

GEORGE MASON
UNIVERSITY

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

OLLI

at GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Spring 2026

Catalog

Class
Registration
begins
February 17th



olli.gmu.edu

March 23 - May 15, 2026

Classes Clubs Activities



Save the Date

OLLI ideas festival

May 8-9, 2026 • 10am-4pm



Join us for 2 days of panels,
classes, and activities.

Free and open to the public.

Invite your friends and family
to experience a taste of all
that OLLI Mason has to offer!



Contents

All About OLLI Mason	ii
OLLI Mason Organization	iii
Courses	
100 Art and Music	1
200 Economics and Finance	3
300 History	4
400 Literature, Theater, and Writing	9
600 Philosophy and Religious Studies	13
650 Humanities and Social Sciences	14
700 Current Events	17
800 Science, Technology, and Health	18
900 Other Topics	22
Special Events	
1000 Excursions	26
1100 Diversions	27
1200 Between Term Events	27
1300 George Mason University Distinguished Professor	28
Clubs	29
Membership and Registration	34
Registration Form	36
Schedules	38
OLLI Mason Fund	43
OLLI Mason Policies	44
In-Person Program Locations	45

Cover photo by Ed Marion

Members of the OLLI Mason Photography Club are standing by the electronic signboard (Marquee) located on Braddock Road at the Nottoway River Lane entrance of George Mason University's Fairfax Campus. The Marquee is used to promote and enhance the university's image through the participation and engagement of the public and Mason community members in major events.



For 2026, OLLI Mason is planning a special program of classes and activities to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States.

All About OLLI Mason

Who We Are

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization affiliated with George Mason University and the national Osher Lifelong Learning network that provides classes, lectures, trips, clubs, social and other activities for over 1000 active learners age 50+. Over 500 college-level courses and activities covering a broad range of subjects are offered each year. Programs are presented in-person at the Fairfax campus, at satellite sites throughout Fairfax County, and online.

OLLI Mason programs and activities are developed, managed, and produced through the combined effort of member volunteers and OLLI Mason staff. Classes are taught by GMU professors, experts from the community, as well as the members themselves, many of whom are highly credentialed and experienced instructors during eight-week terms in the spring and fall, a four-week winter term, and a six-week summer term. There are no exams or credits. Members pay dues and may attend as many classes and activities as they wish, subject to space availability. There may be charges for materials or for some special events.

Mission

OLLI Mason's mission is to provide intellectual and cultural experiences in a welcoming atmosphere that promotes lifelong learning.

How to Join

To join OLLI as a first-time member, visit our website at **olli.gmu.edu** and click on the yellow 'Join OLLI' tab at the top right corner. To renew your membership, sign in to your Member Portal account and purchase an annual membership. To purchase a membership offline, complete the registration form on **page 36** and provide it to OLLI Mason with payment. For more assistance contact the registrar: **ollireg@gmu.edu**

How to Register for OLLI Classes

Registration can be completed online through your Member Portal account or by filling out the registration form and mailing it to or dropping it by the OLLI office. For more information, see the member and registration pages in the catalog.

Give the Gift of OLLI

What better way to show appreciation for someone special than by giving an OLLI Mason eGift card? The card can be purchased in any amount to apply toward an OLLI Mason membership or event/materials fee. Purchase the eGift card on the OLLI Mason Member Portal (**olli.gmu.edu; OLLI Membership Gift**) or by emailing the OLLI Mason registrar.

George Mason University Privileges

An annual OLLI Mason membership entitles our members to many university benefits including library privileges, discounted aquatic and fitness memberships, and other benefits subject to university policies. Apply for a Mason affiliate account by filling out an online application to receive a university ID, G Number, and a Mason email account that provides access to the university intranet and additional resources.

- **olli.gmu.edu/university-privileges/**
- **patriotperks.gmu.edu/**

Membership Promotions

Spring 2026 Promotion: a one-time low fee of \$300 for those new to OLLI Mason who purchase an annual membership (those who have never been OLLI Mason members, are returning after a hiatus of more than a year, or have previously been introductory members and are converting to annual members).

George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School Retirees: a one-time annual membership discount of \$100, which may be applied to the special \$300 promotion (for those new to OLLI Mason).

**** IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES ****

Spring term registration begins on February 17 at 9:00 am and continues throughout the term.

Register online at **olli.gmu.edu**

Registrations also may be mailed to:
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032

Register early. Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even as early as the first day of registration. Please note that all offerings are Add to Cart.

OLLI Mason Organization

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GENERAL CONTACTS

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Website: olli.gmu.edu

Courses: March 23 - May 15

Fairfax/Reston/Zoom

Fairfax courses are indicated by the suffix "F," Reston by "R," and Zoom by "Z." For in-person courses/events, see the 'In-Person Program Locations' page at the back of the catalog for locations and their addresses.

Primary locations are used unless otherwise indicated. We urge you to register for courses as early as possible. Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even on the first day of registration.

Courses will be offered in various formats for the term. **Please carefully note the title format for each course** when considering your registration list. In-person offerings will include a campus designation suffix (ex: **101F**). Zoom only offerings will include the 'Z' suffix (ex: **101Z**). Hybrid offerings will have both in-person and virtual title formats listed in the course description (ex: **101F / 101Z**). You must decide which format you prefer when registering for hybrid courses and select the corresponding title format.)

100 Art & Music

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Linda Harber, Joan Lunsford, Christine Narbut

101F / 101Z Collage Knowledge

Eight sessions

Instructor: Anita Breitenberg

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 23–May 11

Classes consist of a theme and assistance in completing a collage. This course is appropriate for beginners and professionals alike. A theme example is "starry night sky". One of Vincent van Gogh's interpretations of this theme is the painting "The Starry Night". During his lifetime he sold only one painting and never knew the significance of his body of work. A recent discovery of the impact of Saturn's tiny moon, Daphnis, reminds the instructor of the effect of what we often consider to be unappreciated efforts. Although it is only eight kilometers across, its gravitational pull is enough to raise ripples in the rings around it. And here we are, just now witnessing the beautiful effect the tiny moon has on one of the rings of Saturn. Could these scenarios apply to us and our life efforts? What has our lack of perceived appreciation held us back for creating, to quote Victor Zugg, "a ripple in time"? What have you believed to be true, that holds you back from achieving your goals?

Anita Breitenberg's background includes the federal government, Wesley Theological Seminary, and Fairfax County Public Schools.

102F / 102Z Music Sampler

Eight sessions

Coordinators: Linda Apple Monson, Ina Mirtcheva-Blevins

Tuesdays, 9:30–10:55, Mar. 24–May 12

Note time

Location: Fairfax Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd, Fairfax, 22032

This course highlights examples of the musical talent that abounds at Mason. Each week, knowledgeable and enthusiastic professors from the Dewberry School of Music of George Mason University, often accompanied by their most promising students, will generously share their musical gifts in presentations that are varied, lively,

informative, and entertaining.

Linda Apple Monson, International Steinway Artist, serves as director of the Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at George Mason University where she is a University Distinguished Service Professor. She has performed and lectured throughout the world.

Ina Mirtcheva-Blevins is a graduate of George Mason University with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance. She currently teaches keyboard skills at Mason and is also a faculty member of the Mason Community Arts Academy.

103F Watercolor: Beginners and Beyond

Eight sessions

Instructor: Christine Narbut

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 24–May 12

Class limit: 18

If you always wanted to paint with watercolor or have painted in the past and want to refresh your skills, this class is for you. Students will have the opportunity to develop watercolor painting skills with emphasis on composition, style, and techniques for landscapes, flowers, birds, and animals. In addition, guest artist **Marni Maree** will again teach a session demonstrating special techniques.

Chris Narbut has been a member of OLLI since 2018. She has taken watercolor classes at the Torpedo factory and has been instructing basic watercolor skills for OLLI for the past two years. She also coordinates the Dabbling Artists club.

104Z The Soundtrack of Rock and Pop in the 50s and 60s: The Magic of the Brill Building Era

Six sessions

Instructor: Mike Agron

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 25–Apr. 29

The adventure begins in New York City, where the echoes of Tin Pan Alley's Great American Songbook still resound. We witness a new generation of talented songwriters, singers, and groups, all of whom filled the airwaves shaping the soundtrack of our lives. Enjoy the music of legendary songwriters such as Carole King and Gerry Goffin; Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield; Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil, and Phil Spector; Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller; Doc Pomus and Mort Shuman; Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry; Burt Bacharach and Hal David; Neil Diamond, and others. Rediscover the tunes from Elvis Presley, the

Coasters, Dion and the Belmonts, the Drifters, Lesley Gore, Dionne Warwick, the Ronettes, the Shirelles, the Animals, the Monkees, Manfred Mann, Andy Williams, the unforgettable Righteous Brothers, and many others who left us with a treasure trove of great music. Join the instructor on this journey to delve into the melodies, stories, and vibrant personalities behind the Brill Building era of the late 1950s and 1960s.

Music aficionado **Mike Agron**, raised in LA's entertainment scene, is a former high-tech executive and entrepreneur turned storyteller who crafts dynamic seminars on music and film. He's led hundreds of engaging sessions for the Sacramento Renaissance Society, numerous OLLIs nationwide, Osher Online, Encore Learning, and other live programs—and this spring he returns for his seventh seminar series with OLLI Mason.

105F / 105Z Quilting in Virginia

Two sessions

Instructors: Priscilla Godfrey, Bunnie Jordan
Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 26–Apr. 2

Session one: The instructor has been quilting in Loudoun County since 1979 when the Waterford Quilters Guild was established in Waterford, VA. In 1733, Quakers from Pennsylvania moved to Waterford and that is where this lecture/PowerPoint begins.

Priscilla Godfrey has been a resident of Loudoun County, VA since 1979. She is a National Certified Quilt Judge and has been making quilts daily since 1980. She earned national certification in 1986 and has judged quilts in shows up and down the east coast. Her quilts are exhibited widely in Loudoun.

Session two: The book, *Quilts of Virginia: The Birth of a Nation Through the Eye of a Needle* documents some of the remarkable quilts and quilt makers of Virginia. This talk highlights some of the interesting finds in this search through time in Virginia. In addition to the PowerPoint presentation, actual quilts will be shared for closer examination.

Bunnie Jordan has been actively appraising quilts for over 30 years. A long-time quilter herself, she has been a contributing author to quilting magazines and the books: *Quilters Hall of Fame*, *Quilts of Virginia, 1607-1899* and *Southern Quilts*.

106F Singing for Fun

Eight sessions

Instructors: Gayle Parsons, Linda Harber, Linda Gordon, Sophia Elberti
Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 26–May 14

Bring your voice and if you wish, your guitar, ukulele, or other instrument, and join us in singing songs that span the time from the 30s to today. The only singing talent required is a desire to sing. Class members are encouraged to bring in songs they would like the group to sing. We have an enthusiastic keyboard accompanist, an occasional banjo, and a great deal of fun.

Gayle Parsons is retired from a career in tax law. She has been playing keyboard for Singing for Fun classes for about ten years—and is thrilled to still be co-leading this fun class!

Linda Harber joined OLLI in 2018 when she retired as Mason's VP of HR and Payroll. She is a chair of the OLLI Arts and Music

program planning committee and co-president of Friends of Music at Mason. It is a joy to sing with OLLI's Singing for Fun.

Linda Gordon is retired from a federal career in refugee and immigration statistics and policy. She has sung with Singing for Fun for more than 10 years and is happy to be singing again.

Sophia Elberti retired from federal service in 2021 with a background in strategic communications. She joined OLLI shortly thereafter and became a member of Singing for Fun, which she has thoroughly enjoyed.

107R Meet the Artists

Six sessions

Thursdays, 2:15–3:30, Apr. 2–May 7

Leila Gordon Theatre at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods

Apr. 2: Beverly Cosham, cabaret singer. Cosham has performed at nightspots all over the country from Los Angeles to New York to San Antonio, as well as in theatres throughout the Washington area.

Apr. 9: Darden Purcell & Mason Jazz Vocalists. Darden Purcell, with talented students from the Mason Jazz Voice Studio, performs an eclectic program of jazz standards, Brazilian hits, and exciting arrangements showcasing the Great American Songbook.

Apr. 16: Clayton Bourassa. Clayton Bourassa is an American concert pianist performing across the Washington D.C. Metro area, hosting concerts and recitals throughout the year. Clayton's program will continue his spring concert series, performing works from a broad brush in musical eras, ranging from Bach and Beethoven, to Brahms, Chopin, and Liszt, wrapping up with Moszkowski and Rachmaninoff. The show will be both educational and entertaining, providing a walk-through music history accompanied by technically demanding and melodically rich selections.

Apr. 23: Linda Monson and her piano studio. Dr. Linda Apple Monson brings her gifted students from George Mason University to present a diverse program of classical piano repertoire.

Apr. 30: Miles Stiebel, violinist. Stiebel will perform a mix of popular songs and will intrigue you with anecdotes of performances from some of the most distinguished events and monumental venues in the Washington, D.C. area and beyond.

May 7: Olga Simonova, Russian-American pianist, composer, and also Reston resident will perform her original piano compositions. Her contemporary, cinematic style will keep you in the present moment by connecting the past to the future.

108F / 108Z What Made the Beatles Great?

One session

Instructor: Chris Brown

Monday, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 13

This presentation answers the question posed in the course title—What Made the Beatles Great? The instructor describes the reasons the Beatles' music was so different from the rock and roll being played on the radio



leading up to 1964, why they became so popular in the U.S. so quickly, why they remained a top musical and entertainment act for seven solid years, how they helped create the huge live rock concerts that are so common today, and what led to their break-up in 1970.

Chris Brown is a self-proclaimed Beatles expert and is well known as such among friends, family, and anyone who gives him half a chance to talk about them. Chris regards February 9, 1964, when the Beatles first performed live on the Ed Sullivan Show, as a major turning point in his life.

109F Oil Painting in the Cottage: Artist Talk and Demo

One session

Instructor: Brianna Camp

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 13

Class limit: 30

In summer 2026, the instructor will debut a show on her award-winning project Flare. The show will consist of a series of large-scale oil paintings, each accompanied by documentary photographs and poetry. In exploring her personal experiences with navigating the ebb and flow of her chronic illness, the show offers audiences the chance to reflect on commitment to place, how we process pain over time, and the vastness of the potential for healing. Join the instructor this spring prior to the summer show as she creates large scale oil paintings for the show, talks about her work, answers questions, and provides a painting demonstration.

Brianna Camp is a visual artist who received her BFA Art and Visual Technology degree from George Mason University's School of Art in 2023. She received the Young Alumni Commissioning Project Award and commissioning support from The College of Visual and Performing Arts for her project, Flare: Finding a Sense of Place in the Chronically Ill Body. Camp's paintings, murals, and drawings are inspired by the healing connection that can be facilitated through art.

200 Economics & Finance

Program Planning Group Chair: Leo Brennan

201F / 201Z The State of the Economy

Two sessions

Instructor: John Min

Coordinator: Bonnie Nelson

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 24–Mar. 31

The instructor provides a timely overview of the nation's current economic landscape. He examines key indicators such as inflation, employment, the GDP, and interest rates, while exploring the impact of government policy and global factors. Designed to offer insight into where the economy stands and where it may be headed, the lecture is accessible to a general audience with or without a background in economics.

John Min is the chief economist at Monex USA and was founder and chief economist at World First USA, VP of sales at Ruesch International, and has consulted with JP Morgan Chase, Western Union, AFEX, and others. He teaches at NOVA and advises

startup fintechs. He holds an MBA from GWU and a Doctorate in Economics from GMU.

202F / 202Z The Investment Forum

Eight sessions

Moderators: Al Smuzynski, Bob Baker, Lou Coglianese, David Toms, Ray Willson

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 25–May 13

The Investment Forum, which has been meeting continuously since 1995, addresses investment topics of particular interest to retirees. A weekly agenda is distributed, and sessions begin with an open discussion of recent events in the economy and financial markets, and their impact on investment decisions. Member presentations and discussions typically include such topics as: recent market indicators, stocks, bonds, mutual and exchange traded funds, real estate investment trusts, sector allocations, investment strategies, portfolio management, and choosing advisory services. Each week members may participate in our "Buy/Sell/Thinking-About" segment by sharing their investment trades or activities of the previous week, which are then looked at and discussed in a peer group setting. The Forum typically uses various Wall Street analyses and data, as well as relevant news from the financial press. In addition, we regularly incorporate a number of online financial tools and websites in looking at members' recent trading activities or other investment products.

Future Course Proposal Due Dates

****Please note that course proposals are due approximately 5 months before the start of each term due to catalog production deadlines.**

Summer 2026:

June 22 - July 31, 2026

(Proposal due date: January 26, 2026)

Fall 2026:

September 21 - November 13, 2026

(Proposal due date: April 6, 2026)

Winter 2027:

January 19 - February 12, 2027

(Proposal due date: July 23, 2026)

Course Proposal Form:

olli.gmu.edu/olli-course-proposal-form/

Trips/Performances Proposal Form:

olli.gmu.edu/trip-performances-proposal-form/

203F / 203Z Beyond the Basics: Navigating the Obstacles in Estate Planning and Administration

Three sessions

Instructors: Sarah Parks, Dina Shaar

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 30–May 14

This course deals with unexpected issues that may arise in estate planning or estate settlement situations. The course will begin with a preliminary lecture followed by an open forum discussion of experiences that both students and instructors have had so as to arrive at possible preventative solutions.

Sarah Parks is an attorney who limits her practice to estate planning. Her firm is Custom Estate Planning, which she has been operating since 1995. She has a JD degree from the Mason School of Law and an LLM from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Dina Shaar is an attorney who brings a decade of experience to her work in estate planning. A graduate of George Mason University, she earned her undergraduate degree in Criminology, Law, and Society in 2021, followed by her Juris Doctor from Mason Law School in 2024.

300 History

Program Planning Group Chairs:

Irene Harwarth, Beth Lambert, Bernie Oppel

301F / 301Z The Smithsonian and History Wars

Three sessions

Instructors: Michael McGregor, Richard Berger

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 23–Mar. 30

Monday, 10:30–12:30, Apr. 6, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, 1300 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

On August 12, President Trump sent a letter to the Smithsonian identifying exhibits that the Administration believes fail to meet historical standards outlined in President Trump's executive order. This class will examine the history of the Smithsonian from a small museum into a world-renown one. The federal government played an instrumental role in the Smithsonian's development and growth, and we will examine whether there are any precedents for the government attempting to influence the Smithsonian's curatorial and historical standards.

Following two lectures, participants will meet at the Smithsonian's American History Museum for a guided tour of key exhibits. This is a drive on your own, carpool, or Metro trip. To take Metro, get off at Federal Triangle.

Michael McGregor currently works as a policy analyst at the Department of Health and Human Services. Michael's research has focused on the history of the U.S. Presidency, and Franklin Roosevelt, Congress, and the Lend-Lease Act. Michael received his Master of Arts from George Mason in 2002.

Richard Berger has had a lifelong interest in U.S. presidential history. He is currently a docent at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, where he provides museum tours, and is also a member of the NMAH Docent Council. He earned

a Bachelor of Science Degree from New York University and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota.

302F / 302Z Albert Einstein, Scientific Publishing, and One Family's Journey

Two sessions

Instructor: Jeffrey Metzger

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 24–Mar. 31

The instructor's maternal family played a central role in scientific publishing in Germany in the early 20th century. The family firm published the works of the world's most important scientists, including many Nobel laureates. The firm worked with Albert Einstein on one of his two seminal manuscripts on *The Special Theory of Relativity*. This update to a course the instructor taught years ago at OLLI about the iconic Einstein manuscript and his family includes significant new research. After discussing Einstein's drafting of the manuscript, the instructor discusses his family's escape from Germany with the manuscript along an unlikely route, and their establishment of a very important new scientific publishing house in the United States. Finally, the story will explain the eventual "rediscovery," publication, and sale of the relativity manuscript. The discussion will include a historical, albeit non-technical, discussion of special relativity.

Jeff Metzger has worked in law practice, at the U.S. Department of Justice, and as associate general counsel of a multinational corporation. He is vice chair of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. He graduated from Amherst College, magna cum laude, and from Georgetown Law School.

303R / 303Z A Private's Life in the Union Army, 1861-1864

Three sessions

Instructor: Bob Shaffer

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 25–Apr. 8

This three-session presentation will recount the three year enlistment of Private Edmund R. Brown of the 27th Indiana Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. This regiment was heavily engaged in the war's major battles in the Eastern Theater (Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, etc.) as well as in the Western Theater campaign to capture Atlanta in 1864. Enlisting at the age of 16, Brown's descriptions of the rigors of Civil War campaigning, as well as the viewpoints of the enlisted Union soldier on overarching issues (slavery, national politics, sectional rivalries, and senior military personalities) are fascinating as they evolve over the course of the war. For many class participants, these observations and attitudes will be at least as interesting as Brown's recounting the travails of campaigning and the battles in which he fought.

Bob Shaffer has been an OLLI member since 2013. He has a BA in Political Science from the University of Hawaii and an MA in Government from the University of Arizona. He served with the U.S. Army Special Forces in Vietnam, followed by a career with the Central Intelligence Agency.

304R Issues and Politics of the Civil War

Five sessions

Instructor: Robert Finkelstein

Wednesdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 25–Apr. 22

Many of the political, social, geographical, and economic differences that were considered causes of the Civil War were present prior to the ratification of the Constitution. The history of the differences will be discussed, along with the events between 1846 and 1860 that led to secession and war. The goals of the political and military leaders during the war will be examined and the overall strategies of the Union and Confederacy will be discussed. This course will focus not on describing and diagramming the battles, but on the outcomes and consequences of selected battles, which changed politics at the end of the war.

Robert Finkelstein earned his BS in American Government from Columbia University, and his MS in Computer Systems from American University. He has extensively read about and studied the Civil War.

305Z History for Travelers: A Journey Through Time in Tuscany and Umbria

Four sessions

Instructor: Laura Vinti

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 20–May 11

We will discuss how Tuscany and Umbria played a central role in the development of Western civilization. Our journey will start with the ancient Etruscans, the earliest inhabitants of the region, a sophisticated people who organized gladiator games before the Romans and introduced the arch into Mediterranean architecture, laying the foundations for Roman aqueducts and the Colosseum. Next, we'll learn about Tuscany and Umbria during the Roman era, then see how they fared after the fall of the Western Roman Empire. We'll meet a remarkable reformer from Umbria, Saint Benedict, the father of Western Monasticism and founder of monasteries which became crucial centers of cultural preservation. Meanwhile, in Tuscany, successful Florentine merchants became wealthy bankers and patrons of the arts, ushering in the extraordinary flowering of the Renaissance. Please note that while this is a stand-alone course, it is also intended as an introduction to a spring 2027 tour through Tuscany and Umbria, being planned for OLLI members.

Laura Vinti was born and raised in Italy. After 17 years in Germany and 15 years in the USA, she now lives in Florence. She has taught at several universities in Germany, the U.S., and Italy. Laura holds an MA in Foreign Languages and Literature and an MFA in Creative Writing.

306F Doing History: The U.S. Experience in Vietnam

Eight sessions

Instructors: Jim Robinson, Tom Brannan, Wes Boutchard

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 26–May 14

Political division, social unrest, and military sacrifice

marked the period of the United States' involvement in the conflict in Vietnam. The legacies of this conflict continue to resonate today. This course will examine the roots of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, U.S. military strategy, and the Vietnamese perspective on the conflict. The class will also explore the antiwar movement, media coverage, the Paris Peace Accords, the fall of South Vietnam, and the war's aftermath. As we cover these topics, you will take on the role of historians.

Jim Robinson holds a BA in History from Gettysburg College. He taught history and government for 27 years at George C. Marshall HS, including many years in the IB program focusing on advanced skills such as document analysis and evaluation of multiple historians' viewpoints.

Tom Brannan taught history at George C. Marshall HS for 16 years. He holds a BA in Political Science from Catholic University and a Master's in Public Administration from GMU. He served as assistant city manager in Alexandria, VA, before obtaining his teacher certification. From 1969 until February 1973, Tom served in the US Navy with Cold War assignments that included duty aboard the *USS Hammerburg* which tracked Soviet submarines in the Mediterranean Sea.

Wes Boutchard was a press photographer from 1969 to 1971 at the large antiwar demonstrations in Washington D.C. He was almost drafted in 1972. In 1973, he was a deckhand on a Great Lakes ore carrier, and several of his shipmates were Vietnam vets. In his first year of teaching, he guided his students (whose fathers were Vietnam vets) through a month-long exploration of the conflict and taught about Vietnam for the next 31 years.

307F An Introduction to the History of Occoquan, Virginia

One session

Instructor: Earnie Porta

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 31

This course will consist of a slide illustrated lecture covering the history of the town of Occoquan, Virginia, from the precolonial period through the last decades of the twentieth century. It will address the relevant geography of the area; the pre-European inhabitants; the European arrival; the founding of the community; the various industries along the Occoquan River that defined the town at different points in its history and how those industries and the town were impacted by national and international events; the role of the town's African-American community; and how the town repeatedly transformed itself after major challenges during the 20th century history. The presentation will touch on an array of history disciplines beyond traditional political history, covering issues associated with economic, environmental, social, and cultural history as well. A variety of common myths about the town's history will also be addressed.

Please see the related trip, 1003E Little Town of Occoquan.

Earnie Porta holds a BS in Foreign Service, a JD, and a PhD in History from Georgetown University, as well as an MA in History from George Mason University. He has several publications to his credit, the last of which was the book *Hurricane Agnes in Virginia* from the History Press in 2024.

308F / 308Z Children Under Occupation

Two sessions

Instructor: Caroline Crocker

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 6–Apr. 13

War damages everyone, but especially children. This course is based on the true stories of two children who lived in the occupied Netherlands during World War II. 1) Meta, the spirited daughter of a German mother and a Dutch father, was part of a loving family. Nonetheless, war meant she grew so emaciated that two years after it ended, she was expected to die. Meta survived solely due to her *Brave Face*, which is the name of the book about her life. 2) When Frits was five, his half-Jewish mother placed him in a children's home. There, he worked to earn a living, even while being abused. Several years into the war, soldiers found the Jewish children being hidden in the home, and they were murdered in Auschwitz. Strangely, Frits and his younger brother were not. In addition, the nurses who hid the children were spared. However, the greatest mystery was why a child who had been treated unforgivably became a functional man. *Unforgivable* answers all these questions.

Caroline Crocker, PhD, is a popular speaker and author of 14 books, focusing on truth written like fiction. She is also a blogger with degrees in microbiology, virology, and immunopharmacology. Therefore, Dr. Crocker speaks authoritatively on writing and publishing, her books, science, and teaching.

309Z The Birth of the Atomic Age and Its Consequences: WWII Los Alamos and Its Impact on Nuclear Proliferation Today

One session

Instructor: Galina Vromen

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 7

What was it like to live in WWII Los Alamos, NM where the world's first atomic bomb was built? What were the considerations that went into using the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Based on research for her historical novel, the author instructor will bring alive that monumental period. She will discuss the development of U.S. nuclear policy since that time and the renewed nuclear arms race that is much in evidence in Los Alamos today, as the last remaining treaty between the U.S. and Russia to limit nuclear arms expires in 2026.

Galina Vromen spent two decades as a journalist, mostly for *Reuters*, in Europe, Mexico, and Israel. After retiring, she focused on writing *Hill of Secrets*, a novel based in WWII Los Alamos. Her interest in the dawn of the atomic age led her to explore issues of nuclear arms today. www.galinavromen.com

310F / 310Z The Origins of Our Revolution: The Deadly Conflicts Before the Declaration

Three sessions

Instructor: Jim Anderson

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 9–Apr. 23

This series of lectures will focus primarily on the colony



of Massachusetts and the city of Boston from 1770-1776 before and during the first deadly conflicts that preceded the Declaration of Independence. In the first lecture, we will examine the British effort to tax the American colonies to help finance the French and Indian War debt and the resistance by the Massachusetts patriots that culminated in the military occupation of Boston. Lecture two will discuss in detail the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the beginnings of the siege of Boston by colonial militias. The final lecture will focus on the Battle of Bunker (Breeds) Hill, the military and political aftermath and the subsequent formation of the Continental Army under George Washington.

Jim Anderson's career included service in the Air Force and the CIA. In retirement, he conducted leadership seminars at Civil War battlefields. He holds an MA in History. Since 2009, he has taught classes and led tours at OLLI on the Civil War, the Frontier, and the Revolution. He is a recipient of the 2025 Loudoun History Award.

311F The Real "Hunt for Red October": Life on a Fast Attack Submarine during the Cold War

Four sessions

Instructor: Henry Rausch

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 20–May 11

"There is no other force in our entire Defense establishment that contributed as much as the Submarine Force to the collapse of the Soviet Union"—Vice Admiral Bernard Kauderer. This course delves into the frightening and mysterious underwater world of nuclear fast-attack submarines as they hunted their prey in a black abyss during the darkest days of the Cold War. It is based on the author's book, *Submerged: Life on a Fast Attack Submarine in the Last Days of the Cold War*, which was approved for public release by the DoD. No classified topics are covered, but even so, the subject will be interesting to anyone with an interest in technology, history, and political affairs.

Commander **Henry Rausch**, USNR (ret) served on two fast attack submarines in the 80s and 90s, conducting classified missions to the Barents Sea, North Atlantic, Mediterranean, and North Pole. Afterward, he left active service for the Reserves, where he served primarily in NATO command and control.

312F / 312Z Welcome to Iran, Land of the Aryans

Two sessions

Instructor: Preston Burns

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 20–Apr. 27

This presentation is an overview of Iran's 3000-year history, religion, culture, politics, climate, and geography with special attention and insight into Zoroastrianism, Sharia Law, the Sunni-Shi'ite rift, our CIA coup, and the revolutions of the 20th century. The sessions will be a photo tour of Iran with historical commentary. It is also the story of the instructor's personal and private adventure traveling through Iran with emphasis on the incidents and accidents that happened along the way. Iran was the center of the world for nearly 1500 years and has certainly

been the center of attention for the last 55 years. The instructor's prearranged Iranian guide was especially good because he was an English professor at Tehran University and an avid student of world history and religion. Everything had already been read about Persia and Iran, but with the guide's knowledge over eight days on the ground, a crash course in the real Iran was received.

G. Preston Burns grew up in Fredericksburg, VA, graduating from UVA with a degree in Economics in 1969 and the Medical College of VA in 1973. He's traveled to all 50 states and over 100 countries. He's given lectures on dental procedures that he developed, his trips to Timbuktu and Iran, and is the author of two books.

313R / 313Z Park Ranger Potpourri

Four sessions

Coordinator: Jen Epstein

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 21–May 12

The National Park Service will reveal three new topics, one in each presentation. If you enjoy surprises, this is the course for you! National Park Service Rangers have participated in OLLI programs since 2001 by offering scores of thematic courses, special events, and trips.

314F / 314Z The Men Behind the Quills: Lesser-Known Signers with Big Stories



One session

Instructor: Lynn O'Connell

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 22

We all recognize names like Jefferson, Adams, and Franklin when we think of the Declaration of Independence—but they were only three of the 56 men who signed the historic document. Who were the others? What motivated them to risk everything for an uncertain future? And what happened to them after they put their names to a piece of paper that branded them as traitors to the British Crown? This presentation takes a closer look at "The Men Behind the Quills"—the lesser-known signers of the Declaration whose fascinating and often surprising stories deserve to be remembered. You'll meet a signer who was killed in a duel less than a year after signing; another who urged George Washington to fire cannons at his own home during the Siege of Yorktown; and one who was captured, imprisoned, and tortured by the British. Some were clergymen, others merchants or self-taught lawyers, but all shared a willingness to sacrifice life, fortune, and sacred honor for the cause of American independence.

Lynn O'Connell is a longtime educator and tour guide/director. As a D.C. tour guide, she focuses on customized tours

such as D.C. women, food, and museums. She also serves as a Smithsonian Associates' study leader. Lynn teaches in continuing education programs, including NOVA and FCPS.

315F On the Road with the Virginia Presidents



One session

Instructor: Heather Cole

Tuesday, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 28

Join the instructor for an engaging armchair travel presentation about the eight Virginia-born presidents and the sites that shaped their lives. We will travel the state—from Staunton to Charles City and Wytheville to Winchester—to (virtually) visit the homes and historic sites of the Virginia presidents and talk about how historical interpretation at these sites has changed over the years. Attendees will learn a bit about the presidents' lives, take a peek inside their homes, and get ideas for their next history road trip.

Heather S. Cole is an author of the most recently published books *Virginia's Presidents: A History & Guide* and *Ohio's Presidents: A History & Guide*. She has worked in a variety of museums and archives, including at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and currently works as an editor for Bridgewater College.

316F / 316Z The Cold War Decline and Collapse of the Soviet Union, Brezhnev/Gorbachev, Part II

Three session

Instructor: Daniel Cain

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 29–May 13

Part I of the course in fall 2025 term covered the years 1964–1982 when Leonid Brezhnev was leader of the USSR, and Part II will cover those years after Brezhnev, when the USSR was led by Yuri Andropov, Konstantin Chernenko, and finally Mikhail Gorbachev—the years 1983 through 1991. Discussion will center on developments within the Soviet Union, as well as Soviet external relations (with its Warsaw Pact allies, those in the worldwide Socialist camp, and the West) that occurred as part of the overall Cold War between the East and West at the time. Discussion will especially focus on activity and events that can be (and have been) interpreted by scholars as fundamental problems with the Soviet system, many of them part of a broad pattern of decline which finally ended with the historic and mostly peaceful collapse of the USSR.

Daniel Cain has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History and Political Science from Ohio University. He also did post-graduate study at the Indiana University Russian and East European Institute (REEI) prior to a career of 30+ years as a U.S. federal government intelligence analyst.

317R / 317Z Civil War Beyond the Battles

Three sessions

Instructor: Jim Anderson

Wednesdays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 29–May 13

Each of these sessions covers a different aspect of the American Civil War. The usual focus on military campaigns

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or individual battles will be avoided in favor of topics tangentially related to the fighting but rarely covered in the usual survey course. The topics include: New York City in the war, which examines the controversies in the nation's largest city; the expanding roles of women, including in combat; and Dan Sickles, scoundrel, which explores the checkered career of one infamous general.

Jim Anderson spent three years in the Air Force and 27 years with the CIA, including 11 years overseas. He has an MA in History from the University of Memphis. For 12 years in retirement, he ran leadership training seminars featuring Civil War battlefield visits. He has been an instructor and tour guide at OLLI since 2009.

318F *She Could Not Be Stopped: A Remarkable Woman Forges Her Own Path Through Hitler's Germany*

One session

Instructor: Helga Warren

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 30

This session will be a presentation of the book *She Could Not Be Stopped* about the author's German mother during World War II and beyond. This is the sequel to the author's presentation of her book about her German POW father.

Helga Warren's first book chronicled her father's time as a German prisoner of war in America. Her newest book tells her German mother's story, the tale of a proto-feminist's unstoppable force. The author is a tour guide specializing in German and French tours of the nation's capital.

319F / 319Z Historic Sites in Loudoun County, Virginia

One session

Instructor: Priscilla Godfrey

Thursday, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 30

There are many buildings and locations from the 1730s, the 1800s, and the 1940s still existing and many of which are in use today. The lecture will start in the oldest town, go through the train stations in three towns, and end up in Leesburg, VA. We will learn about how the building of Dulles Airport led to the decline of farms and agriculture in Loudoun and how the building of the W&OD railroad transformed Loudoun County from the east to the far western areas of Loudoun.

Priscilla Godfrey is a nationally certified quilt judge. She has also published articles in the *Loudoun Bulletin of History*. She loves to research historic places asking questions such as when was it built, who lived there, etc. She has done lectures at OLLI in the past on the Suffrage Movement.

320F / 320Z The "Road" to Timbuktu

One session

Instructor: Preston Burns

Monday, 2:15–3:40, May 4

The instructor continues the stories of his travels, this time to the city of Timbuktu, known since the early 1800s as the "World's Most Inaccessible Place." In Islamic circles, it is famous for its Islamic scholarship

and is locally known as a major hub for trans-Sahara trade. The instructor will present a brief history of Timbuktu and then describe his adventures in a narrated photographic tour of his travels from Bamako, the capital of Mali through the Sahel and into the Sarah Desert in search of Timbuktu. The presentation includes a brief history of Timbuktu, the reasons for the world-wide attraction, and the inherent dangers of the Sahara Desert (including dying of thirst), all forming a barrier to getting there.

See 312F/312Z for instructor information.

321F / 321Z The End of World War II: The Untold Story of the Surrender of Japan

One session

Instructor: Blane Amphor

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, May 6

World War II ended in 1945 when Japan surrendered to the Allied Nations. While history describes a few key events leading to the surrender, the true story is more complicated and detailed than is generally known. Set within the larger context of the Asia Pacific War, there were factions, issues, and personalities on both sides with different visions of how to execute the war and how to end it. Learn the true story of how World War II ended and some of its long-term effects on the world.

Blane Amphor is a retired federal employee with more than 36 years of service. He has had a lifelong interest in history and has read extensively on World War II, the American Revolution, and ocean liners. He has taught with several lifelong learning institutes and has instructed with various organizations.

322F / 322Z GMU Retired Faculty Association: Allied Spies in Europe in World War II: "Dirty Tricks" and Amazing Women Operatives

Two sessions

Instructor: Susan Schultz

Coordinator: Julianne Mahler

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, May 7–May 14

Session 1: Dirty Tricks and Some Amazing Women Operatives.

This session examines some very creative, unusual, and often even hilarious gadgets and operations undertaken by the Allies in their effort to defeat Hitler's Third Reich. The intelligence services hired a wealth of creative scientists and engineers who invented numerous "dirty tricks"—some highly successful (e.g., "Aunt Jemina") and some miserable failures (e.g., "exploding rats."). Part of these efforts included authoring numerous operations, with varying degrees of success. Moreover, some amazing women were a critical part of these efforts.

Session 2: Allied Intelligence Operations and More Amazing Women.

This session is a hodgepodge of Allied intelligence services inventing and employing various gadgets, as well as creatively authoring various operations to subvert the enemy. Some operations were unsuccessful (e.g., "Operation Foxley"), while others (e.g., "Operation Gunnerside") were critical to the Allies winning the war. Again, some amazing women were a

crucial part of these efforts.

Susan Schultz holds a PhD in Modern European History from the University of Chicago. She has taught at the University of Maryland (in Europe), American University, and as an adjunct in History at GMU. After working in investment banking, she held many assignments in the CIA and the U.S. Department of State.

323F What Manner of Man? An Effort to Better Understand George Washington



One Session

Instructor: Dr. Peter Henriques

Coordinator: Velma Berkey

Thursday, 11:50–1:15, May 14

After over 25 years of speaking to OLLI students about George Washington, the instructor has decided to make this his last presentation. While he will give a short presentation, the majority of the time will be spent in responding to questions from the attendees. No question is off limits (but he doesn't promise to answer all of them). His recently published biography, *George Washington: His Quest for Honor and Fame*, will give you a good idea of his position and may lead to various questions.

Peter R. Henriques received his PhD in History from the University of Virginia and is professor emeritus of History at George Mason University. He is the author of *First and Always: A New Portrait of George Washington, Realistic Visionary: A Portrait of George Washington* and *The Death of George Washington: He Died As He Lived*. Dr. Henriques' latest book, *George Washington: His Quest For Honor and Fame* was released September 23, 2025. Honors include presenting the Distinguished Lecture Series at Colonial Williamsburg, a George Washington Fellowship by Mount Vernon, and the George Washington Memorial Award given by the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association.

400 Literature, Theater, and Writing

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Pat Bangs, Jane Fitzgibbons, Michael Mason,
Norma Jean Reck

401Z The Power of Story

Three sessions

Instructor: Mari K. Eder

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 23–Apr. 6

The power of story in teaching history is simple. The main character in the story lives and exists in time, during a time of change, upheaval, challenge, even war. As that character develops and moves forward in time, he or she does this against the full backdrop of history. We become immersed in the individual story and cheer along our heroes as they go.

Mari K. Eder (Maj. Gen., U.S. Army retired), is a *USA Today* bestselling author and recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation/Historic Hotels of America 2023 Historian of the Year. She holds a BA and MA degrees in English from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (now Penn West) and an MS in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. She also has an

advanced certificate in Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina. She was awarded a PhD (hon) in Humane Letters from Edinboro in 2013.

402Z The Other Side of Love: Reality, Roles and Reversal in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*

Six sessions

Instructor: Charles Chadwick

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 24–Apr. 28

As You Like It, by critical consensus, stands at or near the pinnacle of the comedies of Shakespeare. It is a work that both delights us with its dazzling word play and challenges us intellectually. Shakespeare acknowledges the expected standards of the genre—we end in marriage and celebration—but he hides a new idea below the surface as he fulfils the expectations of the genre. Rosalind, one of his greatest creations, reshapes norms, changes expected roles, reverses expectations, and reshapes her world. We will view a video of a live stage production of the play as we discuss the play in detail.

Charles Chadwick has an MA in Literature and has taught courses on the plays of Shakespeare, O'Neill, and Edward Albee for OLLI since 2014, as well as courses on poetry and contemporary literature. He is retired after a career in organizational ethics and as an executive in government contracting.

403Z Poetry Workshop

Eight sessions

Moderators: Sophia Elberti, Carolyn Wyatt

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 24–May 12

Class limit: 14

This workshop allows both novice and experienced poets the opportunity to share their work and receive suggestions for improvement. Workshop members should prepare an original poem in draft or in revised form for each session. The moderators will email students after class confirmation with further instructions.

Sophia Elberti retired from federal service after 32 years with the intelligence community. She enjoys creative writing, book club discussions, nature walks, and OLLI Singing for Fun classes. She also loves to travel, and one of her retirement goals is to visit as many U.S. national parks as she can manage.

Carolyn Wyatt is a retired federal information officer who traveled widely in that position. She has an MA in Spanish from Indiana University and aspires to be a poet and a wise woman.

404Z Writers' Workshop

Eight sessions

Instructors: Ed Sadtler, Margie Wildblood

Wednesdays, 9:15–11:05, Mar. 25–May 13

Note time

Class limit: 12

This class uses a roundtable format to foster an environment for writers of all levels to give and receive encouragement, feedback, and constructive criticism. All genres of writing are welcome, including poetry, fiction, memoirs, and historical pieces. To each of these categories we apply the same underlying commitment—

to write a compelling work that fully conveys the author's intentions.

Ed Sadtler, a graduate of Shippensburg State College in Pennsylvania, has conducted many writing workshops at OLLI Mason, and has taught poetry writing classes for OLLI and for the Lifetime Learning Institute at NOVA.

Margie Wildblood is a native of Salem, Virginia. She has degrees in English, Psychology, and Education. She retired from Northern Virginia Community College where she was faculty and a counselor in student services. She writes poetry, fiction, and nonfiction prose. Her memoir, *Because He Loved Me* was published in summer 2025.

405F / 405Z American Dream Deferred: John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

Five sessions

Instructor: Marilyn Harriman

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 25–Apr. 22

Broadly regarded as the greatest work written by Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* zeroes in on the conflict between the powerful and the powerless. It is the story of one Oklahoma family driven from their home and forced to travel West during the Depression. As the Joads work to attain the American Dream, they face the realities of an America divided by the Haves and the Have-Nots. In this course, we will delve into themes of capitalism and its effects, the struggle for dignity and justice in the face of institutional power, and the importance of family in a world that rewards rugged individualism. Ninety years after the story's events take place, issues such as economic inequality, the plight of migrant workers, homelessness, and environmental problems still resonate. As we discuss the novel, we'll examine its parallels to current societal challenges and analyze Steinbeck's takeaway message.

Marilyn Harriman is a retired Fairfax County Advanced Placement language and composition instructor. She also taught HS and college English and journalism in Oregon, Texas, and Germany. She holds an MEd from the University of Virginia and BA degrees in English and Journalism from the University of Oregon.

406F Memoir Writing

Four sessions

Instructor: Ron Shapiro

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 26–Apr. 16

Memoir Writing is a workshop designed with the objectives of learning about this genre, reading and discussing professional writers' attempts at sharing their stories, exploring ways to connect to one's past, playing with language and memory through a variety of prompts, and learning ways to craft one's own memoir into an effective piece of writing. In meeting these goals, it is the instructor's hope that our wonderful group of writers evolves into a community who: engage in the various writing prompts, support each other's efforts and works-in-progress, praise and support experimentation and risk-taking even when those experiments and risks don't entirely work, and project genuine interest in each other's

pieces of writing.

Ron Shapiro is an award-winning retired teacher and a Pennsylvania and Northern Virginia Writing Projects Fellow. His poetry has been published in more than 20 magazines. *Understory*, his first book of poems, has just been released.

407F Reader's Theater

Eight sessions

Instructors: Wendy Campbell, Kathie West

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 26–May 14

Class limit: 20

This course will provide a forum for OLLI students to hone reading and performing skills. Students will present readings, either self-chosen or provided by the instructor. Readings may be by a single performer or 2-4 individuals. Critiques will be provided in order to help each other improve skills, and pieces will be repeated as students wish. No memorization is required. Students will continue with their own choice of poem, monologue, duet, lyrics, and scenes to perform. Lots of fun and socialization involved.

Wendy Campbell is a curriculum developer and a re-enactor. She taught in the gifted program in Fairfax County Public Schools for 20 years, introducing 10-12 year old students to the wonders of Shakespeare, Plautus, and Sophocles.

Kathie West, an OLLI member, is a former actor of the Pittsburgh Theatre and a past theater teacher at Robert E. Lee High School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. She was also the director of OLLI Players.

408F / 408Z Dictionary Johnson and the Infamous Mr. Boswell

Four sessions

Instructor: Beth Lambert

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 26–Apr. 16

Never were two men more unlike in significant ways than Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) and James Boswell (1740-1795). Johnson wrote the first English dictionary, was one of the most distinguished intellectuals in English history, reveled in good conversation, and did not suffer fools at all. Boswell, twenty-years his junior, immortalized Johnson in his biography, *Life of Johnson*. His biographical technique—warts and all—set the standard for writing modern biography. Boswell also immortalized himself in the thirteen volumes of his journals, bits and pieces of which made it into the public sphere during his lifetime.



For full instructor bios, click on the instructor name accompanying the course descriptions in the OLLI Member Portal:
olli.gmu.edu;
Member Portal button

Literature, Theater, and Writing

His father, given a sample of a journal entry, threatened to disown him. The story of the journey of the Boswell papers from Scotland to Yale's Beineke Library reads like a mystery/adventure tale. We will read Johnson's novella *Rasselas*, a sample of Boswell's journals, and learn the history of the Boswell papers. You will not be bored.

Beth Lambert is professor emeritus of English at Gettysburg College where she taught courses on Johnson and Boswell, as well as many other writers in the 18th century Britain. Her biography of Edmund Burke was published by the University of Delaware Press.

409Z Sensation and Gothic Novels, Then and Now

Eight sessions

Instructor: Ellen Moody

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 26–May 14

Class limit: 50

We'll read Wilkie Collins' *Woman in White*, R.L. Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and Valerie Martin's *Mary Reilly*, a sequel to *Jekyll and Hyde*, from the housemaid's point of view. We'll define the literary terms, "sensational" and "gothic," and see why they are helpful. We'll also talk about the meaning of the words terror and horror. How do they overlap? These subgenres evolve from the 18th and 19th century's fascination with death, invisible history, sexual violence, and the supernatural. Books and films are often surreal, and feel paranoid, yet mirror realistically our contemporary world. The instructor recommends seeing two movies that stream online and exist as DVDs: the 2018 serial, *Woman in White* and the 1996 feature film, *Mary Reilly*.

Ellen Moody has been teaching since 1972, in senior colleges until 2012, and for 11 years now at two OLLIs. Her PhD is in British Literature. She's a published scholar with specialties in 18th through 20th century literature, women's literature, film adaptations, and the gothic.

410Z Literary Roundtable

Eight Sessions

Instructors: Yasha Arant, Pat Bangs

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 26–May 14

This is an ongoing short story discussion class in which we will begin a new anthology, *The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story*, edited by John Freeman. Published by Penguin Press, 2021 (HB), 2022 (Paper). The book is available to order online from a variety of sources. It is also available on Kindle and audio. The anthology includes 50 stories and is a selection of the best and most representative contemporary American short fiction from 1970 to 2020, including such authors as Ursula K. LeGuin,

Toni Cade Bambara, Jhumpa Lahiri, Sandra Cisneros, and Ted Chiang.

Yasha Haas Arant is a long-time OLLI Mason member and has been participating in the Literary Roundtable for about three years. She holds a fine arts degree from Notre Dame College in Ohio and retired from Lockheed Martin after 29 years. She currently participates in three book clubs and has had a life-long love of literature.

Pat Bangs is a long-time member of OLLI Mason and serves as a co-chair of the Literature, Language and Theater program planning committee. She has attended the Literary Roundtable for a decade and holds an MFA in fiction from George Mason University. She loves the short story format.

411F Let's Read a Play Together: 1776 The Musical



Five sessions

Instructor: Doris Bloch

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 30–May 4

No class Apr. 13

Class limit: 25

1776 The Musical is set in Philadelphia and follows the action (or inaction, initially) of the Continental Congress prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As this is the 250th anniversary of that momentous event, we can sit back and enjoy the interplay between John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock, and many other founding fathers. You will enjoy hearing the spirited musical numbers sung by the cast and refresh your understanding of how perilously close the Congress came to not agreeing to establish our country. Class participants will read the lines of the script aloud in class and discuss the characters and plot; there is no memorization expected. The instructor will provide production background, play video clips of the stage play, and show the movie in its entirety.

Doris Bloch has presented various versions of Let's Read a Play Together for OLLI 14 times, with genres as varied as Commedia dell'Arte, Bernstein's musical *Candide*, Wodehouse's *Bertie Wooster*, two Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, three plays by Oscar Wilde, and Shaw's *Pygmalion*. She is NOT an historian.

412Z Fall for the Book: The 27th Mile

One session

Instructor: Dimity McDowell

Coordinators: Suzy Rigdon, Kate Lewis

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 31

What happens when you're told running—or any other physical hobby that has anchored your life—is no longer a healthy choice? Dimity McDowell, runner, author, and founder of the popular website, *Another Mother Runner*, shares her story and the stories of others who have suffered injury, chronic pain, or illness and been forced to hang up their sneakers. In her new book *The 27th Mile: How to Smooth the Rough Transition Out of Your Running Years*, McDowell offers expert advice and wisdom on how to find a new athletic identity and maintain mental health.

Before focusing her writing career on running, **Dimity McDowell**

Check the Daily Schedule

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was a sports journalist, holding staff positions at *Self*, *ESPN: The Magazine*, and *Sports Illustrated for Women*. She co-authored three running books (*Run Like a Mother*, *Train Like a Mother*, and *Tales from Another Mother Runner*) and co-founded *Another Mother Runner*, an inclusive community for all female runners. A personal trainer and running coach, she has finished countless races, including Ironman Coeur d'Alene and the Pike's Peak Half Marathon.

413F Fun and Games: The Fundamentals of Improvisational Theater

Six sessions

Instructor: Steve Pilloff

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 7–May 12

Class limit: 18

Do you like to laugh? Do you enjoy connecting with supportive people? Do you cherish moments of joy? If you answered “yes” to these questions, then this class is for you! We'll gather in a safe, encouraging, and supportive environment to play and explore. Using our imaginations, we'll create fun worlds, collaborative stories, and an overall sense of connected joy. Students will participate in various games, activities, and exercises that involve working together, listening to each other, making choices, using imaginations, discovering that mistakes can be gifts, and most importantly, having fun. Students will develop trust not just in themselves but in each other. Everyone is welcome—no prior improv or theater experience is needed, and you don't even need to be funny. Just bring yourself; you are enough. At the end of the term, students will have the opportunity to share their joy, connection, and creativity in a low-pressure performance for friends, family, and fellow community members.

Steve Pilloff is an improv teacher, producer, and performer. He teaches improv classes through Highwire Improv and leads workshops at George Mason University, where he's a professor with the Costello College of Business. Steve performs with Washington Improv Theater and regularly organizes shows.

414Z Fall for the Book: *The Art of Living in an Impermanent World*

One session

Instructor: Ann Tashi Slater

Coordinators: Suzy Rigdon, Kate Lewis

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 14

The author discusses her book *Traveling in Bardo: The Art of Living in an Impermanent World*, which draws on Tibetan Buddhist teachings to explore how we move through life's inevitable transitions and losses. Using stories of family, creativity, and everyday change, she examines the concept of bardo—the space between endings and beginnings. Her perspective offers a way to navigate life's shifts with clarity and purpose. Elizabeth Gilbert calls the book “Brilliant and compassionate, philosophical and practical...Both gemstone and touchstone, this book is a gift.”

Ann Tashi Slater contributes to *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Lit Hub*, *Oprah Daily*, *Guernica*, *Granta*, *The Best American Essays*, and others.

Her speaking and teaching engagements include Princeton, Columbia, Oxford, The American University of Paris, the Rubin Museum of Art, and Asia Society.

415F Seeing Double in *The Comedy of Errors* and *Twelfth Night*

Four sessions

Instructor: Susan McCloskey

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 20–May 11

Throughout his career, Shakespeare explored issues of identity, showing us how his characters understand themselves and recognize (or fail to recognize) the individuality of others. Sometimes, as in *The Comedy of Errors*, identity depends on little more than one's name and place of birth. Later, in *Twelfth Night*, characters' ancestry, class, and gender come into play, along with their memories, aspirations, and fears. In both plays, Shakespeare used identical twins to complicate our sense of what makes a person unique and to create the richly comic circumstances that make these plays such fun to read or see. We will explore each play and compare them to discover how Shakespeare's sense of personal identity deepened over time and how he honed his dramatic and theatrical skills to bring his complex characters to life onstage.

Susan McCloskey received her PhD from Princeton University, was a tenured professor of English Literature at Vassar College, and spent a memorable year as the dramaturg for the Classic Stage Company in New York City.

416Z Accessible Poetry for Hope Today

Four sessions

Instructor: Marcy Heidish Dolan

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 20–May 11

In today's challenging times, accessible poetry can offer us needed support and reassurance. The varied voices of selected poets help us make sense of ongoing changes and conflicting perspectives. In this complex era, we listen for words that bring enlightenment and understanding. Here we will find them in the works of Louise Gluck, Pablo Neruda, Mary Oliver, Billy Collins, Emily Dickinson, Wendell Berry, and many others. As we read, reflect, and discuss their insights, we will find the power of the creative spirit to confront what may now seem overwhelming. Poetry has an eternal ability to help us view what author Gerard Manley Hopkins called “the inscape” of our surroundings. Together we can revisit those inscapes and find new ways to interpret change—and challenges—with hope.

Marcy Heidish Dolan is an award-winning author of 18 books: poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. She has taught at George Washington, Georgetown, and Fordham Universities. Winner

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of an NEA Grant, Marcy earned a BA with honors from Vassar College and an MA from American University.

417Z So You Wanna Write Poetry

Four sessions

Instructor: Ed Sadtler

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 23–May 14

Class limit: 12

This is a class for those who would like to write poetry or already write poetry and would like to improve their skills. Each session will be divided into three segments: a discussion of craft and/or content, a time to write, and a time to share what's been written. Come and surprise yourself!

See 404Z for instructor information.

600 Philosophy and Religious Studies

Program Planning Group Chair:
Jim Cantwell

601F / 601Z The Life-Changing Power of the Holy Spirit

Four sessions

Instructor: Jim Cantwell

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 25–Apr. 15

This class will use six excellent 30-minute DVD presentations on the Holy Spirit [*When God's Spirit Moves*]. Class one will include two of the six parts followed by discussion of each. In the second class, one DVD session will be followed by discussion and a brief look at the development of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in Christian creeds, including the Apostle's creed and the Nicene creed. Two DVD sessions followed by discussion will be the third class. In the last class we will view the last DVD with discussion and look at the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We will look at what the Old and New Testaments say about the Holy Spirit.

Jim Cantwell is chair of the OLLI Philosophy and Religious Studies program planning group and has taught numerous courses at OLLI.

602Z Tibetan Buddhism: Philosophy For Everyone

Six sessions

Instructor: Charlene Wilson

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 26–Apr. 30

This course is for non-Buddhists who want to learn some concepts that will be helpful in their lives, no matter what belief system they follow. Have fun playing with concepts and ideas that might be beneficial. The book is on Amazon, under the name Charlene Wilson. However, the book is not required for the class. This is the sixth year for the class and final time it will be taught.

Charlene Wilson has been a Buddhist student for over forty years and has been trained in the monastic tradition. She carries

the robes of a Nagpa (yogi in English) and is a laity practitioner. She is a lineage holder in the Nyingma tradition, the oldest tradition in Tibet.

603F / 603Z What Then is Required? A Call to Discipleship

Four sessions

Instructor: John Rybicki

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 31–Apr. 21

"Many are called, but few are chosen." Jesus called disciples to follow him. This call to follow was not about beliefs and creedal statements but about trust and action. A transformation of one's life was required. Disciples were called to prepare the world for the coming kingdom of God. Christianity, especially after the Reformation however, became a religion of "sola fide", salvation by faith alone. But is belief really all that is required of a disciple? Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." But what are Jesus' commandments? The implication of Jesus' statement is clear. Something is required of believers, something that will make the believer separate and distinct from the norm. "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own...but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." So what is it that Jesus says is required? Let's look at Jesus' hard sayings and explore what is required of true discipleship.

John Rybicki has been an OLLI contributor for over 20 years. He received a Master of Theology degree from St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, Balamand University. He served as a pastoral associate at the Riderwood Retirement Community in Maryland where he was responsible for religious education and facilitating Jewish-Christian dialogue.

604F / 604Z Biblical Songs: Events and People That Spawned Them, Part II

Six sessions

Instructor: David Cain

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 6–May 11

We'll look some more at the question "Why did they sing?" as a follow-up to the Fall 2025 Biblical Songs class. Many characters sang for various reasons: including Moses; a lover who might have been Solomon; David who had so many desperate episodes sprinkled with a few joyous moments; the prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Micah, Habakkuk, and Zechariah who had the unenviable tasks of preaching unwelcome news to the people; angels and Simeon who announced the much more delightful and stunning news of Jesus's arrival; and finally Paul who preached in his letters using some early Christian hymns to emphasize his message. Once again, we'll see that raw emotions then, as they do now, compelled music from deep within the soul. History is about real people and what motivated them, and there's no better window into events than to look at how people inside the events responded in song.

David Cain's Song Scoops blog has 850 biblical through contemporary era songs. He was an analyst with the Central

Intelligence and National Geo-Spatial Intelligence agencies, including six years as an instructor-course manager. He has B.A (History) and M.A. (Political Science) degrees from Ohio University.

605F Life Lessons from Biblical Wisdom Literature

Four sessions

Instructor: Steven Goldman

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 20–May 11

Self-help books abound in modern literature because so many of us want to discover the path to living a productive life. However, some of the best self-help advice may be found within the pages of ancient texts. In this course, we will examine some of the major themes that biblical wisdom literature addresses as guides to navigate the paths of life.

Steve Goldman has taught numerous courses on alternative understandings of biblical doctrine at OLLI Mason.

650 Humanities and Social Sciences

Program Planning Group Chair:
Camille Hodges

651Z Big Issues, Complex Challenges, and No Simple Solutions

Six sessions

Instructor: Glenn Kamber

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 23–May 11

No class Apr. 6 and Apr. 13

This course is intended to expand participant knowledge and appreciation of challenges we face in modern society, including such issues as global warming; increased polarization among political, social, and economic groups; the nature and pace of scientific and technological change; and the role of media and modern communications. Each week the instructor will introduce a big issue through a brief oral and video presentation. The sessions will involve engaging discussion among participants facilitated by the instructor. Topics will be new each week and each semester; few will be repeated.

Glenn Kamber has taught many courses at OLLI that focus on current events and political and social issues. He is a retired senior executive from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he managed policy and program development in the offices of eight HHS secretaries.

652F / 652Z There Ought to be a Law–Or Not: Law and Society

Four sessions

Instructor: James McCarthy

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 23–Apr. 13

Class limit: 40

This course examines the dynamic functions of law and equity upon society in general with emphasis on the U.S.

experience in governance. Relating the U.S. Constitution, statutes, rules, regulations, and the mores that define the civil character of its population, the subject matter seeks to describe the forces of interplay among competing and complementary views. Crucial contemporary issues are employed as examples of the evolution of the relationship between law and society including judicial reconciliation and impact upon the legislative process.

James McCarthy graduated from Fordham University in 1963 with a BA in Political Science and minors in Philosophy and German. He also graduated with a JD from Brooklyn Law School (1980). Jim is a retired law partner from a NYC firm he founded with a variety of teaching experiences.

653F / 653Z Homo Sapiens: Are We Really Very “Sapiens”?

Eight sessions

Instructor: Elva Card

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 24–May 12

We humans are called sapiens, the Latin word for “wise man”, but are we really? Even as NASA probes the mysteries of outer space, psychology is probing the mysteries of inner space. In this class, we will look at the major domains of psychology as it seeks answers to intriguing questions about human behavior. Are we shaped by nature or by nurture? (Spoiler alert: it’s both. Nature deals the hand. Nurture determines how well or badly it is played). Why is learning a second language so much easier for pre-adolescents? Why do we have such an instinctual fear of spiders? How can we be manipulated by the way a survey is worded? We’ll study the most complex thing in our known universe—the human brain, as well as the behavior of our own homo sapiens.

Elva Card taught Psychology for 29 years in Fairfax County Public Schools. She has a BA from George Washington University and two MAs from George Mason University.

654F Exploring Civilizations’ Triumphs and Tragedies: A Study in Resilience

Three sessions

Instructors: Alex McLellan, Jeroen van Ek

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 25–Apr. 8

In this TED Talks-style course, we will explore great societies and civilizations, past and present. Using examples from classic founding civilizations such as the Roman and Mayan empires (as well as lesser-known groups such as the Minoans), students will learn to identify factors that contribute to the success and collapse of a society. At the end of each session, students are invited to discuss their views and questions on the topics covered.

Session 1: The Greatest Civilization?

Session 2: Fending off Failure: Resilience as a weapon

Session 3: Civilization in Decline?

Upon completing the course, students will be able to identify past and current resilient civilizations, enumerate reasons for their failure and success, and compare and contrast current and past civilizations using the Civilization Resilience Index.

Alex McLellan has a Master's degree in systems engineering. He was the resilience practice lead at the Homeland Security Institute (an FFRDC for the U.S. DHS) and is a principal at a D.C. based High Reliability think tank. Alex has decades of experience in emergency management.

Jeroen van Ek has an MS in Information Management. He is a principal at a D.C. based High Reliability think tank and has a strong background in strategic consulting across multiple industries. A lifelong learner himself, Jeroen is an avid beekeeper, K-12 teacher, and student of pugilistic arts.

655R Behind the Headlines: Why Government (Sometimes) Takes Action

Six sessions

Instructor: Dana Dolan

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 25–Apr. 29

Why do some major problems go unaddressed for years while others suddenly spark government action? This course reveals patterns of policymaking that headlines often miss. Using political scientist John W. Kingdon's acclaimed Multiple Streams Framework, we'll explore how problems, policy ideas, and politics must align to create "windows of opportunity" for change. Through case studies and interactive discussion, you'll learn how crises, statistics, and compelling stories elevate issues; how solutions are shaped and vetted; and how shifts in leadership or public mood create openings for action. By course end, you'll be able to analyze current events more insightfully and understand the strategy and timing behind effective policy change.

Dana A. Dolan, PhD, is a policy fellow and adjunct faculty member at GMU's Schar School of Policy and Government. Her teaching and research focus on making complex policy processes accessible to broader audiences. She writes regularly about current public policy issues at danadolan.substack.com.

656F Discord and Dialogue

Two sessions

Instructor: Mara Schoeny

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 26–Apr. 2

Class limit: 25

It can be difficult to be in conversation with people with whom we deeply disagree...or who we think are wrong. If it is someone we know, it can be even more difficult, with history, assumptions, and prior interactions infusing each encounter. Yet often there are people and issues that are important enough to us to wish we could find a way to talk across the divides. This class will explore the conflict dynamics that get in the way of the possibility of connection and some techniques that can help create space for dialogue. Sparking a different path for well-worn topics can be a difficult but rewarding undertaking, requiring curiosity as well as reflection. We will draw on the dialogue model developed by physicist David Bohm for the ingredients of open, non-judgmental communication aimed at fostering deeper understanding and insight into complex issues.

Mara Schoeny is an associate professor and director of the Dialogue and Difference Project at the Carter School for Peace

and Conflict Resolution at GMU. She has 20 years of national and international experience helping groups, schools, and communities make space for dialogue.

657R / 657Z Anthropology of a Multicultural Nation



Four sessions

Instructor: Tom Carroll

Thursdays, 3:00–4:30, Mar. 26–Apr. 16

Note time

Location: Fairfax County Public Library, Reston branch

Made possible in part by a grant from the VA250

Commission in partnership with Virginia Humanities.

The 250th anniversary of the United States provides an opportunity to celebrate our heritage as a multicultural nation shaped by continuous immigration that enriches our culture, revitalizes our communities, and stimulates our economy. Although immigration brings benefits, it also creates social and cultural challenges. While examining our multicultural legacy, we will investigate strategies to build inclusive communities that are the foundation of a robust nation. Our individual identities are often as multifaceted as our national identities. We will explore how ethnicity, race, ancestry, religion, citizenship, regionality, cuisine, and similar affiliations contribute to our sense of self.

Tom Carroll, PhD is a cultural anthropologist who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho in 1967-69. He did research at Clark University and Columbia University. He was a U.S. Department of Education Senior Program Officer and CEO of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future.

658F / 658Z Federal Law of Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) for Criminal Investigations

Two sessions

Instructor: Wes Clark

Coordinator: Velma Berkey

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 6–Apr. 13

A key focus of this course will be Title III of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (as

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The Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS) has plenty of helpful information for all devices:

patacs.org/zoom.html

Visit the OLLI website at:

olli.gmu.edu/online-classes-resources/

Or you can email the OLLI Help Desk at:

ollizoomhelp@olligmu.org

amended), a discussion of the statute's requirements. The class will examine the different electronic surveillance (ELSUR) types and methods, which include bugs, wiretaps, pen registers, trap and trace devices, trackers/beepers, pole cameras, and the tracking of cell phones. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) plays an important role and we'll examine the functions of "Main Justice" and those of the local assistant U.S. attorney.

Wes Clark is an attorney who retired from the federal government after 38 years. He began his civilian legal career at the DOJ and as a federal prosecutor, made judicial application to conduct ELSUR. For the last 19 years of his federal service, he worked in the Office of Chief Counsel, Drug Enforcement Administration.

659F / 659Z Anthropology of a Multicultural Nation, Part II

Six sessions

Instructor: Tom Carroll

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 7–May 12

America was not discovered. It was created. Our national identity has evolved through seven eras of migration: Pre-Columbian; Colonial; Old Wave; New Wave; Great Migration, Restrictive; and Global. We will explore how immigration during each era has enriched our culture, built our communities, and stimulated our economy. Although immigration brings benefits, during each era immigrants have encountered nativism, xenophobia, and racism. We will consider the forces that drive this hostility, and we will explore the conditions that have enabled us to meet these challenges, as "We the People" build an inclusive, resilient nation.

See 657R/657Z for instructor information.

660F From Gilbert and Sullivan to Damn Yankees: What Can We Do to be Hopeful in Our World?

One session

Instructor: Rabbi Bruce Aft

Coordinator: Velma Berkey

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 15

This session will inspire us with stories of kindness based upon the biblical scroll of Ruth. Why is it incumbent upon us to find meaningful ways to help others in today's world? As this description is being written, the government shutdown has impacted so many lives and we are witnessing the need for connecting with others and showing people that we care. We are taught by Rabbi Hillel in Jewish tradition that "If I am not for myself, who will be for me, if I am only for myself, what am I, and if not now when?" Now is the time...and hopefully things will be better by the time we meet, but the need for kindness is eternal.

Rabbi Bruce Aft is rabbi emeritus of Congregation Adat Reyim. He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia and received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 2006. He is an adjunct professor at George Mason University and visiting scholar at the Carter School.

661Z Learning About the Holocaust in Today's World, Part II

Four sessions

Instructor: Rena Berlin

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 21–May 12

The Holocaust was, "the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million European Jews (and others) by the Nazi German regime and its allies and collaborators." Learn about how the Holocaust began and evolved into the Final Solution to the Jewish Question (USHM.org) and is reflected in today's world. This course is a continuation from Part I in winter 2026 term.

Rena Berlin is a retired middle years teacher, International Baccalaureate Middle Years (IBMYP) program coordinator who taught for IBMYP around the U.S. and Canada. She became the first director of education at the Virginia Holocaust Museum, retiring after six years. She now teaches for OSHER programs.

662Z TED Talk Discussions

Four sessions

Instructors: Russell Stone, Stephanie Simcox

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 22–May 13

TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) is a growing collection of brief recorded talks on a wide range of topics. The speakers are leading figures chosen for their ability to express ideas clearly and succinctly. Participants will watch and discuss three or four related TED talks each week.

Russell Stone retired from a 40-year career as a professor of sociology, most recently at American University, and before that at SUNY Buffalo. He taught "Sociology of the Future" for many years, before realizing that the future isn't what it used to be! He now relies on the next generations to supply up-to-date information. He is co-chair of the OLLI program committee.

Stephanie Simcox attended George Mason University, then moved to California for 30 years, working for non-profits. After moving back to Fairfax a few years ago, she discovered OLLI and has been happily taking classes ever since.

663Z A Brief History of Language

Four sessions

Instructor: Tom Manteuffel

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 23–May 14

It's likely our most important innovation, a tool unlike any other, and the deep history of its evolution is only now yielding up its secrets. When and how, and why did language appear and evolve? How did one particular language, proto-Indo-European come to push out many alternatives to become today's global lingua franca? How does language really work? Is it innate in some way? We'll uncover some fresh answers to all of these questions and more.

Tom Manteuffel is a long-time OLLI teacher on a variety of subjects, most recently on The Brain and the Body and on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. He has graduate degrees in Philosophy from the University of Chicago and Computer Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

664F Why War? Threats, Enemies, and Virtuous Violence: A Global Perspective

One session

Instructor: Daniel Rothbart

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 29

Why war? Why do some national, religious, ethnic, and racial groups address their grievances with adversaries through violence rather than peace? These are questions for all ages, with enormous currency today for the many nations, including the United States, that are engulfed in war either directly or indirectly. In this presentation/discussion we take a global perspective to focus on the large-scale trends of wars, their underlying causes, and the prospects for peace. We go beyond, and beneath, the headlines about the wars in Israel-Palestine and between Russia and Ukraine, for example to delve into the underpinnings of most wars occurring today. We also discuss the stark contrast between the mindsets linked to militarism and that of peace.

Daniel Rothbart is the Druscilla French chair in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University. He currently serves as the director of the peace lab called Polarization and Violence Transformed.

665F / 665Z How to Go to Court—and Win

One session

Instructor: Michael Sgarlat

Coordinator: Kathleen Burns

Monday, 2:15–3:40, May 11

It is not “magic” or a “mystery” in knowing how to win your case. But it requires thoughtful preparation, good verbal skills, and an ability to organize the case information in your favor. Join an experienced attorney as he talks about how to acquire that skill. Don’t walk into that court room cold without being prepared about the specifics of your case. Bring the necessary documents that prove your points and bring copies for the judge to read. Invite witnesses to appear if they help to support your position. If they don’t, find out how to request a subpoena for reluctant witnesses who may be helpful to your case. The instructor says defendants need to know what to say and when. And when to keep quiet. They are actors in the courtroom, working to win the approval of the jury and the judge. Their job is not to overwhelm the judge and the jury with lots of paper and too many words. As Shakespeare said, “Brevity is the soul of wit,” in or out of court.

Michael Sgarlat earned his undergraduate degree from Kings College in Wilkes Barre, PA; his Master’s from Villanova University, in Philadelphia, PA; and he attended the George Mason School of Law in Arlington, VA. In 2025, he was awarded the Distinguished Peer Rating for High Professional Achievement. Michael has been practicing “common man” law to help his clients win their cases since 1978.

666F / 666Z Border Search Authority

One session

Instructor: Wes Clark

Coordinator: Velma Berkey

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, May 12

What and whom U.S. authorities can search coming into and exiting the country will be covered. The concepts of actual, functional equivalent of the border, and extended border will be discussed as well as the extent to which electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops can be searched and retained.

See 658F/658Z for instructor information.

667F / 667Z Hamburger Coke: An Immigration Journey

One Session

Instructor: Ilryong Moon

Coordinators: Bonnie Nelson, Sarah Park

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, May 13

The instructor came to the United States at the age of 17 with limited English and a determination to succeed. As an ESL student, he overcame poverty and cultural barriers, graduating from T.C. Williams High School, and going on to earn college degrees. As the first Asian American and Korean American elected official in Fairfax County, he brings a unique perspective on leadership, identity, and civic engagement. Drawing from his book *Hamburger Coke*, this course invites students to reflect on resilience, equity, and belonging, while exploring how personal history and public service can intersect to shape an American story.

Ilryong Moon was born in South Korea and immigrated to the U.S. in 1974. He earned degrees from Harvard University and the College of William & Mary. A retired attorney and longtime Fairfax County School Board member, he stays active in education and community service and enjoys auditing classes at GMU.

700 Current Events

Program Planning Group Chair:

Camille Hodges

701Z What’s in the Daily News?

Eight sessions

Moderators: Richard Crawford, Deborah Dupree,

Kathryn McGeehan, John Quinn, Ann Smith, Al

Smuzynski, Dennis VanLangen

Class liaison: Dennis VanLangen

Mondays, 9:30–11:00, Mar. 23–May 11

Note time

Class limit: 90

This is a weekly forum for thoughtful, forthright, and respectful exchange of information and opinions on current world, U.S., and regional news. Class participants bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience in international affairs, government, industry, education, economics, the military, and other areas. The discussion

is always lively, and all participants have an equal opportunity to comment.

702F / 702Z What in the World is Going On at The Washington Post?

One session

Instructor: Bob Levey

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 23

This class will be an analysis of current changes at *The Washington Post* by the instructor, a longtime columnist at that newspaper. Levey will explain how the current ownership has changed the paper's history, its arc, and its economic future.

Bob Levey is a longtime columnist for *The Washington Post* (now retired). He has also held long parallel careers in radio, television, and academia. Seven times, he was chosen one of the best columnists in Washington by *Washingtonian Magazine*.

703F / 703Z GMU Retired Faculty Association: The Twilight of American Soft Power: The Trump Administration and the Future of U.S. Foreign Assistance

One session

Instructor: Peter Mandaville

Coordinator: Julianne Mahler

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 24

This talk explores the declining dominance of U.S. soft power amid the rise of new cultural and religious influence strategies from countries such as Russia, China, India, Turkey, and Iran. These states are increasingly using media, education, and religious diplomacy to shape global opinion and assert ideological leadership. Drawing on case studies from multiple world regions, the presentation examines how civilizational identity and cultural heritage are being weaponized in today's multipolar competition. The speaker will also reflect on insights from his own academic research and government service in U.S. public diplomacy and foreign assistance.

Peter Mandaville, PhD, is professor of Government and Politics, Schar School of Policy and Government and director of AbuSulayman Center for Global Islamic Studies (ACGIS) at George Mason University. He is also a senior research fellow at The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University and a nonresident senior fellow of the Atlantic Council.

704F / 704Z Great Decisions 2026

Eight sessions

Moderator: Ted Parker

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 24–May 12

Class limit: 30

For over a century, the Foreign Policy Association has sponsored discussion groups throughout the U.S. to investigate and discuss some of the world's most challenging problems affecting our lives. This year's eight discussion topics include: 1) America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy; 2) Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy; 3) U.S. China

Relations; 4) Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation; 5) Ukraine and the Future of European Security; 6) Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order; 7) U.S. Engagement of Africa; 8) The Future of Human Rights and International Law. A briefing book and video related to each topic will set the framework for weekly class conversations. **Please purchase your book directly from FPA Bookstore** https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials or https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=439

Ted Parker, a retiree from the U.S. Department of Education, had a 40 year career in education that included teaching and managing at local, state and college levels. He is a long-time member of OLLI.

705F / 705Z All the News That's Fit to Print

Eight sessions

Instructor: Zachary Teich

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 26–May 14

All the News That's Fit to Print meets in-person and online to discuss current affairs issues in a friendly and collegial manner. The instructor provides a topic list drawn from the week's news and serves as 'traffic cop' for the freewheeling discussion. All opinions are welcome; the only rules are to be courteous and to allow the moderator to call on those who raise their hands to speak.

Zachary Teich has a BA in Political Science from the University of South Florida, a Master's of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown, and an MS in Strategic Studies from the Marine Corps War College. He was a State Department Foreign Service officer from 1979–2006 and a negotiator at State's Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund from 2006–2012.

800 Science, Technology, and Health

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Suresh Mohla, Michele Romano

801F Starvation in the Midst of Plenty

Two sessions

Instructor: Michele Romano

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 23–Mar. 30

AKA diabetes. Diabetes is due to a decrease in insulin production by the pancreas. Insulin is necessary for absorption of nutrients into the cells. Without insulin the cells will starve. Over 830 million adults are living with diabetes worldwide, 38 million in the U.S. alone. Many people are unaware they even have diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is the most common form. Numerous risk factors contribute to diabetes. There are good treatment options but no cure. Until the discovery of insulin in 1921 it was considered a terminal disease. Not today. It is all about awareness, prevention, control, and treatment. It impacts every major organ system in the body, and it increases risk of cancer, cardiovascular

disease, as well as dementia and death. Treatment options include diet, lifestyle modification, medication, and surgery. The new gamechanger is the GLP-1/ GAP family of medications which include Semaglutide (Ozempic/Wegovy) and Tirzepatide (Mounjaro). We will look at all of this.

Michele Romano is a family physician who retired in 2015. She attended Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and held a faculty appointment as an associate professor of Clinical Medicine at VCU. She served on both the VCU board of trustees and the VCU health system board.

802F DNA's Secret Life: Jumping Genes are Rewriting Our Genetic Story and Reshaping Medicine

Four sessions

Instructor: Suresh Mohla

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 23–Apr. 13

Over 40% of our DNA is made up of “jumping genes,” or parts of our DNA that can copy and insert themselves into new locations within our genes. Known scientifically as transposons, these elements were acquired by our ancient ancestors over millions of years. Though nearly all are now silent, a tiny fraction, less than 0.05%, remains active. We explore how these once mobile DNA pieces have influenced human biology. We will learn: 1) What jumping genes are, when did they enter our DNA, and how do they jump around? 2) What conditions reawaken these silent DNA pieces? 3) They are critically needed in early human development (e.g. placenta function) but can cause problems with aging and chronic diseases. 4) New research tells us that we may be able to turn off harmful jumping gene activity or even use them to our advantage. This course is for anyone curious about the fact that 98% of our DNA is not genes, yet controls the keys to understanding health, disease, and human evolution.

Suresh Mohla, PhD and endocrinologist, spent seven years at the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. He has over 45 years of experience in cancer research including 25 years at the National Cancer Institute. Since 2020, he has taught at OLLI on topics in cancer, aging, and chronic diseases.

803F Chinese Medicine and Tai Chi: A Path to Holistic Wellness

Six sessions

Instructors: Dawn Li, Nancy Liu

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 25–Apr. 29

Class limit: 60

Enhance your balance, vitality, and wellness with this gentle Tai Chi workshop, enriched by the wisdom of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Designed for seniors, this program introduces the basics of TCM, including the concept of Qi and its role in health, followed by flowing Tai Chi movements that stimulate energy pathways in the body. Participants will learn simple techniques to assess and improve Qi flow and explore meridian energy pathways through movement.

No prior experience in Tai Chi or TCM is needed—just a willingness to move, learn, and embrace a holistic approach to wellness.

Dawn Li, PhD, an educator and entrepreneur, has 20 years of expertise in Tai Chi, Qigong, and meditation. She learned from Grandmaster Wu Tunan Tai Chi and trained in Scholar Qigong. Dawn holds an acupuncture certification from Beijing, blending holistic wellness in her teaching.

Nancy Liu, L.Ac, licensed acupuncturist and president of General Wellness Consulting Corp, specializes in cosmetic acupuncture including micro-needling and nano-needling, skin care, tuina, and acupressure. She integrates Chinese medicine with modern wellness practices.

804Z Climate Change: What Now?

Eight sessions

Instructor: Ron Edelstein

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Mar. 26–May 14

We will first examine the scientific basis for climate change to answer some basic questions: Is climate change occurring, is it real? If so, is it manmade or from natural occurrences? Can we do anything about ameliorating it or its impacts? What are the potential “tipping points” that might make climate change irreversible? Next, we will look at the state of the world’s battle with climate change. Are we making progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions? How has the change of administrations in the U.S. impacted greenhouse gas emissions and regulations? How are other nations doing? We will then examine key energy using sectors: power generation, transportation, residential/commercial buildings; all to see what is being done to impact climate change and what you and I can do. Finally we will run En-ROADS, the climate solutions model where YOU will be world energy czars who are tasked with keeping global temperature increases to less than 1.5C by 2100.

Ron Edelstein has engineering degrees in Aerospace Engineering, Solid Mechanics, and Environmental Science and Technology. He has almost 50 years of experience working on gas turbines, solar energy research, and natural gas research. He has taught climate change courses at Osher JHU, OLLI-AU, and at OLLI Mason.

805Z Living With a Donated Heart for More Than 30 Years

One session

Instructor: Ed Linz

Thursday, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 26

The instructor will discuss current heart transplantation eligibility criteria and why he became eligible in 1994. What happens during a heart transplantation operation? What outcomes can be expected? What are post-transplant challenges? Is immunosuppression a problem? Does having a new heart create changes in the recipient? What lifestyle can one expect with a transplanted heart? Can you have interactions with your donor family? These topics and several others will be covered in an open discussion format.

Ed Linz, a 1965 graduate of the Naval Academy, is the author of eight books, including a novel, works on the Great Depression and the Vietnam War, and most recently, three children's books. He holds advanced degrees from Oxford University and George Mason University and lives in Maine and Virginia.

806F Chronic Disease Self-Management

Six sessions

Coordinator: Kristin Martin

Thursdays, 1:45–3:45, Apr. 9–May 14

Note time

The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is an evidence-based, interactive workshop designed to help individuals improve their quality of life by managing ongoing health conditions. It teaches positive strategies for better health, including managing pain, fatigue, sleep, eating habits, physical activity, and more. Participants connect with others facing similar challenges, as many chronic conditions share similar symptoms. Classes meet weekly and are led by two certified facilitators. All participants receive a free copy of *Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions*. Workshops require 8-16 participants and are offered by Inova ElderLink, a partnership between Inova and the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging.

Two social work case managers from Inova ElderLink who are trained leaders in the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program will be facilitating the workshop.

807F Walk in My Shoes

Four sessions

Instructor: Li-Mei Chen

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 9–Apr. 30

Dementia is a disease that will touch all of us at some point, as friends, family, caregivers, and victims. 1 in 9 people over age 65 have dementia. 40% of those in RCC's or assisted living and 50-70% in nursing homes suffer from dementia. Annual staff turnover in nursing homes is about 53%. These caregivers get low wages and minimal training. What goes on inside the mind of a patient in the later stages of dementia? With her vast experience in virtual reality and working with the Japanese company, Jolly Good Inc., the instructor developed a VR program to show you just that. Session one will discuss dementia and the VR training program for caregivers. During that session, participants will sign up for sessions two and three to wear the VR goggles and jump into the mind of persons living with dementia. Experience their loneliness, confusion, terror, and inability to connect with reality. In session four, we will get back together for a summary. You will also be contributing to this vital research.

Dr. Li-Mei Chen is assistant professor in the Department of Social Work, College of Public Health. Her teaching and research focus on dementia and aging, productive aging (volunteer, caregiving, self-care, and employment), intersectionality, and the role of LifeCourse in older ethnic minorities.

808R DNA's Secret Life: Jumping Genes are Rewriting our Genetic Story and Reshaping Medicine

Three sessions

Instructor: Suresh Mohla

Wednesdays, 9:40 - 11:05, Apr. 15–Apr. 29

This is a repeat of 802F.

See 802F for instructor information.

809F Environmental Regions on Earth

Four sessions

Instructor: Barry Haack

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 20–May 11

In the 19th century, an Austrian scientist created a system to identify patterns of natural vegetation for all land surfaces. That division ranged from tropical rainforest to tundra and included other vegetation communities such as savannas, grasslands, deciduous forest, evergreen needleleaf forest, and desert shrub among others. That division of thirteen regions remains widely employed in many disciplines and is known as the Koppen System, after the originator. These regional patterns will be comprehensively explored in this class using many visuals and presenting seven parameters including name, causes and controls, temperature and moisture characteristics, soils, natural vegetation, utilization, and locations. Understanding how landscapes vary globally is informative to our travels, and as seen on various media, it provides an increased awareness and understanding of different population densities. It also provides knowledge on environmental and livelihood challenges and opportunities.

Barry Haack is a geographer and a career faculty member. His primary academic interest is the use of satellites to map resources and the environment. He has conducted this work in about 30 countries, providing an opportunity to observe many regional landscapes.

810Z The Revolt of the Biologists: The Role of Life Sciences in the Early Modern Environmental Movement, 1950-1970

One session

Instructor: Michael Mason

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 20

Scientists played an influential role in post-World War II America. With the development of the atomic bomb, physical scientists dominated federal government institutions and popular images of science. Scientists such as Einstein, Oppenheimer, and Teller were seen as the face of science in the 1940s and 1950s. Industry and corporations quickly hired chemists and engineers to develop new technologies. At the same time, a growing number of life scientists—Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Barry Commoner, and Paul Ehrlich—were raising the alarm about the increasing destruction of the environment and threats to public health. These scientists enhanced public awareness regarding the ethics of land use, the

impacts of chemicals on public health and the natural world, the interconnectivity of all life, and the danger of unsustainable population growth. The lecture will describe how life scientists used their knowledge and voices to help shape the rise of the American modern environmental movement.

Michael Mason has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Miami. He worked for over 33 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and has given several lectures for OLLI on the history of environmentalism. He remains active in local environmental causes in the D.C. area.

811F / 811Z How to Avoid Being Scammed Online and Beyond!

One session

Instructor: Uwe Dotzauer

Thursday, 11:50–1:15, Apr. 23

This presentation will give you a complete overview of computer scams and spoofs. We will start with a list of current scams that are being used, followed by a discussion on typical “red flags” of a con. Basic points of behavior and the scenarios that crooks apply to seize a victim’s money will also be addressed, as well as the psychology of the abuse. This will be followed by a deep dive into the TOP 10 swindles. The subsequent portion of the presentation will show how to prevent and keep out the evil doers. Worst case scenarios where the “bad guys” succeeded and got to the riches is listed thereafter. We will finish with a recap and highlight the most important points.

Uwe Dotzauer is an international online fraud security advisor with over 25 years of experience in IT. He presents several online scam topics to multiple computer clubs and retirement communities in the USA and Germany.

812R Starvation in the Midst of Plenty

Two sessions

Instructor: Michele Romano

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, May 6–May 13

This is a repeat of 801F.

See 801F for Instructor Information.

813R Aging in Place

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, May 6

One session

Instructor: Karen Hannigan

If you’re making plans for yourself or a loved one to age in place, be sure that you are in the driver’s seat. There are a lot of curves and switchbacks. You’re going to need a good GPS. Set Fairfax Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resource Unit (ADCR) as that GPS. There are multiple options from remaining in your own home to adult communities to Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC’s). We can point you to what resources are available. You will first need to pack your priorities. What is important to you?: Being close to family? Good healthcare? Caregivers/home health? Shopping

and restaurants? Transportation? Cultural, social and learning opportunities? What’s the real scoop on nursing homes in the area (always a last resort)? We can help you with that list along with the pros and cons. There will be helpful brochures and copies of *The Golden Gazette* (it’s free). Visit us at Fairfax Area Commission on Aging|Family Services (fairfaxcounty.gov). We always leave the door open.

Karen Hannigan is the supervisor of the Aging, Disability, and Caregiver Resource Unit, Area Agency on Aging, Fairfax, VA. She has worked in this field throughout Northern Virginia and is well acquainted with area resources. She received her BA from UVA and her Master’s degree from Washington University, St Louis.

814F / 814Z Medical Imaging Meets AI: Prospects and Perils

One session

Instructor: Murray Loew

Monday, 2:15–3:40, May 11

Medical imaging is an essential tool in diagnosis and increasingly, in therapy. Recent advances in the acquisition of images and their analyses, using machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI), have already produced earlier detection of disease and better surgical interventions. This talk reviews the imaging modalities, their current applications, and advances in cardiac treatment, detection and staging of prostate, kidney, and breast cancer, and monitoring of the therapy. We will also discuss the issues concerning the generalizability and explainability of a number of current AI techniques and their impact on acceptance by clinicians and patients.

Murray Loew, PhD is an OLLI member and a retired professor of biomedical engineering from George Washington University. He has been involved in extensive research collaborations with clinicians and scientists at GW, NIH, and the FDA that apply the full range of AI methods to image analysis in many clinical areas.

815R / 815Z Donate Life: Saving Lives Through Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation

One session

Instructor: Vanessa O’Rourke

Thursday, 11:50–1:15, May 13

Infinite Legacy is the non-profit organization in charge of promoting organ, eye, and tissue donation in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Northern Virginia. During this presentation, event attendees will learn all about organ donation, how to sign up to give the gift of life to others, and how to become involved in your community to help promote organ, eye, and tissue donation awareness. Infinite Legacy warmly invites you to consider becoming a Donate Life ambassador and help promote our lifesaving mission.

Vanessa O’Rourke is a community outreach coordinator at Infinite Legacy, where she educates communities about organ, eye, and tissue donation. Before joining Infinite Legacy, she spent three years in outreach helping homeless veterans access housing and essential resources. She is passionate about working with communities to create awareness and inspire positive change.

900 Other Topics

901Z Monday Lecture Series

Eight sessions

Instructors: Larrie Ferreiro, Elizabeth Reese, Rosolino Candela, David Mould, Liang Luo, Ben Gold, Ilya Somin, Mike Agron

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 23–May 11

Mar. 23: Book Talk: *Brothers at Arms: American Independence and the Men of France and Spain Who Saved It*.



Made possible in part by a grant from the VA250 Commission in partnership with Virginia Humanities.

The success of the War of American Independence depended on substantial military assistance provided by France and Spain, which saw their strategic interests align with those of America in the fight against England. At the time the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, the American colonists had almost no chance of militarily defeating the British. The United States had no navy, little in the way of artillery, and a militia bereft even of gunpowder. Without the extensive military and financial support of the French and Spanish, the American cause would never have succeeded. France and Spain provided close to the equivalent of \$30 billion and 90 percent of all guns used by the Americans, and they sent soldiers and sailors by the thousands to fight and die alongside the Americans, as well as around the world. Instead of viewing the American Revolution in isolation, *Brothers at Arms* shows that the American nation was born as the centerpiece of an international coalition fighting against a common enemy.

Dr. Larrie D. Ferreiro is the 2017 Pulitzer Prize finalist in History for *Brothers at Arms*. His most recent book, *Churchill's American Arsenal*, was published in 2022 under Oxford University Press. He teaches history and engineering at George Mason University.

Mar. 30: A Nation in Mourning: Fathers, Daughters, and the Politics of Grief in the Early American Republic.



Made possible in part by a grant from the VA250 Commission in partnership with Virginia Humanities.

In the Early American Republic, the deaths of national leaders were not only public events, but also private family tragedies. This lecture explores the intimate and often overlooked role of daughters in the grief and commemoration of prominent founding fathers like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe. Through letters, eulogies, and mourning customs, we'll examine how these women navigated personal sorrow within a politically charged atmosphere, and how their experiences helped shape early national memory. Drawing from archival sources and contemporary memorial practices, this talk considers how female kin became stewards of legacy – balancing societal prescriptions of femininity with the weight of public remembrance. What did it mean for a daughter to grieve a president, not only as a parent but also as a symbol? And how did their mourning become a powerful political act? Join this session for a

reflection on the intersections of gender, memory, and mourning in the young republic—and what these stories reveal about how nations, and families, remember.

Elizabeth M. Reese is a public historian specializing in grief, celebrity, and public memory. Based in Washington, D.C., she has worked at various historic sites and is currently the senior manager of Public Programs and Interpretation at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House. Her work has appeared in *TIME*, the *Journal of the American Revolution*, and *CSPAN*.

Apr. 6: Is Market Pricing 'Imperfect'? What is the role of the price system in a market economy? Like traffic signals, market prices guide individuals in their decision-making, generating outcomes that no one intends. This lecture will cover the fundamental aspects of market pricing, the underlying preconditions necessary for market pricing to work well, and the reasons why we see different pricing mechanisms existing under different circumstances across time and place. Ultimately, market prices are necessary, compared to alternative mechanisms for resource allocation, *precisely because of—not in spite of—the fact they are "imperfect."*

Rosolino Candela is a senior fellow with the F.A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and a program director of Research and Programs at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He holds an appointment as affiliate faculty in the Department of Economics. Candela is also professor of Economics at Universidad Francisco Marroquín.

Apr. 13: The Borders of Our Minds. In his latest book on travel, history and culture, *Postcards from the Borderlands*, historian and journalist David Mould explores the meaning of borders. Are they simply political and geographical, marked by posts, walls and fences, or should we think of them more broadly? Some borders, set by surveys and treaties, take no account of geography, language, and culture. There are borders within countries—physical, economic, or social. And finally, there are the borders of our minds—the way we may think of unfamiliar places. David's journey begins with maps and cartoons that poke fun at how we view cities and regions in the U.S. and other parts of the world. He explores how the borders of Ukraine have changed over time. He moves on to the carve-up of Africa, the artificial (and often straight-line) borders drawn by colonial powers, and to Central Asia and the border casualties of the dissolution of the Soviet Union—that gerrymandered jumble of countries whose names end in -stan. He ends up in South Asia, with the tragic decision to partition British India along religious lines in 1947, and explores "the world's craziest border" between India and Bangladesh.

David Mould, PhD, professor emeritus of Media Arts and Studies at Ohio University, has traveled widely in Asia and southern Africa. Born in the U.K., he worked as a newspaper and TV journalist before moving to the U.S. in 1978. He is the author of three books on travel, history, and culture.

Apr. 20: The Global Travels of the Chinese White Snake Legends. In the Chinese legends of the White Snake, woman is not seduced by the snake but is herself the snake, who would form a sexual liaison with a human male, and, in some versions, even give birth to a human son. Originating

as a very local legend on the deadly dangers of seduction and infatuation, the story grew into one of China's most popular love stories that allowed its adapters past and present to explore all possibilities of the relations between the sexes. This class foregrounds the Chinese White Snake legends and their extensive, multidirectional travels throughout East Asia, as well as in Southeast Asia and North America, from the late nineteenth century to the present, in print, on stage, in cinema and in digital media. Such travels across linguistic and cultural boundaries have generated distinctive traditions as the White Snake has been reinvented in the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and English speaking worlds, among others. Moreover, the inter-Asian voyages and global circulations of the White Snake legends have enabled them to become repositories of diverse and complex meanings for a great number of people, serving as reservoirs for polyphonic expressions ranging from the attempts to consolidate authoritarian power to the celebrations of minority rights and activism, which are key issues confronting our contemporary world today.

Liang Luo is professor of Chinese Studies and chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at George Mason University. She is the author of *The Global White Snake* (University of Michigan Press, 2021) and *The Avant-Garde and the Popular in Modern China* (University of Michigan Press, 2014). Chinese versions of both books just came out from leading Chinese publishers in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Shanghai.

Apr. 27: Supreme Court: Ethics and Recusals. There is no formal law or regulation governing which ethics rules apply to Supreme Court Justices and when they should recuse themselves from participating on a case in which they may be biased or perceived to be biased. In this session we shall look at what might cause a Justice to be biased. We will review actual cases when they did recuse themselves as well as cases where it appears they should have but did not.

Ben Gold served for 18 years as a docent at the Supreme Court and over the past 20 years has taught many classes at OLLI about the history of the Court and classes discussing ongoing cases. He holds a BA in Political Science from Stanford University and an MS in Computer Science.

May 4: How to Alleviate the Housing Crisis. Many parts of the U.S. are suffering from a housing crisis that makes homes unduly expensive and prevents many people—particularly the poor and minorities—from “moving to opportunity,” thereby harming the national economy. The main causes of the crisis are restrictions on housing construction, most notably exclusionary zoning. Most such restrictions are both harmful and unconstitutional, violating the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment, and similar provisions in most state constitutions. The problem should be addressed by a combination of litigation and political action.

Ilya Somin is professor of Law at George Mason University and B. Kenneth Simon chair in Constitutional Studies at the Cato Institute. He is the author of *Free to Move: Foot Voting, Migration, and Political Freedom* (Oxford University Press, rev. ed., 2022), *Democracy and Political Ignorance: Why Smaller Government is Smarter* (Stanford University Press, rev. ed. 2016), and *The Grasping Hand: Kelo v. City of New London and the Limits of*

Eminent Domain (University of Chicago Press, 2015). Somin has also published articles in a variety of popular press outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, CNN, *The Atlantic*, and *USA Today*. He is a regular contributor to the popular *Volokh Conspiracy* law and politics blog, affiliated with *Reason* magazine.

May 11: Jazz on the Big Screen: The Music That Defined Film. Discover how jazz evolved from background music to a powerful storytelling tool on the big screen. In this session, we'll explore seven distinct jazz styles: West Coast Cool Jazz; Bossa Nova; Big Band and Swing; Hard Bop; Soul Jazz and Blues; Modal Jazz; and Jazz Fusion—and see how they transformed film and television soundtracks in the 50s and 60s. From the moody tension of film noir to the vibrant energy of jazz fusion, learn how jazz became a defining force in shaping cinematic experiences, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to influence films today. Even if you're not a die-hard jazz fan, you'll discover how these unforgettable soundtracks enhance storytelling and make the magic of cinema even more immersive.

Music Aficionado **Mike Agron**, raised in LA's entertainment scene, is a former high-tech executive and entrepreneur turned storyteller who crafts dynamic seminars on music and film. He's led hundreds of engaging sessions for the Sacramento Renaissance Society, numerous OLLIs nationwide, Osher Online, Encore Learning, and other live programs—and this spring he returns for his eighth lecture with OLLI Mason.

902F Introduction to Chess

Five sessions

Instructor: Jay Ryan

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 24–Apr. 21

Class limit: 16

Learn the ancient strategy game of chess. These classes are aimed at complete beginners or those with some experience looking for a refresher. The first class will be devoted to learning the rules. Subsequent classes will be divided between lectures on rules, strategy, tactics, and classic games, followed by in-person play among classmates. Chess sets and boards will be provided; just bring your brain.

Jay Ryan retired after a 35-year career as an economist and program manager at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Ryan played tournament chess in his youth and reached the rank of Expert, one level below Master. He continues his interest in chess, playing on-line and teaching chess.

903R Downsizing Considerations: Five Mistakes to Avoid

Three sessions

Instructor: Rachel Cheng

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 24–Apr. 7

As the population ages, more and more senior citizens and their caregiver families are faced with the challenges of downsizing. A late-life move can be overwhelming, particularly if moving to a small apartment or retirement community. This series offers practical solutions to the five most common challenges when transitioning from a long-held home to simpler living. During our time together we will

discuss: 1) prioritizing future wants and needs to create a plan, and review senior living options; 2) navigating conversations with loved ones; 3) identifying local services and resources to help with the process; 4) strategies to part with a lifetime of possessions; 5) adjusting to a new living situation. The goal is to equip you with the knowledge to make educated decisions for your situation. Whether you are considering a change, now or in the future, are a caregiver, or just curious about the process and local resources, this course is for you!

True to her educator roots, **Rachel Cheng** guides others to meet their home goals. She helps clients create a customized plan, communicate goals, collaborate with other vetted professionals to execute the plan, tend to a house full of possessions, and celebrate the progress!

904F Introduction to Mah Jongg

Eight sessions

Instructor: Debby Mossburg

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 25–May 13

Class limit: 28

Come learn the ins and outs of this fascinating tile-based game that originated in China and spread across the world. The instructor will focus on the American version of the game, building expertise one step at a time until you're able to hold your own in a friendly game at OLLI's Mah Jongg club or elsewhere. This course will accommodate beginners who have never played Mah Jongg as well as once-upon-a-time or occasional players who want a thorough review and brush-up. Note: Taking the class is NOT a prerequisite for joining the OLLI Mah Jongg club.

Debby Mossburg is semi-retired from a career teaching struggling adolescent learners and their teachers. She has been an avid Mah Jongg player for over ten years and loves teaching others to play and take delight in the game.

905F / 905Z The Wonderful World of Bridge

One session

Instructor: Bob Levey

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Mar. 30

This is not a bridge lesson, but a lecture about the most popular card game ever invented. The instructor will describe its origins, its hold on people, and what it takes to play bridge well. He will also re-tell some of the delicious stories that have collected around the game over the years.

Bob Levey is a longtime daily columnist for *The Washington Post* and a national champion bridge player. He holds more than 10,000 master points, and has written about and taught bridge for more than 50 years. He is a principal in Wilsonovich Bridge Services, which provides lessons and partners. Bob previously taught an OLLI Mason summer 2025 class, *The Golden Era at The Washington Post*.

906F Presentation Skills for OLLI Instructors

One session

Instructor: Theodore May

Monday, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 6

Brush up on your presentation technique before

teaching a course. If this is your first time offering a course with OLLI and you're nervous, lacking confidence, or wondering "just how do you engage audiences?"—or if you're an experienced teacher looking to pick up a few new skills—this fun and engaging prep session can help. We will learn and practice basic principles and techniques for developing compelling content, creating effective media, and delivering commanding performances that will provide memorable and valuable learning experiences for your audience. Topics will include: How to present your ideas simply and clearly; How to engage an audience; Developing your stage presence; The "Rules of 3" in performance; Speaking with distinction and conviction; Managing effective Q&A.

Theodore May has taught this class, as well as several recent courses on reading aloud, for OLLI. After years as a senior corporate executive, he is now an Executive Presence and Presentation Skills coach for corporations and graduate programs at the GMU Costello College of Business.

907F AARP Driver Safety

Two sessions

Instructor: John Smaha

Saturdays, 9:30–1:30, Apr. 11–Apr. 18

Class limit: 55

Note dates and time

Fee: \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members

AARP Driver Safety class has two objectives. The first is to address senior driver crash prevention—specifically, to identify what factors characterize the high crash/fatality rate for senior drivers, the indicators of increased danger, and solutions to reduce personal risk. The second objective is to review best driving practices, safe driving strategies, new technology, laws, and trends. The class will include video clips, infographics, lectures, personal experiences, and questions from participants. An AARP guidebook and the latest DMV *Rules of the Road* will be provided to each class member. This class is approved by the Virginia legislature, which mandates a three-year auto insurance discount after a completion certificate is presented to your insurance company. Although the class usually finishes early, feel free to bring a snack. The attendance fee is payable at the class in cash, or preferably a check made out to AARP. Bring your AARP number if you have one.

John Smaha retired from the Navy and is currently employed as a consultant. He is a graduate of the University of Memphis and Air University. As a volunteer for AARP Driver Safety, John serves as the data manager for Virginia, and teaches Smart Driver and Smart DriverTek workshops.

908Z Our Nation Through Music and More

Four sessions

Instructor: Stephen Ruth

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 15–May 6

In celebration of America's upcoming 250th



anniversary, this series explores the nation's identity, evolution, and challenges through great speeches, songs, theatrical selections, and multimedia. Each session traces a thematic thread—Founding and Revolution, Nation-Building and Conflict, Civil Rights and Renewal, and Future Visions and Conciliation—using iconic oratory, lyrics, Broadway excerpts, videos, and audio recordings. Participants will view and hear material, unpack rhetorical and musical meaning, reflect on how our national narrative evolves, and discuss how past voices speak into today. This is not a lecture series alone but an interactive “story through voices and songs” designed to deepen appreciation for America's ideals, tensions, and hopes as we step into the semiquincentennial.

Stephen Ruth is professor emeritus of Public Policy from the Schar School at George Mason University. He is a frequent lecturer in the region on several topics: Bible themes, artificial intelligence, and disruptive technologies. He has taught over two dozen OLLI courses.

909F Morocco: Working Modern Magic on an Ancient World

One session

Instructor: Joyce Johnston

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 23

Morocco offers shining beaches, lush gardens, and exquisite architecture, and a modern Islamic state side by side with ancient marketplaces and donkey carts on interstate highways. How did this grow out of 1800 years of violence, foreign domination, and betrayal after betrayal after betrayal? Once it seemed that the only way to preserve Morocco's sophisticated culture was to export it to the Moorish Kingdom in Medieval Spain, where its advancements in medicine, hygiene, agriculture, and architecture became a model for the rest of Europe. Then came eviction, chaos, infighting, and finally a French protectorate that only yielded real independence in 1956. Since then, education and legal rights have moved steadily forward, but the social price has been veiled in secrecy. The open question now is: what's really going on in this supposedly most moderate of Islamic states?

Joyce Johnston's 2024 visit to Morocco followed one that sparked an OLLI presentation on The Glories and the Mysteries of the Moors in Spain. This session combines the Moors' turbulent origin story in Morocco with the cultural beauties but secretive government they brought with them into the 21st century. A lifetime of travel as an Army brat gave her a love of unexplored places and a taste for adventure. Now retired from public school teaching after 37 years, she is an adjunct professor at George Mason University.

910F Getting to Know You

Four sessions

Instructor: Debby Mossburg

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Apr. 22–May 13

Class limit: 25

Have you ever wished that you had more opportunities

to interact with your fellow OLLI members in classes? That's what this course is all about. The instructor, who worked with teens through adults, will guide participants through a number of cooperative learning activities with the goal of learning more about each other. Class members will have the opportunity to interact and problem solve with most if not all of their fellow classmates.

Debby Mossburg is a retired teacher who still loves to teach. She's taught middle and high school students who struggled with learning, as well as their teachers, to help them hone their skills in reaching every learner.

911F Know Your Kaiju: Gamera the Giant Turtle

One session

Instructor: Tim Hosek

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, May 6

Gamera is a giant turtle capable of bellowing flame and flying in many forms. It's also known alternatively as “Giant Monster”, “Guardian of the Universe”, “Protector of Children”, and “Toto”, among others. Though not as famous as Godzilla, Gamera has developed a significant fan base who patiently wait for new releases as the property changes hands again and again. This course will review the history of Gamera in movies, TV, and literature both canon and not so canonical. We'll look at the four known variants of Gamera and their identifying features. The “real world” discussion will cover the wide variety of model kits and toys (of which the instructor will bring examples).

Tim Hosek is a retired technical analyst with 37 years in the field. He first encountered kaiju during Monster Week on the 4:30 Movie from WABC in New York when he was a pre-teen. Though his brother went for Godzilla, he was immediately hooked on Gamera. Mom dreaded Monster Week.

912R / 912Z Building Permits 101

One session

Instructor: Jill West

Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Apr. 14

Planning a home renovation project? Find out if it requires a Fairfax County building permit. Learn about the process and how to save time and money! This event includes a presentation and a question-and-answer session for homeowners, contractors, engineers, architects and more. The presentation explains building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permit requirements and how to obtain them. The presentation will teach you how to verify contractors are properly licensed and how to spot out an unlicensed contractor.

Jill West has worked for Fairfax County for 24 years. She has worked in Land Development Services for 21 of those years. She has worked as a supervisor in Residential Inspections, a technician in Building Plan Review, a permit technician in the Permits Branch, and now as a customer service liaison in the Post Occupancy Enforcement and Public Outreach Branch. She has been leading permitting services trainings for the past 10 years on behalf of Fairfax County's Land Development Services.

Special Events

**We urge you to register for Special Event offerings as early as possible.
Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even on the first day of registration.
Please check the location information in each description.**

Special Events

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Gay Alper, Marilyn Harriman

1000 Excursions

1001E Visit The Supreme Court of the United States of America

Coordinator: Marguerite Johnson

Friday, 11:00–1:00, Mar. 27

Drive on Your Own

Limit: 20

1 First Street, NE Washington, D.C. 20543

OLLI member Marguerite Johnson will lead a guided tour of the Supreme Court of the United States of America. The highlights of the visit will include a private lecture in the court room followed by a behind the scenes visit to one or more conference rooms. After the tour you may continue to explore the special and permanent exhibits on the ground floor or have lunch in the cafeteria. We will meet inside the building at 10:45am at the John Marshall statue. No food or drink (including water) can be brought into the building. Parking near the Court is extremely limited; the Capitol South (Orange, Blue, Silver lines) is the closest Metro station, and is a 15 minute walk (partly uphill) to the Court.

1002E 1776 A Call to Arms: National Museum of the US Army



Coordinators: Sam Laudenslager, Wes Clark

Friday, 10:00–12:00, Apr. 17

Drive on Your Own

Limit: 30

National Museum of the U.S. Army, 1775 Liberty Dr., Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Join a guided tour of the Museum of the U.S. Army's special exhibition, "A Call to Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War". This exhibit commemorates the 250th anniversaries of the US Army and of the Declaration of Independence. The display features rare Revolutionary War artifacts from the original colonies, England, Canada and France. The museum opens at 9:00am. We will assemble at the museum entrance hall Information desk at 9:45am and our tour will begin at 10:00am. The Museum stays open until 5:00pm so you can visit the other galleries on your own during the afternoon. There is a café at the museum, with prepared sandwiches, salads and drinks.

1003E Little Town of Occoquan: There's More History Here than You Think!

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Friday, 10:00–11:30, Apr. 24

Drive On Your Own

Limit: 20

Mill House Museum, 413 Mill St., Occoquan, VA 22125

Throughout its long history, from the Dogue Indians to Revolutionaries and Red Coats, Confederates and Yankees, and despite floods and fires, Occoquan has managed to survive. Come learn about the history and residents of this little town on the Occoquan River as we stroll along its streets on a narrated guided tour led by Occoquan Mayor Earnie Porta. Participants will provide their own transportation to and from Occoquan. Arrive in Occoquan to allow time for parking and walking to our meeting point at the Mill House Museum. Mayor Porta will begin the tour at 10:00am. After the tour, members may visit the Mill House Museum, shop, and/or have lunch before returning to their cars to head home. **Note: This event is a follow-up to Mayor Porta's in-person class, 307F An Introduction to the History of Occoquan, Virginia.**

1004E National Inventors Hall of Fame and Museum

Coordinator: Gay Alper

Friday, 10:00–11:30, May 15

Drive on Your Own

Limit: 25

600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Great inventors and innovators shaped the world around us. We'll visit The National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) and Museum, where we will be provided with a talk and will be free to interact with and explore the kiosks and archives. The National Inventors Hall of Fame showcases the more than 600 inventors who have been inducted into NIHF and their great technological achievements. Celebrate the story of intellectual property and appreciate its significance to progress, innovation and culture. Learn about the Patent Office and the process of patent examination over the past 226 years. **Attendees must present state-issued identification that is REAL ID-compliant. Alternatively, attendees can present another form of government-issued photo identification listed on the Department of Homeland Security webpage.** The NIHF is free and located in the atrium of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's Madison Building. It is a short walk from King Street

Special Events

Metro (Yellow and Blue). Hourly and daily parking is available in the East Garage on 551 John Carlyle Street on a first-come, first-served basis. Daily parkers can validate in building lobbies to receive \$2 off in the East Garage only. Pay kiosks are located in the elevator landings of the P2 and P3 levels in the East Garage. Limited hourly pay street parking is also available.

1100 Diversions

1101F / 1101Z Annual Business Meeting

Coordinator: Lisa Mariam

Friday, 10:00, May 1

Join us for the annual OLLI business meeting. You will learn about the programming and operations of OLLI, as well as hear from the candidates for the Board of Directors.

1102F Annual Tallwood Garden Party & Picnic

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Friday, 1:00–2:30, May 1

Limit: 75

Join fellow members for OLLI's biggest spring event. Beautiful butterflies and fragrant flowers await you when we gather for our annual picnic. OLLI will provide the main entree (meat and vegetarian), and registered guests will provide salads, sides, and desserts. You'll have an opportunity to tour OLLI's gardens, planted by the Dirty Knee Club, and play lawn games in our campus backyard. This event will be held after the Annual Business Meeting (1104F/1104Z) at Tallwood, and you must be registered to attend the picnic. When you sign up, don't forget to bring a side dish such as grains, potatoes, rice, beans, vegetables (last names A-H); a salad (last names I-R); or a dessert (last names S-Z). Please bring a serving utensil for your dish and a small identification sign with ingredient details (i.e., chocolate cake with nuts). Don't miss out on this opportunity to mingle with your friends and meet new ones! Enjoy a delicious lunch and see Tallwood come to life in May.

1200 Between-Term Events

1201F / 1201Z The School of Dance Gala

Concert: Guest Artists of 2026

One session

Instructor: Linda Garner Miller

Monday, 11:50–1:15, Mar. 2

This class highlights the choreography of the five contemporary dance artists involved in the School of Dance's Gala Concert. These concerts will take place on March 27 at 2:00pm and March 27 and March 28 at 8pm at the Center for the Arts on the Fairfax Campus at George Mason University. This overview will include faculty, students, and performers involved in the concert.

Linda Garner Miller is a professor in the School of Dance and a Distinguished Service Professor at George Mason University. She

received her MFA in Dance and Theater from the University of Hawaii. She has performed professionally with numerous dance companies.

1202F Eat, Drink, and Be Irish

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Thursday, 11:30–2:00, Mar. 12

Drive on Your Own

Limit: 26

The Auld Shebeen Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030

May the road rise up to meet you, and may the wind always be at your back! It's OLLI's fourth annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day. As we march to winter's end, let's join with our friends for a festive lunch and fellowship at the Auld Shebeen restaurant in Fairfax. We'll have a day of music, fun, good wishes, and favors as we honor the patron saint of Ireland. Celebrate the heritage and culture of the Irish people as you enjoy a traditional Irish meal. Parking and costs are on your own. Free public parking is located one block north of the restaurant on Chain Bridge Road (RT 123). Registration is limited to 26 people and is on a first-come, first-served basis. You must be registered for this event as seating in the Library Room is restricted.

1203F OLLI Kick-Off Coffee

Coordinator: Toni Acton

Thursday, 10:00–11:30, Mar. 19

Come one, come all as we welcome new members and kick off the spring term at OLLI! Celebrate old friendships and make new ones with coffee, refreshments, and friendly conversation. New members will have the opportunity to meet and engage with the executive director and OLLI board members, as well as learn more about the many committees and clubs that are available to members. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations. All new and past members are welcome. Registration for this event is on a first-come, first-served basis.

1204E Rosemont Manor Tea

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Tuesday, 10:15–3:30, May 19

Bus Trip

Limit: 30

Fee: \$117

Take a jaunt out to Berryville, VA, for an elegant tea at Rosemont Manor. Built in 1811, Rosemont was once the home of Virginia Governor and U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr., and host to presidents and other prominent figures. On arrival, we will have an overview of the history of the site, followed by tea at noon. There will be three tea courses (savories, scones, desserts), each served with a different Rosemont tea blend. We will have time for a self-guided tour of the house and guestrooms. The bus will leave promptly at 10:15am from the Fairfax Swimming Pool (4200 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032). Please be on the bus by 10:00am.

1205F 1776 Trivia Party**Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman****Friday, 1:00–3:00, May 29****Limit: 50**

Celebrate America's 250th birthday and independence with your OLLI friends during an afternoon of fun and friendly competition. You'll test your knowledge of America's earliest history and earn points toward prizes and awards. Think you know your history? Show us! Refreshments, including a birthday cake, will be served.

1206F Springtime Picnic in the Park**Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman****Friday, 12:00–2:30, June 5**

Spring is here and it's time to enjoy the great outdoors! Bring your camp chair, a blanket, and your picnic basket with a lunch for a relaxing afternoon in Tallwood's backyard. OLLI's campus features a lovely grassy area sprinkled with trees, plants, and a gently rolling hill. Celebrate the emergence of spring and enjoy lawn games, including croquet, badminton, and everyone's favorite, cornhole. Or you may just want to laze under a tree and catch up with colleagues and chat with new friends. For those who prefer more structured seating, picnic tables and benches will be set up in the back parking lot and under the breezeway. Guests of OLLI members are welcome.

1300 George Mason University Distinguished Professor

1300F Inaugural Distinguished Professor Lecture: What Global Cultural and Technology Flows Tell Us About Our Interests and Values. And What Can We Do About Them?

One session**Instructor: J.P. Singh****Friday, 1:00–2:30, Apr. 24**

From Hollywood to Bollywood, or from airplanes to artificial intelligence, we are surrounded with global cultural and technology flows. For some, it is exciting bringing the world closer. For others, this is threatening and leads to calls for deglobalization and closing borders. The question is how will we negotiate our future amid global flows? This lecture turns to historical antecedents: from railways to Facebook, and from arts practices that have both stabilized and destabilized our understandings of ourselves. The answers are varied, ranging from grand celebrations to open conflicts. The question remains: under what circumstances do we learn from history, and where and how do we ignore it?

J.P. Singh is a Distinguished University Professor at George Mason University and Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow with the Robert Bosch Academy, Berlin. Singh has published ten books and over 100 articles and received nearly \$3 million in grants funding at GMU. Recent awards include a Fulbright-Nehru Professional Excellence award, an Outstanding Scholar Award at Schar School, and the Distinguished Scholar award in international communication from the International Studies Association.

Clubs

- **Register for clubs and ongoing activities each membership term.** Registration allows OLLI to maintain current club rosters and ensures that you will receive emails about your club's activities and events.
- Zoom links for club meetings will begin on the 1st day of each membership term (Jan. 1, Mar. 1, Jun. 1, Sept. 1)
- For general club questions, please email olliclub@gmu.edu. Club coordinator contact information can be found in the Member Portal.

Clubs

All the News That's Fit to Print Club

Moderator: Zach Teich

Thursdays

Zoom:

11:50–1:15, Mar. 5–19, May 21–28

Limit: 50

All the News That's Fit to Print meets online to discuss current affairs issues in a friendly and collegial manner. The moderator provides a topic list drawn from the week's news and serves as 'traffic cop' for the freewheeling discussion. All opinions are welcome; the only rules are to be courteous and to allow the moderator to call on those who raise their hands to speak.

Board Game Club

Coordinator: Tim Harwarth

Weekly on Wednesdays

Fairfax:

10:00–12:00, Mar. 4–18, May 20–27

1:30–3:30, Mar. 25–May 15

Playing board games can reduce stress, boost brain power, and protect against dementia. Do you like playing board games? Would you like to learn and play new games with your fellow OLLI members? If so, this is the club for you. The Board Game Club meets in the morning between terms and in the summer, and in the afternoon during the other terms. Sign up for the club via the member portal in order to receive information on our schedule.

Bridge Club

Coordinator: Carol Egan

Wednesdays

Fairfax:

10:00–12:00, Mar. 4–18, May 20–27

1:30–3:30, Mar. 25–May 15

Players of all skill levels are welcome. Partnerships are rotated every four hands. The Bridge Club meets in the morning between terms and in the summer, and in the afternoon during the other terms. For details on the club's rules and bidding system, see its web page on the OLLI website. Sign up for the club via the member portal in order to receive any updates to our schedule.

Caregivers Support Group

Coordinator: Doris Bloch

Biweekly on Tuesdays

Zoom:

3:45–4:45, Mar. 3, Mar. 17, Mar. 31, Apr. 14, Apr. 28, May 12, May 26

The group is intended to support those OLLI members who are caregivers for family members and friends and is open to any interested OLLI member or caregiver-type. The group meets every second week on Zoom. The group's focus is not primarily on educational or medical information, as OLLI has offered recent course work on those, but rather on the emotional and practical aspects of caregiving. You need not be a full-time caregiver or even a current caregiver to contribute your experiences and information to this group. You can share with us or lurk anonymously, as you wish; but if you register, you will receive periodic links to other helpful presentations and sites via email and also be notified of the club schedule.

Chair Yoga and More

Instructor: Kamini Patel

Coordinator: Kathryn Russell

Zoom:

Mondays, 4:00–5:00, Mar. 2–May 18

Tuesdays, 2:00–3:00, Mar. 3–May 26

Wednesdays, 12:00–1:00, Mar. 4–May 27

Thursdays, 3:00–4:00, Mar. 5–May 28

Fridays, 12:00–1:00, Mar. 6–May 29 (no class May 1 and May 8)

Join Kamini Patel, a certified yoga instructor who has been teaching yoga since 2003. You will benefit from different kinds of yoga. Mondays will use a stability ball to go deeper into yoga stretches. The ball helps people with hip and knee issues so that balance, core strength, and posture are improved. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Chair Yoga is a gentle form that utilizes yoga, stretching, and breathing exercises. On Wednesdays, Vinyasa Yoga will be a flow class to reduce stress and improve heart health. Continue on Fridays with a more relaxed Gentle Yoga class. There will be more yoga stretches at a slower pace. All classes include breathing exercises and meditation. We will discuss the equipment needed in class as well.

Classic Literature Club

Coordinators: Michael Mason, Deborah Schilling

Fridays

Zoom:

2:00–3:30, Mar. 27–May 15 (no meeting May 1 and May 8)

This club was formed to read and discuss classic works of world literature, frequently with the help of recorded

lectures where available. Members choose the works to be discussed. In the past we have read works such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Melville's *Moby Dick*, Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, Faulkner's *Absalom Absalom*, Morrison's *Beloved*, Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, short stories of John Updike and Flannery O'Connor, the poems of Robert Frost, and plays by Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller.

Cooking Club

Coordinator: Gail Sendecke

Second Friday of the Month

11:30–1:00, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 15 (no meeting May 8)

This club is for OLLI members who enjoy preparing food and sharing homemade dishes in a small group setting. Club members take turns hosting in their homes. If this appeals to you, please contact Gail Sendecke at olliclub@gmu.edu for more information. Sign up for the club via the member portal in order to receive updated information on our schedule.

Craft and Conversations

Coordinators: Doris Bloch, Joanne Fitzgerald

Fridays

Fairfax, hybrid:

9:30–11:00, Mar. 6–May 29 (no meeting on May 1 and May 8)

We meet to work on our craft projects and to share product sources, expertise, and inspiration. Our ongoing conversations encourage camaraderie, and a group setting motivates us to progress with our current projects. Interested OLLI members are invited to join us any time to see what we are creating and discussing. All crafts are welcomed! For more information, check out the Craft and Conversation blog on OLLI's website or contact Doris Bloch or Joanne Fitzgerald.

Dirty Knee Club

Coordinator: John McAndrew

Fairfax:

As possible during term; watch your email for updates; watch E-news for announcements

The OLLI Landscaping Committee, fondly known as the Dirty Knee Club, creates, plants, and maintains the gardens at Tallwood. Gardening expertise is not required, but a willingness to get dirty knees is! Meetings and group work sessions will be set up on an as needed basis. From late spring to early fall, DKC members take turns watering, weeding, and maintaining the gardens during the growing season, depending on members' availability.

Ethnic Eats Club

Coordinator: Leti Labell

In-person luncheons each month, dates TBD

Virtual dinner meeting on Zoom:

Thursdays, every four weeks

6:00–7:00, Mar. 5, Apr. 30, May 28 (no meeting Apr. 2)

Do you love to eat? Are you interested in learning

about foods from other cultures? Then this is the club for you. Northern Virginia has an abundance of ethnic restaurants. Each month a club member identifies a potential restaurant for an in-person lunch, makes sure it meets our requirements, and makes all arrangements with the restaurant. We have two luncheons at the selected restaurant, usually one on a Saturday and one on a weekday. We also have virtual dinner parties, where we each order takeout ethnic food from nearby restaurants and eat together on Zoom. If this sounds like your cup of tea (or chai or tè or té or thé), contact Leti Labell.

Family History/Genealogy Club

Coordinators: Michael Mason, Lea Edwards

Biweekly on Mondays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Mar. 9, Mar. 23, Apr. 6, Apr. 20, May 4, May 18

Have you always wanted to know more about your family's past but don't have a clue about how to get started? Do you enjoy researching your family's ancestors and discovering new facts about their lives but often become frustrated when you can't find important information or documents? Do you have a fascinating story from your family's history that you would like to put into a readable format that you can share with others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are welcome to join the Family History/Genealogy Club. The club meets every two weeks in an interactive format to discuss a range of topics such as the most efficient way to access the huge amount of records on the Internet, how to read census and vital records accurately, and how to use DNA data to help fill out your family tree. All knowledge levels are welcome. Sign up for the club through the OLLI member portal. If you have questions, contact Michael Mason or Lea Edwards.

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4:00–5:30, Mar. 9, Mar. 23, Apr. 6, Apr. 20, May 4, May 18

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Game On: Talking Sports Club

Coordinators: Dennis VanLangen, Steve Greenhouse
First and Third Fridays in and out of term

Zoom:

10:00–11:15, Apr. 3–May 15 (no meeting May 1)

Love sports? So do we. Each week we'll gather to talk all things sports—pro and college, national and local, current and past. Football, baseball, basketball, hockey, women's sports ...nothing is off limits! Big games, breaking news, hot takes—you bring the opinions, we'll bring the open discussion. We'll wrap up every 90 minute session with a fun trivia question for bragging rights (and lasting glory). Join us and keep your sports talk sharp, spirited, and social!

History Club

Coordinator: Doug Snoeyenbos

Wednesdays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, May 5

We welcome all OLLI members who are interested in history. The History Club meets seven times per year. Our meetings feature accomplished speakers on a wide variety of historical topics. There is always time for questions, and spirited discussion is encouraged. For more information about the History Club, contact Doug Snoeyenbos.

Homer, etc.

Coordinator: Donna Osthaus

Fridays

Zoom:

11:00–12:30, Mar. 6–May. 29 (No meeting May 1 and May 8)

Reading the classics aloud with friends and sharing observations bring the texts to life in our imaginations. We have recently read Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* and are following this with Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*. We welcome new readers.

Literary Fiction Book Club

Coordinators: Karen Schneider, Joann Sokol

Thursdays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Mar. 26, Apr. 23, May 14

The Literary Fiction Book Club focuses on major book prize winners or nominees and sometimes fiction in translation. The group chooses to meet on Zoom to allow OLLI members from multiple locations to join the discussions. On March 26, the club will discuss *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. The April 23 book is *Flashlight* by Susan Choi. The book for May will be shared with participants in March.

Mah Jongg Club

Coordinator: Debby Mossburg

Fridays, in and out of term

Fairfax:

10:00–12:00, Mar. 6–May 29 (no meeting May 1 and

May 8)

Biweekly Tuesdays, in and out of term

Zoom:

4:00–6:00, Mar. 10, Mar. 24, Apr. 7, Apr. 21, May 5, May 19

Please come join us to socialize and play some friendly games of Mah Jongg, no matter what your level of experience. Not only does Mah Jongg sharpen memory, concentration, and decision-making skills, this engaging game of strategy and luck is an excellent source of camaraderie and fun. If you have never played before, we recommend joining us in person rather than online. For more information about the club, the game, and/or how to sign up for the online platform we use to play during our online sessions, contact the club coordinator, Debby Mossburg.

Memoir—and More—Writing Group

Coordinators: Carolyn F. Wyatt, Margie Wildblood

Biweekly on Wednesdays, in and out of term

Zoom:

2:00–4:30, Mar. 4–May 27

Limit: 13

We meet every other week during most of the year. In addition to memoir, we write fiction, poetry, and personal essays. At our meetings we gently critique each other's work with the aim of improving our writing skills. Writing groups need to be small, space is limited. Please contact Carolyn at olliclub@gmu.edu to learn if space is available.

OLLI Artists Club

Coordinator: Christine Narbut

Biweekly on Wednesdays

Fairfax:

1:30–3:30, Apr. 1–May 13

Zoom:

1:30–3:30, Mar. 4, Mar. 18, May 27

Come meet and work alongside fellow OLLI members who enjoy drawing and sketching with charcoal, pastels, pencils, ink, or watercolor painting. While not an instructive class, all artists are encouraged to share their talents and feedback. Provide your own materials. If you have experience with the visual arts or just want to enjoy making art, this club will provide you the opportunity.

OLLI Walk & Talk Club

Coordinators: Marilyn Harriman, Bob Heyer

Weekly/Biweekly

Fairfax County trails and neighborhoods

Start times are between 9:00–2:00, depending on weather conditions

Do you enjoy getting out in the fresh air, exploring trails throughout Fairfax County, and talking with new and old friends? Then join us for weekly/biweekly walks throughout the year. Fairfax County has many exciting park trails and neighborhoods that we will discover. Club walks begin between 9am and 2pm, depending on temperature and weather conditions, generally starting earlier in

warmer weather and later in colder weather. Each walk is 45-75 minutes, with an optional after-meet-up at a coffee/tea/eatery shop. Walks vary around Fairfax trails and neighborhoods in order to be a short drive for everyone sometime! Come walk or lead a walk around Fairfax trails and neighborhoods! Club coordinators send advance announcements about upcoming walks, including location directions, dates, and times. All walkers need to be registered in the club through the member portal to receive walk schedule information and participate. Visit: olli.gmu.edu/category/olli-walk-and-talk-club to learn the answers to commonly asked questions about our outings.

Personal Computer User Group

Coordinators: Bob Heyer, Leti Labell

Third Saturday of each month

Fairfax, hybrid:

1:00–3:30, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16

The OLLI PC User Group (OPCUG), in partnership with the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), focuses on Windows and Mac computers and software for enhancing our lives. Members and presenters also discuss smartphone and tablet apps across the iDevices and Androids, the Internet, Zoom and other classroom software, digital photography, related technology, and open-source software. Our aim is to bring broad understanding about technologies and topics of interest to attendees. PC clinics for members are offered twice yearly. Our target audience encompasses all computer users, from beginners to intermediate amateurs to experts. Our motto is “users helping users”. We start our meetings with an open forum for members with problems asking for possible solutions other members have found. Club dues (currently \$5 per year) are payable at the first meeting attended in each calendar year. Dues paying members can attend monthly sessions in person or on Zoom from anywhere with an internet connection. Members also have access to weekly webinars provided by APCUG, an International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups. More details are available on the group’s website: olli.gmu.edu/opcug/index.html

Photography Club

Coordinators: John Olsen, Lynn Cline, George Bradshaw, Bob Kelberg

Second Fridays

Fairfax, hybrid:

9:30–11:30, Mar. 13, Apr. 10 (no meeting May 8)

Fourth Fridays

Fairfax, hybrid:

9:30–11:30, Mar. 27, Apr. 24, May 22

Meet with enthusiasts and others interested in photography and develop skills by participating in theme-based monthly photo submissions. The Photography Club welcomes all members, regardless of skill level or your phone/camera choice. We discuss both the technology of photography and the artistic aspect of visual design. We usually have

guest speakers on the second Friday of each month, and on the fourth Friday of each month we hold discussions covering specific topics in detail. We also regularly plan field trips in the local area, often on the third Friday of each month. Contact the coordinators for further information.

Poetry Reading Club

Coordinator: Susan Rexroad

Generally meets every other Monday, between terms

Zoom:

11:00–12:30, Mar. 2, Mar. 16, May 18

Limit: 20

From modern to classical, haikus to sonnets, funny to historic, we read and discuss our favorite published poems in a convivial atmosphere. Share a poem to read that intrigues you. Together we’ll ponder why and how these poems engage or even elude us.

Poetry Writing Club

Coordinators: Susan Rexroad, Margie Wildblood

Meets on scheduled Mondays

Zoom:

11:00–12:30, Mar. 9

Limit: 12

Let what speaks to you come through to you onto the page in the Poetry Writing Club. Here’s how it works. After a presentation and discussion on a poetic theme, you’ll have time to craft your own poem on the topic and share your work in a supportive atmosphere. Interest in exploring your creativity is all that is needed!

Spanish Club

Coordinator: Mark Ramage

First and third Wednesdays, in and out of term

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Mar. 4, Mar. 18, Apr. 1, Apr. 15, May 6, May 20

This club is for anyone with some knowledge of Spanish (advanced beginner up through intermediate level), but not fluent. Since members have a wide range of backgrounds in Spanish, this is not a “Spanish only” club. Activities or presentations in Spanish are also presented in English, or translated to English as a group activity. Some typical activities might include reading through a short article as a group, practicing/reviewing some grammar topics, working on Spanish pronunciation, watching a Spanish language video (with English subtitles), and sharing information on websites or other resources useful for learning or improving your Spanish.

Spanish Page Turners

Coordinator: Mark Ramage

Bimonthly on Wednesdays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Mar. 11, Mar. 25, Apr. 8, Apr. 22, May 13, May 27

Do you love Spanish and want to practice it in a fun way? Join The Spanish Page Turners—a book club for

intermediate-level Spanish learners! We'll dive into novels in Spanish that will not only build your vocabulary but also transport you into different cultures and perspectives. These *easier-to-read* intermediate-level books will give us the chance to follow longer storylines, connect deeply with characters, and see how the Spanish language flows in extended narratives. Reading novels together allows us to build vocabulary in context, notice cultural nuances, and enjoy the satisfaction of progressing through an entire work together. There will be plenty of space to chat, ask questions, share your thoughts, and even debate the choices of the characters. The goal isn't to read perfectly—it's to enjoy the language together and discover all it has to offer.

Tai Chi Club

Coordinators: Russell Stone, Cathey Parker, Bonnie Nelson, Sid Koslow

Zoom:

Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30, Mar. 3–May 26

Thursdays, 4:30–5:30, Mar. 5–May 28

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30, Mar. 7–May 30

The Tai Chi Club meets year-round and is open to all OLLI members. Beginners are welcome at any time. Simply log in from the Daily Schedule and follow along. It is led by instructor Jerry Cheng, who started his martial arts training when he was six years old in China. He has studied under several famous Chinese martial arts masters and has taught Chen-style Tai Chi for many years. He won four gold medals at the 1997 Atlanta International Martial Arts Championship. Be sure to register for the Tai Chi Club each term in order to receive email messages when there are changes.

Tallwood Book Club

Coordinator: Betty Ellerbee

Second Friday of the month

Zoom:

2:30–4:00, Mar. 13, Apr. 10 (no meeting May 8)

Please consult the OLLI E-news for updates on book selections.

The Investment Forum Club

Moderators: Al Smuzynski, Bob Baker, Lou Coglianese, David Toms, Ray Willson

Wednesdays

Fairfax, hybrid:

10:30–12:00, Mar. 4–18, May 20–27

The Investment Forum, which has been meeting continuously since 1995, addresses investment topics of particular interest to retirees. A weekly agenda is distributed, and sessions begin with an open discussion of recent events in the economy and financial markets, and their impact on investment decisions. Member presentations and discussions typically include such topics as: recent market indicators, stocks, bonds, mutual and exchange traded funds, real estate investment trusts, sector allocations, investment

strategies, portfolio management, and choosing advisory services. Each week members may participate in our "Buy/Sell/Thinking-About" segment by sharing their investment trades or activities of the previous week, which are then looked at and discussed in a peer group setting. The Forum typically uses various Wall Street analyses and data, as well as relevant news from the financial press. In addition, we regularly incorporate a number of online financial tools and websites in looking at members' recent trading activities or other investment products.

Theater Lovers' Group

Coordinator: Norma Jean Reck

Fourth Wednesdays in term and in-person theater events

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Mar. 25, Apr. 22

Membership in the Theater Lovers' Group (TLG) is open to all OLLI members interested in anything theater. TLG meets either in person or virtually in those months OLLI is in session. TLG attends a wide variety of theater events year-round in the DMV area. We also take day trips to a nearby venue or an overnight trip to Broadway in New York City, Staunton for Shakespeare, and West Virginia for a theater festival. We usually attend matinees with an optional lunch or dinner at a nearby restaurant where we get to know our fellow theater lovers. TLG meets virtually during the months that OLLI is in session. Our meetings often feature speakers from the local theater companies who take us behind the scenes or who enlighten us about what is happening in the theater world. We also have lunches where we talk theater and socialize. We carpool, encourage bringing guests, and benefit from senior and group rates. To become a member and receive all TLG emails, go online to the member portal and sign up for Theater Lovers' Group or email ollireg@gmu.edu. For more information, email Norma Jean Reck and watch for announcements in OLLI's Friday E-News.

What's in the Daily News Club

Moderators: Dick Crawford, Deborah Dupree, Kathryn McGeehan, John Quinn, Ann Smith, Al Smuzynski, Dennis VanLangen

Class liaison: Dennis VanLangen

Mondays, between terms

Zoom:

9:30–11:00, Mar. 2–16, May 18 (no meeting May 25)

Limit: 90

This is a weekly forum for thoughtful, forthright, and respectful exchange of information and opinions on current world, U.S., and regional news. Club participants bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience in international affairs, government, industry, education, economics, the military, and other areas. The discussion is always lively, and all participants have an equal opportunity to comment.

Membership and Registration

**** Special ****

Spring 2026 Promotion!

OLLI Mason is offering a low fee of \$300 for those new to OLLI Mason who purchase an annual membership. (Available as a one-time discount to those who have never been OLLI Mason members, are returning to OLLI Mason after a hiatus of more than one year, or have previously been introductory members and have not converted to an annual membership).

**** Special ****

George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School Retirees!

OLLI Mason is offering a one-time annual membership discount of \$100, which may be applied to the special \$300 promotion. George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School retirees who have not previously joined OLLI Mason may receive an annual membership for just \$200.

Two Types of OLLI Mason Membership

Memberships at OLLI Mason can be purchased at any time during the year and are renewed on a rolling basis.

- **Annual membership.** Register for unlimited courses and activities for four consecutive terms. Members are eligible for a Mason ID card to receive certain university privileges and discounts (see page ii). The cost is **\$450**.
- **Introductory membership.** Register for unlimited courses and activities for just one term, one time only. An introductory membership is not available to former OLLI Mason members; it is intended for new members who want to sample OLLI Mason before committing to a full year. Introductory members are not eligible for a Mason ID card or its privileges. The **onetime** introductory membership is **\$150**.

The term date on your catalog mailing label reflects the end of your current membership. If it is time to renew, you may not be able to view offerings or register on the Member Portal until you purchase your membership renewal.

Payment Options

- **Online.** You may join online at olli.gmu.edu. Click the yellow 'Join Olli' tab at the top right corner. When renewing online, log in to your Member Portal account. Click the 'Join OLLI!' tab on the left green banner and purchase your membership. Credit card or electronic check payment is required when joining online.
- **Paper Copy Registration Form.** Using the registration form to join or renew, payment can be made by check or credit card. If paying by check, submit a separate check for each unique expense (class fee, membership renewal, etc.) The form can be dropped off or mailed to: **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032.**
- **Installments.** OLLI Mason encourages members to pay in full at time of registration. However, OLLI Mason offers a payment plan of monthly or quarterly installments by credit or debit card. Your application for the installment plan must be filled out completely, mailed to the address on the form, and approved each year before you can register for courses or activities. For security reasons, we cannot accept the form by email. Installment applications are available on the OLLI Mason website at [olli.gmu.edu/ installment-plans/](http://olli.gmu.edu/installment-plans/)
- **Financial Assistance.** OLLI Mason offers financial assistance for members or prospective members who find it a hardship to pay the full membership fee. Email the registrar (ollireg@gmu.edu) to request an application. All inquiries are kept confidential.

Refunds

Members may only obtain a full refund of their membership fees by applying in writing to the executive director before the beginning of the third week of classes in the first term after enrollment or re-enrollment. We cannot honor proration or refund requests after this deadline.

Prospective Members

Not ready to commit? Prospective members may experience OLLI Mason by sampling one or more courses during any consecutive two weeks of a term, provided the course is not overenrolled. Contact the registrar for more information at ollireg@gmu.edu or 703-544-0085.

Membership and Registration, Continued

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- **Online.** You may register for OLLI Mason courses and activities (diversions, excursions, and clubs) online at olli.gmu.edu. Click **Sign In** at the upper right-hand corner of the home page.

Mail-In Registration Form. You may also register for courses and activities using the registration form. The form can be dropped off or mailed to: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032.

****Emailed registration forms will not be accepted. ****

When to Register

Members are encouraged to register for courses and activities as soon as registration opens (the date is listed on the front and back cover of the catalog and on page ii). **IMPORTANT NOTE: Register early for courses and activities. Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even on the first day of registration.** Although registration continues throughout the term, low enrollment courses and activities are subject to cancellation, so please register early. You must click **Add to Cart** as detailed below:

- **Each time you select a course or activity, you must click Add to Cart.**
- After adding all courses and activities to the cart, be sure to check out. The ☒ "CHECKOUT" button is in the upper right-hand corner of the Member Portal.
- Courses and activities with fees will have a dollar sign \$ next to their descriptions.
- Payment for courses and activities with fees must be made at the time of registration.

Making Changes to Your Registration (Add/Drop)

- You may add offerings (courses, special events, and clubs) at any time online through the Member Portal.
- You may drop offerings by filling out the online form at: olli.gmu.edu/add_drop_form or by emailing ollireg@gmu.edu.

Emails Confirming Class Enrollment and Payments

You will receive email confirmations for your enrollment in OLLI Mason courses and activities per below. If you want to see your enrollments thereafter, log in to the Member Portal (olli.gmu.edu; Member Portal button) and click **"CURRENT REGISTRATIONS"**.

- Confirmation emails for all of your selections will be sent immediately after checkout; please read your confirmation notes carefully.
- If you do not have an email address on file, the confirmation notes will be mailed to you.
- Special Event fees: OLLI Mason cannot guarantee a refund for courses or activities once you have paid and enrolled. As such, please consider carefully before signing up for offerings with fees. If you need to drop an activity, you should contact the registrar. In some cases, refunds will be granted if your reserved spot is filled by someone else or the event is canceled.

Wait Lists

- OLLI Mason does everything possible to maximize enrollment. Members will be wait-listed if a course or activity is full.
- If space opens in a course or activity, the OLLI Mason office will contact members on the wait list until the vacancy is filled. In most cases, the office will not leave a message.

OLLI Mason Registration Form: Spring 2026

Drop off or mail completed form to:
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University,
4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032

Date Received	_____
Date Processed	_____
Dues Chk	_____ CC
Spec Chk	_____ CC
Spec Chk	_____ CC
FOLLIChek	_____ CC
CC info destroyed	_____

☐ Check box if there are changes in your membership information since your last submission.

Membership Information:

Please print and fill in all spaces completely.

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. (CIRCLE ONE) _____, _____, _____
LAST NAME FIRST NAME MI

Alternate First Name for Your Nametag (if different from above) _____

Address _____, _____, _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIPCODE

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

Preferred Member Portal User Name _____
(for new members only) (6 or more characters)

License Plate Number _____

Mason Alumnus? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Check box if you **DO NOT** want to appear in the directory.

How Did You Learn About OLLI Mason?

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AARP | <input type="checkbox"/> Catalog or flyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Web search |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ad or Article | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend or family | <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ Expo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bumper sticker | <input type="checkbox"/> Other learning org. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

☐ Check box if you **DO NOT** want to receive paper catalog mailings.

****Please review our privacy policy on the OLLI Mason Policies page in the catalog.**

Dues and Donations Information (Please check the appropriate boxes below)

- ☐ **Annual Membership (\$450)** One year of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.
(Offered to new, renewing, and previous members) \$ _____
- ☐ **Special Promotional Fee (\$300)** One year of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.
(Offered as a one-time discount to those new to OLLI Mason who have never been members, are returning after more than one year's hiatus, or were introductory members who haven't converted to annual members) \$ _____
- ☐ **George Mason University or Northern Virginia Public School Retirees Membership (\$200)**
(Offered as a one-time discount to those who have never been an annual OLLI Mason member) \$ _____
- ☐ **Introductory Membership (\$150)** One term of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.
(Offered ONLY to new members, not renewing or previous members) \$ _____
- ☐ **Charitable Donation for Friends of OLLI**
☐ Check if you want to be an anonymous donor. \$ _____
- ☐ **Purchase OLLI Mason eGift Card (enter at right the value you want on card)**
☐ Mail eGift Card code to recipient ☐ Email eGift Card code to recipient \$ _____
Recipient's name and address or email: _____
- Total** \$ _____

By signing this form, I agree to all OLLI Mason policies and procedures and waive OLLI Mason liability for any trip, drive on your own event, or off-site club activity in which I participate:

Signature

Payment Information:

☐ CHECK payable to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute ☐ Installment plan (see page 34): must submit the form found at: olli.gmu.edu/installment-plans/

☐ eGift Card \$ _____ and Redemption code _____

☐ I authorize OLLI Mason to charge my Credit Card account listed below:

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Expiration Date: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

CVV: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

COURSES/SPECIAL EVENTS/CLUBS

Please include the entire number including the F, R, Z, or E.
Register early. Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even as early as the first day of registration. Please note: all offerings are Add to Cart.
See page 35 for further registration instructions.

	Course Number	Course/Special Event/Club Name
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		

OFFERINGS WITH FEES

For offerings with fees, you must provide payment NOW. If paying by check, a separate check for each offering is required.

	Select	Activity Title	Fee
1204E		Rosemont Manor Tea	\$117

Spring 2026 Schedule Fairfax (Week 1-Week 4)

Number of sessions are shown in parentheses
Bolded classes have unusual dates, locations, and/or times

Note dates and times.
Before and after term programs.

Mon. Mar. 2, 11:50-1:15 1201F/1201Z The School of Dance Gala Concert: Guest Artists of 2026		Thur. Mar. 12, 11:30-2:00 1202F Eat, Drink, and Be Irish	Thur. Mar. 19, 10:00-11:30 1203F Kick-Off Coffee
Sat. Apr. 11-18, 9:30-1:30 907F AARP Driver Safety	Tue. May 19, 10:15-3:30 1204E Rosemont Manor Tea	Fri. May 29, 1:00-3:00 1205F 1776 Trivia Party	Fri. June 5, 12:00-2:30 1206F Springtime Picnic in the Park

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar
9:40-11:05	301F/301Z Smithsonian, Wars (3) 801F Starvation in Plenty (2)	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 703F/703Z US Soft Power (1)	601F/601Z Power of Holy Spirit (4) 654F Exploring Civilizations (3) 803F Chinese Med. & Tai Chi (6)	105F/105Z Quilting in Virginia (2) 406F Memoir Writing (4) 407F Reader's Theater (8)	1001E Supreme Court Visit 11:00-1:00
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 652F/652Z Law & Society (4) 802F DNA's Secret Life (4)	302F/302Z Einstein & Family (2) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8) 902F Introduction to Chess (5)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5) 904F Introduction to Mah Jongg (8)	408F/408Z Johnson & Boswell (4) 656F Discord & Dialogue (2) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	702F/702Z What's at WaPo? (1)	103F Watercolor Painting (8) 201F/201Z State of Economy (2) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		106F Singing for Fun (8) 306F US in Vietnam (8)	
Week 2	30-Mar	31-Mar	1-Apr	2-Apr	3-Apr
9:40-11:05	301F/301Z Smithsonian, Wars (3) 801F Starvation in Plenty (2)	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 307F History of Occoquan (1) 603F/603Z What is Required? (4)	601F/601Z Power of Holy Spirit (4) 654F Exploring Civilizations (3) 803F Chinese Med. & Tai Chi (6)	105F/105Z Quilting in Virginia (2) 406F Memoir Writing (4) 407F Reader's Theater (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 652F/652Z Law & Society (4) 802F DNA's Secret Life (4)	302F/302Z Einstein & Family (2) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8) 902F Introduction to Chess (5)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5) 904F Introduction to Mah Jongg (8)	408F/408Z Johnson & Boswell (4) 656F Discord & Dialogue (2) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	411F Read Play: 1776 (5) 905F/905Z World of Bridge (1)	103F Watercolor Painting (8) 201F/201Z State of Economy (2) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		106F Singing for Fun (8) 306F US in Vietnam (8)	
Week 3	6-Apr	7-Apr	8-Apr	9-Apr	10-Apr
9:40-11:05	301F Smithsonian, Wars (3) Offsite 10:30-12:30 604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 906F Skills for OLLI Instructors (1)	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 603F/603Z What is Required? (4)	601F/601Z Power of Holy Spirit (4) 654F Exploring Civilizations (3) 803F Chinese Med. & Tai Chi (6)	310F/310Z Origins, Revolution (3) 406F Memoir Writing (4) 407F Reader's Theater (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 652F/652Z Law & Society (4) 802F DNA's Secret Life (4)	659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8) 902F Introduction to Chess (5)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5) 904F Introduction to Mah Jongg (8)	408F/408Z Johnson & Boswell (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8) 806F Chronic Disease Mgmt (6) 1:45-3:45	
2:15-3:40	308F/308Z Children Occupied (2) 411F Read Play: 1776 (5) 658F/658Z Elec. Surveillance (2)	103F Watercolor Painting (8) 413F Fun & Games Improv (6) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		106F Singing for Fun (8) 306F US in Vietnam (8) 807F Walk in My Shoes (4)	
Week 4	13-Apr	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr
9:40-11:05	108F/108Z What Made Beatles (1) 604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6)	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 603F/603Z What is Required? (4)	601F/601Z Power of Holy Spirit (4) 660F Hopeful in our World (1) 803F Chinese Med. & Tai Chi (6)	310F/310Z Origins, Revolution (3) 406F Memoir Writing (4) 407F Reader's Theater (8)	1002E Museum of the US Army 10:00-12:00
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 652F/652Z Law & Society (4) 802F DNA's Secret Life (4)	659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8) 902F Introduction to Chess (5)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5) 904F Introduction to Mah Jongg (8)	408F/408Z Johnson & Boswell (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8) 806F Chronic Disease Mgmt (6) 1:45-3:45	
2:15-3:40	109F Painting in the Cottage (1) 308F/308Z Children Occupied (2) 658F/658Z Elec. Surveillance (2)	103F Watercolor Painting (8) 413F Fun & Games Improv (6) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		106F Singing for Fun (8) 306F US in Vietnam (8) 807F Walk in My Shoes (4)	

Spring 2026 Schedule Fairfax (Week 5-Week 8)

Number of sessions are shown in parentheses
Bolded classes have unusual dates, locations, and/or times

Note dates and times.
Before and after term programs.

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 5	20-Apr	21-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr
9:40-11:05	415F Seeing Double (4) 604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 809F Environmental Regions (4)	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 603F/603Z What is Required? (4)	314F/314Z Men Behind Quills (1) 803F Chinese Med. & Tai Chi (6) 910F Getting to Know You (4)	310F/310Z Origins, Revolution (3) 407F Reader's Theater (8) 909F Morocco (1)	1003E Town of Occoquan 10:00-11:30
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 311F Hunt for Red October (4)	659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8) 902F Introduction to Chess (5)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5) 904F Introduction to Mah Jongg (8)	705F/705Z News That's Fit (8) 811F/811Z Don't be Scammed (1) 806F Chronic Disease Mgmt (6) 1:45-3:45	1300 Distinguished Professor (1) 1:00-2:30
2:15-3:40	312F/312Z Welcome to Iran (2) 411F Read Play: 1776 (5) 605F Biblical Wisdom (4)	103F Watercolor Painting (8) 413F Fun & Games Improv (6) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		106F Singing for Fun (8) 306F US in Vietnam (8) 807F Walk in My Shoes (4)	
Week 6	27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May
9:40-11:05	415F Seeing Double (4) 604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 809F Environmental Regions (4)	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55	316F/316Z Cold War Decline (3) 803F Chinese Med. & Tai Chi (6) 910F Getting to Know You (4)	203F/203Z Beyond the Basics (3) 318F Hitler's Germany (1) 407F Reader's Theater (8)	1101F/1101Z Annual Business Meeting 10:00
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 311F Hunt for Red October (4)	315F Virginia Presidents (1) 659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 664F Why War? (1) 904F Introduction to Mah Jongg (8)	319F/319Z Sites in Loudoun (1) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8) 806F Chronic Disease Mgmt (6) 1:45-3:45	1102F Garden Party & Picnic 1:00-2:30
2:15-3:40	312F/312Z Welcome to Iran (2) 411F Read Play: 1776 (5) 605F Biblical Wisdom (4)	103F Watercolor Painting (8) 413F Fun & Games Improv (6) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		106F Singing for Fun (8) 306F US in Vietnam (8) 807F Walk in My Shoes (4)	
Week 7	4-May	5-May	6-May	7-May	8-May
9:40-11:05	415F Seeing Double (4) 604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 809F Environmental Regions (4)	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55	316F/316Z Cold War Decline (3) 910F Getting to Know You (4) 911F Gamera, Giant Turtle (1)	203F/203Z Beyond the Basics (3) 322F/322Z Allied Spies (2) 407F Reader's Theater (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 311F Hunt for Red October (4)	659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 321F/321Z Surrender of Japan (1) 904F Introduction to Mah Jongg (8)	705F/705Z News That's Fit (8) 806F Chronic Disease Mgmt (6) 1:45-3:45	
2:15-3:40	320F/320Z Road to Timbuktu (1) 411F Read Play: 1776 (5) 605F Biblical Wisdom (4)	103F Watercolor Painting (8) 413F Fun & Games Improv (6) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		106F Singing for Fun (8) 306F US in Vietnam (8)	
Week 8	11-May	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May
9:40-11:05	415F Seeing Double (4) 604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 809F Environmental Regions (4)	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 666F/666Z Border Search (1)	316F/316Z Cold War Decline (3) 667F/667Z Hamburger Coke (1) 910F Getting to Know You (4)	203F/203Z Beyond the Basics (3) 322F/322Z Allied Spies (2) 407F Reader's Theater (8)	1004E Inventors Hall of Fame 10:00-11:30
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 311F Hunt for Red October (4)	659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 904F Introduction to Mah Jongg (8)	323F Understand Washington (1) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8) 806F Chronic Disease Mgmt (6) 1:45-3:45	
2:15-3:40	605F Biblical Wisdom (4) 665F/665Z Go to Court & Win (1) 814F/814Z Imaging Meets AI (1)	103F Watercolor Painting (8) 413F Fun & Games Improv (6) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		106F Singing for Fun (8) 306F US in Vietnam (8)	

Spring 2026 Schedule

Zoom

(Week 1-Week 4)

Mon. Mar. 2, 11:50-1:15
1201F/1201Z The School of Dance Gala Concert: Guest Artists of 2026

Number of sessions are shown in parentheses
Bolded classes have unusual dates, locations, and/or times

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar
9:40-11:05	301F/301Z Smithsonian, Wars (2) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (6) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 703F/703Z US Soft Power (1)	303R/303Z A Private's Life (3) 404Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 601F/601Z Power of Holy Spirit (4)	105F/105Z Quilting in Virginia (2) 602Z Buddhist Philosophy (6) 804Z Climate Change (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 901Z Monday Lectures (8) 652F/652Z Law & Society (4)	302F/302Z Einstein & Family (2) 402Z Reality, Roles, Reverse (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	104Z Rock & Pop in 50s, 60s (6) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5)	408F/408Z Johnson & Boswell (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8) 805Z Living with Donated Heart (1)	
2:15-3:40	401Z The Power of Story (3) 702F/702Z What's at WaPo? (1)	201F/201Z State of Economy (2) 403Z Poetry Workshop (8) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		409Z Sensation, Gothic Novels (8) 410Z Literary Roundtable (8) 657R/657Z MultiNation (4) 3:00-4:30	
Week 2	30-Mar	31-Mar	1-Apr	2-Apr	3-Apr
9:40-11:05	301F/301Z Smithsonian, Wars (2) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (6) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 412Z The 27th Mile (1) 603F/603Z What is Required? (4)	303R/303Z A Private's Life (3) 404Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 601F/601Z Power of Holy Spirit (4)	105F/105Z Quilting in Virginia (2) 602Z Buddhist Philosophy (6) 804Z Climate Change (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 901Z Monday Lectures (8) 652F/652Z Law & Society (4)	302F/302Z Einstein & Family (2) 402Z Reality, Roles, Reverse (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	104Z Rock & Pop in 50s, 60s (6) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5)	408F/408Z Johnson & Boswell (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	401Z The Power of Story (3) 905F/905Z World of Bridge (1)	201F/201Z State of Economy (2) 403Z Poetry Workshop (8) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		409Z Sensation, Gothic Novels (8) 410Z Literary Roundtable (8) 657R/657Z MultiNation (4) 3:00-4:30	
Week 3	6-Apr	7-Apr	8-Apr	9-Apr	10-Apr
9:40-11:05	604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 309Z Birth of Atomic Age (1) 603F/603Z What is Required? (4)	303R/303Z A Private's Life (3) 404Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 601F/601Z Power of Holy Spirit (4)	310F/310Z Origins, Revolution (3) 602Z Buddhist Philosophy (6) 804Z Climate Change (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 901Z Monday Lectures (8) 652F/652Z Law & Society (4)	402Z Reality, Roles, Reverse (6) 659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	104Z Rock & Pop in 50s, 60s (6) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5)	408F/408Z Johnson & Boswell (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	308F/308Z Children Occupied (2) 401Z The Power of Story (3) 658F/658Z Elec. Surveillance (2)	403Z Poetry Workshop (8) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		409Z Sensation, Gothic Novels (8) 410Z Literary Roundtable (8) 657R/657Z MultiNation (4) 3:00-4:30	
Week 4	13-Apr	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr
9:40-11:05	108F/108Z What Made Beatles (1) 604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 414Z Impermanent World (1) 603F/603Z What is Required? (4)	404Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 601F/601Z Power of Holy Spirit (4) 908Z Our Nation (4)	310F/310Z Origins, Revolution (3) 602Z Buddhist Philosophy (6) 804Z Climate Change (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 901Z Monday Lectures (8) 652F/652Z Law & Society (4)	402Z Reality, Roles, Reverse (6) 659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	104Z Rock & Pop in 50s, 60s (6) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5)	408F/408Z Johnson & Boswell (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	308F/308Z Children Occupied (2) 658F/658Z Elec. Surveillance (2)	403Z Poetry Workshop (8) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8) 912R/912Z Building Permits (1)		409Z Sensation, Gothic Novels (8) 410Z Literary Roundtable (8) 657R/657Z MultiNation (4) 3:00-4:30	

Spring 2026 Schedule

Zoom

(Week 5-Week 8)

Number of sessions are shown in parentheses
Bolded classes have unusual dates, locations, and/or times

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 5	20-Apr	21-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr
9:40-11:05	604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (6) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 603F/603Z What is Required? (4) 661Z Holocaust Today's World (4)	314F/314Z Men Behind Quills (1) 404Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 908Z Our Nation (4)	310F/310Z Origins, Revolution (3) 602Z Buddhist Philosophy (6) 804Z Climate Change (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 416Z Accessible Poetry (4) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	402Z Reality, Roles, Reverse (6) 659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	104Z Rock & Pop in 50s, 60s (6) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 405F/405Z Grapes of Wrath (5) 662Z TED Talks (4)	417Z Wanna Write Poetry (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8) 811F/811Z Don't be Scammed (1)	
2:15-3:40	305Z History for Travelers (4) 312F/312Z Welcome to Iran (2) 810Z Revolt of Biologists (1)	313R/313Z Park Rangers (4) 403Z Poetry Workshop (8) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)		409Z Sensation, Gothic Novels (8) 410Z Literary Roundtable (8) 663Z History of Language (4)	
Week 6	27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May
9:40-11:05	604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (6) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 661Z Holocaust Today's World (4)	316F/316Z Cold War Decline (3) 404Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 908Z Our Nation (4)	203F/203Z Beyond the Basics (3) 602Z Buddhist Philosophy (6) 804Z Climate Change (8)	1101F/1101Z Annual Business Meeting 10:00
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 416Z Accessible Poetry (4) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	402Z Reality, Roles, Reverse (6) 659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	104Z Rock & Pop in 50s, 60s (6) 202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 662Z TED Talks (4)	319F/319Z Sites in Loudoun (1) 417Z Wanna Write Poetry (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	305Z History for Travelers (4) 312F/312Z Welcome to Iran (2)	313R/313Z Park Rangers (4) 403Z Poetry Workshop (8) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)	317R/317Z Civil War Beyond (3)	409Z Sensation, Gothic Novels (8) 410Z Literary Roundtable (8) 663Z History of Language (4)	
Week 7	4-May	5-May	6-May	7-May	8-May
9:40-11:05	604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (6) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 661Z Holocaust Today's World (4)	316F/316Z Cold War Decline (3) 404Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 908Z Our Nation (4)	203F/203Z Beyond the Basics (3) 322F/322Z Allied Spies (2) 804Z Climate Change (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 416Z Accessible Poetry (4) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 321F/321Z Surrender of Japan (1) 662Z TED Talks (4)	417Z Wanna Write Poetry (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	305Z History for Travelers (4) 320F/320Z Road to Timbuktu (1)	313R/313Z Park Rangers (4) 403Z Poetry Workshop (8) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)	317R/317Z Civil War Beyond (3)	409Z Sensation, Gothic Novels (8) 410Z Literary Roundtable (8) 663Z History of Language (4)	
Week 8	11-May	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May
9:40-11:05	604F/604Z Biblical Songs (6) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (6) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	102F/102Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 661Z Holocaust Today's World (4) 666F/666Z Border Search (1)	316F/316Z Cold War Decline (3) 404Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 667F/667Z Hamburger Coke (1)	203F/203Z Beyond the Basics (3) 322F/322Z Allied Spies (2) 804Z Climate Change (8)	
11:50-1:15	101F/101Z Collage Knowledge (8) 416Z Accessible Poetry (4) 901Z Monday Lectures (8)	659F/659Z Multicultural Nation (6) 704F/704Z Great Decisions (8)	202F/202Z Investment Forum (8) 662Z TED Talks (4) 815R/815Z Donate Life (1)	417Z Wanna Write Poetry (4) 705F/705Z News That's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	305Z History for Travelers (4) 665F/665Z Go to Court & Win (1) 814F/814Z Imaging Meets AI (1)	313R/313Z Park Rangers (4) 403Z Poetry Workshop (8) 653F/653Z Homo Sapiens (8)	317R/317Z Civil War Beyond (3)	409Z Sensation, Gothic Novels (8) 410Z Literary Roundtable (8) 663Z History of Language (4)	

Spring 2026 Schedule Reston

Number of sessions are shown in parentheses
Bolded classes have unusual dates, locations, and/or times

	Rose Gallery		Reston Theatre/Reston Library
TIME	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar
9:40-11:05		303R/303Z A Private's Life (3)	
11:50-1:15		655R Government Takes Action (6)	
2:15-3:40	903R Downsizing to Consider (3)	304R Issues, Politics Civil War (5)	657R/657Z MultiNation (4) 3:00-4:30
Week 2	31-Mar	1-Apr	2-Apr
9:40-11:05		303R/303Z A Private's Life (3)	
11:50-1:15		655R Government Takes Action (6)	
2:15-3:40	903R Downsizing to Consider (3)	304R Issues, Politics Civil War (5)	107R Meet the Artists (6)
			657R/657Z MultiNation (4) 3:00-4:30
Week 3	7-Apr	8-Apr	9-Apr
9:40-11:05		303R/303Z A Private's Life (3)	
11:50-1:15		655R Government Takes Action (6)	
2:15-3:40	903R Downsizing to Consider (3)	304R Issues, Politics Civil War (5)	107R Meet the Artists (6)
			657R/657Z Multi Nation (4) 3:00-4:30
Week 4	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr
9:40-11:05		808R DNA's Secret Life (3)	
11:50-1:15		655R Government Takes Action (6)	
2:15-3:40	912R/912Z Building Permits (1)	304R Issues, Politics Civil War (5)	107R Meet the Artists (6)
			657R/657Z Multi Nation (4) 3:00-4:30
Week 5	21-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr
9:40-11:05		808R DNA's Secret Life (3)	
11:50-1:15		655R Government Takes Action (6)	
2:15-3:40	313R/313Z Park Rangers (4)	304R Issues, Politics Civil War (5)	107R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 6	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr
9:40-11:05		808R DNA's Secret Life (3)	
11:50-1:15		655R Government Takes Action (6)	
2:15-3:40	313R/313Z Park Rangers (4)	317R/317Z Civil War Beyond (3)	107R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 7	5-May	6-May	7-May
9:40-11:05		812R Starvation in Plenty (2)	
11:50-1:15		813R Aging in Place (1)	
2:15-3:40	313R/313Z Park Rangers (4)	317R/317Z Civil War Beyond (3)	107R Meet the Artists (6)
Week 8	12-May	13-May	14-May
9:40-11:05		812R Starvation in Plenty (2)	
11:50-1:15		815R/815Z Donate Life (1)	
2:15-3:40	313R/313Z Park Rangers (4)	317R/317Z Civil War Beyond (3)	



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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University

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OLLI Mason Policies

Closing Policy

In-person classes: OLLI Mason is closed when county schools are closed. When schools announce a delayed opening, OLLI Mason generally opens on time. Exception: at George Mason facilities OLLI Mason adheres to George Mason closing decisions. If George Mason announces a delay, OLLI Mason may need to cancel the first class of the day. Also, poor conditions at OLLI Mason sites may necessitate class or event cancellations. The most up-to-date information on OLLI Mason delays and closings can be found in the Daily Schedule email, on the OLLI Mason website: olli.gmu.edu, or on the Tallwood office voicemail at **(703) 503-3384**.

Hybrid classes: Refer to the Daily Schedule email for up-to-date information.

Zoom classes: will proceed as scheduled.

Health and Safety

By coming to any OLLI Mason campus, all members, staff, teachers, and visitors attest that they are in compliance with current CDC vaccine recommendations and agree to follow OLLI Mason Health and Safety Protocols. As a courtesy to the OLLI Mason community, members should not participate in any in-person activities if they are not feeling well. Even though masks are optional, OLLI Mason supports all those who wish to wear one. For questions about health and safety at OLLI Mason, feel free to email the office at olli@gmu.edu.

Parking Policy

Fairfax: front and rear of the Tallwood building; also in the adjoining Fairfax swimming pool lot in the area designated by traffic cones, if present. **Driving to and from OLLI sites and events is at your own risk.**

Picture Policy

OLLI Mason classes and events may be photographed or video recorded. Members agree to have their likeness recorded for possible non-commercial use by OLLI Mason for promotional purposes, advertising and/or inclusion on the organization's website, social media, or for any other digital or print purpose. If a member objects, they may do so by contacting olli@gmu.edu in writing.

Privacy Policy

OLLI values member privacy and is committed to protecting personal information. When registering for membership, OLLI collects name, email address, and other information. This information is used to manage a member's account, sending updates, personal experience, and to assess OLLI's impact and reach. OLLI may also share some information with trusted third party service providers like payment processing. Members have the right to access, correct, or delete their data, and can opt out of marketing communications and the member directory at any time. This policy may be updated, and members will be notified of any changes.

Recorded Classes Policy

Recorded classes and events may be displayed on the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) website. All material appearing on the website is the property of OLLI Mason. Recordings are accessible to members only. Members may not reproduce, distribute, publish, transmit, or in any way exploit any such content, nor may they distribute any part of this content over any network, sell or offer it for sale, or use such content to construct any kind of database. Copying or storing

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For permission to use any content on the website, or to request removal of a recording, please contact olli@gmu.edu.

Refund Policies

- i. **Membership Fees:** Members may only obtain a full refund of their membership fees by applying in writing to the executive director before the beginning of the third week of classes in the first term after enrollment or re-enrollment. OLLI Mason cannot honor proration or refund requests after this deadline.
- ii. **Special Event Fees:** OLLI Mason cannot guarantee a refund for courses or events once the member has paid and enrolled. As such, please consider carefully before signing up for offerings with fees. If the member needs to drop an event, they should contact the registrar. In some cases, refunds will be granted when the member's reserved spot is filled by someone else or the event is canceled.

Trip Policies

- i. **OLLI Mason Sponsored Trips:** OLLI Mason members and guests participating in activities that entail transportation to locations other than Osher Lifelong Learning Institute sites must sign a paper waiver prior to departure. The waiver releases OLLI Mason from any and all claims for injury or damage sustained by, through, or as a result of such activities, and holds OLLI Mason harmless for any claims resulting therefrom.
- ii. **Outside Entity Sponsored Trips:** Travel agencies must be vetted and approved by the OLLI Mason executive director before planning and advertising trips. OLLI Mason members and their guests must work directly with the travel agencies, and these trips are managed and processed entirely by the travel agencies. OLLI Mason is not involved in the purchase or refund of transactions, logistics, or in liability whatsoever.

Please Note: All participants must follow any existing health and safety protocols of OLLI Mason and transportation.

Code of Conduct

OLLI Mason endeavors to create a positive and affirming environment that fosters learning and social connection. Members, instructors, and staff are expected to demonstrate mutual respect, personal and academic integrity, kindness, and a commitment to civil discourse. Ensuring OLLI Mason is a welcoming, inclusive and affirming learning community is a responsibility shared by all members, instructors, and staff. Many of our programs offer a forum for the lively and even passionate exchange of views. To that end, our learning community follows principles of courtesy and mutual respect that promote reasoned discourse and intellectual honesty. Contrasting viewpoints are honored and appreciated. These principles apply to all OLLI courses, in-person and via Zoom, as well as all meetings, special events and other activities. Members, instructors, and staff are encouraged to contact the director (ollied@gmu.edu) if they observe behavior that is a breach of this code of conduct. Transgressions may include denigrating other's views or opinions, threatening or bullying behaviors, offensive or abusive language, disruptive classroom conduct, sexual harassment or discrimination, and monopolizing classroom discussions. Personal attacks are especially unacceptable. The director shall investigate and, if a problem is confirmed, address it directly with the alleged violator(s), and determine the appropriate consequences and board involvement, up to, and including, exclusion from OLLI Mason facilities, classes and activities.

In-Person Program Locations

Fairfax/Tallwood Campus



Primary Locations (*designated by F or R in course title*)

Fairfax - Tallwood is located at 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax, VA 22032 (adjacent to George Mason University's main campus). Roberts Road can be accessed from Route 236 (Main Street) or Braddock Road. Additional parking is available in the swimming pool lot next door.

Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center (RCC) is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North, Reston, VA 20190 (the northern end of Lake Anne off North Shore Drive). If using an electronic map, use the Lake Anne Mobil address at 11410 N. Shore Drive, Reston, VA 20190 (across the street from the entrance to the Lake Anne parking lot).

Secondary Locations

(noted in course title information)

Church of the Good Shepherd is located at 9350 Braddock Road, Burke, VA 22015. From Braddock Road, turn onto Olley Lane and enter the parking lot on the right.

Fenwick Library Main Reading Room, George Mason University is located on the university's main campus at 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Parking is available at the Mason Pond Parking Deck at 4371 Mason Pond Drive, George Mason, VA 22030.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. From Braddock Road, turn south on Twinbrook Road, and the parking lot will be on your right.

The Leila Gordon Theatre is in the Reston Community Center (RCC) Hunters Woods Village Center. If using an electronic map, use the Ledo Pizza address at 2254 Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston, VA 20191. A walkway beside Ledo Pizza leads to a plaza and the community center.

Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center is located at 3740 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030. Parking is available in front of the building.

Get Involved With OLLI Mason!

OLLI Mason is a member driven organization with many members contributing to the success of our organization.

OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAMMING: Are you are a former teacher missing the classroom experience, a subject matter expert through work experience or volunteerism, or have a passion you would like to share (no need for formal expertise)? You may also know individuals in your community who would be good instructors. Please consider teaching or joining a program planning committee. *Find out more by emailing program@gmu.edu.*

COMMITTEES: Do you have skills that you developed through work or volunteer experience, or on your own? Our committees rely on member expertise, in an array of areas (outreach, finance, audiovisual, administrative, to name a few). *Find out more by emailing volli@gmu.edu.*

CLUBS: Maybe you have a hobby or interest to share with OLLI members. Start a new club if one doesn't already exist. *Find out more by emailing olliclub@gmu.edu.*



OLLI Mason Recorded Class Archive (Classes at Your Convenience!)

Is there a virtual class that you are interested in registering for, but the timing conflicts with other obligations? Will you be traveling during term and can't guarantee internet reliability, or you live in another state? Between terms, do you have free time to learn about a potential new hobby or a subject that you normally wouldn't sign up for? If the answer to these questions and others like it is yes, then problem solved!

Many of OLLI Mason's virtual classes are recorded so that members can view them afterwards. The online library of classes, both from the current term and past terms, is located on the OLLI Mason website (olli.gmu.edu/class-video-recordings/). Only current members may access the video library, so you will need the passcode. For the current passcode, please check your Daily Schedule email.



Happy viewing!



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
4210 Roberts Road
Fairfax, VA 22032
olli.gmu.edu

Spring 2026 Registration:
Begins February 17th at 9 am and continues throughout the term

Term Dates

Spring 2026: March 23 - May 15

Summer 2026: June 22 - July 31

Fall 2026: September 21 - November 13

Winter 2027: January 19 - February 12

Stay Curious – Learn Every Day