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Town Hall Meeting, Tallwood, November 6, Including Presentations by Mason's Office of Military Services

November 13, 2015

Editor of the Week: Leslie Vandivere

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Alerts & Notices

The **OLLI E-News** will not publish again until December 4. During the break between terms we will also publish on December 18 and January 8.

What's in the Daily News? Continued was inadvertently left out of the winter course catalog. The group will continue to meet between terms and during winter term. Information on the meeting schedules follows: Mondays, January 4-11, February 22-March 14, 10:00-11:30 at Tallwood. Questions? Contact facilitator Don Allen at 703-830-3060.

Optional Extra Session of F602 Gospel According to St. Paul. Open to all OLLI members. Friday, November 13, from 12:30-2:00 in TA-1.

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Town Hall Meeting



By Irene Osterman, Board Secretary

The annual town hall meeting was held on Friday, November 6, at Tallwood. Jennifer Disano presented statistics about OLLI-Mason, including our record membership of 1,246.

The parking lot regrading at Tallwood will most likely begin next summer. Classes will be moved to Lord of Life and Church of the Good Shepherd. In addition to paying for this work, Mason will provide funds for replanting the garden that will be affected by the work.

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The commemoration of our 25th anniversary in 2016 will include programs related to the theme "Living Well, Aging Well" and a special speaker series in collaboration with Mason. It will also include two parties: an all-OLLI party and volunteer celebration and a VIP party with area dignitaries and founding members. Members will be able to buy a book being written about the history of our OLLI.

Glenn Kamber discussed the work of the Board. In addition to placing a priority on preserving what members value about OLLI, we are also working to enhance our relationships with components of the university to make ourselves a firm asset to Mason. Included in this effort is becoming involved in Mason classes and mentoring as well as starting a scholarship for staff and families of the facilities department.

The meeting closed with a presentation by Jennifer Connors, Director of the Office of Military Services (OMS) at Mason. OMS has been chosen to receive our 25th anniversary gift to Mason. OMS does not receive programming funds from the university and so our gift will make a significant impact on their operations.

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Fun Facts to Celebrate OLLI's 25th Anniversary



By Ray Beery, Member, Board of Directors

In 2001 Ray Solomon began a campus-wide landscape project for LRI's 650 members.

Ray submitted his landscape plan to the Board of Directors, stating that the purpose "was to develop the LRI campus into an oasis of beauty and pleasure." In other words, it was to turn a sow's ear into a silk purse. (Source, *History of the Dirty Knee Club*, November 2015, Valerie Braybrooke.)



OLLI will celebrate its 25th year of classes for seniors in 2016. We'll be publishing fun facts and interesting milestones about the Institute each week that OLLI E-News is published from now through the end of the fall term, 2016.

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Dirty Knee Club



By Alice Slayton Clark, Communications Associate/Registrar

Anyone who visits OLLI's Tallwood campus is immediately struck by the beautiful grounds. The botanical canvas you see today is largely the brainchild of Valerie Braybrooke, chair of the Dirty Knee Club, who just released a book chronicling the evolution of Tallwood's landscape design.

Read the book and you will see that the Tallwood grounds have come a long, long way! In just 15 years, OLLI landscapers have completely transformed an unkempt property spotted with crumbling asphalt, wild shrubs, and old trees into a cornucopia of botanical delights—autumn ferns, bearded iris, creeping phlox, anemone, and heuchera dancing in a sea of nandinas, crepe myrtles, hydrangeas, and yews.

Landscape at OLLI began with member Ray Solomon, who assembled a committee, collected money, and began taming Tallwood in 2001 with a few raised gardens and mowed lawns. Two years later, Valerie joined OLLI and was quickly co-opted to the committee because of her background in professional landscaping. She has led the committee ever since.

It has been a herculean task creating an OLLI oasis given the drainage and erosion challenges associated with the sloping terrain, and the incessant damage caused by deer, beetles, and winter salting. Nonetheless, Valerie and her dedicated team did their homework and found plants, designs, and hardscapes to withstand almost any challenge. The Dirty Knee Club was born!

Since then, the team has worked hard, with spectacular results. Tremendous thanks to Valerie and her wonderful team for the 12 inspiring gardens that grace our campus!

(A flip book version of Valerie's book can be found at www.flipdocs.com/showbook.aspx?ID=10015627_426613.)

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OLLI Ink



By Betty Smith, OLLI Ink Editor

OLLI Ink, OLLI's annual literary journal, is looking for submissions for the 2016 issue. The deadline is February 15, 2016, the end of OLLI's winter term.

Submit as many pieces as you like. Prose—fiction, personal essays, and memoir—should be no longer than 2,500 words, and poetry no longer than 30 lines if you want to be considered for the hard-copy edition. If your work is too long for the hard-copy journal or if you submit more than one piece, we will try to have an online edition in which space won't be a problem. All rights remain with the authors.

Please email your entrees to me (bsmith5000@verizon.net) by Feb. 15. Let me know if you have any questions.

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French Club



By Beverley Persell, Professeur



OLLI's beginning French class ended the term Monday by celebrating with a French lunch and French film, *Les Chorists*.

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Computer Club



By Paul Howard, Program/Publicity Coordinator, OLLI PC User Group

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THE COMPUTER CLUB (OLLI Personal Computer User Group or OPCUG)

OPCUG will meet with its partner, the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), on Saturday, November 21 at Tallwood. Join us at 12:30 for soft drinks and socializing in the social room. Presentations will begin at 1:00.

Identity Theft: Are You Prepared? Presented by David Haase

Hardly a week goes by without news of some hacker stealing thousands, or even millions, of credit card numbers, addresses, birth dates, and Social Security numbers from banks, retailers, and even the U.S. government. Whole nations—think China, North Korea, and Russia—are vacuuming up the most intimate details of federal workers' lives.

Identity theft is the new big-money crime of choice for anyone with loose morals and a laptop. Are you the next victim? What CAN you do? What SHOULD you do? What WILL you do?

Former investigative reporter and digital consultant David L. Haase will address these questions with real-life, practical solutions. This presentation is not meant to scare you (although it will); it's meant to prepare you (and it will)!

Learn 30: Back Up Your Computer—with Emphasis on Macs, Presented by Lorrin Garson

Virtually everyone knows they should back up their computer(s), but not everyone does. Lorrin will present a brief overview of backup schemes that apply to all kinds of PCs. A demonstration of backing up an Apple MacBook Pro laptop will be given. Retrieving file(s) will also be shown.

Lorrin had a long career in technical publishing, and has been providing great presentations to our members on a wide variety of topics since the club's first meeting in January of 2009.

See full details on these meetings by [clicking here](#). For information on the Computer Club, see the [OPCUG website](#). OPCUG dues of \$5 for 2016 will be collected at this meeting.

Can't make one of the meetings in person? Dues-paid club members may attend via Zoom's cloud meeting service, beginning at 12:45. Send a message to webinarhosts@patacs.org if you plan to attend in this way. Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/456117428>.

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**Inside
OLLI-Mason**



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Spotlight on Volunteers: Liaisons



By Martha Powers, Member Services



They're most visible before each class starts, when they make the announcements. If the instructor is an OLLI member, then that instructor performs liaison duties; if not, then an OLLI volunteer is asked to do the job. But it's not "just reading the announcements," as many people believe. Liaisons play an important role in improving the classroom experience and being sure that our non-OLLI-member instructors are happy to come back to teach again.

Liaison assignments are made around ten days before the beginning of each term, when members of the Liaison Subcommittee (part of Member Services) contact prospective liaisons in each class. In some cases, this is as simple as emailing someone who has thoughtfully checked "Yes" to the liaison question during online registration. In other cases, when no one has volunteered, the class rosters are scrutinized and potential liaison candidates are contacted until someone agrees to volunteer. Liaisons' jobs actually start about a week before class when they are given contact information for the instructor. One of the behind-the-scenes, but most important, tasks to be completed is to make sure the instructor is aware that the class is starting soon, and to ask if they have any specific needs.

As liaison, Michelle Blandburg can testify, this pre-term phone call can avert a disaster: she once contacted a new instructor and discovered that he thought all of his classes had been cancelled, when only some of them had been. He also didn't know where Tallwood was. Michelle stayed in touch with him and saved the day; otherwise we might have had a classroom full of puzzled and disappointed OLLI members. Liaisons also help the instructor immediately before each class, providing water, distributing hand-outs, reminding them of class ending times, and doing whatever it takes to make the class as good as it can possibly be. They also take a head count during the class, and jot the number on the roster so that the office staff will have more information for planning future classes.

The number of people who have said "Yes" to being liaison over the years is countless. Some are even willing to serve for more than one

course during a term. Among them are the following:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Helen Anderson | Sherri Lis |
| Joanne and Skip Beale | Rala & Russell Stone |
| Michelle Blandburg | Doris Weisman |
| Gordon Canyock | Manny Pablo |
| Bob Coffin | Alan Rubin |
| Beverly George | Kathryn Russell |
| Shelley Gersten | Russell Stone |
| Mel Goldfarb | Rita Way |
| Sherry Hart | Enid Weber |
| Ute Hill | Ann and Ralph Youngren |
| Harriett Kaplan | ... and many more. (You know who you are!) |

Plus there are the OLLI-member instructors who teach more than 60% of our classes and now serve as their own liaisons. Thank you all! Being a liaison is a fun, easy way to help "pay back" OLLI for the classes you enjoy, and to make our classes the best possible. If you enjoy talking to a crowd and have common sense (like knowing when it's time to turn off the lights), please check "Yes" when the liaison question pops up during registration. We need you!

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OLLI Players 2016 Calendar



By Kathy West, Instructor

This year's calendar is "Into The Tall Woods," a takeoff of *Into The Woods*, the musical. The characters are portrayed by costumed OLLI Players. The price, \$15, benefits the players' road shows and outreach. The calendars are for sale at all between-term events and at the holiday party. Please support us as we do like to tickle your fancy with our enjoyment of life



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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Going to Church on a Weekday

Moving with the simple elegance of a dancer,
exquisitely patient.
Each deliberate exertion,
weighed down by deadly intent.
Gunmetal grey feathers
soften his spindly frame.
The color of where water and sky meet
and lose themselves in each other.

His patience far exceeds my own.
I stop on my walk to drink in this vision.
He freezes in place, has he seen me?
We share a moment of dead quiet.
I begin to wonder,
how long can I stand unmoving?
When I stop wondering
being still becomes easier.

This is the grace of wild things,
that all my desires and deceits
dissolve into this singular moment.
All I can ever remember wanting
is to be here watching him,
as long as he allows it.

I can't say how much time passes,
but it is long enough.
Just as thoughts of tasks ahead begin
to invade my peace, he plunges
his sharp beak into the pond.
Raises his perfect neck victorious,
skewering a silvery fish
bigger than his own head.

Two swallows and the fish is gone.
He returns to his motionless stance.

My shock is only surpassed by my delight.
Blessed by the ministry of the Great Blue Heron,
I continue up the path.

By Susan Bennett

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Arts & Music at George Mason



Performances, next ten days

By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

For tickets for either Center for the Arts (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

Virginia Opera: *La Bohème*

Sat, Nov 14, 8:00
Sun, Nov 15, 2:00
Pre-performance discussion: Dr. Glenn Winters
Concert Hall
Admission: \$98, \$80, \$48.

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Mason Student & Faculty Performances

(see [music.gmu.edu](#) for additional student recitals)

Mason Dance Company: New Dances

Fri, Nov 13, 2:00
Fri, Nov 13-Sat, Nov 14, 8:00
Harris Theatre
Admission: Adults, \$15; seniors, \$10.

Mason Jazz Vocal Night

Sun, Nov 15, 7:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: Free.

Traditional Jazz/Saxophone Ensemble

Mon, Nov 16, 12:30

Harris Theatre

Admission: Free.

Jazz Workshop Concert, School of Music

Mon, Nov 16, 8:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: Free.

[Back to Top of Page](#)**At the Hylton Center****Nature Visions Traveling Exhibition**

Dec 4-Nov 15

Buchanan Partners Art Gallery

The gallery is open to the public Tue-Sat, 10:00-6:00; Thu, 10:00-8:00 and two hours before performances.

Admission: Free.

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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](#)

[Back to Top of Page](#)**Meetings & Clubs**

The following list covering the next three 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 Nov 14 | 10:30am | Tai Chi Club-TA-3 |
| Mon Nov 16 | 10:00am | What's in the Daily News cont'd-TA-1 |
| | 10:30am | Member Services Committee—Annex |
| Tue Nov 17 | 9:30am | Cottage Art-Cottage |
| | 10:00am | Knitting and Needlework Club-Panera, Herndon |
| Wed Nov 18 | 10:00am | Bridge Club-TA-3 |
| | 10:00am | Mah Jongg Club-TA-2 |
| | 10:30am | Tom Crooker Investment Forum-TA-1 |
| | 12:45pm | Paul Howard A/V Committee—TA-1 & Cottage |
| Fri Nov 20 | 9:00am | Recorder Consort-TA-3 |
| | 10:00am | Board of Directors Meeting—TA-1 |
| | 10:00am | Craft and Conversation-Fairfax City branch of Fairfax County Public Library |
| | 10:00am | Classic Fiction Book Club-Cascades Library |
| | 11:00am | Homer, etc-Annex |
| | 12:00pm | Photography Club-TA-1 |
| Sat Nov 21 | 10:30am | Tai Chi Club-TA-3 |
| | 1:00pm | Computer Club-TA-1 |
| Tue Nov 24 | 10:00am | Knitting and Needlework Club-Panera, Hendon |
| Sat Nov 28 | 10:00am | Tai Chi Club-TA-3 |
| Mon Nov 30 | 10:00am | What's in the Daily News, cont'd-TA-1 |
| Tue Dec 1 | 9:30am | Cottage art-Cottage |
| | 10:00am | Knitting and Needlework Club-Panera, Herndon |
| Wed Dec 2 | 10:00am | History Club-TA-2 |
| | 10:00am | Bridge Club-TA-3 |
| | 10:00am | Mah Jongg Club-Cottage |
| | 10:00am | Special Event Committee—Annex |
| | 10:30am | Tom Crooker Investment Forum-TA-1 |
| Fri Dec 4 | 9:00am | Recorder Consort-TA-3 |
| | 10:00am | Craft and Conversation-Cottage |
| | 11:00am | Homer, etc-Annex |

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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: Sheri Siesseger

Weekly Editorial Team: John Nash, Paul Van Hemel, Sheri Siesseger, Leslie Vandivere, Jean Boltz

Proofreaders: Gordon Canyock, Jerry Moore, Marilyn O'Brien, Susan Van Hemel

Backup Chief Editor: Alice Slayton Clark

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.

Deadline – 6:00 Tuesday for that week's issue (6:00 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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