

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



olli.gmu.edu

George Mason University

Fairfax • Reston • Online



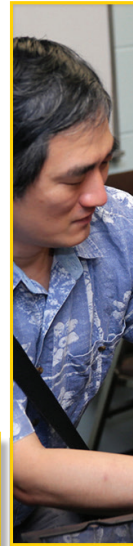
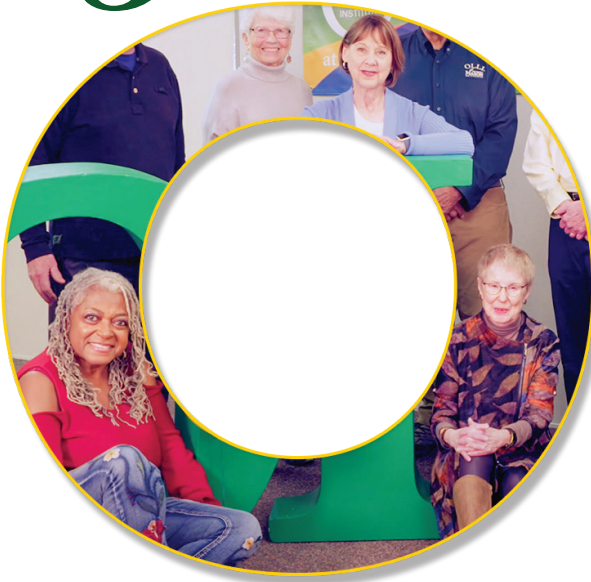
FALL 2025 CATALOG

September 22 – November 14

Fall 2025 Registration:
Begins August 19



Friends of



Did you know that membership fees only cover 66% of OLLI Mason's annual operating costs? Your generosity helps bridge the gap, ensuring we can continue to offer the programs you love.

Your gift will directly support all that makes our community so special - classes, clubs, events, and technology. Please help us:

- Continue offering the highest quality member experience.
- Be ready for unexpected short-term expenses.
- Make facility improvements.

At OLLI Mason, every member is encouraged to give their time, talents, and dollars. Our goal is 100% participation. Please consider a tax-deductible gift to OLLI Mason's Friends of OLLI campaign today.

Ways to Give:



Give online: Visit tinyurl.com/donate-olli

Give via phone: Please call Registrar Meg Przybylski at 703-544-0085

Mail your check: Payable to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Stock or IRA: Please contact Aquanetta Betts, Director of Planned Giving, GMU at abetts2@gmu.edu or 703-993-6971

Give in Honor or Memory: Visit tinyurl.com/donate-olli

Legacy Gift: Please contact Aquanetta Betts, Director of Planned Giving, GMU at abetts2@gmu.edu or 703-993-6971

Please contact Karen Nash, OLLI Mason Finance Associate, at knash2@gmu.edu or 703-503-3416 with any questions about donations.



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Cover photo by Bob Heyer

The cover photo was taken at the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, the first national wildlife refuge created specifically for the protection of bald eagles. OLLI Mason members enjoyed a hike on the Woodmarsh Trail.

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 join OLLI as a first-time member, visit our website at **olli.gmu.edu** and click on the yellow 'Join OLLI' tab at the top right corner. To renew your membership, sign in to your Member Portal account and purchase an annual membership. To purchase a membership offline, complete the registration form on page 36 and provide it to OLLI Mason with payment. For more assistance contact the registrar.

How to Register for OLLI Classes

Registration can be completed online through your Member Portal account or by filling out the registration form and mailing it to or dropping it by the OLLI office. For more information, see the member and registration pages in the catalog.

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**) or by emailing the OLLI Mason registrar: **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/**
- **patriotperks.gmu.edu/**

Membership Promotions

Fall 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 ****

Fall term registration begins on August 19th at 9:00 am and continues throughout the term.

Register online at **olli.gmu.edu**

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

For the best choice of classes, members are encouraged to register before August 26th.

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 Peter Ansoff

Toni Acton	Dick Crawford
Suresh Mohla	Harry Johnson
Camille Hodges	Peter Ansoff
Bob Heyer	Zachary Teich
Michele Romano	Debbie Engleson
Emily Roudebush	Tim Hawarth
John McAndrew	Ann McNeish
Steve Rose	

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>	Bill Ackerman
<i>Member Services, Office Volunteers</i>	Toni Acton
<i>Member Services, Chair</i>	Toni Acton
<i>Outreach</i>	Dean Salpini
<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
Reston Program Anita Lasansky, Suresh Mohla
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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Member portal..... olligmu.augusoft.net
Mason mail stop number MSN 5C1

Courses: September 22 - November 14 Fairfax/Reston/Zoom

Fairfax courses are indicated by the suffix "F," 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

101Z Air Force Violinist

One session

Instructor: Michael Romans

Coordinator: Stephanie Trachtenberg

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 22

The instructor will discuss his career as a musician in the military. While there are many wonderful and exciting paths in music, the military is not one that is talked about enough. As a full-time active duty service member, the instructor frequently performs at the White House, the Capitol, and the State Department for domestic and foreign dignitaries alike. In this lecture, he will discuss his life in the premier band of the United States Air Force, as well as his past musical experiences that led to joining the military.

Technical Sgt. **Dr. Michael Romans** is a violinist with the Air Force Strings. Originally from Springfield, Virginia, he earned his Masters and Doctorate degrees in Violin from the University of Michigan. Additionally, he holds two Bachelor degrees from Indiana University in Violin and Business Studies.

102F Folkdance (English Country Dance)

Eight sessions

Instructor: Dianne van der Reyden

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Class limit: 30

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 Dance.

103F / 103Z Music Sampler

Seven sessions

Coordinators: Linda Apple Monson, Ina Mirtcheva-Blevins

Tuesdays, 9:30–10:55, Sept. 23–Nov. 4

Note time

Location: Fairfax Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd, Fairfax, 22032

This course highlights examples of the musical talent that abounds at Mason. Each week, knowledgeable and enthusiastic professors from the Dewberry School of Music of George Mason University, often accompanied by their most promising students, will generously share their musical gifts in presentations that are varied, lively, informative, and entertaining.

Linda Apple Monson, International Steinway Artist, serves as director of the Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at George Mason University where she is a University Distinguished Service Professor. She has performed and lectured throughout the world.

Ina Mirtcheva-Blevins is a graduate of George Mason University

Future Course Proposal Due Dates

**Please note that course proposals are due approximately 5 months before the start of each term due to catalog production deadlines.

Winter 2026:

January 20 - February 13, 2026

(Proposal due date: July 24, 2025)

Spring 2026:

March 23 - May 15, 2026

(Proposal due date: October 6, 2025)

Summer 2026:

June 22 - July 31, 2026

(Proposal due date: January 26, 2026)

Course Proposal Form:

olli.gmu.edu/olli-course-proposal-form/

Trips/Performances Proposal Form:

olli.gmu.edu/trip-performances-proposal-form/

with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance. She currently teaches keyboard skills at Mason and is also a faculty member of the Mason Community Arts Academy.

104F / 104Z Cataloguing Americana: Virginian Artists in The Index of American Design Collection at the National Gallery of Art

One session

Instructor: Abby Whitlock

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 24

In 1935, the United States government commissioned the Index of American Design (IAD) project as part of the Federal Art Project (FAP) under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to document the nation's artistic and cultural heritage while providing relief to unemployed artists. The IAD collection, held by the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. consists of over 18,000 watercolors by over 400 artists as well as additional project records. Through its 1930s depiction and cataloguing of Americana, the IAD provides an opportunity to explore the evolution of what "America" and American identity means both then and now, both on the national and state level. The National Gallery of Art looks to highlight this unique collection and core projects with new audiences in fun, engaging, and impactful ways through a suite of digital offerings. With the right tools, it will provide opportunities to "unfold" this collection online in immersive ways that accord with the National Gallery of Art's mission. **Please note the accompanying trip to this lecture, 1004E National Gallery of Art.**

Abby S. Whitlock is digital initiatives coordinator for the Digital Content Strategy and Experience Division at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. She provides administration, strategic planning, and project management support to the chief digital officer and the division's initiatives. She received her BA with highest honors in History and European Studies from the College of William and Mary and her MSc with distinction in History from the University of Edinburgh.

105F Argentina and Musical Globalization

One session

Instructor: Matthew B. Karush

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24

We often think of music from Latin American countries as exotic, the sound of distinct, local traditions. But since the advent of the recording industry in the first decades of the twentieth century, musical innovation has been a transnational phenomenon. This talk will explore the history of Argentine popular music, revealing how musicians repurposed foreign genres, combining musical ideas from near and far to produce innovative new styles. Argentina has an extremely rich musical culture, and we'll want to discuss as much of it as we can. But we'll focus particular attention on the country's most famous musical export, the tango, as well as on Argentine contributions from jazz to rock. Along the way, we'll do some listening as well.

Matthew B. Karush is professor of History and chair of the

History and Art History department at George Mason University. An expert on the history of modern Latin America with a research focus on twentieth-century mass culture, he has published extensively on the political and social history of Argentina.

106Z The Magic of Motown: Music, History, Legacy

Eight sessions

Instructor: Michael Agron

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

Experience the magic of Motown's golden years. From the late 1950s to the 1970s, delve into Motown's golden era: groundbreaking songs, iconic artists, and profound social impact. Witness how visionary founder Berry Gordy cultivated unique talent, his innovative production techniques defining its timeless sound, shattering racial barriers, and adapting to cultural shifts to achieve global acclaim. This course spotlights over two dozen legends and 100 curated tracks and videos, culminating in a celebration of Motown's transformative first 25 years. Join us to explore Motown's enduring legacy of music and culture and bring your dancing shoes.

Music aficionado **Michael Agron** returns to OLLI Mason for his fourth music presentation. He grew up in Los Angeles, the heart of the recording and entertainment industry, with dreams of becoming a recording engineer. Though his path led to a successful career in high-tech, including founding a marketing agency specializing in webinar production, his passion for music remained constant. Michael has transformed that passion into creating and delivering 15 unique, engaging seminars for the Sacramento Renaissance Society at Cal State University Sacramento and to many OLLIs nationwide.

107F Singing for Fun

Eight sessions

Instructors: Gayle Parsons, Linda Harber, Linda Gordon, Sophia Elberti

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 25–Nov. 13

Bring your voice and if you wish, your guitar, ukulele, or other instrument, and join us in singing songs that span the time from the 30s to today. The only singing talent required is a desire to sing. Class members are encouraged to bring in songs they would like the group to sing. We have an enthusiastic keyboard accompanist, an occasional banjo, and a great deal of fun.

Gayle Parsons is retired from a career in tax law. She has been playing keyboard for Singing for Fun classes for about ten years—and is thrilled to still be co-leading this fun class!

Linda Harber joined OLLI in 2018 when she retired as Mason's VP of HR and Payroll. She is a chair of the OLLI Arts and Music program planning committee and co-president of Friends of Music at Mason. It is a joy to sing with OLLI's Singing for Fun.

Linda Gordon is retired from a federal career in refugee and immigration statistics and policy. She has sung with Singing for Fun for more than 10 years and is happy to be singing again.

Sophia Elberti retired from federal service in 2021 with a background in strategic communications. She joined OLLI shortly thereafter and became a member of Singing for Fun, which she has thoroughly enjoyed.

Need Additional Help with Zoom?

The OLLI staff offers a "How to Zoom Class" before each term. See the calendar, Daily Schedule email, or your confirmation email for the class link.

Visit the OLLI website at:

olli.gmu.edu/online-classes-resources/

The Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS) has plenty of helpful information for all devices:

patacs.org/zoom.html

Or you can email the OLLI Help Desk at:

ollizoomhelp@olligmu.org

108R Meet the Artists

Six sessions

Thursdays, 2:15–3:30, Sept. 25–Oct. 30

Leila Gordon Theatre at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods

Sept. 25: Beverly Cosham, cabaret singer. Cosham has performed at nightspots all over the country from Los Angeles to New York to San Antonio, as well as in theatres throughout the Washington area.

Oct. 2: Mark Irchai returns to CenterStage. He performs a brand new recital program for the 2025-26 concert season, titled "Solitude", which attempts to paint a sonic picture of America's Loneliness Epidemic through the lens of the piano repertoire. Works by Brahms, Scriabin, Vienne, and others will be shared.

Oct. 9: Tallwood Trio, Nancy Riley (vocalist), Alan Wenberg (piano), Ron Musselwhite (drums), and guest artists will perform Great American Songbook, light jazz, and contemporary selections.

Oct. 16: Loudoun Lyric Opera, Loudoun County's resident opera company, presents a concert program on "What is Opera?" The afternoon promises to be a delightful survey of classics of the opera, to dazzle both newcomers to opera and veterans of many performances, under both the musical direction and emcee work of Artistic Director Mark Irchai.

Oct. 23: Miroslav Loncar, The Lončar Guitar Trio is a unique family ensemble that consists of the family members Miroslav, Nataša, and Maya. The Trio is rooted in the members' prolific careers in music performance and education as well as from their mutual love for playing chamber music. The works will include music by such composers as: Bellinati, Borodin, Gottschalk, Piazzolla, and others.

Oct. 30: Elizabeth Bozhich, soprano, presents a Halloween themed recital with narration. From

erie legends to fantastical fairy tales, this concert will feature spellbinding opera arias and art songs, bringing the stories of fairies, witches, and enchantments to life.

109F Watercolor: Building on Beginning Skills

Six sessions

Instructor: Christine Narbut

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 30–Nov. 4

Class limit: 14

If you always wanted to paint with watercolor or have painted in the past and want to refresh your skills, this class is for you. Students will have the opportunity to develop watercolor painting skills with emphasis on composition, style, and techniques for landscapes, flowers, birds, and animals. In addition, guest artist **Marni Maree** will again teach a session demonstrating special techniques.

Chris Narbut has been a member of OLLI since 2018. She has taken watercolor classes at the Torpedo factory and has been instructing basic watercolor skills for OLLI for the past 2 years. She also coordinates the Dabbling Artists club.

110F / 110Z Hooray for Hollywood

One session

Instructor: Christopher Johnston

Coordinator: Stephanie Trachtenberg

Tuesday, 11:50–1:15, Nov. 4

This class will be an examination of the history, composers, and significant events that shaped the film music industry. We will discuss iconic film scores, delve into cultural and artistic influences, and uncover the profound connection between music and film in cinematic history.

Christopher Johnston has composed numerous choral, orchestral, and jazz compositions. He has received many awards, to include the Claes Nobel Distinguished Educator Award, the Wolftrap 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 is an advocate for performances of works by young composers. 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

201Z Contemporary Economic Policy Issues

Six sessions

Coordinator: Geoffrey Woglom

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23–Oct. 28

Economics plays a central role in the functioning of every aspect of society. This course addresses a set of prominent policy issues where economics is at their core. We will explore their origins as policy matters, the underlying data and evidence, and what policy levers are available to deal with them. Each lecture will be taught by a subject matter expert—all of whom have a PhD in Economics. Potential topics include climate change, healthcare economics, economic inequality, and many more. The

topics presented will be determined by what is most topical at the time of the course. The course is sponsored by the National Economic Education Delegation (<https://needecon.org/>)

Geoffrey Woglom is professor of Economics, emeritus, at Amherst College, where he taught for over 40 years. He has also held visiting positions at Cambridge, Harvard, and the London School of Economics, as well as teaching as a Fulbright Scholar at Nanjing University.

202F / 202Z The Investment Forum

Eight sessions

Moderators: Al Smuzynski, Bob Baker, Lou Coglianese, David Toms

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24–Nov. 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 financial markets, and their impact on investment decisions. Member presentations and discussions typically include such topics as: recent market indicators, stocks, bonds, mutual and exchange traded funds, real estate investment trusts, sector allocations, investment strategies, portfolio management, and choosing advisory services. Each week members may participate in our “Buy/Sell/Thinking-About” segment by sharing their investment trades or activities of the previous week, which are then looked at and discussed in a peer group setting. The Forum typically uses various Wall Street analyses and data, as well as relevant news from the financial press. In addition, we regularly incorporate a number of online financial tools and websites in looking at members’ recent trading activities or other investment products.

203Z Love, Death, and Taxes

Three sessions

Instructors: Molly Garrett, William Thomas

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 25–Oct. 9

Session one: Love and Relationships: I Do! Maybe? This session will focus on marriage planning to include marital property and hybrid property considerations, protecting assets, and managing financial transitions in divorce. Joint ownership structures and their implications will also be discussed.

Session two: Death: Creating Estate Planning and Protecting your Legacy. We will discuss essential estate planning documents that everyone needs, avoiding probate and protecting privacy, healthcare directives, and powers of attorney, strategies for minimizing family conflict after your passing, and special concerns for second marriages and blended families.

Session three: Taxes: Understanding the Tax Issues that Come into Play. This session will include estate taxes, gift and estate tax exemptions, tax considerations with trust administration, retirement account distributions, Social Security taxation strategies, tax-efficient charitable giving,

and preparing for tax changes on the horizon.

Molly Garrett advises individuals, families, and small business owners on estate and gift planning needs and enjoys working one-on-one with clients to create specialized and personally tailored approaches to their succession planning. She is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

William (“Billy”) H. Thomas IV, CPA, is a principal with Thompson Greenspon, specializing in family wealth planning and taxation. With expertise spanning individual income tax, fiduciary income tax, and estate and gift tax, he provides comprehensive guidance to individuals and families.

204Z Economics Potpourri

Four sessions

Instructors: Daniel Klein, Michael A. Clemens, Robin Hanson, Axel Weber

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 14–Nov. 4

Oct. 14: Adam Smith’s Hopes for a Liberal America.

Daniel Klein is a professor of Economics and JIN Chair at the Mercatus Center, George Mason University. He leads the Adam Smith program at GMU Economics. He is the chief editor of *Econ Journal Watch*.

Oct. 21: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Jobs.

Michael A. Clemens is a professor in the Department of Economics at George Mason University and a nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics since 2023. He studies the economic causes and effects of migration all over the world.

Oct. 28: Cultural Drift. **Robin Hanson** is an associate professor of Economics and received his PhD in social sciences from Caltech. He joined George Mason’s economics faculty after completing a post-doctorate at U.C. Berkeley. His major fields of interest include health policy, regulation, and formal political theory.

Nov. 4: Topic TBD. **Axel Weber** is a PhD Student in Economics at George Mason University. He earned a BS in Economics from the University of Connecticut. His research interests include economic theory, philosophy, economic history, monetary economics, and international conflict.

205Z Equity Investment Ideas from GMU Finance Students

Two sessions

Instructor: Derek Horstmeyer

Wednesdays, 3:30–4:30, Oct. 22–Oct. 29

Note time

Several years ago, GMU created a Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF). This is an equity only fund managed by students. Members present their research to the student finance committee for voting to decide what stocks to buy or sell. The instructor (professor and fund advisor) will moderate each session selecting his best students to share their investment ideas with OLLI members.

Derek Horstmeyer is a professor of Finance at George Mason University’s School of Business, specializing in corporate finance. His research focuses on boards, ETF and mutual fund performance, and hedge fund activism. Dr. Horstmeyer also

writes a monthly column for the *Wall Street Journal* on cutting-edge research in finance, and his work has been cited in *Forbes*, *Bloomberg*, *CNBC*, *Fortune*, *PBS NewsHour*, the *New York Post*, *USA Today*, *CNN*, *The Washington Post*, the *LA Times*, and many other outlets. As a dedicated teacher, he helped create and lead the first student-managed investment fund at GMU, helped develop numerous degree programs such as GMU's MS in Finance and CFA tracks, and currently serves as director of the new Financial Planning & Wealth Management major at Mason.

206F / 206Z Estate Planning Basics

Four sessions

Instructor: Sarah Parks

Thursdays, 9:40–11:50, Oct. 23–Nov. 13

Session one: An Overview of Estate Planning: We will look at the taxes, laws, and issues that surround estates and how the documents we use help us to prepare for incapacity and death.

Session two: Trusts: We will look at what trusts are and how they serve us, both before and after death.

Session three: Funding Your Living Trust: We will look at the process for transferring ("funding") various types of assets into a Living Trust.

Session four: Medical Decision Making and Advance Health Care Directives: We will look at preparing for a time when we are unable to make our own medical decisions.

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.

300 History

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Emmett Fenlon, Irene Harworth,
Beth Lambert, Bernie Oppel

301F / 301Z The Day the Sea Caught on Fire

One session

Instructor: Jim Lewis

Monday, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 22

Most only know the Battle of Britain (July 10–Oct. 31, 1940) as an air battle between the British Royal Air Force (RAF) and the German Luftwaffe. Indeed, that was a large part of the action, but much more was going on, including a Nazi plan to invade Great Britain. Suspecting this event, the Brits spawned a little-known effort (to this day) to thwart that invasion. It worked, but not how they drew it up. Please join us as we focus on one of the biggest and most successful "big lies" of WWII.

Jim Lewis is a noted local historian, lecturer, and tour guide,

focusing primarily on the Civil War, WWII, the Cold War, and several other historically oriented eclectic topics. He has also contributed to 35-plus historical markers and has been a past "Lord Fairfax" designate.

302Z Adventures in Computer Gaming

Three sessions

Instructor: Roy Wagner

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 22–Oct. 6

Our discussion of the history of computer adventuring will start in 1975 with the first computer game aptly named, *Adventure*. Discussion of the evolution of computer adventuring will continue to the present day adventure game, *Firmament* from Cyan Worlds. The class will cover the various computers used to take these adventures.

Since 1978, **Roy Wagner's** career and hobbies took him on these adventures. As an avocation, he converted games for the Apple computer to run on Commodore home computers. He was a game review columnist for *Computer Gaming World* magazine. He has also "beta" tested many computer games and services.

303R / 303Z The Bonhomme Richard and John Paul Jones: The Ship, the Man, and the Memory

One session

Instructor: Peter Ansoff

Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 23

Commodore John Paul Jones and his ship, *The Bonhomme Richard*, are well-known icons of American history and lore. This course will delve into some of the personalities and politics that surrounded their famous Revolutionary War battle with the British ship *Serapis*, as well as a few lesser-known details of Jones' career. We'll take a special look at what the primary sources say about Jones' immortal "I have not yet begun to fight" quotation, and the way his victory has been memorialized by historians, illustrators, and others.

Peter Ansoff is retired from a career as an acquisition support contractor for the United States Navy. His research interests include maritime history, lighter-than-air aviation history, and vexillology (the study of flags). He has been a member of OLLI since 2017.

304Z The Erie Canal

Four sessions

Instructor: Buck Beasom

Wednesdays, 9:00–11:00, Sept. 24–Oct. 15

Note time

When the notion of connecting the Atlantic to the Great Lakes was first raised and when the first surveys for a route were conducted, there was not a single professional civil engineer in the entire United States. Western New York State was considered "The Frontier" and Ohio "The West." This course follows the story of the canal from conception to completion. Like the canal itself, this story does not proceed in a straight line. It did not happen all at once and did not end in anything like the manner its origins suggested. But much of what happened in the years after its completion in 1825, from Abolitionism to Women's Suffrage, to the 19th Century religious revival that took

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place in its wake, traces directly back to the 4 mph "Superhighway" the canal represented to the people of the time. The canal also defined how "The Midwest" would be settled—and by whom! In this sense, it also helped establish "The Union" that would fight—and win—the Civil War, which defines us to this day.

Buck Beasom's 40 years in accounting, finance, systems design, applications development, and database administration included over 20 years teaching business and economics courses to conventional and adult college students. He teaches classes for OLLI chapters across the country.

305R The Fall of the Roman Republic

Two sessions

Instructor: David Timko

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 24–Oct. 1

A viral TikTok video from a couple of years ago suggested that men (though not women) are spending an inordinate amount of time thinking about the Roman Empire. This came on the heels of more than a couple of decades of popular culture showing increased interest in the ancient world, especially Rome, from movies like the original *Gladiator*, to novels and video games. On the one hand, the revived attention is welcomed, particularly among ancient historians, but it comes with a risk. History is easily misappropriated, sometimes blatantly misinterpreted. It is with these concerns in mind that this talk will address a topic of perennial interest, particularly to Americans—both men and women—the fall of the Roman Republic.

David Timko holds an MA in Ancient History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

306R / 306Z Loyalists in the American Revolution

Four sessions

Instructor: Beth Lambert

Wednesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 24–Oct. 15

The colonists who remained loyal to the British crown during the American Revolution have received short shrift in our history books, when they have been mentioned at all. That has changed in the last few years with the publication of several important works establishing their numbers and discussing their motives for supporting the crown. Interestingly enough, the Loyalists during the American Revolution were not an anomaly. In fact, loyalty to the English crown has a history in this country that dates back to the 17th century English Civil War when the Atlantic colonies were caught between supporting the monarchy-in-exile or Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell. Loyalty to the Crown had its price then, as it did later in 1776. We will learn the history of Loyalty in America, as well as the stories of various colonists who chose to align themselves with the British during the American Revolution. Who knows, perhaps you may find a Loyalist in your family attic.

Beth Lambert is professor emerita 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.

307F / 307Z The Cold War Decline and Collapse of the Soviet Union: Brezhnev to Gorbachev

Five sessions

Instructor: Daniel Cain

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 25–Oct. 23

This course will cover the years 1964-1991, and discussion will center on developments within the Soviet Union, as well as Soviet external relations (with its Warsaw Pact allies, those in the worldwide Socialist camp, and the West) that occurred as part of the overall Cold War between the East and West at the time. Discussion will especially focus on activity and events that can be (and have been) interpreted by scholars as fundamental problems with the Soviet system, many of them part of a broad pattern of decline which finally ended with the historic and mostly peaceful collapse of the USSR.

Daniel Cain has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History and Political Science from Ohio University. He also did post-graduate study at the Indiana University Russian and East European Institute (REEI) prior to a career of 30+ years as a U.S. federal government intelligence analyst.

308F / 308Z Pushkin and Me

One session

Instructor: Peter Ansoff

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 7

Alexander Pushkin is generally recognized as one of the fathers of Russian literature, and is sometimes referred to as the Russian Shakespeare. He is best known for his poetry, but he also wrote dramatic plays, short stories and a "novel in verse," *Eugene Onegin*. During the Soviet period, statues of Pushkin were common in the Soviet republics, including Ukraine. The recent Russian invasion of Ukraine sparked a movement there to deface and remove such statues, which are now regarded as symbols of Russian imperialism. This course will summarize Pushkin's career and use selections from his writings to examine his attitudes toward patriotism and nationalism. It will also offer some speculation about how he would have regarded the current Russia-Ukraine conflict and touch on how his writings have influenced literature and popular culture.

Peter Ansoff retired from a career as a support contractor for the U.S. Navy and has been an OLLI member since 2017. His interests include maritime history, lighter-than-air aviation history, and the history and usage of flags. Peter was introduced to Pushkin because of a high school English class project, and has had an interest in him ever since.

309Z "Loathsome Diseases and Adulterous Women": The Saga of the Simmons Family's Efforts to Obtain a Civil War Pension

One session

Instructor: Michael Mason

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 13

Over two million Civil War veterans and widows applied for pensions during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Eligibility rules became more liberal over the

years, resulting in enormous increases in the number of claims filed with the United States Bureau of Pensions. At one point during the late 1890s, as much as one fourth of the federal budget was devoted to paying veterans' pensions. For many claimants however, the process was often cumbersome and sometimes took years to obtain a decision. This lecture will provide a brief history of the Civil War pension system and how it became a model for other governmental programs, such as Social Security in the 1930s. The lecture will highlight a case study of one veteran, Clark Simmons and his widow, Penniah Simmons, and their almost twenty-year effort to obtain a Civil War pension. The couple faced enormous obstacles due to poverty, governmental inefficiencies, and the moral standards of the times.

Michael Mason retired from the federal government after over 30 years of service. He has an MA in American History and is a member of the Fairfax Genealogical Society. Michael is also co-chair of the OLLI Genealogy/Family History Club.

310R / 310Z Park Ranger Potpourri

Three sessions

Coordinator: Jen Epstein

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 14–Oct. 28

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

311R The Internment of Japanese-Americans During World War II

Two sessions

Instructor: Robert Finkelstein

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 15–Oct. 22

Approximately 112,000 Japanese-Americans (70% were U.S. citizens) living on the West Coast were interned during World War II only because of their ancestry. This class will briefly trace the history of Japanese immigration and discrimination in the United States, the historical events of World War II, some of the experiences of those interned, the legal issues and Supreme Court Cases, and the politics during the War. The class will also review the events after World War II with the efforts to compensate those interned and the legal cases to reverse the convictions.

Robert Finkelstein earned his BS in American Government from Columbia University and his MS in Computer Systems from American University. Mr. Finkelstein has extensively read and studied the internment.

312Z The Fall of the Roman Republic

Two sessions

Instructor: David Timko

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 20–Oct. 27

This is a repeat of 305R.

See 305R for instructor information.

313F / 313Z The Imperial Presidency: From Woodrow Wilson to George H.W. Bush, Part Three

Four sessions

Instructor: Michael McGregor

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 22–Nov. 12

This course will continue from the 2024 fall term course, F305/F305Z Imperial Presidency that focused on Presidents Woodrow Wilson through Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In 1974, Arthur Schlesinger Jr. wrote a book popularizing the "imperial presidency." We will continue the examination of the power of the modern presidency with a look at whether each president from Harry Truman through George Herbert Walker Bush acted like a king. The course will also examine the role of Congress in permitting the "imperial presidency."

Michael McGregor currently works as a policy analyst at the Department of Health and Human Services. Michael's research has focused on the history of the U.S. presidency, Franklin Roosevelt, Congress, and the Lend-Lease Act. Michael received his Master of Arts degree from George Mason in 2012.

314R History of the American West

Four sessions

Instructor: Richard Stillson

Wednesdays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 22–Nov. 12

This course will be a brief survey of both the documented and fictional history of the American West, emphasizing the 19th and 20th centuries. The course explores how the environment, the federal government, agriculture, mining, movies, literature, and the military influenced the diversity, conflict, and change in the West. The first lecture considers the natural history, early history, and ecological history through a photographic tour of the major regions; the second lecture reviews the 19th century when Americans arrived on the scene; the third lecture considers the fictional and mythological histories through novels and movies; and finally, the fourth lecture covers the 20th century and the modern West.

Richard Stillson has a strong background in economics and much international experience. He has a PhD in Economics from Stanford University and had a 25-year career at the International Monetary Fund. He retired early from the Fund and earned a PhD in History from Johns Hopkins University.

315F / 315Z The Civil War Beyond the Battles, Part 1

Three sessions

Instructor: Jim Anderson

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 27–Nov. 10

Each of the three lectures will cover a different aspect of the American Civil War. We will avoid the usual focus on military campaigns or individual battles in favor of topics tangentially related to the fighting, but rarely covered in the usual survey course.

The Provost Marshal: Many Hats, Many Roles. The focus will be on Marsena Patrick, provost marshal or military "policeman," of the 130,000-man U.S. Army of the Potomac.

Faith in the Fight: Civil War Chaplains. This session will examine the roles and duties of members of the faith community who volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army of the Potomac and Confederate armies.

Against All Odds: Civil War Medicine. We will discuss the treatment and impact of battlefield wounds and disease, as well as the medical advances made during the war.

Jim Anderson served three years in the Air Force and 27 years in the CIA. In retirement, he has 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.

316F To Go or Not to Go: The Dilemma George Washington Faced on Whether to Attend the Constitutional Convention

One Session

Instructor: Dr. Peter Henriques

Coordinator: Velma Berkey

Tuesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 28

For whatever combination of reasons, George Washington desperately desired “secular immortality”—fame across the ages. He achieved fame and honor beyond compare for winning the War of Independence. Like the Roman hero, Cincinnatus, he returned his commission and retired to his farm at Mount Vernon, convinced his retirement was permanent. Would anything cause him to re-enter the fray? The instructor examines George Washington’s dilemma in depth and explains why he ultimately made the decision to attend the Constitutional Convention, a decision with far reaching effects down to the present day.

Peter R. Henriques received his PhD in History from the University of Virginia and is professor emeritus of History at George Mason University. He is the author of *First and Always: A New Portrait of George Washington*, *Realistic Visionary: A Portrait of George Washington* and *The Death of George Washington: He Died As He Lived*. Dr. Henriques’ latest book, *George Washington: His Quest For Honor and Fame* is now available. Honors include a George Washington Fellowship by Mount Vernon and the George Washington Memorial Award given by the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association.

317R The Battle of Midway

One session

Instructor: Robert Finkelstein

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 29

The Battle of Midway between the Empire of Japan and the United States was the largest naval battle in World War II. There have been two Hollywood movies about the battle. One book on the subject called the U.S. victory a “miracle”—but was it? This class will focus mostly on Japan’s and the United States’ expectations and strategies, as well as the military leaders on both sides. It will frame the significance of the battle and the post-battle actions of both countries.

Robert Finkelstein earned his BS in American Government from Columbia University, and his MS in Computer Systems from

American University. Mr. Finkelstein has extensively read and studied the World War II and the Battle of Midway.

318F / 318Z The Cuban Missile Crisis: Enduring Lessons for Modern Strategists

Three sessions

Instructor: Karen Wilhelm

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 30–Nov. 13

In the immediate aftermath of the Cuban missile crisis, a triumphal narrative arose in the U.S. portraying the events as a direct confrontation between President John Kennedy and Premier Nikita Khrushchev in which the two were “eyeball to eyeball and the other guy [Khrushchev] blinked.” At the time, thoughtful observers understood there were layers of complexity that led to Khrushchev removing the missiles. And after the Cold War, access to Soviet archives allowed historians to construct a much more complete picture. This course will examine those complexities by focusing on three topics that have been and remain key elements of international relations and conflict: 1) the competing considerations of grand strategy and military strategy as well as domestic vs. foreign policy; 2) the nature of and conflicts inherent in civil-military relations; 3) the effects of chance coupled with both unknown and unknowable factors that impact both decisions and outcomes.

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

319Z Cold War Two: Who Will Win This One?

One session

Instructor: Elva Card

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 3

On Christmas Day in 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev announced his resignation as president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This was the end of the USSR. The Cold War was over. The United States had won. The long struggle against Communist Russia was over. Hopes were high that Russia would now become a responsible member of the community of nations. There would be peace in Europe. But the 90’s for Russians were chaotic and painful. Out of those terrible years, in 2000, a leader came to power who was not willing to accept the Cold War defeat. Vladimir Putin planned to restore...not the Soviet Union. In his eyes, the Communists were weak. They lost. His plan is to restore Russia as a great world power, expanding Russia to its greatest historical boundaries, with no respect for the rights of other nations and peoples. We are in Cold War Two. Will Russian autocracy defeat Western democracy? Who will win this one? That’s a question we will explore in this session.

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

numerous presentations at annual NCSS conferences.

320R / 320Z Tales of Herndon

Two sessions

Instructor: Barbara Glakas

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 5–Nov. 12

Join this class to hear tales of Herndon's history from a historian with the Herndon Historical Society.

Haunted Herndon. This session will cover ghost stories that have occurred in various homes and businesses in the town of Herndon. The presentation is a mixture of Herndon history and fun ghost tales.

The Civil War in Herndon. These stories will include various incidents that occurred in the town of Herndon during the Civil War. The stories show the impact of the Civil War on town residents, soldiers, and enslaved people.

Barbara Glakas is a life-long resident of Fairfax County and has lived in the town of Herndon since 1986. She graduated from James Madison University and is a retired teacher from Fairfax County Public Schools. She now serves as the historian of the Herndon Historical Society.

321Z Fossil Hunting on the Jurassic Coast of England

One session

Instructor: Bonnie Becker

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 10

For 185 million years, the bones of strange creatures were entombed in the cliffs on the coast of Southern England. Released now and then by storms that eroded the coastal bluffs, they inspired fantasy and fear among local people. Mary Anning, a young girl from a poor family became the self-taught expert on the mysterious monsters that eventually provided support for the theory of evolution. On a tour with paleontologists from *New Scientist* magazine, the instructor made her own fossil finds on the beaches of the Jurassic Coast. The group also took a special sightseeing cruise focused on the unique geology of this UNESCO site. It is the only place on Earth where an unbroken sequence of Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous time periods can easily be seen in one place.

Bonnie Becker was Title IX coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools and has taught human relations for UVA. She also taught ESOL to recent refugees at the Washington English Center. Her OLLI programs have included The Bayeux Tapestry, Lost City of Petra, and Meeting Older Men (Neanderthals!).

322R / 322Z Help From Our Friends: Rescuing Downed Americans in World War II

One Session

Instructor: Richard Willing

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Nov. 12

In April 1944, the crew of *Black Jack of the Badlands* parachuted from the burning B17G bomber over German-occupied Yugoslavia. They were met on the ground by an undercover British soldier who helped

guide them to safety. The soldier, a native of the area, had been among three dozen Jewish refugees recruited by Britain's Special Operations Executive, given parachute training, and dropped behind enemy lines to use language skills and local knowledge to rescue downed flyers. We'll explore World War II's "Jewish Jumpers" through the parallel stories of the Yugoslav native, Reuven Dafni, and Lt. Albert G. Willing, Jr., the officer who led his crew of downed flyers on a harrowing two-week trek across German-held territory to safety. Willing's nephew, Richard Willing, will describe how he learned of the story and the resources that enabled him to report it, including identifying Dafni and the role British Palestine played in supplying the jumpers.

Richard Willing spent over 30 years as a reporter for American newspapers (you remember them!) and 10-plus years at four different American intelligence agencies. He has written a classified history of the relationship between the press and American intelligence. He has a BA from Yale College and an MA in American History from George Mason University.

400 Literature, Theater, and Writing

Program Planning Group Chairs:

Pat Bangs, Jane Fitzgibbons, Michael Mason,
Norma Jean Reck

401F Readers Theatre

Eight sessions

Instructors: Kathie West, Wendy Campbell

Class limit: 20

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

This course will provide a forum for OLLI students to hone reading and performing skills. Students will present readings, either self-chosen or provided by the instructor. Readings may be by a single performer or 2-4 individuals. Critiques will be provided in order to help each other improve skills, and pieces will be repeated as students wish. No memorization is required. Students will continue with their own choice of poem, monologue, duet, lyrics, and scenes to perform. Lots of fun and socialization involved.

Kathie West, an OLLI member, is a former actor of the Pittsburgh Theatre and a past theater teacher at Robert E. Lee High School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. She was also the director of OLLI Players.

Wendy Campbell is a curriculum developer and a re-enactor. She taught in the gifted program in Fairfax County Public Schools for 20 years, introducing 10-12 year olds to the wonders of Shakespeare, Plautus, and Sophocles.

402Z Poetry Workshop

Seven sessions

Moderators: Sophia Elberti, Carolyn Wyatt

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 23–Nov. 4

Class limit: 14

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 moderators will email students after class confirmation with further instructions.

Sophia Elberti retired from federal service after 32 years with the intelligence community. She enjoys creative writing, book club discussions, nature walks, and OLLI Singing for Fun classes. She also loves to travel, and one of her retirement goals is to visit as many U.S. national parks as she can manage.

Carolyn Wyatt is a retired federal information officer who traveled widely in that position. She has an MA in Spanish from Indiana University and aspires to be a poet and a wise woman.

403Z Writers' Workshop

Eight sessions

Instructors: Ed Sadtler, Margie Wildblood

Wednesdays, 9:15–11:05, Sept. 24–Nov. 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 Mason, and has taught poetry writing classes for OLLI and for the Lifetime Learning Institute at NOVA.

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. Her memoir, *Because He Loved Me*, will be published in summer 2025.

404Z Literary Roundtable

Eight sessions

Instructor: Ben Gold

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

In this on-going short story discussion class, we will continue with the anthology, the *Big Book of Victorian Mysteries*, edited by Otto Penzler. 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 Detective Stories, Crime Stories, International Stories, and American 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 including on Kindle.

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.

405Z So You Wanna Write Poetry

Eight sessions

Instructors: Ed Sadtler, Carolyn Wyatt

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 25–Nov. 13

Class limit: 12

This is a class for those who would like to write poetry or already write poetry and would like to improve their skills. Each session will be divided into three segments: a discussion of craft, a time to write, and a time to share what's been written. Come and surprise yourself!

See 402Z for Carolyn Wyatt instructor information.

See 403Z for Ed Sadtler instructor information.

406Z Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, A Novel Without a Hero

Eight sessions

Instructor: Ellen Moody

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 25–Nov. 13

Class limit: 50

The class will read Thackeray's masterpiece from a variety of perspectives. We'll discuss his life: his love of 18th century literature and history, his predecessor Henry Fielding's fiction, his women characters, the 19th century novel as a genre, and this book as poignant satiric comedy. We'll consider it as a novel published in installments, from the point of view of his illustrations, to the book. We'll also look at selections from a small *Everyman Anthology* of his writing, *A Shabby Genteel Story*, and *Other Writings*, (D.J. Taylor). Finally, students will be asked to view a few of the many superb film adaptations.

Ellen Moody taught in senior colleges from 1972-2011 and now over 10 years at two OLLIs. She is a published scholar with specialties in British literature, film, and women's studies. Her most recent publications and talks have been about Anthony Trollope, Jane Austen, and 18th century literature.

407Z Alone with the Dead: Isolation and Illusion in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Six sessions

Instructor: Charles Chadwick

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 29–Nov. 3

Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* was a thunderclap when it debuted on the Broadway stage in 1962, disrupting the norms of American drama. It is no less shocking and disturbing a work today, more than 60 years later. Albee's portrayal of the tragic implications of modern society still resonates today. Yet the play moves us deeply because it never loses focus on the individuals caught in this drunken night of "fun and games". Its naturalism—and its compassion—is what drives this drama in performance. We will examine this play in detail while we view a video of a live stage production.

Charles Chadwick has an MA in Literature and has taught courses on the plays of Shakespeare and Eugene O'Neill for OLLI since 2014. He has also given courses on poetry and contemporary literature. He is retired after a career in organizational ethics and as an executive in U.S. government contracting.

408Z Fall for the Book: *We Should All Be Birds*: A Memoir

Instructors: Brian Buckbee, Carol Ann Fitzgerald

Coordinators: Suzy Rigdon, Kate Lewis

Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 7

After losing the love of his life and then contracting a debilitating mysterious illness, Brian Buckbee stumbles upon an injured pigeon destined to save his life. In this heartwarming memoir, *We Should All Be Birds*, written with the help of editor Carol Ann Fitzgerald, we learn how nurturing wounded birds in Buckbee's self-made bird rehabilitation center brings him out of isolation to explore his own chronic illness and grief in connection with the beauty of the natural world. As author Lia Purpura states, "Brian Buckbee has discovered a slower, more openhearted, humble stance toward living and creating, where small joy is in no way insubstantial, and where attention given freely—to the birds he cares for who ultimately care for him . . . creates unexpected forms of love and devotion." This event is part of Fall for the Book's festival lineup. For the full schedule, visit fallforthebook.org/schedule.

Brian Buckbee lives in Missoula, Montana. He is co-founder of The 406 Writers' Workshop. His stories have appeared in *The Sun*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Mid-American Review*, *Shenandoah*, *The Southern Review*, and elsewhere.

Carol Ann Fitzgerald is a former editor at *The Sun* and *The Oxford American*. Her fiction and nonfiction have been published in *Ploughshares*, *The Oxford American*, *The Sun*, *The OA Book of Great Music Writing*, and elsewhere. She lives in Chapel Hill.

409F / 409Z Master of Mystery: The Prose and Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe

Two sessions

Instructor: Marilyn Harriman

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 9–Oct. 16

In this course, we will read and discuss four poems and two short stories by the famous writer: "To Helen," "Annabel Lee," "The Raven," "The Bells," "The Tell-Tale Heart," and "The Fall of the House of Usher." Born in the 19th century, Poe is regarded as one of the central figures of Romanticism and Gothic fiction in the United States and early American literature. Poe was one of the country's first successful practitioners of the short story and is generally considered to be the inventor of the detective fiction genre. As an early 19th-century writer, he was ahead of his time. As we discuss his works, we will investigate his writing techniques and his oft-repeated themes of madness, obsession, death, grief, guilt, isolation, and the supernatural. We will also discuss Poe's influence on modern writers, in particular Stephen King.

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 BA degrees in Journalism and English from the University of Oregon.

410Z Fall for the Book: *Expect Great Things!*

One session

Instructor: Vanda Krefft

Coordinators: Suzy Rigdon, Kate Lewis

Thursday, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 9

From the 1910s to the 1960s, the Katharine Gibbs School was widely known for training women for secretarial positions. However, in *Expect Great Things! How the Katharine Gibbs School Revolutionized the American Workplace for Women*, author Vanda Krefft reveals how this school was intentionally instilling women with the skills, knowledge, and self-confidence to seek opportunities outside of the prescribed secretarial role. Krefft tells the story of Katie Gibbs, the school's founder, and introduces us to a rolodex of graduates who went on to defy the sexism of their era. *Publisher's Weekly* calls the book "an exuberant and fascinating look back at how the uphill battle women faced inspired them to be creatively subversive." This event is part of Fall for the Book's festival lineup. For the full schedule, visit fallforthebook.org/schedule.

Vanda Krefft has written about women's issues and popular culture for leading national magazines, including *Elle*, *Redbook*, *Woman's Day*, and *Woman's World*, as well as newspapers worldwide through syndication. *Expect Great Things!* (Algonquin Books/Hachette, March 2025), a social history of the Katharine Gibbs School for women, is her second book. She is also the author of *The Man Who Made the Movies* (HarperCollins, 2017), the first in-depth biography of Twentieth Century Fox founder William Fox. Vanda has a BA in English and an MA in Communication, both from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She lives in Santa Monica, CA.

411F Memoir Writing

Four sessions

Instructor: Ron Shapiro

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 14–Nov. 4

Memoir Writing is a workshop designed with the objectives of learning about this genre, reading and discussing professional writers' attempts at sharing their stories, exploring ways to connect to one's past, playing with language and memory through a variety of prompts, and learning ways to craft one's own memoir into an effective piece of writing. In meeting these goals, it is the instructor's hope that our wonderful group of writers evolves into a community who: engage in the various writing prompts, support each other's efforts and works-in-progress, praise and support experimentation and risk-taking even when those experiments and risks don't entirely work, and project genuine interest in each other's pieces of writing.

Ron Shapiro is an award winning retired teacher and a Pennsylvania and Northern Virginia Writing Projects Fellow. His poetry has been published in more than 20 magazines. *Understory*, his first book of poems, has just been released.

412Z Theater Potpourri: Meet the Playwrights

Four sessions

Coordinator: Norma Reck

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 14–Nov. 4

Ever wonder what inspired a playwright to write such a fascinating play or what moved a composer to write that particular song? In this class, you will be able to meet and chat with four local playwrights and composers who will walk us through their creative journeys, the entertaining results of which we so enjoy watching and listening to on stage. For one of the sessions, you will be asked to choose which of her plays you prefer to learn about and may even get a chance to participate in one of them during class. It will be a treat to simply meet these special people.

413F Fun and Games: The Fundamentals of Improvisational Theater

Four sessions

Instructor: Steve Pilloff

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 14–Nov. 4

Class limit: 20

Do you like to laugh? Do you enjoy connecting with supportive people? Do you cherish moments of joy? If you answered “yes” to these questions, then this class is for you! We’ll gather in a safe, encouraging, and supportive environment to play and explore. Using our imaginations, we’ll create fun worlds, collaborative stories, and an overall sense of connected joy. Students will participate in various games, activities, and exercises that involve working together, listening to each other, making choices, using imaginations, discovering that mistakes can be gifts, and most importantly, having fun. Students will develop trust not just in themselves but in each other. Everyone is welcome—no prior improv or theater experience is needed, and you don’t even need to be funny. Just bring yourself; you are enough!

Steve Pilloff is an improv teacher, producer, and performer. He teaches improv classes through Highwire Improv and leads workshops at George Mason University, where he’s a professor with the Costello College of Business. Steve performs with Washington Improv Theater and regularly organizes shows.

414F / 414Z True Crime: A Study of Erik Larson’s *The Devil in the White City*

Four sessions

Instructor: Marilyn Harriman

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 23–Nov. 13

In this course, we will study Larson’s spine-chilling account of Good versus Evil. Larson’s narrative history intertwines the account of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair with the terrifying tale of H.H. Holmes. Presented in side-by-side reports, we’ll learn about the serial killer who built a murder castle and preyed on the fair’s visitors and about Daniel Burnham, the architect of the World’s Fair, who showcased American exceptionalism. Through the dual narrative, we’ll explore themes of ambition, creativity, the nature of good and evil, and the impact of historical events on individual lives. On the New York Times Best Seller list

for over five years, *Devil in the White City* won the Edgar Award for best fact-crime writing and was a finalist for the National Book Award.

See 409F / 409Z for instructor information.

415F Focusing Poems Through the Use of Imagery and Language

One session

Instructor: Mike Maggio

Coordinator: Carolyn Wyatt

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 3

Class limit: 12

This hands-on class will focus on creating poems with imagery that sparkles and with language that illuminates the subject rather than simply relating it. Part lecture and part workshop, participants will bring their poems to class for both critique and revision.

Mike Maggio’s publication credits include fiction, poetry, and travel, and book reviews in many local, national, and international publications. His latest collection of poetry, *Let’s Call It Paradise* (San Francisco Bay Press) won the International Book Award for Contemporary Poetry.

500 Languages

Program Planning Group Chairs:

Pat Bangs, Jane Fitzgibbons, Michael Mason,
Norma Jean Reck

501F Latin: Level 4

Seven sessions

Instructor: Alana Lukes

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 23–Nov. 4

This continuing course is for Latin students with a varying knowledge of indicative and subjunctive verb tenses and the five noun declensions. We use a modern reading approach to covering this ancient language. The course explores Latin grammar, vocabulary, mythology, and ancient Roman culture in 1st and 2nd century CE Rome. This session will move from the time of Domitian into the Empire under Trajan, as well as at the letter exchange between Pliny and Trajan. Class meetings will use the *Cambridge Latin Course, Unit Four, North American Fourth Edition* as the required text.

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 13 years at OLLI.

502F Italian Culture and Conversation

Eight sessions

Instructor: Leti Labell

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 25–Nov. 13

Do you love Italy? Who doesn’t? This course is a discussion group for lovers of all things Italian. The instructor will prepare materials to direct discussion. The sessions might include aspects of Italian culture, such as food, music, art, literature, or history, as well as any other topics of interest to attendees. There will be a general discussion of the topics in English or in Italian. Anyone with some

familiarity with the Italian language would be welcome, from beginners (or those who learned some Italian from their grandparents!) to those who have been studying for a while. If you don't have experience with the Italian language, don't worry. We'll learn new words based on the topic. If you've traveled to Italy in the past or are planning a future trip, this is the class for you.

Leti Labell has been studying Italian for over eight years. Her first Italian class was an OLLI class called "Italian for Travelers!" She loves the language and enjoys sharing all things Italian.

503Z Nature in Words: Exploring English and Chinese Thinking Patterns

Two sessions

Instructors: Dawn Li, Barbara Stiffler

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 16–Oct. 23

This engaging workshop explores how English and Chinese languages represent nature through words like Sun, Moon, Water, Fire, Tree, Mountain, and River. English constructs words linearly from its 26 alphabetic characters, while Chinese employs a relational system of 214 radicals, each carrying symbolic meaning rooted in culture and history. Through thought-provoking comparisons, hands-on activities, and cultural insights, participants will discover how these linguistic approaches reveal distinct ways of thinking about nature and creativity. This workshop provides an opportunity to reflect on how language shapes perception and fosters unique patterns of thought, offering fresh perspectives on the interplay between words, creativity, and cultural identity.

Dawn Li, PhD, a native Chinese speaker with a doctorate in Language and Literature, has taught Chinese culture at George Washington University and English at Peking University. She authored *Song of a Lotus Leaf* and is currently writing her new book, *64 Shades of Yin Yang*.

Barbara Stiffler researches and teaches on ancient Celtic culture and art, the Christian mystic Hildegard of Bingen, and human rights activist Mabel Powers, about whom she is writing a book. She has been a consecrated priestess in the Western Perennial Tradition since 1996.

600 Philosophy and Religious Studies

Program Planning Group Chair:
Jim Cantwell

601F / 601Z Tracts for the Times: A Study of Ruth, Daniel, Jonah, and Esther

Six sessions

Instructor: John Barclay Burns

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 22–Oct. 27

This course will examine the little and often overlooked books in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: Ruth, Jonah, Daniel, and Esther. The title, "Tracts for the Times" indicates that these books were written at specific times and for definite purposes. Examples of this might be: how to succeed as strangers in a strange land (Daniel,

Ruth, and Esther) and does God's concern go beyond his "chosen" people (Jonah)? But the books raise other significant issues which we will probe. Esther, of course, is the book of the festival of Purim. These are vividly written books. They may be easy, not necessarily fun to read, but powerful in their own way.

John Barclay Burns studied at the universities of St. Andrews (MA, PhD) and Glasgow (BD). After Presbyterian pastorates in Scotland, Canada, and Fairfax (Providence Church), he joined the Religious Studies faculty at George Mason University in 1986, where he is emeritus professor. His field of study is Ancient Israel, Hebrew Bible, and the ancient Near East.

602F Controversial Teachings of the Bible

Six sessions

Instructor: Steve Goldman

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 22–Oct. 27

Numerous texts in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament pose challenges for those who consider the Bible to be a unified, divinely inspired guidebook for humankind's relationships with God and each other. In this course, we will examine a range of controversial texts and explore the various interpretations that believers, skeptics, and those who reject the divine inspiration of these texts have offered. Some categories for analysis include the following: difficulty understanding the meaning of the author; difficulty understanding how to apply the teaching in a modern context; different interpretations by different faith traditions; conflict with ethical precepts and teachings of faith traditions; conflict with universally accepted standards of justice; and appearance of being factually untrue.

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

603F The Mind-Body Problem and Contemporary Panpsychism

Eight sessions

Instructor: Emmett Holman

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

Class limit: 40

Perhaps the hottest topic in philosophy these days is the mind-body problem. This is the problem of giving an account of the mind and its relationship to the body. Traditionally, there have been two views on this: physicalism, according to which the mind is (roughly) identical to the brain; and dualism, according to which the mind is non-physical, though connected (in some way) to the brain and body. Many think the debate between these two has reached an impasse, and as a result, a third option, "panpsychism", has emerged. According to panpsychism, consciousness, though at a very attenuated level, pervades the whole of nature and is not just a feature of brains. Panpsychism may seem like Stone Age thinking, but there are respectable arguments on its behalf. In this course we will look at the physicalist-dualist impasse and how panpsychism bids to break it!

Emmett Holman taught philosophy at George Mason University

for 45 years, retiring as associate professor emeritus in 2016. He has a BS in Physics and a PhD in Philosophy. While at GMU, he taught courses and published articles on the mind-body problem and other areas.

604F / 604Z What is the Messianic Hope in Both Judaism and Christianity?

Four sessions

Instructor: John Rybicki

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 25–Oct. 16

In both Judaism and Christianity, the concept of messiahship is oftentimes used. The term messiah comes from the Hebrew word *moshiach*, meaning “anointed.” In Biblical Hebrew, the term was used for someone who had been selected by God for a specific task or function, for example, a king or (high) priest. In Judaism, the concept appears in biblical and in post-biblical literature with a clear development of understanding based on the environment in which the Jewish people found themselves at the time. In Christianity, from very early on, there was a claim that Jesus was the promised Messiah, not just “another” messiah but “The Messiah.” But Jesus did not meet the messianic expectations of Late Second Temple Judaism. The term, although used, had to be redefined, refocused. Was this redefinition by early believers, this refocusing, credible? Does the redefinition of messiahship by the church have any connection to its original Jewish roots? To Christians, how is Jesus, The Messiah?

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.

605F Freedom vs. Determinism

Three sessions

Instructor: Irmgard Scherer

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 1–Oct. 15

Perhaps one of the most intractable conundrums in human affairs is the apparent conflict between free will and scientific determinism. We confront this problem most urgently when we do ethics, when we demand moral responsibility from people. If they are not free in their choices, it makes no sense to make moral demands on them. It is modern science in particular that throws us an ominous curveball, threatening the very foundations of ethical life. This course will unpack this dilemma, acknowledging the common-sense assumption most people have, that they are free to choose. We ask what does it mean to be free, and how does science undermine this assumption with hardly a possible counter argument. However, for maintaining the dignity of human life, genuine freedom must be sacrosanct. We will examine various philosophical answers to this problem ending with a Kantian answer.

Irmgard Scherer, a U.S. citizen born in Germany, is associate professor of philosophy emerita at Loyola University Maryland.

She taught core and honors ethics courses, topics in the history and philosophy of science, and upper level courses in her area of specialization: Kant and 18th century aesthetic theory. She has published on Kant and related issues. Since retiring, she has taught philosophy courses for OLLI, both at Mason and American University.

606F / 606Z Biblical Songs: Events and People That Spawned Them

Two sessions

Instructor: David Cain

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 8–Oct. 15

Why did they sing? Many reasons guided the people and the events long ago—from 1450 B.C. to the end of the first century A.D.—that led to ancient history’s first music. There were battles, babies, and more that motivated these very human, but God-led characters, to say in song what they could not express with mere words. Was it different for them than it is for songwriters in the 21st Century? Nevertheless, some utterly unique circumstances included a fellow singing from the belly of a fish; two other guys whose freedom was taken from them, but sounded nothing like prisoners bemoaning their situation; another who felt so convicted and desperate to escape guilt prison, while many other times he was vexed while dodging enemies from all directions. Raw emotions then, as they do now, compelled music from deep within the soul. History is about real people and what motivated them, and there’s no better window into events than to look at how people inside the events responded in song.

David Cain’s Song Scoops blog has 850 biblical through contemporary era songs. He was an analyst with the Central Intelligence and National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agencies, including six years as an instructor/course manager. He has BA (History) and MA (Political Science) degrees from Ohio University.

607Z The Bible and Today’s World: 25 Sayings That Still Matter

Three sessions

Instructor: Stephen Ruth

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 13–Oct. 27

How can ancient texts help us understand today’s big issues—racial justice, climate change, refugee crises, and social division? In this thought-provoking course, we’ll explore 25 Bible sayings that still challenge, comfort, and inspire in the 21st century. Each week, we’ll take several powerful Bible passages—such as “I was hungry and you gave me food,” or “Speak the truth to your neighbor”—and explore how they connect to real people doing extraordinary work today. We’ll meet advocates, whistleblowers, reformers, and caregivers, and consider how the Bible’s moral wisdom continues to guide our world. Whether you’re a lifelong churchgoer or simply someone who enjoys thoughtful conversation, this course invites you into lively discussions that link faith with justice, ancient words with modern headlines, and Scripture with our shared human story.

Stephen Ruth is professor emeritus of Public Policy from the Schar School at George Mason University. He is a frequent

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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.

650 Humanities and Social Sciences

Program Planning Group Chair:
Camille Hodges

651Z Big Issues, Complex Challenges, and No Simple Solutions

Eight sessions

Instructor: Glenn Kamber

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

This course is intended to expand participant knowledge and appreciation of challenges we face in modern society, including such issues as global warming; increased polarization among political, social, and economic groups; the nature and pace of scientific and technological change; and the role of media and modern communications. Each week the instructor will introduce a big issue through a brief oral and video presentation. The sessions will involve engaging discussion among participants facilitated by the instructor. Topics will be new each week and each semester; few will be repeated.

Glenn Kamber has taught many courses at OLLI that focus on current events and political and social issues. He is a retired senior executive from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he managed policy and program development in the offices of eight HHS secretaries.

652Z TED Talk Discussions

Four sessions

Instructors: Russell Stone, Stephanie Simcox

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23–Oct. 14

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. Participants will watch and discuss three or four related TED talks each week.

Russell Stone retired from a 40-year career as a professor of sociology, most recently at American University, and before that at SUNY Buffalo. He taught "Sociology of the Future" for many years, before realizing that the future isn't what it used to be! He now relies on the next generations to supply up-to-date information. He is co-chair of the OLLI program committee.

Stephanie Simcox attended George Mason University, then moved to California for 30 years, working for non-profits. After moving back to Fairfax a few years ago, she discovered OLLI and has been happily taking classes ever since.

653F Evidenced Based Policing

Four sessions

Instructor: Cynthia Lum

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23–Oct. 14

Evidence-based policing is a modern policing approach that advocates for the use of the best available science,

research, analysis, and information to make informed decisions about how to best improve public safety and trust and confidence of community members. This model stresses allocating resources more efficiently and effectively by ensuring that activities that the police engage in are actually linked to the public safety and police legitimacy outcomes. In this class, the instructor and her colleagues will share several ongoing evidence-based policing projects that they and the Center for Evidenced-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University are engaged in related to police efforts to reduce crime and improve community satisfaction with their services, respond to those in mental health crisis, use technology, and improve officer recruitment, development, and retention.

Cynthia Lum, PhD, is Distinguished University Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and director of the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University. She is one of the nation's foremost experts in evidence-based policing and a former officer and detective from Baltimore City.

654F / 654Z Black Jews: Who are They and Where Do They Come From?

Two sessions

Instructor: Lillian Brooks

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 23–Sept. 30

People are surprised to find out that there have always been Jews of different races. There are estimates that Black Jews range from 6-15 percent of today's Jewish population. If you look at many African countries and India, you'll find Ethiopian Jews and the African Lemba tribe whose men test positive for the Kohen gene, a marker of the Jewish priests. It is not unusual to find Black Hebrews in Israel (in Dimona and Arad in the Negev Desert) and around the Diaspora, many of whom claim they are descendant from the ancient Israelites. In the southern states before the civil war, Sephardi Jewish slave owners converted their slaves to Judaism. Deuteronomy stipulates that no slave should be kept for more than six years and should be released in the seventh. Many of the freed Sephardi slaves passed their religion on to their children and grandchildren. This course will delve into the history of Black Jews, who they are, and where they come from. We will note some famous Black Jews of today.

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.

655F Current Challenges Facing Higher Education and Where do We Go from Here?

One session

Instructor: Provost James Antony

Coordinator: Sarah Parnell

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 30

In recent months, higher education has been in the daily news. We've all read about such things: challenges to

research funding, questions about institutions' responses to concerns about antisemitism, ongoing scrutiny of DEI, threats to institution's endowments and not-for-profit status, concerns over costs, and persistent questions about the relevance of higher education. Why does it seem that higher education is suddenly in the news? And to what extent are today's questions and challenges related to long-standing issues that have faced higher education for generations? This lecture will outline the principal questions facing higher education today, and frame them within the broader scope of higher education's historical challenges. The goal of this lecture is to offer a path forward that can help higher education amplify its potential to have a positive impact on society, which in turn may help it enjoy wider support.

Dr. James Antony serves as the provost and executive vice president of George Mason University, the largest public research university in Virginia and a Carnegie R1 institution. As provost and executive vice president, Antony oversees George Mason University's academic mission, including supporting scholarly excellence among faculty and fostering academic success for over 40,000 students on all four campuses. He joined the university in 2024 and works in conjunction with President Gregory Washington to shape and execute the university's strategic academic priorities.

656Z NBC4 Emmy Award-winning Journalist, Shawn Yancy

One session

Instructor: Shawn Yancy

Coordinator: Stephanie Trachtenberg

Thursday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 2

Join Shawn as she talks about her work anchoring the 5:00 PM and 11:00 PM weekday newscasts at NBC4 in Washington, D.C. With a journalism career spanning nearly three decades, Shawn's trusted voice and commitment to her community have made her a fixture in Washington, D.C. news.

Shawn Yancy joined NBC4 in 2021. Before that, she spent 19 years as a news anchor and reporter at FOX 5 News, covering some of the region's most pivotal stories. She spent her second day on the job in D.C. covering the 9/11 terror attacks. Recognized as a 2023 Washingtonian of the Year by *Washingtonian Magazine*, Shawn's influence reaches far beyond the anchor desk. She is the founder of the Giving Foundation for Women & Children, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and uplifting underserved women and children. Shawn is also an abstract artist and a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

657F The Message: An Exploration of Ta-Nehisi Coates' Most Recent Work

Three sessions

Instructors: Carol Esteki, Carolyn Armstead

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 6–Oct. 20

Class limit: 25

What do a heritage trip to Senegal, a hearing for a book banning in South Carolina, and a trip to Israel and the Occupied Territories have in common? Each session of this class will look at one chapter of Ta-Nehisi Coates'

book, *The Message*. We will examine the author's insights, how the media approached these experiences, and how they relate to events in our own lives.

Carol Esteki, an OLLI member, is retired from the Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS), where she served as diversity and inclusion program manager. She coordinated and facilitated a program for employees called Healing of Racism, as well as concentrating on equity in client services.

Carolyn Armstead is a retired social worker from DFS, where she served in both the Adult Protective Services and Adult Services sections. She was a certified facilitator for the Healing of Racism program that raised awareness of experiences surrounding race with DFS employees.

658Z Searching for Trust in News Media

Four sessions

Instructor: Gloria Loew

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 23–Nov. 13

Each session will focus on a different issue about the impact of news in our lives with the goal of equipping us with the skills to engage with media effectively. We will explore four important topics: the current landscape of social media; learning and using news literacy tools in your media consumption; differences between journalism and everything else; and how AI is changing our trust in media.

Gloria Loew has been a member of OLLI since 2009, where she has taught classes and served on the board of directors. She thinks a lot about the role of journalists in our lives and how they might be more effective.

659F International Search and Rescue Demonstration

One session

Instructors: Macy Hunsicker, Scott Schermerhorn, K9 Phrenzy

Coordinator: Stephanie Trachtenberg

Monday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 27

The Fairfax County International Urban Search and Rescue Team, sponsored by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, is capable of both domestic and international disaster response. The team has extensive deployment experience with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Team is recognized throughout the United States and the world, as a premier leader in disaster response and the provision of training in catastrophic event mitigation, readiness, and recovery. Formed in 1986 after the devastating Mexico City earthquake in 1985, the Team is comprised of approximately 210 trained and equipped personnel, including firefighters and paramedics from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, as well as highly trained civilian personnel including physicians, canine handlers, and structural engineers. Since our first mission in 1988 to former Soviet-Armenia, the Team has deployed to dozens of natural and man-made disasters around the globe, saving countless lives and alleviating human suffering along the way.

Macy Hunsicker joined VA-TF1 in October of 2021 and certified with **K9 Phrenzy** in November 2023. Phrenzy is a 3-year-old Labrador Retriever and a 4th generation FEMA USAR K-9. Last fall, Macy and Phrenzy deployed with VA-TF1 in support of Hurricane's Milton and Helene. Phrenzy's favorite food is popcorn, and she loves to work for her bungee toy!

Scott Schermerhorn joined VA-TF1 in November of 2007 and has deployed with the Team more than two dozen times in multiple positions including Task Force Leader, Logistics Manager, as well as Rescue and Medical Specialist. Most recently he deployed as a US&R SME to FEMA Headquarters during the Hurricane's Milton and Helene response, and as Task Force Leader during the Team's deployment to the 2023 Türkiye Earthquake. Currently a Deputy Chief with the Fire and Rescue Department, Scott also serves as the Logistics Functional Group leader for the entire FEMA US&R System.

660F Living with Grief

Two sessions

Instructors: Don Shaw, Julie Sussman

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 3–Nov. 10

Class limit: 30

We welcome you to join us for this course on living with grief. Whether you are new to grief, or have been grieving for years, our mission is to help you navigate your personal grief journey. These interactive sessions will provide ways for you to: handle holidays and other social events; find local grief support groups and grief counseling; get ideas for traveling as a widow/widower; learn how to manage loneliness; explore volunteering opportunities; and so much more. This is also a class for those who want to learn ways to help a friend or family member who is suffering. And, if you just want to come to be amongst fellow grievers who speak your language, that's good, too.

Don Shaw, a former employee of IBM, lost his wife Cissie 14 years ago. For over 12 years, Don has been a trained volunteer at Haven of Northern Virginia, where he provides individual and group grief support for all types of loss.

Julie Sussman is the co-author of the *New York Times* and national bestselling *Dare to Repair*, a do-it-yourself series of books. Her beloved husband Jerry, a 30-year career CIA officer, died suddenly three years ago.

661F What Does it Mean to Love Our Neighbor in Today's World?

One session

Instructor: Rabbi Bruce Aft

Coordinator: Velma Berkey

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 10

In our polarized world, we will examine what we can do to try to build bridges between neighbors. The instructor does not propose to present this talk as a musical production. However, using the pioneer female songwriter, Jackie DeShannon's "Put a Little Love in Your Heart", we find a perfect segue to the theme of the presentation. Feel free to google the words to this meaningful song before class.

Rabbi Bruce Aft, currently Rabbi emeritus of Congregation Adat Reyim, served as their spiritual leader for 29 years. A graduate

About OLLI E-News

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 at olli.gmu.edu/category/olli-e-news/.

of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, Rabbi Aft received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 2006. In retirement, he is an adjunct professor at George Mason University, visiting scholar at the Carter School at GMU, and is the past president of the Community Board for Hillel at GMU and the Board of OUDC (Operation Understanding D.C.), a Black Jewish dialogue program for teenagers.

700 Current Events

Program Planning Group Chair:
Camille Hodges

701Z What's in the Daily News?

Eight sessions

Moderators: Richard Crawford, Deborah Dupree, Kathryn McGeehan, John Quinn, Ann Smith, Al Smuzynski, Dennis VanLangen

Class liaison: Dennis VanLangen

Mondays, 9:30–11:00, Sept. 22–Nov. 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.

702F / 702Z Great Decisions

Seven sessions

Moderator: Ted Parker

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23–Nov. 4

Class limit: 30

For over a century, the Foreign Policy Association has sponsored discussion groups throughout the U.S. to investigate and discuss some of the world's most challenging problems affecting our lives. This year's eight discussion topics include: 1) American Foreign Policy

at a Crossroads; 2) U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy; 3) U.S./China Relations; 4) International Cooperation on Climate Change; 5) The Future of NATO and European Security; 6) AI and American National Security; 7) India Between China, the West, and the Global South; 8) After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East. A briefing book and video related to each topic will set the framework for weekly class conversations. **Please purchase your book directly from FPA Bookstore** https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials or https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=439

Ted Parker, a retiree from the U.S. Department of Education, had a 40 year career in education that included teaching and managing at local, state and college levels. He is a long-time member of OLLI.

703F / 703Z Federal Deficits and Debt: The Problem and Solutions

Two sessions

Instructor: Jim Cantwell

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 25–Oct. 2

In this class, we will look at Congressional Budget Office projections of the federal debt and the composition of the federal budget. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and defense and the discretionary accounts will be discussed. We will assess the impact of the Elon Musk reductions in employment and outlays. Federal health plans will be discussed. Why has competition among providers not worked in these markets? Why do we spend so much more on health care than other advanced countries? What are the key difference among these other countries? What lessons might we learn? We will also discuss various budget savings plans. These will include free hospital health care for all, shifting Medicaid to the states, limitations on cost of living adjustments, and a matching federal surtax.

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

704F / 704Z All the News That's Fit to Print

Eight sessions

Instructor: Zachary Teich

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 25–Nov. 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.

705Z "Where on Earth is the U.S.? Are We in the Top 10?"

One session

Instructor: Doug Stowell

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 29

How does the U.S. compare in meeting the challenges that exist in 2025? We will examine some 24 topics including: GDP, Wages, Taxes, Trade balances, Tariffs, Environment, Energy, Education, Healthcare, Climate Change, Immigration, Safety, Prosperity, Personal Happiness, "Best" nations, etc. The top 10 format provides a quick snapshot of where the U.S. ranks relative to other nations. Our sources are international surveys by highly credible and impartial worldwide organizations. This is the fourth bi-annual edition of the program and includes three discussion breaks. A complete pdf copy will be supplied in advance.

Doug Stowell is a consumer and political polling veteran in both U.S. and EU markets. His career includes Market Res. Dir. for the Xerox Corp., U.S. Clients Director for NOP, Ltd. in London, UK and Sr. Polling Executive - Wirthlin Worldwide in D.C. In 2008, he launched MRA, a global research firm.

706Z GMU Retired Faculty Association: Modern Ukraine History

One session

Instructor: Karina V. Korostelina

Coordinator: Julianne Mahler

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 27

This talk will address the complex, multilayered, and asymmetric nature of the conflict in Ukraine. The 2022 war complicated an already fragile peace process. It will explore why the Minsk peace agreements failed not only in addressing incompatibilities between the conflicting parties, but even in reaching an agreement between the parties on the nature of the conflict itself. The talk will discuss how the 2022–2025 peace negotiations or proposals for settlement addresses multiple issues such as the rights and integration of minorities, antagonistic histories, and strong social boundaries.

Karina V. Korostelina is a professor and a director of the Sustainable Peace Lab at the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, GMU. She is an establishing member and president of the International Association for Reconciliation Studies.

800 Science, Technology, and Health

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Suresh Mohla, Michele Romano

801F / 801Z Being Present: The Study and Practice of Meditation and Mindfulness

Two sessions

Instructor: David Connell

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 22–Sept. 29

This class will be both informational and interactive. We will start the class with several definitions, including the

terms mind, self/ego, meditation, mindfulness, stress, and wellness. We will also discuss and practice several techniques including meditation, guided meditation, visualization, mindfulness, deep breathing, body scan, and mindful eating. The fundamental message of this course is that we already possess all the tools that we need to resolve conflict and create peace within ourselves. Students will also receive access to the course manual and website.

David Connell has taught stress management, meditation, mindfulness, and wellness to students at Sidwell Friends School, inmates at the Arlington County Jail, and clients at other nonprofits for the past twenty years. He has also had a daily meditation and mindfulness practice for over thirty years.

802F Get The Real Story About Drones!

One session

Instructor: Stephen Jarriel

Coordinator: Stephanie Trachtenberg

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 23

It's true that drones are generating a lot of excitement, but also some misconceptions. This class will be a breakdown of common myths, perceptions, and the realities surrounding drone technology. Prepare to be amazed!

Stephen Jarriel is the founding partner at LatLong UAS, an FAA certified provider of aerial data services including aerial inspections, drone video, aerial photos, and 360 panoramas. He has safely executed thousands of drone missions for first responders, marketing agencies, and universities.

803Z The Brain and the Body

Three sessions

Instructor: Tom Manteuffel

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 23–Oct. 7

The subject of this class is the most subtle and complicated structure that we know of in the universe, the brain inside your head that is right now turning these words into meaning. That little everyday miracle is rarely fully appreciated—until you try to reproduce it in a machine—as has been done fairly well only recently. Our brains are energy-hungry, far more so than any other part of the body. But the body that supports the brain is equally strange and intensely interesting the more that is learned about it. Our parts, leftovers from millions of years of trial-and-error, are a surprisingly makeshift collection of elements and elegant experiments.

Tom Manteuffel is a long-time teacher of OLLI courses, most recently on the ancient Greeks, the atomic bomb, and the history of money. He holds degrees in philosophy and computer science and is a retired cybersecurity engineer.

804R From Placenta to Pathology: The Duality of Our Viral Genes

Three sessions

Instructor: Suresh Mohla

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24–Oct. 8

Human DNA is more than just a blueprint for our physical form and biological functions. In a curious and often underappreciated twist, a significant portion of our

genetic material comes from ancient virus DNA. Our ancestral cells were infected with DNA from viruses over 500 million years ago. However, over time most viral genes have been silenced; only a tiny fraction remains active but plays a pivotal role in human biology. These remnants of ancient viral infections can have both beneficial and harmful effects on the human body. Viral DNA plays critical roles in human fertilization as early as in a 3-day embryo, stimulating its immune system, placental formation, and during pregnancy and parturition. Unfortunately, viral genes also play critical roles in aging, obesity, diabetes, and neurodegenerative diseases. Uncovering the mysteries of our viral gene heritage yields insights into how these ancient invaders continue to shape our biology, for better or for worse.

Suresh Mohla, PhD and endocrinologist, did his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. He has over 45 years of experience in cancer research including 25 years at the National Cancer Institute. He has taught at OLLI on multiple topics in cancer since 2020.

805Z AARP Smart DriverTEK Workshop

One session

Instructor: Mike Sweeney

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 25

Explore new vehicle safety technologies and the ways they can keep you safe behind the wheel with the AARP Smart DriverTEKsm workshop! From lane departure warnings and smart headlights, to blind-spot detection systems and more, this workshop helps drivers recognize how these technologies might enhance driving safety and extend safe driving years. Attendees will leave with a vehicle technology checklist that offers guidance on desired technologies when shopping for a new car or guidance on the features already in your car. Developed jointly by AARP Driver Safety and The Hartford, this interactive workshop offers a dynamic environment to learn how new, high-tech features in cars today can help make driving safer and easier.

Mike Sweeney is a presenter and co-developer of three virtual automotive safety classes at AARP Smart DriverTEK that are offered nationwide. Mike retired after a 40-year career as an electronic engineer and manager with five major corporations. He has a BSEE degree from RIT and an MEEE degree from UVA.

806Z The Alphabet Soup of Medicare

Two sessions

Instructor: Maddie Sharpe

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 29–Oct. 6

Class limit: 20

Are you confused about Medicare? Most seniors are, so you are not alone. It's not only about the ABC's. There's also D and then there's Medical Supplement with its own host of lettered plans! Have you heard about Medicare Advantage? That's where A+B+D (sometimes) = C. Yikes! Do you know what open season is all about? Do you know why you are inundated with messages/commercials/radio announcements throughout the fall? And, have you ever wondered how and if Medicare pays for nursing homes

or long term care? If you have any of these questions, this course is for YOU. If you're not yet old enough for Medicare, come to the class so you can be a step ahead of the pack so that you know what to do when the time comes. If you're already on Medicare, come to better understand the benefits you currently have and why reviewing them regularly is a wise choice.

Maddie Sharpe, CFP® specializes in senior health. She has been focused on aging issues since her relocation to Northern Virginia in 2002. She works with retirees and pre-retirees to assist in planning for the transition to 'fixed income' and preparing for added expenses associated with health (eg. Medicare and Long Term Care).

807F From Placenta to Pathology: The Duality of Our Viral Genes

Four sessions

Instructor: Suresh Mohla

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 29–Oct. 20

This is a repeat of 804R.

See 804R for instructor information.

808R The Science of Your Life

Two sessions

Instructor: Gillian Backus

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 30–Oct. 7

You have lived your life in your body since you were formed. You know your body intimately—or do you? How often do you stop and appreciate just how wondrous you are? Billions of cells communicating; exchanging materials; building proteins; copying DNA; building bone, muscle, brain; interpreting light, sound, smells, and tastes; responding to heat, cold, pressure, carbon dioxide levels, and infection. Let's look at science in your life with this series where we will take YOUR questions on each body system and answer them in a seminar discussion format.

Gillian Backus earned her BA magna cum laude from Mount Holyoke College and a PhD in Toxicology from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). Since 2009, she has been a full-time professor at NOVA-Loudoun teaching Biology and Anatomy and Physiology.

809F Fall Prevention Through Balance Exercise

One session

Instructor: Gloria Gaudio-Cilke

Coordinator: Velma Berkey

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 1

Falls are the leading cause of injury for adults ages 65 years and older. Over 14 million people report falling each year. This wellness program will provide you with a description and discussion of the importance of "balance" to maximize your lifestyle and fall prevention. Included in this presentation is a demonstration of various exercises that will focus on the role of balance to prevent falls, and how to improve safety and efficiency in posture, standing, sitting, and walking. Having these exercises at your disposal will assist you to decrease falls in your daily home and community setting.

Gloria Gaudio-Cilke, OTR/L, is certified in neuro development treatment, traumatic brain injury, and Parkinson's disease. She has worked in a variety of adult rehabilitation and health settings in Northern Virginia for over 25 years focusing on maximizing safety, efficiency, and independence.

810F Bridging the Red-Blue Divide on Climate Change

One session

Instructor: Robert Ehrlich

Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 7

The need to combat climate change is the most polarized issue of all those facing humanity, especially in the U.S. Given such extreme polarization one might think we are doomed to swings between inaction and a strong governmental response depending on which party is in power, but that is not so. Here we discuss ways to bridge the red-blue divide including geoengineering and nuclear power, among others.

Robert Ehrlich is a retired professor of Physics from George Mason University, where he chaired the department. He began his career after receiving a PhD in Physics from Columbia University in 1964. He has published over 20 books.

811R / 811Z Infrastructures

One session

Instructor: Bruce Cranford

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 15

You see and use infrastructures every day. How do they affect your daily lives? What are they and what do they do? How do you access them and what are the associated costs? By exploring your local area, you will gain insight into their impact on your daily life.

Bruce Cranford has been an adjunct professor at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD since June 2021. He regularly teaches space classes for OLLI Mason as well as at the Montgomery College Lifelong Learning Institute in Rockville, Md.

812R / 812Z USA Energy Production, Part 2: Energy Use and How it Affects You

One session

Instructor: Bruce Cranford

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 22

Everyone uses energy. Everyone pays for the energy. Everyone impacts the environment. The presentation includes the basics of United States energy production and consumption. All forms of energy production and use, fossil fuels, nuclear, solar and renewable are covered. Included are some issues facing world energy consumption. Future energy production and consumption scenarios are presented. Identified are the major effects on you, the consumer.

See 811R/811Z for instructor information.

813R / 813Z The Secrets Inside Your Walls

One session

Instructor: Bruce Cranford

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 29

Many live in multifamily, multistory residential buildings:

e.g. condominiums, apartments, coops. Learn about the inner physical workings of these modern buildings: what's inside your walls, floors, and ceilings. Gain a better understanding of general layouts, concealed features, and the reasons behind those mysterious noises.

See 811R/811Z for instructor information.

814F Landforms

Three sessions

Instructor: Barry Haack

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 29–Nov. 12

As we observe the surface of the earth via travel and visuals in print, digital, or other media, we encounter many variations in shapes, which we often reference as landforms or more correctly, geomorphology. This course will focus on the processes and rates of creation of these features. It will begin with basic geologic components including the geologic time frame, rock types, and plate tectonics. The primary causes of landforms both catastrophic and gradual will be presented and the resulting features caused by earthquakes, volcanoes, wind, ice, and water will be examined with visuals.

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 almost thirty countries providing an opportunity to observe many landscapes.

815Z How to Save Your Own Life: Becoming an Empowered Patient

One session

Instructor: Taylor Coffman

Coordinator: Stephanie Trachtenberg

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 3

There's no doubt about it. The instructor was a picture of health. That all changed when an expected routine delivery of her baby turned into a life-threatening ordeal involving multiple surgeries, a rare disease diagnosis, and a fight for survival—one that might not have happened if she hadn't become her own advocate for her healthcare. In this inspiring and informational talk, the instructor shares her journey of becoming an empowered patient and how it significantly improved her chances for recovery. She'll give you the tools so that you too can be an empowered patient. In her viral article, "I Spent Weeks Near Death In The ICU. Asking My Doctors To Do This One Thing May Have Saved My Life," the instructor shares how her medical catastrophes forever changed how she approaches her own healthcare. The article topped Apple News as the #1 story, garnering nearly 1 million impressions in 48 hours.

A writer, actor, and patient advocate, **Taylor Coffman** shares her inspiring personal story of survival and resilience after an extremely violent and rare disease diagnosis. Taylor has been featured in *HuffPost*, *Buzzfeed*, *TODAY* and many podcasts, and regularly writes in her Substack, *Rare Disease Girl*.

816R You Can't Make This Stuff Up

One session

Instructor: Michele Romano

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Nov. 5

At times, material will make it into the medical literature that is misleading if not flat out wrong. It can be totally absurd, often hilarious, and sometimes dangerous. It is then picked up by the media, rearranged, distorted even more, perpetuated, and spread to the far reaches of the galaxy. It then becomes gospel that is handed down from on high, never to be questioned again. It can be very difficult to unring the bell. You will be surprised that some of what you have been led to believe is nothing more than urban legend. You probably have a few stories of your own. This course will be fun but also a little scary. Take home message...trust but verify.

Michele Romano is a family physician who retired in 2015. She attended Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and held a faculty appointment as an associate professor of Clinical Medicine at VCU. She served on both the VCU board of trustees and the VCU health system board.

817Z Fear of Death

One session

Instructor: Jonathan Bauman

Monday, 11:50–1:15, Nov. 10

As we approach the end of our lives, it's hard not to worry about where we are going and what the journey will be like. To varying degrees, we all have thoughts and feelings about death from time to time during the course of our lives, a natural concern. This course will describe a clinical disorder, thanatophobia, which can affect people of all ages. We will also discuss the normal thoughts and feelings that older adults confront through aging, illness, and the deaths of those around us.

Jonathan Bauman is a retired psychiatrist and a graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine and the Georgetown Psychiatric Residency Program. He is board certified in General Psychiatry and by the American Board of Adolescent Psychiatry.

818Z Eye Care for Adults Over 50

One session

Instructor: Richard Katz

Coordinator: Stephanie Trachtenberg

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 13

Class limit: 50

This presentation will address various eye issues that can affect all of us as we get older. It will also provide strategies on how to cope with and determine the best course of action for a variety of eye diseases.

Dr. Richard S. Katz graduated from Towson State University with a BS in Biology, and from Pennsylvania College of Optometry with a BS and an OD in Optometry. He is now an optometrist at a private practice in Las Vegas called The Eyecare Center.

900 Other Topics

901Z Monday Lecture Series (formerly Monday Morning Lecture Series)

Eight sessions

Instructors: Mike Agron, Shivaji (Shiv) Seth, David Rehr, Laura Kahn, Mary Ellen O'Toole, John Lange, Irv Lubliner, Bill Schneider

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Sept. 22: Shaken Not Stirred: The Music of James Bond. Dive into the iconic soundscape of the James Bond franchise, where music meets intrigue. This 85-minute lecture explores how composers like John Barry and legendary artists including Shirley Bassey, Paul McCartney, Carly Simon, Adele, and more shaped Bond's identity. From suspenseful scores to unforgettable theme songs, discover how this music built the perfect mix of tension, drama, and romance. Whether you're a Bond fan or a music enthusiast, this session promises a thrilling journey through the melodies that defined a cinematic legend.

Music aficionado **Michael Agron** returns to OLLI Mason for his third music presentation. He grew up in Los Angeles, the heart of the recording and entertainment industry, with dreams of becoming a recording engineer. Though his path led to a successful career in high-tech, including founding a marketing agency specializing in webinar production, his passion for music remained a constant. Michael has transformed that passion into creating and delivering 15 unique, engaging seminars for the Sacramento Renaissance Society at Cal State University Sacramento and to numerous OLLI organizations nationwide.

Sept. 29: Small Nuclear Reactors: A Novel Path for Clean Energy. While nuclear power is a proven, reliable source of carbon-free clean energy, the construction of nuclear plants has been essentially stalled in the Western world. The nuclear industry is now engaged in a very concerted effort to develop small modular reactors and even "microreactors". How will they resolve the outstanding issues and provide a path forward towards meeting our growing clean energy demands? What is their development status? This presentation will provide a good understanding of nuclear industry's present efforts in simple terms.

Dr. Shiv Seth was in the energy field throughout his 60-year career in industry and in a senior advisory capacity in the government. He lectured on energy topics, including nuclear energy. Dr. Seth has a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from MIT and is an emeritus member of the American Nuclear Society.

Oct. 6: Interest Group Advocacy, Democracy, and Ensuring a Democratic Republic: Lobbying Congress in a Cluttered Environment. This lecture will focus on interest group leadership, communicating with the US Congress, and the need to hear differing perspectives to ensure a fully informed Democratic Republic.

Dr. David Rehr is the author of The Congressional Communications Report, revealing where Congress seeks information and where the Members and staff actually find it. He is also the author of countless articles on successfully influencing congressional action. His specialty is research on the ways Congress receives information from lobbyists and how lobbyists

attempt to influence the Congress.

Oct. 13: One Health and the Politics of Coronaviruses.

Using an interdisciplinary One Health approach, the instructor will draw upon material from her book, *One Health and the Politics of Covid-19*, to talk about the history, science, research, and politics of coronaviruses. Coronaviruses are zoonotic viruses, meaning that they originate in animals (i.e., bats) and spread to humans. The most well-known coronaviruses are Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and Covid-19. Unlike SARS and MERS, which emerged in 2002 and 2012, respectively, Covid-19 appears unusual in some of its clinical manifestations. In addition, the gold standard evidence used to prove the natural origins of the earlier coronavirus epidemics is lacking with Covid-19. The origin of this virus remains controversial. Coronaviruses were first discovered by veterinarians in the early 1930s. Physicians discovered them in the 1960s while studying "the common cold" but assumed that they were merely nuisance microbes. Medical researchers lost interest in them until the shocking appearance of SARS. One Health is the concept that human, animal, plant, environmental, and ecosystem health are linked. This is a relatively new term, but an ancient concept recognized by indigenous peoples around the world. The time to implement a One Health approach to health and well-being is now.

Dr. Laura H. Kahn is a physician, policy researcher, educator, and author. For 17 years, she was a research scholar in the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University. Her education and training encompass nursing, medicine, public health, and public policy.

Oct. 20: What is a Psychopath: Should you be Afraid?

In the speaker's career as an FBI special agent "profiler",

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the most intriguing, frightening, and challenging personality she ever dealt with was the psychopath. In this session, she will take you into the mind of the psychopath. Psychopaths can present an enormous challenge for everyone they interact with—family, friends, co-workers, law enforcement, mental health professionals, prosecutors, judges, and others. How psychopaths treat people, their behaviors at work, at crime scenes, as neighbors—wherever they are, can be shocking because of their stunning lack of empathy, their lack of guilt for their actions, their pathological lying, and their complete disregard for the consequences of their bad actions on others. Psychopaths can work in any industry and can be found globally. They can be doctors, lawyers, world leaders, and yes, law enforcement. They thrive on high-risk lifestyles, are grandiose in their thinking, and are masterful at manipulating others. They are human puppeteers and in the case of serial killers they are human predators. The damage psychopaths cause others is of no concern to them. They lack a conscience.

Dr. Mary Ellen O'Toole is currently the director of the Forensic Science Program at George Mason University. As the head of the program, Dr. O'Toole helped to develop a number of new initiatives for teaching and research, including the Forensic Anthropological Research Laboratory (aka the "Body Farm") at Mason's campus in Manassas, VA, and the Crime Scene House Laboratory in Fairfax, VA. Prior to coming to Mason, Dr. O'Toole served as an FBI agent for 28 years, and for 15 of those years worked in the Bureau's renowned Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) where she was involved in some of the FBI's most high-profile violent crime cases. Her specialized areas of study and practice in the FBI included psychopathic offenders and violent criminal behavior. She is the editor in chief of *Violence and Gender* and is the author of *Dangerous Instincts: How Gut Feelings Betray Us*.

Oct. 27: Global Health Security and Diplomacy: Are We Prepared for the Next Pandemic? In the 21st century, with its unprecedented volume and speed of international travel and greatly increased interdependence among nations, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases are a persistent global threat. HIV/AIDS, Ebola, COVID-19, and other diseases have devastated populations in recent decades. H5N1 bird flu now is spreading among animals and has infected some humans. COVID in particular, was a wake-up call to the world on the importance of strengthening national, regional, and global capacities to be much better prepared to prevent, detect, and respond to future pandemics. After three years of diplomatic negotiations, member states of the World Health Organization finally reached consensus on a legally binding pandemic accord. The new agreement is deeply rooted in the COVID-19 experience, which delivered excellence in science and innovation but also unearthed deep inequities across global health, economic, and social structures. Yet key details still need to be negotiated, and the United States has announced its intent to withdraw from WHO. A threat anywhere is a threat everywhere. Will the world be prepared for the next pandemic?

Ambassador John E. Lange (Ret.) had a distinguished 28-year career in the Foreign Service, where he received awards for his

leadership following the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, served as ambassador to Botswana, and was a pioneer in global health diplomacy. He served as special representative on avian and pandemic influenza and as deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator at the inception of PEPFAR. He later worked in global health advocacy at the Gates Foundation and currently is senior fellow for Global Health Diplomacy at the UN Foundation, where he has held leadership positions in global polio and measles initiatives.

Nov. 3. Only Hope: A Survivor's Stories of the Holocaust. Before she passed away in 1974, Felicia Bornstein Lubliner wrote about her internment in ghettos and concentration camps (Auschwitz and Gross-Rosen) in Nazi-occupied Poland. Her powerful stories have been published by her son, Irv Lubliner, who also contributed the foreword and afterword to the book, *Only Hope: A Survivor's Stories of the Holocaust*. He will share excerpts, shedding light on his mother's experiences and indomitable spirit, as well as his own experience as a child of Holocaust survivors and his process in bringing the book to fruition. Questions and discussion will be encouraged. The book is not required but is available to those interested from Felabra Press, onlyhopebook.com.

Irv Lubliner is a professor emeritus at Southern Oregon University (SOU), where his specialty was mathematics education. During his 40-year career, he taught at all levels, kindergarten through graduate school, led seminars for teachers in 39 states, and gave over 350 conference presentations, including several keynote addresses. Since retiring in 2014, he has taught math, blues harmonica, and literature classes for the OLLI program at SOU. Since publishing his mother's writings about her Holocaust experiences, he has dedicated himself to sharing her powerful stories through hundreds of presentations for teen and adult audiences nationwide (including 86 OLLI campuses).

Nov. 10: President Trump's Agenda. What's the deal with President Trump? Why is he doing strange things, like inviting South African "refugees" to immigrate to the United States and attacking alleged anti-Semitism at major universities? Is there a political agenda here? Of course there is. There is a political agenda for just about everything this president—or any president—does. They are politicians, after all. And politics is all about promoting your interests. It's just that Donald Trump is not always very open about his interests. President Trump seems to have two agendas. One of them is personal: to impose retribution on his political enemies; the other is ideological: to promote far right causes. They both amount to the same thing—preserving his legacy.

Bill Schneider has covered every U.S. presidential and midterm election since 1964, first as a Harvard University graduate student and later for *The Los Angeles Times*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*. Schneider has been labeled "the nation's electionmeister" by *The Washington Times* and "the Aristotle of American politics" by *The Boston Globe*.

902F Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT): Preparing for Disasters and Ways You Can Help Your Community Respond and Recover

One session

Instructor: Carol Brown

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 22

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, 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.



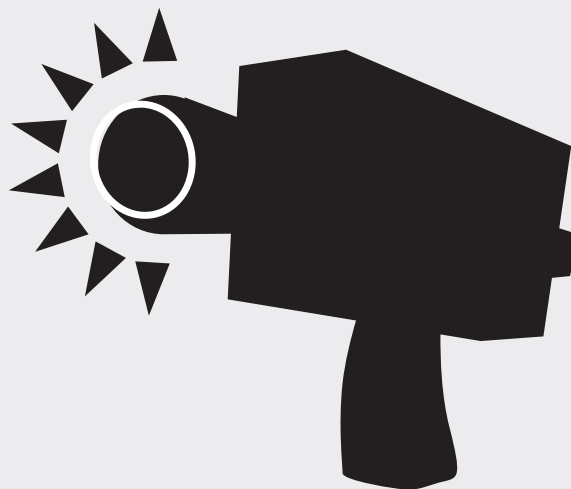
OLLI Mason Travel Opportunities

Looking for an adventure? Check out the travel page on the OLLI Mason website for future opportunities. Note: trips are managed and processed entirely by the travel agencies. OLLI Mason is not involved in any purchase or refund transactions, logistics, or liability whatsoever. OLLI Mason members and their guests must work directly with the travel agencies. olli.gmu.edu/travel/

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/). 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!

Special Events

Many Special Events 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 check the location information in each description.

Special Events

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Gay Alper, Marilyn Harriman

1000 Excursions

1001E History is Right Around the Corner: Two Local Gems

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Friday, 10:00–1:30, Sept. 26

Drive on Your Own

Limit: 15

Passing by a brick building on Main Street, you may have noticed a sign, Fairfax Museum. But have you ever been inside? This nearby excursion will begin at this former school building where the Fairfax Story Exhibition and a docent tour will provide us with fascinating stories and tidbits about local history. We will next stroll along Main Street to the 1812 Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House at 10386 Main for a guided tour. Group lunch reservations will be made at a nearby restaurant, followed by a walk back to the museum. Participants may re-visit the museum as desired, perhaps to view the special exhibit Virginia and the Vietnam War or to peruse the gift shop. Meet at the Fairfax Museum, 10209 Main Street at 10:00am. Lunch is pay on your own.



1002E Walking in Old Town

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Friday, 9:00–3:00, Oct. 3

Bus trip

Limit: 30

Fee: \$53

Local author/tour guide Helga Warren will lead a 1.5 hr. walking tour of Old Town Alexandria. Tour highlights: Ramsay, Carlyle, and Spite Houses; Stabler-Leadbetter Apothecary, Gadsby's Tavern, and Washington's Townhouse; Lee's Boyhood Home; Christ Church; Prince Street/Gentry Row/Captain's Row. After lunch on our own at an eatery of individual choice, we will meet at the Torpedo Factory to learn about its role during WWII and to visit the on-site Archaeology Museum. The bus will leave at 9:00am from the Fairfax Swimming Pool (4200 Roberts Road), Fairfax, VA. Please be on the bus by 8:45am.



1003E Wine Trip to the Virginia Countryside

Coordinator: Bernie Oppel

Friday, 9:30–5:00, Oct. 24

Limit: 25

Fee: \$185

Join OLLI for a fall wine country bus trip. The tasting experience begins at Slater Run Vineyards in Upperville. The winery features premium French style wines made from Virginia grown grapes. The tour continues with a seated lunch at the renowned Field and Main restaurant in Marshall. The prix fixe lunch includes three courses served family style, plus tea or coffee. The trip concludes with an afternoon of wine tasting and spectacular mountain views at Fox Meadow Winery. An all-inclusive fee of \$185, covering transportation costs, lunch, wine tastings, and bus driver gratuity is payable to OLLI at the time of registration. Space is limited, so sign up today! The bus will leave promptly at 9:30am from Tallwood. Please be on the bus no later than 9:15am. Estimated time of return to Tallwood is 5:00pm.



1004E Cataloguing Americana: A Peek Behind the Scenes at the National Gallery of Art

Coordinators: Carolyn Kramer, Bonnie Nelson

Friday, 8:45–2:00, Oct. 31

Metro/Drive on Your Own

Limit: 12

The Federal Art Project of the 1930's documented American folk and decorative arts from the colonial period through 1900. The National Gallery of Art Archives now houses the Index of American Design, a collection of correspondence, research materials, and photographs, offering significant information about American design culture, artisan/craftsmanship. We will visit with Gallery staff to learn about these items and their makers. While the actual art pieces are not on display, we will learn through a show-and-tell of photographs and documents. On-site eateries are available for lunch, or perhaps take some free time to browse the galleries before returning to the Archives Metro. Meet at the Springfield Metro entrance no later than 8:45am. We will use the 6th Street and Constitution Avenue entrance of the NGA West Building. Admission is free. Each attendee will be required to present a government-issued photo ID. More details will be sent to attendees before the trip. **Participants are encouraged to register for the companion lecture 104F/104Z Cataloguing Americana: Virginian Artists in The Index of American Design Collection at the National Gallery of Art for an informative preview of this excursion.**



1100 Diversions

1101F Grab 'n' Gab Coffee Klatch

Coordinator: Toni Acton

Friday, 10:00–11:30, Sept. 26

Fairfax

Grab a cup of coffee and your favorite pastry and enjoy socializing with your OLLI colleagues. All members—new and old—are welcome to enjoy the casual conversation and camaraderie. Registration for this event is on a first come, first-served basis.



1102F 2nd Annual Oktoberfest at OLLI Mason

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Friday, 12:30–2:30, Oct. 10

Fairfax

Limit: 70

Prost! Come to Tallwood and enjoy traditional German foods, beverages (0.0% non-alcoholic beer and Jägermeister), and music. Our party will include a live German Oompah band that will entertain us with polkas, waltzes, and folk dances. You'll have an opportunity to test your knowledge of Germany and Oktoberfest during a trivia game and contest. The trivia winner receives a gift certificate to a popular German restaurant in the area. Register now to join the celebration of one of the world's most favorite fall traditions, one which began in 1810 as a royal wedding, "30 Special Events", celebration. Participants must register to partake in the food and beverages. The deadline to register is October 3.



1103F / 1103Z Annual Town Hall Meeting

Friday, 10:00, Nov. 7

Fairfax

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for OLLI members to hear updates about our program, facilities, and member activities. After presentations by the board president and the executive director, members will participate in a question-and-answer period and have the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions.



1200 Between-Term Events

1201F Golden Summer Game Day Bash

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Tuesday, 10:00–1:00, Sept. 2

Fairfax

Limit: 40

Start September with entertainment. This is our third OLLI Mason Game Bash, and it promises to be as fun as the previous events. We'll play popular table games, some of which you've played before and others that will be new to you. All are easy to learn and play. We'll begin the morning with a quick review and a handout with the rules for each game. At the end of the morning, awards will be announced and presented to the winners with the highest game scores. The event also includes snacks and



liquid refreshments. Registrants can sign up with the event coordinator Marilyn Harriman to enjoy lunch (cost and transportation on your own) afterward at Auld Shebeen in Fairfax.

1202F Picnic in the Park

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Friday, 12:30–2:30, Sept. 5

Fairfax

Savor the waning days of warm weather with your OLLI friends in Tallwood's back yard. Bring your blanket, picnic lunch, and non-alcoholic beverage, and plan to relax under a tree on our expansive grass-lined grounds behind the academic buildings. Lawn chairs are welcome. Cornhole, croquet, and badminton games will be set up for your enjoyment. Located in the back of the Tallwood campus, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax, the plants, trees, and expanse of lawn make a welcome lunchtime sanctuary. This is a great time to celebrate old friends and make new ones while enjoying Tallwood's nature park. Want something more structured? We'll have picnic tables set up for those who'd prefer to sit above the grass.



1203F OLLI Kick-Off Coffee

Coordinator: Toni Acton

Thursday, 10:00–11:30, Sept. 18

Fairfax

Come one, come all as we welcome new members and kick off the fall term at OLLI! Celebrate old friendships and make new ones with coffee, refreshments, and friendly conversation. New members will have the opportunity to meet and engage with the executive director and OLLI board members, as well as learn more about the many committees and clubs that are available to members. A question and answer period will follow the presentations. All new and past members are welcome.



1204F Annual Holiday Party

Coordinator: Debbie Engleson

Tuesday, 11:30–2:30, Dec. 2

Limit: 125

Fee: \$50

Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030

Join fellow members and guests for OLLI's biggest event of the season. Starting at 11:30am, there will be socializing and a cash bar. Lunch will be served at 12:15pm. Jazz students at George Mason University will provide us with a wintery mix of entertainment followed by door prizes. Choose either chicken piccata, three cheese ravioli with tomato basil cream sauce, or Thai chopped chicken salad as entrees; all meals include beverage and dessert. You can indicate your choice of entree and pay the \$50 fee when you register on the OLLI portal. Registration will end on Wednesday, November 13, and will be taken on a first come, first served basis. OLLI members are welcome to bring a guest.



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@gmue.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, Sept. 4–18, Nov. 20–Dec. 18 (no meeting on Nov. 27)

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

Weekly on Wednesdays

Fairfax:

10:00–12:00, Sept. 3–17, Nov. 19–Dec. 10 (no meeting Nov. 26)

1:30–3:30, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

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, Sept. 3–Sept. 17, Nov. 19–Dec. 10 (no meeting Nov. 26)

1:30–3:30, Sept. 24–Nov. 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:

2:00–3:00, Sept. 2–16

3:45–4:45, Sept. 30–Dec. 9 (no meeting Nov. 11)

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, Sept. 8–Dec. 29

Tuesdays, 2:00–3:00, Sept. 2–Dec. 30

Wednesdays, 12:00–1:00, Sept. 3–Dec. 17

Thursdays, 3:00–4:00, Sept. 4–Dec. 18

Fridays, 12:00–1:00, Sept. 5–Dec. 26 (no meeting Nov. 7)

Join Kamini Patel, a certified yoga instructor who has been teaching yoga since 2003. You will benefit from 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 that utilizes yoga, stretching, and breathing exercises. On Wednesdays, Vinyasa Yoga will be a flow class to reduce stress and improve heart health.



Continue on Fridays with a more relaxed Gentle Yoga class. There will be more yoga stretches at a slower pace. All classes include breathing exercises and meditation. We will discuss the equipment needed in class as well.

Classic Literature Club

Coordinators: Michael Mason, Debi Schilling

Fridays

Zoom

2:00–3:30, Sept. 26–Nov. 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 Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, 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, the poems of Robert Frost, and plays by Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller.



Cooking Club

Coordinator: Colleen Tuddenham

Second Friday of the Month

11:30–1:00, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

This club is for OLLI members who enjoy preparing food and sharing homemade dishes in a small group setting. Club members take turns hosting in their homes. If this appeals to you, please contact Colleen Tuddenham at olliclub@gmu.edu for more information. Sign up for the club via the Member Portal in order to receive updated information on our schedule.



Craft and Conversations

Coordinators: Doris Bloch, Joanne Fitzgerald

Fridays

Fairfax, hybrid:

9:30–11:00, Sept. 5–Dec. 12 (no meeting Nov. 7)

Zoom plus location TBD:

9:30–11:00, Dec. 19, Dec. 26

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

Fairfax:

1:30–3:30, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

Zoom:

1:30–3:30, Sept. 3–Sept. 17, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, Dec. 10

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.

Dirty Knee Club

Coordinator: Bill Ackerman

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:

Thursdays, every four weeks

6:00–7:00, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

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 a Saturday and one on a weekday. We also have virtual dinner parties, where we each order takeout ethnic food from nearby restaurants and eat together on Zoom. 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, Sept. 8–Dec. 8

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
Wednesdays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

We welcome all OLLI members who are interested in history. The History Club meets seven 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, Sept. 5–Dec. 26 (no meeting Nov. 7)

Reading the classics aloud with friends and sharing observations bring the texts to life in our imaginations. We have recently read Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* and are following this with Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*. We welcome new readers.

Literary Fiction Book Club

Coordinators: Karen Schneider, Joann Sokol
Thursdays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Sept. 25, Oct. 16, Nov. 6

The Literary 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 the

discussions. On September 25, the group will discuss *Playground* by Richard Powers. On October 16, we will meet to discuss *Long Island* by Colm Toibin. The book for November 6 will be shared with the participants at our meeting in September.

Mah Jongg Club

Coordinator: Debby Mossburg

Fridays

Fairfax:

10:00–12:00, Sept. 5, Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, Oct. 31, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

Tuesdays

Zoom:

4:00–6:00, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 16

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 online 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 in and out of term

Zoom:

2:00–4:30, Sept. 3–Dec. 24

Limit: 13

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, space is limited. Please contact Carolyn at olliclub@gmu.edu to learn if space is available.

OLLI Walk & Talk Club

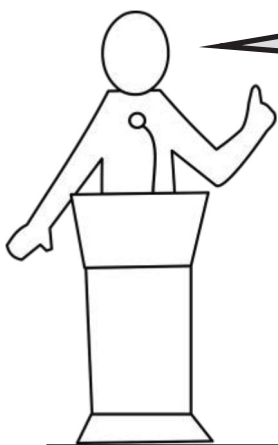
Coordinators: Marilyn Harriman, Bob Heyer, Jane Hassell

Weekly/Biweekly

Fairfax County trails and neighborhoods

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

Do you enjoy getting out in the fresh air, exploring trails throughout Fairfax County, 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. Walks vary around Fairfax trails and



For full instructor bios, click on the instructor name accompanying the course descriptions in the OLLI Member Portal:
olligmu.augusoft.net

neighborhoods in order to be a short drive for everyone sometime! 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. Visit: olli.gmu.edu/category/olli-walk-and-talk-club to access the Walk & Talk Club web page to learn the answers to commonly asked questions about our outings.

Personal Computer User Group

Coordinators: Bob Heyer, Leti Labell

Third Saturday of each month

Fairfax, hybrid:

1:00–3:30, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13

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”. We start our meetings with an open forum for members with problems asking for possible solutions other members have found. 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 on Zoom from 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: olligmu.org/opcug/index.html

Photography Club

Coordinators: John Olsen, Ed Marion

Second Fridays

Fairfax, hybrid:

9:30–11:30, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

Fourth Fridays

Fairfax, hybrid:

9:30–11:30, Sept. 26, Oct. 24

Zoom only:

9:30–11:30, Nov. 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, Sept. 8, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15

Limit: 20

From modern to classical, haikus to sonnets, funny to historic, we read and discuss our favorite published poems in a convivial atmosphere. Share a poem to read that intrigues you. Together we’ll ponder why and how these poems engage or even elude us.

Poetry Writing Club

Coordinators: Susan Rexroad, Margie Wildblood

Meets sporadically on Mondays, between terms

Zoom:

11:00–12:30, Sept. 15, Dec. 15

Limit: 12

After a presentation and discussion on a poetic theme, you’ll have time to craft your own poem on the topic and share your work in a supportive atmosphere. Interest in exploring your creativity is all that is needed!

Spanish Club

Coordinator: Mark Ramage

First and third Wednesdays—in and out of term

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Sept. 3, Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 15, Nov. 5, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, Dec. 17

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, Sept. 2–Dec. 30

Thursdays, 4:30–5:30, Sept. 4–Dec. 25

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30, Sept. 6–Dec. 27

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:

2:30–4:00, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

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



The Investment Forum Club

Moderators: Al Smuzynski, Bob Baker, Lou Coglianese, David Toms

Wednesdays

Fairfax, hybrid:

10:30–12:00, Sept. 3–17, Nov. 19, Dec. 3–10

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 financial markets, and their impact on investment decisions. Member presentations and discussions typically include such topics as: recent market indicators, stocks, bonds, mutual and exchange traded funds, real estate investment trusts, sector allocations, investment strategies, portfolio management, and choosing advisory services. Each week members may participate in our "Buy/Sell/Thinking-About" segment by sharing their investment trades or activities of the previous week, which are then looked at and discussed in a peer group setting. The Forum typically uses various Wall Street analyses and data, as well as relevant news from the financial press. In addition, we regularly incorporate a number of online financial tools and websites in looking at members' recent trading activities or other investment products.



Theater Lovers' Group

Coordinator: Norma Jean Reck
Fourth Wednesdays in term and in-person theater events

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Sept. 24, Oct. 22

All OLLI members are invited to join the Theater Lovers' Group (TLG). The TLG attends a wide variety of theater events year-round in the DMV area. We also take day trips to a nearby venue or an overnight trip to Broadway in New York City, Staunton for Shakespeare, and West Virginia for a theater festival. We usually attend matinees with an optional lunch or dinner at a nearby restaurant where we get to know our fellow theater lovers. TLG meets virtually during the months that OLLI is in session. Our meetings often feature speakers from the local theater companies



who take us behind the scenes or who enlighten us about what is happening in the theater world. We also have lunches where we talk theater and socialize. We carpool, encourage bringing guests, and benefit from senior and group rates. To become a member and receive all TLG emails, go online to the Member Portal and sign up for Theater Lovers' Group or email ollireg@gmu.edu. For more information, email Norma Jean Reck and watch for announcements in OLLI's Friday E-News.

What's in the Daily News Club

Moderators: Dick Crawford, Deborah Dupree, Kathryn McGeehan, John Quinn, Ann Smith,

Al Smuzynski, Dennis VanLangen

Class liaison: Dennis VanLangen

Mondays, between terms

Zoom:

9:30–11:00, Sept. 1–Sept. 15, Nov. 17–Dec. 22

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/

Get Involved With OLLI Mason!

OLLI Mason is a member run organization with many members contributing to our program planning.

Maybe you are a former teacher missing the classroom experience, a subject matter expert through work experience or volunteerism, or have a passion you would like to share (*no need for formal expertise*). You may also know individuals in your community who would be good instructors. Please consider teaching or joining a program planning committee.

Find out more by emailing program@gmu.edu or visiting olli.gmu.edu/teach-at-olli/



What Can You Do At OLLI?

- ❶ One fee for unlimited classes & clubs
- ❷ Enjoy over 500 classes & events every year
- ❸ Attend in person or online
- ❹ Try a class for free before joining
- ❺ Explore new interests
- ❻ Share your knowledge with others
- ❼ Make new friends
- ❽ Enjoy social events, local tours & travel
- ❾ Receive free technical support
- ❿ Enjoy George Mason University affiliate benefits





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We thank the donors who have so generously given to the Friends of OLLI campaign. From January through December of 2024, 150 Friends of OLLI donated \$ 46,506.17. 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, we proudly acknowledge the donors listed below:

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Kosmo & Jean Tatalias
Rita Toscano
Karen Tovey
Tom Urman
Dennis VanLangen
Patrick Walsh
Robert Ward
Michael Whitehouse
Anonymous (1)

Donors

Up to \$100

Renee Bobbie Agee
Laverne Alston
Judy Braham

Christine Brooks
Virginia Clark
Craig Clarke
Martha Cole
Kathleen Cox
Elliot Dubin
Thomas Edmondson
Jane Hassell
Jay Johnson
Paulette Lichtman-Panzer
Pallas Sun Lo
Joyce Mary & Harold Moses
John Olsen
Mary Petersen
Stephen Poppe
Susan Rexroad
Lynn Rhoads
Doreen Sanborn
Paul & Rae Schafer
Julia Soderstrom
Evelyn Turner
Andrew Werthmann
Anonymous (1)

Special Contributors

Fidelity Charitable
Morgan Stanley Gift
Potomac Area Technology &
Computer Society
Schwab Charitable
Verizon

In Memory or Honor of

Pamela Cooper-Smuzynski
Thomas Hartnett
Lesley Kravitz and her
"country club"
Gloria and Murray Loew's
birthdays
Kay Menchel
John West

Membership and Registration

**** Special ****

Fall 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 online at olli.gmu.edu. Click the yellow 'Join Olli' tab at the top right corner. When renewing online, log in to your Member Portal account. Click the 'Join OLLI!' tab on the left green banner and purchase your membership. Credit card or electronic check payment is required when joining 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. Contact the registrar for more information at ollireg@gmu.edu or 703-544-0085.

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). Low enrollment classes are subject to cancellation, so please register early. For a course with a seat limit, selecting priority #1 will increase your chance of enrollment. In general, prioritizing courses offers registrants the best chance to gain access to those 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 “Add to Cart” rather than “Request a Class” 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 or by emailing 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) 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: Fall 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 34): must submit the form found at: 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, R, and/or Z.

See page 35 “Request Class” for instructions.

	Course	Course Name
1st ^{priority}		
2nd ^{priority}		
3rd ^{priority}		
4th ^{priority}		
5th ^{priority}		
6th ^{priority}		
7th ^{priority}		
8th ^{priority}		

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

See page 35 “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		Select	Activity Title	Fee
1001E		History is Right Around the Corner: Two Local Gems	N/A	1103F/ 1103Z		Annual Town Hall Meeting	N/A
1002E		Walking in Old Town	\$53	1201F		Golden Summer Game Day Bash	N/A
1003E		Wine Trip to the Virginia Countryside	\$185	1202F		Picnic in the Park	N/A
1004E		Cataloguing Americana: A Peek Behind the Scenes	N/A	1203F		OLLI Kick-Off Coffee	N/A
1101F		Grab ‘n’ Gab Coffee Klatch	N/A	1204F		Annual Holiday Party	\$50
1102F		2nd Annual Oktoberfest at OLLI Mason	N/A				

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

Fall 2025 Schedule Fairfax (Week 1-Week 4)

Tue. Sept. 2, 10:00-1:00
1201F Golden Game Day Bash

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

Thu. Sept. 18, 10:00-11:30
1203F Kickoff Coffee

Fri. Sept. 5, 12:30-2:30
1202F Picnic in the Park

Note dates and times.
Before and after term programs.

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	26-Sep
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 801F/801Z Meditate & Mindful (2)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 501F Latin IV (7) 802F Real Story about Drones (1)	104F/104Z Catalog Americana (1) 603F Mind Body Problem (8)	604F/604Z Messianic Hope (4) 703F/703Z Deficits & Debt (2)	1001E Two Local Gems 10:00-1:30 1101F Coffee Klatch 10:00-11:30
11:50-1:15	301F/301Z Sea Caught on Fire (1) 401F Readers Theatre (8)	653F Evidence Based Policing (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	105F Argentina Music & Culture (1) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8)	502F Italian Culture & Converse (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Folkdance English Ctry (8) 602F Controversial Bible (6)	654F/654Z Black Jews (2)		107F Singing for Fun (8) 307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5)	
Week 2	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 801F/801Z Meditate & Mindful (2)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 501F Latin IV (7) 655F Challenges in Education (1)	603F Mind Body Problem (8) 809F Fall Prevention (1)	604F/604Z Messianic Hope (4) 703F/703Z Deficits & Debt (2)	1002E Walking in Old Town 9:00-3:00
11:50-1:15	401F Readers Theatre (8) 807F Placenta to Pathology (4)	653F Evidence Based Policing (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 605F Freedom vs Determinism (3)	502F Italian Culture & Converse (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Folkdance English Ctry (8) 602F Controversial Bible (6)	109F Watercolor Painting (6) 654F/654Z Black Jews (2)		107F Singing for Fun (8) 307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5)	
Week 3	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 657F The Message, Coates (3)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 308F/308Z Pushkin & Me (1) 501F Latin IV (7)	603F Mind Body Problem (8) 606F/606Z Biblical Songs (2)	409F/409Z Edgar Alllen Poe (2) 604F/604Z Messianic Hope (4)	
11:50-1:15	401F Readers Theatre (8) 807F Placenta to Pathology (4)	653F Evidence Based Policing (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 605F Freedom vs Determinism (3)	502F Italian Culture & Converse (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	1102F Oktoberfest 12:30-2:30
2:15-3:40	102F Folkdance English Ctry (8) 602F Controversial Bible (6)	109F Watercolor Painting (6) 810F Blue/Red Climate (1)		107F Singing for Fun (8) 307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5)	
Week 4	13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 657F The Message, Coates (3)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 411F Memoir Writing (4) 501F Latin IV (7)	603F Mind Body Problem (8) 606F/606Z Biblical Songs (2)	409F/409Z Edgar Alllen Poe (2) 604F/604Z Messianic Hope (4)	
11:50-1:15	401F Readers Theatre (8) 807F Placenta to Pathology (4)	653F Evidence Based Policing (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 605F Freedom vs Determinism (3)	502F Italian Culture & Converse (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Folkdance English Ctry (8) 602F Controversial Bible (6)	109F Watercolor Painting (6) 413F Fun & Games Improv (4)		107F Singing for Fun (8) 307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5)	

Fall 2025 Schedule

Fairfax

(Week 5-Week 8)

Tue. Dec. 2, 11:30-2:30
1204F Holiday Party

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

Note dates and times.
Before and after term programs.

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 5	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 657F The Message, Coates (3)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 411F Memoir Writing (4) 501F Latin IV (7)	313F/313Z Imperial Presidency (4) 603F Mind Body Problem (8)	205F/205Z Estate Planning (4) 414F/414Z Devil in White City (4)	1003E Wine Trip 9:30-5:00
11:50-1:15	401F Readers Theatre (8) 807F Placenta to Pathology (4)	702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 902F Emergency Response (1)	502F Italian Culture & Converse (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Folkdance English Ctry (8) 602F Controversial Bible (6)	109F Watercolor Painting (6) 413F Fun & Games Improv (4)		107F Singing for Fun (8) 307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5)	
Week 6	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 659F Search and Rescue (1)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 411F Memoir Writing (4) 501F Latin IV (7)	313F/313Z Imperial Presidency (4) 603F Mind Body Problem (8)	205F/205Z Estate Planning (4) 414F/414Z Devil in White City (4)	1004E Gallery of Art 8:45-2:00
11:50-1:15	315F/315Z Beyond Battles (3) 401F Readers Theatre (8)	316F Washington Dilemma (1) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 814F Landforms (3)	502F Italian Culture & Converse (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Folkdance English Ctry (8) 602F Controversial Bible (6)	109F Watercolor Painting (6) 413F Fun & Games Improv (4)		107F Singing for Fun (8) 318F/318Z Cuban Missile (3)	
Week 7	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov
9:40-11:05	660F Living with Grief (2)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 411F Memoir Writing (4) 501F Latin IV (7)	313F/313Z Imperial Presidency (4) 603F Mind Body Problem (8)	205F/205Z Estate Planning (4) 414F/414Z Devil in White City (4)	1103F/1103Z Annual Town Hall 10:00
11:50-1:15	315F/315Z Beyond Battles (3) 401F Readers Theatre (8)	110F/110Z Hooray Hollywood (1) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 814F Landforms (3)	502F Italian Culture & Converse (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Folkdance English Ctry (8) 415F Poems, Imagery & Lang. (1)	109F Watercolor Painting (6) 413F Fun & Games Improv (4)		107F Singing for Fun (8) 318F/318Z Cuban Missile (3)	
Week 8	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov	14-Nov
9:40-11:05	660F Living with Grief (2)	VETERANS DAY OLLI Mason Offices are CLOSED for the Federal Holiday	313F/313Z Imperial Presidency (4) 603F Mind Body Problem (8)	205F/205Z Estate Planning (4) 414F/414Z Devil in White City (4)	
11:50-1:15	315F/315Z Beyond Battles (3) 401F Readers Theatre (8)		202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 814F Landforms (3)	502F Italian Culture & Converse (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Folkdance English Ctry (8) 661F Love our Neighbor (1)			107F Singing for Fun (8) 318F/318Z Cuban Missile (3)	

Fall 2025 Schedule

Zoom

(Week 1-Week 4)

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

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	26-Sep
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (8) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00 801F/801Z Meditate & Mindful (2)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 803Z Brain and Body (3)	104F/104Z Catalog Americana (1) 304Z Erie Canal (4) 9:00-11:00 403Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05	60XF/60XZ Messianic Hope (4) 703F/703Z Deficits & Debt (2) 805Z AARP Smart DriverTek (1)	
11:50-1:15	301F/301Z Sea Caught on Fire (1) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	201Z Economic Policy Issues (6) 652Z TED Talks (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	106Z Magic of Motown (8) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 404Z Literary Roundtable (8)	406Z Thakeray's Vanity Fair (8) 405Z Wanna Write Poetry (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	101Z Air Force Violinist (1) 302Z Computer Gaming (3)	303R/303Z Bonhomme &... (1) 402Z Poetry Workshop (7) 654F/654Z Black Jews (2)	306R/306Z Loyalists Rev'l'tion (4)	203Z Love, Death, & Taxes (3) 307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5)	
Week 2	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (8) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00 801F/801Z Meditate & Mindful (2)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 803Z Brain and Body (3)	304Z Erie Canal (4) 9:00-11:00 403Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05	60XF/60XZ Messianic Hope (4) 703F/703Z Deficits & Debt (2)	
11:50-1:15	407Z Who's Afraid Virginia Wolff (6) 806Z ABC's of Medicare (2) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	201Z Economic Policy Issues (6) 652Z TED Talks (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	106Z Magic of Motown (8) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 404Z Literary Roundtable (8)	406Z Thakeray's Vanity Fair (8) 405Z Wanna Write Poetry (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8) 656Z NBC4's Shawn Yancy (1)	
2:15-3:40	302Z Computer Gaming (3) 705Z US Ranking Top Ten List (1)	402Z Poetry Workshop (7) 654F/654Z Black Jews (2)	306R/306Z Loyalists Rev'l'tion (4)	203Z Love, Death, & Taxes (3) 307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5)	
Week 3	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (8) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 308F/308Z Pushkin & Me (1) 803Z Brain and Body (3)	304Z Erie Canal (4) 9:00-11:00 403Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 606F/606Z Biblical Songs (2)	60XF/60XZ Messianic Hope (4) 409F/409Z Edgar Alllen Poe (2)	
11:50-1:15	407Z Who's Afraid Virginia Wolff (6) 806Z ABC's of Medicare (2) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	201Z Economic Policy Issues (6) 652Z TED Talks (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	106Z Magic of Motown (8) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 404Z Literary Roundtable (8)	406Z Thakeray's Vanity Fair (8) 405Z Wanna Write Poetry (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	302Z Computer Gaming (3)	402Z Poetry Workshop (7) 408Z We Should all be Birds (1)	306R/306Z Loyalists Rev'l'tion (4)	203Z Love, Death, & Taxes (3) 307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5) 410Z Expect Great Things! (1)	
Week 4	13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (8) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 204Z Economics Potpourri (4)	304Z Erie Canal (4) 9:00-11:00 403Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 606F/606Z Biblical Songs (2)	60XF/60XZ Messianic Hope (4) 409F/409Z Edgar Alllen Poe (2)	
11:50-1:15	407Z Who's Afraid Virginia Wolff (6) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	201Z Economic Policy Issues (6) 412Z Theater Potpourri (4) 652Z TED Talks (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	106Z Magic of Motown (8) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 404Z Literary Roundtable (8) 811R/811Z Infrastructures (1)	406Z Thakeray's Vanity Fair (8) 405Z Wanna Write Poetry (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	309Z Saga of Simmons Family (1) 607Z Bible & Today's World (3)	310R/310Z Park Rangers (3) 402Z Poetry Workshop (7)	306R/306Z Loyalists Rev'l'tion (4)	307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5) 503Z Nature in Words (2)	

Fall 2025 Schedule

Zoom

(Week 5-Week 8)

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

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 5	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (8) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 204Z Economics Potpourri (4)	313F/313Z Imperial Presidency (4) 403Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05	206F/206Z Estate Planning (4) 414F/414Z Devil in White City (4)	
11:50-1:15	407Z Who's Afraid Virginia Wolff (6) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	201Z Economic Policy Issues (6) 412Z Theater Potpourri (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	106Z Magic of Motown (8) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 404Z Literary Roundtable (8) 812R/812Z USA Energy (1)	406Z Thakeray's Vanity Fair (8) 405Z Wanna Write Poetry (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	312Z Roman Republic (2) 607Z Bible & Today's World (3)	310R/310Z Park Rangers (3) 402Z Poetry Workshop (7)	205Z Equity & GMU Students (2) 2:30-3:30	307F/307Z Cold War & USSR (5) 503Z Nature in Words (2) 658Z Trust in News Media (4)	
Week 6	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct
9:40-11:05	601F/601Z Tracts for the Times (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (8) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 204Z Economics Potpourri (4)	313F/313Z Imperial Presidency (4) 403Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05	206F/206Z Estate Planning (4) 414F/414Z Devil in White City (4)	
11:50-1:15	315F/315Z Beyond Battles (3) 407Z Who's Afraid Virginia Wolff (6) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	201Z Economic Policy Issues (6) 412Z Theater Potpourri (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	106Z Magic of Motown (8) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 404Z Literary Roundtable (8) 813R/813Z Secrets in Walls (1)	406Z Thakeray's Vanity Fair (8) 405Z Wanna Write Poetry (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	312Z Roman Republic (2) 607Z Bible & Today's World (3) 706Z Modern Ukraine History (1)	310R/310Z Park Rangers (3) 402Z Poetry Workshop (7)	205Z Equity & GMU Students (2) 2:30-3:30	318F/318Z Cuban Missile (3) 658Z Trust in News Media (4)	
Week 7	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov
9:40-11:05	651Z Big Issues, Challenges (8) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (7) 9:30-10:55 204Z Economics Potpourri (4)	320R/320Z Tales of Herndon (2) 313F/313Z Imperial Presidency (4) 403Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05	206F/206Z Estate Planning (4) 414F/414Z Devil in White City (4)	
11:50-1:15	315F/315Z Beyond Battles (3) 407Z Who's Afraid Virginia Wolff (6) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	110F/110Z Hooray Hollywood (1) 412Z Theater Potpourri (4) 702F/702Z Great Decisions (7)	106Z Magic of Motown (8) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 404Z Literary Roundtable (8)	406Z Thakeray's Vanity Fair (8) 405Z Wanna Write Poetry (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	319Z Cold War Two (1) 815Z Save Your Own Life (1)	402Z Poetry Workshop (7)		318F/318Z Cuban Missile (3) 658Z Trust in News Media (4)	
Week 8	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov	14-Nov
9:40-11:05	651Z Big Issues, Challenges (8) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	VETERANS DAY OLLI Mason Offices are CLOSED for the Federal Holiday	320R/320Z Tales of Herndon (2) 313F/313Z Imperial Presidency (4) 403Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05	206F/206Z Estate Planning (4) 414F/414Z Devil in White City (4) 818Z Eye Care (1)	
11:50-1:15	315F/315Z Beyond Battles (3) 817Z Fear of Death (1) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)		106Z Magic of Motown (8) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 322R/322Z Downed Americans (1) 404Z Literary Roundtable (8)	406Z Thakeray's Vanity Fair (8) 405Z Wanna Write Poetry (8) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	321Z Fossil Hunting Jurassic (1)			318F/318Z Cuban Missile (3) 658Z Trust in News Media (4)	

Fall 2025 Schedule Reston

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

	Reston Rose Gallery	Rose Gallery	Reston Theatre
TIME	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep
9:40-11:05		305R Roman Republic (2)	
11:50-1:15		804R Placenta to Pathology (3)	
2:15-3:40	303R/303Z Bonhomme &... (1)	306R/306Z Loyalists Rev'l'tion (4)	108R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 2	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct
9:40-11:05		305R Roman Republic (2)	
11:50-1:15		804R Placenta to Pathology (3)	
2:15-3:40	808R Science of Your Life (2)	306R/306Z Loyalists Rev'l'tion (4)	108R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 3	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct
9:40-11:05			
11:50-1:15		804R Placenta to Pathology (3)	
2:15-3:40	808R Science of Your Life (2)	306R/306Z Loyalists Rev'l'tion (4)	108R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 4	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct
9:40-11:05		311R Japanese Americans (2)	
11:50-1:15		811R/811Z Infrastructures (1)	
2:15-3:40	310R/310Z Park Rangers (3)	306R/306Z Loyalists Rev'l'tion (4)	108R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 5	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct
9:40-11:05		311R Japanese Americans (2)	
11:50-1:15		812R/812Z USA Energy (1)	
2:15-3:40	310R/310Z Park Rangers (3)	314R History of American West (4)	108R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 6	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct
9:40-11:05		317R Battle of Midway (1)	
11:50-1:15		813R/813Z Secrets in Walls (1)	
2:15-3:40	310R/310Z Park Rangers (3)	314R History of American West (4)	108R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 7	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov
9:40-11:05		320R/320Z Tales of Herndon (2)	
11:50-1:15		816R Can't Make This Up (1)	
2:15-3:40		314R History of American West (4)	
Week 8	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov
9:40-11:05	VETERANS DAY OLLI Mason Offices are CLOSED for the Federal Holiday	320R/320Z Tales of Herndon (2)	
11:50-1:15		322R/322Z Downed Amerians (1)	
2:15-3:40		314R History of American West (4)	

OLLI Mason Resources

YouTube 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



Website

Visit the OLLI Mason website (olli.gmu.edu) for a wealth of information.

For example:

CATALOG

- **Online version:** olli.gmu.edu/current-catalog/
- **Changes:** olli.gmu.edu/cancelled-changed-courses/
- **Add/drop:** olli.gmu.edu/add_drop_form/

PLANNING RESOURCES

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

facebook 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

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, 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.

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 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.

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 paper waiver prior to departure. 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.

In-Person Program Locations

Primary Locations (designated by F or 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.

Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center (RCC) 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 Road, Burke, VA 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.

The Leila Gordon Theatre is in the Reston Community Center (RCC) 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.

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

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!



Photo by John Nash

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14 Meals

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

Reference booking number 1334126

Virtual trip presentations are available for viewing on the OLLI Mason travel page at olli.gmu.edu/travel





OLLI



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
4210 Roberts Road
Fairfax, VA 22032
olli.gmu.edu

Fall 2025 Registration:

Begins August 19 at 9 am and continues throughout the term

Term Dates

Fall 2025: September 22 - November 14

Winter 2026: January 20 - February 13

Spring 2026: March 23 - May 15

Summer 2026: June 22 - July 31

Stay Curious - Learn Every Day

