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	<p>Technical sectors supported by USAID included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture; • Education; • Disaster assistance; • Global health; • Environment and climate; • Gender equality and women's empowerment; • Crisis, conflict, and political instability; • Democracy, governance, and human rights; • Economic Growth. 	
	<p>How did USAID operate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Country/Regional Development Cooperation Strategies-- negotiated with host country and international partners, then approved by the U.S. Embassy. • Contracts and grants competitively awarded to implement approved programs. • Rapid response teams in-place to provide disaster relief. 	<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAID response to a drought in Ethiopia prevented about half as many deaths as occurred in the 1980s. The NYT called USAID's relief efforts "the most successful humanitarian response in history." • In 1992, 27% of children worldwide died before the age of five. In large part due to USAID's health sector leadership (vaccinations, oral rehydration therapy, breast feeding promotion and nutritional support, among other interventions), that percentage has declined to less than 4%. For similar reasons, maternal mortality rates have fallen by half since 2000. • Lancet calculates "USAID programs saved 91 million lives since 2005." • Given destruction of USAID and cancellation of health sector funds, the Barcelona Institute for Global Health & UCLA calculate that "funding cuts to USAID will lead to 34 million more deaths over the next five years, including 4.1 million children under age five."

Photos by Paul Van Hemel, February 9, 2026

Brad Wallach and Jim Bever gave an informative talk on the unfortunate demise of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Tallwood, February 9

February 13, 2026

Editor of the Week: Deborah Kruesi

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Alerts & Notices

- On Monday, February 16th OLLI Mason will be open only for make-up classes. Happy President's Day!
- You should have received a spring catalog. Spring 2026 registration begins February 17 and continues throughout the term (which begins March 23 and ends May 15).
- OLLI Mason guest passes are now available in the main office and as an insert in the spring catalog. Please help us encourage others to try the program.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, February 27; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, February 24, at 6:00.

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OLLI President's Message February 13 Member Survey Reminder



By Deborah Engleson, President

We recently sent everyone an email link to our questionnaire about OLLI Mason programs. If you've already responded, thank you! If you haven't yet responded, there's still time. Your candid feedback will help us keep making your OLLI experience better and better.

[Click here for questionnaire](#) (if you have not yet responded).

Please share your thoughts **by Monday, February 23**. Thank You!

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Tens and Twenties

In the far-left lane catch the red light

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"Mental illness affects us all
Can you help?"
Hope light changes soon

Pretend not to see him hobbling on spindly deformed legs
Do see his intent blue eyes
Imagine smell of his tattered clothes
Why won't this light change

Starts his second pass Looks tired
Face and legs raw from August sun
His cracking lips must hurt Wish I had water

Seems not asking for himself but for mental health
Damn light will never change
Here he comes
Give a few dollars
Can't only have tens and twenties
Where are the fives and ones

Light finally changes Grab for a ten Get a twenty instead
Car in back starts honking Hold your horses

Give him a twenty and vow to avoid this corner
or
Come back from time to time
See how he's doing
With fives and ones and water

–Bill Sinclair

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Computer Club



By [Paul Howard](#), OPCUG Program Chair

3rd Saturday, February 21
Transitioning from Windows to Linux
Additional Program to be Announced

The Computer Club (OLLI Personal Computer User Group, or OPCUG) will meet with its partner, the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), on Saturday, February 21, in

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Transitioning from Windows end-of-life to Linux—Presented by Tom Gutnick

The title really sums it up! My Windows laptop was being obsoleted by Microsoft, but it's been a good, solid device for over ten years, and I preferred repurposing it rather than shelling out for a new system. I'll discuss which flavor of Linux I chose and why, and walk through the steps I took to accomplish the migration. My successful experience may give others the confidence to do the same.

Tom Gutnick has worked in the computer industry for most of his adult life. He started out as a programmer, has managed software development projects and data centers, and has worked as a system performance analyst and cybersecurity analyst. Now, as proprietor of Sunny Banana IT Consulting, he helps small businesses and home offices that don't have their own IT departments harness appropriate technology. He also teaches personal technology at Arlington Community Learning and information technology at Northern Virginia Community College.

See full details on this meeting by [clicking here](#). For information on the Computer Club, see the [OPCUG Website](#). OPCUG dues are \$5 and are now due for 2026 (and 2025, if you didn't get around to paying earlier!)—see <http://olligmu.org/opcug/comm.html> for details on making payment.

To attend via Zoom's cloud meeting service, beginning at 12:45, please click:

82693376813?pwd=TqPi3cvOv0Ab00FhTty1LuahESE2Jb.1

to join the meeting and use passcode 626307. (Note: enter passcode with NO spaces), or enter meeting ID 826 9337 68813 in the Zoom app and use the above passcode (preferred method), or dial in at 301-715-8592.

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Obituary: Richard Thomas Bulova

Former OLLI member Richard Thomas "Dick" Bulova, a longtime resident of Fairfax, VA, and Tampa, FL, died on December 29 in Tampa at the age of 87. He first joined OLLI in the spring of 1996 and was a member as late as 2016.

Born in 1938, Dick grew up in Syracuse, NY. Following service in the Army, he graduated as a physics major from Syracuse University in 1962 and received an ROTC commission in the infantry. After completing a second active-duty tour, he moved to the Washington, DC area. As a Department of the Army project engineer in research and development, he specialized in night vision and countersurveillance. He saw service in Viet Nam. Remaining active in the Army Reserves, he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was appointed to the Army Acquisition Corps and retired as a GS-14 in 1994.

Dick was an eager volunteer of his skills and experience (e.g., serving as a high-school

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He wintered in Tampa for many years before making it his permanent residence with his second wife, Ann-Lis Wiberg.

Previously Dick was married for 31 years to Sharon Bulova, former Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He is survived by two children – David Bulova of Fairfax, VA and Karin Johansson of Seattle, WA – and five grandchildren.

Friends and family are invited to gather to remember him. A memorial will be held at 10:30 on February 21 at the Holy Spirit Old Catholic Church in Safety Harbor, FL. The funeral will be at 11:00 on April 13 at the historic St. Mary of Sorrows church in Fairfax Station, VA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent in his memory to the charity organization "Doctors Without Borders."

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

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances February 13 through March 3



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

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

[CFA ticket purchase page](#)

[Center for the Arts YouTube channel](#)

[Hylton ticket purchase page](#)

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

music.calendar.gmu.edu/

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>

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

Virginia Opera: *Intelligence*

Sat, Feb 14, 7:30

Sun, Feb 15, 2:00

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

Concert Hall

Admission: \$116, \$76, \$45.

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra with Vaughn Wiester

Sat, Feb 28, 8:00

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

Concert Hall

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

Mnozil Brass

Sun, Mar 1, 4:00

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

Concert Hall

Admission: \$60, \$52, \$38.

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Fairfax Campus Visual Arts

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

The Mirage of Ancient Egypt: Exploring Ancient Egypt's Legacy in Popular Culture

Through February 13, 2026

Fenwick Gallery

The Prescription is Home

Through April 18, 2026

Mason Exhibitions, Arlington Campus

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

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

Mason Jazz Festival

Sat, Feb 14, 10:00 to 8:30

Harris Theatre

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Music Faculty Artist Series Recitals in Harris Theatre

Sun, Feb 15, 3:00, Taylor Fleshman (harp), strings, and clarinet
Sun, Feb 15, 7:00, Eunae Ko Han (collaborative piano) and Friends
Sun, Feb 22, 3:00, Christopher Jewell (bassoon) and Friends
Sun, Feb 22, 7:00, Caroline Steiger (horn) and Friends
Sun, Mar 1, 7:00, *Music Across Borders* with Laura Kaufman Mowry (flute)
Admission: Free

Pathos Trio Residency: Pathos Trio Performance

Mon, Feb 16, 8:00
deLaski Performing Arts Bldg, 3001
Admission: Free.

Mason Bands Concert: *Dope*

Tue, Feb 24, 7:30
Concert Hall
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

Mason Jazz Ensemble with Special Guest Vaughn Wiester

Thu, Feb 26, 8:00
Harris Theater
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

Mason Symphony Orchestra Concert: Concerto Competition Winners

Mon, Mar 2, 8:00
Concert Hall
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

University Singers Concert: *Finding Home*

Tue, Mar 3, 8:00
Harris Theater
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

DRUM TAO: *THE BEST*

Sat, Feb 14, 2:00
A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$65, \$56, \$41.

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A family-friendly craft activity will take place in the Jacquemin Family Foundation Hall prior to this performance.
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$24.

Soles of Duende

Sat, Feb 21, 8:00
A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$53, \$46, \$34.

Pablo Sainz-Villegas

Sat, Feb 28, 8:00
A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$55, \$48, \$35.

Washington National Opera Orchestra Featuring the Cafritz Young Artists

Sun, Mar 1, 4:00
A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$71, \$60, \$45.

**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

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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 Feb 14	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Feb 16	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	11:00 am	Poetry Writing Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Feb 17	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Feb 18	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
Thu Feb 19	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Feb 20	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	9:45 am	Board of Directors Meeting
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
Sat Feb 21	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
	1:00 pm	Personal Computer User Group
Mon Feb 23	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	11:00 am	Poetry Reading Club – online
	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Feb 24	10:00 am	Board Blizzard Game Bash
	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Feb 25	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	11:00 am	Hiking Club
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online

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Thu Feb 26	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Feb 27	9:30 am	Photography Club
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	French Conversation and Happy Hour – online
Sat Feb 28	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online

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About OLLI E-News

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

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel

Associate Editors: David Gundry, Deborah Kruesi

Weekly Editor Team: David Gundry, Deborah Kruesi, 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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