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Photos by Paul Van Hemel, April 24, 2026

**Dr. J.P. Singh, Schar School of Policy and Government,  
Presented the Inaugural Distinguished Professor Lecture:  
Global Cultural and Technology Flows—Tallwood, April 24**

## May 1, 2026

Editor of the Week: John Nash

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### Alerts & Notices

- Voting for election of five members to the Board of Directors starts after today's OLLI annual business meeting and continues for two weeks. Candidate statements are available on the website at this [link](#).
- Note the new start time of 11:30 for the annual garden party and picnic at Tallwood, Event 1102F. Register at the [member portal](#).
- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, May 8; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, May 5, at 6:00.

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### From the Desk of the Executive Director

## OLLI Members Are Welcome at OLLI Ideas Festival, May 8-9



*By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director*

You are likely aware that we will host our very first OLLI Ideas Festival at Tallwood on May 8–9, 2026. It's a free, two-day open-house event to inspire continued learning and connection in our adult community. The event will feature sample classes, clubs, demonstrations, and activities to showcase the OLLI experience.

The festival will close with a panel discussion, "Global Perspectives on Longevity," on Saturday, May 9 at 3:00, featuring experts from Mason. You are welcome to stop by for one session, one day, or both days. Bring a picnic lunch or order lunch from food trucks on site.

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interested in exploring new passions and connecting with others. Flyers are available at the main office.

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## Successful First Event for OLLI Hiking Club



By **Kathy Rones**, *OLLI Hiking Club Coordinator*

Six intrepid OLLI members braved raindrops and a few rock scrambles to hike on April 22 from Riverbend Park to Great Falls Park, and back. It was 4 miles total. We had lovely views of the Potomac River - the serene section at Riverbend, the spillway, the old canal portion, and of course the Great Falls. We saw some blooming wildflowers and lots of greenery all along the hike. We heard pileated woodpeckers, saw Canada geese, black vultures (with distinctive white tips on the underside of their large wings), and other wildlife.

If you are interested in joining us on future hikes, please register for this club. In the meantime, you can send an email to [kathyrones42@gmail.com](mailto:kathyrones42@gmail.com) and I will include you on emails about new hikes. In May, we will go to Shenandoah National Park for a day of hiking.



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## It's a Win-Win-Win-Win Situation

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A "win-win situation" is good but when you hit a four-win sequence, that's remarkable! That's just what happened last week when photographers from the OLLI Photo Club again provided photographic support for the Mason student opera. Each year, OPC photographers take photos of two dress rehearsals of the student opera and provide the digital photographs to the Department of Vocal Studies and the students to download and use as desired.

This spring's performance, occurring April 24 and 25, were two operas by Gian Carlo Menotti: *The Telephone* and *The Old Maid and the Thief*. There were two dress rehearsals as each opera is double-cast, allowing performers to gain experience through changing roles.

OPC photographers George Bradshaw, Dan Feighery, Bob Kelberg, and Tom Simpson spent two evenings roaming the Harris Theater during the rehearsals taking unrestrained photos of the performances. "We photographers have a chance to see a bit of the stagecraft that brings the scripts to life: the director's and maestro's instructions; the preparation of the sets and costumes; the work of the stage, sound, and lighting managers, and so much else needed for a successful production," said George Bradshaw.



The Old Maid and the Thief  
Tom Simpson

The Telephone  
George Bradshaw

The Old Maid and the Thief  
George Bradshaw

The Old Maid and the Thief  
Bob Kelberg

So this effort is definitely a four-win situation: OLLI and the OPC are able to give back to Mason for the wonderful support the university provides to OLLI; the photographers gain or improve their skills; the Department of Vocal Studies receives a collection of professional-quality photographs which can be used in promotions, teaching, and archives; and, not least, the students have access to individual photographs they can use as they progress up their professional ladders.

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## History Club Meeting



By **Doug Snoeyenbos**, *History Club Coordinator*

The History Club will meet virtually at 4:00 on Wednesday, May 6, to hear from Georgetown University history professor Michael Douma. Professor Douma will present on the life and times of Grant Thorburn (1773-1853), a Scottish immigrant to New York City, who opened that city's first seed store and eventually operated a greenhouse in the city. Thorburn, who lived to be nearly

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George Washington and Thomas Paine to Jenny Lind. Many of the stories he told appear to be based on truth, or at least some truth. His ideas on marriage, bachelors, women, and social mores were published in newspapers across the country. Thorburn was a seed seller, a scribbler, a bit of a historian, a Christian moralist, and above all, an eccentric, an endlessly fascinating man who stood just 4 foot 10 inches, or as some joked 3 foot 6, in stockings.

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Professor Douma is an associate research professor at the Georgetown McDonough School of Business, where he is the director of the Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics. He also teaches courses in the Georgetown history department and the School of Foreign Service. He is the author of four books and editor of four more.

I have heard Professor Douma present before, and found him lively, learned, and likeable. This will be an entertaining and interesting meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Poet's Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

### Night Calls

In this season between seasons  
with windows still cracked open  
inviting in the gentle cadences of night,  
an owl hoots softly, hauntingly  
from far off in the forest.

*Awoken, I silently ask  
Did you hear it? Should I wake you?*

I try to make myself as still  
as the evening air,  
yearning for another call,  
and there it is again  
now echoed by another  
from closer woods, as they engage  
in their back-and-forth refrain  
"Whocooksforyou."

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–*Jacqueline Davey*

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## Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances May 1 through May 11



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://masonartsamplified.gmu.edu/music.calendar.gmu.edu/)

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

[dance.calendar.gmu.edu](https://masonartsamplified.gmu.edu/dance.calendar.gmu.edu/)

[masonexhibitions.org/](https://masonartsamplified.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

#### **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.

#### **Brigham Young University Alumni a capella Concert**

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Admission: \$55, \$45, \$35.

[Back to Top of Page](#)**Fairfax and Arlington Campuses Visual Arts**(details can be found at <https://www.masonexhibitions.org/>)**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

[Back to Top of Page](#)**Mason Student and Faculty Performances**(see [music.gmu.edu](https://music.gmu.edu) for additional student recitals)**Mason Electronic Music Ensemble (MEME) Concert**

Fri, May 1, 8:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, 3001

Admission: Free.

**Spring: Dance Innovations**

Fri, May 1, 2:00 and 7:00

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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Tue, May 5, 7:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, A301

Admission: Pay what you can.

**Dewberry School of Music Honors Recital**

Sat, May 9, 8:00

Center for the Arts

Admission: Free.

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

**ARTfactory's Pied Piper Theatre: *Oliver!***

Sat, May 9, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, May 10, 2:00

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$30 Adult, \$24 Senior.

**Buckwheat Zydeco, Jr. and the IIs Sont Partis Band**

Sat, May 9, 5:00 and 8:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$35.

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

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

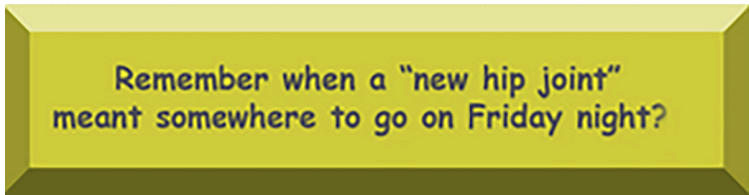
**Kevin Jones: Reflections in Black and White**

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

Sat May 2	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
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	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue May 5	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed May 6	11:50 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	Board Game Club
	1:30 pm	Bridge Club
	4:00 pm	History Club – online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
Thu May 7	11:50 am	All the News
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri May 8	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
Sat May 9	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon May 11	9:30 am	What’s in the Daily News? – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue May 12	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed May 13	11:50 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	Board Game Club
	1:30 pm	Bridge Club
	1:30 pm	OLLI Artists Club
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Page Turner Club – online
Thu May 14	11:50 am	All the News
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Literary Fiction Book Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri May 15	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	10:00 am	Talking Sports – online
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	11:30 am	Cooking Club
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
Sat May 16	2:00 pm	Classic Literature Club – online
	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
	1:00 pm	Personal Computer Club

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*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 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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