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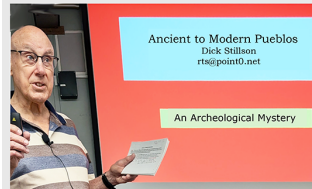
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Ancient to Modern Pueblos
Dick Stillson
rts@point0.net

An Archeological Mystery

So Many questions

- Most of the hundreds of rooms around the circumferences of the houses were empty and only about half had evidence of food storage.
- Most archeologists think there were only a few rooms used as residences since few had evidence of domestic artifacts such as decayed food, ruins of domestic pots or tools, or architecture indicating places to eat or sleep.
- One speculation is that the houses were so big simply to impress supplicants with the power and majesty of the priests. Is there an analogy to the great cathedrals and mosques of Europe and the Middle East?

Mesa Verde: A rough chronology can be estimated based on tree ring analysis of the wood used as pillars to hold up the roofs.

Year	What Happened?
Pre pueblo	Artifacts show hunting-gathering groups as early as 5,000 BC. Foliose culture.
2,000 BC-700 AD	Very early agriculture with domesticated plants probably brought up from Mesoamerica (probably maize and squash).
700-850	Continued increasing population, maybe as high as 5,000, mostly in basketmaker pueblos. A lot of mobility depending on local conditions.
700-900	Widely scattered small surface pueblos, agriculture expanded further with maize the principal crop.
850-920	Substantial drought and depopulation -- no good population estimates.
950-1190	Gradual repopulation clustered in small hamlets grouped around a great house. There were 6 Chacoan style large great houses and perhaps 50 smaller ones. Total population may have reached as much as 11,000.
1180-1190	Severe and extended drought and population decline, particularly in western part of area. General movement from west to east, into the Montezuma Valley and Mesa Verde park area.
1170-1270	Generally wet period. Population increase and consolidation of community structures but evidence of raiding and violence, defensive construction around great houses and breakdown of social integration. Construction of cliff houses.
1270-1300	Major sustained drought. Everything abandoned.

Photos by Paul Van Hemel

Hopi Pueblo



Richard Stillson Provided an Informative Analysis of the History of Ancient and Modern Pueblos, Tallwood, Summer 2026

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August 14, 2026

Editor of the Week: Paul Van Hemel

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Alerts & Notices

- The OLLI office will re-open Monday, August 17. Between-term office hours are Mon-Fri, 9:00-noon.
- Fall 2026 registration begins August 18 at 9:00 and continues throughout the term.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, August 28; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, August 25, at 6:00.

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

60th Birthday

I rode
on the arm of a clock
reviewing all 12 milestones
from each zodiac block
I spun
wheels of environments
embracing all 5 elements
in measured increments
I reached
life's pinnacle

–Qin Lloyd

Note: The 5 elements refer to earth, metal, water, wood, and fire. The 12 zodiacs refer to 12 chosen animals – rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, lamb, horse, monkey, chicken, dog, and pig. These elements and zodiacs were first acknowledged by China and later adopted by other Asian countries. A person who turns 60 years old after reaching all combinations of the elements and the zodiacs, is considered a lucky person.

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Special Singing for Fun Milestone



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

In 2027, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the OLLI class, Singing for Fun. That is a long run for an OLLI class. And why— you might ask? Because Singing for Fun is SO MUCH FUN.

We offer it only in fall and spring, and this fall we will meet on Thursdays from 2:15 to 3:40. (See class 110F in the catalog.) No singing talent required, just a love for having fun and enjoying music. We sing all genres—golden oldies, folk rock, songs from the class members’ favorite singers, Broadway—especially old Broadway, country. You name it and we’ll try it. We have an enthusiastic piano player and song lyrics on the screen. Just like the most fun group sing along.

Research shows that music helps you feel better—it helps you rest, lifts your mood, and reduces stress. And singing really helps you feel more positive and relaxed. I am always most relaxed when I attend Singing for Fun.

Please join us for this milestone Singing for Fun class. OLLI’s fall term will run from Sept 21-Nov 13 and registration begins August 18th. Be a part of the next 30 years of Singing for Fun!!

Looking forward to singing with you!

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At this time, there are no performances scheduled for Arts & Music at Mason

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

Patriot Perspectives Gallery: Photography
Mason Exhibitions, Johnson Center
Fairfax
Through December 5, 8:30-5:00

College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) Dean's Suite: Painting, the Art of Seeing
Mason Exhibitions, Johnson Center
Fairfax
Through December 5, 8:30-5:00

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Meetings & Clubs

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

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

Sat Aug 15	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Tai Chi Club – online Personal Computer User Group
Mon Aug 17	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	OLLI Artists Club What’s in the Daily News? – online Board Game Club Bridge Club Poetry Reading Club – online Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Aug 18	2:00 pm 3:45 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Caregivers Support Group – online Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Aug 19	10:30 am 12:00 noon	Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online

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Thu Aug 20	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online Ethnic Eats Club – online	
Fri Aug 21	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon	Photography Club Crafts and Conversation Mahjong Club Game On: Talking Sports Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online	
Sat Aug 22	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online	
Mon Aug 24	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Board Game Club Bridge Club Chair Yoga and More – online	
Tue Aug 25	2:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Wed Aug 26	10:30 am 12:00 noon 4:00 pm	Investment Forum Chair Yoga and More – online Spanish Page Turner Club – online	
Thu Aug 27	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News – online Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Fri Aug 28	9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm	Photography Club Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online French Conversation and Happy Hour – online	
Sat Aug 29	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online	

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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

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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 <i>OLLI E-News</i> 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. Back to Top of Page			