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Photos by Paul Van Hemel, March 19, 2026

A Large Group of Members Enjoyed the Spring Term Kick-Off Coffee at Tallwood, March 19, 2026

March 27, 2026

Editor of the Week: Paul Van Hemel

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Alerts & Notices

- Spring term 2026 is under way and ends May 15.
- Remember to check the [catalog updates list](#) on the OLLI website.
- Note that two of the canceled Reston classes (808R and 812R) are available in Fairfax ([801F](#) and [802F](#)).
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, April 3; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, March 31, at 6:00.

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Board of Directors Election 2026



By Robert Heyer, Nominating Committee Chair

The OLLI Board of Directors consists of 15 members who address many issues to keep OLLI vibrant and provide value to members through of classes, clubs, and many activities. Each year 5 candidates are elected for a 3-year term on the Board. Candidates are identified by an OLLI Nomination Committee consisting of two Board members and three OLLI members. This year the committee consists of Bob Heyer (Chair) and Toni Acton who are current Board members, plus Doris Bloch, Kathryn McGeehan, and Tom McDonald, who are OLLI members.

This year the Board of Directors tasked the Nomination Committee with guidance to locate five potential OLLI members who have experience in:

- Business development including fund raising
- Marketing
- Legal affairs, particularly with non-profit organizations
- Financial management of non-profit organizations

The committee has recommended to the Board the following candidates who have demonstrated one or more of these skills. Their resumes are available on the OLLI website.

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If you are an OLLI member who has experience in one or more of these areas and you would like to be on the ballot, you are required to obtain signatures from at least 5% of the OLLI membership and submit a request to the committee by April 15.

Voting by the OLLI membership will begin after the OLLI annual business meeting on May 1st and continue for 2 weeks.

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OLLI Volunteers for Library Event?



By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director

Every year, the Fairfax County Public Library hosts a [Fix-It Clinic](#). People who are skilled in various types of repairs are invited to help customers at no charge. In the past, these included jewelry and bike repair, fabric mending, and knife sharpening.

Are you interested in being part of this event as "fixers?" If you scroll down the Fix-It Clinic page (when you click on the link in the previous paragraph), you will see the list of participating branches and the volunteers (or fixers) needed at each location.

Thank you.

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TO YOUR HEALTH....

The leading cause of death in America is still heart disease. Roughly 703,000 people died of this in 2024. Symptoms of a heart attack are different in men and women: [Heart Attack Warning Signs](#). Be aware. Seek help immediately and work with your doctor to prevent heart disease.

From the Healthcare Advisory Workgroup

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New Excursion Added! Tour of the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond



By Gay Alper, Trip Coordinator

A new excursion has been added for May. Details are below:

When: Thursday, **May 21, 2026** at 9:00

What: Bus trip for a tour of the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond

Coordinator: Gay Alper

Limit: 30

Fee: \$87, includes bus, driver tip, and museum admission

Note: You must register for the excursion by April 30.

The bus will leave promptly at 9:00 from the Fairfax Swimming Pool parking lot (4200 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA)—approximate travel time 1 1/2 hours.

On arrival we will visit the Dimensions in Testimony theater and hear the story of a Holocaust survivor. Participants can ask questions to her "hologram" which is a pre-recorded video interview, made to look 3D.



We will break for lunch in a room at the museum. *Participants must pre-order and pre-pay online at the designated restaurant's website for lunch, which will be delivered to the lunchroom from a nearby restaurant.* (Registrants will be contacted with details by the coordinator prior to the excursion.)

We will then view a short video and meet Rena Berlin, currently a museum docent. Rena Berlin

The bus will depart the museum at approximately 3:30 for the return to Tallwood.

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Hiking Club News!



By Kathy Rones, Hiking Club Coordinator

The newly-formed OLLI Hiking Club invites all interested OLLI members to join us on a 3.5-mile hike from Riverbend Park in Great Falls, VA to Great Falls Park and the overlook of the Falls and back, on Wednesday, April 22, starting at 10:00. The trail along the Potomac is generally flat and it is an easy ambling walk with a few sections of walking through rocks. I have included photos so you can see the terrain in those few spots.



If you would like to join this hike, please send an email to kathyrones42@gmail.com. We can self-drive or carpool.

Looking ahead, we are planning to hike the Stony Man trail in Shenandoah national Park in early May.

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Photo of the Month



The March 2026 Photo of the Month theme was Portraiture. We selected John Olsen's compelling photo of a fellow member of the Photography Club, Robert Kelberg, 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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History Club



By Doug Snoeyenbos, History Club Coordinator

The History Club will meet on Wednesday, April 1, at 4:00, on Zoom. The presenter will be David

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typically portrayed in a favorable light. This is in contrast to the late 20th Century, when Sparta was not regarded so favorably, and Sparta's traditional enemy, Athens was pointed to as an ancient analog to the United States. This month's talk will explore the reality of ancient Sparta and try to peel away the layers of myth that obscure that reality.



David Timko has a master's degree in Ancient History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and studied for his PhD. He is recently retired after 22 years with the federal government as an analyst, and resides in Northern Virginia.

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Swedish Death Cleaning

Swedish Death Cleaning, that sounds fun!
Declutter now before life's done!

So, what's first to be ejected
from the mountains I've collected?

Kids grown, long out the door
don't need baby teeth anymore

Still ... they'd make a cute collage
add teething rings and decoupage

Perhaps oust popsicle-stick people, I've three.
Wait! Could they be hung on the Christmas tree?

Are twist ties clogging the junk drawer?
They've hundreds of uses – maybe more!

Tax filings, receipts, bank statements spanning years
All proof to show we're not in arrears

Recycling, regifting – the death cleaner's friends
Don't regift the gifter – you'll be making amends

Is every saved card a true treasure

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How much of what's not tossed
is kept to cushion a painful loss?

Can saying loved ones' names be enough
to carry what's dear without all the stuff?

–Susan Rexroad

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Obituary: Katherine Rowan

OLLI member and retired Mason Professor Emerita Dr. Katherine Rowan, wife of OLLI member Bob Baker, died at home on February 27. Kathy received her bachelor's degree in English in 1975 and her PhD from the University of Illinois. She served with distinction as a member of the Mason Department of Communication for 20 years, where she retired in 2020.



At Mason, Kathy's highly received teaching shaped skills in public relations, science communication, and crisis communication for many students who will miss her welcome challenges. She also contributed research that addressed climate change, environmental policy, and infectious disease preparedness, and published articles in leading scientific publications, earning the respect of her colleagues. She was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. At OLLI, her professional and personal achievements received well-deserved recognition among the membership.

A private funeral was held on March 11 at Fairfax Memorial Park. The Mason Communication Department is working with her family to plan a campus Celebration of Life, with details to be announced. Her legacy will endure in the memories of the students she mentored, the colleagues she supported, and the community she helped build.

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Mason Jazz Events in April

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

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Mason welcomes OLLI members and guests to our spring jazz events. There are several exciting events coming up that you won't want to miss! One event coming up this month, announced in the last issue of E-News, is the Big Band Showdown March 30 at 8:00, in the Center for the Arts (click here for more information).

Addressed immediately below are three other events of interest in early April. Two more events in the last couple of weeks in April will be announced in a subsequent issue of E-News.

+++++

Jazz Combos | Braddock Road Brass Band
(Directors, Wade Beach and Graham Breedlove)

Monday, April 6, at 8:00
Harris Theatre | Free and open to the public

Join us for an evening of music from Bud Powell, Hank Mobley, Weather Report, Casiopeia, The Messthetics, Snarky Puppy, Freddie Hubbard, Stevie Wonder, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, and more!



+++++



Mason Jazz Vocal Night
(Directors, Dr. Darden Purcell and Dr. CJ Redden-Liotta)

Monday, April 13 at 8:00
Center for the Arts
Join Darden Purcell, the Jazz Voice Studio, and the DOWNBEAT award-winning Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble for an unforgettable evening featuring swinging jazz standards, Latin American songs, contemporary classics, and beloved hits from the Great American Songbook. Special guests include the Falls Church High School Jazzguars (directed by Dr. CJ Redden-Liotta) and George Mason alumni vocal supergroup **BLOOM!**

Tickets: \$19 General Public, \$14 Senior, \$9 Student | Prices include fees.
TICKETS: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-jazz-vocal-night-spring-2026>

+++++

Jazz Workshop
(Director, John Kocur)

Wednesday, April 15 at 8:00
Harris Theatre | Free and open to the public

In their spring 2026 concert, the Jazz Workshop highlights the depth and breadth

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Bill Fulton, Mark Taylor and Mike Kamuf provide updated arrangements of original compositions by jazz greats Wayne Shorter and Freddie Hubbard. The group will also perform contemporary compositions by Jim Cifelli, Richie Iacona, and Brandon Woody. Directed by Prof. John Kocur, the Jazz Workshop explores the intersection of improvisation and composition in an innovative large jazz ensemble.



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Arts & Music at George Mason
Performances March 27 through May 15



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://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

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Center for the Arts
Admission: \$95, \$75, \$64, \$54, \$44.

[Back to Top of Page](#)**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

Living the Prescription

Through May 8, 2026
Founders Gallery, Arlington Campus

[Back to Top of Page](#)**Mason Student and Faculty Performances**(see music.gmu.edu for additional student recitals)**George Mason School of Theater: *Pipeline***

Fri, Mar 27, 7:30
Sat, Mar 28, 2:00 and 7:30
Sun, Mar 29, 2:00
Harris Theatre
Admission: \$40 Adult, \$19 Senior.

2026 Mason Dance Company Gala Concert

Fri, Mar 27, 2:00 and 8:00
Sat, Mar 28, 8:00
Center for the Arts
Admission: \$35 Adult, \$19 Senior.

Jazz Big Band Showdown

Mon, Mar 30, 8:00
Center for the Arts
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

International Week 2026 Dance Competition

Thu, Apr 2, 7:00
Center for the Arts
Admission: \$5.

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Mon, Apr 6, 8:00
Harris Theatre
Admission: Free and Open to the Public.

Mason Jazz Vocal Night

Mon, Apr 13, 8:00
Center for the Arts
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

[Back to Top of Page](#)**At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)****Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: *Music of Joy and Peace***

Sun, Mar 29, 2:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$60, \$52, \$38.

Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra: *Mozart, Saint-Georges, and Beethoven: Masters in Motion*

Sun, Mar 29, 3:00
Gregory Family Theater
Admission: \$30 Adult, \$27 Senior.

Chorale Broadway Showcase: *Bright Lights, Big City: Broadway Beginnings and NYC Dreams*

Fri, Mar 27, 8:00
Sat, Mar 28, 2:00
Hylton Center, Gregory Family Theater
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

Aquila Theatre: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Sat, Apr 4, 4:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: \$55, \$48, \$35.

VISUAL ARTS***Fountain of Truth***

Through April 11, 2026
Hylton Performing Arts Center

***Offerings to the Potomac:
Acknowledging Indigenous Place***

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

Sat Mar 28	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Mar 30	9:30 am 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Mar 31	2:00 pm 3:45 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Caregivers Support Group – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Apr 1	11:50 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club OLLI Artists Club Memoir and More Writing Group – online History Club – online Spanish Club – online
Thu Apr 2	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Apr 3	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Game On: Talking Sports Club – online

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	2:00 pm	Classic Literature Club – online
Sat Apr 4	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Apr 6	9:30 am 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? Family History/Genealogy Club – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Apr 7	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Apr 8	11:50 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 4:00 pm	Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club Spanish Page Turner Club – online
Thu Apr 9	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Apr 10	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm 2:30 pm 4:00 pm	Photography Club Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Cooking Club Chair Yoga and More – online Classic Literature Club – online Tallwood Book Club – online French Club and Happy Hour Club – online
Sat Apr 11	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.

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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.

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