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Mason History Professor Emeritus Peter R. Henriques provided a fascinating analysis of George Washington's decision to attend the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

November 7, 2025

Editor of the Week: Paul Van Hemel

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Alerts & Notices

- Please complete the [fall term survey](#), to offer OLLI your suggestions on how to improve your membership experience.
- Register on the [member portal](#) by November 13 to attend the OLLI holiday party at Country Club of Fairfax on December 2, 11:30-2:30; cost is \$5
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, November 14; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, November 11, at 6:

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

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By **Lisa Mariam, Executive Director**

OLLI Mason has a new partnership with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. They have offered us a discount for their concerts. We are advertising in their and also working a table at an upcoming concert. The full schedule is included in a brochure at [this link](#). Use the code **OLLI** to obtain the discount (15% tickets).

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Volunteer Spotlight: Margie Wildblood



By **Lisa Mariam, Executive Director**

Margie Wildblood has a generous spirit of giving. Since 2022, Margie has been the instructor for the Writers Workshop as well as coordinator for the Poetry Writing Club and the Memoir-and-More Writing Group.

She is always there to support members, helping them with their writing projects and providing resources. Her enthusiasm for group activities is uplifting and generates a spirit of camaraderie; members feel supported and motivated to attend all the sessions.

Margie has published a memoir with the support of the Writer's Workshop, Memoir and More Writing Group, and Poetry Workshop.

A big thank you to Margie for her leadership of OLLI Mason's writing programs!

If you'd like to nominate an OLLI volunteer to be highlighted in the *E-News*, please use the form available at [this link](#) (includes attaching a photo if possible).

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Computer Club



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, November 15, in person and via Zoom. The Zoom session opens at 12:45.

Recipe Management Software—Presented by Leti Labell
Recipe management software allows centralized recipe storage and organization, and facilitates meal planning and grocery list generation. It will also allow discovery of new recipes and the customization of existing recipes.

This presentation compares various recipe management applications, discussing the features of each and recommending the best. How to choose a recipe manager will be discussed, as well as how to find and evaluate recipes.

Leti Labell is a member of both OPCUG and PATACS, with a lifelong love of computers. She has an MS in computer science and is a Certified Information Security Professional (CISSP) and a Project Management Professional (PMP). However, even more than computers, Leti loves cooking and collecting cool recipes.

Learn in 30: Clock App Custom Alarm Tones—Presented by John Krout
This presentation covers Samsung Clock, Google Clock, and iPhone Clock. The Samsung Clock app is unique because it can read aloud the alarm name. It doesn't do a great job of that. The artificial voice sounds a bit ragged, so I also assign my artificial voice recordings of alarm names in that app because sound better.

John Krout is a frequent presenter at our meetings on a wide range of computer, technology, and photography topics, and author of many articles for the

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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 in 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=hfaEFQ7vfkvhVspokJXKnzpla7uTOh.1> to join the meeting and use passcode 804997. (Note: enter passcode with NO spaces) or enter meeting ID 8 5350 in the Zoom app and use the above passcode (preferred method), or dial in at 301-715-8592.

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Join the Theater Lovers to see Upcoming Iconic Masterpieces



By Norma Jean Reck, Coordinator, Theater Lovers' Group

Theater Without Words

Imagine seeing a stage play performed totally without words - and loving it. On Saturday, November 15 at its 1:30 p.m. matinee, Syntetic Theatre will perform the classic Frankenstein without words, just physicality. You will spend the one and a half hours being gob smacked at their performances, wondering How do they do that? We'll first go to Ruthie's All Day for an optional lunch, then to the Thomas Jefferson Theatre at 125 Old Glebe Road in Arlington for the show. Purchase your tickets - \$35 to \$65 - online at syntetictheater.org. Let Norma know if you will be doing lunch and/or theater.



Iconic Musical



Who can resist tapping their toes and singing along to If I Were a Rich Man? Signature Theater will be staging the iconic musical Fiddler on the Roof in the round. We will go to the 2 p.m performance on Sunday, November 23. Go to sigtheatre.org to purchase your ticket and select your seat. We have an optional lunch at Our Mom Eugenia in Shirlington. Let Norma know that you will be joining us.

Celebrate our 250th Anniversary

The Theater Lovers' Group (TLG) will be going to the National Theatre in DC on Sunday, June 28 at 2 p.m. to see Suff. This Broadway hit is a must see. It is the wrenching story of the suffragettes told in a most memorable, mesmerizing, musical way. Orchestra seats will be about \$135. If interested in going with TLG, I need to know before November 30 before single tickets go on sale. If interested, please email me ASAP so that I can place the ticket order. Email me at njreck@cs.com.



Suff:
Natio

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

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Poet's Corner

Eureka Moment

Life is chock full of distracting demands.

But there are times
when the mind seeks a new paradigm --
intuitively, almost autonomously.

The brain feasts on a massive buffet
of ideas and impressions in the maelstrom
of one's experience, sifts through it
and finds new connections.

Billions of neurons in the cerebral cortex

Courtesy of the Poetry

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an incalculable number of thoughts, ideas, impressions.
Like egg and sperm
they are driven
to seek a cohesion, a collusion, catharsis,
until they find
a seminal thought.

The conception presents a clear, yet jarring conclusion
to the conscious mind --
a conclusion that evokes ambivalence.

The heart is quiet,
resistant,
questioning, then pensive,
until, in humility,
mellowed by a dash of humor and a splash of irony,
one embraces what is --
or feels like --
a personal truth.

~ Nancy Coffey

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George Mason Jazz - More November Concerts



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

Last week's E-News noted several jazz concerts coming up at Mason this fall, including some that are free and open to the public. We presented informal upcoming performances, specifically Mason Jazz Vocal Night, Monday, November 10, at 8:00, and the Steel Pan Ensemble/Jazz Combos, Wednesday, November 12, at 8:00. Information on two more events appears below. Join us for these outstanding performances.

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JAZZ 4 JUSTICE: The Latin Tinge



Friday, November 14, 8:00
Center for the Arts
Tickets: <https://cfa-calendar.gmu.edu/jazz4justice-8482-2025>
Featuring the Mason Jazz Ensemble (Director, Jim Carroll), the Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble (Director, Dr. Darden Purcell), a special guest conductor, George Mason University President, Dr. Gregory Washington!

Celebrate the vibrant rhythms and soulful melodies of "The Latin Tinge"—a tribute to the essential influence of Afro-Cuban Caribbean, and South American sounds on the evolution of jazz. Enjoy an exciting evening featuring student and faculty ensembles, special guests, and dynamic arrangements that highlight the enduring connection between jazz and Latin musical traditions. Proceeds benefit Legal Services of Northern Virginia, providing legal aid to those in need, and George Mason Jazz Department educational initiatives.



+++++

BRADDOCK ROAD BRASS BAND | JAZZ COMBOS

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00
Harris Theatre
Free and Open to the Public
The Braddock Road Brass Band (directed by Graham Breedlove) and Jazz Combos (directed by Dr. Shawn Purcell) perform their fall concert! Attendees will enjoy music from Chuck Mangione, Irving Berlin, Charlie Parker, Rodgers and Hart, Eddie Harris, Fats Domino, and Dirty Dozen Brass Band!

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances November 7 through Nov

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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 cal 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 student 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

360 ALLSTARS

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

Artists in Conversation: *La Santa Cecilia*

Thu, Nov 13, 7:00
Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax
Admission: Free, registration required at https://cloud.venues.cvpa.gmu.edu/LaSantaCecilia?_gl=1*1253bnw*_ga*MTQzNzQyMDYwLjE3NjIwOTg3MjQ_*_ga_HHWM9D99E*czE3NjIwOTg3MjQkbzEkZzEkdDE3NjIwOTg3NzgkajYkbDakaDQ5OTE5

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.

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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 for additional student recitals)

George Mason School of Dance: *New Dances 2025*

Fri, Nov 7, 8:00
Concert Hall
Admission: \$30 Adult, \$19 Senior.

Percussion Ensemble Concert

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Admission: Free.

Mason Jazz Vocal Night Fall 2025

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

Jazz Combos and Steel Pan Ensemble Concert

Wed, Nov 12, 8:00
Harris Theater
Admission: Free.

Groove Theory A Capella Concert

Thu, Nov 13, 8:00
Performing Arts Building (PAB) 3001
Admission: Free.

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.

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

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.

DanceWorks Fall Semester Showcase: *Heaven and Earth*

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

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For further details on any of the above events, see the [LPA Event Calendar](#) and the [Hybrid 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 that they take place in person and are accessible online simultaneously. OLLI events and activities meeting online bear the identification "Z" in their cou 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 acc mid-week. *Note: All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors, committees and resource groups, kic 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 t [member portal](#) and click on ZOOM CLASS LINKS.*

Sat Nov 8	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Nov 10	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Nov 11	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Nov 12	11:50 am	Investment Forum
	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
	4:00 pm	Spanish Book Club – online
Thu Nov 13	4:00 pm	Conversations with Team Bloch – online
	11:50 am	All the News
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Nov 14	6:00 pm	Ethnic Eats Club – online
	9:30 am	Photography Club – online
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	11:30 am	Cooking Club
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Classic Literature Club – online
Sat Nov 15	2:30 pm	Tallwood Book Club – online
	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Nov 17	1:00 pm	Personal Computer User Group
	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
Tue Nov 18	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Nov 19	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	Dabbling Artists Club – online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
Thu Nov 20	4:00 pm	Conversations with Team Bloch – online
	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Fri Nov 21	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
Sat Nov 22	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	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 n ollinewseditor@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.gm without the quotes.

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