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Photos by Paul Van Hemel, September 18, 2025

**Kick-Off Coffee and Volunteer/Activity Fair Hosted by Member Services
Chair Toni Acton, September 18**

October 10, 2025

Editor of the Week: Chitra Mohla

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Alerts & Notices

- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, October 17; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, October 14, at 6:00.

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Chat Topic for Wednesday Conversation October 15



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

On the first and third Wednesday of the month, Team Bloch (Brenda and Doris, a totally unrelated duo) moderate a friendly social chat on Zoom. Any member is very welcome to join us, to listen or to air views on the selected topic.

We will hold the next session on **Wednesday October 15 at 4:00** and the zoom link is always found in the Daily Schedule (hint: it is the same link as the 24/7 chat line).

Our topic for October 15 is **newly published books that you are excited to read**. September is always a big month for the release of new books, but this year there are SO many new ones that interest us. Ken Follett has a new novel about Stonehenge. Ian McEwan has a new novel being touted as his best in years. Andrew Ross Sorkin has a nonfiction book titled 1929; Arundhati Roy wrote a memoir about her mother, and Osman's 5th book in the Thursday Murder Club series was released on September 30. These are just a few of the new releases.

Please join us and share what new book intrigues you.

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Computer Club

3rd Saturday, October 18
Experts Panel
Windows Boot Sequence



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

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, October 18, in person and via Zoom. The Zoom session opens at 12:45 (Zoom Link below).

Experts Panel—Presented by Geof Goodrum, Tom Gutnick, and Nick Wenri

This presentation is aimed at Windows 10 users whose computers cannot be upgraded to Windows 11, as well as any Windows user who is open to alternatives to Windows.

The presentation will show that Linux Mint with the Cinnamon presentation system closely resembles the look and feel of Windows. It will outline some of the popular apps that can be used in Linux Mint, including Web browsers, Zoom, LibreOffice, VLC, and others.

It also describes two closely related activities. First, it shows how to download a Linux Mint ISO file, download the Rufus for Windows application, and how to use Rufus to install the Linux Mint ISO file on a USB external storage device. Second, it shows how a Windows computer can be configured to start up a Linux operating system found on a USB external storage device such as a flash drive.

Test-driving Linux from a USB external drive leaves Windows intact on the computer internal storage. Windows can be used any time the USB external drive is not connected. If you elect to install Linux on your drive C, the flash drive Linux can do that for you.

Learn in 30—Windows Boot Sequence Presented by Roger Fujii

What happens when you push the button, and what tweaks might be helpful to your computer experience? Roger Fujii has helped OLLI with technology challenges for its email and LAN systems since 2006 and has been a PATACS stalwart since the '80s.

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: <https://olligmu-org.zoom.us/j/88388435350?pwd=hfaEFO7vfkvhVspokJXKnzpia7uTOh.1> to join the meeting and use passcode 804997. (Note: enter passcode with NO spaces), or enter meeting ID 883 8843 5350 in the Zoom app and use the above passcode (preferred method), or dial in at 301-715-8592.

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Get Ready to Split Your Sides Laughing as You Meet with Local Playwrights



By **Norma Jean Reck**, Coordinator, Theater Lovers' Group

October 14 Class Rescheduled for November 18 Features Hexagon

The 412Z Theater Potpourri: Meet the Playwrights class scheduled for Tuesday, October 14 has been cancelled and rescheduled as a hybrid class for Tuesday, November 18 from 11:50 to 1:15. The rescheduled class offers theater lovers an opportunity to personally meet the talented musicians and actors who will perform some of the original, hilarious skits Hexagon is famous for going on seven decades now. Hexagon is Washington's Only Original Political Satirical Musical Comedy Revue.



October 21 Class Features Playwright Ellen Price



On Tuesday, October 21 from 11:50 to 1:15, get ready to laugh with playwright Ellen Price. To quote Ellen, "I write comedies in historic and contemporary settings – all with laugh-out-loud dialogue, dynamic characters and loads of heart." Ellen will join us via Zoom to talk about her creative process for writing her plays, invite us to read a bit of The Misfit Players and discuss it with her. Go to Ellen Dean Price's web site to learn more about and read parts of her other plays, one of which – A Backstage Christmas – we will go see in December.

October 19 Providence Players Perform The Mousetrap

Join the Theater Lovers' Group on Sunday, October 19 when we will attend the 2pm matinee of Agatha Christies' The Mousetrap performed by the Providence Players at James Lee Community Center Theater, located at 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. The Mousetrap is a murder mystery about a group of snowbound strangers, each with their own secret, who find out there is a murderer among them. Let the fun begin! Go to providenceplayers.org to purchase your ticket (\$21). Be sure to get your senior discount. Optional lunch before the show TBA. Guests are always welcome to enjoy theater with our group, and we do carpool.



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

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Member Achievement

Poetry Book Published - Created by OLLI Members

By Carolyn F. Wyatt, *Memoir—and More—Writing Group*
Co-Coordinator

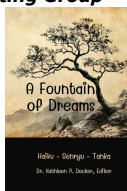
A Fountain of Dreams: Haiku – Senryu –

Tanka, a book of poetry edited by Dr. Kathleen P. Decker, M.D., was recently published on Amazon (see [this link](#)). The volume quickly rose to #1 in New Releases in Haiku, Tanka. The book contains poetry and photos by OLLI members. It was compiled under the tutelage and editorship of Dr. Kathleen Decker, president of the Poetry Society of Virginia.

In summer 2025, Dr. Decker taught a six-week course, *American Versions of Haiku, Tanka, and Renku*. Participants learned to use such formats in English. A great time was had by all.

Thank you, Dr. Decker!

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Poet's Corner

Unpacking

Mom's unpacking for her long journey.
Items she's always carried
are being left behind.
She drops memories like
shoes and socks
stripped off and left on the floor after a long day.

Memories of how her parents died
how her son died
how to spell
house
have joined the discard pile.

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

I watch her disrobe
like a voyeur.
She doesn't notice
I see her
shed each layer
doesn't notice
my shock at her state of undress.

Maybe I need to unpack too
my expectations
of what proper attire is for the
journey she's making
with a shrinking satchel

She doesn't seem to mind
standing in her bare feet.
I wonder
can I share her delight in her
wiggling toes?

---Susan Rexroad



Susan Rexroad, Jackie Davey, Jan Bohall, Carolyn Wyatt (from left to right)

Unpacking was an adult award winner in the Fairfax Public Library's 2025 Poetic Musings Contest.

The Fairfax County Public Library's Poetic Musings award ceremony is a fun event. The adult and youth winners in each category read their winning poems to a crowd consisting mostly of the other award recipients and the people who support them. My group of cheerleaders included my husband and son and 3 OLLI members, who, like me, have been honing their poetry-writing craft through classes and clubs offered by OLLI. These accomplished poets, Carolyn Wyatt, Jan Bohall,

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Lucky for me, they all have given back to OLLI by leading different writing classes and clubs and/or by facilitating the publication of member written works. Our lifetime learning community provides such a robust opportunity to learn from each other while cheering each other on, one more reason to say, "Thanks, OLLI!"

---Susan Rexroad

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances October 10 through October 20



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

(25-26 Season subscriptions to Great Performances, and tickets for individual performances, are now on sale)

The Magic of Rob Lake

RESCHEDULED to April 19.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: *The Lark and The Seasons*

Sat, Oct 11, 8:00

Concert Hall

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Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel:

Chopin—The Romantic

Sun, Oct 12, 7:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$60, \$52, \$38.

Laurie Berkner Band

Sat, Oct 18 at 11:00 and 3:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$45, \$35, \$24. Meet and greet after 3:00 performance \$66 per family of up to 4.

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

(see music.gmu.edu for additional student recitals)

Happy Hour with Darden and Friends

Fri, Oct 10 and Oct 17, 7:30

Reston Town Center Park

Admission: Free.

Mason Choirs Concert: *Timeless: Choral Voices Across the Centuries*

Tue, Oct 14, 8:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

Mason Symphony Orchestra

Wed, Oct 15, 8:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

Mason Opera Scenes Performance: Fall 2025

Mon, Oct 20, 8:00

Concert Hall

Admission: Free.

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

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Sat, Oct 11, 7:00 and 10:00
 Sun, Oct 12, 2:00
 Fri, Oct 17, 8:00
 Sat, Oct 18, 7:00
 Sun, Oct 19, 2:00
 Gregory Family Theater
 Admission: \$30 Adult, \$25 Senior.

Manassas Chorale: *From Broadway with Love*

Sat, Oct 11, 7:30
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$30.

Eva Ayllon with Special Guest Daniela Darcourt

Sun, Oct 12, 7:00
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$185, \$155, \$135, \$105, \$85 (tickets sold through Tickeri—888.981.7218).

Virginia Opera: *A Taste of Opera*

Tue, Oct 14, lunch at 12:30, concert at 1:30
 Hylton Performing Arts Center
 Admission: Lunch, concert, and dessert reception: \$81
 Concert and dessert reception-only: \$50.

Manassas Ballet Theatre: *Frankenstein*

Fri, Oct 17, 7:30
 Sat, Oct 18, 7:30
 Sun, Oct 19, 3:00
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$81, \$71, \$60, \$50, \$40.

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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

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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 online calendar maintained by the office. The list is accurate as of mid-week. *Note: All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors, committees and resource groups, kick-off coffees, etc., **bolded below**. The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members; you may also log in at the [member portal](#) and click on ZOOM CLASS LINKS.*

Sat Oct 11	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Oct 13	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Oct 14	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Oct 15	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	Board Game Club
	1:30 pm	Bridge Club
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
Thu Oct 16	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Literary Fiction Book Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Oct 17	6:00 pm	Ethnic Eats Club – online
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
Sat Oct 18	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Classic Literature Club – online
Mon Oct 20	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
	1:00 pm	Personal Computer User Group
Tue Oct 21	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Wed Oct 22	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	Board Game Club
	1:30 pm	Bridge Club
	1:30 pm	Dabbling Artists
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
	4:00 pm	Theater Lovers' Group – online
	4:00 pm	

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Fri Oct 24	9:00 am	Mason Sarcopenia Study		
	9:30 am	Photography Club		
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation		
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online		
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online		
	2:00 pm	Classic Literature Club – online		
Sat Oct 25	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online		

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About *OLLI E-News*

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

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel
Associate Editor: David Gundry

Weekly Editor Team: David Gundry, Chitra Mohla, John Nash, Paul Van Hemel
Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Thomas Appich, Martha Kossoff, Anne Hartshorn, Bonnie Becker, Carol McManus

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

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

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

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