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Photos by Dan Feighery, Sep 24 2014

*Special Event 954 on September 24, presented by Christopher Vo, a roboticist at George Mason and Director of Education for the DC Area Drone User Group*

## October 24, 2014

**Editor of the Week: Leslie Vandivere**

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### Alerts & Notices

Reminder: The OLLI Holiday Party will be Fri, Dec. 5 at the International Country Club, Chantilly; \$30 per person. Register at your site.

Mason's Center for Global Education has three spring-break trips in March 2015 open to OLLI Mason members: to Costa Rica, to Ireland, and to Jerusalem and Petra. See <http://globaled.gmu.edu/programs/springbreak/index.html> for further information.

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### The Wright Stuff!



**By Alice Slayton Clark, Communications Associate**

Architecture buffs and aesthetics alike filled the main classroom at OLLI Mason on October 20 to hear the grandson of Frank Lloyd Wright speak about the works of the famed architect and the importance of historical preservation.

Tom Wright, a Bethesda resident who resides in the home his grandfather built for his parents (Robert Llewellyn Wright and Elizabeth), would rather be lecturing on volcanic activity and other areas of geological expertise. Instead, he came to OLLI to promote a more personal passion: "the importance of preserving Frank Lloyd Wright homes."

According to OLLI instructor Claudia Day, a docent at Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey house in Alexandria, "I invited Tom to my class because I felt that OLLI members would enjoy hearing firsthand what it's like to live in a FLW home." And that, they did. Wright talked about the challenges and costs of maintaining his hemicycle home of curved cinderblock and wood, which appears as an almond-shaped fortress from the front. Step around back, however, and the house reveals breathtaking walls of glass and woodland vistas.

Because of its historic registry, the house cannot undergo exterior or interior changes and contains many of the same appliances and built-in furniture from its construction in 1958. According to Wright, however, the home remains comfortable and quite functional, with lots of storage space and a "very pleasing aesthetic." OLLI member Susanne Zumbro remarked that it is "amazing the house retains so much of its original character today." Upkeep is not cheap, however, and all of the family's savings go toward preservation. Wright hopes, nonetheless, to pass the house to his children so that it will remain in the family in perpetuity.

Wright also reminisced about the summers of 1949-51 spent with his grandfather at Taliesin East, a "defining period" in his lifetime. Although Wright hardly saw his grandfather, he remembers living and working with all of the apprentices at the house, which served as a home, farm, and studio. Taliesin was lively then, he said, with music and foreign movies during the weekends, and an occasional party with "excellent food from around the world." On Sundays, Frank Lloyd Wright often would provide precious lectures on building design to his protégés.

Though Tom Wright confesses he was never interested in drawing and architecture as a boy, he certainly has come to appreciate deeply what his grandfather did for the world then and today.

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## Bull Run Tour



By Sheri Siesseger, OLLI E-News Weekly Editorial Team



On a beautiful autumn day, 30

OLLI members led by Jim Anderson toured the site of the Second Battle of Bull Run (or Manassas) on Friday, October 17. Jim's preparation was meticulous, including a trip to the battlefield the day prior to the event to assess conditions in the places we were visiting.



We walked to key battle locations while he explained the significance of strategy on the part of both sides, the impact of political wrangling among the Union generals, and the lack of or misuse of intelligence by Union General Pope. We left with a greater appreciation of the nature of this three-day battle and the narrow escape of the Union forces. It was a day well spent.

The photos depict some of our stops including the Henry House, Brawner Farm, and Chinn Ridge.



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## Inside



**OLLI-Mason**



**OLLI-Reston:**



**How It Began**

*By Carol Henderson, Former Reston Coordinator*

Lydia Macdonald Colwell, an early and longtime member of OLLI when it was called the Learning in Retirement Institute (LRI), was the leader in the effort to expand LRI to a Reston location. In 1998, membership was capped at 440 due to lack of space and parking at Tallwood campus (sound familiar today?).

As a Restonian, Lydia found space at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church on Lake Anne, where she knew the minister. She says another early Reston booster was Norma Wade, who didn't want to drive to Tallwood and thought LRI ought to expand closer to her home. Norma helped find the first instructors for Reston classes. Lydia was on the program planning committee, active as both student and instructor, and made presentations to the LRI Board and to local groups about LRI. Reston, she said, "had both parking and toilets" and would help the Institute grow.

In 1998 the LRI Board agreed and approved the expansion. The first Reston classes were held in winter term 1999, and included courses on investments by Shirley Smith, history by George Heatley and Glenn Markus, news media by Stewart Macdonald (Lydia's husband), poetry by Nancy Gay Dillaman, Russian literature by Maya Hutchins, ethics by Elaine Schwartz, and Tai Chi by Michelle Carlson, among others.



Lydia also began the Literary Roundtable in 1999, a short-story discussion class that is still running today. A few years later Lydia, by then a widow, married high-school friend Howie Colwell and moved to New England. Early LRI presidents Jan Dewire, Michael Styles, Ray Beery, and Ed Mentz were also active and supportive of the

LRI expansion. Other early Reston locations used were Reston's Used Book Shop and the Lake Anne Museum.

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**Poet's Corner**

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

**Found, the Perfect Sweater**

Just warm enough to span the seasons  
 Not too heavy, not too light  
 Smooth to the touch, nothing scratchy  
 Buttons down the front for cooler days  
 Or to wear open, swinging  
 For a younger touch.  
 Pockets two, so necessary.

Found, the perfect one, after  
 Searching for several seasons  
 Haunting shops, boutiques, thrift stores.  
 At last, there it hung  
 Nestled between a boat-necked red  
 And a pale green dancing top,  
 A charcoal gray cardigan  
 I could give my heart to  
 However fickle.

**Jan Bohall**

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**Host an International Student for Thanksgiving**



**Host  
an INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT for  
THANKSGIVING**

The Center for Global Education is looking for families to host **one or two international students** from our partner institutions overseas.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to introduce an **international student** to America's great family Thanksgiving holiday traditions.

Share your Thanksgiving holiday with a special guest from another country.

Contact Ms **Daria Stepanova** for more information.

**Contact**  
**Daria Stepanova**  
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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

#### Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

Sat, Oct 25, 8:00

Copland: *Quiet City*

Stravinsky: *Concerto in E-flat "Dumbarton Oaks"*

Copland: *Appalachian Spring*

Stravinsky: *Suite 1 and 2 for Small Orchestra*

Harris Theatre

Admission: \$60, \$45, \$25

The National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China: *Cirque Peking*

Fri, Oct 31 and Sat Nov 1, 8:00

Sat Nov 1, 2:00

Pre-Performance Discussion: Wang Dan; Executive Director Concert Hall

Admission: \$48, \$41, \$29

New Orleans Legends: *Featuring the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and*

*Allen Toussaint*

Sun, Nov 2, 7:00

Pre-Performance Discussion: Benjamin Jaffe; Member of Preservation

Hall Jazz Band

Concert Hall

Admission: \$48, \$41, \$29

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### Mason Student & Faculty Performances

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

#### *The Mystery of Edwin Droid*

Fri, Oct 24, 8:00

Sat, Oct 25, 2:00 and 8:00

Sun, Oct 26, 4:00

Biannual event presented jointly by Mason's School of Theater and School of Music.

Concert Hall (Fairfax Campus)

Admission: Adults, \$25; seniors, \$15

**Jazz Combos**

Wed, Oct 29, 8:00

de Laski - Room 3001

Admission: Free

***The Mystery of Edwin Drood***

Fri, Oct 31, 8:00

Sat, Nov 1, 2:00 and 8:00

Biannual event presented jointly by Mason's School of Theater and School of Music.

Merchant Hall (Manassas Campus)

Admission: Adults, \$25; seniors, \$15

***Cabinet of Dr. Caligari***

The classic film with live score by GMU composers

Fri, Oct 31, 9:00pm

deLaski 3001

Admission: Free

**University Singers & Chorale Concert**

Sun, Nov 2, 7:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: \$10

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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 am-6 pm, Thur., 10 am-8 pm and two hours before performances. Gallery Reception: Thur, Oct 2 from 6:00 to 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

**Swing Machine Big Band: *Tribute to Glenn Miller and the Big Band Era***

Sat, Oct 25, 7:30

Swing Machine Big Band is comprised of many current and former members of the Air Force Airmen of Note, Army Blues, Navy Commodores, Glenn Miller Orchestra and other professional musicians from the Washington DC area. For more information about Swing Machine, please visit [SwingMachineBand.com](http://SwingMachineBand.com).

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: Adults, \$29; Seniors, \$20

**Manassas Symphony Orchestra: *Mythus***

Sat, Oct 25, 7:30

Edvard Grieg's *Concerto in A major*

and music by Jean Sibelius and Howard Hanson.

Merchant Hall

Admission: Adults, \$20; seniors, \$14

**John Tartaglia: *ImaginOcean***

Sun, Oct 26, 2:00 and 4:00

Puppeteer, actor, and singer John Tartaglia takes you through a whimsical trip to the depths of the sea.

Merchant Hall

Admission: Adults, \$15; children, \$5

**Prince William Little Theatre: *The 39 Steps***

Fri, Oct 31 and Sat, Nov 1, 8:00

Sun, Nov 2, 2:00

Fri Nov 7 and Sat, Nov 8, 8:00

Sun, Nov 9, 2:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: Adults, \$20; seniors, \$17

**Deana Martin: *A Tribute to Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra***

Sun, Nov 2, 7:00

Pre-Performance Discussion: Deana Martin  
 Merchant Hall  
 Admission: \$48, \$41, \$29

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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:** Tom Rath, author of *How Full Is Your Bucket?* Tom Rath is an expert on the role of human behavior in business, health, and economics. He has written five international bestsellers, which have sold more than 5 million copies and made over 300 appearances on the *Wall Street Journal's* bestseller list. Tue, Oct 28, 4:30 to 5:30, and 7:30 to 8:30. Free, but tickets are required. For tickets, click: <https://tomrathatmason.eventbrite.com>.

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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 25	10:30am	Tai Chi Club-TA-3
Tue Oct 28	10:00am	Knitting and Needlework Club-Panera, Herndon
Wed Oct 29	1:45pm	Bridge Club-TA-3
Fri Oct 31	9:00am	Recorder Consort-TA-3
	10:00am	Craft and Conversation-Cottage
	11:00am	Homer, etc-Annex
	11:00am	Moby Dick Club-TA-2
Sat Nov 1	11:30am	Cooking Club-Cottage
	10:30am	Tai Chi Club-TA-3
Tue Nov 4	10:00am	Knitting and Needlework Club-Panera, Herndon
Wed Nov 5	1:30pm	Mah Jongg Club-TA-2
	1:45pm	Bridge Club-TA-3
	1:45pm	<b>Special Events Committee-Annex</b>
	2:15pm	History Club-TA-1
Fri Nov 7	10:00am	Craft and Conversation-Cottage
	10:00am	<b>Town Hall Meeting-TA-1</b>
	11:00am	Moby Dick Club-TA-2

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## About OLLI E-News

OLLI E-News was created by Rod Zumbro, who served as its editor from 2005 to 2013.

### Editorial Staff

Chief Editor/Technical Editor: Irene Osterman

Associate Editor:

Weekly Editorial Team: Paul Van Hemel, Sheri Siesseger, Leslie Vandivere, Michelle Blandburg

Proofreaders: John West, Gordon Canyock, Susan Van Hemel

Backup Chief Editor: Sheri Siesseger

**Submissions.** Members are encouraged to submit letters to the editor, letters to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (on etiquette matters), OLLI-related news items, articles and photos. Submit material



to: [ollienewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ollienewseditor@gmail.com).

**Deadline** – 6:00 pm Tuesday for that week's issue (6:00 pm Monday for letters to the editor); early submissions are greatly appreciated. Please limit articles to about 250 words.

**Note:** You can view past issues of *OLLI E-News* on the DocStore. To search the content of issues, use Search Our Site or put your search term in Google followed by "site:olli.gmu.edu/" without the quotes.

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