



OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

OLLI

at GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Fall 2026

Catalog

Class
Registration
begins
August 18th



olli.gmu.edu

September 21 - November 13, 2026

Classes Clubs Activities

Explore the world with



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University



British Landscapes

With Optional 3-Night Paris Post Tour Extension
May 16 – 25, 2027 10 Days • 12 Meals



Feel the vibrant energy of England, hear the unique sounds of Scotland, and see the rolling countryside of Wales on a trip that combines dramatic history and an array of fascinating landscapes.

An adventure fit for a Shakespearean tale takes you from verdant hillsides to bustling British cities rich with culture. Sleepy villages, grassy slopes, mountainside lakes, and cities built upon layers of history – these are the landscapes of Britain.

Essential Experiences

Travel like a local on a high-speed commuter train from Edinburgh to York.

Connect with the literature and birthplace of Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Your free day in London corresponds with the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Rooted in over a century of tradition, the show has become the crown jewel of the global gardening calendar. Tickets will need to be purchased independently.



For more information, please call Collette at 800-581-8942 and reference booking number 1373372
Visit the OLLI Mason travel page at oll.gmu.edu/travel for additional information

Ancient Italy:

Etruscans, Romans and Medieval Splendor
April 7 – 19, 2027 12 Days • 11 Nights



Discover some of Italy's most remarkable cultural treasures, from the imperial splendor of Hadrian's Villa and the mysterious world of the Etruscans at Cerveteri and Tarquinia, to the medieval beauty of Perugia, the spiritual legacy of Assisi, and the Gothic magnificence of Siena.

From Etruscan tombs and Roman palaces to medieval cities and sacred art, this itinerary offers a rich and immersive exploration of the civilizations that shaped Italy and, ultimately, Europe itself.

Please note that while this is a stand-alone trip, it is being planned in conjunction with OLLI Mason classes offered spring and fall 2026.

For more information contact: Laura Vinti
Italy's Hidden Gems, 50125 Firenze
laura@italyshiddengems.com
Tel./WhatsApp: +39 349 8124639
www.italyshiddengems.com



Italian Food Cultures: Tradition, Production, and Heritage in Emilia-Romagna
January 6 – 12, 2027 6 Days • Application deadline: October 1, 2027

Essential Experiences

Visit the farms, acetaie, and market streets of Emilia-Romagna — Italy's most celebrated food region — and discover why every product tells a story about identity, rivalry, and tradition.

Go behind the scenes at Parmigiano Reggiano and Prosciutto di Parma production facilities, taste traditional balsamic vinegar at a Modena acetaia, and make pasta by hand with a Bolognese sfoglina.

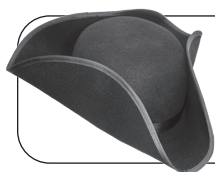
End the week at Casa Artusi in Forlimpopoli — the living museum and culinary school dedicated to the man who invented Italian national cuisine.

For more information, contact:
Kristina M. Olson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Italian
kolson4@gmu.edu
Rachel Fleishman, Global Education Office
masonled@gmu.edu

Contents

All About OLLI Mason	ii
OLLI Mason Organization	iii
All Courses and Events	iv
All Club Offerings	ix
Courses	
100 Art & Music	1
200 Economics & Finance	4
300 History	6
400 Literature, Theater, and Writing	11
500 Languages	15
600 Philosophy and Religious Studies	16
650 Humanities and Social Sciences	17
700 Current Events	19
800 Science, Technology, and Health	20
900 Other Topics	23
Special Events	
1000 Excursions	26
1100 Diversions	27
1200 Lunch and Lecture	28
Clubs	29
Membership and Registration	35
Registration Form	37
OLLI Mason Fund	39
Schedules	40
OLLI Mason Policies	45
In-Person Program Locations	46

On the Cover: Music Sampler showcases the exceptional musical talent within the Mason community. In these courses, faculty members and their most promising students share their artistry at the Fairfax Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Pictured here are OLLI members attending Dr. Chris Troiano's lecture on Americana music, spanning the Revolutionary period through the Bicentennial. – *Cover photo courtesy of George Bradshaw*



The tricorn hat icon denotes special classes and activities that commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States.

All About OLLI Mason

Who We Are

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization affiliated with George Mason University and the national Osher Lifelong Learning network that provides classes, lectures, trips, clubs, social and other activities for over 1000 active learners age 50+. Over 500 college-level courses and activities covering a broad range of subjects are offered each year. Programs are presented in-person at the Fairfax campus, at satellite sites throughout Fairfax County, and online.

OLLI Mason programs and activities are developed, managed, and produced through the combined effort of member volunteers and OLLI Mason staff. Classes are taught by GMU professors, experts from the community, as well as the members themselves, many of whom are highly credentialed and experienced instructors during eight-week terms in the spring and fall, a four-week winter term, and a six-week summer term. There are no exams or credits. Members pay dues and may attend as many classes and activities as they wish, subject to space availability. There may be charges for materials or for some special events.

Mission

OLLI Mason's mission is to provide intellectual and cultural experiences in a welcoming atmosphere that promotes lifelong learning.

How to Join

To join OLLI as a first-time member, visit our website at olli.gmu.edu and click on the yellow 'Join OLLI' tab at the top right corner. To renew your membership, sign in to your Member Portal account and purchase an annual membership. To purchase a membership offline, complete the registration form on **page 37** and provide it to OLLI Mason with payment. For more assistance contact the registrar: ollireg@gmu.edu

How to Register for OLLI Classes

Registration can be completed online through your Member Portal account or by filling out the registration form and mailing it to or dropping it by the OLLI office. For more information, see the member and registration pages in the catalog.

Give the Gift of OLLI

What better way to show appreciation for someone special than by giving an OLLI Mason eGift card? The card can be purchased in any amount to apply toward an OLLI Mason membership or event/materials fee. Purchase the eGift card on the OLLI Mason Member Portal (olli.gmu.edu; **OLLI Membership Gift**) or by emailing the OLLI Mason registrar.

George Mason University Privileges

An annual OLLI Mason membership entitles our members to many university benefits including library privileges, discounted aquatic and fitness memberships, and other benefits subject to university policies. Apply for a Mason affiliate account by filling out an online application to receive a university ID, G Number, and a Mason email account that provides access to the university intranet and additional resources.

- olli.gmu.edu/university-privileges/
- patriotperks.gmu.edu/

Membership Promotions

Fall 2026 Promotion: a one-time low fee of \$300 for those new to OLLI Mason who purchase an annual membership (those who have never been OLLI Mason members, are returning after a hiatus of more than a year, or have previously been introductory members and are converting to annual members).

George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School

Retirees: a one-time annual membership discount of \$100, which may be applied to the special \$300 promotion (for those new to OLLI Mason).

**** IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES ****

**Fall term registration begins on August 18th
at 9:00 am and continues throughout the term.**

Register online at olli.gmu.edu

Registrations also may be mailed to:
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032

Register early. Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even as early as the first day of registration. Please note that all offerings are Add to Cart.

OLLI Mason Organization

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Steve Rose

Vice President: Emily Roudebush

Secretary: Tim Harwarth

Treasurer: Debbie Engleson

Toni Acton
Camille Hodges
Ann McNeish
Mel Russell

Deborah Dupree
Paul Howard
Suresh Mohla

Bob Esler
John McAndrew
Michele Romano
Zachary Teich

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Audiovisual Support: Paul Howard

Development: Al Smuzynski

OLLI E-News: Paul Van Hemel

Finance: Dave Osterman

Governance: Peter Ansoff

Landscaping: Bill Ackerman

Member Services, Office Volunteers: Toni Acton

Member Services, Chair: Toni Acton

Outreach: Open

Program Coordination: Beth Lambert, Kathryn Russell, Russell Stone, Bill Taylor

Strategic Planning: Zachary Teich

Website: Dennis VanLangen

Health and Safety Advisory: Michele Romano

STAFF

Executive Director:

Lisa Mariam ollied@gmu.edu, 703-503-7866

Operations Manager:

Lisette Sanchez lsanch25@gmu.edu, 703-503-7356

Finance Associate:

Karen Nash knash2@gmu.edu, 703-503-3416

Communications Associate:

Kim Rotondo hrotondo@gmu.edu, 703-503-2832

Program Associates:

Erika Koeniger ekoenige@gmu.edu, 703-503-9540

Susan Job sjob2@gmu.edu, 703-503-7861

Technology Manager:

Susan Todenhoft stodenho@gmu.edu, 703-563-4208

Registrar:

Meg Przybylski ollireg@gmu.edu 703-544-0085

Lead Site Assistant:

Mike Emery memery6@gmu.edu 703-570-4761

Site Assistants:

Sam Thrower sthrowe2@gmu.edu

Richard Hoback rhoback@gmu.edu

Kieran (Kip) Schomber kschombe@gmu.edu

Sri Shriya Challapuram schallap@gmu.edu

Madison Evans mevans44@gmu.edu

Spencer Keen skeen3@gmu.edu

GENERAL CONTACTS

Website:

olli.gmu.edu

Fairfax Tallwood office:

703-503-3384

Email:

olli@gmu.edu

OLLI Mason Fall 2026 Courses and Events

See course/event descriptions in the body of the catalog

Category	Course	Number of Sessions	Day	Dates	Time	Location
Art and Music	101F Knitting 101	6	M	9/21-11/2	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	102F Watercolor: Building on Beginning Skills	7	M	9/21-11/9	2:15-3:40	Fairfax
	103F/103Z Music Sampler	8	T	9/22-11/10	9:30-10:55	Fairfax, hybrid
	104F/104Z David Boul on the Legacy of his Father:	1	T	9/22	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	DC Artist Jack Boul					
	105F Intermediate Watercolor Painting	8	T	9/22-11/10	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	106F/106Z American Jazz: Five of the Greats	5	W	9/23-10/21	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	107R Seeing Deeply: Slow Looking and Contemporary Art at Tephra ICA	4	TH	9/24-10/15	10:00-11:30	Reston
	108F Rhythm & Nature: Drumming and Garden-based Programming to Promote Connection, Confidence, and Self-expression	8	TH	9/24-11/12	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	109R Meet the Artists	6	TH	9/24-10/29	2:15-3:40	Reston
	110F Singing for Fun	8	TH	9/24-11/12	2:15-3:40	Fairfax
	111Z The Magic Behind Film Music, Part One	6	W	9/30-11/4	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	112F/112Z A Gentle Introduction to Richard Wagner	1	W	10/28	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	113F "Is This a Book?" Exploring and Creating Artists' Books with George Mason Libraries' Special Collections Research Center	1	T	11/10	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	1201F Lunch and Lecture: The Glorious History of Popular Music in Northern Virginia	1	T	10/20	11:50-2:00	Fairfax
Economics	201Z Protect Your Money: Can You Spot the Red Flags of Investment Fraud?	1	M	9/21	9:40-11:05	Zoom
	202F Absolute Basic Financial Analysis	2	M	9/21-9/28	2:15-3:40	Fairfax
	203F/203Z The Investment Forum	7	W	9/23-11/4	11:50-1:15	Fairfax, hybrid
	204Z Equity Investment Ideas from GMU Finance Students	2	W	9/23-9/30	3:30-4:30	Zoom
	205F/205Z Estate Planning Basics	4	TH	9/24-10/15	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	206F/206Z Economic Current Events and Their Effect on You	8	TH	9/24-11/12	2:15-3:40	Fairfax, hybrid
	207F Direct Indexing: Does It Make Sense for You?	1	M	9/28	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	208Z Economics Potpourri	4	T	9/29-10/20	9:40-11:05	Zoom
	209R Senior Medicare Patrol Fraud Education Series	4	W	9/30-10/21	9:40-11:05	Reston
	210Z Preparing for the Rest of Your Life	1	TH	11/5	9:40-11:05	Zoom
History	301F History vs. Fiction: The Dilemma of Ordinary People in Hitler's Germany	3	M	9/21-10/5	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	302R Caesar Augustus and Rome's Transition to Autocracy	3	T	9/22-10/6	2:15-3:40	Reston
	303F The Unlikely War Hero: The Incredible Vietnam War Story of Navy Seaman Apprentice Doug Hegdahl	1	W	9/23	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	304R/304Z The Mexican American War 1846-1848	3	W	9/23-10/7	11:50-1:15	Reston, hybrid
	305F/305Z GMU Retired Faculty Association: The Tory's Wife: A Woman and Her Family in Revolutionary America	1	M	9/28	2:15-3:30	Fairfax, hybrid

Category	Course	Number of Sessions	Day	Dates	Time	Location
	306F More Walk, Less Talk: How a Japanese Immigrant Helped Create the Appalachian Trail and Great Smoky Mountains National Park	1	M	10/5	2:15-3:40	Fairfax
	307Z Fall for the Book: The True Tale of Mary Kay and the Rise of MLM Empires	1	W	10/7	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	308Z Fall for the Book: Fuji Fire: Sifting Ashes of a Forgotten U. S. Marine Corps Tragedy	1	TH	10/8	2:15-3:40	Zoom
	309R/309Z Park Ranger Potpourri	3	T	10/13-10/27	2:15-3:40	Reston, hybrid
	310F/310Z Exploring the Global Scope of the Revolutionary War	1	W	10/14	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	311F USS Houston CA-30/POW Experience	1	W	10/14	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	312F Mason Oral History: Revolutionary Conversations: Exploring the Values of the American Revolution through Intergenerational Conversation	1	W	10/14	2:00-4:00	Fairfax
	313Z The Soviet/German War: One Historian's 50-year Study of Evolving Interpretations and Source Materials	1	TH	10/15	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	314F/314Z The New Imperial Presidency	4	M	10/19-11/9	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	315F/315Z Continuity and Change in U.S. Foreign Policy	4	M	10/19-11/9	11:50-1:15	Fairfax, hybrid
	316F Religion and the American Experiment	4	M	10/19-11/9	2:15-3:40	Fairfax
	317F/317Z The Civil War Beyond the Battles, Part III	3	W	10/21-11/4	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	318F Caesar Augustus and Rome's Transition to Autocracy	3	W	10/21-11/4	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	319F/319Z The Vote: Then and Now	4	TH	10/22-11/12	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	320F/320Z The British Side of the American Revolution	4	TH	10/22-11/12	11:50-1:15	Fairfax, hybrid
	321F The Rescue of Mount Vernon	1	T	10/27	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	322Z 1776: A Tale of Two Worlds: George Washington's America and Qing China	1	T	11/3	9:40-11:05	Zoom
	323Z Oh, the Stories I've Heard	1	T	11/3	2:15-3:40	Zoom
	324R/324Z The Suffrage Movement on Two Continents	1	W	11/4	11:50-1:15	Reston, hybrid
Literature, Theater, and Writing	401F/401Z The Joy of Reading Aloud to Young Children	1	M	9/21	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	402F Theatre Potpourri	4	M	9/21-10/19	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	403F Memoir Writing	4	T	9/22-10/1	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	404F Staging England's Story: Shakespeare's Major History Plays	8	T	9/22-11/10	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	405Z Charles Dickens's Bleak House	8	T	9/22-11/10	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	406F Fun and Games: The Fundamentals of Improvisational Theater	6	T	9/22-10/27	2:15-3:40	Fairfax
	407Z Poetry Workshop	8	T	9/22-11/10	2:15-3:40	Zoom
	408Z Writers' Workshop	8	W	9/23-11/18	9:15-11:05	Zoom
	409Z Literary Roundtable	7	W	9/23-11/4	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	410R Classic Film Festival	7	W	9/23-11/4	1:45-4:00	Reston
	411Z "Such Friends": James Joyce, Sylvia Beach and Ulysses	3	TH	9/24-10/8	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	412F/412Z Pondering Poe's Fingerprints: From Murders in Rue Morgue to the Modern Detective Novel	5	TH	9/24-10/15	2:15-3:40	Fairfax, hybrid
	413Z Feast of All Fools: The Iceman Cometh and Tragic Ambiguity	7	TH	10/1-11/12	11:50-1:15	Zoom

Category	Course	Number of Sessions	Day	Dates	Time	Location
	414Z Dr. Strangelove, or I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb	1	M	10/5	2:15-3:40	Zoom
	415F Why 1984 Still Matters: Revisiting Orwell in Modern America	4	T	10/20-11/10	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	416Z So You Wanna Write Poetry	4	TH	10/22-11/12	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	417F From Idea to Page: A Mystery Author's Journey	1	TH	10/29	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	418Z Beauty, Wisdom, and Worldviews in Classical Chinese Poetry	2	TH	11/5-11/12	2:15-3:40	Zoom
	419F/419Z How a Trip to Japan Inspired the Poet in Me	1	T	11/10	2:15-3:40	Fairfax, hybrid
Languages	501F/501Z Italian Culture and Conversation	8	T	9/22-11/10	11:50-1:15	Fairfax, hybrid
	502F/50Z Beginning Italian Language	8	T	9/22-11/10	2:15-3:40	Fairfax, hybrid
	503F Japanese for Beginners	8	TH	9/24-11/12	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	504Z Active French: Easy interactive Travel Dialogs	4	TH	10/22-11/12	3:30-5:00	Zoom
Philosophy and Religious Studies	601Z The Bible's Boldest Women: Heroes, Rebels, Sinners and Survivors	3	M	9/21-10/5	2:15-3:40	Zoom
	602Z Sacred Gravities: The Holy in a Disenchanted World	4	T	9/22-10/13	9:40-11:05	Zoom
	603F Jesus' Final Week and the Beginnings of Christianity	6	T	9/22-10/27	2:15-3:40	Fairfax
	604F/604Z Christian Movies	4	W	9/23-10/14	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	605Z Jesus and Mohammad	2	W	9/23-9/30	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	606F/606Z Old God-New Ideas: Rethinking the Divine	4	TH	9/24-10/15	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	607F/607Z It's Time to Think Biblically About Artificial Intelligence	2	M	9/28-10/5	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	608F/608Z Six Exceptional Human Beings For Us to Get to Know Better	4	M	10/19-11/9	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
Humanities and Social Sciences	651Z Big Issues, Complex Challenges, and No Simple Solutions	7	M	9/21-11/9	9:40-11:05	Zoom
	652Z TED Talk Discussions	4	T	9/22-10/13	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	653Z World War II in France: Occupation; Persecution and Resistance; and Transitional Justice	3	TH	9/24-10/8	9:40-11:05	Zoom
	654F/654Z Conspiracy Theories, Secret Societies, and Cults	4	TH	9/24-10/15	11:50-1:15	Fairfax, hybrid
	655F/655Z Resilient Civilizations	3	W	10/21-11/4	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
	656F/656Z From Rails to Trails: The W&OD Trail and a Whole Lot More	1	M	11/9	11:50-1:15	Fairfax, hybrid
	657F/657Z Six Months in North Korea: Reflections and Relationships	1	TH	11/12	9:40-11:05	Fairfax, hybrid
Current Events	701Z What's in the Daily News?	8	M	9/21-11/9	9:30-11:00	Zoom
	702F/702Z Russia's Continuing Wars with the West	1	M	9/21	2:15-3:40	Fairfax, hybrid
	703F/703Z Great Decisions	8	T	9/22-11/10	11:50-1:15	Fairfax, hybrid
	704F/704Z All the News That's Fit to Print	8	TH	9/24-11/12	11:50-1:15	Fairfax, hybrid
	705F Protect Yourself From Fraud	1	M	9/28	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	706F/706Z Contested Lands: Israel, Palestine, and the Struggle for Sovereignty	1	M	11/2	2:00-4:00	Fairfax, hybrid

Category	Course	Number of Sessions	Day	Dates	Time	Location
Science, Technology, and Health	801F Aging in Place or Find a New Space	1	M	9/21	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	802R/802Z Hearing Aids: Beware and Be Wise!	1	W	9/23	9:40-11:05	Reston, hybrid
	803F Spatial Information/Where Am I?	3	W	9/23-10/7	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	804F Stop Mumbling! I Can't Understand You!	1	W	9/30	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	805R Finding Earth	1	W	10/14	11:50-1:15	Reston
	806Z Everything You Wanted to Know About Anesthesia and Never Asked	5	TH	10/15-11/12	2:15-3:40	Zoom
	807F Chromosomes, DNA and Genes--Simplified	4	M	10/19-11/9	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	808F/808Z Medical Imaging Methods and Applications	2	M	10/19-10/26	2:15-3:40	Fairfax, hybrid
	809R Behind the Prize...Nobel, That Is	2	W	10/21-10/28	11:50-1:15	Reston
	810F From Lab to Life: Virtual Reality to Manage Craving Reactivity and Reduce Substance Use	1	TH	10/22	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	811F Preventing Fraud and Abuse in the Medicare System	1	M	10/26	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
	812R Depression in Older Adults	1	W	10/28	9:40-11:05	Reston
	813F Chasing the Data: How Climate Change is Reshaping Our Storms	1	W	11/4	9:40-11:05	Fairfax
Other Topics	901Z Monday Lecture Series	8	M	9/21-11/9	11:50-1:15	Zoom
	902F Downsizing and Decluttering: You Can't Take It With You	1	M	10/5	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	903F Rediscover Play: An Introduction to Modern Board Games	3	W	10/7-10/21	11:50-1:15	Fairfax
	904Z The Journey That Changed Everything	1	T	10/20	9:40-11:05	Zoom
	905R/905Z Sorting Facts from Fiction Online	1	W	11/4	9:40-11:05	Reston, hybrid
	906F Funeral Pre-Arrangements: Why, When and How?	1	M	11/9	2:15-3:40	Fairfax
	907Z Let's Get Cozy for Winter	1	TH	11/12	9:40-11:05	Zoom

Special Events

Category	Course	Day	Dates	Time	Location
Lunch & Lecture	1201F The Glorious History of Popular Music in Northern Virginia: From Plantations to Punks.... And Everything In-Between!	T	10/20	11:50-2:00	TBD
Diversions	1101F Let's Get Dicey: Autumn Edition Game Day Bash	T	9/15	10:00-1:00	Fairfax
	1102F OLLI Kick -Off Coffee	TH	9/17	10:00-11:30	Fairfax
	1103F Third Annual Oktoberfest at OLLI Mason	F	10/16	12:30-2:30	Fairfax
	1104F OLLI Ink Reading	F	10/30	1:00- 2:30	Fairfax
	1105F Annual Town Hall Meeting	F	11/6	10:00-11:30	Fairfax
	1106F Annual Holiday Party	F	12/4	11:30-2:30	Country Club of Fairfax
Excursions	1001E Guided Tour of Culpeper National Cemetary	W	9/9	10:00-11:30	Off-site
	1002E Tour of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum	M	9/14	12:45-2:00	Off-site
	1003E Tree Walk With a Forester	F	9/25	1:00-2:30	Off-site
	1004E Four Founders & A Tea Party	F	10/2	9:00-5:00	Bus Trip
	1005E Commemorate America's 250th Birthday at Mt. Vernon	F	10/9	9:30-2:00	Off-site
	1006E Walking with Washington: A Journey Through Historic Pohick Church	F	10/23	10:00-11:30	Off-site

OLLI Mason Fall 2026 Club Offerings

See club descriptions in the body of the catalog

Club Name	Day	Dates	Time	Location
All the News That's Fit to Print Club	TH	9/3–9/17, 11/19–12/31	11:50–1:15	Zoom
Artists Club	W	9/ 9, 11/18, 12/ 2, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4	9:15–10:45 1:30–3:30	Fairfax, hybrid
Board Game Club	W	9/2–9/16, 11/18–12/9 9/23–11/4	10:00–12:00 1:30–3:30	Fairfax
Bridge Club	W	9/2–9/16, 11/18–12/9 9/23–11/4	10:00–12:00 1:30–3:30	Fairfax
Caregivers Support Group	T–Biweekly	9/1–11/10, 11/17, 12/1–12/29	3:45–4:45	Zoom
Chair Yoga and More Club	M T W TH F	9/ 7–12/ 28 9/1–12/ 29 9/2–12/30 9/3–12/31 9/4–1/1	4:00–5:00 Zoom 2:00–3:00 12:00–1:00 3:00–4:00 12:00–1:00	
Classic Literature Club	F	9/25–11/13	2:00–3:30	Zoom
Cooking Club	F	9/11, 10/ 9, 11/13, 12/11	11:30–1:00	Offsite
Craft and Conversations Club	F	9/ 4–12/11	9:30–11:00	Fairfax, hybrid
Dirty Knee Club	TBD	As possible during term		Fairfax
Ethnic Eats Club	TH	9/17, 10/15, 11/12, 12/10	6:00–7:00	Zoom
Family History/Genealogy Club	M–Biweekly	9/14–12/ 7	4:00–5:00	Zoom
French ConversationClub	F	9/11, 9/ 25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/13, 12/11	1:30–3:00	Zoom
Game On: Talking Sports Club	F	9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 11/20, 12/4, 12/18	10:00–11:15	Zoom
Hiking Club	TBD	As possible during term		
History Club	W	10/7, 11/4, 12/ 2	4:00–5:30	Zoom
Homer, etc. Club	F	9/ 4–12/18	11:00–12:30	Zoom
Literary Fiction Book Club	T	9/24, 10/22, 11/12	4:00–5:30	Zoom
Mah Jongg Club	F	9/4–12/11	10:00–12:00	Fairfax
Memoir–and More–Writing Group Club	W–Biweekly	9/2–12/9	2:00–4:30	Zoom
Personal Computer User Group Club	S	9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/12	1:00–3:30	Fairfax, hybrid
Photography Club	F	9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/13, 12/11	9:30–11:30	Fairfax, hybrid
Poetry Reading Club	M	11/16, 12/7, 12/21	11:00–12:30	Zoom
Poetry Writing Club	M	9/1414, 11/30	11:00–12:30	Zoom
Spanish Club	W	9/ 2, 9/16, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16	4:00–5:30	Zoom
Spanish Page Turners Club	W	9/9, 9/23, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11, 11/25, 12/9, 12/23	4:00–5:30	Zoom
Tai Chi Club	T, TH, S	9/ 8–12/29, 9/3–12/31, 9/5–12/26	4:30–5:30 (T, TH) 10:30–11:30 (S)	Zoom
Tallwood Book Club	F	9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11	2:30–4:00	Zoom
The Investment Forum	W	9/ 2–9/16, 11/18, 12/2–12/9	10:30–12:00	Fairfax, hybrid
Theater Lovers' Group Club	W	9/23, 10/28	4:00–5:30	Zoom
Walk and Talk Club	TBD	As possible during term	Between 9:00 and 2:00	TBD
What's in the Daily News Club	M	9/ 7–9/14, 11/16–11/23, 12/7–12/21	9:30–11:00	Zoom

Courses: September 21 – November 13 Fairfax/Reston/Zoom

Fairfax courses are indicated by the suffix "F," Reston by "R," and Zoom by "Z." For in-person courses/events, see the 'In-Person Program Locations' page at the back of the catalog for locations and their addresses.

Primary locations are used unless otherwise indicated. We urge you to register for courses as early as possible. Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even on the first day of registration.

Courses will be offered in various formats for the term. **Please carefully note the title format for each course** when considering your registration list. In-person offerings will include a campus designation suffix (ex: **101F**). Zoom only offerings will include the 'Z' suffix (ex: **101Z**). Hybrid offerings will have both in-person and virtual title formats listed in the course description (ex: **101F / 101Z**). You must decide which format you prefer when registering for hybrid courses and select the corresponding title format.)

100 Art & Music

Program Planning Group Chairs:

Linda Harber, Joan Lunsford, Christine Narbut

101F Knitting 101

Six sessions

Instructors: Jean Jewell, Doris Bloch

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 21–Nov. 2

No class Oct. 12

Class limit: 10

This is a beginners' class for non-knitters. You will learn the basics of knitting, including the knit and purl stitches, tools of the trade, how to read a pattern and a yarn label, and the ins-and-outs of choosing a pattern and its appropriate yarn. You will be provided with some yarn and needles for a short practice project, which you will work on over the course of the class and, hopefully, at home. Before you are turned loose on the world of knitting, you will be provided with a short list of the instructors' favorite resources for finding patterns, yarn, and advice.

Doris Bloch has been a dedicated knitter and yarn hoarder for many years. Her preferred KOs (knitted objects) are simple scarves and an occasional hat, which she consistently produces for friends, family, and complete strangers, whether they like it or not. She has previously taught Knitting 101 and is back by popular demand to teach others the joy of making things with long stringy bits and pointed sticks.

Jean Jewell has been a fiber-head since childhood. Starting with the 70s macramé craze, moving on through rug-making and crocheting, Jean settled on knitting about 30 years ago. She has an obsession with wool and learned how to spin her own yarn in order to enable her knitting and fiber addiction. She also has knitted with wire, fabric, and steel wool, none of which she recommends.

102F Watercolor: Building on Beginning Skills

Seven sessions

Instructor: Christine Narbut

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 21–Nov. 9

No class Oct. 12

Class limit: 18

If you always wanted to paint with watercolor or have painted in the past and want to refresh your skills, this class

is for you. Students will have the opportunity to develop watercolor painting skills with emphasis on composition, style, and techniques for landscapes, flowers, birds, and animals. In addition, guest artist **Marni Maree** will again teach a session demonstrating special techniques.

Chris Narbut has been a member of OLLI since 2018. She has taken watercolor classes at the Torpedo factory and has been instructing basic watercolor skills for OLLI for the past 2 years. She also coordinates the Artists club.

103F / 103Z Music Sampler

Eight sessions

Coordinators: Linda Apple Monson, Ina Mirtcheva-Blevins

Tuesdays, 9:30–10:55, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Note time

Location: Fairfax Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd, Fairfax, 22032

This course highlights examples of the musical talent that abounds at Mason. Each week, knowledgeable and enthusiastic professors from the Dewberry School of Music of George Mason University, often accompanied by their most promising students, will generously share their musical gifts in presentations that are varied, lively, informative, and entertaining.

Linda Apple Monson, International Steinway Artist, serves as director of the Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at George Mason University where she is a University Distinguished Service Professor. She has performed and lectured throughout the world.

Ina Mirtcheva-Blevins is a graduate of George Mason University with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance. She currently teaches keyboard skills at Mason and is also a faculty member of the Mason Community Arts Academy.

104F / 104Z David Boul on the Legacy of his Father: D.C. Artist Jack Boul

One session

Instructor: David Boul

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 22

An accomplished television producer and former print journalist, the instructor devotes his energy to honoring and preserving the legacy of his father, Jack Boul, a

beloved longtime art professor at American University. Jack Boul's work can be found in the National Gallery of Art, the Phillips Collection, and the Smithsonian. This lecture will examine Jack Boul's artistic philosophy, his continued creative vitality into his 90s, and the deep pride a son takes in honoring his father's legacy.

David Boul, a television producer who has won seven Emmy Awards, was a senior producer on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* for more than a decade. Previously he was a newspaper reporter with *The Atlanta Constitution*, among other papers. He now devotes his energy towards preserving the legacy of his father, the artist Jack Boul.

105F Intermediate Watercolor Painting

Eight sessions

Instructor: Mehrdad Izadi

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Class limit: 14

Continue to build on your skills at watercolor painting. Explore watercolor techniques for intermediate and advanced levels. Live demonstrations will be provided in all sessions and individual guidance for new skills and techniques will be provided.

Mehrdad Izadi, born in Iran, is an architect by degree. He has been living and working as an architect in Fairfax County since 2001. During these years he has taught painting and drawing in local art centers in Virginia and is an active artist participating in many exhibitions.

106F / 106Z American Jazz: Five of the Greats

Five sessions

Instructor: David Palmer

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 23–Oct. 21

This course provides an in-depth look at the stories of five American jazz musicians: Duke Ellington, Mary Lou Williams, Thelonius Monk, Wayne Shorter, and Herbie Hancock. Their artistry, compositions, recordings, and contributions to the development of the art form will be explored. The careers of these musicians allow the course to examine significant segments of 100 years of jazz history.

David Palmer is a music teacher, performer, and composer. Since moving to the DMV in 2020, he has worked as a piano teacher for children, as a church musician, and as an instructor for Wesley Seminary. He holds a Ph.D. in Music Theory from the Eastman School of Music and plays in several area bands.

107R Seeing Deeply: Slow Looking and Contemporary Art at Tephra ICA

Four sessions

Instructors: Phoebe Avery, Berna Ornat

Thursdays, 10:00–11:30, Sept. 24–Oct. 15

Note time

Class limit: 25

Locations: 1) Tephra ICA, 12001 Market St, Reston 20190; 2) Tephra ICA at Signature, Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Dr.

What happens when we slow down and really look at a work of art? This facilitated course at Tephra Institute

of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) in Reston invites OLLI members into a guided practice of "slow looking" to engage more deeply with contemporary art. Each session, held in Tephra ICA's main gallery or satellite space at Tephra ICA at Signature, will focus on just one or two works from the current exhibitions. Through conversation and facilitation, participants will explore how color, form, and material can spark memory, curiosity, and connection—without needing prior art knowledge. Together, we'll reflect on how contemporary artists raise questions, challenge assumptions, and invite new ways of seeing. Sessions will connect looking to broader ideas around art, culture, and philosophy, offering a springboard for continued personal exploration beyond the gallery walls.

Phoebe Avery is advancement officer at Tephra ICA, leading fundraising initiatives with a deep background in visual arts. She has taught across the DMV and holds a BA in Art History from Smith College, an MA in Northern Baroque Art from the Courtauld Institute, and ABD from the University of Maryland.

Berna Ornat is programs director at Tephra ICA, with nearly two decades connecting people to science, art, and culture. She has worked at NMNH, LACMA, and founded Voice Within Art Consultancy. She holds a BA from Dickinson College and an MFA from ArtCenter College of Design.

108F Rhythm & Nature: Drumming and Garden-based Programming to Promote Connection, Confidence, and Self-expression

Eight sessions

Instructors: Emily Ihara, Michelle Hand

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

This is an interactive class of Rhythm & Nature (R&N) sessions. R&N is a modifiable drumming and garden-based program designed to promote connection, confidence, and self-expression. The activities involved in R&N provide an opportunity for a multi-sensory bilateral experience as participants can engage both hands in a coordinated manner while drumming and later during gardening activities, which have been shown to promote relaxation and emotional processing. There will be multiple opportunities provided throughout the eight class sessions for co-creating music and garden-based artifacts. Previous musical or gardening experience is not necessary to participate in this class. Please wear comfortable clothing and come prepared to move, noting that the drumming and garden-based activities can be completed in a standing or sitting position with one or both hands.

Emily S. Ihara, Ph.D., is a professor and chair of the Department of Social Work in the College of Public Health. Her research focuses on interventions, policies, and system-level changes that eliminate health inequities and improve quality of life for older adults.

Michelle Hand, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of Social Work at George Mason University. Her research focuses on nonpharmacological strategies to address sexual violence and trauma across the lifespan among at-risk community members, particularly in later life, using nature and arts-based approaches.

109R Meet the Artists

Six sessions

Thursdays, 2:15–3:30, Sept. 24–Oct. 29

Location: Leila Gordon Theatre at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods

Sept. 24: Beverly Cosham, cabaret singer. Cosham has performed at nightspots all over the country from Los Angeles to New York to San Antonio, as well as in theatres throughout the Washington area.

Oct. 1: RAYMI. RAYMI's passion for its Andean roots is reflected in its music, which combines traditional Peruvian instruments such as zampoñas, mosceños, quenás, and tarkas with contemporary instruments such as drums and guitars. RAYMI has been in the Washington D.C. area since 1996, cultivating Andean music. With musicians from Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and the U.S., RAYMI has performed at The Blues Alley, The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Museum of the American Indian, and the Washington Folk Festival among others.

Oct. 8: Mark Irchai. Mark Irchai returns to CenterStage. He is an American concert pianist and conductor, hailed as a "virtuoso... who perform[s] with gorgeous balance" (*Wednesday Music Club*).

Oct. 15: Sopranessence. This group will take you on a musical roller coaster from operatic arias to Broadway show tunes, and beloved songs from American culture. Not a fan of opera? You don't have to be! After seeing one performance, you'll be laughing, crying, and held in suspense by the beautiful voices of these talented divas.

Oct. 22: The Tallwood Trio. Nancy Riley (vocalist), Alan Wenberg (piano), Ron Musselwhite (drums), and guest artists will perform the Great American Songbook, light jazz, and contemporary selections.

Oct. 29: Agustin Muriago, piano music from Latin America. The program consists of works that combine folk rhythms from across the Americas with sources ranging from classical music to jazz influences. It features composers from Brazil, México, Cuba, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, and Paraguay, and aims to highlight both the variety of Latin American pianistic voices and ways these works engage with tradition, while drawing inspiration from multiple other sources.

110F Singing for Fun

Eight sessions

Instructors: Gayle Parsons, Linda Harber, Sophia Elberti
Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

Bring your voice and if you wish, your guitar, ukulele, or other instrument, and join us in singing songs that span the time from the 30s to today. The only singing talent required is a desire to sing. Class members are encouraged to bring in songs they would like the group to sing. We have an enthusiastic keyboard accompanist, an occasional banjo, and a great deal of fun. We also share occasional snacks along with our enjoyment of singing as a way to further enhance our shared time together.

Gayle Parsons is retired from a career in tax law. She has been playing keyboard for Singing for Fun classes for about ten years—

and is thrilled to still be co-leading this fun class!

Linda Harber joined OLLI in 2018 when she retired as Mason's VP of HR and Payroll. She is a chair of the OLLI Arts and Music program planning committee and co-president of Friends of Music at Mason. It is a joy to sing with OLLI's Singing for Fun.

Sophia Elberti retired from federal service after 33 years with the intelligence community. She enjoys creative writing, book club discussions, nature walks, and OLLI Singing for Fun classes. She also loves to travel, and one of her retirement goals is to visit as many U.S. national parks as she can manage.

111Z The Magic Behind Film Music, Part One

Six sessions

Instructor: Mike Agron

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 30–Nov. 4

In this course to be continued in spring 2027, we explore how music transforms great films into unforgettable experiences. This is not film school but rather a celebration for film and music lovers who want to understand how music shapes story, mood, and character. Film scores aren't just background, they're the emotional engine of a movie. Through iconic scenes and soundtracks, we'll uncover how scores and songs work together to drive narrative, define character, and capture cultural moments. From the groundbreaking *The Jazz Singer* (1927) to modern classics, we trace the evolution of film music and spotlight legendary composers. These include Max Steiner, Bernard Herrmann, Elmer Bernstein, Henry Mancini, Justin Hurwitz, John Williams, Miles Davis, Lalo Schiffrin, and Quincy Jones—spanning classic Hollywood to today across drama, romance, comedy, adventure, and film noir. We close with a special focus on film noir and the unmistakable role of jazz in shaping mood, tension, and cinematic cool.

Mike Agron is a music aficionado raised in LA's entertainment scene and who now lives in Sacramento, CA. He's a former high-tech executive and entrepreneur turned storyteller. Mike creates engaging multimedia seminars on music and film and has led hundreds of seminars for the Sacramento Renaissance Society, multiple OLLIs nationwide and Osher Online. He returns to OLLI Mason for his fifth series.

112F / 112Z A Gentle Introduction to Richard Wagner

One session

Instructor: Dan Sherman

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 28

Richard Wagner was one of the most influential and controversial composers who ever lived. He created operas of immense drama, beauty, and emotional power; revolutionized classical music; and helped shape the sound of modern film scores. While some people assume Wagner's operas are long, heavy, or difficult; his music can be thrilling, moving, and surprisingly accessible. This talk offers a lively and entertaining introduction to Wagner's remarkable life and career, featuring numerous performance excerpts from his operas. Along the way, it will explore his larger-than-life personality, his groundbreaking musical ideas, and the lasting impact of his work on music, movies, and culture. Whether you

are completely new to Wagner or already a fan, this presentation will provide fresh insights into one of history's most fascinating musical figures.

Dan Sherman is an economist who lives in Alexandria and has been in the Washington area since earning his Doctorate from Cornell in 1985. Since 2010, Dan has taught courses to many groups on opera, musical theatre, and film. One of his first classes was on Wagner, which he taught at OLLI Mason in 2010.

113F "Is This a Book?" Exploring and Creating Artists' Books with George Mason Libraries' Special Collections Research Center

One session

Instructors: Stephanie Grimm, Mieke Palazzo

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 10

Class limit: 15

Artists' books can be defined broadly as artworks that use the form of the book as their medium. These works exist in the territory of printmaking, papermaking, conceptual art, poetry, and publishing. The content and form of artists' books are intrinsically linked, allowing them to communicate ideas on multiple levels while engaging tactile and visual elements like typography, binding, and material. In this joint presentation and workshop, participants will be introduced to the history and contemporary practice of artists' books and book arts, using materials drawn from the libraries' Special Collections Research Center. Following the presentation, participants will learn about and create a simple book structure, providing them with the tools to begin exploring their own book arts projects.

Stephanie Grimm is the Art and Exhibitions librarian and Book Arts curator for Mason Libraries, where she supports teaching and research in the Special Collections Research Center. She holds a Master's in Preservation from the University of Michigan (MSI) and an MA in Art History from GMU.

Mieke Palazzo is the Research Services librarian in the Special Collections Research Center at Mason Libraries, where she supports the research and instructional needs of library users. She earned her Master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS) from UMD College Park.

200 Economics & Finance

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Ian Hogg, Ray Willson

201Z Protect Your Money: Can You Spot the Red Flags of Investment Fraud?

One session

Instructor: Erin Scheithe

Monday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 21

Join the Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of Investor Education and Assistance for a presentation on investment fraud. Learn the warning signs and red flags of imposter scams, relationship investment scams, advance fee fraud, and more. You'll learn how you can avoid scams and determine whether an investment opportunity is legitimate.

Erin Scheithe has been a financial educator for 20+ years. Currently, she is an investor communication specialist at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Erin previously worked for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, AARP, and the American Bankers Association. She attended the University of Virginia.

202F Absolute Basic Financial Analysis

Two sessions

Instructor: Hugh Conway

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 21–Sept. 28

Class limit: 20

This class will focus on understanding the following terms used in the analysis of companies for investment purposes: price earnings ratio, the price to earnings ratio compared to growth estimates, (PEG ratio), and what cash flow is. The class will also examine how to read a Value Line company report, and list other sources of information on possible investments. This class is good preparation for attending the Investment Forum class.

Hugh Conway received a BBA from Pace University and an MBA from Columbia University's School of Business. He worked for 30 years in New York, London, Frankfurt, and Washington D.C. in bank examinations, drafting supervisory policies, creating lesson plans, and instructing at examinations schools.

203F / 203Z The Investment Forum

Seven sessions

Moderators: Al Smuzynski, Bob Baker, Lou Coglianese, David Toms, Ray Willson

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23–Nov. 4

The Investment Forum, which has been meeting continuously since 1995, addresses investment topics of particular interest to retirees. A weekly agenda is distributed, and sessions begin with an open discussion of recent events in the economy and financial markets, and their impact on investment decisions. Member presentations and discussions typically include such topics as: recent market indicators, stocks, bonds, mutual and exchange traded funds, real estate investment trusts, sector allocations, investment strategies, portfolio management, and choosing advisory services. Each week members may participate in our "Buy/Sell/Thinking-About" segment by sharing their investment trades or activities of the previous week, which are then looked at and discussed in a peer group setting. The Forum typically uses various Wall Street analyses and data, as well as relevant news from the financial press. In addition, we regularly incorporate a number of online financial tools and websites in looking at members' recent trading activities or other investment products.

204Z Equity Investment Ideas from GMU Finance Students

Two sessions

Instructor: Derek Horstmeyer

Wednesdays, 3:30–4:30, Sept. 23–Sept. 30

Note time

Several years ago, GMU created a Student Managed

Investment Fund (SMIF). This is an equity only fund managed by students. Members present their research to the student finance committee for voting to decide what stocks to buy or sell. The instructor (professor and fund advisor) will moderate each session selecting his best students to share their investment ideas with OLLI members.

Derek Horstmeyer is a professor of Finance at George Mason University's School of Business, specializing in corporate finance. His research focuses on boards, ETF and mutual fund performance, and hedge fund activism. Dr. Horstmeyer also writes a monthly column for the *Wall Street Journal* on cutting-edge research in finance, and his work has been cited in *Forbes*, *Bloomberg*, *CNBC*, *Fortune*, *PBS NewsHour*, the *New York Post*, *USA Today*, *CNN*, *The Washington Post*, the *LA Times*, and many other outlets. He helped create and lead the first student-managed investment fund at GMU.

205F / 205Z Estate Planning Basics

Four sessions

Instructors: Dina Shaar, Sarah Parks

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 24–Oct. 15

The instructors will share their experience with estate planning and retirement living with seniors and their families. Their purpose is to educate seniors about ways to become proactive in planning their estates: 1) An overview of estate planning: a look at the taxes, laws, and issues that surround estates and how the documents we use help us to prepare for incapacity and death; 2) Trusts: we will look at what trusts are and how they serve us, both before and after death; 3) Funding your living trust: this session will be about the process for transferring (“funding”) various types of assets into a living trust; 4) Medical decision making and advance health care directives: a look at preparing for a time when we are unable to make our own medical decisions.

Dina Shaar is an attorney who brings a decade of experience to her work in estate planning. A graduate of George Mason University, she earned her undergraduate degree in Criminology, Law, and Society in 2021, followed by her Juris Doctor from Mason Law School in 2024.

Sarah Parks is an attorney who limits her practice to estate planning. She founded Custom Estate Planning, which she has been operating since 1995. She has a JD degree from the Mason School of Law and an LLM from the Georgetown University Law Center.

206F / 206Z Economic Current Events and Their Effect on You

Eight sessions

Instructor: Elliot Dubin

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

This class will focus on but not be limited to: 1) Immigration: what are the benefits and what are the costs?; 2) International Trade and Industrial Policy: who benefits from trade and who loses?; 3) Growing inequality in income and wealth: is it necessarily a bad thing?; 4) The economic impact of increasing federal debt; 5) Financing the costs of higher education: would canceling student

debt help increase access to higher education?; 6) Social Security and MEDICARE: how will the looming huge deficits in these trust funds affect you; e.g., cuts in benefits, raises in taxes, or a combination of both?; 7) Inflation and disinflation: its causes and effects and the policies needed to moderate it. Students will have the opportunity to suggest other topics, for example, artificial intelligence and labor markets, energy policies, etc.

Elliott Dubin was the director of Policy Research at the Multistate Tax Commission. He was a member of the VA Commonwealth Savers (529) Plan; and, is currently the treasurer of the not-for-profit Hartwood Foundation.

207F Direct Indexing: Does It Make Sense for You?

One session

Instructors: Michael P. Egan, Logan Reed

Coordinator: Dana Stewart

Monday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 28

Class limit: 40

This course introduces direct indexing as a modern approach to market investing that is especially relevant for investors age 55 and older who are increasingly focused on taxes, flexibility, and real-world outcomes. Participants will learn how direct indexing differs from traditional index mutual funds and ETFs by allowing investors to own individual stocks, customize holdings, and manage taxes more deliberately, particularly in taxable accounts. Through plain-language explanations, relatable retirement-focused examples, and guided discussion, the course explores how direct indexing works, when it may be beneficial, and what trade-offs it involves, including tracking differences, complexity, and behavioral discipline. Rather than promoting direct indexing as “better,” the course emphasizes thoughtful decision-making, helping participants understand whether and how this strategy might fit into a broader, long-term financial plan focused on after-tax wealth and personal goals.

Michael P. Egan, CFP®, is a founding partner of Egan, Berger & Weiner, LLC. with over 30 years of experience in the financial services industry as a mutual fund analyst, accountant, and financial planner. He graduated from George Washington University with a degree in Finance.

Logan Reed, CFP®, is a financial planner at Egan, Berger & Weiner, LLC. He is a Virginia Tech Financial Planning graduate and has been with EBW since 2017, helping individuals and families align investments, retirement, insurance, tax, estate, and benefits into one plan.

208Z Economics Potpourri

Four sessions

Instructors: Johanna Mollerstrom, Daniel Klein,

Jonathan Beauchamp, Robin Hanson

Coordinator: Taylor Kenestrick

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 29–Oct. 20

Brought to you by professors from the George Mason Department of Economics.

Sept. 29: Fairness Preferences Over Parental Wealth Transfers. **Johanna Mollerstrom**

Oct. 6: Adam Smith's Anti-Hegemist Spirit of '76. **Daniel Klein**

Oct. 13: Genoeconomics: The Nature and Nurture of Economic Outcomes. **Jonathan Beauchamp**

Oct. 20: Cultural Drift. **Robin Hanson**

209R Senior Medicare Patrol Fraud Education Series

Four sessions

Instructor: Shawn Smith

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 30–Oct. 21

This class will cover four fraud topics:

Common Healthcare Scams: A look at the top three healthcare scams affecting seniors.

Artificial Intelligence Scams: How AI can be used to steal money and information.

Can You Trust That Email: A look at five ways to determine if an email is legitimate or fraudulent.

Everyday Scams to Avoid: An up-to-date look at popular consumer scams that are on the rise.

Shawn Smith is the state director for the Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). Shawn leads a team focused on empowering seniors to prevent, detect, and report healthcare fraud. He is also the author of *101 Fraud Tips*.

210Z Preparing for the Rest of Your Life

One session

Instructor: Kay Bransford

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 5

This session will give you a simple toolkit to ensure that your estate planning works for those named to take care of it. The What If Kit is a tool that ALL adults should complete to ensure that those you are counting on, have the information they need to assist, until you're back on your feet. This information kit will take well-organized individuals less than an hour to complete and is something you should share to ensure household expenses are covered, allows someone to help if you there is a credit breach or fraud on your accounts, and allows someone to manage healthcare bills and coverage or claims management. Autopay and digital and paperless billing can make it difficult for even those with legal authority (like a durable power of attorney) to know about and manage accounts. Most people are unprepared for disruptions and lack the information to manage affairs during incapacity or after death. Join us to ensure you know how to help your partner or spouse if they are incapacitated. And get this done for yourself to ensure others can help you if needed.

Kay H. Bransford is founder and personal financial advocate for MemoryBanc. She founded MemoryBanc in 2012, providing bill pay, tax organization, and fraud prevention services, and was recognized by the AARP Foundation for innovation in serving older adults. Kay is the best-selling author of *MemoryBanc: Your Workbook for Organizing Life*, named a "Book of the Year" by Today's Caregiver. Her company manages day-to-day finances and supports dozens of adults as durable power of attorney, trustee, and executor.

300 History

Program Planning Group Chairs:

Irene Harwarth, Carol Hiller, Beth Lambert,
Bernie Oppel

301F History vs. Fiction: The Dilemma of Ordinary People in Hitler's Germany

Three sessions

Instructor: David Wessel

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 21–Oct. 5

This course will consider the dilemma of ordinary people in 1930s Germany. How much did ordinary people know about what was going on? What could they choose to do about it? What, if anything, did they do? We'll explore how historical texts and documentaries over the last ninety years have portrayed the response of ordinary Germans to Hitler's ascendancy. Did they flee the country or stay to resist the Nazi Party? Did they accept the changes with which they were faced and comply with the Party's policies? Or did they actively support the rise of the Third Reich? We'll contrast how their reactions have been viewed by historians and how they have been portrayed in historical novels and on the screen.

David K. Wessel, the son of a German immigrant, is a retired U.S. diplomat turned historian and author, who has studied inter-war Germany for over fifty years. His first novel, *Choosing Sides* (2024), is the award-winning story of an ordinary family (his own) torn apart by Hitler's Germany.

302R Caesar Augustus and Rome's Transition to Autocracy

Three sessions

Instructor: David Timko

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 22–Oct. 6

In the late first century BCE, the ancient Roman state underwent a dramatic transition from a Republic in which power was shared and distributed through the state to a de facto autocracy under the emperors. This class will explore how the first emperor, the man we know as Augustus, achieved this transition and established a state that would endure for centuries. We will consider not only how the Augustan regime continued certain aspects of the Republican system, but also decisively broke from it. We will then look at how the system fared over the roughly two centuries after Augustus' death in 14 CE.

David Timko holds an M.A. degree in Ancient History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He taught his first class with OLLI in fall 2025.

303F *The Unlikely War Hero: The Incredible Vietnam War Story of Navy Seaman Apprentice Doug Hegdahl*

One session

Instructor: Marc Leepson

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23

This presentation is based on the instructor's 2024 book, *The Unlikely War Hero*, a slice-of-life biography of the

Vietnam War story of Doug Hegdahl, the youngest and lowest-ranking American captured in North Vietnam and held in the infamous Hanoi Hilton. The 20-year-old seaman apprentice serving aboard the *USS Canberra* fell off the ship in the Tonkin Gulf in the early morning hours of April 6, 1967. He managed to survive for at least three hours in the China Sea, then was picked up by a North Vietnamese fishing boat and taken to the Hanoi Hilton. He went on to make Vietnam War history. Calling it “a strange, fascinating, and ultimately powerful account of one man’s endurance of life as a POW during the American war in Vietnam,” Tim O’Brien called the book “one of the finest nonfiction narratives to emerge from the Vietnam War.”

A former staff writer for *Congressional Quarterly*, **Marc Leepson** is a journalist, historian, and the author of 11 books, including *Saving Monticello* and biographies of the Marquis de Lafayette, Francis Scott Key, and Army Sgt. Barry Sadler. He served two years in the Army, including in the Vietnam War. The arts editor, senior writer, and columnist for *The VVA Veteran*, he taught U.S. History at Laurel Ridge Community College from 2008-15.

304R / 304Z The Mexican American War 1846-1848

Three sessions

Instructor: Philip Massey

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23–Oct. 7

The Mexican American War is America’s forgotten war. There is no monument to the war in Washington, D.C. There is no course on the war at George Mason University. However, this war resulted in a huge transfer of land to the U.S. which changed our map and our history. In this class, we will discuss the following topics: the political, social, economic, cultural, and religious situations in the U.S. and in Mexico in the first half of the 1800s; the reasons for the war; the military history of the war in Mexico, New Mexico, and California; and the unusual circumstances around the treaty that ended the war, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Philip Massey is a former radiologist with an interest in American history. He has given five OLLI classes on Civil War subjects.

305F / 305Z GMU Retired Faculty Association: The Tory’s Wife: A Woman and Her Family in Revolutionary America

One session

Instructor: Cynthia Kierner

Coordinator: Julianne Mahler

Monday, 2:15–3:30, Sept. 28

Note time

Jane Welborn Spurgin was a patriotic supporter of the American Revolution who welcomed the Continental Army general Nathaneal Greene to her North Carolina home. Jane’s husband, William, was a Tory whose loyalist militia unit would soon engage Greene’s army in battle at Guilford Courthouse. After the war, Jane remained in North Carolina while William fled to Canada. Most historians see the American Revolution as a brutal civil war that divided communities and even families. In the Spurgins’ case, the war that ended their marriage also nearly left their large

family homeless. But the resilient Jane fought to reclaim the disgraced William’s confiscated property as her own. In the process, she claimed the rights of citizenship—an unusual, even radical, claim for a woman of her era.

Cynthia Kierner is a professor of History at George Mason University, where she teaches courses on early America, women and gender, and disasters in history. Her most recent book, *The Tory’s Wife*, was a finalist for the George Washington Book Prize and winner of the Julia Cherry Spruill Prize from the Southern Association for Women Historians.

306F More Walk, Less Talk: How a Japanese Immigrant Helped Create the Appalachian Trail and Great Smoky Mountains National Park

One session

Instructor: David Huff

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 5

George Masa was a Japanese immigrant who saw the Southern Appalachians with unusual clarity—and then did the work, alongside others, to help protect them. Through his photography and meticulous mapping, he helped make the case for what would become Great Smoky Mountains National Park and played a quiet but essential role in shaping the early Appalachian Trail. This presentation explores Masa’s life and the conditions under which he worked—often in difficult terrain, carrying heavy equipment into remote places. Drawing on historical research, contemporary photography, and selections from George Mason University Library’s Masa collection, the session connects his legacy to the work of conservation today. It asks a simple question: what does it look like, in any era, to truly see a place—and take responsibility for it?

David Huff is founder of the George Masa Foundation, a photographer, and a trail maintainer on the Appalachian Trail. His work focuses on conservation, storytelling, and leadership, helping connect people more deeply to the natural world.

307Z Fall for the Book: The True Tale of Mary Kay and the Rise of MLM Empires

One session

Instructor: Mary Lisa Gavenas

Coordinators: Suzy Rigdon, Kate Lewis

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 7

You’ve seen the pink cars, you’ve met the consultants, and you’ve purchased the pink products. Now learn the fascinating rags-to-riches tale of Mary Kay Ash, the beauty business mogul who revolutionized direct selling. In *Selling Opportunity: The Story of Mary Kay*, Mary Lisa Gavenas draws on fifteen years of research to examine the dutiful daughter born in Depression-era Texas who built a powerhouse business growing from a 500-square-foot storefront to an empire of 3.5 million representatives in over 35 countries. *Lit Hub* calls *Selling Opportunity* “Ever gripping, wry, and immersive, this biography is for the many readers who love the specific cultural histories that reveal the grander truths of our time.”

Mary Lisa Gavenas, author of *Color Stories: Behind the Scenes of America’s Billion-Dollar Beauty Industry*, was named a fellow at the

Leon Levy Center for Biography and has been cited as an expert commentator on female entrepreneurship. She is a former senior editor at *Glamour* and department head at *InStyle*.

308Z Fall for the Book: *Fuji Fire: Sifting Ashes of a Forgotten U. S. Marine Corps Tragedy*

One session

Instructor: Chas Henry

Coordinators: Suzy Rigdon, Kate Lewis

Thursday, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 8

In *Fuji Fire: Sifting Ashes of a Forgotten U. S. Marine Corps Tragedy*, journalist and decorated Marine veteran Chas Henry brings the story of the largest peacetime disaster into focus. On the slopes of Mount Fuji in October 1979, the most intense tropical cyclone ever recorded propelled 5,500 gallons of gasoline into corrugated steel huts housing U.S. Marines, injuring sixty people and killing thirteen. Author Ralph Peters says this thoroughly-researched book “[portrays] victories of the human spirit, immense sacrifice, inspiring camaraderie, and personal transcendence. Impeccably researched, skillfully written... Chas Henry has written a fine book and created a worthy memorial to the living and the lost.”

Chas Henry served as an active-duty Marine from 1976-1996, rising in rank from private to captain. He was decorated for his actions during the 1991 Gulf War. Journalistic assignments over the years have taken him to more than 30 nations on five continents. He is the author of *Fuji Fire*.

309R / 309Z Park Rangers

Three sessions

Coordinator: Jen Epstein

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 13–Oct. 27

The National Park Service will reveal three new topics, one in each presentation. If you enjoy surprises, this is the course for you! National Park Service Rangers have participated in OLLI programs since 2001 by offering scores of thematic courses, special events, and trips.

310F / 310Z Exploring the Global Scope of the Revolutionary War

One session

Instructor: Derek Baxter

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 14

The instructor will discuss his new book, *The Forgotten World War: Exploring the Secret History of the American Revolution, from Spain to India and Back Again*. In it, Baxter tells the story of the revolution as a vast war fought across four continents, showing how deeply interconnected America’s story was with events across the globe. He traveled in person to many of the places where the war was fought. In the book, he journeys to an island in the English Channel, a jungle in the Yucatán, the fortress of Gibraltar, a palace in India, and many other surprising sites where allies took on the British, their common foe. *The Forgotten World War* demonstrates how France, Spain, the Dutch, the Oneida Indian nation, enslaved and free African Americans, and the Mysore Kingdom all



contributed to the struggle for American independence. It expands the conversation around America’s founding. The book invites audiences to reconsider independence as interdependence from the beginning.

Derek Baxter is a Fairfax native. He has written two books: *In Pursuit of Jefferson: Traveling through Europe with the Most Perplexing Founding Father* and *The Forgotten World War: Exploring the Secret History of the American Revolution, from Spain to India and Back Again*.

311F USS Houston CA-30/POW Experience

One session

Instructor: John Schwarz

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 14

This delivery will cover the story of the *USS Houston CA-30*, a brave American warship that served in the Asia West Pacific during the early months of WWII. It continues to chronicle the remainder of the war for the modest number of her survivors (ship sunk 03/01/1942), who were held as POWs by the Japanese. Most of those men were forced into labor by their captors helping to build the “Burma-Thailand Death Railway”. That railway was featured in the 1957 epic war movie titled, *Bridge on the River Kwai*. Herein, the true saga of that ordeal will be offered.

John K. Schwarz has been familiar with this story for a lifetime as the son of one of the *USS Houston CA-30* survivors. He is a retired government worker and also a certified school teacher. He appreciates veterans and their service to America.

312F Mason Oral History: Revolutionary Conversations: Exploring the Values of the American Revolution through Intergenerational Conversation

One session

Instructor: George D. Oberle, III

Coordinator: Lynn Eaton

Wednesday, 2:00–4:00, Oct. 14

Note time

Location: Main Reading Room/2001 in Fenwick Library, George Mason University

This event will feature a short presentation about the values and motivating factors central to the American Revolutionary leaders and participants. This will be followed by a moderated conversation between three to four OLLI members and three to four Mason students about how those factors have been presented, highlighted, and re-interpreted over the course of the mid-20th century to today. A general Q&A will follow the initial discussion. This event is part of the OLLI Oral History program, with the plan that this be recorded as part of the Special Collections Research Center’s work documenting the history of George Mason University and OLLI. Refreshments will be served.

George Oberle is director of the Center for Mason Legacies and is a history librarian. He received his Ph.D. in History from George Mason University and pursues research interests including the significance of knowledge creation and dissemination. His book, *Creating an Informed Citizenry: Knowledge and Democracy in the*



Early American Republic (University of Virginia Press) examines early debates in the United States over how best to educate the constituents of the new nation.

313Z The Soviet/German War: One Historian's 50-year Study of Evolving Interpretations and Source Materials

One session

Instructor: Tim Mulligan

Thursday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 15

This course reviews the presenter's experiences in studying and researching the Soviet/German War of 1941–45, the largest and costliest land campaign of World War II. We will review the changing interpretations of that conflict over the past 50 years, especially with regard to the increased access to available source materials. Our class will thereby consider aspects of both the military campaign and subsequent controversies among historians. In so doing we may better understand the background to the breakup of the Soviet Union and the current Russian/Ukrainian war.

Timothy Mulligan earned his Master's and Ph.D. in History at the University of Maryland. For 34 years he served as an archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration, specializing in American military and captured German records. He is the author of three books and over 20 articles.

314F / 314Z The New Imperial Presidency

Four sessions

Instructor: Michael McGregor

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 19–Nov. 9

This course concludes the Imperial Presidency course given in previous terms. We'll examine how Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama used national emergencies to claw back power from Congress. President Bush utilized the emergency resulting from the terrorist attack on 9/11 as justification to reassert presidential power. The reassertion of presidential power has been dubbed the "New Imperial Presidency." President Obama continued to claw back authority from Congress based on national emergencies.

Michael McGregor currently works as a policy analyst at the Department of Health and Human Services. His research has focused on the history of the U.S. presidency, Franklin Roosevelt, Congress, and the Lend-Lease Act. Michael received his Master of Arts from George Mason in 2002.

315F / 315Z Continuity and Change in U.S. Foreign Policy

Four sessions

Instructor: Zachary Teich

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 19–Nov. 9

This lecture and discussion course examines critically the theory that U.S. foreign policy has swung like a pendulum during the 250 years of our nation's existence. The through lines of several consistent policy themes are outlined, and changes in policy are assessed for their potential to be considered genuine pendulum swings.

Zachary Teich was a foreign service officer from 1979 to 2006. He

served overseas in Guatemala City, Quito, London, Canberra, and Antananarivo. He was a negotiator/program manager at the State Department's Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (2006–12). He has Master's degrees from Georgetown University and the USMC War College.

316F Religion and the American Experiment

Four sessions

Instructor: John Turner

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 19–Nov. 9

English author G.K. Chesterton once described America as "a nation with the soul of a church." Other Europeans commented that while American religion was less bland than its cuisine, it was just as baneful. In this course, we will survey the history of religion in America, that is, in the geographic region that became the United States. We will discuss Puritanism and its encounter with the New World; religion and the American founding; Catholics, Mormons, and Jews, and movements against them; and the rise and fall and rise again of the Religious Right.

John G. Turner is professor of Religious Studies and History at George Mason University and chairs the Department of Religious Studies. He writes broadly about the intersection of religion and U.S. history including a history of Plymouth Colony and biographies of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. Most recently, he authored *Joseph Smith: The Rise and Fall of an American Prophet*.

317F / 317Z The Civil War Beyond the Battles, Part III

Three sessions

Instructor: Jim Anderson

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 21–Nov. 4

Each of the lectures covers a different aspect of the American Civil War. We will avoid the usual focus on military campaigns or individual battles in favor of topics tangentially related to the fighting but rarely covered in the usual survey course.

- **Civil War Technology** analyzes some of the technological advances stimulated by the war, which also had a significant impact on the outcome.
- **The Great Locomotive Chase** recounts the daring, but ultimately unsuccessful, Union attempt to steal a Confederate train and the subsequent awarding of the first Medals of Honor to those brave soldiers.
- **Christmas During the Civil War** will discuss the ways Christmas was observed by both sides and how the war changed the celebration of the holiday in America.

Jim Anderson spent three years in the Air Force and 27 years with the CIA. He has an MA in History from the University of Memphis. His retirement leadership training business featured Civil War battlefield seminars. He has been an instructor and tour guide at OLLI since 2009, focusing on American history.

318F Caesar Augustus and Rome's Transition to Autocracy

Three sessions

Instructor: David Timko

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 21–Nov. 4

This is a repeat of 302R.

See 302R for instructor information.

319F / 319Z The Vote: Then and Now

Four sessions

Instructor: David Cain

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 22–Nov. 12

How important is the right to vote in America and to know that one's vote is meaningful? Those are questions that have intrigued historians for many generations. And yet, this basic right is not embedded within the original Constitution of the United States. Instead, it was addressed only by the states and in eight subsequent amendments to the federal Constitution, telling us how very fundamental it actually is in the exercise of citizenship. How voting rights were perceived by the Founding Fathers before, during, and after the Constitution's establishment, especially how the first of those eight amendments—the 12th and that unusual animal called the Electoral College—has worked and evolved over the last two-plus centuries will be the course's focus.

David Cain is a Fairfax County election officer (since 2022), and is a former intelligence officer in the U.S. government, including six years as an instructor-course manager. He has BA (History) and MA (Political Science) degrees from Ohio University.



320F / 320Z The British Side of the American Revolution

Four sessions

Instructor: Beth Lambert

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 22–Nov. 12

British historian Robert Harvey speaks of a "creation myth" in which Americans spun their own version of the American Revolution by use of exaggeration and misinformation. Is Harvey correct? In truth, have we ever questioned the motives of the American patriots or such American heroes as John Hancock and Samuel Adams? Have we ever wondered why at least a third of the colonists remained loyal to the Crown? Are we aware that a significant number of slaves and Native Americans fought on the side of the British—and had good reasons for doing so? And what exactly happened at Yorktown? Was it as straightforward as we have thought? In these sessions we will experience the American Revolution from a different perspective. More than one surprise is in store.

Beth Lambert has been an OLLI member since 2008 and is professor emerita of English at Gettysburg College. She published and taught courses on all aspects of the 18th century Britain. Her biography of Edmund Burke was published by the University of Delaware Press.



321F The Rescue of Mount Vernon

One session

Instructor: Mary Lipsey

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 27

Learn about how George Washington's home was purchased by women who wanted to preserve it, when neither the U.S. Congress nor the State of Virginia wanted the mansion. The Ladies of the Mount Vernon Association organized to purchase the mansion and property. The task was not easy, as many did not believe women were



capable of managing and preserving the mansion. The women's mission was to restore George Washington's home to the time period when he lived there. During the Civil War, the mansion was opened to Union soldiers to visit. The women's efforts have made Mount Vernon one of the most visited historic sites in Virginia.

Mary Lipsey is a retired middle school American History teacher. She taught at Lake Braddock Secondary School for almost 30 years. She was a volunteer docent at the Smithsonian American History Museum and the National Archives. She has authored books on aviation and American women's history.

322Z 1776: A Tale of Two Worlds: George Washington's America and Qing China

One session

Instructor: Dawn Li

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 3

What was happening in China when George Washington led the American colonies toward independence? This session explores 1776 through two parallel worlds—revolutionary America and Qing-dynasty China—highlighting Washington's contemporaries and the surprising everyday connections between the two cultures through tea, porcelain, silk, and trade. This session will be a fresh, accessible global perspective on the year of America's founding.

Dawn Li, Ph.D., a native Chinese speaker with a Doctorate in Language and Literature, has taught Chinese culture at George Washington University and English at Peking University in Beijing. She is the author of *New Dao Fables: Wisdom of the Wild* (animal stories) and *Song of a Lotus Leaf* (poems).



323Z Oh, the Stories I've Heard

One session

Instructor: Kathleen McCleery

Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 3

This veteran journalist offers tales from the field after 40-plus years as a broadcast producer and reporter. Learn what she gleaned when producing interviews with U.S. presidents from Jimmy Carter to Barack Obama. Hear her talk about the high stress yet rewarding environment of a fast-paced newsroom including what it was like to be on the news desk on September 11, 2001. Find out about the most challenging assignments, the ones that worked, the ones that did not, and those that were the most fun. Understand how creating a documentary differs from daily news gathering. See what happens when a behind-the-scenes producer makes her on-camera debut on national television at age 60. And discover how mementos from long-ago interviews led to an appearance on PBS's *Antiques Roadshow*. McCleery will use anecdotes, photographs, and video to illustrate her presentation.

Kathleen McCleery is an award-winning broadcast journalist who was deputy executive producer for *PBS NewsHour* for eight years. She's also reported and produced stories for the program from NM. Kathleen taught journalism at Princeton University in 2016 and 2018, focusing on media coverage of elections.

324R / 324Z The Suffrage Movement on Two Continents

One Session

Instructor: Priscilla Godfrey

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Nov. 4

The lecture will cover the major personalities in England and the United States that made it possible for women to gain the rights to vote.

Priscilla Godfrey is a college graduate with an English and Theatre major. She lives in Loudoun County and has been a quilter since 1975. Her lectures have been very popular at the Fairfax campus of George Mason. The one on suffrage was seen by 85 people online. She is a published author with her articles appearing in the yearly periodical, Loudoun County Bulletin of History with issues available on Amazon.

325Z History for Travelers: Etruscans, Romans, and the High Middle Ages

Three sessions

Instructor: Laura Vinti

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 8–22

This course explores three extraordinary Italian sites – the Monterozzi Necropolis in Tarquinia, Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli, and the medieval city of Siena – as gateways into three civilizations that profoundly shaped the Western world: the Etruscans, the Romans, and the society of the High Middle Ages. Through their art, architecture, and historical legacy, we will trace the cultural evolution of Italy from antiquity to the medieval era.

Laura Vinti was born and raised in Italy. After 17 years in Germany and 15 years in the U.S., she now lives in Florence, where she works as a tour designer and manager. She has taught at several universities in Germany, the U.S., and Italy. Laura holds an MA in Foreign Languages and Literature and an MFA in Creative Writing.

400 Literature, Theater, and Writing

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Pat Bangs, Jane Fitzgibbons, Debby Kruesi,
Michael Mason, Norma Jean Reck

401F / 401Z The Joy of Reading Aloud to Young Children

One session

Instructor: Maggie Wrobel

Monday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 21

Connecting with young children through books can be magical and heart-warming. This session will prime the pump by introducing books for ages 2-7 that spark interest right away and have proven to be absorbing read-a-louds in high demand. The class will point you to a diversity of age-appropriate storylines, topics, authors, and illustrators. Simple, fun, and performative techniques will be shared to enhance your reading pleasure. The use of a few props will be demonstrated as a tool for launching a story or piquing interest. The intent of this class is

to inspire participants to read aloud with heightened confidence and joy.

Maggie Wrobel is a retired children's librarian and puppeteer. Preschool story time and bedtime story time were two of her activities. She enjoyed creating booklists on various topics to draw in lots of readers and listeners of varied attention spans and interests. She has two grandchildren ages 3 and 7.

402F Theatre Potpourri

Four sessions

Instructor: Paul Douglas (PD) Michnewicz

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 21–Oct. 19

No class Oct. 12

Session One: Directing. Study the basics of script analysis. Students will have a chance to direct and/or perform in a short scene.

Session Two: Stage Managing. We'll explore the role of the stage manager in the collaborative process.

Session Three: Arts and Disability. Discover the intersection between arts and disability.

Session Four: "What Went Wrong". Take a deep dive into theatre catastrophes through real life anecdotes.

Paul Douglas Michnewicz (PD) is the director of Arts and Culture at the Reston Community Center where he has presented artists such as Mandy Patinkin and Judy Collins. He has directed over 20 world premier plays at the Kennedy Center and is founder of Theater Alliance.

403F Memoir Writing

Four sessions

Instructor: Ron Shapiro

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 22–Oct. 13

In a relaxing and comfortable setting, you will discover the power of the written word to make meaning of your memorable experiences—whether it be growing up in a small Russian community to learning how to ride a bike in a small rural town, from watching a beloved grandmother struggling to make ends meet in the 1930's to surviving serious injury during the war. Writing experience is unnecessary though you may well find great satisfaction in setting your past on paper. The only requirement is the desire to preserve small moments of your life for your family. In these workshops, a supportive and comfortable environment serves to nourish and cultivate these life stories. From the seeds of memory, a wondrous garden of personal history flourishes for others to admire and appreciate.

Ron Shapiro, a recipient of Cornell's Outstanding Teacher Award, has published in *NoVa Bards*, *Poetry X Hunger*, *Minute Musings*, *Backchannels*, *Gezer Kibbutz Gallery*, *Walt Whitman 205 Anthology*, *Zest of the Lemon*, *New Verse News* and has also published *Understory*, a collection of nature poetry.

Check the Daily Schedule

Please check your daily schedule email for class links or information, the current video library passcode, and Zoom Help Desk information.

404F Staging England's Story: Shakespeare's Major History Plays

Eight sessions

Instructor: Susan McCloskey

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Through the experience of three kings, Shakespeare traced England's passage from the medieval to the early modern world. One king tragically misunderstood the exercise of power; the second usurped the crown and unleashed civil war; the third abandoned his riotous youth to become the greatest of the Lancastrian kings. We will read the plays that tell this story: *Richard II*, *Henry IV* (Parts 1 and 2), and *Henry V*, spending two sessions on each. Separately and together, these plays raise complex questions about power, politics, and leadership. As we grapple with them, we'll look at Shakespeare's creation of characters who embody the competing forces that a successful ruler must harness. We'll investigate the dramatic and theatrical resources Shakespeare employed to give each play its distinctive sound and feel. We'll also consider whether his exploration of political, moral, and social upheaval lets us see in the world of these plays an image of our own.

Susan McCloskey received her Ph.D. in English Literature from Princeton University, taught at Vassar College, and spent a memorable year as the dramaturg for the Classic Stage Company in New York City.

405Z Charles Dickens's *Bleak House*

Eight sessions

Instructor: Ellen Moody

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Class limit: 50

In this class we'll read Dickens's masterpiece from a variety of perspectives: we'll contextualize it with his life, career as a wildly comic-melodramatic reformist author, editor/publisher of weekly highly influential magazines, *Household Words* and *All the Year Round*; the development of the new genre of mystery-detective fiction and his friendship with Wilkie Collins, a fellow practitioner. We'll consider it as a novel published in installments and from the point of view of Phiz's illustrations. We'll read two short stories: the ghost-gothics *Signalman* and *Haunted Man*. There are two film adaptations, BBCs serials 1985 (Arthur Hopcraft, Diana Rigg, Denholm Elliot) and 2005 (Andrew Davies, Anna Maxwell Martin, Alun Armstrong), one of which you'll be encouraged to watch as they enrich our experience of the book and make it more enjoyable.

Ellen Moody taught for in senior colleges from 1972-2011 and now over 12 years at two OLLIs. She is a published scholar with specialties in British literature, film, and women's studies. Her most recent publications and talks have been about Anthony Trollope, Jane Austen, and 18th century literature.

406F Fun and Games: The Fundamentals of Improvisational Theater

Six sessions

Instructor: Steve Pilloff

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 22–Oct. 27

Class limit: 18

Do you like to laugh? Do you enjoy connecting with supportive people? Do you cherish moments of joy? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then this class is for you! We'll gather in a safe, encouraging, and supportive environment to play and explore. Using our imaginations, we'll create fun worlds, collaborative stories, and an overall sense of connected joy. Students will participate in various games, activities, and exercises that involve working together, listening to each other, making choices, using imaginations, discovering that mistakes can be gifts, and most importantly, having fun. Students will develop trust not just in themselves but in each other. Everyone is welcome—no prior improv or theater experience is needed, and you don't even need to be funny. Just bring yourself; you are enough!

Steve Pilloff, a professor with GMU's Costello College of Business, is a dedicated improv teacher, producer, and performer. He has taught improv classes for Highwire Improv, the Pozez JCC, OLLI, and Encore Learning. He frequently performs in and produces shows throughout the D.C./Baltimore area.

407Z Poetry Workshop

Eight sessions

Moderators: Sophia Elberti, Carolyn Wyatt

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Class limit: 14

This workshop allows both novice and experienced poets the opportunity to share their work and receive suggestions for improvement. Workshop members should prepare an original poem in draft or in revised form for each session. The moderators will email students after class confirmation with further instructions.

Sophia Elberti retired from federal service after 33 years with the intelligence community. She enjoys creative writing, book club discussions, nature walks, and OLLI Singing for Fun classes. She also loves to travel, and one of her retirement goals is to visit as many U.S. national parks as she can manage.

Carolyn Wyatt is a retired federal information officer who traveled widely in that position. She has an MA in Spanish from Indiana University and aspires to be a poet and a wise woman.

408Z Writers' Workshop

Eight sessions

Instructors: Ed Sadtler, Margie Wildblood

Wednesdays, 9:15–11:05, Sept. 23–Nov. 18

No class Nov. 11

Note time and dates

Class limit: 12

This class uses a roundtable format to foster an environment for writers of all levels to give and receive encouragement, feedback, and constructive criticism. All genres of writing are welcome, including poetry, fiction,

memoirs, and historical pieces. To each of these categories we apply the same underlying commitment—to write a compelling work that fully conveys the author's intentions.

Ed Sadtler, a graduate of Shippensburg State College in Pennsylvania, has conducted many writing workshops at OLLI Mason, and has taught poetry writing classes for OLLI and for the Lifetime Learning Institute at NOVA.

Margie Wildblood is a native of Salem, Virginia. She has degrees in English, Psychology, and Education. She retired from Northern Virginia Community College where she was faculty and a counselor in student services. She writes poetry, fiction, and nonfiction prose. Her memoir, *Because He Loved Me*, is available on Amazon.

409Z Literary Roundtable

Seven sessions

Instructor: Yasha Arant, Pat Bangs

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23–Nov. 4

This ongoing short story discussion class, launched in 1999, has covered stories in 41 anthologies. This term, the Roundtable begins a new anthology, *The Best Short Stories 2025: The O. Henry Prize Winners* (edited by Edward P. Jones, published by Vintage, 2025). The book is available in paperback and can be ordered online from a variety of sources. It is also available on Kindle and audio. This *O. Henry Prize* volume includes stories by veteran writers, such as Clyde Edgerton, Wendell Berry, Alice Hoffman, Dave Eggers, and more recent voices such as Ling Ma, Lori Ostlund, and Anthony Marra.

Yasha Haas Arant is a long-time OLLI Mason member and a participant in the Literary Roundtable for about three years. She holds a Fine Arts degree from Ohio's Notre Dame College and retired from Lockheed Martin after 29 years. She participates in three book clubs and has a life-long love of literature.

Pat Bangs is a long-time member of OLLI Mason. She has attended the Literary Roundtable for a decade and holds an MFA in Fiction from George Mason University. She loves the short story format.

410R Classic Film Festival

Seven sessions

Instructor: Ben Gold

Wednesdays, 1:45–4:00, Sept. 23–Nov. 4

Note time

If you like old movies, this is the class for you. Every week a different classical film will be presented, each designed to spark your awareness of critically acclaimed films and make you aware of significant historical motion pictures. The instructor will introduce the film, and depending on time constraints, will lead a post-viewing discussion. Films are chosen in all genres based on critical recognition and popularity. Planned films include ones directed by Zoltan Korda, Alfred Hitchcock, Elia Kazan, and Florian Henckel Von Donnersmarck among others, and featuring some of your all-time favorite stars.

Ben Gold is a bona fide movie junkie. He spends much of his free time watching movies and doesn't care if they are extremely old ones, the latest popular ones, or the best in foreign films. So join us and enjoy some great films.

411Z "Such Friends": James Joyce, Sylvia Beach and *Ulysses*

Three sessions

Instructors: Kathleen Dixon Donnelly, Lisa Reznik

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24–Oct. 8

In Paris in the 1920s, James Joyce could find no publisher to bring out his scandalous novel, *Ulysses*. A New Jersey preacher's kid, Sylvia Beach, and her bookstore, Shakespeare and Company, took on the challenge. We'll look at the many characters in Paris at the time and particularly the important role women played in the incredible story of *Ulysses'* publication. Two sessions of lecture and questions will be followed by a screening and discussion of the new documentary *Left Bank: The Women Who Rescued James Joyce's Ulysses*, led by the director Lisa Reznik. *Left Bank* tells the largely unknown story of the pioneering women who helped shape and publish *Ulysses* when censorship laws prevented publication of Joyce's masterpiece. Thanks to their belief in Joyce's genius, *Ulysses* became a best-selling international classic and a triumph of modernist literature. NOTE: There is no need to have read *Ulysses* to enjoy these sessions. But if you want to give it a try...

Kathleen Dixon Donnelly's Ph.D. dissertation, "Such Friends," was on early 20th century writers' salons. She now blogs about them at www.suchfriends.wordpress.com. Kathleen recently retired from Birmingham [UK] City University to relocate to her hometown of Pittsburgh, PA.

Lisa Reznik has written for the screen and stage, including four award-winning short films. Lisa is currently working on the feature documentary hybrid, *Left Bank*. Lisa earned a BA in European Cultural Studies from Brandeis University and an MA in Journalism from New York University.

412F / 412Z Pondering Poe's Fingerprints: From Murders in Rue Morgue to the Modern Detective Novel

Five sessions

Instructor: Marilyn Harriman

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 24–Oct. 15

Thursday, 2:00–3:45, Oct. 22

Note times

Before Sherlock Holmes, there was C. Auguste Dupin, Edgar Allan Poe's brilliant blueprint for the modern detective. This course examines the origins of modern detective fiction through a close study of two of Edgar Allan Poe's short detective stories, *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* and *The Purloined Letter*, featuring his pioneering detective, Dupin. With the creation of Dupin, Poe establishes a set of conventions that have shaped detective fiction ever since. Students will explore foundational motifs such as the locked room mystery, the crucial clue hidden in plain sight, rigorous logical deduction, the use of red herrings, and the recurring figure of the incompetent police. By analyzing Poe's formal innovations and narrative strategies, we'll discuss how these elements became central to later detective and mystery writing. We'll complete our study by examining

modern-day examples of Poe's techniques in Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon* and Ruth Ware's *The Woman in Cabin 10*.

Marilyn Harriman is a retired Fairfax County Advanced Placement language and composition instructor. She also taught HS and college English and journalism in Oregon, Texas, and Germany. She holds an MEd from the University of Virginia and BA degrees in English and Journalism from the University of Oregon.

413Z Feast of All Fools: *The Iceman Cometh* and Tragic Ambiguity

Seven sessions

Instructor: Charles Chadwick

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 1–Nov. 12

Eugene O'Neill's play, *The Iceman Cometh* contends with *Long Day's Journey Into Night* for the title of the greatest play ever written by an American, and to which the nod goes is a matter of debate. *Iceman* started the great creative burst of O'Neill's final four plays. It creates a very modern tragedy as it dissects the "pipe dreams" of the denizens of Harry Hope's saloon, asking whether their illusions condemn them to tragedy or protect them from despair. O'Neill creates one of the greatest characters in all of Western drama—the glad-handing salesman and would-be savior, Hickey—who attempts to destroy these pipe dreams without realizing the tragic cost. We will view and examine the play in detail to see how O'Neill created this masterpiece of the modern stage.

Charles Chadwick has an MA in Literature and has taught courses on the plays of Shakespeare, O'Neill, and Edward Albee for OLLI since 2014, as well as courses on poetry and contemporary literature. He is retired after a career in organizational ethics and as an executive in government contracting.

414Z *Dr. Strangelove*, or I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

One session

Instructor: Michael Mason

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 5

Film director Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove* is considered to be one of the greatest black comedies and political satires in film history. This romp through the absurdities of Cold War rhetoric and nuclear brinksmanship shocked and thrilled audiences of the time. Many of its characters are embedded in the public consciousness, including George C. Scott as General Buck Turgidson, Sterling Hayden as General Ripper, Slim Pickens as Major Kong, and Peter Sellers as the president, British officer Mandrake, and the infamous mad scientist Dr. Strangelove. The presenter will provide an overview of the movie's making, how it satirized Cold War fears of nuclear holocaust, and why it has stood the test of time. Various clips from the movie will be shown to demonstrate issues and to highlight performances. Sufficient time will be allowed for attendees to share their insights, favorite lines, and performances from the film.

Michael Mason retired in 2019 after 33 years with the U.S. EPA. Michael has given multiple lectures for OLLI on literature and environmental history. He is the co-coordinator for the OLLI Classic Literature and Family History clubs. Michael writes political satire for OLLI's Writers' Workshop.

415F Why 1984 Still Matters: Revisiting Orwell in Modern America

Four sessions

Instructor: Ron Shapiro

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 20–Nov. 10

George Orwell's *1984* remains one of the most important novels of the 20th century. In this course, we will revisit key passages and themes—such as surveillance, language, truth, and individual freedom—and consider how they resonate today. Through guided discussion, short readings, and selected video clips, participants will explore connections between Orwell's fictional world and contemporary American life. In a welcoming and engaging setting of thoughtful conversation, this course emphasizes inquiry over conclusion, inviting multiple perspectives in a respectful, nonpartisan setting.

Ron Shapiro, an award-winning teacher, has published over 20 poems in publications including *Nova Bards 24 & 25*, *Virginia Writers Project*, *The New Verse News*, *Poetry X Hunger*, *Gezer Kibbutz Gallery* and *Paper Cranes Literary* magazine. *Understory* is his book of published nature poetry.

416Z So You Wanna Write Poetry

Four sessions

Instructors: Ed Sadtler

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 22–Nov. 12

Class limit: 12

This is a class for those who would like to write poetry or already write poetry and would like to improve their skills. Each session will be divided into three segments: a discussion of craft, a time to write, and a time to share what's been written. Come and surprise yourself!

See 408Z for instructor information.

417F From Idea to Page: A Mystery Author's Journey

One session

Instructor: Melinda Crocker

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 29

In this engaging author talk, suspense novelist Melinda Crocker shares her journey to becoming a published writer and the creative process behind crafting compelling mystery stories. Participants will learn how a simple idea can grow into a full novel, using examples from her latest book, *Behind Closed Lies*. Crocker discusses where story ideas come from, how writers develop believable characters, and why character growth—known as a character arc—is essential to keeping readers invested. She will also explore two common approaches to writing: planning with an outline versus "writing by the seat of your pants," and explain how she blends the two methods in her own work. Through examples from her novels and

insights from her publishing experience, students will gain a clearer understanding of how stories are built from concept to finished book. The session concludes with an interactive Q&A where participants can ask questions about writing, publishing, and the creative process.

Melinda Crocker is the author of five suspenseful mystery novels, including *Behind Closed Lies*, *Killing Spring*, and *The Truth About Autumn*. Known for vivid characters and emotional twists, she writes stories that immerse readers in gripping mysteries. A native Texan, she lives in Fairfax, Virginia.

418Z Beauty, Wisdom, and Worldviews in Classical Chinese Poetry

Two sessions

Instructor: Dawn Li

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 5–Nov. 12

Many readers are drawn to the beauty of nature in classical Chinese poetry—moonlight, mountains, seasons, and quiet moments. This course invites participants to move beyond surface appreciation to discover the wisdom and worldviews that shape these poems. We will read selected works by Wang Wei, Li Bai, Du Fu, Bai Juyi, Li Shangyin, Yu Xuanji, Su Shi, and Li Qingzhao from the Tang and Song periods. Together we will explore how simple images express harmony, impermanence, balance, and human life. The course introduces Daoist naturalness and harmony, Buddhist awareness of change, and Confucian concern for humanity and responsibility. Gentle reflective prompts and imagery will help bring each poem to life. This course welcomes anyone interested in poetry, nature, and deeper insight.

See 322Z for instructor information.

419F / 419Z How a Trip to Japan Inspired the Poet in Me

One session

Instructor: Vera Kochanowsky

Tuesday, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 10

Traveling to a new place can change your perspective and your life. Such was the case when the instructor, a music teacher, took her first trip to Japan and became completely fascinated with the novel sights, the unique culture, and the charm of the people. Inspired to begin an intense study of Japanese classical literature after returning home, she immersed herself in the works of the most famous Japanese poets, especially Matsuo Basho. This led her to her own poetic experiments and ultimately a book of haiku, illustrated by Berkeley, California artist, Janine Johnson (*101 Haiku: A Journey Through the Seasons*). This class will follow the author's journey: her experiences in Japan, and how the study of its arts, culture, aesthetics, literature, and religion became a springboard into a new appreciation of poetry, as well as a new way of experiencing life.

Dr. Vera Kochanowsky is an early music specialist, harpsichordist, teacher, and author residing in Falls Church, Virginia. She has performed in OLLI's *Meet the Artist* series and offered OLLI lectures about her two previous books, *Lenin, Hitler,*

and Me and *Anna and Boris: The Love Letters (1944-1946)*. *101 Haiku* is her first book of poetry.

500 Languages

Program Planning Group Chairs:

Pat Bangs, Jane Fitzgibbons, Debby Kruesi,
Michael Mason, Norma Jean Reck

501F / 501Z Italian Culture and Conversation

Eight sessions

Instructor: Leti Labell

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Do you love Italy? Who doesn't? This course is a discussion group for lovers of all things Italian. The instructor will prepare materials to direct discussion. The sessions might include aspects of Italian culture, such as food, music, art, literature, or history, as well as any other topics of interest to attendees. There will be a general discussion of the topics in English. If you've traveled to Italy in the past or are planning a future trip, this is the class for you.

Leti Labell has been studying Italian for over ten years. Her first Italian class was an OLLI class called "Italian for Travelers!" She loves the language and enjoys sharing all things Italian.

502F / 502Z Beginning Italian Language

Eight sessions

Instructor: Leti Labell

Tuesdays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

This is a beginning course to learn the Italian language. No prior experience with Italian is needed, but if you already know some Italian, it would be helpful. While it is possible to join the class by Zoom, it will be much more effective for you to be there in person. Otherwise, I cannot help you with your pronunciation, and it's also more fun in person!

See 501F/501Z for instructor information.

503F Japanese for Beginners

Eight sessions

Instructor: Sonia Segarra-Law

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

This series is a continuation of the summer 2026 class. We will continue the study of the Japanese language and culture by reviewing some of the concepts already learned, including the two phonetic languages (Hiragana and Katakana). We will construct sentences by adding particles; conjugating verbs; and using verb tenses in scenarios such as ordering food and drinks, giving directions, and talking about family.

Sonia Segarra-Law worked for the Japanese government for seven years and studied the Japanese language, culture, and history at Carleton College in Minnesota.

Update Your Zoom!

Zoom regularly provides updates to release new features and fix bugs. To receive the best video and audio experience, remember to check for updates.

504Z Active French: Easy Interactive Travel Dialogs

Four sessions

Instructor: Gloria Finkelstein

Thursdays, 3:30–5:00, Oct. 22–Nov. 12

Note time

Get ready to speak French while traveling! Préparez-vous à parler français en voyageant! Join Madame G as we practice essential French travel scenarios through active role-playing. Master key phrases for hotels, restaurants, directions, and shopping and more! All levels are welcome. A questionnaire will be sent to all registered students prior to the first class so the program can be custom designed for those who attend.

Gloria Finkelstein is the creator of French Club with Madame G, an innovative learning-by-doing immersive language arts program. Her past classes included Paris, La Belle Provence Quebec, Impressionist Art, Musical Jukebox, Inventions, Tartines, Baguettes, Croissants + Café, Famous Women, and Food and Culture.

600 Philosophy and Religious Studies

Program Planning Group Chair:
Jim Cantwell

601Z The Bible's Boldest Women: Heroes, Rebels, Sinners and Survivors

Three sessions

Instructor: Stephen Ruth

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 21–Oct. 5

From queens and prophets to rebels and risk-takers, the Bible is filled with remarkable women whose stories still surprise, challenge, and inspire. In this lively course, we'll uncover the courage of Deborah, the daring of Esther, the loyalty of Ruth, and the quiet strength of Mary, along with dozens of lesser-known figures who helped shape Bible history. Drawing on insights from his book *One Year Trip through the Bible*, Steve Ruth blends storytelling, historical context, and fresh perspectives. Expect insight, inspiration, and a few surprises as we rediscover the women who helped write some of the world's most fascinating stories.

Stephen Ruth is professor emeritus of Public Policy from the Schar School at George Mason University. He is a frequent lecturer on Bible topics. His book, *One Year Trip through the Bible: A Layman's Fresh View of the Complete Old and New Testaments*, is available on Amazon.

602Z Sacred Gravities: The Holy in a Disenchanted World

Four sessions

Instructor: Edward Ingebreetsen

Tuesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 22–Oct. 13

This course explores how certain places across the world—mountains, cities, rivers, temples, cathedrals, and pilgrimage sites—accumulate enduring spiritual

and cultural significance across millennia. Drawing on archaeology, religious history, cultural geography, and anthropology, the series examines why human civilizations repeatedly return to the same landscapes to build shrines, temples, monuments, and ritual centers. Sacred sites are not random. Across cultures and historical periods, human societies consistently identify and reuse places shaped by four recurring forces—elemental landscapes (mountains, springs, rivers, and caves), celestial alignments (solar, lunar, and stellar orientation), ancestral presence (tombs, relics, and memorials), and threshold spaces (borders, crossings, and ritual boundaries). These “sacred gravities” help explain why places such as Jerusalem, Mecca, Delphi, Varanasi, Chartres, Angkor, and Mount Kailash remain spiritually potent long after origin.

Edward Ingebreetsen holds advance degrees in Theology and Ethics (JSTB 1982) and a Doctorate in American Studies/Theology (Duke 1986). His publications (books, journals) consider the intersection of gender, race, theology, and popular cultures. He specializes in non-human animal ethics.

604F / 604Z Christian Movies

Four sessions

Instructor: Jim Cantwell

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 23–Oct. 14

In this course, four movies will be shown: *God's Outlaw* by William Tyndale (Tyndale's translation of the Bible into English led to intrigue, cold-blooded betrayal, and death); *War Room* (prayer changes lives); *Breakthrough* (a dead boy is brought back to live by the Holy Spirit); and *Facing the Giants* (inspiration for the game of life).

Jim Cantwell is chair of the OLLI Philosophy and Religious Studies program planning group and has taught numerous courses at OLLI.

605Z Jesus and Mohammad

Two sessions

Instructor: Vera Breton

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 23–Sept. 30

Jesus and Mohammad taught a message of love, compassion, charity, faith and belief in the one true God, the God of Abraham and Moses. They both proclaimed the truth of the prophets of the Old Testament and Mohammad himself proclaimed the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What is their connection? Did Mohammad “borrow” from Jesus's teachings? Or is there another explanation? This is not a class about Islam but rather an attempt to cast some light upon the mystery and beauty of the connection between these two extraordinary spiritual luminaries.

Vera Breton is a Baha'i and a trained facilitator in the Baha'i Ruhi Institute. She is a former teacher in the Fairfax County Department of Family Services. She has a Master's in Health Sciences (MHS) in International Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and a JD from the Pontificia Bolivariana University in Medellin, Colombia.

606F / 606Z Old God–New Ideas: Rethinking the Divine

Four sessions

Instructor: John Rybicki

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 24–Oct. 15

Within the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures there is a clear development of thoughts concerning the Divine. God is spoken of, revealed, and understood very differently as the scriptures progress. The anthropomorphisms used for God in the Hebrew Scriptures oftentimes create problems in the current understanding of God. In medieval Christian theology, dogma and doctrine present ideas about God which the modern thinker knows simply cannot be known or understood and are not scriptural. Many of the ideas about God come from a philosophical absolutist view of what God must be like. This too is rejected today. In a more modern understanding, God is not a person. God is the source of all being. God is ineffable, and this is readily acknowledged, but theologians continue to define God in terms which are simply unacceptable to modern thought. Let's look at some of the new thought about the old God.

John Rybicki has been an OLLI contributor for over 20 years. He received a Master's of Theology degree from St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, Balamand University. He served as a pastoral associate at the Riderwood Retirement Community in Maryland where he was responsible for religious education and facilitating Jewish-Christian dialogue.

607F / 607Z It's Time to Think Biblically About Artificial Intelligence

Two sessions

Instructor: Karen Wheelless

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 28–Oct. 5

When you can pay \$1.99 a minute to talk to AI Jesus, it becomes clear that people of the Book (Bible) must take a closer look at whether artificial intelligence (AI) is just another tool or is an alternate or replacement worldview. Unknown to many casual observers of AI is that several of the founders and current promoters of AI see it as a replacement worldview or new way of understanding reality itself. This course will look and listen to what AI-evangelists say they expect from AI and compare that to five specific purposes identified in Biblical passages. This will include the topics of work, justice/mercy, family/human community, knowledge/wisdom, and communion with God. The course is premised on the Protestant Bible but will also include points from the Hebrew, Catholic, and Orthodox Bibles. Class participants do not need to have any faith, only a willingness to make an honest assessment of whether AI aligns or doesn't with Biblical scripture.

Karen Wheelless has spent over a decade teaching both graduates and undergraduates in organizational behavior, writing, marketing, and IT policy and planning at several universities. Prior to teaching, she spent a career as a civil service executive at multiple federal agencies.

608F / 608Z Six Exceptional Human Beings For Us to Get to Know Better

Four sessions

Instructor: David Roberts

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 19–Nov. 9

This course will focus in depth on the lives and historic/philosophical impacts of six famous yet not-so-well-known historical figures: explorer-naturalist Alexander von Humboldt; pacifist-activist Mohandas Gandhi; poet-philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche along with composer-collaborator Frederick Delius; and naturalist-activists John Muir and Aldo Leopold. The aim of the course is to focus in depth on the original works of these brilliant minds and ponder how much their ideas may or may not have permeated our culture today. These lectures were originally presented as Sunday platform talks at the Northern Virginia Ethical Society.

David Roberts holds BA, Ph.D., and MPH degrees. He has taught and done chemistry at Rutgers, Fordham, and Howard universities. His primary focus was peptide synthesis. He also worked at nonprofit companies MITRE and Noblis here in the D.C. area for 39 years.

650 Humanities and Social Sciences

Program Planning Group Chair:
Camille Hodges

651Z Big Issues, Complex Challenges, and No Simple Solutions

Seven sessions

Instructor: Glenn Kamber

Mondays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 21–Nov. 9

No class Oct. 12

This course is intended to expand participant knowledge and appreciation of challenges we face in modern society, including such issues as global warming; increased polarization among political, social, and economic groups; the nature and pace of scientific and technological change; and the role of media and modern communications. Each week the instructor will introduce a big issue through a brief oral and video presentation. The sessions will involve engaging discussion among participants facilitated by the instructor. Topics will be new each week and each semester; few will be repeated.

Glenn Kamber has taught many courses at OLLI that focus on current events and political and social issues. He is a retired senior executive from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he managed policy and program development in the offices of eight HHS secretaries.

652Z TED Talk Discussions

Four sessions

Instructors: Russell Stone, Stephanie Simcox

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 22–Oct. 13

TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) is a growing collection of brief recorded talks on a wide range of

topics. The speakers are leading figures chosen for their ability to express ideas clearly and succinctly. Participants will watch and discuss three or four related TED talks each week.

Russell Stone retired from a 40-year career as a professor of sociology, most recently at American University, and before that at SUNY Buffalo. He taught "Sociology of the Future" for many years, before realizing that the future isn't what it used to be! He now relies on the next generations to supply up-to-date information. He is co-chair of the OLLI program committee.

Stephanie Simcox attended George Mason University, then moved to California for 30 years, working for non-profits. After moving back to Fairfax a few years ago, she discovered OLLI and has been happily taking classes ever since.

653Z World War II in France: Occupation; Persecution and Resistance; and Transitional Justice

Three sessions

Instructor: Ellen Kennedy

Thursdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 24–Oct. 8

This course explores: 1) the Nazi occupation and the Vichy collaboration; 2) the Holocaust in France: roundups, deportations, and murder of 75% of the Jews of France, and networks of resistance; 3) postwar transitional justice in a country divided by Gaullists, Communists, resisters, collaborators, and more.

Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D., is founder and director of World Without Genocide, a human rights organization with special consultative status to the UN. She is recognized by the Anne Frank Foundation, among others, for her work. Kennedy has a BA from the University of Michigan and two PhDs from the University of Minnesota.

654F / 654Z Conspiracy Theories, Secret Societies, and Cults

Four sessions

Instructor: Lillian Brooks

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24–Oct. 15

Since this class was presented in 2016, we have seen an even greater rise in conspiracy theories and their influences on our society. In this class, we will examine the difference between conspiracy theories and outright lies and how the two can often meet to form a particular belief system. We will talk about conspiracy influencers of our time and why people buy into what they are selling. We will also discuss some past and recent secret societies and hate groups on the internet and the vast number of followers of these groups. Then we will delve into some cults in our society and further discuss why so many people join them. Class participants are encouraged to bring their tin hats and conspiracy theories to class since it will be impossible for the instructor to cover every conspiracy theory.

Lillian Brooks earned her Juris Doctor at Atlanta Law school in Atlanta, Georgia and attended Master's level classes in Public Policy at George Mason University. She began her legal career practicing criminal law before transitioning to family law in Georgia. In Virginia, Lillian was appointed director of Court

Services for Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. She managed probation and parole and family law matters and programs. She also served as a commissioner on the board of the Regional Detention Home and Shelter care facilities and has published several articles on juvenile justice reform. She is a former president of OLLI and currently serves as an adjunct professor at George Mason University.

655F / 655Z Resilient Civilizations

Three sessions

Instructors: Alex McLellan, Jeroen van Ek

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 21–Nov. 4

In this TED Talk-style course, we will explore great societies and civilizations, past and present. Using examples from classic founding civilizations such as the Roman and Mayan empires (as well as lesser-known groups such as the Minoans), students will learn to identify factors that contribute to the success and collapse of a society. At the end of each session, students are invited to discuss their views and questions on the topics covered. Sessions covered will be: 1) The Resilience Framework; 2) Case Studies in Resilient Civilizations; and 3) Civilization Resilience Index for Modern Civilizations (post-1945). Upon completing the course, students will be able to identify resilient past and current civilizations, enumerate reasons for their success and failure, and compare and contrast current and past civilizations using the Civilization Resilience Index.

Alex McLellan has a Master's degree in Systems Engineering. He was the resilience practice lead at the Homeland Security Institute (an FFRDC for DHS). Mr. McLellan is a principal at a Washington, D.C. based High Reliability think tank. He has decades of experience in emergency management.

Jeroen van Ek has an MS in Information Management. Mr. van Ek is a principal at a Washington, D.C. based High Reliability think tank and has a strong background in strategic consulting across multiple industries. A lifelong learner himself, he is an avid beekeeper, K-12 teacher, and student of pugilistic arts.

656F / 656Z From Rails to Trails: The W&OD Trail and a Whole Lot More

One session

Instructor: Peter Harnik

Monday, 11:50–1:15, Nov. 9

Part transportation corridor, part park, the rail/trail has revolutionized the way America creates high-quality, car-free pathways for bicyclists, runners, walkers, equestrians, and more. We will watch an hour-long documentary on the rise and decline of the railroad network and its replacement by more than 25,000 miles of rural and urban trails, including the ground-breaking W&OD Trail in Northern Virginia. We will then have a discussion and Q&A with the instructor who is the executive producer of the film and the co-founder of the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

Peter Harnik is co-founder of the Rails to Trails Conservancy, author of the book *From Rails to Trails* (University of Nebraska Press, 2021) and executive producer of the movie *From Rails to Trails* (American Public Television, 2025). A bicyclist and environmentalist, he lives in Arlington, Va.

657F / 657Z Six Months in North Korea: Reflections and Relationships

One session

Instructor: Christy Gavitt

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 12

During the North Korean famine of the late 90s, the presenter worked with a team of colleagues from six non-profit organizations. The work was to carry out project assessments and to monitor the distribution of U.S. government-provided food commodities through 152 food-for-work projects throughout North Korea. This job entailed repeated contact with as many as 300 North Korean senior officials. Did the food commodities reach the affected populations? How controlled were the team's movements in the field and in Pyongyang? And what types of relationships were built with the instructor's North Korean "minders" and other officials encountered in the field? The presenter will show photos that she took during her time in North Korea including photos of people she met during her travels, propaganda signs, mass games, museums, Panmunjom, mountain landscapes, and many others!

Christy Gavitt was a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea from 1974-76. She then worked overseas in international relief and development programs for 32 years, mostly in East Africa. From 2008, she worked for over five years as the senior health coordinator at the American Red Cross.

700 Current Events

Program Planning Group Chair:
Camille Hodges

701Z What's in the Daily News?

Eight sessions

Moderators: Richard Crawford, Deborah Dupree, Kathryn McGeehan, John Quinn, Ann Smith, Al Smuzynski

Class liaison: Dennis VanLangen

Mondays, 9:30–11:00, Sept. 21–Nov. 9

Note time

Class limit: 80

This is a weekly forum for thoughtful, forthright, and respectful exchange of information and opinions on current world, U.S., and regional news. Class participants bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience in international affairs, government, industry, education, economics, the military, and other areas. The discussion is always lively, and all participants have an equal opportunity to comment.

702F / 702Z Russia's Continuing Wars with the West

One session

Instructor: Elva Card

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Sept. 21

In 1991, the Soviet Union ended. The Cold War, the long struggle between Russia and the West, was over and we

had won! We thought. Today Russian troops are on the ground in Ukraine in perhaps the most visible attempt to spread Russian power, but there are many other ways that Russia still wages war against the West. "Active measures" from the Cold War days are active again: they include covert and deniable overseas operations (including assassinations), disinformation campaigns, and funding for friendly political movements. Sabotage against Western countries include blowing up rail lines in Poland, setting fire to a warehouse in London, and severing communications and power cables under the Baltic Sea. There are cyberattacks against Western countries and invasion of national boundaries by drones. Intelligence sources also report foiling a Russian plot to plant incendiary devices on planes flying from Europe to the United States. This class will exam Russia's continuing wars on the West.

Elva Card taught World History for 31 years in Fairfax County Public Schools. She has a BA in History from George Washington University and two MA's from George Mason University.

703F / 703Z Great Decisions

Eight sessions

Moderators: Bob Heyer, Terri Feldmayer, Charles Feldmayer

Tuesdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 22–Nov. 10

Class limit: 30

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. OLLI members who sign up for this class will read an essay from the Great Decisions Briefing Book 2026, available for purchase (\$35 from FPA.org). We will begin each class with a video reviewing the topic at hand. Then the fun begins. We discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. And lucky us, in this term, we'll cover seven of the eight important topics before or on Midterm Election Day. Topics listed below include: **1) Debating America's Global Role:** America First (Trump 2.0 vs Liberal Internationalism, general set-up since post WWII); **2) The End of an Era:** Trump's Tariffs in Historical Perspective; **3) U.S./China Relations in the New Trump Era;** **4) Third Nuclear Age:** Trump, The International Order and the Bomb; **5) Ukraine and the Future of International Security;** **6) Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order;** **7) U.S. Engagement with Africa;** **8) The Future of Human Rights and International Law in a Divided World.** You can see from this list of topics that they are dynamic and ever changing. They are the same topics we discussed during the spring term and will be updated as required.

Bob Heyer joined OLLI in 2017, volunteers on many committees, and is co-chair of the OLLI Walk & Talk club. His career included 20 years flying from aircraft carriers during the Vietnam War. Bob spent 35 years in the Naval Air Systems Command and was an engineer and support contractor involving aircraft design conception to retirement of US Navy, USMC, USAF, and international tactical aircraft and weapons systems. Bob graduated from Duke University and has a graduate degree from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

Terri Feldmayer is a longtime member of OLLI. She has worked

on a variety of committees and projects and served on the Board of Directors over the years. She also helped to coordinate a well-received course on the book, *Caste* by Isabelle Wilkerson. She taught in Fairfax County Public Schools for a number of years and has a long-standing passion for history, politics, and international and foreign affairs.

Charles "Chick" Feldmayer has been an OLLI member since 2018. His career includes 30 years in the U.S. Army, 25 years as a lobbyist, and three years as a nonprofit director. He has taught and lectured at Northwestern State University, City College of Chicago, and Strayer University.

704F / 704Z All the News That's Fit to Print

Eight sessions

Instructor: Zachary Teich

Thursdays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 24–Nov. 12

All the News That's Fit to Print meets in-person and online to discuss current affairs issues in a friendly and collegial manner. The instructor provides a topic list drawn from the week's news and serves as 'traffic cop' for the freewheeling discussion. All opinions are welcome; the only rules are to be courteous and to allow the moderator to call on those who raise their hands to speak.

Zachary Teich has a BA in Political Science from the University of South Florida, a Master's of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown, and an MS in Strategic Studies from the Marine Corps War College. He was a State Department Foreign Service officer from 1979–2006 and a negotiator at State's Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund from 2006–2012.

705F Protect Yourself From Fraud

One session

Instructor: Suba Saty

Monday, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 28

Scammers steal billions from Americans like you every year. We're fighting back with the AARP Fraud Watch Network. In this session, we will share an inside look at how scammers think, how to safeguard against identity theft and fraud, and what to do if you or someone you know has been a victim.

Suba Saty is a retired Air Force Lt. Col and a retired DoD civilian. He has been an AARP Community Ambassador for 11 years and is part of the AARP NoVA Speakers Bureau. Suba enjoys volunteering at the Lorton library as an English Conversation Leader and at the Lorton Food Bank.

706F / 706Z Contested Lands: Israel, Palestine, and the Struggle for Sovereignty

One session

Instructors: Jim Bever, Brad Wallach, James Winkler

Monday, 2:00–4:00, Nov. 2

Note time

Class limit: 50

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a long-standing struggle over land, self-determination, and mutual security, centered on competing claims to the territory between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Key current issues include: the government sanctioned expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the future status

of Gaza, and Palestinian refugee rights. This session will provide a brief historic overview and a summary of most recent political and humanitarian initiatives affecting both parties to the conflict and outside interests. It will concentrate on security concerns for both Palestinians and Israelis, urgent humanitarian needs in Gaza, and the role(s) of outside mediators, political interests, and options for Gaza reconstruction. It will conclude with a set of recommendations intended to help reduce human suffering and address impediments to conflict resolution.

Jim Bever retired from USAID Senior Foreign Service. His stellar career included assignments as mission director in the West Bank and Gaza (WB&G) and in Egypt. In Washington, he co-chaired the U.S. government WB&G Interagency Working Group. A more detailed CV will be available to course participants.

Brad Wallach is retired from the USAID Senior Foreign Service. He served as office director and senior economist at USAID/WB&G for five years. He also taught graduate economics at the National Defense University. A more detailed CV will be available to course participants.

James Winkler, Ph.D. has over 40 years of experience in international economic development and business. He has worked on Israeli-Palestinian economic and business development issues as a business and economic advisor and Chief of Party for USAID projects, including economic development projects in the Palestinian territories. He has been an advisor to Palestinian business leaders, civil society leaders, trade associations, and government agencies.

800 Science, Technology, and Health

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Suresh Mohla, Michele Romano

801F Aging in Place or Find a New Space

One session

Instructor: Steve Gurney

Monday, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 21

As we think about the next chapters, the question of where we call home becomes more than logistical—it's deeply personal. Will your current space nurture independence, joy, and connection, or is it time to envision a fresh horizon? In this dynamic workshop, join the instructor for an empowering exploration of intentional living. Designed for adults 55+ and their loved ones, this interactive session demystifies the choices ahead, blending practical strategies, real-world stories, and group dialogue to help you craft a home that aligns with your evolving life. Intentional housing choices correlate with 25% higher life satisfaction (AARP studies), sharper cognition through social engagement, and even lower healthcare costs via preventive designs.

Steve Gurney is a trailblazing advocate for positive aging, founding the Positive Aging Community and acclaimed *SourceBook* in 1990. Inspired by his grandfather's care, he built vital resources for senior living decisions.

802R / 802Z Hearing Aids: Beware and Be Wise!

One session

Instructor: Bonnie O'Leary

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 23

In this class, you will learn about hearing loss, the hearing evaluation, how to interpret an audiogram, types and styles of prescription hearing aids, the differences between prescription and OTC hearing aids and who is a candidate for each, myths about hearing aids, and apps that can be useful.

Bonnie O'Leary is a Gallaudet-Certified Peer Mentor. A late-deafened adult, Bonnie is the outreach manager for the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC) where she has been providing educational programs since 2001. No sales are ever involved.

803F Spatial Information: Where Am I?

Three sessions

Instructor: Barry Haack

Wednesdays, 9:40–11:05, Sept. 23–Oct. 7

National economics often go through four stages, from hunters and gatherers to agriculture, to manufacturing, and to information. The United States is increasingly an information-based economy where individuals are being employed in one capacity or another to work with information. Information often has a spatial component or association which is basically the science of geography. This course will review the various components of locational geography as a science. It will focus specifically on current technical geography which is primarily cartography, Geographic Information Systems, Global Positioning Systems, spatial statistics, and remote sensing. Spatial information is a significant part of our day-to-day activities but is often underappreciated. The intent of this course will be to explain these topics and thus make us more informed consumers and avoid being lost.

Barry Haack is a geographer and a career GMU faculty member. His primary academic interest is the use of satellites to map resources and the environment. He has conducted these activities in almost thirty countries, providing an opportunity to explore multiple locations and aspects of geography.

804F Stop Mumbling! I Can't Understand You!

One session

Instructor: Bonnie O'Leary

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 30

This program focuses on the impact of late-onset hearing loss on everyone in a relationship. Hearing aids and hearing assistive technologies can only go so far as we navigate life with a hearing loss. Learn about the speaker/listeners/environment/message components of communication, parallel reactions between hearing and hard of hearing people, and effective communication strategies for everyday living.

See 802R / 802Z for instructor information.

805R Finding Earth

One session

Instructor: Bruce Cranford

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 14

How can a spacefaring alien civilization find Earth? During the instructor's one hour PowerPoint presentation, he will explore how humans have made it easy for spacefaring alien civilizations to find Earth. Time will be left for questions and answers.

Bruce Cranford is an adjunct professor at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD since June of 2021. He regularly teaches space classes for OLLI Mason and also teaches at the Washington Metro Oasis in Bethesda, MD.

806Z Everything You Wanted to Know About Anesthesia and Never Asked

Five sessions

Instructor: Jonathan Roth

Thursdays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 15–Nov. 12

The average American will have anesthesia care every eight to ten years, fewer when young and more when older. Many people have upcoming surgery or procedures planned and may be curious about anesthesia. Some have had anesthesia and have questions as to what was done and why. This course will explain the different types of anesthesia available (general, spinal, epidural, sedation, nerve block) and will have a few words to say about common surgical procedures.

Jonathan Roth is a retired anesthesiologist who was an associate professor at Temple and Jefferson Medical Schools in Philadelphia and served as chairman for eight years. In addition to clinical care, he conducted research (with over 150 publications) and taught anesthesia trainees.

807F Chromosomes, DNA and Genes–Simplified

Four sessions

Instructor: Suresh Mohla

Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 19–Nov. 9

This course explains what cells are and where our DNA is stored inside the cell's nucleus. You will learn that the nucleus is the seat for chromosomes, DNA, and genes, and that only our genes are "coded" to make proteins that keep our bodies working. We will discover that 98% of our DNA, which cannot make proteins and are often dubbed "Junk DNA", is anything but junk. Fifty percent of the junk DNA contains ancient viral gene segments inherited hundreds of millions of years ago which are crucial for our genes to function optimally. These viral DNA fossils control how our genes behave when we are healthy, but they also control how genes change—causing discomfort as we age, and in chronic diseases. Finally, we will appreciate how this knowledge is being exploited to improve diagnosis and treatment in human pathologies. Understanding your genes is becoming essential for modern, personalized health care.

Suresh Mohla, an endocrinologist, did his post-doctoral training at the University of Chicago. He has 45 years of

experience in cancer research including 25 years at the National Cancer Institute. He has taught courses on topics including cancer, aging, chronic diseases, microbiome, and viruses in our DNA.

808F / 808Z Medical Imaging Methods and Applications

Two sessions

Instructor: Murray Loew

Mondays, 2:15–3:40, Oct. 19–Oct. 26

When you have an imaging exam, such as x-ray, computerized tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or ultrasound, what is actually happening? This nontechnical class introduces the underlying technologies and how they have developed since Roentgen's discovery of x-rays in 1895. We now can image both the form and the function of much of our anatomy and physiology (often in real-time), which has led to improved diagnosis and treatment. In recent years there have been great advances in speed, sensitivity, and accuracy, and reductions in radiation dose and cost. Specialized imaging methods (e.g., PET, nuclear medicine, interventional radiology) are also discussed, along with their applications to cancer treatment, vascular therapies, surgery, and Alzheimer's disease.

Murray Loew, Ph.D., is an OLLI member and a retired professor of Biomedical Engineering at George Washington University. He has had extensive research experience and collaborations with clinicians and scientists at GW, NIH, and the FDA across the range of imaging modalities and applications.

809R Behind the Prize...Nobel, That Is

Two sessions

Instructor: Michele Romano

Wednesday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 21–Oct. 28

It's all about Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, and the quirky characters who won, hands down, the most coveted prize on planet earth. We will start with Big Al as I like to call him, and how the prize came to be. It reads like a soap opera. Who is eligible for the prize, what are the rules and who decides? It's all spelled out in his will. The youngest recipient was 17 and the oldest 97. Three were dead and three were in the slammer. The awards ceremony itself is choreographed right down to the dress code. We will look back at some of the more colorful recipients and talk a whole lot of trash. Many people deserved a Nobel and never got it. There were also a great many who were nominated and never should have been. It's quite a unique group. There are steps that you need to take in order to win a Nobel (spoiler alert: being born a white male is a major advantage). We will finish with a round of Nobel Jeopardy, not to be missed.

Michele Romano is a family physician who retired in 2015. She attended Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and held a faculty appointment as an associate professor of Clinical Medicine at VCU. She served on both the VCU board of trustees and the VCU health system board.

810F From Lab to Life: Virtual Reality to Manage Craving Reactivity and Reduce Substance Use

One session

Instructor: Holly Matto

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 22

The instructor's work expands on the well-researched drug cue-craving paradigm that suggests exposure to drug cues changes the brain and body in ways that increase craving and relapse risk. The research empirically examines if "recovery cues"—or personalized sensory stimuli associated with recovery—hold promise in helping regulate craving reaction to reduce relapse risk. Immersive virtual reality (VR) environments can be used to examine this research question, as VR simulations can build recovery skills before implementing those skills in real-world situations. In doing so, individuals can gain experience with their recovery cues and skill implementation successes during the VR training. Using their own VR-trained skills, they can then use this experience outside the lab to guide real-world behavioral decision-making to prevent substance use relapse. Thus, VR can serve as a learning space to facilitate lab-to-life recovery skills transfer.

Holly Matto, Ph.D., LCSW-C is a professor in the Department of Social Work in the College of Public Health at George Mason University. She has over 20 years of experience in the field of addiction science and has conducted treatment intervention studies with a variety of clinical populations.

811F Preventing Fraud and Abuse in the Medicare System

One session

Instructor: Martin Bailey

Monday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 26

Medicare fraud is a multibillion-dollar crisis that affects every taxpayer. This session will expose the most dangerous healthcare scams. From genetic testing and fake durable medical equipment schemes to government imposter scams, these fraudulent practices threaten the integrity of our healthcare system and raise costs for everyone. Participants will gain knowledge on how to recognize common scams, understand their impact, and take steps to prevent becoming a victim. The course highlights how to detect suspicious activity on medical statements and provides guidance on how to report fraud. Whether you're a current Medicare beneficiary, a caregiver, a healthcare professional, or simply preparing for enrollment in the future, this session will provide the tools needed to protect yourself. Medicare fraud costs taxpayers over \$60 billion annually. Beyond financial damage, these scams can lead to stolen medical identities, false diagnoses, and denied treatments.

Martin Bailey is an AARP Community Ambassador and a senior educator with Virginia's Senior Medicare Patrol, specializing in fraud. He brings extensive experience from years of fraud-focused presentations on the psychology of scams, social engineering, and artificial intelligence.

812R Depression in Older Adults: Diagnosis and Treatment

One session

Instructor: Jonathan Bauman

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 28

This class will cover the diagnosis of clinical depression, the different types of depression, and the causes of depression, including the special circumstances of how depression relates to loneliness, bereavement, and dementia. We will then discuss pharmacologic, psychotherapeutic, and other treatments for depression. In addition, we will address the difference between clinical depression and “normal human misery”. Class discussion will be encouraged as time allows.

Dr. Jonathan Bauman is a board-certified general psychiatrist who treated adolescent and adult patients for 42 years until retiring in 2019. He is a graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed his residency at Georgetown in 1977. He is a life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

813F Chasing the Data: How Climate Change is Reshaping Our Storms

One session

Instructor: Austin Reed

Coordinator: Bonnie Nelson

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 4

We all experience weather in our daily lives. However, as carbon dioxide levels and global temperatures have risen over recent decades, a critical question remains as to how this warming is changing the storms we experience. This course explores how global warming has created a “tug of war” of competing effects that influence these storms, including Arctic Amplification, an expanding tropical circulation as well as increased atmospheric moisture, which all shape extratropical cyclones across North America, Europe, and the Pacific and Asian coastlines. This talk aims to discern the role moisture plays on the dynamics of Atlantic versus Pacific storms, and how this feedback can give insight into how these storms are changing despite these competing effects. Emphasis will be placed on implications for future prediction of storm frequency and strength in the Northern Hemisphere. An interactive jeopardy game will follow, focused on global warming causes, impacts, and extreme weather.

Austin T. Reed is a current Ph.D. candidate in Climate Dynamics at George Mason University, expected to defend his thesis in Summer 2026. His thesis examines the changing role of moisture within Extratropical cyclones in the Atlantic and Pacific storm tracks.

Moved? Change in Status? Update Your Profile Information!

Log onto the Member Portal, click “my profile” (on the green tool bar), and edit your information. Save your changes by clicking “Submit.”

Contact the registrar for help: ollireg@gmu.edu

900 Other Topics

901Z Monday Lecture Series

Six sessions

Instructors: Mike Agron, John Koenig, Shivaji (Shiv) Seth, Mary Ellen O’Toole, Heather Dudley, James Sokol
Mondays, 11:50–1:15, Sept. 21–Nov. 2

No class Oct. 12

Sept. 21: From Surfer Girl to Good Vibrations: The Beach Boys and the Birth of the Sonic Layer. Mike Agron.

In 1961, three brothers, a cousin, and a friend turned a garage band into a sonic revolution. Led by Brian Wilson, The Beach Boys fused doo-wop and jazz harmony, using voices as instruments to create the “sonic layer.” From the innocence of “Surfer Girl” to the innovation of “Good Vibrations,” hear how their sound evolved—and still shapes music today.

A music aficionado raised in LA’s entertainment scene **Mike Agron** now lives in Sacramento, CA. He’s a former high-tech executive and entrepreneur turned storyteller. Mike creates engaging multimedia seminars on music and film and has led hundreds of seminars for the Sacramento Renaissance Society, multiple OLLIs nationwide, and Osher Online. He returns to OLLI Mason for his fifth Monday lecture.

Sept. 28: The Mediterranean in a Post-Atlantic World. John Koenig.

The Mediterranean is a powerful symbol, conjuring vivid images of historic battles, cultural monuments, and holiday revelry. The historian David Abulafia has called it “The Great Sea”. No body of water has so impressed itself on our minds. But what has the Mediterranean been as a geopolitical space? Historically, in that sense, the character of the Mediterranean has shifted dramatically over time, from center to periphery, from bridge to bulwark, and from battlefield to backwater. Since the end of the Cold War, the long era of Atlantic domination in world affairs has drawn to a close after more than three centuries. More recently, the broad Atlantic Alliance has faltered. What is the Mediterranean’s place in the emerging post-Atlantic world, as NATO and the broader Atlantic alliance stumble and even collapse? Will the Mediterranean develop as an integrated geopolitical space or remain a neglected backwater? Will it be characterized by regional and strategic confrontation or cooperation? How will Europe and the European Union regard the Sea—as a defensive moat and arena of “great power rivalry”, or a field for economic and security engagement and opportunity? In this lecture, the instructor will draw on more than three decades of professional and personal experience with the Mediterranean to review its history as a Geopolitical Space, consider recent developments, and sketch out alternative futures for what remains “The Great Sea”.

John M. Koenig has taught at the University of Washington’s Jackson School of International Studies since 2017 and has led the school’s program in Rome. An American diplomat for more than thirty years, Koenig was ambassador to Cyprus from 2012 to 2015. From 2006 to 2009, he was deputy chief of mission and charge d’Affaires in Berlin. He was deputy U.S. permanent

representative to NATO in Brussels from 2003 to 2006, and, from 2009 to 2012, political advisor to NATO Joint Forces Command Naples. Earlier in his career, Koenig served six years in Greece (both Athens and Thessaloniki) and three more years in Cyprus. During the Cold War, Koenig was a political officer at the American embassy to East Germany.

Oct. 5: Why is the Resurgence of Nuclear Power so Crucial? Can the Current Efforts Succeed? Shivaji (Shiv) Seth.

The demand for energy is dramatically rising, driven by digital data centers, artificial intelligence, manufacturing, and electrification. It is placing a premium on carbon-free energy to prevent global warming and climate change. High-technology and many other industries prefer clean energy, despite the government denying climate change, encouraging fossil fuels, and removing support for solar and wind energy. The latter alone simply cannot meet such rising energy demands. Meanwhile, the nuclear industry is staging a resurgence of carbon-free nuclear power with small reactors, but those are 5-10 years away to be available commercially. Also, the historical cost over-runs and delays with large nuclear plant construction are serious concerns that stalled the growth of nuclear power. Can we meet both: the growing energy needs and climate challenges? This class will discuss the status and address the issue.

Shivaji (Shiv) Seth was in the energy field throughout his 60-year career in industry and in senior advisory roles with government. He has lectured on energy and global warming. Dr. Seth has a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from MIT, and is an emeritus member of the American Nuclear Society.

Oct. 19: Body Farm. Mary Ellen O'Toole. This session will be an overview of George Mason University's Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory (FSRTL), otherwise known as the Body Farm. One of eight body farms in the United States, and the only one in the mid-Atlantic region, the instructor will discuss the importance and relevance of research conducted at the Body Farm, the incredible value of the training for GMU forensic students, and the global humanitarian impact of this work in the location and identification of human remains for reunification with their loved ones. The study of human remains and human decomposition can assist in homicide investigations and the instructor will discuss several major cases on which she worked while with the FBI.

Mary Ellen O'Toole is currently a full professor and the director of the Forensic Science Program at George Mason University and has served in this position for over eleven years. Prior to arriving at Mason, Dr. O'Toole served as a supervisory special agent with the FBI for nearly 28 years and for 15 years as an FBI profiler. She worked on some of the Bureau's most high profile cases including the Green River serial killer case, the Unabomber case, the Elizabeth Smart case, and the Natalie Holloway case.

Oct. 26: Religious Beliefs of the Founders.

Heather Dudley. This course explores the religious beliefs of a selection of America's Founding Fathers, including George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. By examining the diverse spiritual views of these key figures, the course aims to provide a clearer understanding of the founders'



intentions regarding the role of religion in the new nation. This exploration is especially relevant today, in light of the rise of Christian nationalism—a movement that claims the United States was established as a Christian nation and that its laws and government should reflect Christian principles.

Heather Dudley taught at the high school and college level. She has an MA in History, an MA in Psychology, and a Doctorate from Georgetown University. She writes a blog—*charactermattered.org*—and is the author of a book on the founders, *The Free and the Virtuous: Why the Founders Knew that Character Mattered*.

Nov. 2: Exploring Opera: Popular Paris. James Sokol.

Such a beautiful, romantic, historic city, it's no wonder Paris is a popular setting for several operas! Embark on an operatic journey to Paris with the instructor, who will touch on an array of repertoire from beloved masterpieces (such as Puccini's *La Boheme* and Verdi's *La Traviata*) to rarely-staged gems (such as Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots* and Donizetti's *Ugo, Conte di Parigi*) – each set in “The City of Light!” Audio and video performance clips bring the charm of Paris and the excitement of opera into the discussion! This is a fun and interesting exploration for both opera newcomers and long-time fans!

James Sokol started in the opera world under Beverly Sills at New York City Opera. After working on projects with the Opera Company of Philadelphia while in graduate school, Sokol moved west to work at San Francisco Opera. He is a former executive director of Pocket Opera and a founding member of the Singers Development Foundation.

902F Downsizing and Decluttering: You Can't Take It With You

One session

Instructor: Suba Saty

Monday, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 5

Having too much stuff can impede people from relocating or getting health care into their homes. This fun, interactive presentation explores why stuff is so important for some people. The instructor will present practical, easy-to-follow tips on downsizing and decluttering. Cleaning out your house while you can is a gift and inheritance you can leave your relatives!

See 705F for instructor information.

903F Rediscover Play: An Introduction to Modern Board Games

Three sessions

Instructors: Tim Harwarth, Melissa Emery

Wednesdays, 11:50–1:15, Oct. 7–Oct. 21

Class limit: 30

Forget everything you know about Monopoly and Scrabble! Board games have undergone a massive “glow-up” in the last 30 years, becoming more beautiful, engaging, and easy to learn than ever. In this course, we'll dive into the world of modern tabletop gaming. You'll discover why board games are the ultimate “brain gym”—helping to keep your mind sharp and stress levels low—while providing a wonderful way to connect with new

friends. We'll skip the dry rules and get straight to the fun. Each session includes a hands-on "Learn & Play" segment where we'll walk you through popular new titles step-by-step. The Learn & Play segment will lead into our weekly Board Game Club meeting if you would like to stick around. We'll also show you how to find games for free at your local library, play online with people around the world, and most importantly, how to join our vibrant OLLI board game community. Come play with us!

Tim Harwarth is a recent retiree from the federal government. He has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Minnesota and a Master's degree in Defense Policy from George Washington University. He has been playing and teaching board games of various types for over 50 years.

Melissa Emery recently retired as a principal systems engineer from MITRE. She holds a Master's in Computer Science from the University of West Florida and Software Systems Engineering from GMU. Melissa is passionate about board games, both playing and teaching others to enjoy this engaging hobby.

904Z The Journey That Changed Everything

One session

Instructor: Jill Chalsty

Coordinator: Nancy Siegal

Tuesday, 9:40–11:05, Oct. 20

At the age of 63, the instructor boarded a ship alone battling cancer and grieving her husband's death. What began as a voyage around the world became far more than a trip. In this lecture, she shares the story behind her memoir *Packets of Hope*, inviting participants to travel alongside her through the ports she visited, the people she met, and the reflections that transformed personal adversity into strength and global impact. Jill demonstrates how one person's courage can create ripples that span continents. Participants are encouraged to read her memoir, available for free at www.packetsofhope.com, before the presentation.

Jill Chalsty, founder of Overcoming Obstacles, has empowered over 180 million young people worldwide through life skills education. Her journey of loss and cancer inspired *Packets of Hope*, illuminating the power of resilience, love, and service.

905R / 905Z Sorting Facts from Fiction Online

One session

Instructor: Larry Lipman

Wednesday, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 4

There are plenty of sensationalized headlines, misleading stories, and even complete falsehoods circulating on the Internet, making it hard for even the most discerning reader to sort fact from fiction. This free event will equip you with valuable tools and resources to help you stay safe online.

Larry Lipman is a volunteer with AARP Virginia. He is a former executive editor for state news with the *AARP Bulletin*, a former contributing editor with *AARP The Magazine*, a former Washington correspondent with *Cox Newspapers*, a former adjunct professor of Journalism at The George Washington University, a former president of the Regional Reporters Association, and a former president of The National Press Club.

906F Funeral Pre-Arrangements: Why, When, and How?

One session

Instructor: Cathy Younkin

Monday, 2:15–3:40, Nov. 9

This presentation explores funeral and cemetery preplanning as an important life skill rather than as a sales-driven or religious topic. Participants will gain a clear understanding of the types of decisions families are often required to make during times of loss and why those decisions are difficult when no guidance or documentation exists. The session explains how advance planning supports personal agency, reduces stress for loved ones, and encourages thoughtful family communication. Special attention is given to cemetery planning, an area frequently overlooked despite its permanence and time-sensitive nature. This class is in response to the growing need for preplanning education and the instructor's passion for helping individuals navigate these conversations with clarity and confidence.

Cathy Younkin is an advanced planning manager and licensed funeral director with a background in community outreach and television. Her interest in preplanning is shaped by personal experiences when planning was left undone.

907Z Let's Get Cozy for Winter

One session

Instructor: Roy Wagner

Thursday, 9:40–11:05, Nov. 12

This session will be a lead into a winter term course which will describe various ways in which we can all have a "cozy" winter. This class will suggest books and videos to watch before the winter term course begins. Then in the winter, we will devote each session to a specific cozy item, and as a group, discuss and suggest books, movies, food, clothes, etc.

Roy Wagner and his wife have been into "cozy" things for years. Roy has been an OLLI member for a number of years and has taught other classes. Being retired, Roy likes to enjoy a cozy lifestyle. He looks forward to sharing his coziness with you.



OLLI Mason Travel Opportunities

Looking for an adventure? Check out the travel page on the OLLI Mason website for future opportunities.

Note: trips are managed and processed entirely by the travel agencies. OLLI Mason is not involved in any purchase or refund transactions, logistics, or liability whatsoever. OLLI Mason members and their guests must work directly with the travel agencies.

olli.gmu.edu/travel/

Special Events

**We urge you to register for Special Event offerings as early as possible.
Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even on the first day of registration.
Please check the location information in each description.**

Special Events

Program Planning Group Chairs:
Gay Alper, Marilyn Harriman

1000 Excursions

1001E Guided Tour of Culpeper National Cemetery

Coordinator: Carolyn Kramer

Wednesday, 10:00–11:30, Sept. 9

Note date

Drive on your own

Limit: 25

305 U.S. Avenue, Culpeper, VA 22701

Let's drive out to the Virginia Piedmont to learn about the history, people, and monuments of the Culpeper National Cemetery (CNC). Established on April 13, 1867, the grounds are the final resting places of 15,000 individuals, including Union soldiers and at least one Confederate soldier who fell in battle or died of disease during the Civil War in the surrounding Culpeper area. We will stroll the grounds on a narrated guided tour led by CNC volunteer Jeff Joyce. Our meeting place will be at the CNC Administration Building (305 U.S. Avenue, Culpeper), beginning at 10:00am. Participants will provide their own transportation to and from Culpeper, with self-arranged carpools an option. After the tour, members may choose to head home or choose to lunch at a Culpeper eatery and/or visit the Museum of Culpeper History (113 Commerce St, admission \$5). NOTE: This event is a follow-up to Jeff Joyce's summer term class, 304F/304Z Crossroads of Conflict: Civil War Culpeper and Culpeper National Cemetery.

1002E Tour of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum

Coordinators: Carol Hiller, Gay Alper

Monday, 12:45–2:00, Sept. 14

Note date

Drive on your own

Limit: 15

650 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20004

The tour of the two new galleries will be led by curator, Emily Margolis, Ph.D. *Destination Moon* tells the story of Project Apollo, NASA's first human lunar exploration program. *Futures in Space* explores how spaceflight has changed from its earliest years and introduces questions about where spaceflight is going. Tour guests are welcome to explore other galleries before or after the tour. Public transit: the closest metro station is L'Enfant Plaza (7 min walk from the Maryland Avenue exit). Driving: parking is

available in nearby lots. There is limited metered street parking on Jefferson Drive SW. Please note that admission is free, however timed passes are required. Emily Margolis will reserve passes for the group. Our group will meet ahead of the tour at 12:45 pm in the *Boeing Milestones of Flight* Hall next to the Lunar Module.

1003E Tree Walk With a Forester: Learn to Identify Your Local Trees

Instructor: Joan Allen

Coordinator: Sam Laudenslager

Friday, 1:00–2:30, Sept. 25

Drive on your own

Limit: 20

Fairfax County Government Center, 12000

Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035

Learn to identify trees commonly found in Fairfax County. The leisurely tree walk will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center. Tree identification will be taught as well as life histories of various trees. Plan to meet at the flagpole near the front of the Government Center Building at 1:00pm. Park in the visitor area near the entrance of the Government Center facility where you will find ample spaces. Participants should expect to stand for extended periods and walk over some uneven terrain. The walk will occur rain or shine unless you receive an email from OLLI stating the event is canceled because conditions are unsafe.

Joan Allen is an urban forester with the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division. She has worked for Fairfax County for over ten years, having earned a BS in Environmental Forest Biology for SUNY and a Master's of Natural Resources from Virginia Tech.

1004E Four Founders and A Tea Party

Coordinator: Sam Laudenslager

Friday, 9:00–5:00, Oct. 2

Bus Trip

Limit: 30

Fee: \$93

Everyone knows about the Boston Tea Party (Dec. 16, 1774), but few know about "the Other Tea Party", which took place in nearby Annapolis, MD. (Oct. 19, 1774). This bus trip travels to the Annapolis site where the *Peggy Stewart*, a ship loaded with 2300 pounds of tea, was burned and sank. Our tour includes the Annapolis homes of four Founding Fathers who signed the Declaration of Independence: Samuel Chase, Charles Carroll, William Paca, and Thomas Stone. The Paca House exhibits an impressive array of period portraits and furnishings, and the Carroll House features an elegant Georgian-era formal garden. We will also visit the historic State House, where



the Maryland Convention voted for independence, the Confederation Congress met, and the Treaty of Paris was ratified, officially ending the Revolutionary War. Lunch (pay on your own) will be at a colonial-era tavern, where the local Sons of Liberty once met.

1005E Commemorate America's 250th Birthday at Mt. Vernon

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Friday, 9:30–2:00, Oct. 9

Drive on your own

Limit: 25

Fee: \$55

3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Step back in time and visit our first president's estate at Mount Vernon. As a Founding Father and commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, George Washington and his wife, Martha, resided on the 8,000-acre domain, which included a variety of agricultural crops, an apiary, a grist mill, and a wine enclosure. Our tour will feature his beautifully restored home, the slave quarters, four gardens, an exhibit about revolutionary life and war, and a chance to pay respects at the final resting place of George and Martha Washington. Afterward, enjoy 18th-century hospitality at Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, located just outside the estate's gates. We'll eat signature colonial-era dishes and Virginia favorites, such as Virginia peanut soup, fried green tomatoes, fried chicken, and skillet cornbread. Transportation is on your own, and free on-site parking is available. The registration fee includes your grounds ticket, tour ticket, and lunch.



1006E Walking with Washington: A Journey Through Historic Pohick Church

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Friday, 10:00–11:30, Oct. 23

Drive on your own

Limit: 35

9301 Richmond Hwy, Lorton, VA 22079

Get an up-close look at George Washington's historic Pohick Church, which he and fellow vestrymen George Mason and George William Fairfax built. Because of its proximity to the highest point of land in the area, the founding fathers chose the parish site to reflect the Biblical image of a "city upon a hill" that could not be hidden. Also known as the Mother Church of Northern Virginia, the parish is still active today and is located on Richmond Highway in Lorton. During colonial times, the church served as a place of worship and a social gathering for Washington and his family, as well as community members in the region. During the tour, a docent will discuss and point out the church's architecture and its use during colonial times, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. You'll have an opportunity to sit in the box pews where Washington and Mason, as well as other prominent members of the time, sat. A tour of the cemetery, including the oldest grave in Fairfax County, is included.



1100 Diversions

1101F Let's Get Dicey: Autumn Edition Game Day Bash

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Tuesday, 10:00–1:00, Sept. 15

Note date

Limit: 30

It's Game On! Start September with friendly companionship and competition. This is our fourth fall term Game Day Bash, and it promises to be as fun as the previous events. We'll play popular table games, some of which you've played before and others that will be new to you. All are easy to learn and play. We'll begin the morning with a quick review and a handout with the rules for each game. At the end of the morning, awards will be announced and presented to the winners with the highest game scores. The event also includes snacks and liquid refreshments. Registrants can sign up with the event coordinator to enjoy lunch afterward at a restaurant in Fairfax City (cost and transportation are on your own).

1102F OLLI Kick-Off Coffee

Coordinator: Toni Acton

Thursday, 10:00–11:30, Sept. 17

Note date

Come one, come all as we welcome new members and kick off the fall term at OLLI! Celebrate old friendships and make new ones with coffee, refreshments, and friendly conversation. New members will have the opportunity to meet and engage with the executive director and OLLI board members, as well as learn more about the many committees and clubs that are available to members. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations. All new and current members are welcome.

1103F Third Annual Oktoberfest at OLLI Mason

Coordinator: Marilyn Harriman

Friday, 12:30–2:30, Oct. 16

Limit: 70

Fee: \$8

Prost! Come to Tallwood and enjoy traditional German food, beverages (including 0.0% non-alcoholic beer and Jägermeister), and music. German dishes will include bratwurst, potato salad, pretzels, sauerkraut, and German chocolate cake. Our party will include a live German oompah band that will entertain us with polkas, waltzes, and folk dances. You'll have an opportunity to test your knowledge of Germany and Oktoberfest during a trivia game and contest. The trivia winner receives a gift certificate to a popular German restaurant in the area. Register now to join the celebration of one of the world's most beloved fall traditions, which began in 1810 as a royal wedding "30 Special Events" celebration. Participants must register and pay \$8 in advance to partake in the food, beverages, and live entertainment. **Deadline to register is October 12.**

1104F / 1104Z OLLI Ink Reading

Coordinators: Margie Wildblood, Carolyn Wyatt

Friday, 1:00–2:30, Oct. 30

OLLI Ink would like to showcase some of the organization's many talented writers by offering an opportunity for them to present samples of their work. Come and listen to OLLI writers and poets read their work! Even if you have not published in *OLLI Ink*, you are welcome to share your creations – any genre. Those who want to read are encouraged to attend in person. OLLI members as well as readers' friends or family are also welcome to attend and encourage the artists. *Guidance for those who volunteer to read:* Please send Margie Wildblood an email at olliclub@gmu.edu containing the following information: 1) a short description of what you plan to read (i.e., a poem about love, a humorous story about dogs). Readings and any introductory remarks by the writer should not exceed seven minutes. 2) a 50-word bio (not one word more!). 3) a phone number where you can be reached.

Carolyn Wyatt and **Margie Wildblood** moderate the Memoir and More Club. Carolyn also co-moderates the Poetry Workshop. Margie also co-moderates the Writers Workshop.

1105F / 1105Z Annual Town Hall Meeting

Coordinator: Lisa Mariam

Friday, 10:00–11:30, Nov. 6

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for OLLI members to hear updates about our program,

facilities, and member activities. After presentations by the board president and the executive director, members will participate in a question-and-answer period and have the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions.

1106F Annual Holiday Party

Coordinator: Debbie Engleson

Friday, 11:30–2:30, Dec. 4

Note date

Limit: 125

Fee: \$50

Country Club of Fairfax, 110 Ox Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030

Join fellow members and guests for OLLI's biggest event of the season. Begin socializing at 11:30am. Lunch will then be served at 12:15pm followed by entertainment and door prizes. Choose either pasta primavera; chicken capri with pesto butter and angel hair pasta; or spinach salad with grilled chicken, crunchy granola, seasonal berries and citrus vinaigrette. All meals include a beverage and dessert. You can indicate your choice of entree and pay the \$50 fee when you register on the OLLI member portal. **Registration is on a first come first serve basis and will end on Thursday, November 12.** OLLI members are welcome to bring a guest.

1200 Lunch and Lecture

1201F Lunch and Lecture: The Glorious History of Popular Music in Northern Virginia: From Plantations to Punks....And Everything In-Between!

One session

Instructor: Ken Avis

Tuesday, 11:50–2:00, Oct. 20

Class limit: 50

Note time

Fee: \$28

Location: TBD in Fairfax

When you think of history in Northern Virginia, your mind might go to Mount Vernon, Colonial Alexandria, and Arlington Cemetery. Not mentioned in the history books is the area's amazing and forgotten history of celebrated music, from gospel, to jazz, rock, pop, and most notably country music. Discover the beating musical heart beneath the surface of our local history, and the amazing musicians who impacted American popular culture from Northern Virginia. Get ready for some surprises, stories, and great music on a white-knuckle ride of musical adventure presenting a century of celebrated musicians across just about every genre you can think of. Lunch will be a three course catered meal.

Musician, historian, and broadcaster **Ken Avis** spotlights the beating musical heart beneath the surface of our local history and the amazing musicians who impacted American popular culture from the DMV. Ken has presented his series of entertaining Music City D.C. talks at the Smithsonian, American University, Hard Rock Café, and to youth and music groups.

Future Course Proposal Due Dates

****Please note that course proposals are due approximately 5 months before the start of each term due to catalog production deadlines.**

Winter 2027:

January 19 - February 12, 2027

(Proposal due date: July 23, 2026)

Spring 2027:

March 22–May 14, 2027

(Proposal due date: October 5, 2026)

Summer 2027:

June 21 - July 30, 2027

(Proposal due date: January 25, 2027)

Course Proposal Form:

olli.gmu.edu/olli-course-proposal-form/

Trips/Performances Proposal Form:

olli.gmu.edu/trip-performances-proposal-form/

Clubs

- **Register for clubs and ongoing activities each membership term.** Registration allows OLLI to maintain current club rosters and ensures that you will receive emails about your club's activities and events.
- Zoom links for club meetings will begin on the 1st day of each membership term (Jan. 1, Mar. 1, Jun. 1, Sept. 1)
- For general club questions, please email olliclub@gmu.edu. Club coordinator contact information can be found in the Member Portal.

All the News That's Fit to Print Club

Moderator: Zach Teich

Thursdays

Zoom:

11:50–1:15, Sept. 3–17, Nov. 19–Dec. 31 (no meeting on Nov. 26, Dec. 24)

Limit: 50

All the News That's Fit to Print meets online to discuss current affairs issues in a friendly and collegial manner. The moderator provides a topic list drawn from the week's news and serves as 'traffic cop' for the freewheeling discussion. All opinions are welcome; the only rules are to be courteous and to allow the moderator to call on those who raise their hands to speak.

Artists Club

Coordinator: Christine Narbut

Wednesdays

Fairfax, hybrid:

9:15–10:45, Sept. 9, Nov. 18, Dec. 2

1:30–3:30, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4

Come meet and work alongside fellow OLLI members who enjoy drawing and sketching with charcoal, pastels, pencils, ink, or watercolor painting. While not an instructive class, all artists are encouraged to share their talents and feedback. Provide your own materials. If you have experience with the visual arts or just want to enjoy making art, this club will provide you the opportunity.

Board Game Club

Coordinators: Tim Harwarth, Melissa Emery

Weekly on Wednesdays, in and out of term

Fairfax:

10:00–12:00, Sept. 2–16, Nov. 18–Dec. 9

1:30–3:30, Sept. 23–Nov. 11

Dive into the engaging world of modern board games where play time brings stress relief, sharpens mental acuity, and builds meaningful connections with fellow enthusiasts. If you enjoy thoughtful strategy and good-natured fun, you'll find kindred spirits here! Our welcoming group explores an evolving range of innovative board games while sharing hearty laughter and friendly rivalry. We gather for afternoon play dates that shift to mornings between terms and during summer months. Ready to level up your game? Visit the member portal to join the Board Game Club, where new friendships and mental stimulation await!

Bridge Club

Coordinator: Carol Egan

Wednesdays, in and out of term

Fairfax:

10:00–12:00, Sept. 2–16, Nov. 18–Dec. 9

1:30–3:30, Sept. 23–Nov. 4

Players of all skill levels are welcome. Partnerships are rotated every four hands. The Bridge Club meets in the morning between terms and in the summer, and in the afternoon during the other terms. For details on the club's rules and bidding system, see its web page on the OLLI website. Sign up for the club via the member portal in order to receive any updates to our schedule.

Caregivers Support Group

Coordinator: Doris Bloch

Biweekly on Tuesdays

Zoom:

3:45–4:45, Sept. 1–Nov. 10, Nov. 17, Dec. 1–29

The group is intended to support those OLLI members who are caregivers for family members and friends and is open to any interested OLLI member or caregiver-type. The group meets every second week on Zoom. The group's focus is not primarily on educational or medical information, as OLLI has offered recent course work on those, but rather on the emotional and practical aspects of caregiving. You need not be a full-time caregiver or even a current caregiver to contribute your experiences and information to this group. You can drop into any session, share with us or lurk anonymously, as you wish; but if you register, you will receive periodic links to other helpful presentations and sites via email and also be notified of the club schedule.

Chair Yoga and More

Instructor: Kamini Patel

Coordinator: Kathryn Russell

Zoom:

Mondays, 4:00–5:00, Sept. 7–Dec. 28

Tuesdays, 2:00–3:00, Sept. 1–Dec. 29

Wednesdays, 12:00–1:00, Sept. 2–Dec. 30

Thursdays, 3:00–4:00, Sept. 3–Dec. 31

Fridays, 12:00–1:00, Sept. 4–Jan. 1

Join Kamini Patel, a certified yoga instructor who has been teaching yoga since 2003. You will benefit from different kinds of yoga. Mondays will use a stability ball to go deeper into yoga stretches. The ball helps people with hip and knee issues so that balance, core strength, and

posture are improved. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Chair Yoga is a gentle form that utilizes yoga, stretching, and breathing exercises. On Wednesdays, Vinyasa Yoga will be a flow class to reduce stress and improve heart health. Continue on Fridays with a more relaxed Gentle Yoga class. There will be more yoga stretches at a slower pace. All classes include breathing exercises and meditation. We will discuss the equipment needed in class as well.

Classic Literature Club

Coordinators: Michael Mason, Deborah Schilling

Fridays

Zoom:

2:00–3:30, Sept. 25–Nov. 13

This club was formed to read and discuss classic works of world literature, frequently with the help of recorded lectures where available. Members choose the works to be discussed. In the past we have read works such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Melville's *Moby Dick*, Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, Faulkner's *Absalom Absalom*, Morrison's *Beloved*, Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, short stories of John Updike and Flannery O'Connor, the poems of Robert Frost, and plays by Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller.

Cooking Club

Coordinator: Gail Sendecke

Second Friday of the month

11:30–1:00, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

This club is for OLLI members who enjoy preparing food at home and then sharing in a small group setting. Club members take turns hosting in their homes. If this appeals to you, please contact the coordinator at olliclub@gmu.edu for more information. Sign up for the club via the member portal in order to receive updated information on our schedule.

Craft and Conversations

Coordinators: Joanne Fitzgerald, Jean Jewell

Fridays, in and out of term

Fairfax, hybrid:

9:30–11:00, Sept. 4–Dec. 11

Bring your creativity, your curiosity, and whatever project you are working on! We meet to craft, share tips and product finds, and spark new ideas together. The conversations flow easily, and the friendly group atmosphere helps us stay inspired and make progress on whatever we are creating. OLLI members are welcome to drop in anytime to see what we are working on and join the fun. All crafts and all skill levels are warmly welcomed. If you have any questions, contact the coordinators.

Dirty Knee Club

Coordinator: John McAndrew

Fairfax:

As possible during term; watch your email for updates; watch E-news for announcements

The OLLI Landscaping Committee, affectionately called

the Dirty Knee Club, is all about bringing life to the flowers and shrubs in the landscape beds at Tallwood! We're not looking for gardening pros, but we do need folks who are up for getting their hands a bit dirty. We'll be holding meetings and group work sessions to plant annuals, weed, and trim bushes whenever we need them. From late spring through early fall, our DKC members will take turns watering, weeding, and keeping the landscape beds looking great, all depending on who's free to lend a hand. Interested? We'd love to have you join us. Please contact olliclub@gmu.edu

Ethnic Eats Club

Coordinator: Leti Labell

In-person luncheons each month, dates TBD

Virtual dinner meetings on Zoom:

Thursdays, every four weeks

6:00–7:00, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

Do you love to eat? Are you interested in learning about foods from other cultures? Then this is the club for you. Northern Virginia has an abundance of ethnic restaurants. Each month a club member identifies a potential restaurant for an in-person lunch, makes sure it meets our requirements, and makes all arrangements with the restaurant. We have two luncheons at the selected restaurant, usually one on a Saturday and one on a weekday. We also have virtual dinner parties, where we each order takeout ethnic food from nearby restaurants and eat together on Zoom. If this sounds like your cup of tea (or chai or tè or té or thé), contact olliclub@gmu.edu.

Family History/Genealogy Club

Coordinators: Michael Mason, Lea Edwards

Biweekly on Mondays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 23, Dec. 7

Have you always wanted to know more about your family's past but don't have a clue about how to get started? Do you enjoy researching your family's ancestors and discovering new facts about their lives but often become frustrated when you can't find important information or documents? Do you have a fascinating story from your family's history that you would like to put into a readable format that you can share with others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are welcome to join the Family History/Genealogy Club. The club meets every two weeks in an interactive format to discuss a range of topics such as the most efficient way to access the huge amount of records on the Internet, how to read census and vital records accurately, and how to use DNA data to help fill out your family tree. All knowledge levels are welcome. Sign up for the club through the OLLI member portal. If you have questions, contact olliclub@gmu.edu

French Conversation Club

Coordinator: Cynthia Parry

Second and fourth Fridays, in and out of term

Zoom:

1:30–3:00, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

This club launched in January and so the scope is not yet finalized. But it is anticipated that the members would be advanced beginners and intermediate speakers of French who wish to practice and brush up on their language skills, with much (although not necessarily all) of the conversational interaction being in French. There will be various discussions relating to French wine and food, French movies, French music and trips to France and other countries where French is spoken. Vast sharing of French culture and knowledge is anticipated. Anyone who has basic conversational knowledge of French is encouraged to join the group and help us develop our understanding of what this club could evolve into.

Game On: Talking Sports Club

Coordinators: Dennis VanLangen, Steve Greenhouse

First and third Fridays, in and out of term

Zoom:

10:00–11:15, Sept. 4, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18, (no meeting Nov. 6)

Love sports? So do we. Each week we'll gather to talk all things sports—pro and college, national and local, current and past. Football, baseball, basketball, hockey, women's sports ...nothing is off limits! Big games, breaking news, hot takes—you bring the opinions, we'll bring the open discussion. We'll wrap up every 90-minute session with a fun trivia question for bragging rights (and lasting glory). Join us and keep your sports talk sharp, spirited, and social!

Hiking Club

Coordinator: Kathy Rones

Monthly

Local parks in the DMV

This new club aims to provide longer and more challenging hiking experiences, for those who are interested, to enjoy local parks in the DMV. The hikes will take several hours and will be roughly 5 to 10 miles total. The challenge will consist of elevation gain and some challenging footing (rocks and roots in some areas). We will focus on moderate and easy hikes. The reward will be amazing views once we reach the summit. Initially, we will plan one hiking day per month. We can expand to two if there is interest. The group can meet at Tallwood on the designated day and carpool to parks in the area such as the Shenandoah National Park or Bull Run Regional Park in VA, or Cunningham Falls State Park in MD. We will explore partnering with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and other nature organizations on some of the hikes. We can select hiking locations where there are cafes in the area and socialize after the hikes. Interested members need to

register for this club in the OLLI member portal to receive hiking schedules.

History Club

Coordinator: Doug Snoeyenbos

Wednesdays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

We welcome all OLLI members who are interested in history. The History Club meets virtually seven times per year. Our meetings feature accomplished speakers on a wide variety of historical topics. There is always time for questions, and spirited discussion is encouraged. For more information about the History Club, contact the coordinator at olliclub@gmu.edu

Homer, etc.

Coordinator: Donna Osthaus

Fridays

Zoom:

11:00–12:30, Sept. 4–Dec. 18 (no meeting Nov. 6)

Reading the classics aloud with friends and sharing observations bring the texts to life in our imaginations. We have recently been reading Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*. We welcome new readers.

Literary Fiction Book Club

Coordinators: Karen Schneider, Joann Sokol

Thursdays

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 12

The Literary Book Club focuses on literary fiction, often major book prize winners or nominees and sometimes fiction in translation. The group chooses to remain on Zoom to allow OLLI members from multiple locations to join the discussions. On September 24 the group will discuss *Endling* by Maria Reva. We will meet on October 22 and November 12. We will share the books for October and November at our first meeting in September.

Mah Jongg Club

Coordinator: Debby Mossburg

Fridays, in and out of term

Fairfax:

10:00–12:00, Sept. 4–Dec. 11 (no meeting Nov. 6)

Please come join us to socialize and play some friendly games of Mah Jongg, no matter what your level of experience. Not only does Mah Jongg sharpen memory, concentration, and decision-making skills, this engaging game of strategy and luck is an excellent source of camaraderie and fun. For more information, contact olliclub@gmu.edu

Memoir-and More-Writing Group

Coordinators: Carolyn F. Wyatt, Margie Wildblood

Biweekly on Wednesdays, in and out of term

Zoom:

2:00–4:30, Sept. 2, Sept. 16, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11, Nov. 25, Dec. 9

Limit: 13

We meet every other week during most of the year. In addition to memoir, we write fiction, poetry, and personal essays. At our meetings we gently critique each other's work with the aim of improving our writing skills. Writing groups need to be small, space is limited. Please contact ollclub@gmu.edu to learn if space is available.

Personal Computer User Group

Coordinators: Bob Heyer, Leti Labell

Third Saturday of each month

Fairfax, hybrid:

1:00–3:30, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 12 (second Saturday)

The OLLI PC User Group (OPCUG), in partnership with the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), focuses on Windows and Mac computers and software for enhancing our lives. Members and presenters also discuss smartphone and tablet apps across the iDevices and Androids, the Internet, Zoom and other classroom software, digital photography, related technology, and open-source software. Our aim is to bring broad understanding about technologies and topics of interest to attendees. PC clinics for members are offered twice yearly. Our target audience encompasses all computer users, from beginners to intermediate amateurs to experts. Our motto is "users helping users". We start our meetings with an open forum for members with problems asking for possible solutions other members have found. Club dues (currently \$5 per year) are payable at the first meeting attended in each calendar year. Dues paying members can attend monthly sessions in person or on Zoom from anywhere with an internet connection. Members also have access to weekly webinars provided by APCUG, an International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups. More details are available on the group's website: olligmu.org/opcug/index.html

Photography Club

Coordinators: John Olsen, Lynn Cline

Second and Fourth Fridays

Fairfax/hybrid:

9:30–11:30, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Meet with enthusiasts and others interested in photography and develop skills by participating in theme-based monthly photo submissions. The Photography Club welcomes all members, regardless of skill level or your phone/camera choice. We discuss both the technology of photography and the artistic aspect of visual design. We usually have guest speakers on the second Friday of

each month, and on the fourth Friday of each month we hold discussions covering specific topics in detail. The club also takes field trips for photography on the third Friday of each month, typically in the morning, but the timing depends on the venue. Contact the coordinators at ollclub@gmu.edu

Poetry Reading Club

Coordinator: Susan Rexroad

Generally meets every other Monday, between terms

Zoom:

11:00–12:30, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Dec. 21

Limit: 20

From modern to classical, haikus to sonnets, funny to historic, we read and discuss our favorite published poems in a convivial atmosphere. Share a poem to read that intrigues you. Together we'll ponder why and how these poems engage or even elude us.

Poetry Writing Club

Coordinators: Susan Rexroad, Margie Wildblood

Meets on Mondays, between terms

Zoom:

11:00–12:30, Sept. 14, Nov. 30

Limit: 12

Let what speaks to you, come through you onto the page in the Poetry Writing Club. Here's how it works: after a presentation and discussion on a poetic theme, you'll have time to craft your own poem on the topic and share your work in a supportive atmosphere. Interest in exploring your creativity is all that is needed!

Spanish Club

Coordinator: Mark Ramage

First and third Wednesdays, in and out of term

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Sept. 2, Sept. 16, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16

This club is for anyone with some knowledge of Spanish (advanced beginner up through intermediate level), but not fluent. Since members have a wide range of backgrounds in Spanish, this is not a "Spanish only" club. Activities or presentations in Spanish are also presented in English or translated to English as a group activity. Some typical activities might include reading through a short article as a group, practicing/reviewing some grammar topics, working on Spanish pronunciation, watching a Spanish language video (with English subtitles), and sharing information on websites or other resources useful for learning or improving your Spanish.

Spanish Page Turners

Coordinator: Mark Ramage

Second and fourth Wednesdays, in and out of term

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11, Nov. 25, Dec. 9, Dec. 23

Do you love Spanish and want to practice it in a fun

way? Join The Spanish Page Turners—a book club for intermediate-level Spanish learners! We'll dive into novels in Spanish that will not only build your vocabulary but also transport you into different cultures and perspectives. These easier-to-read intermediate-level books will give us the chance to follow longer storylines, connect deeply with characters, and see how the Spanish language flows in extended narratives. Reading novels together allows us to build vocabulary in context, notice cultural nuances, and enjoy the satisfaction of progressing through an entire work together. There will be plenty of space to chat, ask questions, share your thoughts, and even debate the choices of the characters. The goal isn't to read perfectly—it's to enjoy the language together and discover all it has to offer.

Tai Chi Club

Instructor: Jerry Cheng

Coordinators: Russell Stone, Cathey Parker, Bonnie Nelson, Joan Donald

Zoom:

Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30, Sept. 8–Dec. 29

Thursdays, 4:30–5:30, Sept. 3–Dec. 31

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30, Sept. 5–Dec. 26

The Tai Chi Club meets year-round and is open to all OLLI members. Beginners are welcome at any time. Simply log in from the Daily Schedule and follow along. It is led by instructor Jerry Cheng, who started his martial arts training when he was six years old in China. He has studied under several famous Chinese martial arts masters and has taught Chen-style Tai Chi for many years. He won four gold medals at the 1997 Atlanta International Martial Arts Championship. Be sure to register for the Tai Chi Club each term in order to receive email messages when there are changes.

Tallwood Book Club

Coordinator: Betty Ellerbee

Second Fridays of the month

Zoom:

2:30–4:00, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Please consult the OLLI E-news for updates on book selections.

The Investment Forum

Moderators: Al Smuzynski, Bob Baker, Lou Coglianese, David Toms, Ray Willson

Wednesdays

Fairfax, hybrid:

10:30–12:00, Sept. 2–16, Nov. 18, Dec. 2–9

The Investment Forum, which has been meeting continuously since 1995, addresses investment topics of particular interest to retirees. A weekly agenda is distributed, and sessions begin with an open discussion of recent events in the economy and financial markets, and their impact on investment decisions. Member presentations and discussions typically include such topics as: recent market indicators, stocks, bonds, mutual

and exchange traded funds, real estate investment trusts, sector allocations, investment strategies, portfolio management, and choosing advisory services. Each week members may participate in our "Buy/Sell/Thinking-About" segment by sharing their investment trades or activities of the previous week, which are then looked at and discussed in a peer group setting. The Forum typically uses various Wall Street analyses and data, as well as relevant news from the financial press. In addition, we regularly incorporate a number of online financial tools and websites in looking at members' recent trading activities or other investment products.

Theater Lovers' Group

Coordinator: Norma Jean Reck

Fourth Wednesdays, in term and in-person theater events

Zoom:

4:00–5:30, Sept. 23, Oct. 28

Membership in the Theater Lovers' Group (TLG) is open to all OLLI members interested in anything theater. TLG attends a wide variety of theater events year-round in the DMV area. We also take day trips to a nearby venue or an overnight trip to Broadway in New York City, Staunton for Shakespeare, and West Virginia for a theater festival. We usually attend matinees with an optional lunch or dinner at a nearby restaurant where we get to know our fellow theater lovers. TLG meets either in person or virtually during the months that OLLI is in session. Our meetings often feature speakers from the local theater companies who take us behind the scenes or who enlighten us about what is happening in the theater world. We also have lunches where we talk theater and socialize. We carpool, encourage bringing guests, and benefit from senior and group rates. To become a member and receive all TLG emails, go online to the member portal and sign up for Theater Lovers' Group or email ollireg@gmue.edu. For more information, email Norma Jean Reck and watch for announcements in OLLI's Friday E-News.

Walk & Talk Club

Coordinators: Marilyn Harriman, Bob Heyer

Weekly/Biweekly

Fairfax County trails and neighborhoods

Start times are between 9:00–2:00, depending on weather conditions

Do you enjoy getting out in the fresh air, exploring trails throughout Fairfax County, and talking with new and old friends? Then join us for weekly/biweekly walks throughout the year. Fairfax County has many exciting park trails and neighborhoods that we will discover. Club walks begin between 9am and 2pm, depending on temperature and weather conditions, generally starting earlier in warmer weather and later in colder weather. Each walk is 45-75 minutes, with an optional after-meet-up at a coffee/tea/eatery shop. Walks vary around Fairfax trails and neighborhoods in order to be a short drive for everyone sometime! Come walk or lead a walk around Fairfax trails

and neighborhoods! Club coordinators send advance announcements about upcoming walks, including location directions, dates, and times. All walkers need to be registered in the club through the member portal to receive walk schedule information and participate. Visit: olli.gmu.edu/category/olli-walk-and-talk-club to learn the answers to commonly asked questions about our outings.

What's in the Daily News Club

Moderators: Dick Crawford, Deborah Dupree, Kathryn McGeehan, John Quinn, Ann Smith, Al Smuzynski

Class liaison: Dennis VanLangen

Mondays, between terms

Zoom:

9:30–11:00, Sept. 7–14, Nov. 16–23, Dec. 7–21

Limit: 90

This is a weekly forum for thoughtful, forthright, and respectful exchange of information and opinions on current world, U.S., and regional news. Club participants bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience in international affairs, government, industry, education, economics, the military, and other areas. The discussion is always lively, and all participants have an equal opportunity to comment.

Need Additional Help with Zoom?

On the Tuesday before each term the OLLI staff offers a “How to Zoom Class”. See the daily schedule for the class link.

OLLI Mason has help pages that will point you in the right direction:

The Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS) has plenty of helpful information for all devices:

patacs.org/zoom.html

Visit the OLLI website at:

olli.gmu.edu/online-classes-resources/

Or you can email the OLLI Help Desk at:

ollizoomhelp@olligmu.org

Get Involved With OLLI Mason!

OLLI Mason is a member driven organization with many members contributing to the success of our organization.

OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAMMING: Are you a former teacher missing the classroom experience, a subject matter expert through work experience or volunteerism, or have a passion you would like to share (no need for formal expertise)? You may also know individuals in your community who would be good instructors. Please consider teaching or joining a program planning committee. *Find out more by emailing program@gmu.edu.*

COMMITTEES: Do you have skills that you developed through work or volunteer experience, or on your own? Our committees rely on member expertise, in an array of areas (outreach, finance, audiovisual, administrative, to name a few). *Find out more by emailing volli@gmu.edu.*

CLUBS: Maybe you have a hobby or interest to share with OLLI members. Start a new club if one doesn't already exist. *Find out more by emailing olliclub@gmu.edu.*



Membership and Registration

**** Special ****

Fall 2026 Promotion!

OLLI Mason is offering a low fee of \$300 for those new to OLLI Mason who purchase an annual membership. (Available as a one-time discount to those who have never been OLLI Mason members, are returning to OLLI Mason after a hiatus of more than one year, or have previously been introductory members and have not converted to an annual membership).

**** Special ****

George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School Retirees!

OLLI Mason is offering a one-time annual membership discount of \$100, which may be applied to the special \$300 promotion. George Mason and Northern Virginia Public School retirees who have not previously joined OLLI Mason may receive an annual membership for just \$200.

Two Types of OLLI Mason Membership

Memberships at OLLI Mason can be purchased at any time during the year and are renewed on a rolling basis.

- **Annual membership.** Register for unlimited courses and activities for four consecutive terms. Members are eligible for a Mason ID card to receive certain university privileges and discounts (see page ii). The cost is **\$450**.
- **Introductory membership.** Register for unlimited courses and activities for just one term, one time only. An introductory membership is not available to former OLLI Mason members; it is intended for new members who want to sample OLLI Mason before committing to a full year. Introductory members are not eligible for a Mason ID card or its privileges. The **onetime** introductory membership is **\$150**.

The term date on your catalog mailing label reflects the end of your current membership. If it is time to renew, you may not be able to view offerings or register on the Member Portal until you purchase your membership renewal.

Payment Options

- **Online.** You may join online at olli.gmu.edu. Click the yellow 'Join Olli' tab at the top right corner. When renewing online, log in to your Member Portal account. Click the 'Join OLLI!' tab on the left green banner and purchase your membership. Credit card or electronic check payment is required when joining online.
- **Paper Copy Registration Form.** Using the registration form to join or renew, payment can be made by check or credit card. If paying by check, submit a separate check for each unique expense (class fee, membership renewal, etc.) The form can be dropped off or mailed to: **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032.**
- **Installments.** OLLI Mason encourages members to pay in full at time of registration. However, OLLI Mason offers a payment plan of monthly or quarterly installments by credit or debit card. Your application for the installment plan must be filled out completely, mailed to the address on the form, and approved each year before you can register for courses or activities. For security reasons, we cannot accept the form by email. Installment applications are available on the OLLI Mason website at olli.gmu.edu/installment-plans/
- **Financial Assistance.** OLLI Mason offers financial assistance for members or prospective members who find it a hardship to pay the full membership fee. Email the registrar (ollireg@gmu.edu) to request an application. All inquiries are kept confidential.

Refunds

Members may only obtain a full refund of their membership fees by applying in writing to the executive director before the beginning of the third week of classes in the first term after enrollment or re-enrollment. We cannot honor proration or refund requests after this deadline.

Prospective Members

Not ready to commit? Prospective members may experience OLLI Mason by sampling one or more courses during any consecutive two weeks of a term, provided the course is not overenrolled. Contact the registrar for more information at ollireg@gmu.edu or 703-544-0085.

Membership and Registration, Continued

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- **Online.** You may register for OLLI Mason courses and activities (diversions, excursions, and clubs) online at olli.gmu.edu. Click **Sign In** at the upper right-hand corner of the home page.

Mail-In Registration Form. You may also register for courses and activities using the registration form. The form can be dropped off or mailed to: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032.

****Emailed registration forms will not be accepted. ****

When to Register

Members are encouraged to register for courses and activities as soon as registration opens (the date is listed on the front and back cover of the catalog and on page ii). **IMPORTANT NOTE: Register early for courses and activities. Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even on the first day of registration.** Although registration continues throughout the term, low enrollment courses and activities are subject to cancellation, so please register early. You must click **Add to Cart** as detailed below:

- **Each time you select a course or activity, you must click Add to Cart.**
- After adding all courses and activities to the cart, be sure to check out. The ☒ "CHECKOUT" button is in the upper right-hand corner of the Member Portal.
- Courses and activities with fees will have a dollar sign \$ next to their descriptions.
- Payment for courses and activities with fees must be made at the time of registration.

Making Changes to Your Registration (Add/Drop)

- You may add offerings (courses, special events, and clubs) at any time online through the Member Portal.
- You may drop offerings by filling out the online form at: olli.gmu.edu/add_drop_form or by emailing ollireg@gmu.edu.

Emails Confirming Class Enrollment and Payments

You will receive email confirmations for your enrollment in OLLI Mason courses and activities per below. If you want to see your enrollments thereafter, log in to the Member Portal (olli.gmu.edu; Member Portal button) and click **"CURRENT REGISTRATIONS"**.

- Confirmation emails for all of your selections will be sent immediately after checkout; please read your confirmation notes carefully.
- If you do not have an email address on file, the confirmation notes will be mailed to you.
- Special Event fees: OLLI Mason cannot guarantee a refund for courses or activities once you have paid and enrolled. As such, please consider carefully before signing up for offerings with fees. If you need to drop an activity, you should contact the registrar. In some cases, refunds will be granted if your reserved spot is filled by someone else or the event is canceled.

Wait Lists

- OLLI Mason does everything possible to maximize enrollment. Members will be wait-listed if a course or activity is full.
- If space opens in a course or activity, the OLLI Mason office will contact members on the wait list until the vacancy is filled. In most cases, the office will not leave a message.

Registration Form

OLLI Mason Registration Form: Fall 2026

Drop off or mail completed form to:

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University,
4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032

☐ Check box if there are changes in your membership information since your last submission.

Membership Information:

Please print and fill in all spaces completely.

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. (CIRCLE ONE) _____
LAST NAME FIRST NAME MI

Alternate First Name for Your Nametag (if different from above) _____

Address _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

Preferred Member Portal User Name _____
(for new members only) (6 or more characters)

License Plate Number _____

Mason Alumnus? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Check box if you **DO NOT** want to appear in the directory.

☐ Check box if you **DO NOT** want to receive paper catalog mailings.

Date Received _____

Date Processed _____

Dues Chk _____ | _____ CC _____

Special Chk _____ | _____ CC _____

Donation Chk _____ | _____ CC _____

☐ Credit card information destroyed

How Did You Learn About OLLI Mason? (please circle one)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • AARP | • OLLI Ideas Festival |
| • Ad or Article | • Other learning org. |
| • Bumper sticker | • Web search |
| • Catalog or flyer | • 50+ Expo |
| • Friend or family | • Other _____ |

****Please review our privacy policy on the OLLI
Mason Policies page in the catalog.****

Dues and Donations Information (Please check the appropriate box below)

☐ **Annual Membership (\$450)** One year of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.
(Offered to new, renewing, and previous members) \$ _____

☐ **Special Promotional Fee (\$300)** One year of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.
(Offered as a one-time discount to those new to OLLI Mason who have never been members, are returning after more than one year's hiatus, or were introductory members who haven't converted to annual members) \$ _____

☐ **George Mason University or Northern Virginia Public School Retirees Membership (\$200)**
(Offered as a one-time discount to those who have never been an annual OLLI Mason member) \$ _____

☐ **Introductory Membership (\$150)** One term of unlimited courses at OLLI Mason.
(Offered ONLY to new members, not renewing or previous members) \$ _____

☐ **Charitable Donation for the OLLI Mason Fund**
☐ Check if you want to be an anonymous donor \$ _____

☐ **Purchase OLLI Mason eGift Card (enter at right the value you want on card)**
☐ Mail eGift Card code to recipient ☐ Email eGift Card code to recipient \$ _____

Recipient's name and address or email: _____

Total \$ _____

By signing this form, I agree to all OLLI Mason policies and procedures and waive OLLI Mason liability for any trip, drive on your own event, or off-site club activity in which I participate.

Signature _____

Payment Information:

☐ CHECK payable to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Mason

☐ Installment plan (see page 35): must submit the form found at: olli.gmu.edu/installment-plans/

☐ eGiftCard \$ _____ and Redemption code _____

☐ I authorize OLLI Mason to charge my credit card account listed below:

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Expiration Date: _____

CVV: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

Courses/Special Events/Clubs

Please write the entire number including the F, R, Z, or E. Register early.

Popular offerings can fill up quickly, even as early as the first day of registration.

Please note: all offerings are Add to Cart. See page 36 for further registration instructions.

	Number	Course/Special Event/Club Name
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Offerings with Fees

For offerings with fees, you must provide payment NOW.

If paying by check, a separate check for each offering is required.

	Select	Activity Title	Fee
1004E		Four Founders & A Tea Party	\$93
1005E		Commemorate America's 250th Birthday at Mt. Vernon	\$55
1103F		Third Annual Oktoberfest at OLLI Mason	\$8
1106F		Annual Holiday Party	\$50



OLLI MASON FUND

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2025

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University extends its deepest gratitude to the generous donors who supported the 2025 OLLI Mason Fund (formerly Friends of OLLI). 221 contributors donated \$71,117 through direct donations, matching gifts, QCDs, charitable gift funds, in memory and in honor of OLLI Mason members and family members, and legacy contributions. The fund strengthens our shared mission of fostering curiosity, connection, and lifelong learning. Your generosity helps us expand high-quality programming, enhance instructional resources, and sustain the vibrant community that makes OLLI Mason such a meaningful place to learn and belong. We are honored to recognize the individuals, families, and businesses whose philanthropic spirit ensures that OLLI Mason continues to thrive.

Sustaining Donors

\$1000 and over

Bill & Helen Ackerman
Julia Adams
Doris Bloch
Barbara Brehm
Kate & Dick Crawford
Thomas Crooker
Thomas Doyme
& Carol McManus
Stephen Greenhouse
Robert Heyer
Paul Howard
Paula Hummel
Ernestine Meyer
Christine Narbut
David & Linda Riley
Emily Roudebush
Alvin Smuzynski
Vivien Szu-Tu
Verizon (matching)
Anonymous (1)

Benefactors

\$500 to \$1000

James Anders
Peter Ansoff
Diane Bierwirth
Cheryl Coe
Edward Baranoski
Donald Edwards
Donald & Lisa Ferrett
Jon & Eileen Jordan
Robert Kelberg
& Gertrude Sherman
Timothy Kilbourn
Mary Lanman
Ann McNeish
Carolyn & Vince Modugno
Debby & Thomas Mossburg
Marlene & Ted Parker
Mary Petersen
Potomac Area Technology
& Computer Society

Charles & Moolan Silver
Lowell Tonnessen
& Mary Lou Eng
Paul & Susan Van Hemel

Patrons

\$250 to \$500

Gay Alper
Ruth Altheim
Leo Brennan
Jean Butera
Anthony DePersia
Sophia Elberti
Deborah Engleson
Tim & Irene Harwarth
Carol Hiller
Sidney Koslov
Lesley Kravitz
Alice Lippert
Paige Lowther
OLLI Members
Diane Rosacker
Jay and Dean Salpini
Tom & Tracy Urman
Dennis VanLangen
Carolyn Wyatt & Michael Moore

Supporters

\$100 to \$250

Toni & John Acton
Jim Anderson
Joe Andricosky
Cleveland Arrington
Sylvia Auton
Melvin Axilbund
Charles & Kathy Barnard
Richard Bell
Miriam Berkowitz
Sherri Berthrong
Karen Bloch
Ellen Boyter
Judy Braham
Kelly Bransome
Thomas Brown

David Casserly
Frederick Churchill
Emily & Craig Clarke
Lynn Cline
James Coile
Lillie Ann Cooney
Linda Cullen
Michael Custy
Deborah Dale
James & Suzanne Dann
Bernard Doe
Julia Doherty
Louise Donargo
Catherine Donovan
Arlene Edwards
Judith Erickson
Jonathan Fiechter
David Gundry
Linda & Harlan Harber
Jane Hassell
Camille Hodges
James Hubbard
Marguerite & Harry Johnson
Robert Kessler
Harlan Lenius
Arthur Lerner
Sheila Lingle
Gloria & Murray Loew
Judith Lucianovic
Joan Lunsford
Lisa Mariam
David Martin
Kolleen Martin
Margaret McLane
John Meier
Marilyn Melnicove
Jeffrey Milstein
Suresh & Chitra Mohla
Karen Murphy
Peg O'Brien
Robert Osterhout
Patty Paquin
Catherine Parker

Mary Paxton
Gregory Redding
Susan & Fred Rexroad
Alison Rivard
Michele Romano
Steve & Linda Rose
Kathryn & Mel Russell
Doreen Sanborn
James Sanford
Judith Sapienza
Barbara Schell
Sally Sibley
Patricia Simon
Molly Stephens
Rala & Russell Stone
Daniel Swedberg
Jean & Kosmo Tatalias
William & Jane Taylor
Joel & Elizabeth Ticknor
Rita Toscano
Christopher Tran
Patrick Walsh
Robert Ward
John Ware
Pho Weigel
William White
Michael Whitehouse
Patricia Wirth
Anonymous (2)

Donors

Up to \$100

Laverne Alston
Teresa Balderrama
Patricia Bangs
Bonnie Becker
Don Budowsky
Dorsey Chescavage
Virginia Clark
Kenneth Cohn
Paula Compton
Kathleen Cox
Edelman Financial Engines

Stephen Eichenbrenner
Jennifer Ferrer
Louise Glenn
Diane Hill
Donald Hirsch
Sami Jadallah
Jay Johnson
Philip Karsner
Chris & Carolyn Kohn
Paulette Lichtman-Panzer
Sally Mannion
Frances Martin-Falanga
Margaret Masters
Karen Jo McIsaac
Paulette Miller
Mark Morey
Julie Morgan
Joyce Mary & Harold Moses
Bonnie Nelson
Susan O'Connor
John Olsen
Marjorie Pavliscak
Lynn Rhoads
Jack Roney
Maxine Sherwin
Claire Smith
Zach & Margaret Teich
Matthew Urnezis

Legacy Contributors

The Estate of Beverly A. George
The Estate of Donald E. Moore

In Memory of:

Pamela Cooper-Smuzynski
Gertude Greer
Sally Heyer
Bill Hunt
Ceda McGrew
Margaret R McLane

In Honor of:

Jeffery Milstein
James Sanford

Fall 2026 Schedule

(Week 1-Week 3)

Please note Reston classes are in *italics*

Number of sessions are shown in parentheses.

Bolded classes have unusual dates, locations, and/or times.

Note dates and times.

Before and after term programs.

Wed. Sept. 9, 10:00-11:30

1001E Guided Tour of Culpeper National Cemetery

Mon. Sept. 14, 12:45-2:00

1002E Air and Space Tour

Tue. Sept. 15, 10:00-1:00

1101F Let's Get Dicey: Autumn Edition Game Day Bash

Thu. Sept. 17, 10:00-11:30

1102F Kickoff Coffee

Fri. Dec. 4, 11:30-2:30

1106F Annual Holiday Party

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep
9:40-11:05	201Z Protect Your Money (1) 402F Theatre Potpourri (4) 401F/401Z Read to Children (1) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (7) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 104F/104Z Artist Jack Boul (1) 403F Memoir Writing (4) 404F Shakespeare's Plays (8) 602Z Sacred Gravities (4)	106F/106Z American Jazz (5) 408Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 604F/604Z Christian Movies (4) <i>802R/802Z Hearing Aids (1)</i> 803F Spatial Information (3)	107R Contemporary Art Tephra (4) 10:00-11:30 205F/205Z Estate Planning (4) 503F Japanese for Beginners (8) 606F/606Z Old God, New Ideas (4) 653Z WW II in France (3)	1003E Tree Walk 1:00-2:30
11:50-1:15	101F Knitting 101 (6) 301F History vs. Fiction (3) 901Z Monday Lectures (6) 801F Aging in Place (1)	105F Int. Watercolor Painting (8) 405Z Dickens' Bleak House (8) 501F/501Z Italian Culture (8) 652Z TED Talks (4) 703F/703Z Great Decisions (8)	203F/203Z Invest. Forum (7) 303F Unlikely War Hero (1) <i>304R/304Z Mexican US War (3)</i> 409Z Literary Roundtable (7) 605Z Jesus & Mohammad (2)	108F Rhythm & Nature (8) 411Z Such Friends (3) 654F/654Z Conspiracies, etc (4) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Beginning Watercolor (7) 202F Financial Analysis (2) 601Z Bible's Boldest Women (3) 702F/702Z Russia's Wars (1)	407Z Poetry Workshop (8) <i>302R Caesar Augustus (3)</i> 406F Fun & Games Improv (6) 502F/502Z Italian Language (8)	204Z Equity Investment (2) 3:30-4:30 410R Classic Film Festival (7) 1:45-4:00	<i>109R Meet the Artists (6)</i> 110F Singing for Fun (8) 206F/206Z Economic Events (8) 412F/412Z Poe's Fingerprints (5)	
Week 2	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct
9:40-11:05	207Z Direct Indexing (1) 402F Theatre Potpourri (4) 607F/607Z Think Bible & AI (2) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (7) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 208Z Economics Potpourri (4) 403F Memoir Writing (4) 404F Shakespeare's Plays (8) 602Z Sacred Gravities (4)	106F/106Z American Jazz (5) <i>209R Medicare Fraud Patrol (4)</i> 408Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 604F/604Z Christian Movies (4) 803F Spatial Information (3)	107R Contemporary Art Tephra (4) 10:00-11:30 205F/205Z Estate Planning (4) 503F Japanese for Beginners (8) 606F/606Z Old God, New Ideas (4) 653Z WW II in France (3)	1004E Four Founders Tea Party 9:00-5:00
11:50-1:15	101F Knitting 101 (6) 301F History vs. Fiction (3) 705F Protect from Fraud (1) 901Z Monday Lectures (6)	105F Int. Watercolor Painting (8) 405Z Dickens' Bleak House (8) 501F/501Z Italian Culture (8) 652Z TED Talks (4) 703F/703Z Great Decisions (8)	111Z Magic in Film Music (6) 203F/203Z Invest. Forum (7) <i>304R/304Z Mexican US War (3)</i> 409Z Literary Roundtable (7) 605Z Jesus & Mohammad (2) 804F Stop Mumbling (1)	108F Rhythm & Nature (8) 411Z Such Friends (3) 413Z Feast of Fools (7) 654F/654Z Conspiracies, etc (4) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Beginning Watercolor (7) 202F Financial Analysis (2) 305F/305Z The Tory's Wife (1) 601Z Bible's Boldest Women (3)	407Z Poetry Workshop (8) <i>302R Caesar Augustus (3)</i> 406F Fun & Games Improv (6) 502F/502Z Italian Language (8)	204Z Equity Investment (2) 3:30-4:30 410R Classic Film Festival (7) 1:45-4:00	<i>109R Meet the Artists (6)</i> 110F Singing for Fun (8) 206F/206Z Economic Events (8) 412F/412Z Poe's Fingerprints (5)	
Week 3	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct
9:40-11:05	402F Theatre Potpourri (4) 607F/607Z Think Bible & AI (2) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (7) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 208Z Economics Potpourri (4) 403F Memoir Writing (4) 404F Shakespeare's Plays (8) 602Z Sacred Gravities (4)	106F/106Z American Jazz (5) <i>209R Medicare Fraud Patrol (4)</i> 408Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 604F/604Z Christian Movies (4) 803F Spatial Information (3)	107R Contemporary Art Tephra (4) 10:00-11:30 205F/205Z Estate Planning (4) 325Z History for Travelers (3) 503F Japanese for Beginners (8) 606F/606Z Old God, New Ideas (4) 653Z WW II in France (3)	1005E 250th at Mt. Vernon 9:30-2:00
11:50-1:15	101F Knitting 101 (6) 301F History vs. Fiction (3) 902F Downsizing, Declutter (1) 901Z Monday Lectures (6)	105F Int. Watercolor Painting (8) 405Z Dickens' Bleak House (8) 501F/501Z Italian Culture (8) 652Z TED Talks (4) 703F/703Z Great Decisions (8)	111Z Magic in Film Music (6) 203F/203Z Invest. Forum (7) 307Z Tale of Mary Kay (1) <i>304R/304Z Mexican US War (3)</i> 409Z Literary Roundtable (7) 903F Rediscover Play (3)	108F Rhythm & Nature (8) 411Z Such Friends (3) 413Z Feast of Fools (7) 654F/654Z Conspiracies, etc (4) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Beginning Watercolor (7) 306F More Walk, Less Talk (1) 414Z Dr. Strangelove (1) 601Z Bible's Boldest Women (3)	407Z Poetry Workshop (8) <i>302R Caesar Augustus (3)</i> 406F Fun & Games Improv (6) 502F/502Z Italian Language (8)	410R Classic Film Festival (7) 1:45-4:00	<i>109R Meet the Artists (6)</i> 110F Singing for Fun (8) 206F/206Z Economic Events (8) 308Z Fuji Fire Tragedy (1) 412F/412Z Poe's Fingerprints (5)	

Fall 2026 Schedule

(Week 4-Week 6)

Please note Reston classes are in *italics*

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 4	12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct
9:40-11:05	701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00 COLUMBUS DAY OLLI Mason Office is Closed for the Federal Holiday	103F/103Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 208Z Economics Potpourri (4) 403F Memoir Writing (4) 404F Shakespeare's Plays (8) 602Z Sacred Gravities (4)	106F/106Z American Jazz (5) <i>209R Medicare Fraud Patrol (4)</i> 310F/310Z Revolutionary War (4) 408Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 604F/604Z Christian Movies (4)	107R Contemporary Art Tephra (4) 10:00-11:30 205F/205Z Estate Planning (4) 1) 325Z History for Travelers (3) 503F Japanese for Beginners (8) 606F/606Z Old God, New Ideas (4)	
11:50-1:15		105F Int. Watercolor Painting (8) 405Z Dickens' Bleak House (8) 501F/501Z Italian Culture (8) 652Z TED Talks (4) 703F/703Z Great Decisions (8)	111Z Magic in Film Music (6) 203F/203Z Invest. Forum (7) 311F USS Houston POW (1) 409Z Literary Roundtable (7) <i>805R Finding Earth (1)</i> 903F Rediscover Play (3)	108F Rhythm & Nature (8) 313Z Soviet/German War (1) 413Z Feast of Fools (7) 654F/654Z Conspiracies, etc (4) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	1103F Oktoberfest 12:30-2:30
2:15-3:40		<i>309R/309Z Park Rangers (3)</i> 407Z Poetry Workshop (8) 406F Fun & Games Improv (6) 502F/502Z Italian Language (8)	312F Revolutionary Conversations (1) 2:00-4:00 410R Classic Film Festival (7) 1:45-4:00	<i>109R Meet the Artists (6)</i> 110F Singing for Fun (8) 206F/206Z Economic Events (8) 412F/412Z Poe's Fingerprints (5) 806Z All About Anesthesia (5)	
Week 5	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct
9:40-11:05	314F/314Z Imperial President (4) 402F Theatre Potpourri (4) 608F/608Z Humans to Know (4) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (7) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 208Z Economics Potpourri (4) 415F Orwell's 1984 (4) 404F Shakespeare's Plays (8) 904Z Journey Changed All (1)	106F/106Z American Jazz (5) <i>209R Medicare Fraud Patrol (4)</i> 317F/317Z Beyond Civil War (3) 408Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 655F/655Z Resilient Civil'ns (3)	319F/319Z The Vote (4) 325Z History for Travelers (3) 503F Japanese for Beginners (8) 810F From Lab to Life (1)	1006E Walk with Washington 10:00-11:30
11:50-1:15	101F Knitting 101 (6) 315F/315Z Foreign Policy (4) 807F Chromosomes, DNA (4) 901Z Monday Lectures (6)	105F Int. Watercolor Painting (8) 1201F Lunch and Lecture (1) 11:50-2:00 405Z Dickens' Bleak House (8) 501F/501Z Italian Culture (8) 703F/703Z Great Decisions (8)	111Z Magic in Film Music (6) 203F/203Z Invest. Forum (7) 318F Caesar Augustus (3) 409Z Literary Roundtable (7) <i>809R Behind the Prize (2)</i> 903F Rediscover Play (3)	108F Rhythm & Nature (8) 416Z Wanna Write Poetry (4) 413Z Feast of Fools (7) 320F/320Z British Side (4) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Beginning Watercolor (7) 316F Religion & America (4) 808F/808Z Medical Imaging (2)	<i>309R/309Z Park Rangers (3)</i> 407Z Poetry Workshop (8) 406F Fun & Games Improv (6) 502F/502Z Italian Language (8)	410R Classic Film Festival (7) 1:45-4:00	<i>109R Meet the Artists (6)</i> 110F Singing for Fun (8) 206F/206Z Economic Events (8) 412F/412Z Poe's Fingerprints (5) 2:00-3:45 504Z Active French (4) 3:30-5:00 806Z All About Anesthesia (5)	
Week 6	26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct
9:40-11:05	314F/314Z Imperial President (4) 608F/608Z Humans to Know (4) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (7) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00 811F Fraud in Medicare (1)	103F/103Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 321F Rescue of Mt. Vernon (1) 415F Orwell's 1984 (4) 404F Shakespeare's Plays (8)	112F/112Z Richard Wagner (1) 317F/317Z Beyond Civil War (3) 408Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 655F/655Z Resilient Civil'ns (3) <i>812R Depression Old Adults (1)</i>	319F/319Z The Vote (4) 417F From Idea to Page (1) 503F Japanese for Beginners (8)	1104F OLLI Ink Reading 1:00-2:30
11:50-1:15	101F Knitting 101 (6) 315F/315Z Foreign Policy (4) 807F Chromosomes, DNA (4) 901Z Monday Lectures (6)	105F Int. Watercolor Painting (8) 405Z Dickens' Bleak House (8) 501F/501Z Italian Culture (8) 703F/703Z Great Decisions (8)	111Z Magic in Film Music (6) 203F/203Z Invest. Forum (7) 318F Caesar Augustus (3) 409Z Literary Roundtable (7) <i>809R Behind the Prize (2)</i>	108F Rhythm & Nature (8) 416Z Wanna Write Poetry (4) 413Z Feast of Fools (7) 320F/320Z British Side (4) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Beginning Watercolor (7) 316F Religion & America (4) 808F/808Z Medical Imaging (2)	<i>309R/309Z Park Rangers (3)</i> 407Z Poetry Workshop (8) 406F Fun & Games Improv (6) 502F/502Z Italian Language (8)	410R Classic Film Festival (7) 1:45-4:00	<i>109R Meet the Artists (6)</i> 110F Singing for Fun (8) 206F/206Z Economic Events (8) 504Z Active French (4) 3:30-5:00 806Z All About Anesthesia (5)	

Fall 2026 Schedule

(Week 7-Week 8)

Please note Reston classes are in italics

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 7	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov
9:40-11:05	314F/314Z Imperial President (4) 608F/608Z Humans to Know (4) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (7) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 322Z 1776 US & China (1) 415F Orwell's 1984 (4) 404F Shakespeare's Plays (8)	3017F/317Z Beyond Civil War (3) 408Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05 655F/655Z Resilient Civil'ns (3) 813F Chasing the Data (1) <i>905R/905Z Facts from Fiction (1)</i>	210Z Prepare for Your Life (1) 319F/319Z The Vote (4) 503F Japanese for Beginners (8)	1105F/1105Z Annual Town Hall 10:00-11:30
11:50-1:15	101F Knitting 101 (6) 315F/315Z Foreign Policy (4) 807F Chromosomes, DNA (4) 901Z Monday Lectures (6)	105F Int. Watercolor Painting (8) 405Z Dickens' Bleak House (8) 501F/501Z Italian Culture (8) 703F/703Z Great Decisions (8)	111Z Magic in Film Music (6) 203F/203Z Invest. Forum (7) 318F Caesar Augustus (3) <i>324R/324Z Suffrage in UK, US (1)</i> 409Z Literary Roundtable (7)	108F Rhythm & Nature (8) 416Z Wanna Write Poetry (4) 413Z Feast of Fools (7) 320F/320Z British Side (4) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Beginning Watercolor (7) 316F Religion & America (4) 706F/706Z Contested Lands (1) 2:00-4:00	323Z Stories I've Heard (1) 407Z Poetry Workshop (8) 502F/502Z Italian Language (8)	410R Classic Film Festival (7) 1:45-4:00	110F Singing for Fun (8) 206F/206Z Economic Events (8) 418Z Chinese Poetry (2) 504Z Active French (4) 3:30-5:00 806Z All About Anesthesia (5)	
Week 8	9-Nov	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov
9:40-11:05	314F/314Z Imperial President (4) 608F/608Z Humans to Know (4) 651Z Big Issues, Challenges (7) 701Z Daily News (8) 9:30-11:00	103F/103Z Music Sampler (8) 9:30-10:55 113F Is this a Book? (1) 415F Orwell's 1984 (4) 404F Shakespeare's Plays (8)	VETERANS DAY OLLI Mason Office is Closed for the Federal Holiday	319F/319Z The Vote (4) 503F Japanese for Beginners (8) 657F/657Z In North Korea (1) 907Z Let's Get Cozy for Winter (1)	
11:50-1:15	315F/315Z Foreign Policy (4) 656F/656Z Rails to Trails (1) 807F Chromosomes, DNA (4)	105F Int. Watercolor Painting (8) 405Z Dickens' Bleak House (8) 501F/501Z Italian Culture (8) 703F/703Z Great Decisions (8)		108F Rhythm & Nature (8) 416Z Wanna Write Poetry (4) 413Z Feast of Fools (7) 320F/320Z British Side (4) 704F/704Z News that's Fit (8)	
2:15-3:40	102F Beginning Watercolor (7) 316F Religion & America (4) 906F Funeral Arrangements (1)	419F/419Z Trip to Japan (1) 407Z Poetry Workshop (8) 502F/502Z Italian Language (8)		110F Singing for Fun (8) 206F/206Z Economic Events (8) 418Z Chinese Poetry (2) 504Z Active French (4) 3:30-5:00 806Z All About Anesthesia (5)	
			18-Nov		
			408Z Writer's Workshop (8) 9:15-11:05		

OLLI Mason Policies

Closing Policy

In-person classes: OLLI Mason is closed when county schools are closed. When schools announce a delayed opening, OLLI Mason generally opens on time. Exception: at George Mason facilities OLLI Mason adheres to George Mason closing decisions. If George Mason announces a delay, OLLI Mason may need to cancel the first class of the day. Also, poor conditions at OLLI Mason sites may necessitate class or event cancellations. The most up-to-date information on OLLI Mason delays and closings can be found in the Daily Schedule email, on the OLLI Mason website: olli.gmu.edu, or on the Tallwood office voicemail at **(703) 503-3384**.

Hybrid classes: Refer to the Daily Schedule email for up-to-date information.

Zoom classes: will proceed as scheduled.

Health and Safety

By coming to any OLLI Mason campus, all members, staff, teachers, and visitors attest that they are in compliance with current CDC vaccine recommendations and agree to follow OLLI Mason Health and Safety Protocols. As a courtesy to the OLLI Mason community, members should not participate in any in-person activities if they are not feeling well. Even though masks are optional, OLLI Mason supports all those who wish to wear one. For questions about health and safety at OLLI Mason, feel free to email the office at olli@gmu.edu.

Parking Policy

Fairfax: front and rear of the Tallwood building; also in the adjoining Fairfax swimming pool lot in the area designated by traffic cones, if present. **Driving to and from OLLI sites and events is at your own risk.**

Picture Policy

OLLI Mason classes and events may be photographed or video recorded. Members agree to have their likeness recorded for possible non-commercial use by OLLI Mason for promotional purposes, advertising and/or inclusion on the organization's website, social media, or for any other digital or print purpose. If a member objects, they may do so by contacting olli@gmu.edu in writing.

Privacy Policy

OLLI values member privacy and is committed to protecting personal information. When registering for membership, OLLI collects name, email address, and other information. This information is used to manage a member's account, sending updates, personal experience, and to assess OLLI's impact and reach. OLLI may also share some information with trusted third party service providers like payment processing. Members have the right to access, correct, or delete their data, and can opt out of marketing communications and the member directory at any time. This policy may be updated, and members will be notified of any changes.

Recorded Classes Policy

Recorded classes and events may be displayed on the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) website. All material appearing on the website is the property of OLLI Mason. Recordings are accessible to members only. Members may not reproduce, distribute, publish, transmit, or in any way exploit any such content, nor may they distribute any part of this content over any network, sell or offer it for sale, or use such content to construct any kind of database. Copying or storing

any content is expressly prohibited without the prior written permission of OLLI Mason.

For permission to use any content on the website, or to request removal of a recording, please contact olli@gmu.edu.

Refund Policies

- i. **Membership Fees:** Members may only obtain a full refund of their membership fees by applying in writing to the executive director before the beginning of the third week of classes in the first term after enrollment or re-enrollment. OLLI Mason cannot honor proration or refund requests after this deadline.
- ii. **Special Event Fees:** OLLI Mason cannot guarantee a refund for courses or events once the member has paid and enrolled. As such, please consider carefully before signing up for offerings with fees. If the member needs to drop an event, they should contact the registrar. In some cases, refunds will be granted when the member's reserved spot is filled by someone else or the event is canceled.

Trip Policies

- i. **OLLI Mason Sponsored Trips:** OLLI Mason members and guests participating in activities that entail transportation to locations other than Osher Lifelong Learning Institute sites must sign a paper waiver prior to departure. The waiver releases OLLI Mason from any and all claims for injury or damage sustained by, through, or as a result of such activities, and holds OLLI Mason harmless for any claims resulting therefrom.
- ii. **Outside Entity Sponsored Trips:** Travel agencies must be vetted and approved by the OLLI Mason executive director before planning and advertising trips. OLLI Mason members and their guests must work directly with the travel agencies, and these trips are managed and processed entirely by the travel agencies. OLLI Mason is not involved in the purchase or refund of transactions, logistics, or in liability whatsoever.

Please Note: All participants must follow any existing health and safety protocols of OLLI Mason and transportation.

Code of Conduct

OLLI Mason endeavors to create a positive and affirming environment that fosters learning and social connection. Members, instructors, and staff are expected to demonstrate mutual respect, personal and academic integrity, kindness, and a commitment to civil discourse. Ensuring OLLI Mason is a welcoming, inclusive and affirming learning community is a responsibility shared by all members, instructors, and staff. Many of our programs offer a forum for the lively and even passionate exchange of views. To that end, our learning community follows principles of courtesy and mutual respect that promote reasoned discourse and intellectual honesty. Contrasting viewpoints are honored and appreciated. These principles apply to all OLLI courses, in-person and via Zoom, as well as all meetings, special events and other activities. Members, instructors, and staff are encouraged to contact the director (ollied@gmu.edu) if they observe behavior that is a breach of this code of conduct. Transgressions may include denigrating other's views or opinions, threatening or bullying behaviors, offensive or abusive language, disruptive classroom conduct, sexual harassment or discrimination, and monopolizing classroom discussions. Personal attacks are especially unacceptable. The director shall investigate and, if a problem is confirmed, address it directly with the alleged violator(s), and determine the appropriate consequences and board involvement, up to, and including, exclusion from OLLI Mason facilities, classes and activities.

In-Person Program Locations

Fairfax/Tallwood Campus



Primary Locations (*designated by F or R in course title*)

Fairfax - Tallwood is located at 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax, VA 22032 (adjacent to George Mason University's main campus). Roberts Road can be accessed from Route 236 (Main Street) or Braddock Road. Additional parking is available in the swimming pool lot next door.

Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center (RCC) is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North, Reston, VA 20190 (the northern end of Lake Anne off North Shore Drive). If using an electronic map, use the Lake Anne Mobil address at 11410 N. Shore Drive, Reston, VA 20190 (across the street from the entrance to the Lake Anne parking lot).

Secondary Locations

(noted in course title information)

Fenwick Library Main Reading Room, George Mason University is located on the university's main campus at 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Parking is available at the Mason Pond Parking Deck at 4371 Mason Pond Drive, George Mason, VA 22030.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. From Braddock Road, turn south on Twinbrook Road, and the parking lot will be on your right.

The Leila Gordon Theatre is in the Reston Community Center (RCC) Hunters Woods Village Center. If using an electronic map, use the Ledo Pizza address at 2254 Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston, VA 20191. A walkway beside Ledo Pizza leads to a plaza and the community center.

Membership Sustains OLLI Mason.

The OLLI Mason Fund Allows It to *Flourish*.

Your Gift Opens the Door to Lifelong Learning

On a Tuesday morning at OLLI Mason, a classroom fills with laughter and lively debate. Members lean forward—eager to share ideas, challenge assumptions, and discover something new.

Not for credit.

Not for a credential.

But for the pure joy of learning together.

This is what OLLI Mason makes possible.

As a member-supported community, OLLI Mason thrives on curiosity, connection, and generosity. Membership fees help keep the doors open—but it is philanthropy that allows OLLI Mason to grow, adapt, and reach more people.

Every additional dollar given to the OLLI Mason Fund strengthens our mission in meaningful ways.



OLLI

Learning for the Joy of it.

► Expanding Access

Donor support reduces financial barriers and keeps lifelong learning within reach for more adults—regardless of income. Financial assistance and flexible funding ensure that curiosity, not cost, determines who can participate.

► Strengthening Programs

Philanthropy fuels the enrichment that makes OLLI Mason exceptional: innovative courses, inspiring instructors, and dynamic programs that respond to members' interests and the world around them.

► Building Community

OLLI Mason is more than classes—it's a place of belonging. Your support strengthens connection, volunteer engagement, and shared experiences that combat isolation and foster purpose.

Ways to Give:

Give online: Visit tinyurl.com/donate-olli

Give via phone: Please call Registrar Meg Przybylski at 703-544-0085

Mail your check: Payable to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Stock or IRA: Please contact Aquanetta Betts, director of planned giving, GMU at abetts2@gmu.edu or 703-993-6971

Give in honor or memory: Visit tinyurl.com/donate-olli

Legacy gift/Remember OLLI in your will: Please contact Karen Nash, OLLI Mason Finance Associate at knash2@gmu.edu or 703-503-3416

Together, our generosity ensures that learning never retires.

Give today to the OLLI Mason Fund. ↘

Visit <https://olli.gmu.edu/olli-mason-fund/>



Please contact Karen Nash, OLLI Mason Finance Associate, at knash2@gmu.edu or 703-503-3416 with any questions about donations.





Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
4210 Roberts Road
Fairfax, VA 22032
olli.gmu.edu

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT No. 6309

PLEASE DELIVER BY JULY 31, 2026

Fall 2026 Registration:

Begins August 18th at 9 am and continues throughout the term

Term Dates

Fall 2026: September 21 - November 13

Winter 2027: January 19 - February 12

Spring 2027: March 22 - May 14

Summer 2027: June 21 - July 30

Stay Curious – Learn Every Day

