

# Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



[olli.gmu.edu](http://olli.gmu.edu)

George Mason University

Fairfax • Reston • Loudoun • Online



**Winter 2025 Registration:  
Begins December 3**

**WINTER 2025 CATALOG**  
January 21 – February 14





# Take Advantage of OLLI Mason Trips!

Trips provide numerous benefits, including social interaction, mental stimulation, and physical activity. The OLLI Mason Excursions Committee plans a variety of trips during the spring, summer, and fall terms. These trips can help reduce feelings of isolation, improve mental health, and promote a sense of adventure and curiosity.



**The Pentagon Memorial** honors the 184 people whose lives were lost at the Pentagon and on American Airlines Flight 77 on 9/11. OLLI Mason members experienced a docent-led tour, learning about the attack, the sequence of events, how the memorial came about, and why it was positioned as it is.

*Photo by Bob Heyer*



**The National Botanic Garden** combines art, nature, education, and research into a fascinating whole. It is the world's largest constructed garden; the vast majority of its materials are obtained from reclaimed materials. OLLI Mason members enjoyed a self-guided tour through the grounds. *Photo by Beverly Knox*

**Wolftrap** is the only national park dedicated to the performing arts. OLLI Mason members joined a National Park Ranger to stand on a world-class stage, learn how theater runs, and get a sneak-peek at where the stars get ready at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. *Photo by Norma Reck*



***Be sure to check out the trip opportunities in the Special Events section of the catalog!***

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## **Cover photo by Ed Marion**

The cover photo was taken at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. It shows a moai, a stone figure originally from Ahu O’Pepe, an inland site on Easter Island.

Experts speculate that the moai were constructed around 1200 CE by the original Polynesian settlers as representations of their clans’ revered ancestors.

# All About OLLI Mason

## Who We Are

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) offers daytime courses, lectures, special events, and other activities during eight-week terms in the spring and fall, a four-week winter term, and a six-week summer term. There are no exams, no credits, no college degree required or offered, and no age threshold.

Course leaders are members of OLLI Mason, George Mason faculty, or others who enjoy sharing their knowledge. OLLI Mason is particularly proud of all of its volunteer teachers and speakers, many of whom are well-known experts in their fields. The views expressed are those of the instructors and do not reflect the official policy or position of OLLI Mason or George Mason University.

Members pay dues and may attend as many activities as they wish, subject to space availability. There may be charges for materials or for some special events.

OLLI Mason publishes an email newsletter (*OLLI E-News*), a catalog each term, an online membership directory, and a *Member Handbook*. An annual literary journal, *OLLI Ink*, and, from time to time, *The Poets of OLLI* collection, are also published.

OLLI Mason is one of many Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes affiliated with the Bernard Osher Foundation and is also a member of the Road Scholar Institute Network. OLLI Mason is a nonprofit, equal-opportunity 501(c)(3) organization and does not discriminate on any basis.

## How to Join

To register online, go to [olli.gmu.edu](http://olli.gmu.edu) or complete the registration form on **page 28** and provide it to OLLI Mason with payment.

## Give the Gift of OLLI

What better way to show appreciation for someone special than by giving an OLLI Mason eGift card? The card can be purchased in any amount to apply toward an OLLI Mason membership or event/materials fee. It makes the perfect retirement, birthday, or holiday gift. The gift of OLLI Mason is great: captivating classes, fabulous field trips, and sensational socials to indulge both mind and soul! Purchase the eGift card on the OLLI Mason member portal ([olligmu.augusoft.net](http://olligmu.augusoft.net)) or by emailing the OLLI Mason registrar: [ollireg@gmu.edu](mailto:ollireg@gmu.edu).

## George Mason University Privileges

OLLI Mason members with an annual membership are entitled to a George Mason University ID card, which provides library privileges, discounted Mason aquatic and fitness membership, and other benefits (subject to Mason policies). A free Mason email account with access to the Mason intranet is also available. To apply for an ID card/G Number, fill out an online application, available at [olli.gmu.edu/university-privileges/](http://olli.gmu.edu/university-privileges/)

## Status of Winter Term 2025

To optimize the OLLI Mason experience for everyone, OLLI Mason will provide in-person, Zoom, and hybrid offerings. Should you wish to experience OLLI Mason from the comfort of your home, you will have access to many excellent virtual offerings. If you plan to attend in-person offerings, we ask that you be aware of and are prepared to follow our most up-to-date health and safety protocols found on our website:

[olli.gmu.edu/health-and-safety/](http://olli.gmu.edu/health-and-safety/)

## Membership Promotions

**Winter 2025 Promotion:** a one-time low fee of \$300 for those new to OLLI Mason who purchase an annual membership (those who have never been OLLI Mason members, are returning after a hiatus of more than a year, or have previously been introductory members and are converting to annual members).

**George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School Retirees:** a one-time annual membership discount of \$100, which may be applied to the special \$300 promotion (for those new to OLLI Mason).

### **\*\* IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES \*\***

**Winter term registration begins on  
December 3rd at 9:00 am and  
continues throughout the term.**

Register online at [olli.gmu.edu](http://olli.gmu.edu)

Registrations also may be mailed to:  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032

**Members are encouraged to  
register before December 16th to  
determine the viability of classes.**



# OLLI Mason Organization

OLLI Mason is a member-driven organization with a volunteer Board of Directors, elected by the membership to 3-year terms, representing all OLLI Mason members. OLLI Mason programs and activities are developed, managed, and produced through the combined effort of member volunteers and OLLI Mason staff.

## Board of Directors

*President* ..... Debbie Engleson  
*Vice President*..... Emily Roudebush  
*Secretary* ..... Bob Heyer  
*Treasurer* ..... Dick Crawford

Toni Acton	Dick Crawford
Marilyn Harriman	Suresh Mohla
Camille Hodges	Peter Ansoff
Bob Heyer	Zachary Teich
Michele Romano	Debbie Engleson
Carolyn Wyatt	Bonnie Nelson
Lillian Brooks	Harry Johnson
Emily Roudebush	

Jennifer Disano, *Executive Director*

## Other Key OLLI Mason Positions

<i>Audiovisual Support</i>	Paul Howard
<i>Development</i>	Al Smuzynski
<i>OLLI E-News</i>	Paul Van Hemel
<i>Facilities</i>	Mel Russell
<i>Finance</i>	Dave Osterman
<i>Governance</i>	Peter Ansoff
<i>Landscaping</i>	Vince Modugno
<i>Member Services, Office Volunteers</i>	Toni Acton
<i>Member Services, Chair</i>	Toni Acton
<i>Outreach</i>	Debby Mossburg
<i>Strategic Planning</i>	Zachary Teich
<i>Website</i>	Dennis VanLangen
<i>Health and Safety Advisory</i>	Michele Romano

## Catalog Production

*Production Team* ..... Nancy Klein, Susan Job,  
Shannon Kim Morrow, Stefan Hansen

## OLLI Mason Program Planning

*Committee Chairs*.....Doris Bloch, Beth Lambert,  
Kathryn Russell, Russell Stone, Bill Taylor  
*Loudoun Program*... Vera Wentworth, Barbara Wilan  
*Reston Program* ..... Anita Lasansky  
*Lead Program Associate* ..... Shannon Kim Morrow  
*Program Associate*..... Susan Job  
Program planning subject group chairs are listed at the beginning of each subject section of the catalog.

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# Courses: January 21 - February 14

## Fairfax/Loudoun/Reston/Zoom

Fairfax courses are indicated by the suffix "F," Loudoun by "L," Reston by "R," and Zoom by "Z."  
For in-person courses/events, see the 'In-Person Program Locations' page at the back of the catalog for locations and their addresses. Primary locations are used unless otherwise indicated.

Courses will be offered in various formats for the term. **Please carefully note the title format for each course** when considering your registration list. In-person offerings will include a campus designation suffix (ex: **101F**). Zoom only offerings will include the 'Z' suffix (ex: **101Z**). Hybrid offerings will have both in-person and virtual title formats listed in the course description (ex: **101F / 101Z**). You must decide which format you prefer when registering for hybrid courses and select the corresponding title format.)

### 100 Art & Music

Program Planning Group Chairs:  
Linda Harber, Joan Lunsford, Christine Narbut

#### **101F The Spheres Project Presents Prokofiev's Quartet No. 2 in F Major, Op. 92**

**One session**

**Instructor: June Huang**

**Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 21**

To better understand the relationship between peace creation and music creation, the instructor completed a graduate certificate in Contemporary Dispute Resolution at the Carter School. She created The Spheres Project as a collaborative space where Mason string faculty and students could connect. The Spheres Project is an inclusive, diverse ensemble and recognizes its constant state of evolution. Participants enrich each other's journeys through the sharing of stories and the discovery of a shared vision. Together, they create a musical landscape. On February 11, The Spheres Project will present Sergei Prokofiev's *Quartet No. 2 in F Major, Op. 92*. This work was written in 1941 during Prokofiev's stay in Nalchik and contains elements of Kabardino-Balkar folk themes. In addition to performing the work, the ensemble will give a lecture-demonstration that will include historical context and interesting compositional elements.

**June Huang** is director of Strings and associate professor of Violin at the Dewberry School of Music. She teaches applied violin, chamber music, and pedagogy. Ms. Huang is creator of The Spheres Project, a collaboration between faculty and students that explores the intersections of unique worlds.

#### **102Z Ancient Rome: Art and Architecture**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Roz Hoagland**

**Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

Ancient Romans excelled at conquest and administration, but they were also artists and prodigious builders. The Roman Empire encompassed a vast area. Remnants of Roman communities are still being unearthed in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The Romans copied Greek sculpture and then developed their own unique style of realistic

portraiture. Greek art also influenced their paintings, and numerous examples still exist, especially from the ruins of Pompeii. Romans were amazing builders, inventing new techniques and types of buildings never seen before in the ancient Western world. They built aqueducts, baths, and amphitheaters. Their temples combined Greek and Etruscan elements and influenced architecture for centuries after the Empire fell. In this class, we'll examine architecture, painting, and sculpture chronologically from the Roman Republic, and the three phases of the Empire: Early, High, and Late.

**Roz Hoagland** is a retired art historian. She taught at Northern Virginia Community College for 40 years. She has taught numerous OLLI classes and continues to lead group tours to Europe to study art and architecture. Since 1999, there have been 62 successful trips.

#### **103F Folk Dance (English Country Dance)**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Dianne van der Reyden**

**Wednesdays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

Learn English Country Dance (ECD), a favorite of George Washington and seen in Jane Austen movies and shows like *Hamilton*, *Queen Charlotte*, and *Bridgerton*. Partners are not required. The steps are called as in square dancing, but the movements and music are more courtly and elegant. English Country Dance is a great way to get exercise and build muscle memory, and there are a number of regional annual balls that anyone can attend.

**Dianne van der Reyden** has been teaching and performing English Country Dance at local community centers since retiring as director for Preservation for the Library of Congress. Her interest in this historic dance form was inspired by the dance master of the Alexandria Assembly of English Country Dancers.

#### **104Z Dao, Zen, and Creativity**

**One session**

**Instructor: Dawn Li**

**Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 23**

Unlock the secrets of Dao and Zen by exploring the teachings embedded in East Asia's celebrated masterpieces. Whether you're a poet, artist, musician, or someone who appreciates art, this workshop offers a deep dive into how Dao and Zen are reflected in the finest examples of East Asian poetry (including haiku),



painting, music, and Tai Chi. Participants will explore the principles of Qi (vital energy), flow, balance, and transformation as demonstrated in these art forms. Gain insights into how ancient traditions can elevate both creativity and appreciation. By studying these masterworks, you'll discover fresh perspectives and ideas to integrate timeless principles into your own artistic journey or deepen your connection to the art you admire.

**Dawn Li**, Ph.D., is a writer, educator, and entrepreneur with a lifelong passion for Dao and Zen. She dabbles in poetry and painting and enjoys practicing Tai Chi and Qigong. She is the author of *Song of a Lotus Leaf* and is currently working on her new book, *64 Shades of Yin Yang*.

### **105F / 105Z Getting to Know Them: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II**

**One session**

**Instructor: Christopher Johnston**

**Tuesday, 11:50–1:15, Feb. 11**

The creative team of Rodgers and Hammerstein gave the world some of its best-loved musical theatre masterpieces and ushered in a new way of thinking about the American musical comedy. From *Oklahoma* to *The Sound of Music*, their work in many ways defined what has been called, "The Golden Age of the American Musical" and ushered in a new concept in Broadway musicals—the "Book Shows." In this session, we will discuss the history of the Rogers and Hammerstein partnership, their creative approach, and their impact on the world of musical theatre.

**Christopher Johnston** has been a prominent figure in the D.C. area music scene for over 30 years. He has composed numerous choral, orchestral, and jazz compositions. Chris designed Virginia's first music technology curriculum and was a pioneer in developing music technology programs nationwide. Chris has received many awards, to include the Claes Nobel Distinguished Educator Award, the Wolfrap Foundation Scholarship Award, and the LFI 2008 Virginia Leadership in Education Award, honoring his innovative work in music education. A three-time Grammy "Music Educator of the Year" nominee, he has been an advocate for performances of works by young composers. In addition to his work as a composer, conductor, and pianist, he is currently on the faculty of Northern Virginia Community College, where he serves as music director for the NOVA Symphony Orchestra.

## **200 Economics & Finance**

**Program Planning Group Chairs:**

**Leo Brennan, Marvin Singer**

### **201F / 201Z The Investment Forum**

**Four sessions**

**Moderator: Al Smuzynski**

**Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

The Investment Forum, which has been meeting continuously since 1995, addresses investment topics of particular interest to retirees. A weekly agenda is distributed, and sessions begin with an open discussion of recent events in the economy and the financial markets, and their impact on investment decisions.

Member presentations and discussions typically include such topics as: recent market indicators, stocks, bonds, funds, real estate investment trusts, options, commodities, sector allocations, investment strategies, and choosing financial advisors. Investment trades are collected each week from Forum members, and those trades are discussed. The class uses analyses and data from the financial press.

**Al Smuzynski** is a retired federal bank regulator, banker, and real estate developer, and has led the Investment Forum since 2011.

### **202Z Investing Potpourri**

**Two sessions**

**Instructors: David Toms, David Breese**

**Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 23–Jan. 30**

**Session 1: Semiconductor Market Analysis and Energy Market Analysis. David Toms.** Both the semiconductor

market and the global energy market are in transition to new and emerging technologies. Semiconductors are adapting to new demands from the burgeoning Artificial Intelligence market. Global energy companies are challenged by climate change to deploy more climate-friendly products. For both markets, we will look to the future to estimate their paths to success and we'll examine where the opportunities and pitfalls might lie.

**Session 2: Investment Total Return: What it is and**

**How to Use it. David Breese.** Total return and yield are both important metrics for evaluating investments, but they measure different aspects of an investment's performance and impact an individual's net worth. Total return provides a comprehensive view of an investment's overall performance, making it useful for assessing long-term growth and profitability. Yield focuses on the income aspect of an investment, making it useful for evaluating the income-generating potential of bonds, dividend-paying stocks, and other income-focused investments. Understanding these differences can help make better-informed decisions about balancing growth and income to meet financial goals. This presentation describes these metrics and their components along with assessing their role in investment performance.

**David Toms** and **David Breese** are long time members of the Investment Forum and will be presenting based on their personal experience and successes.

### **203F / 203Z Estate Planning**

**Three sessions**

**Instructor: Sarah Parks**

**Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 27–Feb. 10**

Sarah Parks will share her experience with estate planning and retirement living with seniors and their families. This popular OLLI course has been expanded to include a special session on funding living trusts. The purpose is to educate seniors about ways to become proactive in planning their estates and avoiding the dual heartaches of losing one's parents only to discover that their trusts have not been properly funded.

**Sarah Parks** is an attorney who limits her practice to estate

planning. Her firm is Custom Estate Planning, which she has been operating since 1995. She has a JD degree from the Mason School of Law and an LLM from the Georgetown University Law Center.

## 204Z Retired with Questions

Three sessions

**Instructors:** Al Smuzynski, Mike May, Elizabeth Gray, Helen Flynn, Marvin Singer

**Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 27–Feb. 10**

**Class limit: 50**

(Please do not sign up if you've already had the opportunity to attend in the past.) As seniors, we face the challenges of a constantly changing world, while creating our own safe and secure environment. We benefit from sharing our experiences and concerns, learning how others respond to similar situations, and getting expert counsel. This open forum, an outgrowth of the Investment Forum and other OLLI classes, is designed to address the concerns of seniors regarding a wide range of retirement issues. A panel of experienced specialists will provide answers to member questions through friendly discussion. Topics may include annuities, fixed income, asset allocations, management of IRAs, staying in your home, downsizing, how to make your money last, wills, trusts, estate planning concerns, and moving to a new location.

• **First session:** Class members will identify their areas of concern. • **Following sessions:** Panel members will address member concerns, as identified in the first session.

Presenters include: **Al Smuzynski**, Investment Forum moderator; **Mike May**, financial planner for seniors; **Elizabeth Gray**, estate planning and eldercare attorney and **Helen Flynn**, senior relocation strategist and other experts as needed; **Marvin Singer** is a co-chair of the Economics and Finance committee.

## 205F / 205Z Tax Preparation and Strategies

Two sessions

**Instructor:** Mary Szpanka

**Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Feb. 4–Feb. 11**

Come enjoy delving into the details of taxes with a focus on senior-related topics. We will discuss 2024 tax return reporting compliance along with many strategies for minimizing your tax bite. **Session one** will cover federal taxes, **Session two** will cover Virginia taxes and your Q&A

topics as time allows.

**Mary Szpanka**, CPA, has enjoyed being in tax practice for many years and enjoys helping OLLI participants with their quest for knowledge!

## 300 History

**Program Planning Group Chairs:**

**Emmett Fenlon, Irene Harworth,  
Beth Lambert, Bernie Oppel**

## 301F / 301Z 80's Ladies: The First Women Cadets at the USAF Academy

One session

**Instructor:** Karen Wilhelm

**Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 21**

This presentation will provide a first-hand account of the admission of women to the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976. The instructor was a member of that first class and will talk about her personal experiences: the institutional plans for admitting women and how the plans were executed and adapted; the attitudes of staff, faculty, and male cadets; and the broader defense policy context of the decision to admit women to the service academies. The lecture will also include a brief discussion of the concurrent admission of women to the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) and U.S. Naval Academy.

**Karen Wilhelm** is a retired USAF officer with a Doctorate in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University. Her academic background is centered on military history, defense policy, and strategic studies. She has previously served as an adjunct professor of public policy at George Mason University.

## 302F / 302Z Martin Luther King Day: How It Came To Be a Federal Holiday

One session

**Instructor:** Elva Card

**Tuesday, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 21**

On November 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed into law a bill creating a federal holiday to honor Martin Luther King. This signing marked the final success of a movement that began shortly after King's assassination in 1968. It had to overcome a great deal of opposition. In our history, only two individuals previously had the honor of a national holiday: George Washington and Christopher Columbus. MLK's opposition to the Vietnam War raised questions for some folks. During a Senate debate, Senator Jesse Helms from North Carolina, submitted a 300 page document alleging that King had associations with communists. New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan called the document a "packet of filth." He threw it on the floor and stomped on it. The bill went on to be signed by President Reagan. The third Monday of January became Martin Luther King Day. This class will look at the history of Martin Luther King Day.

**Elva Card** taught World History in Fairfax County Schools for 31 years. She has a BA in History from George Washington University, and MAs in History and in English from George Mason University.

## Future Course Proposal Due Dates

**\*\*Please note that course proposals are due approximately 6 months before the start of each term due to catalog production deadlines.**

**Spring 2025: March 24 - May 14, 2025**

(Proposal due date: October 7, 2024)

**Summer 2025: June 23 - August 1, 2025**

(Proposal due date: January 27, 2025)

**Fall 2025: September 22 - November 14, 2025**

(Proposal due date: April 9, 2025)

**Course Proposal Form:**

[olli.gmu.edu/olli-course-proposal-form/](https://olli.gmu.edu/olli-course-proposal-form/)



### 303F / 303Z The Frontiersmen, Part 5: Other Frontiers–The Lawmen and Legends

Four sessions

Instructor: Jim Anderson

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 22–Feb. 12

From the earliest New World settlements, the proximity of those vast, wild, and unsettled spaces in North America has had a significant impact on the history of our nation. It also has influenced our character as a people, distinct from our European roots. In these lectures, we will focus on the biographies of individuals who exemplified frontier “types,” including Wild Bill Hickok and the gunfighter/lawman type; frontier judges Roy Bean and Isaac Parker; William “Buffalo Bill” Cody, and the blend of truth and myth that was the “Wild West.” The final lecture will discuss a new methodology, Comparative Frontiers, by comparing and contrasting the late 19th Century conquests of the Sioux and Cheyenne of the American Great Plains and Zulu Nation of Southern Africa.

**Jim Anderson** served three years in the Air Force and 27 years in the CIA. In retirement, he conducted leadership seminars at Civil War battlefields. He holds an MA in History from the University of Memphis. Since 2009, he has taught classes and conducted tours at OLLI on the Civil War and the American Frontier.

### 304F / 304Z The Indianapolis 500: History, Tradition, and the Greatest Spectacle in Racing

One session

Instructor: Blane Amphor

Wednesday, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 22

For more than 100 years, the Indianapolis 500 has been considered the world’s greatest automobile race. History, tradition, patriotism, technical innovation, and thrilling competition combine to make it an event like no other. This presentation will describe how the race developed, the greatest drivers and races, key personalities, and the many endearing traditions that make it an American institution.

**Blane Amphor** is a retired federal employee. He has had a lifelong interest in history, including World War II, the American Revolution, and ocean liners. He has taught with several lifelong learning institutes, the Loudoun County library system, AARP, and various seniors’ communities.

### 305F / 305Z Park Ranger Potpourri

Four sessions

Coordinator: Jen Epstein

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 23–Feb. 13

The National Park Service will reveal four new topics, one in each presentation. If you enjoy surprises, this is the course for you! National Park Service Rangers have

## Update Your Zoom!

Zoom regularly provides updates to release new features and fix bugs. To receive the best video and audio experience, remember to check for updates.

participated in OLLI programs since 2001 by offering scores of thematic courses, special events, and trips.

### 306Z John Hancock: Beyond the Signature and James Wilson–Founding Visionary of American Independence and Governance

Three sessions

Instructor: Heather Dudley

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 27–Feb. 10

This offering will build upon a course the instructor presented to OLLI in the past on some of the forgotten founders. We will explore the fascinating life of John Hancock, a figure famously known for his prominent signature on the Declaration of Independence. While many recognize his name, few are familiar with the complexities of his life beyond this iconic act. We will explore how the son of a modest preacher became the wealthiest man in America and why, despite his financial success within the British Empire, he emerged as one of the earliest advocates of independence. James Wilson’s true legacy is likely only well known to dedicated students of the Revolutionary era. He is primarily known today for how his character was portrayed in the musical *1776*. He was depicted as a reluctant delegate, unwilling to take a stand on controversial issues. This course aims to correct this insulting misrepresentation.

**Heather Dudley** taught at the high school and college level. She has an MA in History, an MA in Psychology, and a Doctorate from Georgetown University. She writes a blog—charactermattered.org—and is the author of a book on the founders, *The Free and the Virtuous: Why the Founders Knew that Character Mattered*.

### 307F / 307Z Behind the Headstones: Amazing Stories of Heroes Buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Part Two

One session

Instructor: Blane Amphor

Wednesday, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 29

There is a story behind each headstone at Arlington National Cemetery. Many of them are tales of heroism, dedication, creativity, and bravery. Unknown personalities to most people, this presentation will tell the amazing stories, often pivotal to key events, of just a few of them.

See 304F / 304Z for instructor information.

### 308F / 308Z The Kindertransport Program of 1939

Two sessions

Instructor: Jeffrey Metzger

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Feb. 6–Feb. 13

In December 1938, the British put in place the Kindertransport program, a humanitarian effort to rescue imperiled children in Nazi Germany and countries occupied by the Germans. The instructor taught a well-received course on this subject in winter 2021. In the past few years, new information has emerged on the Kindertransport

# Literature, Theater, and Writing

program. The instructor will present a revised two-session program incorporating the new analysis and will also present more information about his mother's participation in the program. The Kindertransport program has been the subject of two important films, *One Life* (released in 2023 and starring Anthony Hopkins) and *Into the Arms of Strangers* (a 2000 film that received the Oscar for Best Documentary).

**Jeff Metzger** graduated from Amherst College and Georgetown Law School. He has worked at the U.S. Department of Justice, in private law practice, and most recently as associate general counsel of a multinational corporation. He is a director of the non-profit U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. Jeff has taught a number of OLLI Mason classes.

## **309F / 309Z Sponsored by GMU Retired Faculty Association: Allied Female Spies in World War II: The British Special Operations Executive (SOE) in Vichy and Occupied France**

**One session**

**Instructor: Susan Schultz**

**Monday, 11:50–1:15, Feb. 10**

Following the fall of France in June of 1940, Winston Churchill authorized the establishment of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), ordering its members to "set Europe ablaze." Initially reluctant to hire women, the situation on the ground in France eventually convinced them otherwise. By war's end, 39 women had been inserted into France. Thirteen did not come home.

**Susan Schultz** holds a Ph.D. in Modern European History from the University of Chicago. She has taught at the University of Maryland (in Europe), American University, and as an adjunct in History at GMU. After working in investment banking, she held many assignments in the CIA and the U.S. Dept. of State.

## **400 Literature, Theater, and Writing**

**Program Planning Group Chairs:**

**Pat Bangs, Linda Bergman, Jane Fitzgibbons,  
Norma Jean Reck**

## **401Z Movie of the Week**

**Four sessions**

**Instructors: Russell Stone, Stephanie Simcox**

**Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 21–Feb. 11**

This course engages in discussions of the latest in Arthouse movies. Each week a movie offered via pay-per-view from Amazon Prime Video, YouTube, Netflix or other pay-per-view sites will be chosen. You won't have to subscribe to anything, but most movies charge a "rent" fee. If you do subscribe to a movie site, it may be available to you there. Participants will have one week to see the movie—before each class meeting. Class meetings will discuss the movie of the week. Impress your friends with your knowledge of the latest in Arthouse cinema! Viewing may involve subtitles, and it's always a good idea to turn on Closed Caption (CC) if it's available. The beauty of watching movies on-line is that

you have captions, and can pause, rewind to catch parts you missed, and even watch it more than once.

**Russell Stone** was a university professor for 40 years, an OLLI member for more than a decade, and a two-term board member. His secret passions include contemporary cinema. As a co-chair of program planning, he knows we need another movie course.

**Stephanie Simcox** worked in nonprofits for 30 years on the West Coast and has since moved back to Northern Virginia. An avid movie fan who never misses a new Jane Austen film, she is also up for the latest from Marvel, Pixar or Studio Ghibli. After attending the San Francisco International Film Festival for many years, she's not afraid of subtitles either!

## **402Z Poetry Workshop**

**Four sessions**

**Moderator: Jan Bohall**

**Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 21–Feb. 11**

**Class limit: 16**

Please note that this class will be offered online only. This workshop allows both novice and experienced poets the opportunity to share their work and receive suggestions for improvement. Workshop members should prepare an original poem in draft or in revised form for each session. The moderator will email students after class confirmation with further instructions.

**Jan Bohall**, a long-time OLLI member, has had poems published in various periodicals and has won awards from the Poetry Society of Virginia. She has been writing verse for nearly 30 years, and has collected a sample of her poems into a chapbook, *Tasting Life Twice*.

## **403Z Writers' Workshop**

**Four sessions**

**Instructors: Ed Sadtler, Margie Wildblood**

**Wednesdays, 9:15–11:05, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

**Note time**

**Class limit: 12**

This class uses a roundtable format to foster an environment for writers of all levels to give and receive encouragement, feedback, and constructive criticism. All genres of writing are welcome, including poetry, fiction, memoirs, and historical pieces. To each of these categories we apply the same underlying commitment—to write a compelling work that fully conveys the author's intentions.

**Ed Sadtler**, a graduate of Shippensburg State College in Pennsylvania, has conducted many writing workshops at OLLI, and has taught poetry writing classes for the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia Community College.

**Margie Wildblood** is a native of Salem, Virginia. She has degrees in English, Psychology, and Education. She retired from Northern Virginia Community College where she was faculty and a counselor in student services. She writes poetry, fiction and nonfiction prose, and is currently marketing a romance memoir.

## **404Z Literary Roundtable**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Ben Gold**

**Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

In this on-going short-story discussion class, we will complete *The World's Greatest Short Stories* (Dover



Thrift Editions). This is a selection from the best of the world's short fiction, bringing together writings by great masters of the genre. This wide-ranging anthology of stories is designed for readers to meet new writers and be surprised by some famous writers not known for their short stories. The book is available online from a variety of sources. On Amazon, it's in paperback for \$7.79 with free delivery, or on Kindle for only \$1.99.

**Ben Gold** has a BA in Political Science from Stanford University and also holds an MS degree in Computer Science. He will serve as moderator.

### **405R / 405Z Tom Jones: A Hero Born to be Hanged**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Beth Lambert**

**Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

What are we to think of a hero whose creator describes him as "born to be hanged"? Such is the subject of Henry Fielding's eighteenth-century novel *Tom Jones*. We will follow Jones' adventures from the time he was found as an infant in Squire Allworthy's bed, through his many adventures and misadventures, to the sort of ending his character deserves. Lest the potential reader be dismayed by the some 600 pages of the novel, be assured that we will take a shortcut by putting together the 1963 film version of *Tom Jones* with the portions of the book portrayed in the film. Nothing will be lost from what makes Fielding's *Tom Jones* a classic: the narrator who guides, surprises, and entertains; the naturally good, the knaves, and the very bad specimens of human nature who populate the novel's pages; and a conclusion that leaves us wiser and more amiable than when we began.

**Beth Lambert** is professor emeritus of English at Gettysburg College where she taught courses on all aspect of the 18th century in Britain. Her biography of Edmund Burke was published by the University of Delaware press.

### **406Z It Reads like a Novel**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Ellen Moody**

**Wednesdays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

**Class limit: 50**

In this course, participants will read an example of new historicism—narrative non-fiction where the study of a wide swath of contemporary cultural documents enables the historian to create narratives that read like novels. Students will discuss John Wood Sweet's, *The Sewing Girl's Tale*, a story of abduction and rape, gender, and class in late 18th century New York City. The genre enabled the historian to deconstruct what was claimed to have happened to what really did. The class will also discuss two other cases of abduction and rape in the 18th century where students can choose to read one of four books: a 20th or 21st century novel (Tey's *The Franchise Affair*, a detective mystery or Donoghue's *Slammerkin*, an historical novel), an 18th

century pamphlet, or a straight old-fashioned history. We'll compare what we think we know about these cases and their outcomes with what is found in Sweet's book.

**Ellen Moody** has been teaching since 1972, in senior colleges until 2012, and for 10 years now at two OLLIs. Her Ph.D is in British literature; she's a published scholar with specialties in 18th through 20th century literature.

### **407R Classic Films**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Ben Gold**

**Wednesdays, 2:15–4:30, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

**Note time**

If you like old movies, this is the class for you. Each week a different classical film will be presented, designed to spark your awareness of critically acclaimed films and make you aware of significant historical motion pictures. The instructor will introduce the film, and depending on time constraints, will lead a post-viewing discussion. Films are chosen in all genres based on critical recognition and popularity.

**Ben Gold** is a bona fide movie junkie. He spends much of his free time watching movies and doesn't care if they are extremely old ones, the latest popular ones, or the best in foreign films.

### **408Z Shakespeare's Scottish Play**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Tom Manteuffel**

**Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 23–Feb. 13**

*Macbeth* marks a turning point in Shakespeare's career, with his acting company now under royal patronage and now firmly settled in to the grand new Globe Theater, he searches his sources for a story to cement his royal connections with the new King James from Scotland. Relying principally on *Holinshed's Chronicles*, Shakespeare develops the story in ways that flatter King James and yet expose the darkness at the seats of power. We will look at how Shakespeare shapes his story, homing in on a dozen key speeches that display his mind and further his goals, to understand why he chose to write the story the way he did and how he made it sublime.

**Tom Manteuffel** is a retired cybersecurity consultant who has taught OLLI classes for six years on a variety of topics including art history, natural history, technology and language history. He holds graduate degrees in Philosophy and Computer Science.

### **409Z The Writing Life: How to Go from Concept to Published Manuscript**

**One session**

**Instructor: Cameron Kent**

**Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 28**

Do you have a story swirling in your head that you want to turn into a book? A memoir? A short story? A novel? This session will teach you what you need to do before typing that first word, and then how to turn your concept into a polished manuscript. We'll explain the basic structure of good storytelling, including plotting,

scene description, and character development. We'll also provide some tips on how to get happily published. It's never too late to be a writer!

**Cameron Kent** is an Emmy award winner and a member of the North Carolina Broadcasters Hall of Fame for his 33 years in journalism. In his second career as a writer, he's published six novels. His new book, *The Oak Island Book Club*, made Amazon's Best Seller list. He's originally from Alexandria.

## **410F / 410Z Image in Poetry: A Haiku and Ekphrasis Poetry Workshop**

**One session**

**Instructor: Holly Mason Badra**

**Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 30**

Poets often paint crisp and vivid imagery for the reader. They also often ask or invite the reader to make meaning of the image. Sometimes the image speaks for itself. Sometimes the image is a metaphor. Haiku is a form of poetry that often, traditionally, relies on the image for meaning-making. Moreover, Ekphrasis is a form of poetry that muses off of visual art (and other types of art as well). In this workshop, we will explore and unpack examples of Haiku and Ekphrasis to see the ways that different poets use and work within these forms, as well as how the forms have been pushed or challenged or innovated upon. The workshop will also be generative, giving participants the space and conditions to write some poetry of their own with Haiku and Ekphrasis elements in mind. This workshop will be interactive, dynamic, and conversational. The facilitator will work to create a welcoming and harmonious space for participants to feel comfortable to share their ideas.

**Holly Mason Badra** is a queer, Kurdish-American writer. She received her MFA in Poetry from George Mason University in 2017, where she is currently the associate director of Women and Gender Studies. Her poems, interviews, and reviews have appeared in various journals. She reads for *Poetry Daily*.

## **411F / 411Z Capote's *In Cold Blood*: The Non-Fiction Novel**

**One session**

**Instructor: Marilyn Harriman**

**Friday, 11:00-12:25, Jan. 31**

**The Providence, 9490 Sprague Avenue, Fairfax, 22031**

The New York Times Review of Books hailed *In Cold Blood* as "the best documentary account of an American crime ever written." In this class, we will discuss why Truman Capote's account became a controversial bestseller. Working with his childhood friend Harper Lee (*To Kill A Mockingbird*), Capote conducted in-depth research, including interviews and letters with the principal investigators, friends of the family members, and lengthy conversations with one of the murderers. The author's flamboyant personality worked to achieve and sometimes thwart his goals of writing a first-of-its-kind crime story: non-fiction written in a narrative format. The class will include excerpts from key parts of the book, illustrating the author's writing prowess.

Photos and clips related to the crime and the book's development will be displayed.

**Marilyn Harriman** is a retired Fairfax County advanced placement language and composition instructor. She also taught high school and college English and journalism in Oregon, Texas, and Germany. She holds an MEd from the University of Virginia, and B.A. degrees in Journalism and English from the University of Oregon.

## **412Z From Research to Writing: Mystery Writers Share How Facts Feed Their Fiction**

**One session**

**Moderator: Art Taylor**

**Monday, 11:50–1:15, Feb. 3**

Novelists Donna Andrews, John Copenhaver, and Ellen Crosby share how their crime fiction is inspired and informed by research, whether delving into history, visiting key settings, exploring forensics, finding the perfect poison, or sleuthing for specifics in various other areas of arcane knowledge—always with an eye on murder! Andrews is the author of more than 35 comic mysteries in the Meg Langslow series, set in the fictional Tidewater town of Caerphilly, Virginia. Crosby is the author of the Virginia wine country mysteries, featuring winemaker Lucie Montgomery, and a series of thrillers with photojournalist Sophie Medina. Copenhaver's novels include *Dodging and Burning* and two books in a trilogy set in 1950s DC, *The Savage Kind* and *Hall of Mirrors*.

**Art Taylor** is a professor of English at George Mason University and the Edgar Award-winning author of two collections of short stories: *The Boy Detective & The Summer of '74 and Other Tales of Suspense* and *The Adventure of the Castle Thief and Other Expeditions and Indiscretions*.

## **413F / 413Z Willa Cather's *One of Ours***

**One session**

**Instructor: Jane Fitzgibbons**

**Tuesday, 11:50–1:15, Feb. 4**

Willa Cather's 1922 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *One of Ours*, was published four years after the WWI Armistice and four years after her cousin, Lt. G.P. Cather, was killed in action on the Western Front. Ms. Cather tells of a sensitive Nebraska farm boy, Claude Wheeler, who is dissatisfied with his dreary life, enlists in the Army, and goes off to France an idealistic lieutenant with a newfound sense of freedom and adventure. The second half of the novel is set in France where Claude discovers French culture, the camaraderie of the army, and faces the final offensive in the Argonne Forrest. Criticized at the time for being "a women's war novel," it remains a compelling study in the power of cultural myth, nobility, and sacrifice with an added critique of early 20th Century materialism. Willa Cather's winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1923 meant less to her than creating for her many readers an emotional and imaginative work with a recognizable and authentically American main character.

**Jane Fitzgibbons** retired from the federal government in 2020. During her government career, she headed training and communications departments. She has an MS in National Security



Strategy from the National War College and an MA in Politics and Literature from the University of Dallas where her admiration for the works of Willa Cather began, which led her to a forum at the University of Nebraska on the centenary of Ms. Cather's birth. She attended two Willa Cather conferences in 2023: one honoring Willa Cather's sesquicentennial birthday and one focusing on Ms. Cather's literary life in New York City.

## 414Z Madeline Miller's *Circe*

**Two sessions**

**Instructor: Barbara Nelson**

**Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Feb. 5–Feb. 12**

In *The Odyssey* we encounter the immortal goddess Circe who turns Odysseus' men into pigs, but after he challenges her, she takes him as a lover, allowing him and his men to stay with her. However, this is just part of her story. In Madeline Miller's novel, we see her history and the complexity of her character: Circe is a strange child—not powerful, like her father Helios, nor viciously alluring like her mother Perse—but, she has the power of witchcraft and can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Zeus banishes her to Aiaia, a deserted island where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts, and crosses paths with some of the most famous figures in mythology—the Minotaur, Daedalus and his doomed son Icarus, the murderous Medea, and, of course, Odysseus. Eventually, Circe must choose whether she belongs with the gods or the mortals she has come to love.

**Barbara Nelson**, an OLLI member, taught for over 30 years at the secondary level, the last 20 at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. She has taught literature classes at OLLI, as well as art history classes that are based on National Portrait Gallery exhibits.

## 500 Languages

**Program Planning Group Chairs:**

**Pat Bangs, Linda Bergman, Jane Fitzgibbons,  
Norma Jean Reck**

## 501Z Latin: Level 4

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Alana Lukes**

**Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 23–Feb. 13**

This continuing course is for Latin students with knowledge of indicative and subjunctive verb tenses as well as the five noun declensions. The instructor takes a modern reading approach to learning this ancient language. The course explores Latin grammar, vocabulary, mythology, and ancient Roman culture in first and second century CE Rome. Students will look at the time of Emperor Domitian as well as Roman authors such as Pliny, Martial and others. Class meetings will use the *Cambridge Latin Course, Unit Four, North American Fourth Edition* as the required text, as well as adapted texts from other instructor-provided sources.

**Alana Lukes**, an OLLI member, has taught Latin for over 25 years at the middle school, high school, and college levels. She has also taught 12 years at OLLI.

## 502Z Mythic Symbols: Unveiling Chinese Characters

**One session**

**Instructor: Dawn Li**

**Thursday, 11:50–1:15, Feb. 13**

Imagine uncovering secrets within ancient symbols. After a transformative journey to Egypt and three decades of speaking English in America, the instructor's perception of the Chinese language has profoundly changed. Unlike English, where words are constructed from letters, Chinese characters are often pictographs or ideographs, directly representing objects, ideas, or actions. In this workshop, participants will learn to write essential characters such as "person" (人), "sky" (天), "dao" (道), "harmony" (和), "benevolence" (仁), and "Zen" (禅). They will delve into the historic roots of the language, exploring the basic principles of character composition. Participants will also gain insight into how these symbols convey enduring philosophies and cultural heritage, linking the past to the present. While this workshop offers only an introduction, it provides a unique opportunity to deepen one's appreciation for a time-honored language and culture.

A native speaker of Chinese, **Dawn Li** holds a Doctorate in Language and Literature. She taught an undergraduate course on Chinese culture at George Washington University. She is the author of the poetry book *Song of a Lotus Leaf*.

## 600 Philosophy and Religious Studies

**Program Planning Group Chair:  
Jim Cantwell**

## 601F / 601Z The Lives of Great Christians

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Jim Cantwell**

**Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 21–Feb. 11**

This course will consist of eight 30-minute Great Courses lectures and discussions. The topics covered will include the following: **1.** Paul and the First Christians Missionaries. **2.** Augustine. **3.** Leo IX, Gregory VII, and Church Reform. **4.** Francis of Assisi. **5.** Martin Luther. **6.** John Wesley and the Origins of Methodism. **7.** Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Damien of Molokai, and Teresa of Calcutta. **8.** From Slavery to Martin Luther King.

**Jim Cantwell** is chair of the OLLI Religious Studies program planning group and has taught numerous courses at OLLI.

## 602F Introduction to Islam

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Haris Raja**

**Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 21–Feb. 11**

In this course, students will explore the full sweep of the religion of Islam. The instructor will answer your critiques and most essential questions about the second-largest and fastest-growing religion in the world. The course will begin with the basic tenets of Islam, followed

by its sources (Quran, Sunnah, and Hadith), the life of Muhammad, and a brief history of Islam. Next, we will analyze the main Islamic sects and their origin, the concept of Jihad in Islam, and Islam in the later days. Participants will learn about the Islamic understanding of Jesus, Mary, and the People of the Book. Finally, we will discuss Islam in the current world. Ideal for beginners, this course answers questions of particular concern to Christians who care about the West's relation with Islam. Listening to and discussing the topics will broaden your capacity for inter-religious dialogue and understanding of Abrahamic religions.

**Haris Raja** has a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and an MBA from the University of Maryland. Haris currently serves as the VP of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (Northern Virginia chapter) and is an NVA Tahir Academy board member. Haris has delivered multiple lectures on Islam.

## **603F St. Paul and the First Christians**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Jack Dalby**

**Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

The origins of Christianity remain largely mysterious. To this day, historians debate exactly what happened at that "big bang" moment nearly 2,000 years ago when some of the followers of Jesus came to believe he had risen from the dead after his crucifixion. How, they ask, did a tiny group of apocalyptic Jews, disciples of a crucified, itinerant Jewish preacher, start a religious movement that would one day grow to include over two billion adherents? In these four academic-based lectures, we will discuss: What are our sources for understanding Christian origins? What are their strengths and limitations? Who was St. Paul? What was Paul's mission to the gentiles? Who was James, the Brother of the Lord? Was there one Christianity or many? What is Gnosticism? What were the earliest Christian rites and prayers? How did the Roman Empire view Christianity?

**Jack Dalby** is a retired NOVA business owner who, for the past 12 years, has been lecturing with the OLLI program at George Mason University on the topic of Christian origins.

## **604F Human and Divine Justice and Forgiveness**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Steve Goldman**

**Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

This seminar will explore the scope, meaning, and possible limits of forgiveness. Our principal text will be Simon Wiesenthal's classic book *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*. Each session will begin with a 20-minute introduction by the instructor, followed by a discussion. Some of the issues to be included are: How do we understand the relationship between justice and forgiveness? Do we have the moral authority to forgive or ask forgiveness for offenses committed against others? Are some offenses so egregious that they should not be forgiven under any

conditions? If so, what are these offenses and how do they differ from those which can be forgiven? Does forgiveness include absolution from payment for offenses committed? What do the sacred texts of different religious traditions teach about God's willingness to forgive, and what do they say about the obligations of humans to forgive or withhold forgiveness?

**Steve Goldman** has taught numerous courses on alternative understandings of biblical doctrine at OLLI Mason.

## **605F / 605Z The Development of Traditions and Beliefs Within the Gospels**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: John Rybicki**

**Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 23–Feb. 13**

There were Christians before there were written gospels. These Christians had beliefs and numerous traditions about Jesus, his life, activities, purpose, passion, and death. These beliefs and traditions, originally oral, developed over time and many were ultimately written into the gospels approximately 40 to 70 years after the life they describe. A reading of the gospels that we have today shows that these numerous additions were not applied seamlessly, nor are they easily correlatable. Our extant gospels clearly display the development of beliefs—and additions to the traditions—that we are familiar with or think we are familiar with today. Examples include the birth narratives and the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. In this series, we will examine a number of these traditions and trace their possible sources and development in our extant gospels.

**John Rybicki** has been an OLLI contributor for over 20 years. He received a Master of Theology degree from St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, Balamand University. He served as a pastoral associate at the Riderwood Retirement Community in Maryland where he was responsible for religious education and facilitating Jewish-Christian dialogue.

## **606Z Commodity Culture and the Regard for Non-Human Animals**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Edward Ingebreetsen**

**Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 23–Feb. 13**

This course examines the vexed interchange between humans and animals in commodity culture. We encounter animals daily although likely we pay little attention to, or don't recognize these encounters as encounters. We eat animals and we wear them. Our beauty, health, and home products are tested on them. Animals perform for us and satisfy our need for intimacy and entertainment, as well as novelty. Human agency and indifference removes animals from their natural lives and displays them for a variety of human pleasures. Western culture—and its mix of theologies generally—positions animals as subservient to humans; post-colonial rhetoric subjugates their bodies in the same discursive frame that gave Harriet Beecher Stowe the sub-title for *Uncle Tom's Cabin: The Man Who was a*

*Thing*. But are they things? We will discuss 1) Dominion: What history teaches 2) Commodity culture and the regard for animals 3) Expanding the Moral Circle: Ethics and non-human animals and 4) The Anthropocene: The sense of an ending.

**Professor Edward Ingebreetsen** holds advanced degrees in Theology and Ethics (JSTB, 1982) and a Doctorate in American Studies (Duke, 1986). His publications (books, journals) consider the intersection of gender, race, theology and popular cultures. He concentrates in non-human ethics and American social history.

### 607Z Biblical Heroes and Villains

Three sessions

**Instructor: Stephen Ruth**

**Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 27–Feb. 10**

Almost two decades ago one of this instructor's early OLLI presentations was called "Great Heroes and Villains of the Bible" (it included villainesses too) and the course reviewed dozens of powerful characters in the Old and New Testaments. This course will be a reprise of that subject only with new information about all the main characters. Research has uncovered many fascinating insights. For example, King David probably had a very unhappy childhood, as described in one of his psalms. Even though the Persians occupied Israel for over 200 years, King Cyrus was extolled in Isaiah and also by President Harry Truman. There are several branches of the Christian religion which have bestowed the title of saint on Pontius Pilate. In a single chapter of one of Paul's epistles, he praises a dozen specific women. The course is not about zingers and unusual findings. The basic approach is to present a very human perspective on dozens of mostly well-known biblical figures, but there are quite a few like Lydia and Apollos in Acts, Huldah in 2nd Kings and 2nd Chronicles, and others who may not be so well-known. Detailed notes will be distributed to the class by email each week for those who may want to dig more deeply into the material.

**Stephen Ruth** is professor emeritus of Public Policy from the Schar School at George Mason University. He is a frequent lecturer on Bible topics and his book *One Year Trip through the Bible: A Layman's Fresh View of the Complete Old and New Testaments* examines 73 books of the Hebrew Tanakh (Old Testament) and the Christian New Testament.

### 608Z Decisions of Fate: Your Jewish Compass for Navigating the Difficult Questions of Medical Ethics

Four sessions

**Instructor: Rabbi Chaim Cohen**

**Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 28–Feb. 18**

**Note dates**

**Lesson 1: Experimental Treatments.** When emerging treatments offer hope of recovery, when is the risk justified? Discover the Jewish ethics of risking your life in the hope of extending your long-term prospects.

**Lesson 2: Extending Life.** How does Judaism balance the desire to preserve life with concerns of reducing suffering?

See how Jewish values inform a dignified approach to end-of-life care and advance medical directives.

**Lesson 3: Pregnancy and Abortion Questions.** Explore questions of pregnancy through the lens of Jewish texts. Is a fetus a human life or a part of the mother's body? When pregnancy endangers a woman's life, may she, in good conscience, carry the pregnancy to term?

**Lesson 4: A Body's Dignity.** Might autopsy violate the dignity of the human body? Learn the Jewish view on the respect to which the deceased is entitled and how the sanctity of human life continues after death.

**Rabbi Chaim Cohen** grew up in Montreal, Canada. After completing his yeshiva studies in Israel and Michigan, he received his rabbinical ordination from the Rabbinical College of America in 2011. Since 2018, Rabbi Chaim serves as Rabbi and co-CEO of Chabad Loudoun.

### 609R The Soul of Happiness: How Mussar and Positive Psychology Can Help You Live Well

Three sessions

**Instructor: Robert Rugel**

**Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 29–Feb. 12**

This course is based on the author's book, *The Soul of Happiness: How Mussar and Positive Psychology Can Help You Live Well*. The thesis is that Mussar character traits (an aspect of Judaism) are associated with health and wellbeing. Mussar traits: being conscientious, patient, trustworthy, forgiving, respectful, organized, honest, and compassionate are inherently positive emotional states. They help us feel good and inhibit our stress. They also help create positive interpersonal relationships that result in health, wellbeing, and longevity. Research is presented that supports the thesis that Mussar traits are good for your health. Unfortunately, working to improve these traits is not easy. Judaism suggests that we humans are inherently selfish (the Yetzer hara). Our selfishness, and our lack of awareness of our selfishness, interferes with our attempt to develop the character traits that contribute to wellbeing.

**Dr. Robert Rugel** taught in the Psychology Department at GMU for nearly 30 years. He is now an associate professor emeritus. After leaving GMU, he continued to conduct a psychotherapy practice specializing in marital therapy. He is the author of five books that deal with interpersonal relationships.

## 650 Humanities and Social Sciences

Program Planning Group Chair:  
Camille Hodges

### 651F / 651Z Be the Change You Wish to See in the World

Four sessions

**Instructor: Tom Carroll**

**Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 21–Feb. 11**

"If we could change ourselves ... the world would also change. We need not wait to see what others do" (Ghandi). OLLI members have decades of knowledge,



skill, and experience to share with causes they care about. Research shows that when older adults engage in activities that give them a sense of purpose, they experience better physical and mental health. Efforts can range from active physical participation, involvement using computers, and social media. This class will explore a wide range of volunteer service and social action opportunities, including numerous Northern Virginia organizations as well as regional and national initiatives. Particular attention will be given to multigenerational partnerships that enable young leaders and older allies to collaborate on community improvement and social change. Participants will be invited to share personally rewarding experiences.

**Tom Carroll** holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology. He did research at Clark University, Columbia University, the U.S. Department of Education, and the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. He participated in the launch of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

### **652L TED Talk Discussion Group**

**Three sessions**

**Instructor: Barbara Wilan**

**Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 23–Feb. 6**

**Limit: 20**

TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) is a growing collection of brief recorded talks on a wide range of topics. The speakers are leading figures chosen for their ability to express ideas clearly and succinctly. We will watch and discuss a TED talk each week. The general topics will be Film, Indigenous Peoples, and Historical Leaders.

**Barbara Wilan** retired as a full-time English teacher at the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College and is currently an adjunct there. She has also taught at the University of Maryland and for the University of Maryland's European Division.

### **653Z The Legal History of Women in America**

**Three sessions**

**Instructor: Lillian Brooks**

**Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 30–Feb. 13**

Women have had a long and difficult history of rights in America. It is no surprise that the forces to keep women in the kitchen and have babies come from laws crafted by white males throughout history. This course will discuss landmark events and the laws that have affected women's rights—the good, the bad, and the ugly. The course will include the work of some women who have been influential in reforming America's social and legal climate. The course will also be a review and update of *The Impact of the Dobbs Decision* course presented last year. Finally, there will be a class discussion on where women stand today and in the future.

**Lillian Brooks**, JD, practiced criminal and family law in Atlanta, Georgia, before coming to Virginia in 1984. She then became director of juvenile and domestic relations court services, retiring in 2012. She is a former president of OLLI. She is also an adjunct professor at George Mason University.

### **654F / 654Z Reflections on Providing Aid in North Korea and Other Authoritarian Settings**

**One session**

**Instructor: Christy Gavitt**

**Monday, 9:40–11:05, Feb. 3**

Increasingly, international and domestic aid workers provide humanitarian aid in countries with authoritarian governments. A dilemma for organizations is ensuring that while the most vulnerable receive aid, they must concurrently coordinate with government entities who often don't prioritize the needs of their at-risk populations. They may have little interest in the aid programs or else see the aid as an opportunity to divert funding or commodities to their allies. Additionally, they will often establish regulations to ensure that aid workers have limited opportunities to visit project sites. Despite these obstacles, aid organizations should make every effort to ensure that they can be physically present in the country during the life of the project. The potential benefits gained by both the aid organization and the population can exceed the obstacles and frustrations. During a six-month period in the late '90s, the presenter worked for the Private Voluntary Organization Consortium for North Korea (PVOC), a consortium of five U.S. non-governmental relief and development agencies. Along with six colleagues, she carried out project assessments and monitored the distribution of 150,000 metric tons of U.S. contributed maize and wheat through 152 food-for-work projects throughout North Korea. Her job entailed contacts with as many as 300 North Korean senior officials. Christy was one of the three Korean speakers on the team.

**Christy Gavitt** began her career as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea in the mid-70s, followed by an internship with CARE-Korea. She then worked in international relief and development programs for 32 years. Her assignments included programs in Pakistan, Somalia, Chad, Mozambique, Somaliland, Rwanda, North Korea, and Lebanon. She has also managed HIV/AIDS and mother-child health programs in Africa. Returning to the U.S., she worked with the American Red Cross and is currently a global health consultant. Christy received her Masters in International Administration from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont and her Masters in Public Health from Tulane University.

## **700 Current Events**

**Program Planning Group Chair:**  
**Camille Hodges**

### **701F / 701Z All the News That's Fit to Print**

**Four sessions**

**Instructor: Zachary Teich**

**Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 23–Feb. 13**

All the News That's Fit to Print meets in-person and online to discuss current affairs issues in a friendly and collegial manner. The instructor provides a topic list drawn from the week's news and serves as 'traffic cop' for the freewheeling discussion. All opinions are welcome; the only rules are to be courteous and to allow the moderator to call on those who raise their hands to speak.

**Zachary Teich** has a BA in Political Science from the University of South Florida, a Master's of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown, and an MS in Strategic Studies from the Marine Corps War College. He was a State Department Foreign Service officer from 1979-2006 and a negotiator at State's Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund from 2006-2012.

### **702Z What's in the Daily News?**

**Three sessions**

**Moderators: Dorsey Chescavage, Richard Crawford, John Quinn, Ann Smith, Al Smuzynski**

**Class liaison: Dennis VanLangen**

**Mondays, 9:30–11:00, Jan. 27–Feb. 10**

**Note time**

**Class limit: 80**

This is a weekly forum for thoughtful, forthright, and respectful exchange of information and opinions on current world, U.S., and regional news. Class participants bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience in international affairs, government, industry, education, economics, the military, and other areas. The discussion is always lively, and all participants have an equal opportunity to comment.

### **703F / 703Z Prepping for Climate Change: Sensible Strategies for Families**

**Three sessions**

**Instructor: Jeanette Thomas**

**Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 27–Feb. 10**

As the range of observed consequences and predicted outcomes of climate change becomes increasingly visible, interest is growing in identifying sensible precautions that families can implement to limit potential negative impacts on their individual lives and livelihoods. Relying on information, analysis, and recommendations generated by the world's leading climate research organizations (IPCC, EPA, NOAA), industry groups, and local/state governments, this course will take a research-based approach to identifying the most probable, imminent impacts of climate change, with emphasis on those factors with the most potential to directly impact personal lives and livelihoods: factors such as food/water/energy pricing and availability, risks to personal property, and family/retirement planning. The course will then explore common sense strategies that may help mitigate potential risks and review resources available to support families in their efforts to build climate resiliency.

**Jeanette Thomas** is a former researcher, analyst, and educator specializing in environmental issues. She has worked for various DC-based consulting firms and think tanks as an analyst and develops environmental curriculum for the Virginia Department of Education.

### **704Z Money in Politics: A Citizens' Advocacy Opportunity**

**One session**

**Coordinator: Nancy Morgan**

**Tuesday, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 28**

Do you believe that large donors have too much

influence on our elections? Join this class to review the role of money in our political system and explore with expert guests not only the issue and the implications for public policy, but also how citizen advocates can raise their voices for change. Entry points for action include getting legislation passed in our Virginia General Assembly and supporting on the federal level the passage of an amendment to our Constitution allowing Congress and the states to regain their rights to regulate election spending.

**Nancy Morgan** received her Master's degree in Applied Economics. She was an economist in the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. She has worked in Tunisia, Rome, Bangkok, and Washington, D.C. where she served as a senior economic and UN liaison at the World Bank. Prior to that, she worked with the Peace Corps in Togo and Cameroon and served as a policy analyst at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. She is currently the coordinator of the Virginia chapter of American Promise (BigMoneyOutVA), a volunteer non-partisan group advocating for getting big money out of politics through a U.S. constitutional amendment and campaign finance reform in Virginia.

### **705F / 705Z Antarctica**

**One session**

**Instructor: Luis Granados**

**Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Feb. 4**

The coldest, driest, windiest place on earth ... and a fascinating place to visit, teeming with wildlife. This class will touch on the presenter's 2024 trip to Antarctica and provide advice to potential travelers. Primarily it will focus on how Antarctica achieved the unique governance structure it has today, which many regard as a rare case of humankind getting something right. Challenges are building though, both political and environmental, that threaten the peace and stability Antarctica has enjoyed for so long.

**Luis Granados** is a retired attorney, who now travels frequently when not working on photography or digital art.

## **800 Science, Technology, and Health**

**Program Planning Group Chairs:**  
**Suresh Mohla, Michele Romano**

### **801Z The Concepts and Technology of the Sound Surveillance System**

**One session**

**Instructor: Michael Flicker**

**Tuesday, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 21**

The SOSUS system is an ocean based, passive, multi technology, acoustic surveillance system that has evolved with the evolution of technology. It played a major intelligence-gathering role during the Cold War, providing accurate knowledge of the location of Soviet submarines. SOSUS queuing was key to targeting action forces on those submarines. In this class, the instructor will discuss the concepts of the system and the factors

that affect its performance.

**Michael Flicker** worked on the SOSUS program for almost 40 years.

## **802Z The Environmental Decade. A Look Back at the 1970s**

**One session**

**Instructor: Michael Mason**

**Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Jan. 21**

The 1970s were a productive decade for governmental efforts to protect public health and the environment. It has often been called “the Environmental Decade.” In addition to the first Earth Day and the creation of the U.S. EPA in 1970, over the next ten years, the U.S. Congress and three different presidents from both political parties passed and signed most of the major environmental laws that we live with today. Major legislation included the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Water Pollution Control Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substance Control Act, and Superfund. Most of these Acts passed with overwhelming majorities in Congress. The presentation will describe the political and environmental conditions of the decade that caused such an outpouring of public and political support for protecting the environment. The presenter will facilitate an open discussion among participants to determine why the political landscape on the environment seems so different today.

**Michael Mason** has a B.Sc. in Biology and Chemistry, an M.A. in American History, and an M.P.A. in Environmental Policy. Michael spent over 33 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He served as a policy analyst and manager in the hazardous waste, water, and enforcement programs at the EPA.

## **803R / 803Z The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative**

**One session**

**Instructor: Eliot Christian**

**Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 22**

Historically, emergency alerts have been text bulletins, composed like a news story. Unstructured text messages make sense for personal communication, but not for automated processing. Although some emergency alerts became digital, the alerts varied by hazard type, language, or country. Timely and effective public alerting at global scale became feasible in 2001, when CAP, the international standard for emergency alerting, was agreed. (A 90 second video about CAP is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnaF5Zb0hqU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnaF5Zb0hqU)). Now the goal is to help countries leverage CAP to ensure that people in harm’s way get timely and effective emergency alerts in order to protect lives and livelihoods. The UN Early Warnings for All Action Plan calls for 3.1 billion USD; to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. One action is to “Establish CAP Editor and Alert Hub to further enhance multi-hazard CAP-based emergency alerting”. Both are products of Alert-Hub.Org CIC.

**Eliot Christian** is prominent in emergency alerting, known for developing and promoting CAP (Common Alerting Protocol). CAP applies to all hazards and leverages all media. Countries with 87% of the world’s population now use CAP. Eliot is the CEO of Alert-Hub.Org CIC [alert-hub.org/home.html](http://alert-hub.org/home.html)

## **804F / 804Z How Airplanes Fly**

**One session**

**Instructor: Mark Dodge**

**Friday, 10:00–11:25, Jan 24**

**The Landing, 2620 Main Line Boulevard, Alexandria, 22301**

The largest commercial airplane in the world, the Airbus A380, can weigh 1,265,000 pounds when it takes off. How on Earth can something that big and heavy fly? This course answers that question. We’ll have some human-sized airplane wings so you can feel what “lift” is like, and we’ll talk about how propellers (why do they have such a weird shape?) and jet engines work. You’ll finish the course knowing exactly how airplanes can fly!

**Mark Dodge** received his Bachelor’s degree in Physics from the University of California Berkeley. He got his Master’s degree in Engineering Physics from UVA. He worked as an engineering scientist at IBM and then became a high school physics teacher, teaching for 24 years.

## **805F / 805Z Advocating for Excellence in Long-Term Care: The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (NVLTCOP)**

**Two sessions**

**Instructors: Camden Doran, Claire Yeomans**

**Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Jan. 27–Feb. 3**

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (NVLTCOP) is a federally mandated program under the Older Americans Act. Its mission is to advocate for the highest quality of life and care for people receiving long-term care services. In this course, you will learn more about the history of the NVLTCOP, the services it provides, and critical information you need to know when searching for long-term care (LTC) options for you and/or your loved ones. Topics will include: 1) Tips for choosing an LTC facility, 2) LTC services, 3) Federal and state licensing oversight agencies, 4) Adult Protective Services: how to report abuse, neglect, and exploitation, 5) Residents’ rights.

**Camden Doran** has been working with older adults for 25 years. She holds degrees in Social Work and Administration in Human Services and is a certified volunteer administrator. She joined the NVLTCOP in February 2017, where she has worked as a staff ombudsman, volunteer coordinator, and supervisor.

**Claire Yeomans** was part of the first Masters of Social Work (MSW) graduating class of George Mason University in 2004. Since then she has worked with older adults and people with disabilities in several positions. She has been with the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program since April 2018.

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*continued on page 18*





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Campus Locations:  
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Dear OLLI Mason Friend,

October 2024

Thank you for your commitment to OLLI Mason. As the end of another successful year approaches, we want to thank you – our success simply isn't possible without your support! Your desire to continue to learn and grow, shared by members just like you, is what makes OLLI such a vibrant and engaging lifelong learning organization.

For more than 30 years, OLLI Mason volunteers like you have delivered excellence in programming across a wide breadth of subject areas – championing lifelong learning enrichment for all OLLI members to enjoy. Your vital support supplements OLLI dues and makes all our programming possible – funding overall operational expenses, OLLI membership financial aid, community enrichment, departmental grants, and scholarships to worthy George Mason University students in pursuit of their own lifelong learning goals, aiding a new generation of scholars.

As a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization (EIN 54-1583254), we are entirely dependent on dues and donations for all our important programs. With rising costs, this year has been extraordinarily challenging, and we need your support to ensure the continued success of OLLI. Please consider making a special tax-deductible contribution to OLLI **today!** You can become a Friend of OLLI with a donation at whatever level best suits you: Donor (up to \$100), Supporter (\$100-\$250), Patron (\$250-\$500), Benefactor (\$500-\$1,000), or even Sustaining Member (\$1,000+).

**Your support today is an investment in the future of OLLI.** (And if you are already a Friend of OLLI in 2024, thank you for your generosity!) We look forward to seeing you soon.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Deborah Engleson".

Deborah Engleson  
President, OLLI Mason

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alvin Smuzynski".

Alvin Smuzynski  
Development Committee Chair

P.S. Did you know there are more ways to support your OLLI? We accept tax-efficient donations through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), and a gift to OLLI from your IRA may count toward an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Talk to your financial advisor or IRA administrator and discuss a direct transfer to receive a tax benefit while also supporting OLLI programs. You can also remember OLLI in your will. Please contact the OLLI office at [olli@gmu.edu](mailto:olli@gmu.edu), 703-503-3384, or visit [olli.gmu.edu](http://olli.gmu.edu) to learn more about other ways you can support OLLI's programs.



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Most OLLI members and friends contribute to the Friends of OLLI fund with a check or credit card. This is greatly appreciated. However, there are other ways contributions can be made which might be beneficial taxwise to the contributor. The purpose of this information sheet is to describe alternative methods you can use to contribute to the Friends of OLLI fund:

- 1. Appreciated Securities Saves Taxes** – If you have long-term securities (stocks and/or mutual funds) that have appreciated in value, you can have your broker or mutual fund company transfer the shares to the GMU Foundation for OLLI. This will allow you to avoid capital gains taxes while being able to deduct the full fair market value of the securities in your itemized tax deductions.
- 2. Create a Charitable Gift Fund (Donor Advised Fund) to Reduce Your Taxable Income** – Several OLLI members have created charitable gift funds by transferring appreciated securities and/or other funds which enable them to itemize a larger amount of tax deductions that year. They can use the funds in the Charitable Gift Fund to make contributions to OLLI and other groups over several years.
- 3. Gift Annuity Pays You** – You can help yourself while helping OLLI through a Charitable Gift Annuity which provides you a guaranteed income during your lifetime and then the funds will be given to OLLI upon your death. The George Mason University Planned Giving Office can help you establish this type of annuity.
- 4. Leave a Legacy** – You can leave a contribution in your Will for OLLI. This can be money, property, securities and other assets. The George Mason University Planned Giving Office can share sample bequest language or give you more information on how to make a gift through a bequest.
- 5. Insurance Beneficiary** – You can name OLLI a beneficiary of the policy (for a percentage or specific amount). You can also make an outright gift of an existing policy, or make an outright gift of a new policy. Some benefits include: beneficial use of unneeded policies and a tax deduction for premiums of donated policy.
- 6. Individual Retirement Account** - For those 70½ years old and older, in 2024, you can give up to a maximum of \$105,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity, such as OLLI, without having to pay income taxes on the money. This amount will adjust annually for inflation. This gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, or you may see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Beginning in the year you turn 73, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). Additionally, those 70½ years old and older can make a one-time election to use IRA funds, up to \$53,000, to fund a life-income gift (i.e., charitable gift annuity or charitable trust).
- 7. Don't Forget Company Matching Grants** – Several OLLI members have former or current employers who provide charitable matching grants to their contributions. In some cases these are made directly to OLLI and in other cases through the GMU Foundation. Check with your company as this is a real multiplier to your contribution.

If you are interested in any of these alternative methods of contributing to the Friends of OLLI, please contact Executive Director Jennifer Disano at [jdisano@gmu.edu](mailto:jdisano@gmu.edu) or Aquanetta Betts, J.D., Director of Planned Giving by email at [abetts2@gmu.edu](mailto:abetts2@gmu.edu) or by phone at 703.993.6971. For more information, you can also visit [gmugiftplans.org/](http://gmugiftplans.org/).

The information in this document is not provided as financial, legal, or tax advice. Consult with your advisor about your particular situation.

<b>If your goal is to:</b>	<b>Then you can:</b>	<b>And your benefits are:</b>
Make a quick and easy gift	Simply write a check now or use your credit card	An income tax deduction and immediate impact for OLLI
Secure a fixed life income while avoiding market risks	Establish a charitable gift annuity	Tax benefits and often a boosted rate of return from assets
Defer a gift until after your lifetime	Put a bequest in your will (cash, specific property, or a share of the residue)	Estate tax deduction and keep assets in your name during your lifetime
Maximize heirs' inheritance while benefiting OLLI	Name OLLI as beneficiary of your retirement plan, leave other assets to family	Reduced estate and income tax
Avoid tax on capital gains	Give appreciated stock or bonds held over 1 year	An income tax deduction and avoidance of capital gains tax
Share your enjoyment of a collection or other personal items	Donate tangible personal property related to OLLI's mission	A charitable deduction based on the full fair market value
Make a large gift with little cost	Give a fully paid-up life insurance policy you no longer need	Current and possible future income tax deductions
Avoid capital gains tax on the sale of a home or other real estate	Give the property to OLLI	An income tax deduction plus the elimination of capital gains tax
Give your personal residence or farm but retain life use	Create a charitable gift while continuing to enjoy your home	A charitable deduction and a reduction in the value of your estate
Create a hedge against inflation over the long-term	Establish a charitable remainder unitrust	A variable income for life and tax benefits
Reduce gift and estate taxes on assets you pass to your children and grandchildren	Create a charitable lead trust that pays income to OLLI for a specific term of years	A gift or estate tax deduction and your family keeps the assets
Make a revocable gift during your lifetime	Name OLLI as the beneficiary of assets in a living trust	Full control of the trust and its assets for your lifetime

If you are interested in any of these alternative methods of contributing to the Friends of OLLI, please contact Executive Director Jennifer Disano at [jdisano@gmu.edu](mailto:jdisano@gmu.edu) or Aquanetta Betts, J.D., Director of Planned Giving by email at [abetts2@gmu.edu](mailto:abetts2@gmu.edu) or by phone at 703.993.6971. For more information, you can also visit [gmugiftplans.org/](https://gmugiftplans.org/).

You can also visit: <https://gmugiftplans.org/> for more information.

The information in this document is not provided as financial, legal, or tax advice. Consult with your advisor about your





# FRIENDS OF OLLI

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University

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We thank the donors who have so generously given to the Friends of OLLI campaign. From January through December of 2023, 212 Friends of OLLI donated \$47,396.09. As a donor, you are well aware that OLLI programs require funding over and above our usual income streams in order to accommodate equipment updates, literary journals, outreach, landscape beautification, scholarships for Mason students and so much more. OLLI relies on your dedication and support and we are grateful. As we look back at all we have accomplished together in 2023, we proudly acknowledge the donors listed below:

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## **806Z Artificial Intelligence: Use it, but be Afraid, Very Afraid**

**One session**

**Instructor: Raoul Drapeau**

**Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 29**

You've probably seen the headlines about Artificial Intelligence, or AI. It exists in many products that you use every day. But its capability has expanded far beyond what it was a year ago. You can give it a task and it gives you an answer: language translation, finance, history, music, business ... whatever. Soon, generative AI will bring answers that show actual learning, not just dredging up answers from a database of facts. But in time, it will displace employees in some fields and its errors will cause disastrous failures in others. The inner workings of an AI system can be exceedingly complicated. Sometimes their creators don't even know how their systems do what they do. The instructor will touch on many of these situations and show you some examples.

**Raoul Drapeau** is a retired high-tech entrepreneur with an interdisciplinary background in teaching, lecturing, high technology, and history. He has had important accomplishments in image processing and data communications. He holds electrical engineering degrees from Cornell University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

## **807Z Hearing Aids: Beware and Be Wise!**

**One session**

**Instructor: Bonnie O'Leary**

**Wednesday, 2:15–3:40, Feb. 5**

In this class, you will learn about hearing loss, the hearing evaluation, how to interpret an audiogram, types and styles of prescription hearing aids, the differences between prescription and OTC hearing aids, and who is a candidate for each, and apps that can be useful.

**Bonnie O'Leary** is a Gallaudet-Certified Peer Mentor. A late-deafened adult, Bonnie is the outreach manager for the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC) where she has been providing educational programs since 2001. No sales are ever involved.

## **808F / 808Z Plastic Pollution and Recycling Realities**

**One session**

**Instructor: Jennifer Cole**

**Thursday, 11:50–1:15, Feb. 6**

Plastic production, and therefore pollution, has proliferated exponentially in recent decades. Plastic is a non-renewable resource, 99% of which is made using fossil fuels. Since 1950, we have produced over 9.2 billion tons of plastic, and the reality is that only 5-9% of it is ever recycled (which always means downcycled). The rest is landfilled, incinerated, or discarded into the environment, where it breaks apart but never breaks down. Plastic is found everywhere on Earth, including in our streams, oceans, Antarctic glaciers, animals, and even in our own bodies. This presentation will discuss

the plastic pollution problem, the realities of plastic recycling, and some potential solutions. The instructor will share strategies for individual action (like what to do about plastic and foam packaging!) as well as broader policy options to reduce plastic pollution.

**Jen Cole** has been the director of Clean Fairfax since 2009. A 25-year veteran of environmental education and advocacy from New England, Jen led Fairfax County's Litter Task Force in 2021 and recently wrapped up a 4-year appointment to the Governor's Plastic Waste Prevention Advisory Council.

## **809F Qanats**

**One session**

**Instructor: Barry Haack**

**Monday, 9:40–11:05, Feb. 10**

Irrigation is a very significant process in global food production. It is estimated that about 40% of global crop production is from irrigated lands. The two basic methods of irrigation are surface water diversion or ground water extraction. One of the oldest and most extensive methods of ground water for irrigating crops began in Iran about 3000 years ago and spread across the Middle East and North Africa and perhaps further. That system has multiple local names but most commonly is known as either qanat or karez. The system is primarily long tunnels in alluvial fans with multiple vertical shafts and are very labor intensive to construct and require impressive engineering skills. The longest individual tunnel is about 40 miles long and the deepest mother shaft is over 900 feet, all hand excavated. There were over 50,000 qanats in Iran alone, most of which are still functioning. This presentation will describe these very unique and still important irrigation systems.

**Barry Haack** is a geographer and a career faculty member. His primary academic interest is the use of satellites to map resources and the environment. He has conducted this work in multiple countries providing an opportunity to explore many regions including a project mapping qanats in Afghanistan.

## **810F Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT): Preparing for Disasters and Ways You Can Help Your Community Respond and Recover**

**One session**

**Instructor: Carol Brown**

**Thursday, 2:15–3:40, Feb. 13**

**Class limit: 25**

Emergencies happen, and our area has experienced both natural and man-made disasters. Knowing how to prepare and what you can do during and after an emergency or disaster is critical. You may be your own first responder and knowing what to do and how to act will be crucial when seconds count. Fairfax County offers a free training program that educates people about emergency preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills. This presentation will review the curriculum of the Community Emergency Response Team training (including disaster psychology,

## Other Topics

disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue techniques) and provide OLLI participants with hands-on skills and resources. Participants will also learn how to better prepare their homes, families, and neighborhoods for medical emergencies and natural disasters.

**Carol Brown** is an instructor for Fairfax County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). She teaches the basic course and continuing education courses within the CERT curriculum. She first joined CERT in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1997 and has a passion of personal and community preparedness.

### 900 Other Topics

#### 901F Presentation Skills for OLLI Instructors

One session

**Instructor: Theodore May**

**Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Jan. 28**

Brush up your presentation technique before teaching a course. If this is your first time offering a course with OLLI, you may experience excessive nervousness just thinking about teaching, or just want to improve the quality of your presentation skills, this prep session can help. In this short course, we will learn and practice easy principles and techniques for compelling content development, effective slide creation, delivering a commanding performance to reach your audience, and provide a memorable and valuable learning experience. Topics will include:

- How to present your ideas simply and clearly
- How to engage an audience
- Stage presence
- The "Rules of 3" in performance
- Speaking with distinction and conviction
- Managing effective Q&A.

**Ted May** is an executive presence coach who was a member of AEA, SAG/AFTRA in New York City and with leading regional theaters. He has a BFA from The Juilliard School and is currently on the board of the Mosaic Theater Company of D.C. Ted also has an MBA from NYU and is an executive presence coach in the media, entertainment, and technology sectors. He has led workshops and teaches Master Classes on performance technique for graduate students at the Costello College of Business at George Mason University.

#### 902Z Presentation Skills for OLLI Instructors

One session

**Instructor: Theodore May**

**Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Feb. 11**

This is a repeat of 901F.

**See 901F for instructor information.**

#### 903F Iditarod 2025: The Last Great Race

One session

**Instructor: Dorothy Cunningham**

**Thursday, 11:50–1:15, Feb. 13**

An exciting time! This year is the 53rd running of the Iditarod! Run the Iditarod (1046 miles) over mountains and dangerous, hazardous terrain with the best-conditioned athletes. These beautiful, well-trained dogs comprise a

team led by a musher (driver). The Iditarod is a fascinating event. You will learn about the unique participants, rules, training of the dogs, veterinary care, and the responsibilities of the musher. The dogs' desire to run and to please and protect their musher makes this race a truly fascinating event. You too can follow the race, mushers, and their dogs as you cheer on the teams and witness the dedication of these incredible animals.

**Dorothy Cunningham** holds a BA in English from the University of Rhode Island and has taught in both public and private schools for over 35 years. The Iditarod has been a favorite topic among her students and their parents. After trips to Alaska for teachers' conferences where she witnessed the start of the Iditarod, she made friends with the mushers and veterinarians, and she wishes to share her love of the dogs and the race.

### OLLI Mason Resources

#### YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Share the OLLI Mason YouTube channel with everyone you know! Viewers can sample some of our recorded classes to get a taste of OLLI Mason offerings. [youtube.com/@OLLIMason](https://youtube.com/@OLLIMason)

#### WEBSITE

Visit the OLLI Mason website ([olli.gmu.edu](https://olli.gmu.edu)) for a wealth of information. For example:

##### CATALOG

- **Online version:** [olli.gmu.edu/current-catalog/](https://olli.gmu.edu/current-catalog/)
- **Changes:** [olli.gmu.edu/cancelled-changed-courses/](https://olli.gmu.edu/cancelled-changed-courses/)
- **Add/drop:** [olli.gmu.edu/add\\_drop\\_form/](https://olli.gmu.edu/add_drop_form/)

##### PLANNING RESOURCES

- **For instructors:** [olli.gmu.edu/for-our-instructors/](https://olli.gmu.edu/for-our-instructors/)
- **For program planners:** [olli.gmu.edu/program-planner-resources/](https://olli.gmu.edu/program-planner-resources/)
- **Resources for online classes:** [olli.gmu.edu/online-classes-resources/](https://olli.gmu.edu/online-classes-resources/)
- **Future term dates:** [olli.gmu.edu/future-term-dates/](https://olli.gmu.edu/future-term-dates/)

##### GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Clubs:** [olli.gmu.edu/olli-clubs-and-interest-groups/](https://olli.gmu.edu/olli-clubs-and-interest-groups/)
- **OLLI E-News:** [olli.gmu.edu/category/olli-e-news/](https://olli.gmu.edu/category/olli-e-news/)
- **Donate to OLLI Mason:** [olli.gmu.edu/augusoft.net/](https://olli.gmu.edu/augusoft.net/), 'Donate to OLLI'

#### FACEBOOK PAGE

Connect with each other outside of classes and events, and stay up to date on notifications for local events, some of which you can attend remotely since they are offered in a hybrid format.

[facebook.com/groups/olli.at.mason](https://facebook.com/groups/olli.at.mason)



# Special Events

Many Special Event offerings are **Add to Cart**. We urge you to register for Add to Cart offerings as early as possible. They can fill up quickly, even on the first day of registration. Please refer to the information beneath each offering to verify location information.

## Special Events

Program Planning Group Chairs:  
Marilyn Harriman, Luci Martel

### 1200 Between-Term Events

#### 1201 Board Blizzard Game Bash

Coordinators: Marilyn Harriman,

Debby Mossburg

Monday, 10:00–1:00, Feb. 24

Fairfax

Limit: 40

Shake off Winter and Come out to Tallwood for a fun morning of entertainment. We'll play popular table games, some of which you may have played before and others new to you. All are easy to learn and play. We'll begin the morning with a quick heads-up and a handout with the rules for each game. Each registrant will receive a game card listing the randomly selected games you'll be playing and in which order. At the end of the morning, awards and prizes will be announced and presented to the winners. The event also includes snacks and hot cocoa. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with fellow game enthusiasts. Participants can sign up to enjoy



lunch afterward at Ornerly Brewery & Restaurant in Fairfax, through game coordinator Marilyn Harriman.

#### 1202 Woodlawn Needlework Show, Lunch and Mansion Tour

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Wednesday, 10:30–4:00, Mar. 5

Drive on Your Own

900 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309

Limit: 40

Fee: \$48

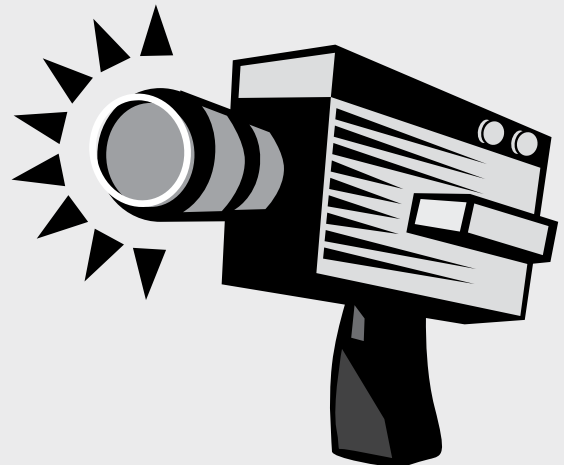
An annual event for over 60 years, the Woodlawn Needlework Show is a stunning display of hand-stitched projects in crewel, counted cross stitch, needlepoint, smocking, needle-made lace, beadwork, and more. Exhibits are displayed on two floors of historic Woodlawn mansion, home of Nelly Custis. It will be important to arrive on the property by 10:30, as our lunch reservation is for 11:00 sharp. After lunch there will be ample time to view the needlework exhibits at individual leisure. Our admission also includes a tour of the mansion, available for our group beginning at 2:30PM. We may linger to further enjoy the needlework exhibits up until 4PM closing time. Note: Menu selections will be sent to OLLI registrants in late January, 2025.



## OLLI Mason Recorded Class Archive (Classes at Your Convenience!)

Is there a virtual class that you are interested in registering for, but the timing conflicts with other obligations? Will you be traveling during term and can't guarantee internet reliability, or you live in another state? Between terms, do you have free time to learn about a potential new hobby or a subject that you normally wouldn't sign up for? If the answer to these questions and others like it is yes, then problem solved!

Many of OLLI Mason's virtual classes are recorded so that members can view them afterwards. The online library of classes, both from the current term and past terms, is located on the OLLI Mason website ([olli.gmu.edu/class-video-recordings/](https://olli.gmu.edu/class-video-recordings/)). Only current members may access the video library, so you will need the passcode. For the current passcode, please check your Daily Schedule email.



*Happy viewing!*

# Clubs

- **Register for clubs and ongoing activities each membership term.** Registration allows OLLI to maintain current club rosters and ensures that you will receive emails about your club's activities and events.
- Zoom links for club meetings will begin on the 1st day of each membership term (Jan. 1, Mar. 1, Jun. 1, Sept. 1)
- All club registrations are **Add to Cart**. Please remember to check out your cart after you register for a club and before you exit the portal.
- For general club questions, please email [olliclub@gmu.edu](mailto:olliclub@gmu.edu). Club coordinator contact information can be found in the member portal.

## Clubs

### All the News That's Fit to Print Club

**Moderator:** Zach Teich

**Thursdays**

**Zoom:**

**11:50–1:15, Jan. 2–16, Feb. 20–27**

**Club limit: 50**

All the News That's Fit to Print meets online to discuss current affairs issues in a friendly and collegial manner. The moderator provides a topic list drawn from the week's news and serves as 'traffic cop' for the freewheeling discussion. All opinions are welcome; the only rules are to be courteous and to allow the moderator to call on those who raise their hands to speak.



### Board Game Club

**Coordinator:** Tim Harwarth

**Biweekly on Wednesdays**

**Fairfax:**

**10:00–12:00, Jan. 8, Feb. 19**

**1:30–3:30, Jan. 22–Feb. 5**

Playing board games can reduce stress, boost brain power, and protect against dementia. Do you like playing board games? Would you like to learn and play new games with your fellow OLLI members? If so, this is the club for you. The Board Game Club meets in the morning between terms and in the summer, and in the afternoon during the other terms. Sign up for the club via the member portal in order to receive information on our schedule.



### Bridge Club

**Coordinators:** Carol Egan, Carol McManus

**Wednesdays**

**Fairfax:**

**10:00–12:00, Jan. 8–15, Feb. 19–26**

**1:30–3:30, Jan. 22–Feb. 12**

Players of all skill levels are welcome. Partnerships are rotated every four hands. The Bridge Club meets in the morning between terms and in the summer, and in the afternoon during the other terms. For details on the club's rules and bidding system, see its web page on the OLLI website. Sign up for the club via the member portal in order to receive any updates to our schedule.



### Caregivers Support Group

**Coordinator:** Doris Bloch

**Biweekly on Tuesdays**

**Zoom:**

**3:45–4:45, Jan. 7–Feb. 18**

The group is intended to support those OLLI members who are caregivers for family members and friends who are exhibiting symptoms of dementia, although certainly open to any interested OLLI member or caregiver-type. In this effort, we have strong backing and cooperation with the George Mason University School of Social Work, which has provided us with a facilitator! We convene the group one afternoon every second week on Zoom. The group's focus will not be primarily on educational materials, as OLLI has offered substantial course work on those aspects, but rather on the emotional and the practical side of caregiving. You need not be a full-time caregiver or even a current caregiver to contribute your experiences and information to this group. You can share with us or lurk anonymously, as you wish; but if you register, you will receive periodic links to other helpful presentations and also be notified of the club schedule.



### Chair Yoga and More

**Instructor:** Kamini Patel

**Coordinator:** Kathryn Russell

**Zoom:**

**Mondays, 4:00–5:00, Jan. 6–Feb. 24**

**Tuesdays, 2:00–3:00, Jan. 7–Feb. 25**

**Wednesdays, 12:00–1:00, Jan. 8–Feb. 26**

**Thursdays, 3:00–4:00, Jan. 2–Feb. 27**

**Fridays, 12:00–1:00, Jan. 3–Feb. 28**

Join this class to get the benefits of different kinds of yoga. Mondays will use a stability ball to go deeper into yoga stretches. The ball helps people with hip and knee issues so that balance, core strength, and posture are improved. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga that utilizes yoga, stretching, and breathing exercises. On Wednesdays, Vinyasa Yoga will be a flow class to reduce stress and heart health. Continue on Fridays with a more relaxed Gentle Yoga class. There will be more yoga stretches at a slower pace. All classes includes breathing exercises and meditation. We will discuss the equipment needed in class as well.

**Kamini Patel** is a certified yoga instructor who has been teaching



yoga since 2003. She is excited to share the immense physical and mental benefits from yoga such as improved posture, concentration, and self-esteem. Yoga also helps strengthen the respiratory system and will alleviate stress.

## Classic Literature Club

**Coordinators:** Michael Mason, Debi Schilling  
**Fridays**

**Zoom:**

**11:00–12:30, Jan. 24–Feb. 14**

This club was formed to read and discuss classic works of world literature, frequently with the help of recorded lectures where available. Members choose the works to be discussed. In the past we have read works such as Melville's *Moby Dick*, Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, Faulkner's *Absalom Absalom*, Morrison's *Beloved*, Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, short stories of John Updike and Flannery O'Connor, and plays by Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller.



## Cooking Club

**Coordinator:** Colleen Tuddenham  
**Second Friday of the Month**

**11:30–1:00, Jan. 10, Feb. 14**

This club is for OLLI members who enjoy preparing food and sharing homemade dishes in a small group setting. If this appeals to you, please contact Colleen Tuddenham for more information. Sign up for the club via the member portal in order to receive information on our schedule.



## Craft and Conversation

**Coordinators:** Doris Bloch, Joanne Fitzgerald

**Fridays**

**Hybrid with an off-site location:**

**9:30–11:00, Jan. 3**

**Fairfax, hybrid:**

**9:30–11:00, Jan. 10–Feb. 28**

We meet to work on our craft projects and to share product sources, expertise, and inspiration. Our ongoing conversations encourage camaraderie, and a group setting motivates us to progress with our current projects. Interested OLLI members are invited to join us any time to see what we are creating. All crafts are welcomed! For more information, check out the Craft and Conversation blog on OLLI's website or contact Doris Bloch or Joanne Fitzgerald.



## Dabbling Artists Club

**Coordinator:** Christine Narbut

**Biweekly on Wednesdays**

**Zoom:**

**1:30–3:30, Jan. 8, Jan. 22, Feb. 5, Feb. 19**

Come meet and work alongside fellow OLLI members who dabble in sketching, charcoal, pastels, pencils, ink, and watercolor painting. While not an instructive class, all artists are encouraged to share their talents and feedback. Provide your own materials and the picture or sketch you plan to work on each week. There will be plenty



of advisory conversations available. If you have some experience with the visual arts, or if you last picked up a pastel or brush in high school, maybe you're ready to do it again! Artistic talent is not required, just a desire to create and have fun and share your creative joy.

## Dance Club

**Coordinators:** Lila Goldstein, Gloria Loew

**First Friday of the month**

**Fairfax:**

**10:30–11:30, Feb. 7**

Let's get together once a month and have fun dancing! Club members will experience different types of music and styles of dancing—60's rock, line dancing, Latin dancing, etc. No expertise in dancing is needed.



## Dirty Knee Club

**Coordinator:** Vince Modugno

**Fairfax:**

**As possible during term; watch your email for updates; watch E-news for announcements**

The OLLI Landscaping Committee, fondly known as the Dirty Knee Club, creates, plants, and maintains the gardens at Tallwood. Gardening expertise is not required, but a willingness to get dirty knees is! Meetings and group work sessions will be set up on an as needed basis. From late spring to early fall, DKC members take turns watering, weeding, and maintaining the gardens during the growing season, depending on members' availability.



## Ethnic Eats Club

**Coordinator:** Leti Labell

**In person luncheons each month, dates TBD**

**Virtual dinner meeting on Zoom:**

**Thursday, every four weeks**

**6:00–7:00, Jan. 9, Feb. 6**

Do you love to eat? Are you interested in learning about foods from other cultures? Then this is the club for you. Northern Virginia has an abundance of ethnic restaurants. Each month a club member identifies a potential restaurant for an in-person lunch, makes sure it meets our requirements, and makes all arrangements with the restaurant. We have two luncheons at the selected restaurant, usually one on Saturday and one on a weekday. During the Covid pandemic, we started having virtual dinner parties, where we each ordered takeout ethnic food from a nearby restaurant and eat together on Zoom. We will continue these virtual dinners for as long as members are interested. If this sounds like your cup of tea (or chai or tè or té or thé), contact Leti Labell.



## Family History/Genealogy Club

**Coordinators:** Michael Mason, Lea Edwards

**Biweekly on Mondays**

**Zoom:**

**4:00–5:30, Jan. 13–Feb. 24**

Have you always wanted to know more about your family's past but don't have a clue about how to get started?



Do you enjoy researching your family's ancestors and discovering new facts about their lives but often become frustrated when you can't find important information or documents? Do you have a fascinating story from your family's history that you would like to put into a readable format that you can share with others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are welcome to join the Family History/Genealogy Club. The club meets every two weeks in an interactive format to discuss a range of topics such as the most efficient way to access the huge amount of records on the internet, how to read census and vital records accurately, and how to use DNA data to help fill out your family tree. All knowledge levels are welcome. Sign up for the club through the OLLI member portal. If you have questions, contact Michael Mason or Lea Edwards.

## History Club

**Coordinator:** Doug Snoeyenbos

**Wednesday**

**Zoom:**

**4:00–5:30, Feb. 5**

We welcome all OLLI members who are interested in history. The History Club meets 7 times per year. Our meetings feature accomplished speakers on a wide variety of historical topics. There is always time for questions, and spirited discussion is encouraged. For more information about the History Club, contact Doug Snoeyenbos.



## Homer, etc.

**Coordinator:** Donna Osthaus

**Fridays**

**Zoom:**

**11:00-12:30, Jan. 3–Feb. 28**

Reading the classics aloud with friends and sharing observations bring the classics to life in a special way. We are currently reading Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*, and we welcome new readers.



## Literary Fiction Book Club

**Coordinators:** Karen Schneider, Joann Sokol

**Thursday**

**Zoom:**

**4:00–5:30, Jan. 30**

The Literary Fiction Book Club (previously the Reston Book Club) focuses on literary fiction, often major book prize winners or nominees and sometimes fiction in translation. The group chooses to remain on Zoom to allow OLLI members from all over to join in the discussions. On Jan 30, the group will discuss *North Woods* by Daniel Mason.



## Check the Daily Schedule Email

Please check the Daily Schedule Email for class links or information, the current passcode for the video library, and Zoom Help Desk information.

## Mah Jongg Club

**Coordinator:** Debby Mossburg

**Fridays**

**Fairfax:**

**10:00–12:00, Jan. 17, Jan. 31, Feb. 7, Feb. 21**

**Tuesdays**

**Zoom:**

**4:00–6:00, Jan. 7, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, Feb. 18**

Please come join us to socialize and play some friendly games of Mah Jongg, no matter what your level of experience. Not only does Mah Jongg sharpen memory, concentration, and decision-making skills, this engaging game of strategy and luck is an excellent source of camaraderie and fun. If you have never played before, we recommend joining us in person rather than online. For more information about the club, the game, and/or how to sign up for the on-line platform we use to play during our online sessions, contact the club coordinator, Debby Mossburg.



## Memoir-and More-Writing Group

**Coordinators:** Carolyn F. Wyatt, Margie Wildblood

**Biweekly on Wednesdays**

**Zoom:**

**2:00–4:30, Jan. 8–Feb. 26**

We meet every other week during most of the year. In addition to memoir, we write fiction, poetry, and personal essays. At our meetings we gently critique each other's work with the aim of improving our writing skills. Writing groups need to be small, so we regrettably have to limit numbers. Please contact Carolyn to learn if space is available.



## OLLI Walk & Talk Club

**Coordinators:** Marilyn Harriman, Bob Heyer,

**Jane Hassell**

**Weekly/Biweekly**

**Fairfax County trails and neighborhoods**

**Start times are between 9:00am–2:00pm, depending on weather conditions**

Do you enjoy getting out in the fresh air, exploring trails in the area, and talking with new and old friends? Then join us for weekly/biweekly walks throughout the year. Fairfax County has many exciting park trails and neighborhoods that we will discover. Club walks begin between 9am and 2pm, depending on temperature and weather conditions, generally starting earlier in warmer weather and later in colder weather. Each walk is 45-75 minutes, with an optional after-meet-up at a coffee/tea/eatery shop. Come walk or lead a walk around Fairfax trails and neighborhoods! Club coordinators send advance announcements about upcoming walks, including location directions, dates, and times. All walkers need to be registered in the club, through the member portal, to receive walk schedule information and participate. Check the OLLI Mason website for the W&T Club link where commonly asked questions are answered.





**Personal Computer User Group****Coordinators:** Bob Heyer, Leti Labell**Third Saturday of each month****Fairfax, hybrid:****1:00–3:30, Jan. 18, Feb. 15**

The OLLI PC User Group (OPCUG), in partnership with the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), focuses on Windows and Mac computers and software for enhancing our lives. Members and presenters also discuss smartphone and tablet apps across the iDevices and Androids, the Internet, Zoom and other classroom software, digital photography, related technology, and open-source software. Our aim is to bring broad understanding about technologies and topics of interest to attendees. PC clinics for members are offered twice yearly. Our target audience encompasses all computer users, from beginners to intermediate amateurs to experts. Our motto is “users helping users.” Club dues (currently \$5 per year) are payable at the first meeting attended in each calendar year. Dues-paying members can attend monthly sessions in person or view on Zoom on a variety of devices from home, or anywhere with an internet connection. Members also have access to weekly webinars provided by APCUG, an association of computer user groups. More details are available on the group’s website: <http://olligmu.org/opcug/index.html>.

**Photography Club****Coordinators:** John Olsen, Ed Marion**Second Fridays****Fairfax, hybrid:****9:30–11:30, Jan. 10, Feb. 14****Fourth Fridays****Fairfax, hybrid:****12:00–2:00, Jan. 24, Feb. 28**

Meet with enthusiasts and others interested in photography and develop skills by participating in theme-based monthly photo submissions. The Photography Club welcomes all members, regardless of skill level or your phone/camera choice. We discuss both the technology of photography and the artistic aspect of visual design. We usually have guest speakers on the second Friday of each month, and on the fourth Friday of each month we hold discussions covering specific topics in detail. We also regularly plan field trips in the local area, often on the third Friday of each month. Contact John Olsen or Ed Marion for further information.

**Poetry Reading Club****Coordinator:** Susan Rexroad**Generally meets every other Monday—between terms****Zoom:****11:00–12:30, Jan. 6, Feb. 24****Limit:** 20

The Poetry Reading Club provides the opportunity for members to read the works of a favorite poet and to learn about poems of interest to fellow club members. Bring a poem to read that intrigues you. We’ll discuss why and how these poems engage or even elude us.

**Poetry Writing Club****Coordinators:** Susan Rexroad, Margie Wildblood**Meets sporadically on Mondays****Zoom:****11:00–12:30, Jan. 13, Feb. 17****Limit:** 12

During our time together, a presentation including the reading of poetry by a specific poet or about a poetic subject will be given along with a writing prompt. Participants will have time to craft a poem in response and share their work in a supportive atmosphere.

**Spanish Club****Coordinator:** Mark Ramage**Second and fourth Wednesdays—in term****Fairfax:****1:45–3:15, Jan. 22, Feb. 12****First and third Wednesdays—in and out of term****Zoom:****4:00–5:30, Jan. 15, Feb. 5, Feb. 19**

This club is for anyone with some knowledge of Spanish (advanced beginner up through intermediate level), but not fluent. Since members have a wide range of backgrounds in Spanish, this is not a “Spanish only” club. Activities or presentations in Spanish are also presented in English, or translated to English as a group activity. Some typical activities might include reading through a short article as a group, practicing/reviewing some grammar topics, working on Spanish pronunciation, watching a Spanish language video (*with English subtitles*), and sharing information on websites or other resources useful for learning or improving your Spanish.

**Tai Chi Club****Coordinators:** Russell Stone, Cathey Parker,**Bonnie Nelson, Sid Koslow****Zoom:****Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30, Jan. 7–Feb. 25****Thursdays, 4:30–5:30, Jan. 2–Feb. 27****Saturdays, 10:30–11:30, Jan. 4–Feb. 22**

The Tai Chi Club meets year-round and is open to all OLLI members. It is led by instructor Jerry Cheng, who started his martial arts training when he was six years old in China. He has studied under several famous Chinese martial arts masters and has taught Chen-style Tai Chi for many years. He won four gold medals at the 1997 Atlanta International Martial Arts Championship. Be sure to register for the Tai Chi Club each term in order to receive email messages when there are changes.

**Tallwood Book Club****Coordinator:** Betty Ellerbee**Second Friday of the month****Zoom:****2:30–3:30, Jan. 10, Feb. 14**

Please consult the OLLI E-news for updates on book selections.



## The Investment Forum Club

**Moderators:** Al Smuzynski, Bob Baker

**Wednesdays**

**Fairfax, hybrid:**

**10:30–12:00, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, Feb. 26**

The Investment Forum, which has been meeting continuously since 1995, addresses investment topics of particular interest to retirees. A weekly agenda is distributed, and sessions begin with an open discussion of recent events in the economy and the financial markets, and their impact on investment decisions. Member presentations and discussions typically include such topics as: recent market indicators, stocks, bonds, funds, real estate investment trusts, options, commodities, sector allocations, investment strategies, and choosing financial advisors. Investment trades are collected each week from Forum members, and those trades are discussed. The club meeting uses analyses and data from the financial press.



## Theater Lovers' Group

**Coordinator:** Norma Jean Reck

**Fourth Wednesdays during term and In-person Theater Events**

**Zoom:**

**4:00–5:30, Feb. 26**

All OLLI members are invited to join The Theater Lovers' Group (TLG), which offers a wide variety of theater events to enjoy year-round. We organize group outings to attend performances (usually matinees) at various theaters in the Virginia-Maryland-D.C. (DMV) metropolitan area. Following each show, we go to a nearby restaurant for an optional



dinner where we can socialize with fellow theater lovers. Guests are always welcome at our outings. TLG meetings are being held virtually during the months OLLI is in session. Programs feature guest speakers from and about theater, planning theater outings and programs, or a social outing such as a luncheon. Member input is always welcome. TLG takes one-day and overnight theater trips, e.g., to see shows on Broadway in New York; to American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Va.; and (in July 2025) to the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, W.Va. We generally carpool and benefit from group rates. To become a TLG member, just go online to the member portal to sign up or email the OLLI registrar at ollireg@gmu.edu. For more information, contact Norma Reck and also look for TLG news and theatrical events in OLLI's E-News.

## What's in the Daily News Club

**Moderators:** Dorsey Chescavage, Dick Crawford

**John Quinn, Ann Smith, Al Smuzynski**

**Mondays, between terms**

**Zoom:**

**9:30–11:00, Jan. 6–20, Feb. 17–24**

**Limit: 80**

This is a weekly forum for thoughtful, forthright, and respectful exchange of information and opinions on current world, U.S., and regional news. Club participants bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience in international affairs, government, industry, education, economics, the military, and other areas. The discussion is always lively, and all participants have an equal opportunity to comment.



## Volunteer for OLLI Mason!

**OLLI Mason relies on member volunteers.** As a volunteer, you can help shape the future of OLLI Mason by developing or teaching the courses, clubs, socials, and trips that continue to make this organization a premier lifelong learning institute. Remember, it's not all work! Volunteering can help you develop new skills and form new friendships.

**To learn more about available volunteer opportunities, visit the website at :**

**[olli.gmu.edu/volunteer/](https://olli.gmu.edu/volunteer/)**



# Membership and Registration

## **\*\* Special \*\***

### **Winter 2025 Promotion!**

OLLI Mason is offering a low fee of \$300 for those new to OLLI Mason who purchase an annual membership. (Available as a one-time discount to those who have never been OLLI Mason members, are returning to OLLI Mason after a hiatus of more than one year, or have previously been introductory members and have not converted to an annual membership).

## **\*\* Special \*\***

### **George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School Retirees!**

OLLI Mason is offering a one-time annual membership discount of \$100, which may be applied to the special \$300 promotion. George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School retirees who have not previously joined OLLI Mason may receive an annual membership for just \$200.

## **Two Types of OLLI Mason Membership**

Memberships at OLLI Mason can be purchased at any time during the year and are renewed on a rolling basis.

- **Annual membership.** Register for unlimited courses and activities for four consecutive terms. You will be eligible for a Mason ID card to receive certain university privileges and discounts (see page ii). The cost is **\$450**.
- **Introductory membership.** Register for unlimited courses and activities for just one term, one time only. An introductory membership is not available to former OLLI Mason members; it is intended for new members who want to sample OLLI Mason before committing to a full year. Introductory members are not eligible for a Mason ID card or its privileges. The **onetime** introductory membership is **\$150**.

The term date on your catalog mailing label reflects the end of your current membership. If it is time to renew, you may not be able to view classes or register on the member portal until you purchase your membership renewal.

## **Payment Options**

- **Online.** You may join or renew online at **olli.gmu.edu**. Click **Join** at the upper right corner of the home page. Credit card or electronic check payment is required when joining/renewing online.
- **Paper Copy Registration Form.** Using the registration form to join or renew, payment can be made by check or credit card. If paying by check, submit a separate check for each unique expense (class fee, membership renewal, etc.) The form can be dropped off or mailed to: **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032**.
- **Installments.** OLLI Mason encourages members to pay in full at time of registration. However, OLLI Mason offers a payment plan of monthly or quarterly installments by credit or debit card. Your application for the installment

plan must be filled out completely, mailed to the address on the form, and approved each year before you can register for courses or activities. For security reasons, we cannot accept the form by email. Installment applications are available on the OLLI Mason website at **olli.gmu.edu/installment-plans/**.

- **Financial Assistance.** OLLI Mason offers financial assistance for members or prospective members who find it a hardship to pay the full membership fee. Email the registrar (**ollireg@gmu.edu**) to request an application. All inquiries are kept confidential.

## **Refunds**

Members may only obtain a full refund of their membership fees by applying in writing to the executive director before the beginning of the third week of classes in the first term after enrollment or re-enrollment. We cannot honor proration or refund requests after this deadline.

## **Prospective Members**

Not ready to commit? Prospective members may experience OLLI Mason by sampling one or more classes during any consecutive two weeks of a term, provided the course is not oversubscribed. Check with the registrar at **ollireg@gmu.edu** before attending a class.

## **REGISTRATION PROCESS**

- **Online.** You may register for OLLI Mason courses online at **olli.gmu.edu**. Click **Sign In** at the upper right hand corner of the home page.
- **Mail-In Registration Form.** You may also register for courses using the registration form. The form can be dropped off or mailed to: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032.



**\*\*Emailed registration forms will not be accepted. \*\***

# Membership and Registration, Continued

## When to Register

- Members are encouraged to register for courses and events as soon as registration opens (the registration start date is listed on the front and back cover of the catalog and on page ii). Requesting classes early after registration opens offers registrants the best chance to gain access to classes they most desire.
- When you register, you must click **Request Class** or **Add to Cart**. See the instructions below.

## Request Class vs. Add to Cart

- **Request Class** is the link you click when you are registering for a course. **These require a priority assignment by you.**
- To complete your registration, you must assign a priority to each course –the order of their importance to you. To prioritize classes or to see what you have requested, click **Prioritize/Finalize** on the left side toolbar of the member portal.
- Members are placed in courses based on the priority number they assign to their requests.
- If course enrollment reaches capacity, those who have designated that course as priority one will get in first, then the priority twos, and so on.
- In addition, a random number is assigned by the registration system to each course request. If all members of a priority group cannot be included in the course, those with the lower random numbers will be admitted into the course first. Therefore, requesting a course does not guarantee enrollment.
- **Add to Cart** is the link you click when you are registering for courses or events in which you are immediately enrolled or which are designated in the catalog as first-come, first-served. This includes all clubs. All **Add to Cart** courses and events are clearly indicated throughout the catalog with the following shopping cart icon: 
- If there is a fee associated with these offerings, they will also be clearly marked with a shopping cart followed by a dollar sign:  \$  
Payment for these courses and special events with fees must be made at the time of registration.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE: You are urged to register early for Add to Cart offerings. These popular offerings can fill up quickly, even as early as the first day of registration. Early registration will increase your chances for enrollment.**
- Please remember to go to **View Cart** and **Check Out** to complete enrollment before logging off the member portal.

## Ongoing Registration

Ongoing registration continues throughout the term. You may still register for courses, but you will be placed into them on a space-available basis after the class assignment process has occurred (about two weeks before term). After the class assignment process occurs, you will be prompted to “place in cart” rather than “request a course” when registering; the option to prioritize classes will no longer appear.

## Making Changes to Your Registration (Add/Drop)

- You may add courses at any time online through the member portal.
- If you are unable to attend a course or event in which you are enrolled, **please drop the course or event as soon as possible.** You may drop courses by filling out the online form at: [olli.gmu.edu/add\\_drop\\_form](http://olli.gmu.edu/add_drop_form) or by emailing [ollireg@gmu.edu](mailto:ollireg@gmu.edu).

## Emails Confirming Class Enrollment and Payments

You will receive email confirmations for your enrollment in OLLI Mason classes per below. If you want to see your enrollments thereafter, log in to the member portal ([olligmu.augusoft.net](http://olligmu.augusoft.net)) and click “current registrations.”

- Confirmation emails for **Add to Cart** classes will be sent **immediately** after checkout.
- Confirmation emails for **Requested Classes** will be sent once these classes are assigned (about 2 weeks before term). At that time, you will receive a series of emails, including notification of wait-listed courses.
- **Read your confirmation notes carefully.** They will include any updates to courses, including changes in times or dates.
- If you do not have an email address on file, the confirmation notes will be mailed to you.
- **Special Event fees:** OLLI Mason cannot guarantee a refund for courses or events once the member has paid and enrolled. As such, please consider carefully before signing up for offerings with fees. If the member needs to drop an event, they should contact the Registrar. In some cases, refunds will be granted when the member’s reserved spot is filled by someone else or the event is canceled.

## Wait Lists

- OLLI Mason does everything possible to maximize enrollment. If you do not make it into a course, you will be wait-listed based on the priority you assigned to the course.
- When someone drops a course, the OLLI Mason office will contact members on the wait list until the vacancy is filled. In most cases, the office will not leave a message.



# OLLI Mason Registration Form: Winter 2025

Drop off or mail completed form to:  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University,  
4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032

Date Received	_____
Date Processed	_____
Dues Chk	_____ CC
Spec Chk	_____ CC
Spec Chk	_____ CC
FOLLIChk	_____ CC
CC info destroyed	_____

☐ Check box if there are changes in your membership information since your last submission.

## Membership Information:

Please print and fill in all spaces completely.

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. (CIRCLE ONE) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME FIRST NAME MI

Alternate First Name for Your Nametag (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIPCODE

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Member Portal User Name \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate # \_\_\_\_\_  
(for new members only) 6 OR MORE CHARACTERS

Mason Alumnus? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Check box if you **DO NOT** want to appear in the directory.

☐ Check box if you **DO NOT** want to receive paper catalog mailings.

**Home Campus:** ☐ Fairfax ☐ Reston ☐ Loudoun ☐ Zoom (out of area)

### How Did You Learn About OLLI Mason?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AARP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend or family    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ad or article    | <input type="checkbox"/> Web search          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bumper sticker   | <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ Expo            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catalog or flyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other learning org. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |  |

## Dues and Donations Information (Please check the appropriate boxes below)

- ☐ **Annual Membership (\$450)** One year of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.  
(Offered to new, renewing, and previous members) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Special Promotional Fee (\$300)** One year of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.  
(Offered as a one-time discount to those new to OLLI Mason who have never been members, are returning after more than one year's hiatus, or were introductory members who haven't converted to annual members) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **George Mason University or Northern Virginia Public School Retirees Membership (\$200)**  
(Offered as a one-time discount to those who have never been an annual OLLI Mason member) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Introductory Membership (\$150)** One term of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.  
(Offered ONLY to new members, not renewing or previous members) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Charitable Donation for Friends of OLLI**  
☐ Check if you want to be an anonymous donor. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Purchase OLLI Mason eGift Card (enter at right the value you want on card)**  
☐ Mail eGift Card code to recipient ☐ Email eGift Card code to recipient \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Recipient's name and address or email: \_\_\_\_\_
- Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I agree to all OLLI Mason policies and procedures and waive OLLI Mason liability for any trip, drive on your own event, or off-site club activity in which I participate:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## Payment Information:

☐ CHECK payable to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute ☐ Installment plan (see page 26): must submit the form found at: [olli.gmu.edu/installment-plans/](http://olli.gmu.edu/installment-plans/)

☐ eGift Card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and Redemption code \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I authorize OLLI Mason to charge my Credit Card account listed below:

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### **COURSES REQUIRING PRIORITIZATION**

Please include the entire course number including the F, L, R, and/or Z.

See page 27 “Request Class” for instructions.

	Course	Course Name
1st <small>priority</small>		
2nd <small>priority</small>		
3rd <small>priority</small>		
4th <small>priority</small>		
5th <small>priority</small>		
6th <small>priority</small>		
7th <small>priority</small>		
8th <small>priority</small>		
9th <small>priority</small>		
10th <small>priority</small>		

### **ADD TO CART/FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED OFFERINGS**

See page 27 “Add to Cart” for instructions.

For offerings with fees, you must provide payment NOW. If paying by check, a separate check for each offering is required.

	Select	Activity Title	Fee
1201		Board Blizzard Game Bash	N/A
1202		Woodlawn Needlework Show, House Tour, and Lunch	\$48

### **CLUB ENROLLMENT: List the clubs in which you wish to enroll.**


# Winter 2025 Schedule Fairfax

**Mon. Feb. 24, 10:00-1:00**  
1201 Board Blizzard Game Bash

Number of sessions are shown in parenthesis  
**Bolded classes have unusual dates and/or times**

**Wed. Mar. 5, 10:30-4:00**  
1202 Woodlawn Needlework  
Show, House Tour, & Lunch

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan
9:40-11:05	<b>OLLI Closed for Martin Luther King Day</b>	301F/301Z Women Cadets (1) 651F/651Z Change in World (4)	303F/303Z Frontiersmen (4) 603F St. Paul & Christians (4)	605F/605Z Beliefs in Gospels (4)	804F/804Z Airplanes Fly (1) 10:00-11:25
11:50-1:15		302F/302Z MLK Day (1) 601F/601Z Lives of Christians (4)	201F/201Z Invest. Forum (4) 604F Justice & Forgiveness (4)	701F/701Z News that's Fit (4)	
2:15-3:40		101F Prokiew's Quartet No. 2 (1) 602F Introduction to Islam (4)	103F Folk Dance (4) 304F/304Z Indianapolis 500 (1)	305F/305Z Park Rangers (4)	
Week 2	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan
9:40-11:05	203F/203Z Estate Planning (3)	651F/651Z Change in World (4) 901F Skills for Instructors (1)	303F/303Z Frontiersmen (4) 603F St. Paul & Christians (4)	410F/410Z Haiku, Ekphrasis (1) 605F/605Z Beliefs in Gospels (4)	
11:50-1:15	805F/805Z Long Term Care (2)	601F/601Z Lives of Christians (4)	201F/201Z Invest. Forum (4) 604F Justice & Forgiveness (4)	701F/701Z News that's Fit (4)	411F/411Z Cold Blood (1) 11:00-12:25
2:15-3:40	703F/703Z Climate Change (3)	602F Introduction to Islam (4)	103F Folk Dance (4) 307F/307Z Headstones (1)	305F/305Z Park Rangers (4)	
Week 3	3-Feb	4-Feb	5-Feb	6-Feb	7-Feb
9:40-11:05	203F/203Z Estate Planning (3) 654F/654Z Aid in North Korea (1)	651F/651Z Change in World (4) 705F/705Z Antarctica (1)	303F/303Z Frontiersmen (4) 603F St. Paul & Christians (4)	308F/308Z Kindertransport (2) 605F/605Z Beliefs in Gospels (4)	
11:50-1:15	805F/805Z Long Term Care (2)	413F/413Z One of Ours (1) 601F/601Z Lives of Christians (4)	201F/201Z Invest. Forum (4) 604F Justice & Forgiveness (4)	701F/701Z News that's Fit (4) 808F/808Z Plastic & Recycling (1)	
2:15-3:40	703F/703Z Climate Change (3)	205F/205Z Tax Prep (2) 602F Introduction to Islam (4)	103F Folk Dance (4)	305F/305Z Park Rangers (4)	
Week 4	10-Feb	11-Feb	12-Feb	13-Feb	14-Feb
9:40-11:05	203F/203Z Estate Planning (3) 809F Qanats (1)	651F/651Z Change in World (4)	303F/303Z Frontiersmen (4) 603F St. Paul & Christians (4)	308F/308Z Kindertransport (2) 605F/605Z Beliefs in Gospels (4)	
11:50-1:15	309F/309Z Female Spies (1)	105F/105Z Rodgers & Ham'stn (1) 601F/601Z Lives of Christians (4)	201F/201Z Invest. Forum (4) 604F Justice & Forgiveness (4)	701F/701Z News that's Fit (4) 903F Iditarod (1)	
2:15-3:40	703F/703Z Climate Change (3)	205F/205Z Tax Prep (2) 602F Introduction to Islam (4)	103F Folk Dance (4)	305F/305Z Park Rangers (4) 810F Emergency Response (1)	

## Winter 2025 Schedule, Reston and Loudoun

	Rose Gallery Only	Loudoun
TIME	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1	22-Jan	23-Jan
9:40-11:05	803R/803Z Alerting Protocol (1)	
11:50-1:15	405R/405Z Tom Jones (4)	652L TED Talks (3)
2:15-3:40	<b>407R Classic Films (4) 2:15-4:30</b>	
Week 2	29-Jan	30-Jan
9:40-11:05	609R Soul of Happiness (3)	
11:50-1:15	405R/405Z Tom Jones (4)	652L TED Talks (3)
2:15-3:40	<b>407R Classic Films (4) 2:15-4:30</b>	
Week 3	5-Feb	6-Feb
9:40-11:05	609R Soul of Happiness (3)	
11:50-1:15	405R/405Z Tom Jones (4)	652L TED Talks (3)
2:15-3:40	<b>407R Classic Films (4) 2:15-4:30</b>	
Week 4	12-Feb	13-Feb
9:40-11:05	609R Soul of Happiness (3)	
11:50-1:15	405R/405Z Tom Jones (4)	
2:15-3:40	<b>407R Classic Films (4) 2:15-4:30</b>	

# Winter 2025 Schedule

## Zoom

Number of sessions are shown in parentheses  
**Bolded classes have unusual dates and/or times**

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan
9:40-11:05	<b>OLLI Closed for Martin Luther King Day</b>	301F/301Z Women Cadets (1) 651F/651Z Change in World (4)	102Z Ancient Rome (4) 303F/303Z Frontiersmen (4) <b>403Z Writer's Workshop (4)</b> 9:15-11:05 803R/803Z Alerting Protocol (1)	104Z Dao, Zen, Creativity (1) 202Z Investing Potpourri (2) 605F/605Z Beliefs in Gospels (4)	<b>804F/804Z Airplanes Fly (1)</b> 10:00-11:25
11:50-1:15		302F/302Z MLK Day (1) 401Z Movie of the Week (4) 601F/601Z Lives of Christians (4) 801Z Sound Surveillance Syst. (1)	201F/201Z Invest. Forum (4) 404Z Literary Roundtable (4) 405R/405Z Tom Jones (4)	606Z Non-Human Animals (4) 701F/701Z News that's Fit (4)	
2:15-3:40		402Z Poetry Workshop (4) 802Z Environmental Decade (1)	304F/304Z Indianapolis 500 (1) 406Z Reads Like a Novel (4)	305F/305Z Park Rangers (4) 408Z Scottish Play (4) 501Z Latin IV (4)	
Week 2	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan
9:40-11:05	203F/203Z Estate Planning (3) <b>702Z In The Daily News (3)</b> 9:30-11:00	608Z Decisions of Fate (4) 651F/651Z Change in World (4)	102Z Ancient Rome (4) 303F/303Z Frontiersmen (4) <b>403Z Writer's Workshop (4)</b> 9:15-11:05 806Z AI: Be Afraid (1)	202Z Investing Potpourri (2) 410F/410Z Haiku, Ekphrasis (1) 605F/605Z Beliefs in Gospels (4)	
11:50-1:15	204Z Retired with Questions (3) 805F/805Z Long Term Care (2)	401Z Movie of the Week (4) 601F/601Z Lives of Christians (4) 704Z Money out of Politics (1)	201F/201Z Invest. Forum (4) 404Z Literary Roundtable (4) 405R/405Z Tom Jones (4)	606Z Non-Human Animals (4) 653Z Legal History Women (3) 701F/701Z News that's Fit (4)	<b>411F/411Z Cold Blood (1)</b> 11:00-12:25
2:15-3:40	306Z John Hancock (3) 607Z Heroes & Villains (3) 703F/703Z Climate Change (3)	402Z Poetry Workshop (4) 409Z The Writing Life (1)	307F/307Z Headstones (1) 406Z Reads Like a Novel (4)	305F/305Z Park Rangers (4) 408Z Scottish Play (4) 501Z Latin IV (4)	
Week 3	3-Feb	4-Feb	5-Feb	6-Feb	7-Feb
9:40-11:05	203F/203Z Estate Planning (3) 654F/654Z Aid in North Korea (1) <b>702Z In The Daily News (3)</b> 9:30-11:00	608Z Decisions of Fate (4) 651F/651Z Change in World (4) 705F/705Z Antarctica (1)	102Z Ancient Rome (4) 303F/303Z Frontiersmen (4) <b>403Z Writer's Workshop (4)</b> 9:15-11:05 414Z Miller's Circe (2)	308F/308Z Kindertransport (2) 605F/605Z Beliefs in Gospels (4)	
11:50-1:15	204Z Retired with Questions (3) 412Z Research to Writing (1) 805F/805Z Long Term Care (2)	401Z Movie of the Week (4) 601F/601Z Lives of Christians (4) 413F/413Z One of Ours (1)	201F/201Z Invest. Forum (4) 404Z Literary Roundtable (4) 405R/405Z Tom Jones (4)	606Z Non-Human Animals (4) 653Z Legal History Women (3) 701F/701Z News that's Fit (4) 808F/808Z Plastic & Recycling (1)	
2:15-3:40	306Z John Hancock (3) 607Z Heroes & Villains (3) 703F/703Z Climate Change (3)	205F/205Z Tax Prep (2) 402Z Poetry Workshop (4)	406Z Reads Like a Novel (4) 807Z Hearing Aids (1)	305F/305Z Park Rangers (4) 408Z Scottish Play (4) 501Z Latin IV (4)	
Week 4	10-Feb	11-Feb	12-Feb	13-Feb	14-Feb
9:40-11:05	203F/203Z Estate Planning (3) <b>702Z In The Daily News (3)</b> 9:30-11:00	608Z Decisions of Fate (4) 651F/651Z Change in World (4) 902Z Skills for Instructors (1)	102Z Ancient Rome (4) 303F/303Z Frontiersmen (4) <b>403Z Writer's Workshop (4)</b> 9:15-11:05 414Z Miller's Circe (2)	308F/308Z Kindertransport (2) 605F/605Z Beliefs in Gospels (4)	
11:50-1:15	204Z Retired with Questions (3) 309F/309Z Female Spies (1)	401Z Movie of the Week (4) 601F/601Z Lives of Christians (4) 105F/105Z Rodgers & Ham'stn (1)	201F/201Z Invest. Forum (4) 404Z Literary Roundtable (4) 405R/405Z Tom Jones (4)	502Z Mythic Symbols (1) 606Z Non-Human Animals (4) 653Z Legal History Women (3) 701F/701Z News that's Fit (4)	
2:15-3:40	306Z John Hancock (3) 607Z Heroes & Villains (3) 703F/703Z Climate Change (3)	205F/205Z Tax Prep (2) 402Z Poetry Workshop (4)	406Z Reads Like a Novel (4)	305F/305Z Park Rangers (4) 408Z Scottish Play (4) 501Z Latin IV (4)	
Extra Week	17-Feb	18-Feb	19-Feb	20-Feb	21-Feb
9:40-11:05		608Z Decisions of Fate (4)			



# OLLI Mason Policies

## Closing Policy

**In-person classes:** OLLI Mason is closed when county schools are closed. When schools announce a delayed opening, OLLI Mason generally opens on time. Exception: at George Mason facilities OLLI Mason adheres to George Mason closing decisions. If George Mason announces a delay, OLLI Mason may need to cancel the first class of the day. Also, poor conditions at OLLI Mason sites may necessitate class or event cancellations. The most up-to-date information on OLLI Mason delays and closings can be found in the Daily Schedule email, on the OLLI Mason website: [olli.gmu.edu](http://olli.gmu.edu), or on the Tallwood office voicemail at **(703) 503-3384**.

**Hybrid classes:** Refer to the Daily Schedule email for up-to-date information.

**Zoom classes:** will proceed as scheduled.

## Health and Safety

By coming to any OLLI Mason campus, all members, staff, teachers, and visitors attest that they are in compliance with current CDC vaccine recommendations and agree to follow OLLI Mason Health and Safety Protocols. As a courtesy to the OLLI Mason community, members should not participate in any in-person activities if they are not feeling well. Even though masks are optional, OLLI Mason supports all those who wish to wear one. For questions about health and safety at OLLI Mason, feel free to email the office at [olli@gmu.edu](mailto:olli@gmu.edu).

## Parking Policy

Fairfax: front and rear of the Tallwood building; also in the adjoining Fairfax swimming pool lot in the area designated by traffic cones, if present. **Driving to and from OLLI sites and events is at your own risk.**

## Picture Policy

OLLI Mason classes and events may be photographed or video recorded. Members agree to have their likeness recorded for possible non-commercial use by OLLI Mason for promotional purposes, advertising and/or inclusion on the organization's website, social media, or for any other digital or print purpose. If a member objects, they may do so by contacting [olli@gmu.edu](mailto:olli@gmu.edu) in writing.

## Recorded Classes Policy

Recorded classes and events may be displayed on the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) website. All material appearing on the website is the property of OLLI Mason. Recordings are accessible to members only. Members may not reproduce, distribute, publish, transmit, or in any way exploit any such content, nor may they distribute any part of this content over any network, sell or offer it for sale, or use such content to construct any kind of database. Copying or storing any content is expressly prohibited without the prior written permission of OLLI Mason. For permission to use any content on the website, or to request removal of a recording, please contact [olli@gmu.edu](mailto:olli@gmu.edu).

## Refund Policies

- i. **Membership Fees:** Members may only obtain a full refund of their membership fees by applying in writing to the executive director before the beginning of the third week of classes in the first term after enrollment or re-enrollment. OLLI Mason cannot honor proration or refund requests after this deadline.
- ii. **Special Event Fees:** OLLI Mason cannot guarantee a refund for courses or events once the member has paid and enrolled. As such, please consider carefully before signing up for offerings with fees. If the member needs to drop an event, they should contact the registrar. In some cases, refunds will be granted when the member's reserved spot is filled by someone else or the event is canceled.

## Trip Policies

- i. **OLLI Mason Sponsored Trips:** OLLI Mason members and guests participating in activities that entail transportation to locations other than Osher Lifelong Learning Institute sites must sign a waiver. They do so by signing their paper course registration form or by completing the waiver form during registration on the member portal. The waiver releases OLLI Mason from any and all claims for injury or damage sustained by, through, or as a result of such activities, and holds OLLI Mason harmless for any claims resulting therefrom.
- ii. **Outside Entity Sponsored Trips:** Travel agencies must be vetted and approved by the OLLI Mason executive director before planning and advertising trips. OLLI Mason members and their guests must work directly with the travel agencies, and these trips are managed and processed entirely by the travel agencies. OLLI Mason is not involved in the purchase or refund of transactions, logistics, or in liability whatsoever.

**Please Note:** All participants must follow any existing health and safety protocols of OLLI Mason and transportation.

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# ***In-Person Program Locations***

## **Primary Locations (designated by F, L, R in course title)**

**Fairfax - Tallwood** is located at 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax, VA 22032 (adjacent to George Mason University's main campus). Roberts Road can be accessed from Route 236 (Main Street) or Braddock Road. Additional parking is available in the swimming pool lot next door.

### **Loudoun (TBD)**

**Reston Community Center (RCC) Lake Anne** is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North, Reston, VA 20190 (the northern end of Lake Anne off North Shore Drive). If using an electronic map, use the Lake Anne Mobil address at 11410 N. Shore Drive, Reston, VA 20190 (across the street from the entrance to the Lake Anne parking lot).

## **Secondary Locations**

(noted in course title information)

**Church of the Good Shepherd** is located at 9350 Braddock Rd. Burke 22015. From Braddock Road, turn onto Olley Lane and enter the parking lot on the right.

**Fenwick Library Main Reading Room, George Mason University** is located on the university's main campus at 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Parking is available at the Mason Pond Parking Deck at 4371 Mason Pond Drive, George Mason, VA 22030.

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church** is located at 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. From Braddock Road, turn south on Twinbrook Road, and the parking lot will be on your right.

**Reston Community Center (RCC) Hunters Woods** is in the Hunters Woods Village Center. If using an electronic map, use the Ledo Pizza address at 2254 Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston, VA 20191. A walkway beside Ledo Pizza leads to a plaza and the community center.

**The Landing (Silverstone)** is located at 2620 Main Line Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22301. Parking is available at no cost in The Landing garage. Enter the lobby via the elevator (or via the front entrance if you are dropped off). Sign in at the front desk and pick up a guest badge to wear for the duration of your stay.

**The Providence (Silverstone)** is located at 9490 Sprague Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22031. Parking is available at no cost in The Providence garage. Enter the lobby via the elevator (or via the front entrance if you are dropped off). Sign in at the front desk and pick up a guest badge to wear for the duration of your stay.

**Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center** is located at 3740 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030. Parking is available in front of the building.



### Canadian Maritimes & Coastal Wonders

11 Days  
16 Meals

**August 3–13, 2025**

From the nautical beauty of Peggy's Cove to the rugged splendor of the Cabot Trail, the Maritimes will enchant you. Savor a traditional Maritimes lobster feast. Don't miss the rugged beaches, picturesque fishing villages, and rich seafaring history of Canada's amazing Maritime Provinces.



### Sunny Portugal

10 Days  
13 Meals

**September 7–16, 2025**

From the Portuguese Capital, Lisbon, to the sunny cliffs of the Algarve and Portuguese Riviera, venture along Portugal's stunning shoreline. Enjoy a leisurely 3-night stay in the Algarve region. Encounter picturesque resort towns, winding cobblestone streets, oceanfront promenades, and quaint villages of perfection.

*Explore the world* with fellow OLLI Mason members. Travel has a magical way of bringing people together. It can enrich your life and make you healthier, in both mind and body.

*The world. It's waiting for you!*

**For more information, please call Collette at 800-581-8942**

Reference booking number 1252475 (Canada) or 1252538 (Portugal)



# OLLI



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
4210 Roberts Road  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
[olli.gmu.edu](http://olli.gmu.edu)

**Winter 2025 Registration:**  
**Begins December 3 at 9 am and continues throughout the term**

## **Term Dates**

*Winter 2025: January 21 - February 14*

*Spring 2025: March 24 - May 16*

*Summer 2025: June 23 - August 1*

*Fall 2025: September 22 - November 14*

# *Stay Curious - Learn Every Day*

