

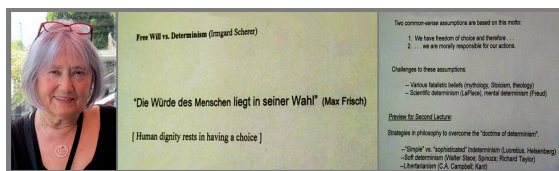
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Irmgard Scherer, Associate Professor of Philosophy Emerita at Loyola University of Maryland and Philosophy Instructor, presented *Freedom vs. Determinism*, 2025 fall term, at Tallwood.

January 2, 2026

Editor of the Week: Paul Van Hemel

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- Registration for winter term is under way and continuing through the term ending on February 13.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, January 16; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, January 13, at 6:00.

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OLLI in the News



By Paul L. Howard, OLLI Member and Former OLLI President

Virginia Humanities, the state humanities council, founded in 1974, is one of [fifty-six humanities councils](#) created by Congress with money and support from the National Endowment for the Humanities to make the humanities available to all Americans. The council has a strategic priority to increase community access and participation in the humanities across the state.

As part of their strategic priority, in partnership with George Mason University and Fairfax County Public Library, the council interviewed OLLI Executive Director Lisa Mariam about the role of lifelong learning in a healthy democracy, how the 250th anniversary shaped our programming, and why expanding access to history remains central to OLLI's mission. OLLI has received a VA250 Grant from [VA250](#), the American Revolution 250 Commission. The interview was published on December 15, 2025. You can read about the interview at the following link:

<https://virginiahumanities.org/2025/12/revolutionary-ideas-abound-at-olli-mason/>.

Thanks to Gabe Goldberg, one of my colleagues at the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), for forwarding the link to me.

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Looking for Leaders for Hiking, Kayaking, Biking, and Outdoor Adventures!



By Susan Job, Program Associate

Do you love the outdoors and want to help others experience it too? We're looking for volunteers interested in leading active and adventurous outings for our OLLI community. Many members have expressed interest in athletic hikes and excursions. We'd like to introduce activities such as:

- Hiking (3+ miles, varying difficulty)
- Kayaking
- Biking
- Other outdoor adventures!

If you're passionate about the outdoors and would like to lead or help organize these activities, especially as the spring term is approaching, we'd love to hear from you! Your involvement can help us offer challenging and rewarding experiences. Interested? Contact Susan Job at sjob2@gmu.edu to learn more about how to start a club or offer excursions for our OLLI members.

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Wishing all our OLLI members, staff, friends, and family a wonderful

Holiday Season and the happiest of New Years. Best enjoyed on full screen (Right-click on the link below and open in a new window. If you can't right-click, try copying the link [long-press on Mac trackpads] and pasting it into a new tab.)

[AULD LANG SYNE by Sissel - YouTube.](#)

From the Healthcare Advisory Workgroup

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Science, Technology, & Health Program Planning Group Meeting, January 8



By Michele Romano and Suresh Mohla, Co-Chairs

Welcome in the new year in style...with a meeting of the **Science, Technology, and Health Program Planning Group.**

When? Thursday, January 8, 2026.

Where? Zoom only.

How long? One hour.

Why? Why not.



Even if you are not an official member of the group, we would love to have you. See who we are and what we have planned for upcoming sessions. Throw in any thoughts, suggestions and ideas you have. We would love to hear them. We need your input. The link for the meeting will be in the OLLI Daily Schedule email the morning of the 8th.

See you there!

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Something More to Celebrate in 2026



By Camille Hodges, Humanities and Social Sciences/Current Events Program Planning Group Chair

"The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists" was proposed by the UN General Assembly in 2022 as "IYRP 2026." Part of its vision statement recognizes the economic, environmental and social importance of rangelands, and pastoralists as their custodians worldwide, as well as the group commitment to conserving biodiversity.

If you have or a colleague has expertise in this area, please consider teaching a course at OLLI that relates to this important United Nations Resolution.

Here is a link to the course proposal form for your convenience:

<https://olli.gmu.edu/OLLI-course-proposal-form/>. Thank you!

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the previous issue of

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New French Conversation and Happy Hour Club



By Doris Bloch, Program Committee Co-Chair

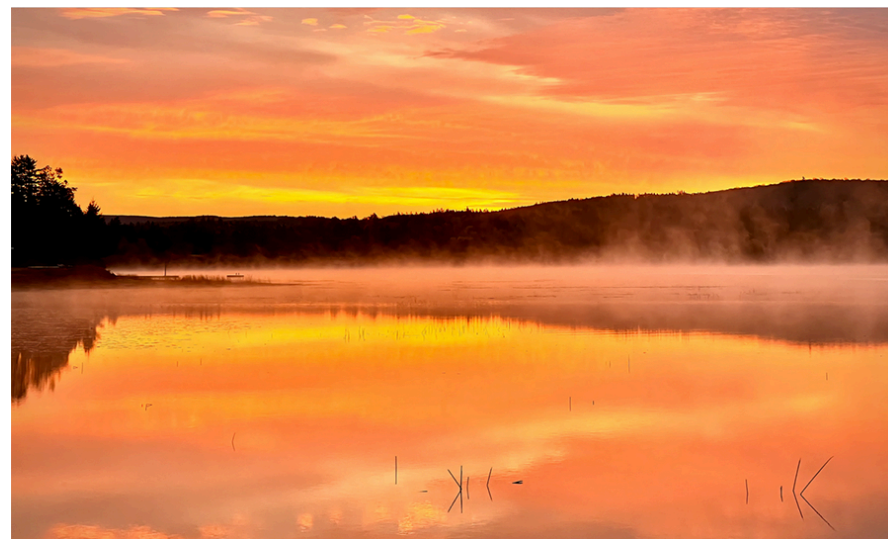
A new club for OLLI, French Conversation and Happy Hour, will meet **January 9 at 4:00** on Zoom! Mental hygiene experts tell us that using our brains in new ways will aid in staving off intellectual decline and OLLI is all for that! The practice of a foreign language is ideal to keep us on our toes.

Anyone interested in starting the new year by brushing up their French conversational skills and stimulating their brain cells is most welcome to join OLLI members in launching this new group. The first meeting will be held on **Friday, January 9 at 4:00** and the zoom link will be in the emailed Daily Schedule for that date. The purpose of the meeting will be to make introductions, confirm the level(s) of proficiency found among the participants (basic or advanced beginner knowledge is fine, but the majority of conversation is likely to be in French), set a few goals for the group, and determine how/when/what will be discussed in any future meetings. (Most of the introductory meeting will not be conducted in French.)

Note that, because the group's meeting time is on a Friday at 4:00, French Happy Hour is encouraged – giving participants an instant theme for discussion. Nothing better than imbibing a beverage from France and a French-style snack and describing the pleasure while we meet.

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Photo of the Month



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Poet's Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop***tell me...**

that is the universe at its most profound depth
 and calm your soul to the absence
 when the sky beckons in the darkest clearest of nights
 if you can reach beyond the sounds of this world

the owl's silent passage at dusk
 the drip of raindrops falling on ferns
 if you can hear the quiver of the hummingbird's wings
 if you can hear the ocean's current in a shell

can you hear the stars?
 then, tell me,

—Jacqueline Davey[Back to Top of Page](#)

Obituary: Richard Owen (Dick) Cheadle

Long-time OLLI member, instructor, and tour guide Dick Cheadle of Burke, Virginia, died December 3; he first joined OLLI in fall of 2005. He was a graduate of the University of Delaware, majoring in history and English.

Dick loved his more than 20 years at OLLI. An avid interest in history led him to teach OLLI classes in history. He led trips to national parks, founded the conversational Spanish club, learned Italian, and shared his love of singing. OLLI friends will remember his spirit and sense of humor.



Cards can be sent to Brenda Cheadle, 8919 Prince Caspian Ct., Burke, VA 22015. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Memorial services will occur at a future date.

More information is available at [this link](#).

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances January 9 through January 25**By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer**[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) has several web sites of performances, talks etc.

[CFA ticket purchase page](#)[Center for the Arts YouTube channel](#)[Hylton ticket purchase page](#)The new <https://masonartsamplified.gmu.edu/>[music.calendar.gmu.edu/](#)[theater.calendar.gmu.edu/](#)[dance.calendar.gmu.edu](#)[masonexhibitions.org/](#)

and if you miss a live performance, there is a pay-per-view for many: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/events/paid-digital-performances>. For tickets for either Center for the Arts Concert Hall (CFA) or Hylton Center, call 1-888-945-2468. You can also buy tickets online through the event calendar (see links above) or visit the venue's box office.

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

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At the Fairfax Campus Venues

US Navy Concert Band

Fri, Jan 9, 8:00

Concert Hall

Admission: Free.

US Navy Band Commodores

Sat, Jan 10, 8:00

Concert Hall

Admission: Free.

[Back to Top of Page](#)**Fairfax Campus Visual Arts**(details can be found at <https://www.masonexhibitions.org/>)**None currently at the Fairfax campus**[Back to Top of Page](#)**Mason Student and Faculty Performances**(see [music.gmu.edu](#) for additional student recitals)**No Performances**[Back to Top of Page](#)**At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)****Jason Isbell Solo Tour 2026**

Thu, Jan 15, 7:30

Merchant Hall

1/2/26, 10:54 AM

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Pied Piper Theatre - Grease

Fri, Jan 16, 7:00
Sat, Jan 17, 7:00
Sun, Jan 18, 2:00
Fri, Jan 23, 7:00
Sat, Jan 24, 7:00
Sun, Jan 25, 2:00
Gregory Family Theater
Admission: \$30 Adult, \$24 Senior.

Dreams of Dance Recital

Sat, Jan 17, 1:30 and 5:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$32.

**Visual Arts: OFFERINGS TO THE POTOMAC
ACKNOWLEDGING INDIGENOUS PLACE**

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

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

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Meetings & Clubs

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

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

Sat Jan 3	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club - online
Mon Jan 5	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? - online
	11:00 am	Poetry Reading Club - online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More - online
Tue Jan 6	10:00 am	History Program Planning Group - online
	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More - online
	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group - online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club - online
Wed Jan 7	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More - online
	1:30 pm	Dabbling Artists Club - online
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group - online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club - online

1/2/26, 10:54 AM

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	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	All the News - online Chair Yoga and More - online Tai Chi Club - online Ethnic Eats Club - online
Fri Jan 9	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 noon 2:30 pm 4:00 pm	Photography Club Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. - online Cooking Club - TBD Chair Yoga and More - online Tallwood Book Club - online French Conversation/Happy Hour - online
Sat Jan 10	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club - online
Mon Jan 12	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? - online
	11:00 am	Poetry Writing Club - online
	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club - online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More - online
Tue Jan 13	2:00 pm	Caregivers Support Group - online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club - online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club - online
Wed Jan 14	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	4:00 pm	Spanish Page Turner Club - online
Thu Jan 15	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News - online Chair Yoga and More - online Tai Chi Club - online
	9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon	Crafts and Conversation Board of Directors Meeting Homer, etc. - online Chair Yoga and More - online
	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Tai Chi Club - online Personal Computer User Group

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About OLLI E-News

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

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel
Associate Editors: David Gundry, Deborah Kruesi

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

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

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

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

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