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	801F: From Leeches and Laxatives to Biomarkers and Personalized Medicine: The History of Cancer Treatment in America in the Last 250 Years June 30, July 7, July 14, July 21, 2026 Lecture 1 Suresh Mohla smohla16@gmail.com	21st Century Emergence and Explosion of Immunotherapy restoring immune competence the back to normal Cancer Vaccines and Personalized Vaccines for treatment where cancer treatment is heading Targeting specific cancer genes CRISPR and its newer versions for editing genes Liquid Biopsies: currently used for monitoring treatment (remission) and earliest possible recurrence – months ahead vs detectable by imaging Liquid biopsies for screening – getting there but not quite yet. Currently, used in conjunction with standard screening procedures (e.g. mammography, colonoscopy). • We already know the vaccine against human papillomavirus, or HPV, greatly reduces infections and cases of cervical cancer. • now we have the first evidence to prevent deaths too. No women in England aged 30 to 34 died of cervical cancer between 2020 and 2022. This is the first time that zero cervical cancer deaths have been recorded for this age group.
	Cigarette smoking among American men peaked around the 1960s. Smoking among women peaked later, around the 1980s-1990s. Men began quitting in large numbers after the landmark 1964 report by the U.S. Surgeon General's Office and subsequent anti-smoking campaigns. Women quit more slowly, so their lung cancer rates continued rising for decades after men's rates had begun to fall. It takes 10-30 years for lung cancers to be detected by CT imaging.	

Suresh Mohla, Ph.D. endocrinologist, is teaching a course on the history of cancer treatment in America in the last 250 years, including recent research on immunotherapy, cancer vaccines, and personalized cancer treatments, summer 2026.

July 10, 2026

Editor of the Week: David Gundry

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Alerts & Notices

- Note: Member parking is available in the Fairfax Swimming Pool parking lot. If you park there, use only the half of the lot closest to Tallwood.
- Throughout the term, please use this [online form](#) to add or drop classes, clubs or other events. (Link is also available in the Daily Schedule email.)
- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, July 17; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, July 14, at 6:00.

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How Can You Support Mason Students in Fall 2026? Act as an "Elder"



By Camille Hodges, Humanities and Social Sciences/Current Events (HSS/CE) Planning Group Chair

Over the past several years OLLI members have served as elder mentors for undergrads in Dr. Spencer Crew's course, "History of the Family" (HONORS 240-001). This fall, the course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30-11:45. Although the class starts on August 25th, your participation will not begin until October/November, and you will not be required to attend in person.

The objective of your participation in this class is to share an impactful part of your personal life history via interviews with one or two Mason students. And, yes, many OLLI members with remarkable life experiences have shared their stories with Mason undergrads over the past few years. You may interact with your assigned students virtually or in person. Some have also video-taped their interviews to share via an OLLI presentation. This project has proven to be a cathartic experience for everyone involved and it can be the same for you as well.

Note that you will not be required to share your information publicly outside of the class should you choose not to, but the students will certainly internalize it.

Please contact Dr. Crew to sign up or ask questions: srcrow@gmu.edu.

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By [Paul Howard](#) , OPCUG Program Chair

Italian Inventions
AI Prompts: Recipes for Success

The Computer Club (OLLI Personal Computer User Group, or OPCUG) will meet with its partner, the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), on Saturday, July 18, in person and via Zoom. The Zoom session opens at 12:45.

Italian Inventions—Presented by Leti Labell

Italy is often associated with art, architecture, and cuisine. But many people are not aware of the scientific contributions of Italians. Italy's long history of innovation has left a profound mark on global technology, from ancient engineering to modern electronics. Italian inventors have shaped communications, energy, medicine, and everyday life in ways that still influence the world today. Italians have made major contributions to electronics, communication systems, computing theory, microprocessors and telecommunications. Italy's technological legacy continues to shape the world's technological landscape. **This presentation will focus on Italian inventions that have had a profound impact on the sciences of Communications and Information Technology.**

Leti Labell is an OPCUG and PATACS member with a lifelong love of computers. She has an MS in computer science and is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Project Management Professional (PMP). She teaches Italian language to beginners, and she teaches a class (in English) about all things Italian.

Learn in 30: AI Prompts: Recipes for Success—Presented by Frank Fota

We have all grown accustomed to internet searches. Most of these searches are informational, meaning they seek an answer to a specific question or research a topic. Others are navigational, used to find a specific website or landing page. Some searches are transactional, aiming to buy a product or complete a task, while others are commercial, comparing products or reading reviews before a future purchase.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) operates differently. Instead of standard searches, AI uses "prompts." Prompts are specific instructions given to AI; clear instructions lead to high-quality results. In this presentation, Frank will share practical "recipes" you can use to prompt AI and consistently achieve great results.

Frank has over 30 years of experience building, troubleshooting, and repairing computers. He volunteers with Educate Africa, a Stafford, Virginia-based nonprofit, refurbishing computers for schools in Ethiopia. As a semi-retired health physicist, he possesses extensive expertise in radiation safety policies and procedures.; Frank retired from the U.S. Army Medical Department as a lieutenant colonel. He currently works as a contract part-time technical writer for Fluke Health Solutions, a subsidiary of the Fortive Corporation.

due for 2026 (and 2025, if you didn't get around to paying earlier!)—please be prepared to pay the nominal dues in person at the meeting.

To attend via Zoom's cloud meeting service, beginning at 12:45, please click: <https://olligmu-org.zoom.us/j/84681940279?pwd=4ynpoGpnoaxYvTYLRu2Nm9pNJdWPFc.1> to join the meeting and use passcode 437356. (Note: enter passcode with NO spaces) or enter meeting ID 846 8194 0279 in the Zoom app and use the above passcode (preferred method).

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

John Prine Lullaby

If by chance, I should find myself at risk, of falling from this jagged cliff, I look below and I look above, I'm surrounded by your boundless love.
—John Prine, "Boundless Love"

Recently, after contemplating the state of the world—Oh grievous error!
I turned on John Prine and heard his soothing lullaby—
perfect antidote for things too big for me to fix.
His plaintive voice and simple lyrics help me roll the world
into a ball and bounce it on down the road
to the tune of "Boundless Love."

Making me ponder the question...
Where would we be without Prine and the
other troubadours, poets...the truth-sayers?

And a deeper question yet...
Where might we go because of them?

—Sophia Elberti

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances July 10 through July 20

By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

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The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) has several web sites of performances, talks etc.

[CFA ticket purchase page](#)

[Center for the Arts YouTube channel](#)

[Hylton ticket purchase page](#)

The new <https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/>

music.calendar.gmu.edu/

theater.calendar.gmu.edu/

dance.calendar.gmu.edu

masonexhibitions.org/.

Dr. Linda Apple Monson produces a periodic "Notes from the Director." This email is full of information on interesting online performances by the students and faculty of the School of Music. If you would like to receive these bulletins, just sign up at [this link](#) to stay in touch. Also, the Center for the Arts has a website, [Mason Arts at Home](#), which has a calendar of online events and access to many past performances.

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At the Fairfax Campus Venues

No Performances

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Fairfax and Arlington Campuses Visual Arts

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

Flare: Finding a Sense of Place in the Chronically Ill Body

Mason Exhibitions

Arlington

Through August 1

Pulp Fictions: The stories we tell about paper / the stories paper tells us about ourselves

Through August 14

Special Collections Research Center, Fenwick Library

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

(see music.gmu.edu for additional student recitals)

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

Prince William Little Theatre: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Fri, Jul 10, 8:00

Sat, Jul 11, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, Jul 12, 2:00

Fri, Jul 17, 8:00

Sat, Jul 18, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, Jul 19, 2:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$35 Adult, \$29 Senior, \$25 Student, Military, Child.

Magic of Motown

Sat, Jul 18, 8:00

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$84, \$74, \$64, \$54, \$44, \$40, \$34.

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For further details on any of the above events, see the [CFA Event Calendar](#) and the [Hylton Center event calendar](#).

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Meetings & Clubs

Please note: OLLI Meetings and Clubs may currently take place in several formats: some are in person only, some are online only, and some are hybrid, meaning that they take place in person and are accessible online simultaneously. OLLI events and activities meeting online bear the identification "Z" in their course or event number (except clubs; you may need to check the [OLLI calendar](#) and daily schedule email for location and other event information).

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master

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committees and resource groups, kick-off coffees, etc., **bolded below**. The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members.

Sat Jul 11	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Jul 13	9:15 am	OLLI Artists Club
	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
Tue Jul 14	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Wed Jul 15	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	11:50 am	Investment Forum
	11:50 am	Literary Roundtable – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
Thu Jul 16	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Jul 17	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	10:00 am	Game On: Talking Sports
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
Sat Jul 18	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
	1:00 pm	Personal Computer User Group
Mon Jul 20	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Jul 21	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Jul 22	11:50 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Page Turner Club – online
	4:00 pm	Theater Lovers' Group – online
Thu Jul 23	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	6:00pm	Ethnic Eats Club – online
Fri Jul 24	9:30 am	Photography Club
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online

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Sat Jul 25 10:30 am Tai Chi Club – online

About **OLLI E-News**

OLLI E-News was created by Rod Zumbro, who served as its editor from 2005 to 2013.

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel

Associate Editors: David Gundry, Deborah Kruesi

Weekly Editor Team: Chloe DiStaso, David Gundry, Deborah Kruesi, Chitra Mohla, John Nash, Paul Van Hemel

Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Thomas Appich, Anne Hartshorn, Bonnie Becker, Carol McManus

Submissions: Members are encouraged to submit letters to the editor, letters to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (on etiquette matters), OLLI-related news items, articles, and photos. Submit material to: ollienewseditor@gmail.com.

Deadline: Tuesday, 6:00, for that week's issue (Monday, 6:00, for letters to the editor); early submissions are greatly appreciated. Please limit articles to about 250 words.

Note: You can view past issues of *OLLI E-News* on the DocStore. To search the content of issues, use Search Our Site or put your search term in Google followed by "site:olli.gmu.edu/" without the quotes.

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