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OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
February 20, 2026

Membership Update/ROD Report 7-2-2026			
Membership Type/Purchase	2025	2024	Difference 2025 vs 2024
Annual Memberships - Fall Proc. Winter on going	164	175	-7
Annual Memberships - Private Winter on going	41	52	-9
Total Annual Memberships Purchased	207	227	-20
Introductory Memberships - Winter on going	8	17	-9
Total Memberships purchased	215	244	-29
Current Active Memberships			
	2025	2024	Difference 2025 vs 2024
Annual memberships	672	652	20
Late Memberships	8	17	-9
Lifetime memberships	6	7	-1
Total Active Memberships (Annual, Intro & Lifetime)	686	676	10
Provisional members that renewed Winter on going	36	24	12
Total number of members who had any membership at the calendar year	1101	1078	+23

Photos by Paul Van Hemel, February 20, 2026

Board of Directors Meeting, Tallwood and Hybrid, February 20

February 27, 2026

Editor of the Week: Chitra Mohla

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Alerts & Notices

- You should have received a spring catalog. Spring 2026 registration began February 17 and continues throughout the term (which begins March 23 and ends May 15).
- On March 1, the Hylton Center presents the Washington National Opera (WNO) Orchestra with the Cafritz Young Artists in [Favorite Operatic Moments](#). OLLI Mason members get 50% off two tickets (use coupon code WNOCF50 when selecting seats).
- Due to an unexpected scheduling change the March 5 theatrical concert [Matters of the Heart](#) by three-time Tony Award winner Patti Lupone at George Mason University's Center of the Arts will be rescheduled. Ticket buyers will be contacted directly by the ticket office with additional information. OLLI Mason members can [purchase discounted tickets](#). (Price: \$65; regularly \$85-\$105, Discount Code OLLI).
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, March 13; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00.

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Literature, Language, Theater, and Writing (LLT) Program Planning Group Meets March 5



By Patricia Bangs, LLT Program Planning Group Co-Chair

The Literature, Language, Theater, and Writing (LLT) Program Planning Group will meet **Thursday, March 5** at 10:00 via Zoom to plan our fall 2026 term and beyond.

OLLI Mason members are invited to attend and bring ideas for literature, theater, writing, or language programs, as well as possible resources. This could include individuals you may know who might want to teach or any other thoughts on this popular OLLI program area. In the fall 2026 term, we also seek programs that would celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation.

The meeting Zoom link is <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/95425987068>. It will also appear in the March 5 Daily Schedule.

Thanks to all who can come. See you on March 5.

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History Club



By Doug Snoeyenbos, History Club Coordinator

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Jim Anderson has graciously agreed to present on *The Great Locomotive Chase*, a thrilling tale of bold Civil War raiders. In the spring of 1862, Union special operatives went behind the confederate lines and stole a locomotive, seeking to sabotage the Confederates' vital single-track rail line between Atlanta and Chattanooga. Although the raid was ultimately unsuccessful, the raiders were awarded the newly-created Medal of Honor.



Jim Anderson is a historian and lecturer, and a 30-year veteran of the CIA. He has led tours of Civil War battlefields, and lectured for OLLI, the Cosmos Club, and several local Civil War Roundtables.

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PATACS Donation to OLLI Mason Fund



**By Paul Howard , OPCUG Program Chair
Former President of OLLI and President, PATACS**

Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society's (PATACS) relationship with OLLI is demonstrably a long-term, mutually beneficial association. Chuck Roberts, Bill Walsh and Paul Howard began that partnership in February of 2007, teaching two sessions on computer security in three OLLI classes offered in conjunction with Vee Johnson of Fairfax County's Consumer Affairs organization.



This relationship has continued with PATACS members Roger Fujii, Mel Mikosinski, John Krout, and others who have joined OLLI's AV Support Committee, helping OLLI with a variety of technical challenges, including email issues consulting, computer configuration and repair, researching and implementing videoconferencing, LAN/router and WiFi installation for OLLI, and most recently, the implementation of hybrid classrooms.

PATACS members Bill Walsh and Nick Wenri were referred to OLLI, were employed in staff positions as site assistants, and have continued to take fill-in slots as needed.

This January marked the beginning of the eighteenth year of PATACS' joint meetings with OPCUG, offering more than twenty presentations and two troubleshooting clinics a year to attendees of both organizations. Annual attendance at these meetings has been around 500 people per year (488 in 2025). Currently 14 of PATACS' 70 members are also OLLI members (as of February 2026). Several other PATACS members were formerly OLLI members.

Today (February 21), we're pleased to present a check for \$500 to the *OLLI* Mason Fund in appreciation for this partnership, financial support of which now totals \$6050, as well as equipment donations of \$358.

In keeping with the suggestion made at the 2015 ceremony by OLLI's then Development Committee chair, Lesley Bubenhofer, PATACS requests that the "OLLI Mason Fund" use this donation for support of AV equipment, hybrid technology including Zoom, and facility requirements for the classroom used for OPCUG/PATACS joint meetings.

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Photo of the Month

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The January 2026 Photo of the Month theme was Open. We selected Bob Kelberg's photo "Wine Glass at Portuguese Hotel," which may also be viewed at [this page](#). To view other photos by members of the Photography Club, visit the club's photo [website](#).

-- By John Olsen and Lynne Cline, Photography Club Coordinators

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Member Achievement



New Book: *Passages: Life of Challenge and Service*



By Dell Pendergrast, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Retired

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memoir of stories and reflections about Dell Pendergrast's journey from origins in the Midwest to a Foreign Service career centered on Eastern Europe and its evolution to independence from Moscow. After retirement from the government, Dell was director of a private scholarship program for young Americans in Ireland followed by 30 performances on stage with community theaters across the Washington D.C. area.

The book is available on Amazon at this [link](#).

Dell is also a regular contributor to *OLLI Ink* and an active member of the Writer's Workshop.

About the Author

Dell Pendergrast grew up in the Chicago area and graduated from Northwestern University in 1963. He received a Master's degree in Mass Communication Research from Boston University and entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1965. In a 32-year career Dell served in six overseas posts—Belgrade, Zagreb, Saigon, Warsaw, Brussels, and Ottawa—along with Washington DC positions. After retirement as a senior foreign service officer, he joined the non-profit US-Ireland Alliance directing the George Mitchell Scholarships for six years. Dell married Tula Rembe in 1963, and they had two sons, Mark and Kevin.

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Life of Challenge and Service



Dell Pendergrast

Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

How It Starts

soft, slight
like a baby's hiccup
a raindrop flicked a window pane
the sound was tentative, maybe incidental, perhaps imaginary
so I listened

Silence

the furnace kicked in with a swoosh
like a white-capped wave
kissing the welcoming sand
then, a cluster of erratic taps
syncopation in the dark, moonless night

a streak of lightning
threw ungainly shadows
against my 3:20 a.m. bedroom wall
an explosion of thunder shook the house
as an orchestra of nimbus clouds
elegantly started to perform
Beethoven's Ninth
on my humble roof

- Nancy Coffey

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Obituary: William Ronald Campbell



Former OLLI member William Ron Campbell, Jr., who joined OLLI in 2004, died on February 3, 2026, at the age of 86. Ron graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1961 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps beginning a distinguished military career, culminating in his retirement with the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1982. He also received a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Ron's distinguished military career began with duty in Okinawa, Japan, and included assignments at Quantico, Virginia; Pascagoula, Mississippi where he served as the assistant air operations officer on the USS Tarawa; Coronado, California where he was assigned as the flight operations officer on the USS Tarawa, and Kailua, Hawaii, as the Commanding Officer of HMM-262 at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station in Hawaii until his retirement in 1982.

After his military duty, Ron worked in various management contracting roles until retirement in 2003. At OLLI, he enjoyed classes on history and singing for fun.

A funeral service was held on February 20, at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Burke, VA. Donations may be made in Ron's memory to [The Church of the Good Shepherd](#) or [Young Marines](#). More information is available at [this link](#).

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For the Love of Music



By Linda H. Harber, Friends of Music at Mason Co-President

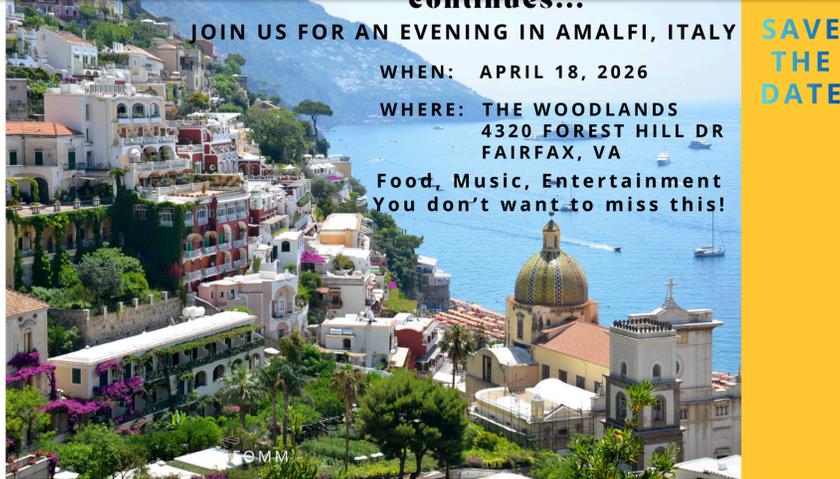
For all music lovers, please mark your calendars for this upcoming Friends of Music at Mason (FOMM) Evening in Amalfi on April 18th. You reserve a ticket which costs \$85 and covers a lovely dinner and a donation to Mason Music student scholarships. For more information, please [email](#) me. After the dinner event, the group will move to the music room, where there will be live music fitting with the evening's theme.

Anyone can be a Friend of Music at Mason with any size gift (attending this event makes you a friend). Our wonderful students also appreciate having a supportive audience for their concerts and recitals.

Also, please check the [Dewberry School of Music](#) program calendar to see the wonderful concerts and recitals coming this semester. The Sunday Faculty Concert series has already started and all of those programs are free! And there are so many other exciting programs and recitals—jazz, symphony, band, choral, opera—so many types of music to love!

Hope to see you there!

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances February 28 through March 22



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

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://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>. 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

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.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Patti LuPone: *Matters of the Heart*

Thu, Mar 5*, 7:30

Concert Hall

Admission: \$105, \$85, \$64.

*Due to an unexpected scheduling change the March 5 performance will be rescheduled.

Ticket buyers will be contacted directly by the ticket office with additional information.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Demarre McGill

Sat, Mar 7, 8:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$75, \$64, \$54.

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: *Mozart and Friends—Beethoven, Haydn, and Clementi*

Sun, Mar 15, 7:00

Concert Hall

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

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Fairfax Campus Visual Arts

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

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)

Music Faculty Artist Series Recitals in Harris Theatre

Sun Mar 1, 7:00, Music Across Borders with Laura Kaufman Mowry (flute)

Harris Theater

Admission: Free and Open to the Public.

Mason Symphony Orchestra Concert: Concerto Competition Winners

Mon, Mar 2, 8:00

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)**University Singers Concert: *Finding Home***

Tue, Mar 3, 8:00

Harris Theater

Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

[Back to Top of Page](#)**At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)****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.

Lucy Kalantari & the Jazz Cats

Sat, Mar 7, 11:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$24.

Nicole Zuraitis

Sat, Mar 7, 5:00 and 8:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$35.

Manassas Symphony Orchestra: *Sonic America* with Melanie Young, harp

Sat, Mar 7, 7:30

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$35.

Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy and The Celtic All Stars

Sun, Mar 8, 4:00

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

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$65, \$56, \$41.

Manassas Ballet Theatre: *Les Sylphides and More!*

Fri, Mar 13, 7:30

Sat, Mar 14, 7:30

Sun, Mar 15, 3:00

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$81, \$71, \$60, \$50.

Prince William Little Theatre: *Head Over Heels*[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Sun, Mar 15, 2:00

Fri, Mar 20, 8:00

Sat, Mar 21, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, Mar 22, 2:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$35 Adult, \$29 Senior.

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

February 24 - May 15, 2026

Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery, Manassas Campus

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

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. The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members.*

Sat Feb 28	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Mar 2	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 Mar 3	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Mar 4	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
	4:00 pm	History Club – online
Thu Mar 5	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	6:00 pm	Ethnic Eats Club – online

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	11:00 am 12:00 noon	Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online	
Sat Mar 7	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online	
Mon Mar 9	9:30 am 9:30 am 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Poetry Writing Club – online Family History/Genealogy Club – online Chair Yoga and More – online	
Tue Mar 10	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Wed Mar 11	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 noon 4:00 pm	Board Game Club Bridge Club Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Spanish Page Turner Club – online	
Thu Mar 12	11:30 am 11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	Eat, Drink, and Be Irish All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Fri Mar 13	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 Chair Yoga and More – online Tallwood Book Club – online French Conversation and Happy Hour – online	
Sat Mar 14	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: ollienewseditor@gmail.com.

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

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

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