

Trouble Viewing this Email or Using Table of Contents Links: [View this email in your browser](#)



[Website](#) [Catalog](#) [DocStore](#) [Facebook](#) [Officials](#) [Member Portal](#) [Contact Us](#)



The photos show the OLLI Hiking Club group in Skyland Lodge, and in the famous Great Stalacpipe Organ room at Luray Caverns. (See Hiking Club Update article below).

July 3, 2026

Editor of the Week: Chitra Mohla

Table of Contents

- [Alerts & Notices](#)
- [Shannon Kim Morrow Retirement](#)
- [How Can You Support GMU Students in Fall 2026? Act as an "Elder"](#)
- [Hiking Club Update](#)
- [OLLI Artists Club](#)
- [Amazing Record Achieved by Tai Chi Instructor!](#)
- [Ancient Italy Trip April 2027](#)
- [Photography Club](#)
- [Theater Lovers' Group Planning Getaway to Broadway and the Big Apple This Fall](#)
- [Poet's Corner](#)
- [Arts & Music at George Mason](#)
- [Meetings & Clubs](#)

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.)
- March in Fairfax July 4th parade. To sign up, contact Marilyn Harriman, Diversions Chair at mlwharriman74@gmail.com, 703-725-0965.
- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, July 10; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, July 7, at 6:00.

From the Desk of the Executive Director
Shannon Kim Morrow Retirement



By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director

After eleven years of dedicated service, Shannon Morrow, Lead Program Associate, will be retiring from OLLI Mason at the end of July 2026. Shannon has been a presence behind the scenes of our programs, working closely with instructors, volunteers, and staff to ensure the highest quality classes each term.

Shannon started as a site assistant, then served as registrar before taking on the programming role. She moved to the West Coast in 2024 and has continued joining morning meetings despite the time difference.

Shannon's thoughtful approach, institutional knowledge, and commitment to lifelong learning have made a lasting impact on OLLI and our community. Her professionalism, kindness, and willingness to go the extra mile will be deeply missed by colleagues and members alike. The Monday Morning Lecture Series, one of our most popular classes, is especially notable, as Shannon identified speakers and planned the series. She worked tirelessly to coordinate each catalog (28 in all!) and built special relationships with many long-time instructors.

Please join us in thanking Shannon for her many contributions and wishing her all the best in a well-earned retirement. We hope the years ahead are full of continued learning, and time to enjoy her family, pickleball, biking, hiking, and gardening.

How Can You Support GMU 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 course) which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30-11:45. Although the class starts on August 25th, your participation will not begin until October, 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. Members with remarkable life experiences have shared their stories with Mason undergrads over the past few years. You may interact with your assigned 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.

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 interview you.

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

Hiking Club Update



By Kathy Rones, Hiking Club Coordinator

On June 23, six of us braved wet weather and drove to Shenandoah National Park with the hope and expectation that the weather would improve and w Stony Man and another trail. Unfortunately, as we ascended into Skyline Drive, we saw it was totally soaked in by the storm and heavy rain. We pivoted suggestion, and instead drove to nearby Luray, where we had lunch and toured Luray Caverns. It was interesting and fun! One great thing about hiking lots of time to get to know fellow members, since we carpool and drive some distance to our hiking locations. The photos at the top of this issue show o Lodge, and in the famous Great Stalacpipe Organ room at Luray Caverns.

We have this hike totally scoped out now, and I will be scheduling some SNP hikes on these or other trails in September and October. Fall is a wonderful encourage you to register for OLLI Hiking Club Summer 2026 (now), and OLLI Hiking Club Fall 2026, when fall registration is open. On July 21, we will d hike on the scenic "C&O Canal Path" along the Potomac River in Point of Rocks, MD.

Note: in case of rain or high heat index, the fallback date is July 24. Also, I am scheduling an OLLI Hiking Club interest group meeting at Tallwood on J in TA-1. Watch E-News for updates and Zoom link. I will bring my hiking equipment in case anyone wants to see it, and welcome everyone's ideas on pl early winter.

OLLI Artists Club

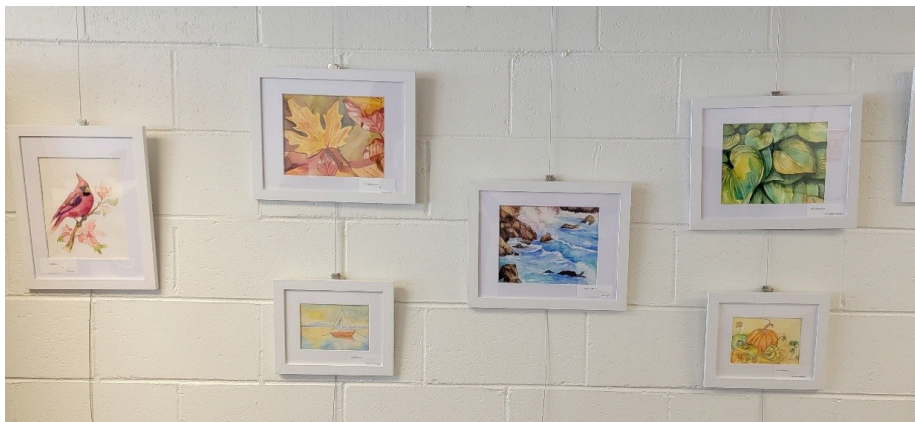


By Christine Narbut, OLLI Artists Club Coordinator

OLLI Artists hope you have enjoyed the art provided by OLLI members on the Café Wall. It's now time to change the display for the next three months. and the 250th birthday of America, we invite you to submit your art for display. We have frames and mats for 9 x 12 and 8 x 10 and can work with you title your art and include your name and medium on the back of the artwork. All art media such as acrylic, pastels, pencil sketches, pen & ink, oil, as we welcome. We may not be able to accommodate very large submissions (24 x 36 or larger).

After the display period (about three months), your art will be returned to you. Place your art in an envelope and deliver it to the OLLI Artists Club meet annex from 9:15-11:00, or leave it in the OLLI office. Indicate on the envelope that it is for OLLI Artists.

The OLLI Artists group meets every other Monday during the summer session in person and on Zoom. Feel free to join us in pursuing your artistic soul.



By Catherine Weir-Parker, Tai Chi Club Member

Jerry Cheng, the OLLI Tai Chi Club instructor, has taught 738 Zoom classes for us in the 6 years between May 2020 and May 2026! This may be a recor taught at OLLI Mason. It might even be a record for any teacher at any of the OLLIs around the country.

Initially, Jerry started teaching one class a week during term time. Our collective memory believes that was 2011. Before long a Tai Chi Club was organi mornings at Tallwood. Many students attended the class and club. When the pandemic started in May 2020, Jerry suggested members could benefit from Tai Chi on Zoom three times a week, not just on Saturdays. Since then, we have had classes at 4:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, allowing Jerry time to and also at 10:30 on Saturday mornings.

During those 6 years, Jerry, who is an active attorney, has missed teaching some classes due to court dates, client consultations, and vacations. That's v who host the meetings share a recent recording of an earlier Tai Chi session. The 738-class total mentioned in the first sentence is when Jerry has led u: that an oxymoron?).

Many OLLI members have been pleased to discover the benefits of regular physical activity that would not be possible without a virtual option. One atte coming to Tai Chi classes for a reduction in his blood pressure without needing medication. Thank you Jerry for providing this opportunity for us, for our chance to forget our worries for three hours each week!

Ancient Italy Trip April 2027



By Laura Vinti, OLLI Instructor and Italy's Hidden Gems Trip Coordinator

Have you ever dreamed of exploring the places where the Etruscans flourished, the Romans built their empire, and medieval towns have remained rema centuries?

If so, this journey was created for you. Personally designed and hosted by cultural tour leader and OLLI instructor **Laura Vinti**, *Ancient Italy: Etruscans, Romans, and Medieval Splendor* is a 13-day journey through Central Italy (April 7–19, 2027) for a small group of just 10–14 travelers. Laura recently taught OLLI's *History for Travelers* course and will return this October with a new class featuring the Monterozzi Necropolis in Tarquinia, Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli, and the medieval city of Siena—offering a preview of several of the remarkable places you'll experience on this tour. Along the way, you'll visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites, magnificent archaeological parks, charming hill towns, and some of Italy's most beautiful countryside while enjoying regional cuisine, some of Italy's finest wines, carefully selected accommodations, and in-depth cultural experiences that go far beyond the usual tourist routes. For more information, visit www.ItalysHiddenGems.com or contact Laura Laura@ItalysHiddenGems.com.



Italy!
UNIQUE



UNIQUE TRIPS TO PLACES OF THE HEART



 13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS

 SMALL GROUP
(10-14 TRAVELERS)

 PERSONALLY DESIGNED
& HOSTED BY
LAURA VINTI

ANCIENT ITALY

A Journey Through the Soul of Central Italy

» APRIL 7-19, 2027 «

Step into the heart of Italy where history, art, and nature intertwine. From ancient Etruscan tombs and imperial villas to medieval hill towns and Renaissance masterpieces, this journey reveals the timeless beauty and enduring soul of Central Italy.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

ETRUSCAN NECROPOLISES (UNESCO)

HADRIAN'S VILLA

ORVIETO

ASSISI

SIENA

VAL D'ORCIA

WINE & LOCAL CUISINE

4-STAR BOUTIQUE HOTELS

EARLY BIRD PRICE
\$6,200 until September 30, 2026
(Regular price: \$6,700)

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT
\$890

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS
Laura@ItalysHiddenGems.com

WWW.ITALYSHIDDENGEMS.COM

Photography Club

OLLI Photo Club Meeting on Friday, July 10

By John Olsen, Photography Club Coordinator

Ben Greenberg will be the guest speaker at the OLLI Photo Club's (OPC) next meeting on Friday, July 10, from 9:30-11:00. The OPC will meet in person TA-1 and on Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the Daily Schedule email sent each weekday morning by 8:00, or on the OLLI member portal. Guest meetings are always welcome!

Ben Greenberg is an award winning landscape photographer, who enjoys teaching classes and workshops and mentoring individuals in their quest to improve photography skills and decision-making.

In March 2014 Ben published his first photography book, *Natural Virginia*. A coffee-table-sized book, *Natural Virginia* features panoramic color landscape photographs from throughout the state, celebrating its natural beauty and the need for its preservation. Ben is working on his second Virginia book focusing on the state's national, state, regional, and local natural public lands. The book has a working title of *Natural Public Lands of Virginia*.

Ben's photographs can be viewed on his two websites:

- www.bengreenberg.com (900 landscape & wildlife images from Virginia and 20 other states)
- www.naturalvirginiabook.com (Information and 30 of the 122 images from Natural Virginia).

https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=__test_email__&u=0738855181ad339612dd33f91&id=3530d2d8d5

5/10

7/3/26, 11:24 PM

OLLI E-News July 3, 2026

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

[RSS](#)

Theater Lovers' Group Planning Getaway to Broadway and the Big Apple This Fall

By Norma Jean Reck, Theater Lovers' Group, Coordinator

Monica Tulla Ramirez (Thee Mithelland) and company in the First National Touring Company of SUFFS. Photo by Joan Marcus, 2025

Have you ever wanted to see a show on Broadway or the Rockettes line dance, visit MoMa or ice skate in Rockefeller Center? All this (and more) is possible when you join Theater Lovers' Group (TLG) for their 'do-your-own-thing' motor-coach trip to NYC this fall.

We will leave Fairfax at 9 a. m. on Tuesday, November 17 and return Wednesday night November 18 about 11 p.m. We'll stay at the Marriott Marquis in the Theater District, which makes touring, dining, and seeing two Broadway shows convenient.

Kim, the tour director, will be on hand to help with planning your trip, purchasing show or tour tickets, making dinner reservations, etc. The cost includes round trip motor-coach transportation, lodging, and portage: \$548 for a double room

A deposit of \$250 is due to Champlain Tours ASAP. Balance is due in August. If interested, please email Norma at jreck@cs.com for more information.

Remember we welcome guests, so feel free to invite your family and friends; they may want to visit Macy's and start their Christmas shopping early.

TLG members and guests dining at The Hamilton after enjoying marvelous June 28 performance of Suffs at the National

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

Poet's Corner

Courte:

Colbert Rare Luminaire

Colbert
Wise
- Ass
Extraordinaire

Dares
to laugh
at power's
graft

His brilliance
ignites
America's
resilience

The baddies
are on the run
They can't handle
a bit of fun

His every quip
our every laugh
calls us together

https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=__test_email__&u=0738855181ad339612dd33f91&id=3530d2d8d5

6/10

Arts & Music at George Mason



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) has several web sites of performances, talks etc. For tickets for either Center for the Arts Concert Hall (CFA) or Hylton Center, call 1-888-945-2568. [CFA ticket purchase page](#)
[Center for the Arts YouTube channel](#)
[Hylton ticket purchase page](#)
The new [https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/](https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/music.calendar.gmu.edu/)
[music.calendar.gmu.edu/](https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/music.calendar.gmu.edu/)
[theater.calendar.gmu.edu/](https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/theater.calendar.gmu.edu/)
[dance.calendar.gmu.edu](https://masonartsimplified.gmu.edu/dance.calendar.gmu.edu/)
[masonexhibitions.org/](https://masonartsimplified.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 student 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](#), calendar of online events and access to many past performances.

Performances

At the Fairfax Campus Venues

Brian Ganz in Concert: Piano
Thu, Jul 9, 4:30
Harris Theatre
Admission: Free and Open to the Public.

Fairfax and Arlington Campuses Visual Arts
(details can be found at <https://www.masonexhibitions.org/>)

Flare: Finding a Sense of Place in the Chronically III Body
Mason Exhibitions
Arlington
Through August 1

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

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, Youth, Military, Group (8+)

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

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 place in person and are accessible online simultaneously. OLLI events and activities meeting online bear the identification "Z" in their course or event nu may need to check the [OLLI calendar](#) and daily schedule email for location and other event information).

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master online calendar maintained by the office. The list is acc **Note:** All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors, committees and resource groups, kick-off coffee **below.** The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members.

Fri Jul 3	11:00 am	Homer, etc. - online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More - online
Sat Jul 4	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club - online
Mon Jul 6	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

Subscribe	Past Issues		Translate ▼	RSS
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online		
Wed Jul 8	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		
Thu Jul 9	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online		
	4:30 pm	Spanish Club – online		
Fri Jul 10	9:30 am	Photography Club		
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation		
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club		
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online		
	11:30 am	Cooking Club		
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online		
	2:30 pm	Tallwood Book Club – online		
	4:00 pm	French Conversation and Happy Hour – online		
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		
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online		
Tue Jul 14	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online		
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online		
Wed Jul 15	11:50 am	Investment Forum		
	11:50 am	Literary Roundtable – online		
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online		
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online		
Thu Jul 16	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		

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 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.gm"