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Photos Courtesy of Stephanie Trachtenberg, November 13, 2024

Amelia Draper of StormTeam4 Visited OLLI for a Presentation on Making a Weather Broadcast, November 13

December 6, 2024

Editor of the Week: Sheri Siesseger

Table of Contents

- [Alerts & Notices](#)

- [Opportunities to Join the OLLI E-News Editorial Team](#)
- [Literature, Language, and Theater Program Planning Group Meeting](#)
- [December Notes on Diversity](#)
- [Heart Disease](#)
- [Computer Club](#)
- [Poet's Corner](#)
- [Arts & Music at George Mason](#)
- [Meetings & Clubs](#)
- [About OLLI E-News](#)

Alerts & Notices

- The OLLI Personal Computer User Group will meet in person and via Zoom at 1:00 on Saturday, December 14; see article below.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, December 20; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, December 17, at 6:00.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Opportunities to Join the OLLI E-News Editorial Team



By Paul Van Hemel, E-News Chief Editor

If you love OLLI and are interested in an easy way to contribute a volunteer effort to the organization, here's an opportunity to do so by becoming a member of the *E-News* editorial team. By serving one day every four or five weeks as Editor of the Week, you can have a positive impact on OLLI and enjoy a pleasant journalistic experience. We have openings for a couple of new editors.

E-News is one of several OLLI publications that is created using MailChimp software. We will teach you what you need to know to be able to put together an *E-News* issue. You don't have to generate content; it generally is submitted by OLLI-member coordinators for committees, clubs, and activities. If you are interested and have questions or would like to know more, please contact me at ollienewseditor@gmail.com. Thanks!

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Literature, Language, and Theater Program Planning Group Meeting



By Patricia Bangs, Literature, Language, and Theater Program Planning Group Co-Chair

Reminder: The Literature, Language, and Theater Program Planning Group will meet on December 10 at 10:00.

To attend via Zoom's cloud meeting service beginning at 10:00, please click [this link](#) to join and enter meeting ID 973 1475 2992 in the Zoom application, or dial in at 301-715-8592. The Zoom link will also appear in the OLLI emailed daily schedule. You may also join by SIP (97314752992@zoomcrc.com).

[Back to Top of Page](#)

December Notes on Diversity



By Camille Hodges, OLLI Board Member and Chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences/Current Events Program Planning Group

Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day.
— Author Unknown

St. Nicholas Day (December 5 or 6)

Also known as the Feast of Saint Nicholas—some Christians honor the birthday of Saint Nicholas who inspired “Santa Claus” and the act of gift-giving. St. Nicholas, however, walked on earth to give to those in need.

Immaculate Conception Day (December 8)

Catholics celebrate the day of Immaculate Conception to honor the Virgin Mary, who is believed to have been born without original sin.

Bodhi Day (December 8)

Also known as Rohatun, this Buddhist tradition honors the day in which the Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) is said to have achieved enlightenment. Many Buddhists celebrate it through meditation.

National Human Rights Day (December 10)

On this date in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Mexicans and Mexican-Americans often celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe who, as the patron saint of Mexico, symbolizes patriotism and devotion.

Hanukkah (December 18-26)

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah begins December 18 and lasts for eight days. As the central part

of the Jewish Festival of Lights, it includes the lighting of a nine-branched menorah each night. The ninth candle (shamash) is used to light the others.

Christmas Day (December 25)

This holiday is recognized by Christians as the day to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ who they believe is the Son of God. The date was chosen by the Roman Catholic Church.

[Back to Top of Page](#)



Heart Disease is still the leading cause of death in the US. Calculate your risk at [PREVENT Online Calculator - Professional Heart Daily](#) | [American Heart Association](#). If your risk is 7.5% or greater, talk to your healthcare provider.

(From the Healthcare Advisory Workgroup)

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Computer Club

2nd Saturday, December 14

Smart Plugs: Preserving Device Batteries

Learn in 30: The Economy and Considerations for Investors



By [Paul Howard](#), OPCUG Program Chair

The Computer Club (OLLI Personal Computer User Group, or OPCUG) will meet with its partner, the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS) on Saturday, December 14, in person and via Zoom. The Zoom session opens at 12:45.

Smart Plugs: Preserving Device Batteries—Presented by John Krout

Part 1 of this presentation will introduce you to the features and many uses of low-cost Smart Plugs. These can be controlled remotely by zero-cost apps on your smart phone or tablet and by vocal assistants such as Alexa, Hey Google, or Siri.

Part 2 will show you a way to use a smart plug and its controller app to extend the life of the lithium-ion battery in your smart watch, laptop, and pluggable hybrid electric vehicle. This technique is unusual because it does not rely on any app on the device being charged. It will work on any operating system or brand of device being charged, so long as the charger runs on standard alternating current (AC) electric power.

John Krout is a regular presenter at our meetings on a wide range of computer, technology, and photography topics, and author of many articles for the PATACS *Posts* newsletter.

Learn in 30: The Economy and Considerations for Investors—Presented by Cory Saylor

This presentation will give a general economic update, where we are and how we feel heading into 2025. Some high points: the US economy remains resilient; inflation has continued to moderate; the Fed has started its rate-cutting journey. Consideration for investors will be discussed, with audience questions encouraged.

Cory Saylor, CFP® is a senior portfolio manager with TIAA Trust, N.A. (“TIAA Trust”) in Northern Virginia. He is responsible for designing and managing customized investment portfolios to help meet the financial objectives of high-net-worth clients. Cory has nearly 30 years of experience managing money for high-net-worth individuals as well as for institutions.

See full details on this meeting by [clicking here](#). For information on the Computer Club, see the [OPCUG Website](#). OPCUG dues are \$5 and are now due for 2024 (and 2023, if you didn't get around to paying last year!)—see <http://olligmu.org/opcug/comm.html> for details on making payment.

To attend via Zoom's cloud meeting service, beginning at 12:45, please click [this link](#) to join the meeting and use passcode 045284 (*Note*: enter passcode with NO spaces) or enter meeting ID 897 3557 7784 in the Zoom app and use the above passcode (preferred method), or dial in at 301-715-8592.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Approaching Solstice

smoke grey clouds
gently cover the icy blue
winter sunset

stinging winds blow
the last of the autumn leaves
round the empty street

too cold for walking

I peer through the glass
as night closes in on me

aching to commune with
the hidden part of myself
that thrives in shadows

longing for the rest that
is promised but fearful of the
coming gale of grieving winds

I descend into the darkness
whispering sprits appear
Venus rises like a twinkling star

Settling in to the comfort
of this longest night
I drift down like the snow

—Susan Bennett

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances, December 6 through December 23



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

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

Dr. Linda Apple Monson produces a periodic “Notes from the Director.” This email is full of information on interesting online performances by the students and faculty of the School of Music. If you would like to receive these bulletins, just sign up at [this link](#) to stay in touch. Also, the Center for the Arts has a website, [Mason Arts at Home](#), which has a calendar of online events and access to many past performances.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

At the Fairfax Campus Venues

Squirrel Nut Zippers

Sat, Dec 7, 8:00

A pre-performance discussion will take place in Monson Grand Tier 45 minutes prior to curtain.

Concert Hall

Admission: \$55, \$47, \$33.

American Festival Pops Orchestra

Sat, Dec 14, 4:00

A pre-performance discussion will take place in Monson Grand Tier 45 minutes prior to curtain.

Concert Hall

Admission: \$60, \$51, \$36.

Fairfax Symphony & Fairfax Ballet: *The Nutcracker*

Sat, Dec 21, 4:00

Sun, Dec 22, 4:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$89, \$69, \$49, \$39.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Mason Student and Faculty Performances

(see music.gmu.edu for additional student recitals)

School of Dance: *Dance Innovations*

Fri, Dec 6, 2:00 and 7:00

Sat, Dec 7, 7:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: \$20 Adult, \$12 Senior.

Mason Symphony Orchestra and Choirs Winter Festival

Sun, Dec 8, 7:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$20 Adult, \$15 Senior.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra:

Hallelujah! Handel's Messiah and Holiday Favorites

Fri, Dec 6, 8:00

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$20 Adult, \$15 Senior.

School of Music: *Love, Betrayal and Forgiveness – Scenes from Mozart's Most Popular Operas*

Sat, Dec 7, 2:00 and 8:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$20 Adult, \$15 Senior.

Manassas Chorale: *The Twelve Days of Christmas*

Sat, Dec 7, 7:30

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$25, \$23.

Sons of Serendip

Sun, Dec 8, 4:00

A pre-performance discussion begins with members of the company one hour prior to the performance.

Merchant Hall

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

American Festival Pops Orchestra: *Holiday Pops, Songs of the Season*

Fri, Dec 13 at 8:00

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$60, \$51, \$36.

Prince William Little Theatre: *Christmas Belles*

Fri, Dec 13, 8:00

Sat, Dec 14, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, Dec 15, 2:00

Fri, Dec 20, 8:00

Sat, Dec 21, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, Dec 22, 2:00

Prince William Little Theater

Admission: \$25, \$20, \$15.

Manassas Symphony Orchestra Family Concert: *Reveries*

Sat, Dec 14, 3:30

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$30, \$25.

Seán Healey's *Celtic Christmas*

Sun, Dec 15, 2:00 and 5:00

A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$50, \$43, \$30.

Manassas Ballet Theatre: *The Nutcracker*

Wed, Dec 18, 7:30

Thu, Dec 19, 7:30

Fri, Dec 20, 7:30
 Sat, Dec 21, 3:00 and 7:30
 Sun, Dec 22, 3:00 and 7:30
 Mon, Dec 23, 3:00.
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$85, \$75, \$65, \$55, \$45.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Meetings & Clubs

Please note: OLLI Meetings and Clubs may currently take place in several formats: some are in person only, some are online only, and some are hybrid, meaning that they take place in person and are accessible online simultaneously. OLLI events and activities meeting online bear the identification "Z" in their course or event number (except clubs; you may need to check the [OLLI calendar](#) and daily schedule email for location and other event information). Refer to the university's [coronavirus website](#) for official university updates.

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master online calendar maintained by the office. The list is accurate as of mid-week, but for the most up-to-date information, please view the latest forecast of coming events on our website (News/[OLLI Calendar](#)). *Note: All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors, committees and resource groups, kick-off coffees, etc., **bolded** below. The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members; you may also log in at the [member portal](#) and click on ZOOM CLASS LINKS.*

Sat Dec 7	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Dec 9	9:30 am	What’s in the Daily News? – online
	11:00 am	Poetry Writing Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Dec 10	10:00 am	Holiday Sing Along
	10:00 am	Literature, Theater, Writing Program Planning Group – online
	1:00 pm	Stay Active and Independent for Life – online
	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	3:45 pm	Care Givers Support Group – online

Wed Dec 11	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Thu Dec 12	9:30 am	Dabbling Artists Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	10:00 am	Tallwood Book Club
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
Fri Dec 13	11:50 am	All the News – online
	12:30 pm	Art and Music Program Planning Group
	1:00 pm	Stay Active and Independent for Life – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	6:00 pm	Ethnic Eats Club – online
Sat Dec 14	9:30 am	Photography Club
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	11:30 am	Cooking Club
Mon Dec 16	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Tue Dec 17	1:00 pm	Personal Computer User Group
	9:30 am	What’s in the Daily News? – online
	11:00 am	Poetry Reading Club – online
Wed Dec 18	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Thu Dec 19	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	10:30 am	Investment Forum – online
Fri Dec 20	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
	4:00 pm	Conversation with Team Bloch – online
Sat Dec 21	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Sun Dec 22	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
Mon Dec 23	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online

[Back to Top of Page](#)

About OLLI E-News

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

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel

Associate Editor: David Gundry

Weekly Editor Team: David Gundry, John Nash, Sheri Siesseger, Paul Van Hemel

Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Tom Appich, Martha Kossoff, Anne Hartshorn, Bonnie Becker, Carol McManus

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

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

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

[Back to Top of Page](#)