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Photos by Paul Van Hemel, October 10, 2025

**Northern Virginia Photo Artist Eva Lanyi Addressed Wildlife Photography at OLLI Photography Club Meeting, October 10**

## October 31, 2025

Editor of the Week: David Gundry

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### Alerts & Notices

- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, November 7; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, November 4, at 6:00.

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### Holiday Luncheon Menu Correction!



By Marilyn Harriman, *Diversions Chair*

Last Friday's E-News Article about our December 2 annual holiday luncheon party contained an incorrect list of lunch entrée offerings. The correct lunch entrée options are chicken piccata, three-cheese ravioli with tomato basil cream sauce, or Thai chopped chicken salad. All meals include beverage and dessert, and a cash bar will be available.

To register for the event, log in to your [member portal](#) and type in 1204F Annual Holiday Party in the search engine. When you register, you will be asked to choose your entrée and pay the \$50 lunch fee.

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### Kudos and Thanks, Volunteers and Staff, for a Top-Notch Party!



By Marilyn Harriman, *Diversions Chair*

Dozens of OLLI members came out for our second annual Oktoberfest on October 10. We enjoyed eating bratwurst, pretzels, potato salad, and gherkins as we tapped our toes to Fairfax's Blaskapelle Alte Kameraden oompah band.

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The weather cooperated with sunshine and mild temperatures, so we were able to take advantage of OLLI's picnic tables. Sandra Oliver and Jean Pierre Manley won our Oktoberfest Trivia contest. Congratulations! They each received a gift certificate to the Swiss Bakery and Café.

This kind of event doesn't just happen, and I want to thank all who made it possible. Our dedicated Diversions Team of volunteers provided delicious side dishes and desserts, set up the buffet table, and stayed after the party to clean up. A special thanks goes to Elaine Leonard, Julia Adams, Janet Silverberg, Gay Alper, Doris Bloch, Toni Acton, and Phyllis Krochmal.

OLLI staff members Meg Przybylski and Mike Emery helped long before the party started. Meg escorted me through the exotic and unique Restaurant Depot Wholesale Grocery Store for our foodstuffs, lugged extra seating from the hinterland to the breezeway, helped put up decorations early Friday morning, and made sure iced tea and cold water were plentiful. Mike set up the band's electrical wiring needs and did the needed heavy table and chair lifting.

The Diversions Team and OLLI staff were happy to see so many smiling OLLI members, and we look forward to hosting Oktoberfest again next fall.

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## OLLI Senior Olympians



*By Debby Mossburg, OLLI Member*

Did you know that OLLI Mason boasts several Senior Olympic contenders and even some gold and silver medalists? This fall, members competed and walked away with golden memories, if not golden mementos.

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Every autumn, adults aged 50 or better across Northern Virginia compete in the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO). This year, more than 1,200 contestants competed in 92 different events over 17 days at a handful of venues, according to the NVSO website. Not only do OLLI members compete, but our own Photography Club has for years captured photos of the events. You can see some of the best from this year here: <https://nvsoseniorolympics.smugmug.com/2025-Gallery-Best-Overall-Photographs>.

OLLI members and staff competed in many different events. Mike Emery, Tallwood site assistant, may be our most accomplished athlete, receiving a gold medal in the running long jump and silver medals in the 60-meter dash and javelin events. Member Jayne Hart also has bragging rights, having competed in Table Tennis singles and doubles many times in past years. (see photo)



**OLLI Senior Olympians Past & Present**

My own experience this September was not quite as successful, but still a great deal of fun. I competed in the rigorous sport of Tournament Mah Jongg, winning my first game and going on to lose the remainder of the 12-game marathon, determined to better my record next year. Who knew Mah Jongg would be an Olympic event? It's one of many unconventional competitions that join traditional athletic contests that are part of NVSO. Check out their website at <https://nvso.us/> to find out if your sport, hobby or passion is included and consider joining the games next fall. Play on!

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## History Club Meeting on November 5

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By Doug Snoeyenbos, History Club Coordinator

The History Club will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, November 5, at 4:00. Our presenter will be David Coffman, and his presentation will be titled "Not with a Bang But a Whimper: Napoleon Bonaparte and the End of the French Revolution."

Beginning in 1789, the people of France initiated a democratic political revolution, abolished their monarchy and executed their king, and fought fiercely and effectively to defend their new republic against the military assaults of other European monarchies. However, within a few years they readily embraced the establishment of a new monarchy under Napoleon Bonaparte, who became Emperor of France. How and why did this happen, and what lessons can we learn for the present day?

David Coffman received a B.A. from Southern Methodist University, where he was named to Phi Beta Kappa, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He retired in 2022 after 50 years of federal service, the last 16 of those he served as an administrative law judge for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He has been fascinated by Napoleon all his life and has recently taught a 10-week course at the OLLI at American University on the rise and fall of Napoleon.



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## Volunteer Spotlight: Marilyn Harriman



By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director



If you've been on a walk with the Walk and Talk Club, attended an OLLI event such as the Oktoberfest or Game Day Bash (just two of over 25 special events she's organized), or signed up for one of the many classes she's taught, you know Marilyn Harriman goes the extra mile in all she does. OLLI Diversions are impeccably planned and executed, and Marilyn delivers fascinating presentations. Her enthusiasm, creativity, and good nature always lead to a fun get-together.



Since joining OLLI Mason in 2017, Marilyn has served on the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, currently chairs the Diversions Committee, and co-chairs the Walk and Talk Club. Marilyn's

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name just a few.

Next time you see Marilyn, please let her know how much you appreciate all she's done for OLLI Mason!

If you'd like to nominate an OLLI volunteer to be highlighted in the E-News, please email [OLLIED@gmu.edu](mailto:OLLIED@gmu.edu) and if possible attach a photo.

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## Wednesday Team Bloch Conversation Topic for Nov 5



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

The twice a month Wednesday Team Bloch conversation at OLLI is coming up on November 5 and the topic will be "**If someone handed you \$1,000, what good deed or cause would you support with it?**"

The *Washington Post* recently ran an article on Happiness and Purpose. Researchers gave subjects \$400 each and asked them to spend it in a way that aided their communities. They found that the subjects were happier than if they had spent the money on themselves. So, the first premise to address is whether you believe that this is a valid conclusion. The accompanying discussion might then delve into what you yourself might do with such a windfall. We upped it to a \$1,000 give-away—why not make it more generous, as the donation is not coming from our personal Team Bloch wallets? This may prove to be a lively discussion!

The Wednesday Conversation is held on the first and third Wednesday afternoon of every month at 4:00 on Zoom. No registration is possible; it is held strictly on a drop-in basis. All are welcome to join in. The Zoom link will be found in the emailed OLLI daily schedule of November 5 (Note that it is the same link as the 24/7 Chat Line.)

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## George Mason Jazz – Upcoming Fall 2025 Concerts



By Darden Purcell, D.M.A., Mason Director of Jazz Studies, Jazz Voice

There are several jazz concerts coming up at Mason this fall, including some that are free and open to the public. We hope you will join us for these great concerts. Information on the first three performances, occurring in the next couple of weeks, is presented below. Information on performances later in November will be presented in a subsequent issue of *E-News*.

++++  
**THE JAZZ WORKSHOP**

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Free and Open to the Public  
<https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/jazz-workshop-concert-fall-2025>

The Jazz Workshop, directed by John Kocur, explores the intersection of improvisation and composition in the tradition of the great dance and studio jazz bands. Enjoy rare and beautiful arrangements by jazz legends from many eras of jazz history. New original compositions by Mason students and faculty will be featured as well.



+++++



**MASON JAZZ VOCAL NIGHT**

Monday, November 10, 8:00  
Center for the Arts

Tickets: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-jazz-vocal-night-fall-2025>

Join Dr. Darden Purcell, the Mason Jazz Voice Studio, the DOWNBEAT award-winning Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble, and special guests, Stone Bridge High School, ENCORE Vocal Jazz Choir (director Christine Tarrant), for an evening of swinging standards and classic hits from the Great American Songbook.

+++++

**STEEL PAN ENSEMBLE | JAZZ COMBOS**

Wednesday, November 12, 8:00  
Harris Theatre  
Free and Open to the Public

The Mason Steel Pan Ensemble (directed by Victor Provost) and Jazz Combos (directed by Wade Beach) perform their fall concert. Attendees will enjoy music from Stevie Wonder, Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, and Glen Miller!



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**Poet's Corner**

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

**Berry Picking**

Alice musters her troops  
They march to the blackberry patch  
She carries her wicker basket piled with pots  
They anticipate the pies and jam their mother will make  
Alice patrols the line gathering the dark fat berries  
Lest her small force consume all their collected bounty

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The joy of berry picking  
Under the deep blue  
Oregon sky

–Carolyn F. Wyatt

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**Obituary: William Hunt**

Some long-term members may remember William (Bill) Hunt, an OLLI stalwart who joined our organization in 2002 and served as the Chair of OLLI's Art & Music Program Planning Group for several years. He was an employee of the Federal Aviation Agency for 30+ years prior to coming to OLLI. Bill also served as chair of the Fairfax City Commission on the Arts and was a longtime companion to Doris Bloch.

Bill recently passed away at the age of 90 and his family has scheduled a wake and funeral service on Saturday, November 8th at the Demaine Funeral Home, 10565 Main Street, Fairfax City. The wake will be held from 12:00-3:00 and the service at 3:00.

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**Arts & Music at George Mason**

Performances October 31 through November 10



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

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

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

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**At the Fairfax Campus Venues**

**Limón Dance Company**

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Concert Hall  
Admission: \$65, \$56, \$41.

#### **Mason Community Arts Academy (MCAA) Faculty Recital**

Sun, Nov 2, 3:00  
Center for the Arts, Monson Grand Tier III  
Admission: Free.

#### **360 ALLSTARS**

Sat, Nov 8, 4:00  
A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.  
Concert Hall  
Admission: \$55, \$48, \$35.

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#### **Fairfax Campus Visual Arts**

(details can be found at <https://www.masonexhibitions.org/>)

#### **Before the Americas**

Aug 25–Nov 15  
Gillespie Gallery, Art and Design Building, Fairfax, VA

#### **How We See What They Saw**

A Reading Room of Photobooks by Women  
Sep 15–Nov 21  
Fenwick Gallery

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#### **Mason Student and Faculty Performances**

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

#### **George Mason School of Theater:**

##### ***Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812***

Fri, Oct 31, 7:30  
Sat, Nov 1, 2:00 and 7:30  
Sun, Nov 2, 2:00  
Harris Theatre  
Admission: \$40 Adult, \$19 Senior.

#### **Jazz Workshop Concert**

Wed, Nov 5, 8:00  
Harris Theatre  
Admission: Free.

#### **George Mason School of Dance: *New Dances 2025***

Thu, Nov 6, 8:00

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Admission: \$30 Adult, \$19 Senior.

#### **Mason Jazz Vocal Night Fall 2025**

Mon, Nov 10, 8:00  
Concert Hall  
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

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#### **At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)**

##### **Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra with Paquito D’Rivera**

Sat, Nov 1, 8:00  
A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$55, \$48, \$35.

##### **Abbie Palmer and Lucas Ashby**

Wed, Nov 5, Lunch 12:30, concert 1:30  
Jacquemin Family Foundation Rehearsal Hall  
Admission: Lunch, concert, and dessert reception: \$81.  
Concert and dessert reception only: \$50.

##### **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom: The Musical**

Sat, Nov 8, 11:00 and 2:00  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$24.

##### **The Po’ Ramblin’ Boys**

Sat, Nov 8, 5:00 and 8:00  
Gregory Family Theater  
Admission: \$35.

##### **The U.S. Army Band**

Sun, Nov 9, 3:00  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: Free.

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

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## Meetings & Clubs

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

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

Sat Nov 1	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Nov 3	1:30 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Family History/Genealogy Club – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Nov 4	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Nov 5	12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club Dabbling Artists Club History Club – online Spanish Club – online
Thu Nov 6	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News Chair Yoga and More – online Literary Book Club – online Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Nov 7	10:00 am	<b>Town Hall Meeting</b>
Sat Nov 8	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Nov 10	9:30 am 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Nov 11	2:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Nov 12	11:50 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club Memoir and More Writing Group – online Spanish Book Club – online Conversations with Team Bloch – online
Thu Nov 13	11:50 am 3:00 pm	All the News Chair Yoga and More – online

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Fri Nov 14	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm 2:30 pm	Photography Club – online Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Cooking Club Chair Yoga and More – online Classic Literature Club – online Tallwood Book Club – online
Sat Nov 15	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Tai Chi Club – online 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, 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](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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