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		<p>"I do not like even to think, much less talk of it."</p> <p>George Washington and Slavery</p> <p>Peter R. Henriques</p> <p>"The grating chain of racism and slavery snaked through the new republic and diminished every life it touched".</p>	
<p>By 1860 there were approximately 4 million enslaved individuals in the United States. In 1790, there were approximately 1/2 million. One question has to be asked. Why didn't America's greatest leader lead on such an important issue?</p>	<p>GW's letter re his slave, Tom</p> <p>"Sir: With this letter comes a Negro (Tom) which I beg the favour of you to sell, in any of the islands you may go to, for whatever he will fetch, and bring me in return for him, one hind of best molasses, one of best Rum, one barrel of Lymes if good and cheap, and the residue, much or little in good ole spirits. That this Fellow is both a rogue and a Runaway. I shall not pretend to deny. But... he is exceedingly healthy, strong and good at the Hoe... which gives me reason to hope he may, with your good management sell well (if kept clean and trim'd up a little when offered for sale... I must beg the favor of you (lest he should attempt his escape) to keep him hand-cuffed till you get to Sea."</p>	<p>Intellectually, Washington came to believe the assertion that slavery was an evil which must be eradicated. Yet, my sense after studying this issue is that George Washington never viscerally felt slavery's evil. This central insight - that Washington intellectually accepted the case for ending slavery but never viscerally felt slavery's evil - can help us better understand many of his actions in the period from the American Revolution until the time of his death.</p>	
<p>Photos by Paul Van Hemel, May 14, 2025</p>			

Dr. Peter Henriques, Mason Professor Emeritus of History, Expert on George Washington and Instructor of Many Popular OLLI Courses, Presented on George Washington and Slavery, May 14

May 30, 2025

Editor of the Week: David Gundry

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Alerts and Notices

- Registration for the summer term is underway. The summer catalog is available on the website. Be sure to check the canceled, changed, and added list on the website.
- Board of Directors meeting Friday, June 6, at 10:00, in person at Tallwood in TA-1 and via Zoom. All members are welcome.
- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, June 13; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, June 10, at 6:00.

Wednesday Conversation Topic for June 11



By Brenda Bloch-Young and Doris Bloch, Co-Moderators

For the Team Bloch Conversation on June 11, our topic will be "The Great Gatsby at the 100th Year Anniversary."

F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel was published by Scribners in April 1925, one hundred years ago. Did you know that it was not a commercial success at first? The first printing of 20,000 copies sold very slowly and the second printing had not yet sold out when Fitzgerald died in 1940 at age 44. What does the novel say about the times that we are living in today (if anything)?

We meet via Zoom every second Wednesday at 4:00 on the OLLI Chat Line. Any OLLI member is welcome to join us. The Zoom meeting link is found in the OLLI Daily Schedule on the mornings of our meetings.

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Fly Like a Bird

There is a relief in the photos of birds
a neighbor posts on our neighborhood blog.
I wonder,
how do these fragile beings survive,

where are they flying to,
 and my head, then even my body,
 relaxes as I think
 about flying with them
 through openings in trees,
 soaring in the sun,
 fast flitting to shelter when it rains,
 taking to the air quickly when
 the ground becomes dangerous,
 singing to other birds to let
 them know what I see going on.

I cannot do that.

My mind can.

– Betty Smith

Elizabeth (Betty) Smith was an active OLLI member since 2010, as well as the founder of the Memoir and More Writing Club. Although she moved to Colorado two years ago to be closer to a daughter, thanks to Zoom, Betty continued to participate in the OLLI Poetry Workshop. She was a creative and accomplished poet, as well as a willing resource for other writers. Betty passed away in September 2024. We honor her memory and her commitment to writing with one of her many beautiful poems.

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances, May 30 through June 14



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 the CFA ticket page link 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

Pre-performance discussions will take place in Monson Grand Tier, which is located on the third level of the Concert Hall, 45 minutes prior to curtain. As seating is limited, a livestream will also be available on screens in the main lobby.

Fairfax Symphony Celebrates Zimmerman's 15th Anniversary

Elgar: *Introduction and Allegro for Strings*

Leshnoff: *Concertante for 2 Violins and Orchestra* (East Coast Premiere) with Chee-Yun and Kit Zimmerman, violin

Shostakovich: *Symphony No. 10*

Sat, May 31, 8:00

Pre-performance discussion

Concert Hall

Admission: \$65, \$55, \$40.

National Community Band Festival, Center for the Arts

Sat, Jun 7, Concert Hall:

- City of Falls Church Concert Band, 3:00
- Clarke County Community Band, 4:15
- Main Street Community Band, 5:30
- Arlington Concert Band, 6:45
- Capital Wind Symphony, 8:00

Sun, Jun 8, Concert Hall:

- Herndon Regional Wind Ensemble, 1:00
- City of Fairfax Band, 2:15
- Fairfax Wind Symphony, 3:00

Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 senior (each day).

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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)

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.

Boyle School of Irish Dance

Sun, Jun 1, 4:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$18.

Showcase Dance Recital

Sat, Jun 7, 4:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$30.

Axial Dance: *The Most Magical Recital on Earth*

Sun, Jun 8, 2:00
Gregory Family Theater
Admission: \$15.

Powerworx Dance: *Power of Dance*

Sun, Jun 8, 3:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$20 Adult, \$15 Senior.

Manassas Ballet Theatre Recital

Thu, Jun 12, 7:30
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$20.

Ordway Ballet Recital

Fri, Jun 13, 7:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$30, \$27 Adult; \$25, \$22 Senior.

Virginia Dance Center: *Dancing with Emotion*

Sat, Jun 14, 12:00 and 5:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$25.

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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 31	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Jun 2	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	11:00 am	Poetry Reading Club – online
	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
Tue Jun 3	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	10:00 am	Large Program Planning Meeting
	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
Wed Jun 4	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	Dabbling Artists Club – online
Thu Jun 5	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
	10:00 am	Facilities Lunch
	11:50 am	All the News – online

	3:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Jun 6	9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon	Crafts and Conversation Board of Directors Meeting Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Sat Jun 7	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Jun 9	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? Board Game Club – online Bridge Club Poetry Writing Club – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Jun 10	2:00 pm 2:00 pm 4:30 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Jun 11	10:30 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm	Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Memoir and More Writing Group – online
Thu Jun 12	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Jun 13	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 noon 2:30 pm	Photography Club Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Cooking Club Chair Yoga and More – online Tallwood Book Club – online
Sat Jun 14	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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