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**Board of Directors Meeting Via Zoom, led by OLLI President Debbie Engleson and Executive Director Jennifer Disano, January 17**

## January 24, 2025

Editor of the Week: Thomas Appich

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### Alerts & Notices

- Nominations are open for Board of Directors candidates for the 2025 election. See article below on the Nominating Committee.
- Registration for winter term continues. There are several courses with space available; register today at the [member portal](#).
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, January 31; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, January 28, at 6:00.

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## OLLI 2025 Nominating Committee Begins Identifying Candidates for the Board of Directors



*By Norma Jean Reck, Chairperson, Nominating Committee*

Each year, the members of OLLI's Board of Directors create a Nominating Committee to recruit candidates for the Board of Directors, to conduct the election, and to select officers for the upcoming year. Each year, five directors are elected by the general membership by secret ballot for a three-year term. Officers are elected by the Board to serve a one-year term.

#### Who is the Nominating Committee?

According to the recently updated *Policies and Procedures Manual* drafted by the Governance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors on October 18, 2024, the Nominating Committee must consist of five members – two directors and three non-director OLLI members. The committee members are not eligible to be candidates for director for the upcoming year.

At its January 17, 2025, Board meeting, the following OLLI members were approved to serve as OLLI's 2025 Nominating Committee: Peter Ansoff and Lillian Brooks as the two Board members, and Doris Bloch, Marguerite Johnson, and Norma Jean Reck as the three non-board OLLI members.

The members of the Nominating Committee have met to review the new policies and procedures, to begin planning for identifying candidates for the 2025 election that will take place in May, and to develop a calendar for the process.

#### What are the Qualifications to be a Director?

Qualifications to be a candidate for the Board are provided in OLLI's *Policies and Procedures Manual* on page 31 Appendix A. Director Nominations and Election Procedures. The Manual can be found online at OLLI's website [olli.gmu.edu](http://olli.gmu.edu).

Briefly, the general qualifications to be a director require that the candidate have expressed interest in OLLI by having taught, coordinated classes, served as a committee member, volunteered, etc. Other qualifications include oral and written communication skills, willingness to contribute to the governance of OLLI, and to assume the necessary responsibilities to lead the organization.

The Board may also ask that specific expertise or experience be considered such as legal, financial, or fundraising skills.

#### How are the Candidates Identified?

The Nominating Committee is now in the process of identifying possible candidates for the Board. Once they have been identified, they will be asked to verify their interest in being a candidate for Director. The Committee is required to provide five qualified candidates to the Board at its March 21, 2025, meeting.

#### Can a Qualified OLLI Member Self-Identify?

Yes, you can self-identify. You must notify the Committee of your interest by e-mailing the Chairperson, Norma Jean Reck, at [njreck@cs.com](mailto:njreck@cs.com) by March 7, 2025. Be sure to include a brief bio and reasons for wanting to serve on the Board of Directors.

Because of the looming change in the executive director position, OLLI is at a crucial inflection point that will require well-qualified Directors with the vision to lead OLLI into a future where we not only survive, but thrive. Given the remarkable make-up of our membership, I'm sure we can meet the challenge.

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## OLLI Mason Seeks Spanish and Other Language Instructors: Note Correction!



**By Patricia Bangs, Literature, Language, and Theater Program Planning Group**

For many years, OLLI Mason has been able to offer beginning, intermediate, or conversational Spanish classes on a regular basis. At the moment, our regular instructors are no longer available. We also, in the past, have been able to offer French language classes as well.

**Note:** An incorrect contact email was submitted to the January 17 *OLLI-E-News* on the above story. If you are interested in teaching or know resources to teach Spanish or other languages,

please contact Pat Bangs at [pbangs68@gmail.com](mailto:pbangs68@gmail.com) or [p.bangs46@outlook.com](mailto:p.bangs46@outlook.com). (This reflects corrected email information.) Thanks.

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**Did you know that the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines recommend that all MEN aged 65-75 who have ever smoked should have a one time, ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm Recommendation: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm: Screening. United States Preventive Services Taskforce ([uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org](http://uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org)). If this is you, please talk to your Healthcare Provider.**

(From the Healthcare Advisory Workgroup)

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## WANTED: Poetry and Prose for OLLI Ink 2025



**By Margie Wildblood and Sophia Elberti, OLLI Ink Co-Editors**

OLLI writers—beginners and experienced—take note: *OLLI Ink* is now accepting submissions, including poems, fiction, personal essays, and memoirs, for its 2025 edition.

Now moving into its 15th year, *OLLI Ink* is a well-established publication whose contributors come from a wide spectrum of OLLI members, including, but not limited to, those enrolled in writing classes and workshops.

**How to Submit:** Please send your entries and any questions to both Margie Wildblood at [mwildblood@gmail.com](mailto:mwildblood@gmail.com) and Sophia Elberti at [selberti@icloud.com](mailto:selberti@icloud.com).

**Guidelines:**



- Poems – please limit number of lines to 30.
- Prose – please single space and indent the first sentence of each paragraph; limit number of words to 2,500.

**Contributions are welcome through the end of March.**

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## Tallwood Book Club



**By Betty Ellerbee, Tallwood Book Club Coordinator**

The Tallwood Book Club will meet via Zoom on Friday, February 14, at 2:30. The book for February 14 is *Erasure*, by Percival Everett. Check the OLLI daily schedule email for the Zoom link.

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## Crafts and Conversation Group



**By Doris Bloch, Crafts and Conversation Group Coordinator**

OLLI has a Crafts and Conversation group which meets every Friday morning from 9:30-11:00 at Tallwood and on Zoom. A variety of crafts is being worked on during each session—e.g., everything from knitting, crocheting, construction of miniature buildings and furnishings, cross-stitch, fly tying, and fleece spinning (complete with spinning wheel). In the past, we have enjoyed and encouraged members who did calligraphy, mosaic work, wood whittling, and sketching with us—we love the diversity. We all learn from each other in a supportive environment.

While there is a sign-up option, we also encourage walk-ins; why not drop by one Friday morning in the Tallwood annex or log on to our Zoom session and get acquainted with us? We are very excited and pleased to welcome all members.

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## Poet's Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

### Second Lagrange Point: A Love Poem

We have achieved equilibrium  
Defied gravity to float

Deified our transcendence  
Hovering above earth  
Stabilized by sun and moon  
Wearing a shower of stars  
Hearts forever in balance  
Our celestial duet echoing  
With music of the spheres

*–Betty Webb Gressling*

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## Obituary: Frank Douglass Dickey



OLLI member Frank "Doug" Dickey passed away on January 9, 2025, while on vacation in The Bahamas. A 1976 graduate of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, with a BS in mathematics and studies in computer science, he enjoyed photography. At OLLI, he was a member of the Photography Club.

There will be a celebration of life for Doug on Saturday, February 1 at 1:00 in Reston at The Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Avenue. Further information is available at [this link](#).

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## Mason Faculty Artists Series Upcoming Concerts



**By Linda Monson, D.M.A., Mason Distinguished Service Professor, and Linda Harber, Friends of Music at Mason Co-President**

Here are some upcoming free Mason Music concerts at Mason's Harris Theatre on some Sundays through March 2. All of these Sunday programs will be great performances by talented Dewberry Music School faculty.

On Tuesday, February 25, the spring semester student music concerts begin with the Mason Bands Concert at 8:00 in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Please [check the website](#) and look for more information on the variety of upcoming Mason Music. See you there!

**Dewberry Faculty Artist Series at George Mason University  
Free Sunday performances in Harris Theater**

**Sunday, January 26 at 3:00***Nuove Frontiere*

David Porter, tuba; Caroline Steiger, horn

**Sunday, February 16 at 3:00***The Spheres Project*June Huang, violin; Taylor Fleshman, harp  
Gerald Fowkes, cello; Thomas J. Wible, flute**Sunday, February 23 at 3:00***Duo-Piano Silver Anniversary Concert*

Linda Apple Monson &amp; Anna Balakerskaia, pianists

**Sunday, March 2 at 3:00**Kathleen Gardiner Mulcahy, clarinet, with  
Caroline Steiger, horn; Eunae Ko Han, piano**Sunday, March 2 at 7:00**

Jesse Guessford, composition

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## Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances, January 24 through February 2

*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.

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### At the Fairfax Campus Venues

**Silkroad Ensemble: Percussion All-Stars**

Sat, Jan 25, 8:00

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

Concert Hall

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

**Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: *Dances for the Ears***

Sun, Jan 26, 7:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$50, \$43, \$29.

**Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra with Branford Marsalis**

Sat, Feb 1, 8:00

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

Concert Hall

Admission: \$60, \$51, \$46.

**Mike Super – Magic & Illusion**

Sun, Feb 2, 4:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$40, \$30, \$20.

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### Mason Student and Faculty Performances

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

**GMU School of Theater: *Mason Cabaret 2025***

Fri, Jan 31, 8:00

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

Sun, Feb 2, 2:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: \$30 Adult, \$15 Senior.

**Faculty Artist Series: *Nuove Frontiere***

Dr. Caroline Steiger, horn and Dr. David Porter, tuba

Sun, Jan 26, 3:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: Free.

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### At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

**American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra**

Sat, Jan 18, 3:00  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$10.

**ARTfactory's Pied Piper Theatre: *Les Miserables – Youth Edition***

Fri, Jan 24, 7:00  
Sat, Jan 25, 2:00 and 7:00  
Sun, Jan 26, 2:00  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$25 Adult, \$20 Senior.

**Graham Breedlove Group, American Roots Series**

Sat, Jan 25, 5:00  
Gregory Family Theater  
Admission: \$30.

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

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## 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. 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 Jan 25	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
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Mon Jan 27	4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Jan 28	2:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Jan 29	12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club
Thu Jan 30	3:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Literary Fiction Book Club – online Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Jan 31	9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm	Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online Classic Literature Club – online
Sat Feb 1	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Feb 3	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Feb 4	2:00 pm 3:45 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Caregivers Support Group – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Feb 5	12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club Dabbling Artists Club – online Memoir and More Writing Group – online History Club – online Spanish Club – online
Thu Feb 6	3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online Ethnic Eats Club – online
Fri Feb 7	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm	Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Dance Club Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online Classic Literature Club – online
Sat Feb 8	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online

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## About OLLI E-News

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

### Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: 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: [ollinewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ollinewseditor@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.

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