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Photos by Deborah Kruesi, November 7, 2025

OLLI Annual Town Hall Meeting, Tallwood, November 7

November 14, 2025

Editor of the Week: John Nash

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Alerts & Notices

- Complete the [fall term survey](#) to offer OLLI your suggestions on how to improve your membership experience.
- Look for the OLLI winter catalog in the mail. All offerings are now 'Add to Cart;' you no longer need to prioritize courses. Register early to increase your chances for enrollment.
- The OLLI Mason office and campus will be closed November 24th-28th.
- Register by today (November 14) on the [member portal](#) for the annual OLLI holiday party, which will be at the Country Club of Fairfax on December 2, 11:30-2:30; cost is \$50.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, November 28; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, November 25, at 6:00.

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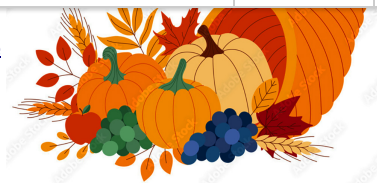
From the Desk of the Executive Director

Thanksgiving Message



By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director

I'm deeply grateful to be part of OLLI Mason. Each day brings a chance to see curiosity turn into conversation and ideas into understanding. It is a privilege to witness members coming together around something as meaningful as learning. Whether joining a class or club, attending an event, or exploring a recorded class in the video library, each opportunity is a reminder of what can happen when we learn together.

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Holiday Party Reminder



By Debbie Engleson, OLLI President

Oh dear – did you forget to make your reservation for the Holiday Party? It's the biggest event of the year! You still have time – but not much. The event is December 2nd (a Tuesday this year) at 11:30 at the Country Club of Fairfax. We need your reservation by Friday, November 14th.



In addition to seeing your friends and having a delicious lunch, you will be treated to entertainment provided by the Jazz Group from George Mason. To register for the event, log in to your member portal and type 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.

The 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. And

don't forget to bring a friend. Who knows, you or your guest may be one of the lucky ones to win one of the three door prizes.

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TO YOUR HEALTH....

What should your medication list include? **EVERYTHING.** Prescription medications, nonprescription/Over the Counter (OTC) medications, herbals, supplements, vitamins. The list should include the name, the dose, and the frequency. Many of these can interact with each other as well as your prescriptions. You can check out all interactions at [Drug Interaction List - Drugs.com](#).

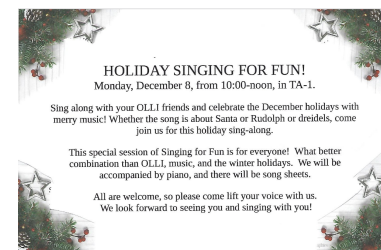
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Holiday Sing-Along on December 8



By Linda Harber, Friends of Music at Mason President

This year's Holiday Singing for Fun event is December 8, from 10:00-noon, in TA-1. There will be song sheets and piano accompaniment. We welcome all interested OLLI members to join us for this fun celebration of the holiday season. No registration is required. The accompanying lovely poster was made by Linda Gordon.



Plan to join us for a fun morning sing-along!

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Join the Theater Lovers for a Side-Splitting Class and to Attend a Poignant Play



By Norma Jean Reck, Coordinator, Theater Lovers' Group

You all are invited ...

The place to be this coming Tuesday, November 18 from 11:50 am to 1:15 pm is TA-1 at Tallwood. Be prepared to be wowed. All OLLI members are invited to either be there in person or tune in via Zoom. What's the big draw? Washington's Only Original Political Satirical Musical Comedy Revue, also known as Hexagon for these 70 side-splitting years now. Hexagon members will perform some numbers and show clips of their past (and uproariously hilarious) performances.

"I've never been to anything like this before and I can't wait until the next one," said a recent fan.

Hexagon will present the next one – Lollapallosers – during the month of April in 2026, when Theater Lovers Group plans to attend a matinee. The show will be in keeping with their mission which is "to uplift lives and strengthen our community by harnessing



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Find the link in OLLI's Daily Schedule or, better yet, come early, grab a cup of coffee, meet the presenters and your fellow theater lovers.

Why people go to the theater ...

"For my money, Birthday Candles is precisely why people go to the theater," says the Chicago Tribune. Birthday Candles is a poignant and funny play that takes the audience through the highlights, heartbreaks, and extraordinary moments that make up one woman's ordinary life.



Theater Lovers will attend the 2 pm matinee on Saturday, December 6, at 1stStage with optional lunch before the show. 1stStage has set aside 15 tickets for \$25 each for us. Phone them at 703-854-1856 and tell them you are with OLLI to get your reduced-price ticket. Email Norma at njreck@cs.com to let her know you have purchased a ticket. Prices go up when the fifteen \$25 tickets are sold out.

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

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Save the Date: Literature, Language, Theater, and Writing Program Planning Group to Meet



By Patricia Bangs, Literature, Theater and Writing/Languages Program Planning Group Co-Chair

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Time: 10:00

What: Literature, Language, Theater (LLT), and Writing Program Planning Group Meeting

Via Zoom

Whether you enjoy the classics or spy novels, sci-fi, or memoir, want to learn a language, explore playwrights and the world of theater, or hone your writing skills, we need your thoughts and ideas.

Please join us for our quarterly program planning group meeting for literature, theater, writing and language program planning on Tuesday, December 9 at 10:00, via Zoom.

We will be reviewing past terms and looking forward to planning summer 2026 and beyond. All OLLI members can contribute to the excellent programming offered to our membership. Bring ideas for literature, theater, writing, or language programs, and possible instructor resources for this popular programming area. And, of course, if you or anyone you know would like to join our program planning group, here is your opportunity to see the process in action.

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The Zoom link will be published in the November 28 OLLI-E-News and available in the December 9 OLLI Daily Schedule.

If you would like to be added to our LLT mailing list for a reminder, or have any questions please email Pat Bangs at: pbangs68@gmail.com. Thank you

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French Conversation Club



By Doris Bloch, French Conversation Club Coordinator

A few weeks ago, there was an article in the *OLLI E-News* about forming a French Conversation Club. Seven OLLI members expressed interest initially. If you missed that article, please know that all OLLI members are welcome to become involved in such a club. Feel free to send a message telling us of your interest to OLLIclubs@gmu.edu and get on the e-mail list.



The next step is to hold an organizational meeting, and that will be held on Thursday, November 20 on Zoom, at 11:00. Check the Daily Schedule for the link. Potential topics are level of interest, suggested level of proficiency, timing of club meetings, meeting format, and any other subjects that come to mind. The meeting's spoken language will be English.

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Wednesday Team Bloch Conversation Topic for November 19



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

The twice a month Wednesday Team Bloch conversation at OLLI is coming up on November 19 and the topic will be "**Nostalgia.**"

During our last conversation, there was a request to devote the next session to discussion of popular old-time radio programs, old TV shows, old movies, old songs, etc. It also was observed that some of these are no longer "sanctioned" in that they showcase non-politically correct or controversial ideas or stances. Example: the show "Amos and Andy."

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inflammatory topics, our goal will be to talk about the nostalgia that these old-fashioned works arouse without debating their merits.

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 OLLI Daily Schedule of November 19 (note that it is the same link as the 24/7 Chat Line.)

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Pure Memoir

I remember me
ten
sitting in splintered, graffitied booths
at the Kustard Kitchen
sipping Pepsi
fountain Pepsi.
One day, feeling brave
I asked the waitress if she could squirt
One tiny squirt of cherry syrup
into my glass, first
then add Pepsi and mix.
She lit up like Peter Pan's pixie
Tinkerbell
smiled, and said, well, yes, she would.
Presto! A cherry Pepsi.
It tasted far better than plain Pepsi to me.
Impressed with my cleverness
my ingenuity
I shared the idea with friends.
Years later, Pepsi bottled it.
Royalties are yet to roll in.

—Ed Sadtler

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances November 15 through December 1

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By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) has several web sites of performances, talks etc. For tickets for either Center for the Arts Concert Hall (CFA) or Hylton Center, call 1-888-945-2468.

[CFA ticket purchase page](#)

[Center for the Arts YouTube channel](#)

[Hylton ticket purchase page](#)

The new <https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/>

[music.calendar.gmu.edu/](https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/music.calendar.gmu.edu/)

[theater.calendar.gmu.edu/](https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/theater.calendar.gmu.edu/)

[dance.calendar.gmu.edu](https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/dance.calendar.gmu.edu/)

[masonexhibitions.org/](https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/masonexhibitions.org/)

And if you miss a live performance, there is a pay-per-view for many:

<https://cfa.gmu.edu/events/paid-digital-performances>.

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

La Santa Cecilia

Sat, Nov 15, 8:00

A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.

Concert Hall

Admission: \$55, \$48, \$35.

Mariza

Sun, Nov 16, 7:00

A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.

Concert Hall

Admission: \$71, \$60, \$45.

Virginia Opera: *Cinderella*

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A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.
Concert Hall
Admission: \$116, \$76, \$45.

Chanticleer

Sat, Nov 29, 8:00
Concert Hall
Admission: \$71, \$60, \$45.

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Fairfax Campus Visual Arts

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

How We See What They Saw

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

**OFFERINGS TO THE POTOMAC
ACKNOWLEDGING INDIGENOUS PLACE**

February 24 - May 15, 2026
Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery, Manassas Campus

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

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

Jazz4Justice

Fri, Nov 14, 8:00
Concert Hall
Admission: \$24 Adult, \$19 Senior.

Mason Jazz Monday: Braddock Road Brass Band

Mon, Nov 17, 12:30
Performing Arts Building (PAB) A327C
Admission: Free.

Brass & Wind Chamber Concert

Mon, Nov 17, 8:00
Harris Theater
Admission: Free.

George Mason School of Theater: *Light Up The Sky*

Thu, Nov 20, 7:30
Fri, Nov 21, 7:30
Sat, Nov 22, 2:00 and 7:30

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Admission: \$24 Adult, \$19 Senior.

Dr. Balakerskaia Studio Recital

Sat, Nov 22, 7:00
deLaski Performing Arts Building, 3001, Rehearsal Room
Admission: Free.

String Chamber Concert

Sun, Nov 23, 7:00
Harris Theater
Admission: Free.

Piano Chamber Ensemble Concert

Mon, Dec 1, 6:00
deLaski Performing Arts Building, A302
Admission: Free.

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[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RS](#)**At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)****DanceWorks Fall Semester Showcase: *Heaven and Earth***

Sat, Nov 15, 5:00
 Gregory Family Theater
 Admission: Free.

ARTfactory's Actor's Theatre: *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, The Musical*

Fri, Nov 21, 7:00
 Sat, Nov 22, 2:00 and 7:00
 Sun, Nov 23, 2:00
 Fri, Nov 28, 2:00 and 7:00
 Sat, Nov 29, 2:00 and 7:00
 Sun, Nov 30, 2:00
 Gregory Family Theater
 Admission: \$35 Adult, \$30 Senior.

Virginia National Ballet: *The Nutcracker*

Fri, Nov 28, 2:00 and 6:30
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$65; \$60; \$55; \$50; \$45; \$40.

Academy of Russian Ballet and Northern Virginia Ballet: *The Nutcracker*

Sat, Nov. 29, 2:00 and 6:00
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$50 Adult, \$40 Senior.

Canadian Brass

Sun, Nov 30, 4:00
 A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.
 Merchant Hall
 Admission: \$71, \$60, \$45.

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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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**Be thankful.
 Every day, be thankful!**

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 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.*

Sat Nov 15	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Tai Chi Club – online Personal Computer User Group
Mon Nov 17	9:30 am 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 18	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Nov 19	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Board Game Club Bridge Club Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Dabbling Artists Club – online Spanish Club – online Conversations with Team Bloch – online
Thu Nov 20	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Nov 21	9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon	Crafts and Conversation Board of Directors Meeting Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online

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	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online	
Tue Nov 25	2:00 pm 3:45 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Caregivers Support Group – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Wed Nov 26	12:00 noon 2:00 pm 4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Memoir and More Writing Group – online Spanish Book Club – online	
Thu Nov 27	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online	
Fri Nov 28	9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon	Photography Club – online Crafts and Conversation – online Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online	
Sat Nov 29	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: Deborah Kruesi

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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