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## Climate Change: What Can One Person Do?

By Peggy DiVincenzo & Renee Purdy

Session 1 of 5 July 1, 2025

<h3>Five Key Ideas</h3> <p>Scientists <b>Agree</b> It is <b>Real</b> It is <b>Us</b> It is <b>Bad</b> If we <b>Act</b>, there is hope <b>"ARUBA"</b></p>	<h3>Some Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Is Natural</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It keeps the planet from being too cold or too hot for life as we know it.</li> <li>It's like a blanket on the earth.</li> </ul>	<h3>How Too Much GHG Is Warming the Planet</h3> <p>It's like we are putting on too many blankets.</p> <p>Increase in GHG from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burning fossil fuels</li> <li>Animal methane</li> <li>Deforestation</li> <li>Natural gas leaks</li> </ul> <p>CO<sub>2</sub> is the biggest problem</p>
<h3>Global temperature anomaly (1880–2024)</h3>	<h3>CO<sub>2</sub> Still Going Up!</h3> <p>Carbon dioxide concentration at Mauna Loa Observatory</p>	<h3>Climate Impacts</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More severe storms, fewer "regular" rainy days</li> <li>Less snow, fewer days of skiing</li> <li>More stretches of high temperature</li> <li>Sunny day flooding</li> <li>More climate-related weather news</li> <li>More need for air conditioning due to high temperatures</li> <li>Change in migration of birds, butterflies</li> <li>Change in insects coming into our area</li> <li>More</li> </ul>
<h3>Global temperature anomaly (1880–2024)</h3>	<h3>Impacts</h3> <h4>Sea Level Rise</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melting land ice, thermal expansion; other causes</li> <li>~ 1 billion within 6 mi. of coast</li> <li>Regular tidal flooding</li> <li>Increased storm surges</li> </ul>	<h3>Impacts</h3> <h4>Health Impacts / Disease risk</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fossil fuel emissions → huge health consequences</li> <li>Disease-carrying insect range increases</li> <li>Deadly heat waves</li> </ul>
<h3>Impacts</h3> <h4>Heat Waves</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More intense &amp; longer</li> <li>Heat is more deadly than cold</li> <li>Especially hard on elderly/low income</li> <li>"Global Weirding"</li> </ul>	<h3>Detrimental Feedback Loops</h3> <p>Some Potential Accelerants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melting ice sheets &amp; glaciers reduce albedo</li> <li>Thawing permafrost</li> <li>Climate-driven fires release CO<sub>2</sub>, reduce absorption</li> </ul>	<h3>Possible Outcomes</h3> <p>"... people have agency, both individually and collectively, to shape the future. The die is not cast: Any actions that reduce carbon emissions today will improve our future, and there are not just two possible outcomes—success or failure. Instead, there is a continuum of potential outcomes, and where we land along that continuum depends on decisions we make now and in the years to come."</p>

**First Session (July 1) of a Five-Session Summer 2025 Course on Climate Change: What Can One Person Do?**  
**By Peggy DiVincenzo and Renee Purdy;**  
**Available on OLLI Website**

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**Editor of the Week: Paul Van Hemel**

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## Alerts & Notices

- Reminder:** the OLLI office will be closed for summer break from August 1-15.
- You should find your fall term catalog in the mail. If you do not receive a catalog by the end of July, please contact the OLLI Mason office.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, August 15; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, August 12, at 6:00.

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## From the Desk of the Executive Director Thank You to OLLI Volunteers



**By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director**

Part of our external audit involves calculation and confirmation of our volunteer contributions to OLLI. I was working on that calculation and it's so impressive how many hours OLLI members contribute to make OLLI run smoothly. Nearly 600 volunteers dedicated over 7,600 hours in 2024! As a member driven organization with a small part-time staff, we literally could not function without member volunteers.

On behalf of OLLI, I want to thank each and every volunteer for all that you do. Whether it's recruiting instructors and selecting proposals on the program committees, coordinating trips to local sites, sharing your interests in clubs, teaching a class, staffing the front desk in the office,

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newsletter, or all of the other work that happens behind the scenes to make OLLI the premier lifelong learning program in Northern VA, I want to thank you.

If you haven't yet volunteered, I encourage you to reach out to a committee chair, Board Member, or staff to see how you can help. We also have several open positions including the Diversity Advisory Group. Many committee chairs are long serving and would welcome fresh perspectives and, as they say, many hands make light work. Volunteering for OLLI not only helps improve the programs you enjoy, but research proves it's good for your health and wellbeing too!

Thank you,  
Lisa

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## Wednesday Conversation Topic for August 6



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

Team Bloch (Brenda Bloch-Young and Doris Bloch) moderate an OLLI social chat room every second Wednesday. Our topic to discuss on August 6: **What is a chatbot?** Have you engaged with one? On a regular basis? Was he/she useful?

Chatbots are virtual assistants, useful for many tasks, e.g., summarizing research, writing or reading resumes, finding phone numbers, and answering simple questions. Some of them are text based, while many of the newer ones are voice based. Think Siri, Alexa, CoPilot, or Gemini. Some chatbots greatly resemble live communicators. They can even provide virtual friendship.

What has been your experience with a chatbot, and was it positive or negative?

Find the Zoom link for the Wednesday Conversation on the OLLI daily schedule the morning of August 6 and join us.

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## Computer Club

**3rd Saturday, August 16**  
**AnyList**

**Check Windows RAM For Errors With MDSCHED**

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The Computer Club (OLLI Personal Computer User Group, or OPCUG) will meet with its partner, the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), on Saturday, August 16, in person and via Zoom. The Zoom session opens at 12:45.

*AnyList—Presented by Letitia Labell* AnyList is a versatile application originally designed to keep track of your grocery list, but which can also be used to manage many kinds of lists. This app, which is available for iOS and Android devices, also has a web interface, so it can be used on any device. The best part of the app is that the lists can be shared among users, so anyone in your household can add items to the lists, and the lists sync automatically. If you like to have your groceries delivered (or ready for pickup) there is also an option to send your list to the grocery store's app. There are many more features, such as collecting and organizing recipes, planning your meals, and adding pictures to your lists. You can also use AnyList to keep track of chores and other activities. You can make your life easier and more organized with AnyList.

Leti Labell loves computers. Although she started working as a programmer, she spent most of her career managing projects, both for software development as well as for non-computer projects. But throughout it all, she loved using computers to accomplish things in the best way possible. Now happily retired, she is still an avid technology user. Her current passions are the Italian language and all things Italian, as well as cooking and learning about ethnic foods. She uses her iPhone, iPads, and PCs to keep track of everything. Leti is the Coordinator of OLLI's Ethnic Eats club, Membership Chair of OLLI Personal Computer Group (OPCUG) and a member of the PATACS board of directors.

*Check Windows RAM For Errors With MDSCHED—Presented by John Krout* This session introduces the MDSCHED utility. Its purpose is to test and diagnose Random Access Memory (RAM) on your Windows computer. MDSCHED has been included in Windows since Windows Vista in late 2006. Such a diagnosis can help if your Windows computer crashes frequently, especially if it does so without telling you.

John Krout is a frequent presenter at our meetings on a wide range of computer, technology, and photography topics.

**See full details on this meeting by [clicking here](#).** For information on the Computer Club, see the [OPCUG Website](#). OPCUG dues are \$5 and are now due for 2025 (and 2024, if you didn't get around to paying earlier!)—see <http://olligmu.org/opcug/comm.html> for details on making payment.

To attend via Zoom's cloud meeting service, beginning at 12:45, please click the link <https://olligmu-org.zoom.us/j/86376591329?pwd=MwC2qGgzlOa6nG7TzItKb9jGycuJWG.1> to join the meeting and use passcode 218440 (Note: enter passcode with NO spaces) or enter meeting ID 863 7659 1329 in the Zoom app and use the above passcode (preferred method), or dial in at 301-715-8592.

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## Poet's Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

### This Morning

I'm in a state  
between sleep and wakefulness  
reminding me of my father's heavy  
green 1952 Buick  
with its smooth, slow, steady, and yet  
wavery  
Dynaflow transmission  
sounding as though it couldn't decide  
which gear to be in.  
Yet it never let him down.  
My father bought that car in 1954  
sold it in 1956.  
Why  
Does its deep, pleated seats remind me  
of the state between sleep, wakefulness,

and safety.

*—Ed Sadtler*

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## Arts & Music at George Mason

**Performances August 1 through August 11**



**By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer**

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

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

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### At the Fairfax Campus Venues

#### Mason String Camp Final Concert

Fri Aug 1, 2:15  
Center for the Arts Concert Hall  
Admission: Free

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### Mason Student and Faculty Performances

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

#### No performances

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### At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

#### No performances

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

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## Meetings & Clubs

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

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master

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committees and resource groups, kick-off coffees, etc. The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members; you may also log in at the [member portal](#) and click on ZOOM CLASS LINKS.

Sat Aug 2	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Aug 4	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	11:00 am	Poetry Reading Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Aug 5	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Aug 6	10:30 am	Investment Forum – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
Thu Aug 7	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Aug 8	9:30 am	Photography Club – online
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation (Location TBD)
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	11:30 am	Cooking Club
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:30 pm	Tallwood Book Club – online
Sat Aug 9	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Aug 11	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	11:00 am	Poetry Writing Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Aug 12	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Aug 13	10:30 am	Investment Forum – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
Thu Aug 14	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Aug 15	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation (Location TBD)
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
Sat Aug 16	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
	1:00 pm	Personal Computer User Group

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## About OLLI E-News

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

### Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel

Associate Editor: David Gundry

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

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

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

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

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

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