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During a meeting of the OLLI Photo Club on August 14 at Tallwood, club member Tom Simpson shared photos of his trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

August 28, 2026

Editor of the Week: John Nash

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Alerts & Notices

- Registration is now open for the fall term of OLLI classes.
- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, September 11. The regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, September 8, at 6:00.

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Welcome to the Fall Term



By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director

At OLLI Mason, we strive to cultivate a warm and inviting environment where everyone feels welcome – a place to connect with your peers, discover new interests, enjoy excellent programming, and of course to learn. No matter what you're curious about, we hope you'll enjoy the new catalog and join us for the tremendous offerings coming this fall. You may have noticed that the catalog now features class, club, and activity grids at the front to help you discover all that OLLI has to offer.

This fall, whether you're a new or returning member, join us at the kick-off coffee. This annual tradition is a great opportunity to meet new friends, reconnect, and hear about exciting plans underway to make your member experience even better.

The 250th anniversary programming continues this fall with 14 classes and activities! The Mason Library is planning an intergenerational program exploring the values of the American Revolution. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all of the 250th classes and programs from the past year.

Have you ever participated in a drumming circle? Come make some noise at this innovative new class!

and musicologist, Ken Avis.

We'll be creating a community mural with artist Brianna Camp at the entrance to the Tallwood campus. Members will be invited to provide feedback on the initial design and then can work side by side with the artist to help paint the mural! No experience needed.

One of our leading strategic goals is to be visible. We value our current members and are always looking for ways to reach new members and instructors. Please help spread the word about all the great things happening at OLLI Mason. Guest passes are available in the office. Be sure to follow us on social media, share our posts, and post about your favorite classes and activities.

See you soon!

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Got Course Ideas? ... Join the HSS/CE Program Planning Group



By Camille Hodges, HSS/CE Planning Team Chair

OLLI is known for its great course ideas. In case you were unaware... many of these ideas come directly from you! We at OLLI need to know what courses/topics strongly reflect your interest and/or your desire to know more about. Also, let us know of any topics you would be willing to teach at OLLI. Our members are our strength when it comes to course proposals.

Check out the current catalog and decide which category might best support your area of expertise. Also, if you have personal contact with people who would be great OLLI instructors, please invite them to present as well.

The Humanities and Social Sciences/Current Events (HSS/CE) team is committed to inviting presentations that support many areas including psychology, politics, cultural interests, inter- and intrapersonal interactions, human culture, ethics, and cultural awareness. Our team meets virtually three or four times per year and communicates continuously.



To join the HSS/CE programming team, here's the link: program@gmw.edu.

Got course ideas? Here's the link for the OLLI course proposal form: <https://olli.gmw.edu/olli-course-proposal-form/>.

Editor's Note: This article appeared in earlier E-News editions. It is repeated here to encourage member participation in program planning for HSS/CE.



By Kathy Rones, Hiking Club Coordinator

Nine OLLI members recently completed a spirited hike of over 4 miles at Sky Meadows State Park in Delaplane, VA. After the hike, we had lunch at the Marshall Diner in nearby Marshall, VA.

We enjoyed the variety of hiking terrains (e.g., steep, challenging hills; shaded level paths in the woods or beside meadows; a gravel road), and the views from the Piedmont overlook. It's a lovely state park and was serene and definitely uncrowded. We only crossed paths with about 6 other hikers. We plan to hike in this park again in the spring, and will try a longer hike, including parts of the Appalachian Trail.

Looking ahead, in September you can join us for hikes at Fountainhead Regional Park on Sep 10 (with a backup date of Sep 11) and Shenandoah National Park on Sep 22 (with a backup date of Sep 25).

Please register for "OLLI Hiking Club Fall session" to receive emails and updates about our hikes.



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Literature, Language, Theater, Writing and Film (LLTWF) Program Planning Group



By Pat Bangs, Co-Chair LLTWF Program Planning Group

Save the Date: LLTWF Program Planning Group will meet September 11 at 10:00.

The LLTWF Program Planning Group will meet September 11 at 10:00 via Zoom to plan our spring 2027 term and beyond. OLLI-GMU members are invited to attend and bring ideas for literature, language, theater, writing, and film programs, as well as possible resources, including individuals you may know who might want to teach classes in this area.

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Topic: LLTWF Meeting

Time: Sep 11, 10:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://gmu.zoom.us/j/98972750521?pwd=KauG692CZfZ_DWhgOHR5ImAw0nGj9GZ2.1

Meeting ID: 989 7275 0521

Passcode: 560943

Thanks to all who can come. See you on September 11!

[Pat Bangs](#)

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Photography Club



*By John Olsen and Lynn Cline,
Photography Club Coordinators*

The OPC is one of the OLLI clubs you can join.

Don't forget, when registering for the OLLI fall program, you may also register for the OLLI clubs in which you are interested to participate. One of the most popular and enjoyable is the OLLI Photo Club which meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. You can attend in person at Tallwood or join in through the Zoom connections which are furnished each weekday morning.

Members of the OPC love sharing photos, and we have both monthly competitions and galleries where members can display their photographs. The monthly competition for September is Wildlife-animals (excluding birds); October is Technique-Diptych or Triptych; November is Autumnal Colors; and December is Open (no theme).

The OPC also has monthly field trips to local areas where you can join other OPC photographers to practice your photographic skills and monthly guest speakers from whom you can learn how to take better photographs.

We also support various projects such as photographing the Mason student opera performances and providing photographic service to the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. This latter effort is a big job where OPC members volunteer to document (photograph) various NVSO events. The NVSO is from September 11 through October 4, so if you are interested in helping out, please contact [John Olsen](#).

If you have an interest in photography, consider joining the OLLI Photo Club. Remember: it's free and, as with the other clubs, a part of your membership.



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Photo of the Month

<https://mailchi.mp/gmu.edu/olli-e-news-5264250?e=c895636f39>

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The August 2026 Photo of the Month theme was **Open**. We selected the above photo Dock Dogs-1. The photo of a leaping dog was taken at the Wharf in Washington DC during a Dock Dogs event. This event is a contest of athletic dogs jumping and retrieving in a swimming pool, earning points based on height and speed. Joe Wilmore took this photo capturing a dog during a high leap.

Joe Wilmore's photo may also be viewed at this page. To view other photos by members of the Photography Club, visit the club's photo [website](#).

-- By John Olsen and Lynn Cline, Photography Club Coordinators

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Retail Enchantment

Resting lightly on a plastic hanger
in the window of the North Beach
Leather Store I am roused by the
excited sound of her voice as she
grabs me off the rack and
thrusts her arms into me.

<https://mailchi.mp/gmu.edu/olli-e-news-5264250?e=c895636f39>

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who is busy admiring my near twin
in a radiant shade of hot pink.

My deep vibrant teal hue does highlight
her blank baby-blue eyes and blonde locks.
Seeing my reflection in a full-length
mirror for the first time I realize,
I am quite striking.

"I really can't afford this" she says
as she gazes adoringly at her image.

"You really can't afford not to"
her friend replies, grinning.

She tosses her credit card down
on the counter and says
"I won't need a bag,
I'm not taking this off!"

I feel the warmth of her skin
enveloped in my caress and
know love for the first time.
– Susan Bennett

Retail Enchantment was a winner in the Fairfax Public Library 2026
Poetic Musings Poetry Contest.

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Obituary: Robert Patton Carroll

Long-time member Robert "Pat" Carroll, who first joined OLLI in the spring term 2001, died on August 22, 2026, at the age of 95. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

Pat was born on August 9, 1931, in Franklin, Texas. He briefly attended Texas A & M before enlisting in the Air Force. After several years in the enlistment ranks, he attended officer training and became a Navigator. He retired from the Air Force as a full Colonel in 1977. His second career was with Unisys in the DC area.

He married Patricia Elizabeth Carroll, née Allen, in 1956, and they were married for 70 years. They had four children, 12 grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Throughout their marriage, they traveled, enjoyed fine dining, and volunteered at George Mason University. He



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Funeral Services for Pat Carroll will be Saturday, August 29, 2026, at 11:00 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 9350 Braddock Road, Burke VA 22015. At a future date, he will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery, 1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, VA 22211.

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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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Beautiful young people are an accident created by nature.
Beautiful old people are created by themselves!
F. Scott Fitzgerald

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

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

Sat Aug 29	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Aug 31	9:15 am	OLLI Artists Club
	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	11:00 am	Poetry Reading Club – online
Tue Sep 1	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Wed Sep 2	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
Thu Sep 3	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Sep 4	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Game On: Talking Sports Club – online
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
Sat Sep 5	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Sep 7	OLLI Closed	Labor Day
	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Sep 8	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Sep 9	9:15 am	OLLI Artists Club
	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	10:30 am	Investment Forum
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Page Turner's Club – online
Thu Sep 10	11:50 am	All the News – online
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Sep 11	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	9:30 am	Photography Club
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	11:30 am	Cooking Club – Off site
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	French Conversation Club – online
	2:30 pm	Tallwood Book Club – online
Sat Sep 12	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

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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