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Karen Wheelless described how recordings that were distributed to deployed WWII military through the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS) during a 1940s 27-month strike by musicians preserved thousands of classic performances on VDiscs; May 9

May 16, 2025

Editor of the Week: Paul Van Hemel

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Alerts & Notices

- OLLI Personal Computer User Group 3rd Saturday meeting is May 17 (tomorrow), at 1:00, in person and via Zoom; check today's OLLI daily schedule email for link and other information.
- Registration for the summer term begins May 20 and continues through the term. The summer [catalog](#) is available on the website. Be sure to check the canceled, changed, and added [list](#) on the website.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, May 30; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, May 27, at 6:00.

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The Story of Black Fairfax

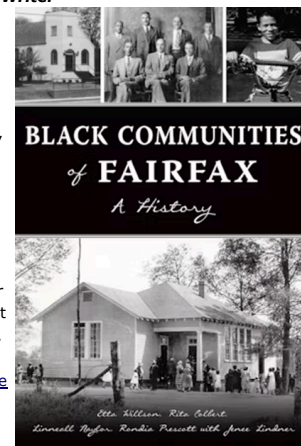


By Camille Hodges, Board Member and E-News Staff Writer

The story of Black Fairfax has long been untold. The free Black population of Fairfax Court House dates to at least the 1820s. After the Civil War, newly freed Black citizens expanded the hamlet of Jermantown dramatically. Additional segregated neighborhoods, including School Street, which overlapped today's George Mason University, and Ilda, off Guinea Road, grew and thrived. In the second half of the nineteenth century, residents built schools, churches, and a cemetery. These families persevered under Jim Crow in the early twentieth century.

Etta Willson, Rita Colbert, Linneall Naylor, Rondia Prescott, and Jenée Lindner, authors of *Black Communities of Fairfax: A History*, discussed their book in presentations for OLLI Mason at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim in Fairfax on April 7 and 14 as part of a three-part series.

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Save the Date: LLT Program Planning Group to Meet May 27



By Patricia Bangs, LLT Program Planning Group Co-Coordinator

What: Literature, Languages/Writing, and Theater (LLT) Program Planning Group Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 27, 10:00-11:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Via Zoom (see link below)

OLLI members, we need your thoughts and ideas. Whether you enjoy the classics or spy novels, sci-fi or memoirs, want to read poetry, learn a language, explore playwrights and the world of theater, or hone your writing skills, the LLT Program Planning Group would love to hear from you.

Please join us for our quarterly all-campus program planning group meeting for **literature, languages/writing, and theater program planning May 27 at 10:00 via Zoom.**

We will be reviewing past terms and planning for the winter 2026 term and beyond. All OLLI members can contribute to this excellent programming. Bring ideas for literature, theater, writing, or language programs, and possible instructor resources. And, of course, if you or anyone you know would like to join our group, here is your opportunity to see the process in action. Spread the word. See you on May 27.

The meeting Zoom link from Shannon Morrow, our staff program associate, is below. The link will also be available on the emailed daily schedule. If you would like to be added to our LLT mailing list for a reminder, please email Pat Bangs at: pbangs68@gmail.com.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://gmu.zoom.us/j/99712233280>

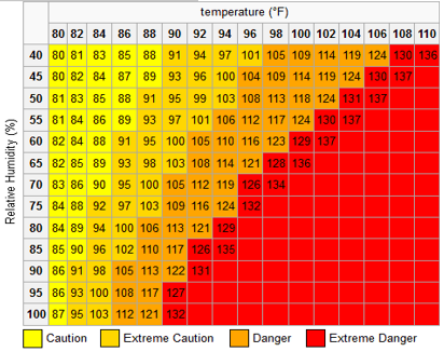
Meeting ID: 997 1223 3280
One tap mobile
+12678310333,,99712233280# US (Philadelphia)
+13017158592,,99712233280# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location
+1 267 831 0333 US (Philadelphia)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
Find your local number: <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/99712233280>

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It's heating up out there. If the HEAT INDEX is in the Caution Zone or above, consider limiting or avoiding time outdoors. Remember to check not only the time you leave but the time you plan to return. Many weather apps will report this hourly.



(From the Healthcare Advisory Workgroup)
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June Theater Picks: Something New and Something Old



By Norma Jean Reck, Theater Lovers' Group Coordinator



Something New! Murder by the Numbers

A murder mystery dinner with yummy BBQ, a help-yourself beer wall, and a chance to be in the show is what awaits you when you join the Theater Lovers' Group (TLG) on Saturday, June 7 for the StageCoach Theatre Company's performance of the newly minted Murder by the Numbers at Ono Offshore in Chantilly. This original murder mystery takes place in Las Vegas in the 1960s. Author Wayne Kerr is on stage talking about his recently published book, a thriller, dealing with chance, intrigue, and betrayal. His fans are more interested in murder than autographs. A publicity stunt or real life? You will have to be there to find out. Tickets, which are \$61.25/person, include the dinner and show but not refreshments. Tickets sell out fast and can be purchased online at stagecoachtc.com. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is at 6 and the show starts at 6:45.

Something Old: The Piano Lesson

A winner of Pulitzer Prize for Drama, The Piano Lesson is a play written by American playwright August Wilson in

1987, the fourth in his Pittsburgh Cycle. At the center of discussion is the family's heirloom piano that is decorated with designs carved by an enslaved ancestor showing the faces of the great grandfather's wife and son during enslavement. Bernice and her brother Boy Willie grapple with their differing views of the piano (with its own story) and questions about their lives. What do you do with a legacy? How do you put it to best use? TLG will attend the 2 p.m. matinee performance on Saturday, June 14 at 1st Stage. There are still some \$25 tickets left. Phone 703-854-1856 to get yours. There will be a Meet the Cast talk back after the show, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. Remember that guests are always welcome.

Editor's Note: At the author's request, all words are published unedited, exactly as submitted.



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Program Update for Computer Club Meeting May 17



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

The Computer Club (OLLI Personal Computer User Group, or OPCUG) 3rd Saturday meeting May 17 presentation by Rob Pegoraro has an updated description. The Zoom session opens at 12:45.

2025 In Tech: What Fresh Hell Is This? Presented by Rob Pegoraro

Yes, so many things seem kind of terrible right now. Between Trump's tariffs and his crusade against environmental-protection policies, even a tablet or a TV purchase isn't what it used to be. I'll talk about what's going on right now, what you can do about it (spoiler alert: sometimes nothing), and what's actually getting better in the tech universe.

Biographical information for Rob Pegoraro can be found in the Computer Club meeting announcement in the May 9 E-News issue: [click here](#).

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Photo of the Month



The May 2025 Photo of the Month theme was close-ups. We selected Cookie (Ellen) Hilert's photo "Duckling: Pond at Burke Center" which may also be viewed at [this page](#). To view other photos by members of the Photography Club, visit the club's photo [website](#).

-- By John Olsen and Edward Marion, Photography Club Co-Coordinators

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

MY BROTHER, MY FRIEND

you birthed your own demons
in the teen years, a horrific accident
self-medicated with alcohol
the garage now your private bar

kept a job, brought home the bacon,
never a DUI. But when you
menaced your wife, that final straw
woke you to action

thirty years hence, no longer lost to me
 reborn sans alcohol, easy to forget
 the dark days, the shovel attack
 a story now relived with laughter

a new person, full of epiphanies
 more alike than different, we
 no longer rivals
 but siblings-and-friends
 our twilight years upon us,
 time together our treasure to stow

—Margie Wildblood

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances, May 16 through May 31

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

Center for the Arts, Concert Hall

No performances

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

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

No performances

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

ARTfactory's Pied Piper Theatre: *The Lightning Thief* – The Percy Jackson Musical

Fri, May 16, 7:00
 Sat, May 17, 7:00
 Sun, May 18, 2:00
 Gregory Family Theater
 Admission: \$25 Adult, \$20 Senior.

American Festival Pops Orchestra: Armed Forces Day Celebration

Sat, May 17, 8:00
 A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$60, \$51, \$36.

Northern Virginia Ballet: *Peter and the Wolf plus Paquita*

Sat, May 24, 4:00
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$35 Adult, \$30 Senior.

Manassas Chorale: *Princesses and Pirates*

Fri, May 30, 7:30
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$25, \$23.

Virginia National Ballet: Spring Recital

Sat, May 31, 3:00
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$35.

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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. *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 May 17	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Tai Chi Club – online Personal Computer Club
Mon May 19	9:30 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Poetry Writing Club – online Family History/Genealogy Club – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue May 20	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed May 21	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 4:00 pm	Board Games Club – online Bridge Club Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Dabbling Artists Spanish Club
Thu May 22	10:00 am 11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	Humanities Social Sciences/Current Events Program Planning Group Meeting All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Fri May 23	9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon	Photography Club Crafts and Conversation Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Sat May 24	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon May 26	11:00 am	Poetry Reading Club – online
Tue May 27	10:00 am 2:00 pm 3:45 pm 4:30 pm	Literature, Theater, and Writing/Languages Program Planning Group Meeting Chair Yoga and More – online Caregivers Support Group – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed May 28	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm 4:00 pm	Board Games Club – online Bridge Club Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Memoir and More Writing Group – online Conversation with Team Bloch – online
Thu May 29	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online Ethnic Eats Club – online
Fri May 30	9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon	Walk & Talk Club Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Sat May 31	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, Paul Van Hemel

Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Thomas 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.

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