Dr. Ann Phillips, US Institute of Peace, Presents Class on Armenia and Azerbaijan for Course on World Hotspots in 2021, April 28

May 7, 2021
Editor of the Week: John Nash

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Alerts & Notices
Today is the first day of voting in the Board of Directors election, which runs until May 21; detailed information is available at this link.

The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, May 14; regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, May 11, at 6:00.

Fun Facts for OLLI’s 30-Year Anniversary
By Ray Beery, OLLI Member and Former President

In 2021, OLLI celebrates its 30th year of classes for seniors. This feature provides fun facts and interesting milestones about our institute each week that E-News is published throughout the year.

May 7
The first location for Learning in Retirement Institute was Mason’s Commerce II Building (staff would move into the hallway during class time) at 4085 University Drive, with no charge to OLLI for use of this space. Later other sites in Fairfax City were offered free, including City Hall, the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program, the Gold’s Gym Building, and the Juvenile Justice Courthouse of Fairfax County.

Kudos to OLLI Program Planning Chairs
By Kathryn Russell, Program Committee Co-chair

We’re all probably browsing the beautiful summer catalog now, deciding which courses to sign up
for, lamenting that we have to choose between so many attractive offerings. As you turn the pages, I hope you’ll pause at the beginning of each subject area section to note the names of OLLI’s program planning co-chairs. These are the dedicated volunteers who labor tirelessly year-round to develop courses.

You’ll also find some new co-chairs’ names, OLLI members whose enthusiasm and special interests have prompted them to join the exciting planning process. When we asked them to tell a little about their backgrounds and interests, these are their responses in their own words:

**Dorothy Gudgel**: Literature, Theater, and Writing/Languages:
"I first joined OLLI in the fall of 2018 when I retired as an adult education English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher with the Fairfax County Public Schools. An avid reader and lifelong lover of literature, my heroes have always been writers, dating back to my college days. . . I am very happy to assist with Literature Planning committee in Reston!"

**Linda Harber**: Art and Music:
"I joined OLLI in 2018 after retiring from George Mason University as their VP of Human Resources, Payroll and Faculty/Staff Life. We used to promote OLLI at our annual Retirement Benefits Fair. . . I have always loved music, arts and theater. . . and was so happy to get back to them in retirement. OLLI and Friends of Music at Mason (FOMM) have brought these back to me."

**Christine Narbut**: Art and Music:
". . . I joined OLLI because of the variety of class offerings, including water-color classes. . . I had recently retired from the Fairfax County Health Department. . . and found in OLLI an incredible variety of challenging educational programs. As a registered nurse and educator, I am excited to be a member of the OLLI community and participate in the health, talents, and education that the OLLI community offers its members."

Notice also that some other names have been added to our co-chairs lists fairly recently:
- **Marvin Singer**: Economics and Finance
- **Mark Dodge and Michele Romano**: Science, Technology, and Health
- **Linda Bergman**: Literature, Theater, and Writing/Languages.

We’re so grateful to our program chairs for their ongoing efforts to produce an engaging, robust program. And we invite all OLLI members to join the planning process. These groups meet several times a year on Zoom. Watch for announcements in E-News, Connections email, and daily schedules. You are cordially invited to tune in, find out how your program is made, and participate in the process.

**Photography Club**

*John Olsen and Edward Marion, Photography Club Coordinators*

Local Wildlife Photographer to Speak at the OLLI Photo Club

Sometimes, our passion for something manifests itself in many ways, and occasionally, that which we become passionate about begins to define us.

At the next OLLI Photo Club meeting on Friday, May 14, attendees will see and hear how one man’s early interests and hobby turned into his passion to educate others about the beauty and importance of our natural environment.

Robert D’Souza, an electrical engineer who has taught that subject for many years in the Fairfax
County Public Schools, will discuss his passion for wildlife photography and how he traveled extensively in all seven continents to record his important images, which he uses in teaching about environmental issues.

"I plan to show some of my photographs to emphasize our fascinating world, which for me, never ceases to create a sense of wonder. I hope this inspires one to travel after we're free to do so again, and discover - and photograph - the marvels of our magnificent planet," said D'Souza.

Plan to join the next Photo Club gathering at 9:30, Friday, May 14 – on Zoom, of course. The OLLI Daily Schedule will provide information on how to connect.

And remember, the OLLI Photo Club is a free benefit of your membership. It is a wonderful way to improve your photography skills or just see what other OLLI members are accomplishing with their cameras and smart phones.

Coffee Klatch on May 14 - What’s Next After the Pandemic?

By Toni Acton, Member Services Committee Chair

Join your OLLI friends at the Grab ‘n’ Gab Coffee Klatch on Friday, May 14, from 10:00 to 11:30 for a bit of online socializing and a lively discussion of OLLI after the pandemic. In-person vs. Zoom classes? Should we continue recording classes? Should vaccinations be required for in-person classes? Register for Event #1104 via the member portal or contact the registrar at ollireg@gmu.edu.

OLLI ChatLine Topics for Upcoming Week

By Doris Bloch, Program Committee Co-chair

Talk with OLLI friends at any time on this 24/7 open ChatLine. Arrange a time to meet friends online or drop in for an organized discussion. We have scheduled a few specific times and topics for chats this week, including:

- Monday, May 10, 4:30-5:30—Topic: Cicadas. Love them, hate them? Any memories from 17 years ago to share? Any yummy recipes to share for the red-eyed invaders? Or other socially redeeming attributes to offer? How do they affect your outdoor experiences? Your gardening? Your sleep?

- Wednesday, May 12, 4:30-5:30—Topic: Social Networks. We had an interesting class on social networks a week or two ago. It would be interesting to hear what kinds of social networks your membership at OLLI have generated. Have they endured? Changed? If you attended or viewed the presentation, was it relevant to you? (An aside: the chatline is yet another approach to developing and fostering social networks that OLLI is trying out here.) Your thoughts are appreciated. Look for links to this and any future ChatLine events in your inbox as part of the daily schedule email. Have feedback or an idea on a time/topic? Click here to email Doris Bloch.

POET’S CORNER

Luscious, golden, scintillating
Mysterious, tantalizing
The forbidden fruit of knowledge
A bite led to Adam’s bondage

Sitting beneath the leafy boughs
Newton awakens from a drowse
An apple falls down with a thud
Nscent notions bloom from the bud

For enlightenment and insight
Steve Jobs’ Apple shines a bright light
Newton’s apple, forbidden bite
A symbol of brilliant foresight

– Chitra Mohla

ARTS & MUSIC AT GEORGE MASON

Performances, May 7 through May 17

By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

OLLI E-News May 7, 2021
Virtual Performances

Although Mason’s campus is shut down, online entertainment continues for us to access and enjoy. Dr. Linda Apple Monson produces a periodic “Notes from the Director.” This email is full of interesting online performances by the students and faculty of the School of Music. If you would like to receive these bulletins, just send an email to Brianna Schoen at bschoen@gmu.edu. Also, the Center for the Arts has a website Mason Arts at Home, which has a calendar of online events and access to many past performances. Information can also be found at CFA ticket purchase page, Center for the Arts YouTube Channel, or the Hylton ticket purchase page.

At the Fairfax Campus Venues

Mason School of Theater: Luther’s Trumpet
Fri, May 28, 8:00
Virtual Event – Professional cast supported by Mason students
REGISTER

Mason Student & Faculty Performances
(see music.gmu.edu for additional student recitals)

Mason School of Dance: Black Voices Screening
Fri, May 7, 7:30
Virtual Event
REGISTER

A Song of Freedom: Featuring world premieres by Evelyn Simpson-Curenton and Michael W. Nickens
Sat, May 8, 8:00
Virtual Event
REGISTER

At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

Manassas Ballet Theatre: Giselle
Fri, May 14, 7:30
Sat, May 15, 2:00
Sat, May 15, 7:30
Sun, May 16, 3:00

Meetings & Clubs

Please note: Physical meetings for clubs and activities are canceled until further notice in accordance with Mason’s guidelines. OLLI is conducting its classes and activities online. Refer to the university’s coronavirus website for official university updates and check the OLLI calendar for revised information.

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master online calendar maintained by the office. The list is accurate as of mid-week but for the most up-to-date information, please view the latest forecast of coming 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, kick-off coffees, etc. (bolded below). The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members; you may also log in at the member portal and click on ZOOM CLASS LINKS.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat May 8</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Tai Chi Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon May 10</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>ChatLine: Cicadas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue May 11</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>Tai Chi Club</td>
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<td>Wed May 12</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Spanish Club</td>
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<td>Thu May 13</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>ChatLine: Social Networks</td>
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<td>Fri May 14</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Photography Club</td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Craft &amp; Conversation</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Grab ‘n’ Gab Coffee Klatch</td>
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5/9/2021
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed May 19</td>
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<td>Thu May 20</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Memoir and More Writing Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>Tai Chi Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri May 21</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Craft &amp; Conversation</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Classic Literature Club</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Homer, Etc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Cooking Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat May 22</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Tai Chi Club</td>
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**About OLLI E-News**

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel
Associate Editor: David Gundry
Weekly Editor Team: David Gundry, John Nash, Sheri Siesseger, Paul Van Hemel
Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Tom Appich, Roz Stark, Jane Hassell

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

**Search E-News:** You can view past issues of OLLI E-News at ENews Archives. To search the content within issues, use Search or enter your search term(s) in Google followed by “site:olli.gmu.edu/” without the quotes.