only to improve classroom space, but also to strengthen long-standing synergies between NoVA and Mason, including an increased number of transfer students and enriched program offerings.

Did you know that one of our own OLLI members, Roberta Sherman, is the personification of the NoVA-Mason synergies? Roberta moved to Northern Virginia from Long Island in the 1970's when her husband got a new job at IBM in Manassas. She was a young mother then, with two small children under the age of five and an itch to earn a college degree in education.

When she approached Mason, she was advised to complete more background classes in history, science, and other core courses as a prerequisite for entering

the Mason education program. NoVA Loudoun was the place to start, they said, because of the unique enrollment synergies between the Mason and NoVA campuses (plus classes were a lot cheaper at NoVA, Roberta admits).

So she put her nose to the grindstone and within three years, in between nursery school drop-offs and diaper changes, Roberta finished her preparatory work at NoVA and enrolled at Mason. The transition was "very smooth, with Mason accepting all of the credits," she assures. It took her another five years and lots of family work-arounds to earn her bachelor's degree at Mason and become a teacher in the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system.

With that, Roberta's career at FCPS took off. She taught mostly fifth-grade students for 18 years at Great Falls Elementary School and then, earning a masters in education leadership at Mason, she became assistant principal at Forest Edge Elementary in Reston.

The differences at Mason over the years have been stark, Roberta observes. In the early years, the campus was limited and classes were offered at only a few locations such as the Robinson building and Pope Paul VI High School. Today, the campus has boomed in size and students, and classes are offered in multiple venues, she says. Throughout her time at Mason, Roberta remembers really enjoying the collegial relationships she was able to achieve with professors, particularly as a graduate student. NoVA Loudoun has similarly exploded, notes Roberta. "NoVA Loudoun was very small" when she took classes in the early 1980's, but today, "it feels more like a real college," she says. And Roberta knows, because she has returned to NoVA several times throughout her career to take classes as part of her certification requirements to teach in Virginia.



Roberta retired in 2009 and joined OLLI upon the recommendation of a friend. Now she and her husband happily attend classes on all three OLLI campuses and particularly enjoy the theater, music, literature, finance and religion survey classes. She still finds time to serve occasionally as a "substitute assistant principal," but she doesn't want that to interfere with her OLLI classes, she asserts. She also fills her week volunteering with the American Association of University Women, the Dulles Traveler's Aid desk, and on the board of her temple. And she loves to play mah jongg with a longstanding group of friends and to travel to Europe or to see her three—soon to be four—grandchildren.

Thank you, Roberta, for stepping forward to be profiled as the proud face of Mason-NoVA collaboration. Clearly these synergies spell success!

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## It's a Bird. It's a Plane. No, It's a Drone Over Mason!



**by Alice Slayton Clark, Communications Associate**

Techies, futurists and science fiction enthusiasts from OLLI gathered at the Church of the Good Shepherd on September 24 to hear George Mason doctoral degree candidate Christopher Vo teach about the practical and legal implications of drone technology and to witness a demonstration of quadcopter drones in flight.

Christopher's goal at OLLI was to "spread the good news" about the uses of drone technology. For example, drones were recently used to survey damage from the Napa Valley earthquake and are frequently used by civil engineers to inspect structures and by farmers to survey their fields. "Christopher's demonstration was a win/win for OLLI and Mason," observed Martha Powers, OLLI coordinator for the event. "We got a well-presented, informative presentation by a very talented Mason grad student, and he got lots of interest and appreciation about drone technology from his audience."

Christopher focuses his doctoral research on motion planning, finding algorithms for robots so they can move more autonomously and safely between objects. For example, when drones fly in the skies, he would like them to be able to navigate by themselves without hitting trees, people and other hazards. He also has been working on shepherding and tracking, a capability that allows robots to herd things into groups such as rounding up and guiding people to safety in emergency situations. He hopes to complete his doctoral degree this fall.

Christopher has been fascinated by rockets and robots since childhood. "At the age of seven, when other kids were making model rockets they bought from the store, I could only afford to build my own," he recalled. So Christopher went to the local library to



read about rocketry and design his own prototypes. The rest is history.



President of the D.C. Area Drone User Group, Christopher leads a coalition of 1,200 techies who share ideas about drone technology and teaches workshops on how to create drones for personal use. And if you don't have time to make your own, the technology has become so affordable you can buy your own aerial drone online for less than \$100.

So keep your head low and your sights high. You might just see a drone flying over your neighborhood soon.

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## OLLI Book Club



*by Ceda McGrew, Book Club Coordinator*

The OLLI Book Club will meet on Wednesday, October 8, at 1:30 p.m. at Tallwood. The book for discussion is *The Light between Oceans*, the first novel of Australian author M. L. Stedman. It is the story of World War I veteran Tom Sherbourne who spent four years on the Western Front. Upon returning to Australia he took the job of lighthouse keeper on Janus Island, nearly a half day's journey off the coast.

All OLLI members are welcome.

The book for discussion in November is *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett.

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## Photography Club



*by Dan Feighery, Photography Club Coordinator*

The Photography Club will meet Friday, October 10, at 9:30 at Tallwood. The speaker is Cam Miller.

Taking a walk every day is good for one's well-being; but taking walk every

day for an entire year, snapping between 30-40 photos on that walk, and then writing about the walk via a blog is a full-blown personal photography project. And that is just what Cam Miller, of New Market, Maryland, did. Between Monday, September 3, 2012, and Monday, September 2, 2013, she walked, photographed, and recorded her experiences via an online blog, shared with hundreds who read it online each day.

Cam will share the lessons she learned during her daily photo walks, including great places to walk, tips for seasonal changes, photo workflow, and more. She will also share how others may adapt her ambitious project to suit their own needs. Hopefully her presentation will inspire you to get out and take a photo walk, too!

Cam Miller is a retired educator turned professional fine art photographer who lives in New Market, Maryland. After living and teaching on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, she moved five years ago to central Maryland, where she is fully engaged in the arts community. She is a member of several museums, arts councils, and photography clubs, as well as one of the co-chairs for Easels in Frederick.

Cam has won numerous awards for her photographs, which include light paintings, landscapes, birds, butterflies, and architecture. She teaches photography classes at Frederick Community College and does private tutoring.

To see the postings of Cam's daily photo walks, visit [camscamerashots.blogspot.com](http://camscamerashots.blogspot.com). Her photo website is [www.camscamerashots.com](http://www.camscamerashots.com).

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## New Book by OLLI Member

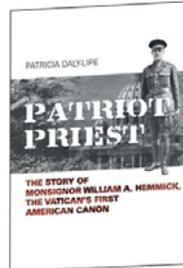
*by Patricia Daly-Lipe, Author and OLLI Member*

Patricia Daly-Lipe's new book, *Patriot Priest: The Story of Monsignor William A. Hemmick, The Vatican's First American Canon*, was published this spring by Strategic Media Books.

*Patriot Priest* tells the story of the author's great uncle, Msgr. William A. Hemmick. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Europe, he became

fluent in five languages. When the World War I broke out, he felt committed to help the troops.

After the war, he was proclaimed the Patriot Priest of Picardy by the Army and Navy. After years spent in Paris, William Hemmick was asked by the Vatican to come to Rome. Ultimately, he became the first American Canon of St. Peter's Representing the Knights of Malta to the Holy See.



The story is a personal glimpse at an epic era in history, from World War I to Paris between the wars, and to World War II and its aftermath. For more information about Patricia's book, visit her website at [www.literarylady.com](http://www.literarylady.com).

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## Poetry Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

### Aureole: Another Love Poem

For Julia, After 58 Years

The gold,  
 The deathless gold of  
 Assyria, Babylon, Mycenae,  
 Egypt, Rome, Bactria,  
 And all the rest,  
 Over the millennia,  
 Never decayed,  
 As did those dynasties;  
 Nor is that ancient, precious metal  
 Designed for any probable  
 Future passing.

That gold will endure for  
 Anyone's eternity.  
 Like this  
 Bright,  
 Fine,

Enduring, and  
 Well-wrought love

**Mike Mc Namara**

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## Arts & Music at George Mason



**Performances, next two weeks**

**By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer**

For tickets for either CFA or Hylton, call 1-888-945-2468, buy tickets online through the event calendar (see links below), or visit the venue's box office. For more information see the CFA [ticket page](#) or the Hylton [ticket purchase page](#).

### At the Fairfax Campus Venues

#### Alonzo King LINES Ballet

Fri, Oct 3, 8:00  
 Pre-Performance Discussion: 7:15  
 Admission: \$44, \$37, \$26  
 Concert Hall

#### The Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir

Sat, Oct 4, 8:00  
 Pre-Performance Discussion: 7:15  
 Admission: \$46, \$39, \$28  
 Concert Hall

#### Aquila Theatre: *Wuthering Heights*

Sun, Oct 5, 7:00  
 Pre-Performance Discussion: 6:15  
 Admission: \$44, \$37, \$26  
 Concert Hall

#### The Goddess Diaries

Thurs, Oct 9 and Fri, Oct 10, 7:30

The Goddess Diaries is a series of true-to-life monologues. The Goddess Diaries was voted "Best of the Fringe" at the Capital Fringe Festival three years in a row. TheatreSpace  
 Admission: Adults, \$20; Seniors, \$10

**Virginia Opera: Sweeney Todd**

Sat, Oct 11, 8:00  
 Sun, Oct 12, 2:00

Virginia Opera's 40th season opens with Sondheim's Tony Award-winning musical. Performed in English with English supertitles. Pre-Performance Discussion: Glenn Winters  
 Concert Hall  
 Admission: Sat - \$86, \$72, \$44  
 Sun - \$98, \$80, \$48

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**Mason Student & Faculty Performances**

See [music.gmu.edu](http://music.gmu.edu) for additional student recitals)

**School of Theater Studio #1: The Blue Room**

Sat, Oct 4, 8:00  
 Sun Oct 5, 2:00  
 Admission: Pay what you can from \$5 - \$30  
 TheatreSpace

**School of Music Faculty Artist Showcase**

Fri, Oct 3, 8:00  
 Harris Theatre  
 Admission: Free

**Mason Wind Symphony: American Influences**

Tues, Oct 7, 8:00  
 John Kilkenny and Denny Stokes, conductors  
 Featuring Rodney Mack and the Philadelphia Big Brass with special guest, Doc Nix and the Green Machine  
 Admission: \$10  
 Concert Hall

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**At the Hylton Center**

**Nature Visions Photo Expo**

Sep 28–Nov 16  
 The Buchanan Partners Art Gallery is open to the public Tue–Sat, 10:00–6:00; Thur, 10:00–8:00; and two hours before performances. Gallery Reception: Thur, Oct 2, 6:00–8:00. For more information about the current exhibit, visit [HyltonCenter.org/gallery](http://HyltonCenter.org/gallery). For reception RSVP to [Hylton@gmu.edu](mailto:Hylton@gmu.edu).  
 Admission: Free

**Manassas Chorale: It's About Time!**

Sat, Oct 4, 7:30  
 Merchant Hall  
 Admission: \$20, \$18

**Funny People**

Sat, Oct 4, 8:00  
 Area comedians.  
 Admission: \$15.00

**The Senegal St. Joseph Gospel Choir**

Fri, Oct 3, 8:00 pm  
 Pre-Performance Discussion: 7:15  
 Merchant Hall  
 Admission: \$46, \$39, \$28

**Aquila Theatre: The Tempest**

Sat, Oct 11, 8:00  
 Shakespeare's ultimate commentary on life and art, vengeance and forgiveness. Pre-Performance Discussion: Christopher Marc, Stage Manager, Aquila Theatre Company.  
 Merchant Hall  
 Admission: \$44, \$37, \$26

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For further details on any of the above events, please see the CFA [event calendar](#) and the Hylton Center [event calendar](#)

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## Mason Highlights



**Other Mason events, next two weeks**

**By Helen Ackerman, OLLI E-News Staff Writer**

**Speaker Series:** Teresa Carlson, Vice President Global Public Sector, Amazon Web Services, is the head of Amazon’s global public sector and responsible for strategy, operations, sales, and business development for Amazon’s Web Services and Cloud Computing business. Fri, Oct 10, 6:00 to 8:00. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, City of Fairfax. Cost \$5.

**China Town Hall: "Can China Move 250M People into Cities?"** The China Town Hall is a national program at seventy sites across the country designed to provide Americans the opportunity to interact with leading China experts. The evening's keynote speaker (via live webcast) is Jimmy Carter, the 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. The local guest speaker is Dr. Weiping Wu, professor and chair of the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University. Dr. Wu will share her thoughts on the various opportunities and challenges presented by China’s ongoing and intensifying processes of urbanization and migration and will answer questions from the audience. Thu, Oct 16, 6:45 to 9:30 Mason Global Center (formerly Mason Inn), Salon A. Free

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## Meetings & Clubs

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your

convenience from the master online calendar maintained by the office, with direct web links added when available. The list is accurate as of mid-week but to check anytime for the latest information, please view the latest forecast of upcoming events on our website (News/[OLLI Calendar](#)). *Note: All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors, committees and resource groups, Kickoff Coffees, etc. (**bolded below**).*

Sat Oct 4	10:30am	Tai Chi Club-TA-3
Mon Oct 6	12:00pm	FOLLI Stuffing Party-Annex
Tue Oct 7	10:00am 1:30pm	Knitting and Needlework Club-Panera, Herndon FOLLI Stuffing Party-Annex
Wed Oct 8	1:30pm 1:45pm	Book Club-TA-2 Bridge Club-TA-3
Thu Oct 9	1:30pm	<b>Loudoun Program Planning Group</b>
Fri Oct 10	9:00am	Recorder Consort-TA-3
	9:30am	Photography Club-TA-1
	10:00am	Craft and Conversation-Cottage
	11:00am 11:00pm	Homer, etc-Annex Moby Dick Club-TA-2
Sat Oct 11	10:30am	Tai Chi Club-TA-3
Tue Oct 14	10:00am	Knitting and Needlework Club-Panera, Herndon
Wed Oct 15	1:45pm	Mah Jongg Club-TA-2
	1:45pm	Bridge Club-TA-3
Fri Oct 17	9:00am	Recorder Consort-TA-3
	10:00am	<b>Board of Directors-TA-1</b>
	10:00am	Craft and Conversation-Cottage
	11:00am 11:00am	Homer, etc-Annex Moby Dick Club-TSA-2

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