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Board of Directors Meeting September 18, Tallwood

Editor of the Week: Chitra Mohla

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- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, October 2. The regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, September 29, at 6:00.

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By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director

Join us to create something lasting for the OLLI Mason community! OLLI Mason members, volunteers, instructors, family, friends, GMU students, and neighbors are invited to join artist Brianna Camp in bringing the Tree of Life Community Mural Project to life.

This collaborative mural celebrates creativity, lifelong learning, connection, and our shared commitment to community. Every brushstroke will help tell the story of OLLI Mason.

Before painting begins, join us for a Community Engagement Session on **September 29 from 4:00-5:00 in TA-1**. Meet the artist, learn about the vision for the mural, share your ideas, and help shape the artwork's message.

Then roll up your sleeves and join us for one of the Community Paint Days on **October 9 or October 11**. No artistic experience is needed. The mural has been designed so everyone can participate, and all materials and guidance will be provided.

Best of all, this project is a wonderful opportunity to share the OLLI experience with others. Invite your family members, friends, neighbors, and anyone who enjoys creativity and community to paint alongside you.

Volunteer painting spots are limited, so reserve your place today by signing up through SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4BA8A82FABFD0-65534049-community#/>.

Come help us grow the Tree of Life and leave your mark on a work of art that will inspire our community for years to come!

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Winter is coming. It's time to think about updating your winter virus vaccines. The best time to get the annual Flu and Covid vaccines is mid to late October before Halloween. It takes 2 weeks for these vaccines to be effective and they usually wear off after 4-6 months. This way you are protected for the holidays. Spoiler alert: Both vaccines are helpful in preventing SEVERE cases of infection (hospitalization and death) in the normal population. They will NOT prevent you from getting the Flu or Covid at all. Be safe. Stay well.

From the Healthcare Advisory Workgroup

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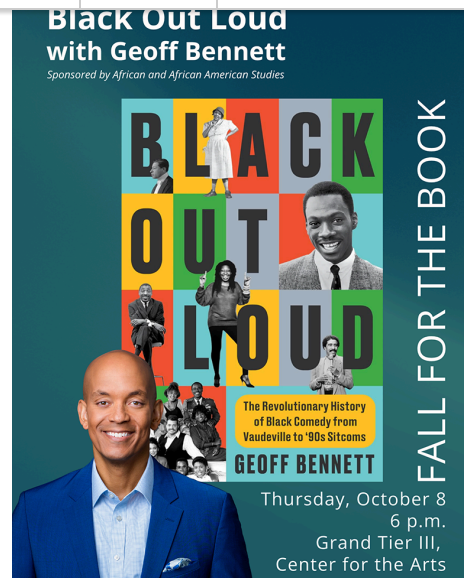
Fall for the Book Event: Black Out Loud with Geoff Bennett



By Lisa Mariam, Executive Director

Our partner, Fall for the Book, has asked that we promote this event. Geoff Bennett, the host of PBS News Hour, is going to be speaking on Thursday, October 8, at 6:00 PM at the [George Mason University Center for the Arts](#) (specifically in the *Grand Tier III*), in Fairfax, VA.

Many OLLI members watch the News Hour program, so we'd love to get the word out for this event (see flyer below for details).



Below is the link to the Eventbrite event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-out-loud-with-geoff-bennett-tickets-1997452280541?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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Tallwood Book Club



By Elizabeth Ellerbee, Tallwood Book Club Coordinator

The Tallwood Book Club will be discussing ***The Great Divide*** by Cristina Henriquez at its Friday, October 9th meeting. This meeting will be on Zoom at its regular time, 2:30.

In November, we will be reading and discussing two books by Michael Finkel, ***The Art Thief*** and ***The Stranger in the Woods***. Members can choose to read either book or both. This meeting will take place on Friday, November 13th.

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Spanish Anyone?



**By Debby Kruesi, Literature, Language, Theater, Film and Writing (LLTWF)
Program Co-Chair**

OLLI members have been requesting more language courses, especially beginning and intermediate conversational Spanish. While we have lots of students interested in learning Spanish, finding instructors has been a challenge, so we are reaching out to members for help with our search. If you or someone you know is a retired Spanish teacher or native Spanish speaker who would be interested in volunteering as an instructor at OLLI-GMU, please let us know. If you have ideas for other resources we could explore, those would be most welcome, too.

We would love to be able to offer Spanish in our spring term (proposals due Oct. 5th) and look forward to your suggestions for instructors. Thank you!

Contacts:

Pat Bangs (pbangs68@gmail.com)

Debby Kruesi (kruesid@aol.com)

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Coming this Fall: A Cornucopia of Exciting Theater Events

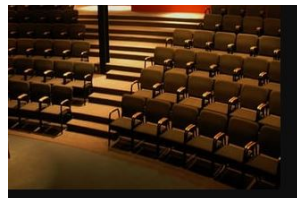


By Norma Jean Reck, Coordinator, Theater Lovers' Group



For an exciting and memorable musical afternoon, the only place to be on Sunday, September 27 at 3 p.m. is Mason's Harris Theater for the Grand Piano Celebration 2026. Mason's pianists extraordinaire Linda Monson and Anna Balakerskaia will amaze you with their talent. Dean Rick Davis will narrate witty verses of Ogden Nash as only he can. A delicious meet-the-artist reception follows the concert. Go to calendar.gmu.edu to purchase senior tickets for \$20.

On Sunday, October 18, TLG goes to 1stStage to attend the 2 p.m. matinee performance of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal*. The play explores facets of extramarital affairs through a unique reverse-chronological structure. A block of \$25 tickets has been reserved for OLLI members. To purchase a ticket, phone 703-854-1856, tell them you are with Norma from OLLI. Email me at njreck@cs.com to let me know you will be joining us. We will go to an optional lunch before the show TBD.



On Saturday, October 31, TLG goes to Signature to attend the 2 p.m. matinee performance of Stephen

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have a group ticket rate of \$95 per person. To purchase a ticket, please email me njreck@cs.com as I am coordinating a block of tickets with Signature. Optional lunch before the show TBD.

As we enter the holiday season and your vagabond shoes are longing to stray, you'll want to be part of the trip TLG is taking to Broadway. We leave Tuesday, November 17 and return Wednesday, November 18 – plenty of time to see two shows

or catch the Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall or visit a museum or start your holiday shopping. The cost of \$548 for a double (add \$178 for a single) includes transportation, lodging at the Marriott Marquis, and a \$46 voucher for breakfast at the Marriott. Kim is on hand to help purchase show tickets and plan your trip. Six spaces are available. If interested, email njreck@cs.com to sign up and for more information.



To get in on all the fun, why not join OLLI's Theater Lovers' Group? To become a TLG member, just go online to OLLI member portal and register for the club there.

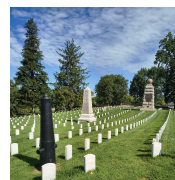
Editor's Note: At the author's request, all words are published unedited, exactly as submitted.

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An Excursion to the Virginia Piedmont



By Carolyn Kramer, Excursion Coordinator



OLLI members recently toured the Culpeper National Cemetery. (The photo of grave markers and monuments was taken by Paul Howard.) The event was a follow-up to the July OLLI class presented by Jeffrey Joyce, a knowledgeable docent at several Northern Virginia sites.

Leading the group among the white grave markers along the grassy green hills, Jeff brought history alive by relating details of his extensive research into the lives of many of the "residents" of the cemetery. It has been said that a person still lives on as long as their name is being spoken; Jeff helps to ensure that those who have passed on are still remembered.



Afterward, some members enjoyed lunch in Culpeper, while others visited the Museum of Culpeper History. (The group photo was provided by Bob Esler.)

Photo of the Month



The September 2026 Photo of the Month theme was **Wildlife:Animals (not including birds)**. We selected Joe Willmore's photo Elephant-Framed Giraffe, taken in Namibia, which may also be viewed at [this link](#). To view other photos by members of the Photography Club, visit the club's photo [website](#).

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

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

At a Parisian Flea Market

Your scalloped rim,
edged like a Cupid's bow
of raspberry lipstick,
beckons me closer to your bouquet
of graceful summer flowers
in a creamy china garden.

on this table of tarnished trinkets.
Whatever your story – today's my lucky day.

Without even checking you for chips,
I dig into my pocket. Five euros is
well spent for your elegance.

Come, my little treasure,
I will make a soft nest for you in my luggage
and give you a home where you can regain
your bygone refinement as I adorn you
with chocolates and madeleines.

–Jacqueline Davey

At a Parisian Flea Market was a winner in the Fairfax Public Library's 2026 Poetic Musings Poetry Contest.

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By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) has several web sites for performances, talks etc. For tickets for either Center for the Arts Concert Hall (CFA) or Hylton Center, call 1-888-945-2468.

[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

Music From The Sole

Sat, Sep 26, 7:30

Concert Hall

Admission: \$60, \$52, \$38.

National Symphony Orchestra: *Nosedá Conducts Exotic Tales*

Thu, Oct 1, 7:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$97, \$68, \$42.

Jeff Goldblum and the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra

Sat, Oct 3, 8:30

Concert Hall

Admission: \$145, \$105, \$75.

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Visual Arts: Fairfax, Manassas, and Arlington Campuses

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

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Fenwick Gallery

Fairfax Campus

In Her Image

Through Oct 31

Buchanan Partners Art Gallery

Hylton Performing Arts Center

As You Were

Through November 11

GILLESPIE GALLERY OF ART

Art and Design Building

Fairfax Campus

What Remains? The Vietnam War and Its Reckoning

Through Nov 21

Arlington Campus

Shaping Space

Through Nov 4

Fenwick Gallery

Fairfax Campus

Across The Commonwealth

Through Dec 5

Patriot Perspectives Gallery

Johnson Center

Fairfax Campus

The Art of Seeing - Student Exhibition

Through December 5

CVPA Dean's Suite

Fairfax Campus

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

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

Grand Piano Celebration

Sun, Sep 27, 3:00

Concert Hall

Admission: Adults \$20; Seniors \$15.

Mason Bands Concert: *West Side Story*

Mon, Oct 5, 7:30

Concert Hall

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

ARTFactory: *Hairspray*
Fri, Sep 25, 7:00
Sat, Sep 26, 7:00
Sun, Sep 27, 2:00
Gregory Family Theater
Admission: Adults \$30; Seniors \$25.

The U.S. Army Field Band
Sun, Sep 27, 3:00
Merchant Hall
Admission: Free.

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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 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 Sep 26	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Sep 28	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Sep 29	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online

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	1:30 pm 1:30 pm 2:00 pm	Board Game Club Bridge Club Memoir and More Writing Group – online	
Thu Oct 1	3:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Fri Oct 2	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm	Crafts and Conversation – hybrid Mah Jongg Club Game on: Talking Sports Club – online Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online Classic Literature Club – online	
Sat Oct 3	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online	
Mon Oct 5	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online	
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online	
Tue Oct 6	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online	
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online	
Wed Oct 7	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online	
	1:30 pm	Board Game Club	
	1:30 pm	Bridge Club	
	4:00 pm	History Club – online	
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online	
Thu Oct 8	3:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Fri Oct 9	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation – hybrid	
	9:30am	Photography Club – hybrid	
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club	
	11:00 am	Homer, etc.	
	11:30 am	Cooking Club – off site	
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online	
	1:30 pm	French Conversation – online	
	2:00 pm	Classic Literature Club – online	
	2:30 pm	Tallwood Book Club – online	
Sat Oct 10	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 *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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