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G-numbers, facility management, and select events such as the facility picnic and teacher appreciation. She is joining the team on April 20. Please stop by the office to welcome her!

Lisette brings over 25 years of nonprofit leadership experience, including serving as a CEO and COO for mission-driven organizations in the DC region. She specializes in operations, team development, and aligning systems to support strong, engaged communities. She is delighted to join OLLI Mason and contribute to its vibrant learning community.



#### **Kim Rotondo, Communications Associate:**

Kim is taking over as communications associate as Nancy Klein prepares to retire. Kim's first day at OLLI Mason is May 4. The communications associate is responsible for planning, creating, and implementing communication and marketing strategies that promote OLLI Mason programs, events, and membership. Kim will coordinate digital and print marketing, manage content across multiple platforms, and support outreach initiatives.



Kim brings a background in communications, marketing and community outreach to her role as communications associate. Kim has extensive experience developing digital content, coordinating events, and managing multi-channel communications to engage diverse audiences. She previously owned a small business, leading marketing communications, promotional campaigns, and community engagement initiatives. Kim is an active member of the Northern Virginia Alliance League. Earlier in her career, she worked in research and project management roles supporting federal programs through outreach, data collection, and reporting.

Please have patience as these people complete training and transition to their new roles.

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## **Farewell to Nancy Klein**



**By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director**

Nancy Klein has announced her retirement as of May 2026. Nancy joined OLLI Mason in August 2018 and has been a valued member of the team for more than seven years. She initially served as a site assistant and then worked as the program and communications associate. In 2024, she transitioned to working remotely from North Carolina as the communications associate.

Throughout her tenure, Nancy has been a steady and reliable presence behind the scenes,

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catalog, contributing her expertise and attention to detail.

In her role as communications associate, Nancy collaborated closely with the Outreach Committee and the Member Survey Working Group. OLLI is especially grateful for her recent accomplishments, including updating the Member and Instructor Handbooks, revitalizing the OLLI Mason Fund campaign, and leading marketing efforts for the OLLI Ideas Festival.

OLLI Mason deeply appreciates Nancy's dedication, professionalism, and camaraderie over her 7½ years of service. She will be greatly missed, and we extend our warmest wishes as she embarks on her next chapter.

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Are you or a loved one thinking about downsizing, relocating to an adult community, or changing level of care? THE POSITIVE AGING SOURCEBOOK is a good place to start. Click on the link to order your free copy of the:

[Positive Aging Sourcebook \(All Maryland - Virginia - DC\).](#)

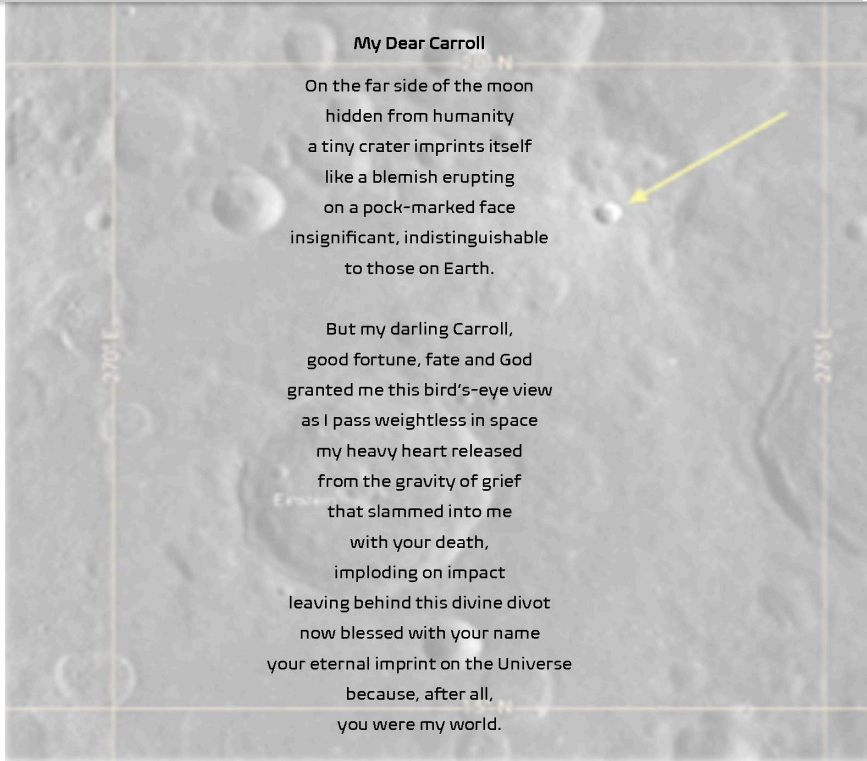
**You can also pick one up in the OLLI Café at Tallwood.**

From the Healthcare Advisory Workgroup

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## **Poet's Corner**

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

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Original poem by Lisa Szymanski 4/8/26. This image is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#) license.

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## Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Hmm . . . , I had 35 students registered for my class, but only 10 of them showed up. Where was everyone? I was very disappointed to see so few students when I expected closer to the numbers who had registered. I researched, planned, and prepared for months leading up to my class, so that added to my frustration. I heard that some members register for multiple classes that are scheduled at the same time. And then they decide at the last minute which class they'll actually attend. And I've also heard that they go in and out of classes as they please to other classes that

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mean to be discourteous, but I guess some members simply don't think about us instructors who volunteer our time and effort into providing such great classes. I wonder if I should continue volunteering to teach if this is what I should expect.

OLLI members, please be respectful of our wonderful volunteer instructors. Thank you so much!

**Shannon Kim Morrow**, Lead Program Associate

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## Obituary: Martha Ellen Kossoff

Martha Kossoff, who joined OLLI in 2020, died April 6, 2026, at the age of 74. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of North Carolina (UNC) and continued there to obtain a Master's degree in school psychology. She worked nearly 40 years as workforce development program developer at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale.

Martha's commitment to education and lifelong learning is reflected in her OLLI membership. At OLLI Mason, she also volunteered as a proofreader for the *OLLI E-News*. Devoted to her family, she took joy in the next generation.

A memorial service will be held at City Funeral Home, 308 Lindsey Street in Reidsville, North Carolina, on Saturday, May 2nd at 11:00.

A second service will be held at Martha's church, Foundry Methodist, 1500 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC, on June 7th at a time to be determined.

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

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## An Upcoming Potpourri of Theater Opportunities

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You have heard that “Variety is the spice of life.” The upcoming theater events the Theater Lovers’ Group (TLG) is offering to its members, as well as to all OLLI members, in the next several months certainly adheres to that notion.



#### Broadway Bound

TLG members and guests are off to the Big Apple for a do-your-own-thing overnight motorcoach trip, leaving on Tuesday, November 17 and returning on Wednesday, November 18. Here’s your chance to catch a Broadway play or two, visit museums, enjoy a Radio City Music Hall performance, shop for the holidays, sightsee, etc. Kim and Trevor will help you purchase tickets and plan your trip. We’ll stay at Marriott Marquis Times Square. The trip costs \$548 for a double; plus \$178 for a single. To sign up for the trip and for more information, email me at [njreck@cs.com](mailto:njreck@cs.com).

#### Little Women: The Musical

This classic, which features the loveable March family girls growing up during the Civil War, will be performed at the Creative Cauldron on Sunday, May 17 at 2pm. To select your seat and purchase tickets at senior rates, go to [creativecauldron.org](http://creativecauldron.org) or phone 703-436-9948. Please email me that you will be joining TLG. Optional dinner after the show TBD.

#### Pippin: The Musical

Pippin will be performed in the round at Signature Theater on Saturday, June 20 at 2pm. The show follows Pippin, Charlemagne’s restless heir, on his many forays as he searches for a purpose in life and greatness. What does it mean to be extraordinary? To select your seat and ticket price range, go to [sigtheatre.org](http://sigtheatre.org) or phone 703-820-9771. Military discount is available. Email me that you will be joining TLG. Optional dinner after the show TBD.

#### Theater Festival, Opera, and more

TLG offers a wide variety of theatrical activities, such as tours, lunches, and other cultural pursuits. To receive all emails about all TLG activities, go online to OLLI’s member portal and sign up for Theater Lovers’ Group.

*Editor’s Note: At the author’s request, all words are published unedited, exactly as submitted.*

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## Come For The BBQ, Stay for the Fun: OLLI’s Garden & Picnic Party

By Marilyn Harriman

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Don’t miss OLLI’s biggest spring get-together—an afternoon of great food, easy conversation, and outdoor fun. If you haven’t registered yet, now’s the time!

Join us for our annual Garden and Picnic Party (event #1102F). Register online or with our registrar, Peg. Please bring a potluck side dish to share—and enjoy Red, Hot and Blue BBQ, provided by the OLLI staff.

The Event begins at 11:30 (note the time change from the catalog), immediately following our annual business meeting in TA-1.

Potluck: what to bring (please bring an item that serves four people, based on your last name)

- Last name A–H: grains, potatoes, rice, beans, vegetables
- Last name I–R: a salad (fruit, lettuce, or vegetable)
- Last name S–Z: a dessert

Along with your dish, bring a serving utensil and label it with a small sign listing key ingredients (for example, “chocolate cake with walnuts”).

Location: Please place potluck items on the tables in the Annex classroom (adjacent to the main office). Beverages will be available in the OLLI Café.

Dining will be at picnic tables on the breezeway, in the lower parking lot, and in TA-1. If the weather doesn’t cooperate, we’ll set up inside in TA-1, TA-3, and TA-2.

Lawn Games—including Cornhole, Croquet, and Badminton—will be set up in OLLI’s backyard behind the lower parking lot.

The Garden Party & Picnic is always a spring favorite at OLLI—come celebrate the season with us. Register today, bring your favorite dish to share, and plan to stay for a fun, festive afternoon!

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## Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances April 24 through May 4



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/](https://music.calendar.gmu.edu/)

[theater.calendar.gmu.edu/](https://theater.calendar.gmu.edu/)

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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

#### **The Center Will Not Hold**

Sat, May 2, 8:00

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

Center for the Arts

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

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### Fairfax and Arlington Campuses Visual Arts

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

#### **Voices Held in Earth: Mary Bowron's Silent Witnesses**

Through April 24, 2026

School of Art & Design 1st Floor Lobby

Fairfax Campus

#### **Living the Prescription**

Through May 8, 2026

Founders Gallery, Arlington Campus

#### **Pulp Translations: Paperworks from George Mason MFA Alumni**

Through June 26, 2026

Fenwick Gallery

Fairfax Campus

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### Mason Student and Faculty Performances

(see [music.gmu.edu](https://music.gmu.edu) for additional student recitals)

#### **Mason Opera: Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Telephone* and *The Old Maid and the Thief***

Fri, Apr 24, 8:00

Sat, Apr 25, 2:00 and 8:00

Sun, Apr 26, 3:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: \$25 Adult, \$15 Senior.

#### **Special Event: Doug Varone and Dancers**

Sat, Apr 25, 8:00

A pre-performance discussion with Artistic Director Doug Varone, moderated by George Mason University School of Dance Director Susan Shields, begins one hour prior to the performance.

Center for the Arts

Admission: Free, but tickets are required.

#### **Groove Theory A Capella Concert**

Mon, Apr 27, 8:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, 3001, de Laski Rehearsal Room

Admission: Free.

#### **Guitar Ensemble Concert**

Tue, Apr 28, 6:30

deLaski Performing Arts Building, A323

Admission: Free.

#### **Mason Chorus Concert: *Echoes of a Nation: 250 Years in Memory and Song***

Tue, Apr 28, 8:00

Center for the Arts

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

#### **Piano Chamber Ensemble**

Wed, Apr 29, 5:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, A323

Admission: Free.

#### **Dewberry School of Music: International Jazz Day Concert 2026**

Thu, Apr 30, 8:00

Center for the Arts

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

#### **Mason Electronic Music Ensemble (MEME) Concert**

Fri, May 1, 8:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, 3001

Admission: Free.

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Sat, May 2, 7:00  
Harris Theatre  
Admission: \$19 Adult, \$14 Senior.

**Musical Theater Ensemble: *Songs for a New World***

Fri, May 1, 7:30  
Sat, May 2, 2:00 and 7:30  
deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace  
Admission: Pay what you can.

**Dewberry School of Music, Mason Symphony Orchestra Concert: Concerto Competition Winners Spring 2026**

Sun, May 3, 7:00  
Center for the Arts  
Admission: \$24 Adult, \$19 Senior.

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**At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)**

**Hylton Performing Arts Center 16th Anniversary Gala 2026**

Sat, Apr 25, 6:00 Reception, Didlake Grand Foyer  
7:00 Dinner and Program, Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$350 (includes cocktail reception and dinner).

**Manassas Symphony Orchestra, Classical Tradition with Lisa Tyler, Piano**

Fri, May 1, 7:30  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$35 adult; \$30 group (10+).

**Manassas Symphony Orchestra, German Masters with Andrew Sords, Violin**

Sat, May 2, 7:30  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$35 adult; \$30 group (10+).

**Virginia National Ballet: *Life in the Fast Lane***

Sun, May 3, 3:00  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$55; \$50; \$45; \$40; \$35.

**Dance Academy of Loudoun**

Sun, May 3, 4:00  
Gregory Family Theater  
Admission: \$50.

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**VISUAL ARTS**

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

Through May 15, 2026  
Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery, Manassas Campus

**Kevin Jones: *Reflections in Black and White***

Buchanan Partners Art Gallery  
Hylton Performing Arts Center  
Through June 20, 10:00

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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 Apr 25	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Apr 27	9:30 am 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Apr 28	2:00 pm 3:45 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Caregivers Support Group – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Apr 29	11:50 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm	Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club

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Thu Apr 30	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	All the News Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online Ethnic Eats Club – online	
Fri May 1	10:00 am 1:00 pm	<b>Annual Meeting</b> Annual Garden Party and Picnic	
Sat May 2	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online	
Mon May 4	9:30 am 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Family History/Genealogy Club – online Chair Yoga and More – online	
Tue May 5	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Wed May 6	11:50 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club History Club – online Spanish Club – online	
Thu May 7	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Fri May 8	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation	
Sat May 9	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: Chloe DiStaso, David Gundry, Deborah Kruesi, Chitra Mohla, John Nash, Paul Van Hemel

Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Thomas Appich, 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](mailto:ollinewseditor@gmail.com).

**Deadline:** Tuesday, 6:00, for that week's issue (Monday, 6:00, for letters to the editor); early submissions are

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Site or put your search term in Google followed by "site:olli.gmu.edu/" without the quotes.

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