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Photos by Paul Van Hemel, May 8-9, 2026

A large turnout of first-time visitors was welcomed to Tallwood on May 8-9 for a well-received OLLI Ideas Festival and Open House.

May 15, 2026

Editor of the Week: David Gundry

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Alerts & Notices

- Computer Club meeting on Saturday, May 16 (tomorrow), at 1:00. Check daily schedule for information.
- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, May 29; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, May 26, at 6:00.

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It's time to get outdoors. Did you know that your skin is the largest organ in your body and your first line of defense? Protect it so it can protect you. Sunscreens should be at least SPF 30, applied 30 minutes before sun exposure then every hour as well as after every time you come out of the water. Don't forget the ears. Men, don't forget the scalp. [UV Protection](#) | [UT MD Anderson](#).

From the Healthcare Advisory Workgroup

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Save the Date: LLT Program Planning Group to Meet June 8 at 1:00

By Patricia Bangs, LLT Program Planning Group Co-Chair



The Literature, Language, Theater, and Writing (LLT) Program Planning Group will meet Monday, June 8 at 1:00 via Zoom to plan our winter 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.

The meeting Zoom link is below. We will send out a reminder, and the meeting will also appear in the June 8 Daily Schedule.

Topic: Literature, Theater, Writing and Languages Program Planning Meeting

Time: June 8, 2026 1:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/96031467316>

Meeting ID: 960 3146 7316

Thanks to all who can come. See you on June 8.

-- Pat Bangs, pbangs68@gmail.com

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Small Talk

What do you do?
I raise inklings.
Is there a market for them?
Yep.
Do they make good pets?
Depends on the owner.
What do you mean?
Well, inklings can be needy. Some owners like needy. Some don't.
Sounds intriguing.
I don't raise intriguing. But I would say they could be like inklings if you're the right kind of owner.
Do you think I could be the right kind of owner?
I don't have an inkling.
Didn't you say you raise them?
I do. But I don't try to match them with suitable owners.
Why not?

-Ed Sadtler

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National Community Band Concert



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

Here is information for the upcoming National Community Band Concert at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, presented by the Fairfax Wind Symphony and Mason's Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music. I think OLLI members will enjoy the concerts, many of which are held during the daytime.

THE 7TH ANNUAL
National COMMUNITY BAND Festival

You're invited to a celebration of adult music-making!
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Tickets
tinyurl.com/NCBF2026

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026
3:00PM CITY OF FALLS CHURCH CONCERT BAND
4:15PM MAIN STREET COMMUNITY BAND
5:30PM CLARKE COUNTY COMMUNITY BAND
6:45PM CLEARFIELD COMMUNITY BAND
8:00PM ARLINGTON CONCERT BAND

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026
1:00PM HERNDON REGIONAL WIND ENSEMBLE
2:15PM THE CATHEDRAL BRASS
3:30PM FAIRFAX WIND SYMPHONY

*One ticket per day grants access to all performances for that date with unlimited re-entry.
Adults \$20 | \$15 Seniors | \$10 Youth*

Refreshments for sale in the lobby on Saturday. Complimentary reception on Sunday at 4:30pm.

*presented by the: FAIRFAX WIND SYMPHONY
and GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S REVA & SID DEWBERRY FAMILY SCHOOL OF MUSIC*

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Obituary: Kathrina (Kathie) K. West

Kathie West, who first joined OLLI in fall 2005, died on May 6, 2026. To her many friends at OLLI, she will be remembered and loved as founder of OLLI Players for seniors, and for her enthusiastic participation in countless roles in that group. She was also active in her local community as a member of the Potomac Green Playmakers.

A great storyteller, she wowed her family and friends with playful drama and wit. Kathie was an inspiration to many students at Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield, VA, and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA, directing fall plays and spring musicals over many years.

A Celebration of Life for Kathie will be held May 20, 2026, at Demaine Life Celebration Center in Sterling (45511 E Severn Way, Sterling, VA 20166). Visitation will begin at 11:00, with services immediately following.

In honor of Kathie's courageous journey, the family welcomes flowers or memorial donations to <https://www.cholangiocarcinoma.org/donate/>.

More information is available at the following link:
<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/sterling-va/kathrina-west-12875645>.

Here's a tribute written by OLLI member Wendy Campbell:

Kathie West joined OLLI in 2005 shortly after retiring as a drama instructor at Thomas Jefferson High School. Because she sparkled, she rapidly became a central figure at OLLI, running classes in theater and serving on the Board of Directors. Everybody knew Kathie and loved her energy and the joy she took in life, the universe, and everything.



retirement communities throughout northern Virginia. She was instrumental in turning out numerous Murder Mystery performances which many of us participated in, both as performers and audience. She helped to run the second year of Grandcamp. She was a friend to everyone who knew her. Kathie passed peacefully in her sleep on May 6th after fighting liver cancer for only a month. Well loved, deeply missed, always remembered. She was my friend.

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances May 8 through May 25



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) has several web sites for 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://masonartsamplified.gmu.edu/>

[music.calendar.gmu.edu/](#)

[theater.calendar.gmu.edu/](#)

[dance.calendar.gmu.edu](#)

[masonexhibitions.org/](#)

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

No performances

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Fairfax and Arlington Campuses Visual Arts

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

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 for additional student recitals)

No Performances

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

Manassas Ballet Theatre: Don Quixote

Fri, May 15, 7:30

Sat, May 16, 3:00 and 7:30

Sun, May 17, 3:00

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$81, \$71, \$60, \$50, \$40.

Somers Voice: Raisin—The Musical

Sat, May 16, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, May 17, 3:00

Sat, May 23, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, May 24, 3:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$45.

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Merchant Hall

Admission: \$30 Adult, \$27 Senior.

VISUAL ARTS

Kevin Jones: Reflections in Black and White

Buchanan Partners Art Gallery

Hylton Performing Arts Center

Through June 20, 10:00

Pulp Translations: Paperworks from George Mason MFA Alumni

Through June 26, 2026

Fenwick Gallery

Fairfax 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 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 May 16 | 10:30 am 1:00 pm | Tai Chi Club – online Personal Computer Club |
| Mon May 18 | 9:30 am 11:00 am | What's in the Daily News? – online Poetry Reading Club – online |

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|------------|--|--|----|
| Tue May 19 | 2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm | Chair Yoga and More – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online | |
| Wed May 20 | 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 Club – online | |
| Thu May 21 | 11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm | All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online | |
| Fri May 22 | 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm | Photography Club Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online French Conversation and Happy Hour – online | |
| Sat May 23 | 10:30 am | Tai Chi Club – online | |
| Mon 25 May | | OLLI Closed Memorial Day | |
| Tue 26 May | 2:00 pm 3:45 pm 4:30 pm | Chair Yoga and More – online Caregivers Support Group – online Tai Chi Club – online | |
| Wed 27 May | 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm 4:00 pm | Board Game Club Bridge Club OLLI Artists Club Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Memoir and More Writing Group – online Spanish Page Turner Club – online | |
| Thu 28 May | 10:00 am 11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm | Large Program Planning Group Meeting All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online Ethnic Eats Club – online | |
| Fri 29 May | 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon 1:00 pm | Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online 1776 Trivia Party | |
| Sat 30 May | 10:30 am | Tai Chi Club – online | |

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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

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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: 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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