

[Print a condensed .pdf](#) copy of this newsletter, two web pages per sheet of paper.



[Website](#) [What's New](#) [Catalog](#) [DocStore](#) [Facebook](#) [Officials](#) [Member Portal](#) [Contact Us](#)



Photos by (1) George Bradshaw, (2) Rita Flickenger, (3) Ed Marion, (4) Angela Talaber, and (5) Tom Simpson, August 19, 2016

*Photography Club Field Trip to the Flying Circus, Bealeton, Virginia, for Hot Air Balloon Ride, August 19; Click [Here](#) for More Photos*

## September 2, 2016

Editor of the Week: Leslie Vandivere

### Table of Contents

- [Alerts & Notices](#)
- [Back to School at OLLI!](#)
- [Meet Paul Van Hemel, OLLI E-News Chief Editor](#)
- [A Free Learning Resource For OLLI Members](#)
- [Your Mason NetID Number](#)
- [It's Time to Fall for the Book](#)
- [Up, Up, and Away](#)
- [Tallwood Book Club](#)
- [Poet's Corner](#)
- [Obituary](#)
- [Letter to the Editor](#)
- [Arts & Music at George Mason](#)
- [Meetings & Clubs](#)
- [About OLLI E-News](#)

---

### Alerts & Notices

- **All OLLI offices are closed on Labor Day Monday, September 5.**
- **Reminder: Tallwood is closed during parking lot reconstruction through September 9;** you may contact staff, working remotely, via email or leave a message at the Tallwood phone, 703-503-3384.
- **Meeting of the Board of Directors, 10:00 Friday, September 16, TA-1. All OLLI members are welcome to attend.**
- The publication date for the next issue of *OLLI E-News* is September 16; the deadline for submission (to [ollienewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ollienewseditor@gmail.com)) is Tuesday, September 13, 6:00.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

---

### Back to School at OLLI!



*By Alice Slayton Clark, Communications Associate/Registrar*

Sharpen your pencils; it's back to school time at OLLI!

To kick off fall term, OLLI is hosting a Wellness Open House from 10:00–1:30 on September 15, with demonstrations on how to stay physically and mentally fit in retirement. Numerous exhibitors will also showcase the fabulous special privileges OLLI members receive from the university and OLLI partners.

TA-1 will feature “back to back to back” demonstrations on wellness, diet, and exercise by Mason’s Center for Well Being, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, and Recreation and Athletic Complex. Nearby in the Annex and TA-3, Lorton Workhouse artists will showcase various painting techniques, 3D design, and photography.

If you need a break from demos, a score of exhibitors are ready in TA-3 to share information on special OLLI member benefits. Participants include AARP; Reston Community Center; Lorton Workhouse; and Mason’s fine arts center, library, recreational staff, and travel office. Learn more about opportunities and resources for retirees at the tables of Volunteer Fairfax and the Area Agency on Aging, or browse the exciting program offerings at the Fall for the Book.

To get ahead of the game, sign up for your flu shot via the following link and get vaccinated at the Open House (TA-2): <http://olli.gmu.edu/signup-for-olli-flu-clinic/>. Spaces are limited. Visit county election officials at the picnic table and register to vote or to work the polling stations in November.

Exhausted from all of the information and fun? Pick up some lunch at a food truck and collapse at a picnic table, enjoying the sweet sounds of the Mason jazz ensemble.

Seem like a great way to kick off the new term?! Bring a friend or neighbor to share the experience and learn the many wonders of OLLI. Happy fall term!

[Back to Top of Page](#)

## Inside OLLI-Mason



## Meet Paul Van Hemel, OLLI E-News Chief Editor

*OLLI E-News* is one of those things that grows on you. When I first joined OLLI in 2010, the *E-News* stood out for me as a very professional and colorful weekly digest that served as a handy means for keeping up with all the activities and events that make our institute the vibrant organization that it is. As I began settling in as an OLLI member, I soon attended some meetings of what was then the communications committee, which was the home of the *E-News*.

Eventually, I became involved as an *E-News* staff writer, authoring occasional articles and slowly coming to realize the dedication and commitment of Rod Zumbro, its creator and first editor. When Rod eventually stepped down as editor, having produced an edition virtually every week for an incredible eight years, I volunteered as one of a handful of weekly editors to assist first Gordon Canyock and then Irene Osterman who kept the *E-News* going. Finally, this year I allowed Irene to talk me into accepting the position of chief editor, although I enjoy editing an individual edition and continue to do so periodically as one of the team dedicated to maintaining this vital communications link. See the listing of the editorial staff in the "About *OLLI E-News*" section at the end of this and every edition.



My interest in managing *E-News* editorial efforts and related work evolved based on a long career in behavioral research and applied engineering psychology for the government and private contractors. The preparation of research reports, proposals, technical publications, and related documents was a major part of my professional existence. Creating and refining such documentation in pursuit of a quality finished product is a compulsion that can be both a curse and a curious source of satisfaction. Perhaps that is what led me to serve as photo editor for *The Story of OLLI*, a history of OLLI at Mason for our 25th anniversary.

One of the things I hope to see as editor of the *E-News* is more members' photos of activities and events. Get your shutters clicking!

[Back to Top of Page](#)

## Lynda.com: A Free Learning Resource For OLLI Members



**By Stan Schretter, Board Member and Photography Instructor**

In my summer 2016 photography class, I used several videos from Lynda.com to replace lectures that I would otherwise present. While this worked fine and students could review classroom material again at home, I felt that OLLI classroom videos would be better used as a supplement rather than a replacement of live teacher interaction. For fall term, in continuing to teach photography I will use Lynda.com videos as “homework,” e.g., as pre-class introductions and/or post-class review. This brief article provides a brief introduction to Lynda.com.

Mason has partnered with Lynda.com (<http://lynda.gmu.edu>) to provide free and unlimited online training to Mason students, faculty, staff, and affiliates like OLLI. Lynda.com provides an online subscription library which offers more than 2,000 videos on a broad range of subjects. New courses are added weekly. Access the Lynda.com library 24/7—even from your iPhone, iPad, Android device, or mobile phone—**using your Mason NetID and Patriot Pass password**. (See next article.)

The quality of Lynda.com’s videos is impressive. The large screen player has a few tabs below it for course details, course transcript, FAQs, and my notes. The transcript tab often has the full text of the video, and highlights a few of the presented words at a time, an amazingly help for following the speaker.

Lynda.com lets you create customized playlists with segments arranged the way you want. You can watch the same videos as many times as needed, any time, wherever you have an Internet connection and appropriate video-streaming. You can even download videos to a mobile device to watch offline. If you’re a person who needs a live instructor to answer your precise questions, Lynda.com might not offer enough for you.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

---

## Your Mason NetID Number



**By Alice Clayton Clark, Communications Associate/Registrar**

We all know that it is a privilege to be a member of OLLI Mason. But did you know that your membership comes with a long list of George Mason University privileges?

Full members are eligible for a wonderful array of university benefits that last the duration of your membership. These include

- a ten percent discount on most merchandise at the Mason book store;
- varying discounts at campus dining services;
- reduced membership fees at Mason-Fairfax recreation facilities (members also receive a parking pass with their membership);
- discounts for movies at the Johnson Center Cinema;
- library access;
- authority to join the Apple Federal Credit Union;
- discounts on certain tickets to the Patriot Center and Center for the Arts;
- a 15 percent discount on annual membership rates at the Freedom Center fitness facility;
- free rides on the CUE bus;
- a Patriot Pass e-mail account; and
- access to informational videos on <http://lynda.gmu.edu> at Mason.

The caveat? You cannot enjoy any of these advantages without a George Mason ID Number (G Number) and a photo ID.

Get the ball rolling today by filling out a G Number application, which can be downloaded from the OLLI website: click [G Number application here](#). The entire process takes just a few weeks and can be accomplished before fall term so you can get a leg up on library or Lynda.com readings for upcoming OLLI classes.

For more details on obtaining a G Number and Mason ID, contact the OLLI office: 703-503-3384.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

## It's Time to Fall for the Book



**By Alice Slayton Clark, Communications Associate/Registrar**

Fall for the Book (FFTB) is just around the corner and OLLI is again sponsoring and facilitating its fabulous programs.

The festival showcases over 150 celebrated authors, with special honors provided to beloved PBS radio host and author Diane Rehm, who will receive the Mason Award for "extraordinary contribution to connecting literature to the wide reading public." It will also award Sandra Cisneros the Fairfax Prize for her literary achievements, including *The House on Mango Street*, a work detailing life experiences of Latino families in the United States.

OLLI is proud to host or provide transit from campus to the following FFTB sessions:

- 952 Diane Rehm (bus from Tallwood to Mason Center for the Arts)
- 954 Kate Andersen Brower, *First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies* (Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax)
- 955 James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom* (bus from Tallwood to Mason's Harris Theater)
- 958 Donna Gunn, *Discoveries from the Fortepiano* (Tallwood)

Though not hosting, OLLI also is highlighting key events that may be of particular interest to members:

- 951 Edith Maxwell, *Mystery, Loudoun County* (Cascades Library)
- 953 Timothy Jorgensen, *Strange Glow: The Story of Radiation* (Patrick Henry Library)
- 956 Claudia Kalb, *Andy Warhol was a Hoarder* (City of Fairfax Regional Library)
- 957 Billy Collins (Reston Community Center).

Sign up for these offerings via the member portal. For more information, including a full list of participating authors, visit the following website: <http://fallforthebook.org>.

The festival runs September 25–30, so get your tickets now! All events are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

You can also view a video of an American Association of University Women

program on FFTB led by Executive Director Jennifer Disano via the following link: <http://youtu.be/M3RAVc2C29A>.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

## Up, Up, and Away



**By John Nash, OLLI E-News Editor**

How many of us remember the 5th Dimension's lively 1968 song, *Up, Up and Away in My Beautiful Balloon*? It was then that I, and perhaps many others, put a trip in a hot air balloon in my Bucket List.

On Friday, August 19, 19 members of the OLLI Photo Club and friends spent the afternoon on the ground or in the air photographing hot air balloons floating lazily over the rolling Virginia landscape in Bealeton, Virginia . . . and checking off that Bucket List item.

As we watched the balloons first being partially inflated with natural air by huge fans, we learned the balloons are made of fire-resistant nylon, which is light but holds air well. Many are expensive, ranging from an average of \$20,000 to many thousands of dollars for specialty balloons, although they can be purchased pre-owned at more reasonable cost. After the balloons were partially inflated, the attached burners were ignited, which quickly raised the balloons to their standing levels and gave them their lift. "It's quite an amazing thing to see these huge 'creatures' grow and slowly lift off into the sky . . . and then to be on one," said Angie Talaber, Photo Club coordinator.



Photographs by John Nash

As the balloons floated around the area, vintage airplanes from the Bealeton Flying Circus flew around, giving additional photo opportunities. While balloons have no directional control other than up and down, a skilled captain can move in a particular direction by ascending or descending to different wind currents.

After we made our final descent in an open field, our chase vehicle came to retrieve us, load the equipment, and head back to the Bealeton staging area.

The trip was arranged by Ed Marion. There were lots of photos taken both on the ground and in the air. Many of these have been posted to the OLLI Photo Club website [here](#).

[Back to Top of Page](#)

## Tallwood Book Club



**By Ceda McGrew, Book Club Coordinator**

The Tallwood Book Club will meet on Wednesday, September 14, at 10:00 at Tallwood. The book for discussion is *Wild Ones: A Sometimes Dismaying, Weirdly Reassuring Story About People Looking at People Looking at Animals in America* by Jon Mooallem. It is a discussion of the efforts of environmentalists, conservationists, and volunteers to save our wilderness and endangered species. The book is this year's choice for MasonReads. For more information about MasonReads go to [masonreads.gmu.edu](http://masonreads.gmu.edu). The author will be speaking at Mason's Fall for the Book on Thursday, September 29, from 4:30–6:00 at the Concert Hall at the Center for the Arts. All OLLI members are welcome.

The selection for October is *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

## Poet's Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

### Campaign Blues

When I hear twisted talk  
 detect underlying views  
 of which I disapprove  
 my brain revs

like a dragster  
 at the start line.

I feel my blood pressure rise.  
 I pause and close my eyes:

Don't go ballistic over that nonsense  
 you can turn off the TV.  
 get a new mood  
 change your bad attitude  
 save your energy  
 for what's truly important.

**Carolyn F. Wyatt**

[Back to Top of Page](#)

## Obituary



Michael J. Coyne, OLLI member since 1999, died August 25, 2016. His fellow members will remember him for his intellect and the pleasure he derived from discussions on Proust and *The New Yorker* Round Table. He served on the Board of Directors from 2001–2004. Among OLLI's most talented technical volunteers, Michael was also our third and longest-serving webmaster (six years, 2003–2009)—a most important volunteer position.

A memorial visitation to celebrate Michael's life will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016, from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Loudoun Funeral Chapel, located on 158 Catocin Circle, SE, Leesburg, VA 20175. More information may be obtained at the following site: <http://www.loudounfuneralchapel.com/m/obituaries/Michael-Coyne-3/Memories>.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

## Letter to the Editor

### *An Open Letter to the OLLI Board on the OLLI Dues Increase*

Dear Editor,



The fee increase to \$425 equates to about a 3.7% annual increase since we joined in 2004. Then, the 600+ OLLI members paid \$270.00/year. Since the OSHER grants, we've entered a spiral of increasing size. Membership is now over 1,200; necessitating increasing classroom rental, equipment & other costs. We're told that without a 4% membership increase, a further fee increase will be considered.

We're asked to reach out to Northern Virginia to grow OLLI. I ask the Board to strive to constrain growth so fee escalation does not exceed the annual U.S inflation rate; instead of focusing on a never ending expansion spiral.

I've spoken with a prior member who abandoned OLLI for the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia, which is affiliated with the Northern Virginia Community College. Located about 4 miles from Tallwood, it has a \$110 annual fee. I'm considering following that path.

I wonder if the overriding growth emphasis and resulting cost increases will ever end.

Dan Feighery

### ***Response from OLLI President Ray Beery***

Dan,

Thank you for writing a letter to the *E-News* Editor, and passing it to the Board. You have valid concerns and questions about the upcoming increase in annual dues.

You are an OLLI-Vol of long standing with a sterling list of accomplishments. You have paid your dues faithfully, but the value of your talent and effort is even more valuable, many fold. So, when you speak, I listen. Let me try to give you a useful response.

The Finance Committee and Executive Director took a long, careful look at our projected income and expenses for 2017 and found that we just have to boost income. The Board agrees. I could give you comparative year-over-year budgets to show just where we are in trouble, but I don't think you want that. It's available for the asking.

We are operating a professional non-profit corporation that serves 1,200 members and cooperates in many ways with the University. Few among us would want to return to the days of scrambling for volunteer hours to put our program together and house it in suitable classrooms. Professionalism requires paid staff, and that is where we need more money right now. Coupled with inevitable higher rent for space, we have the situation that requires more dues.

Dan, I hope you and others who are still concerned will attend Finance Committee and Board meetings where you will get any details you may want.

Sincerely,

Ray

[Back to Top of Page](#)

---

## Arts & Music at George Mason



**Performances, Sep 2 through Sep 19**

**By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer**

For tickets for either Center for the Arts (CFA) or Hylton, call 1-888-945-2468, buy tickets online through the event calendar (see links below), or visit the venue's box office. For more information, see the CFA [ticket page](#) or the Hylton [ticket purchase page](#).

### At the Fairfax Campus Venues

#### **Washington Sorichung**

Sat, Sep 3, 6:30  
Harris Theatre  
Admission: \$30.



**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: Fiesta!**

Sun, Sep 18, 7:00  
 Concert Hall  
 Admission: \$42, \$36, \$25.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

**Mason Student & Faculty Performances**

(see [music.gmu.edu](http://music.gmu.edu) for additional student recitals)

**Grand Piano Celebration**

Sun, Sep 18, 3:00  
 Featuring the artistry of Dr. Linda Apple Monson, pianist, in collaboration with Mason faculty colleagues: Dr. Anna Balakerskaia, pianist; Prof. Lisa Berger, soprano; Prof. Seong Won Nam, tenor; Guest Artist Zino Bogachek, violin; and outstanding student piano artists.  
 Proceeds support student scholarships for Mason's School of Music.  
 Concert Hall  
 Admission: Adults, \$20; seniors, \$15.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

**At the Hylton Center**

**Courtney Shelton Solo Exhibition**, Best in Show,

Honoring the Future: *Climate Art & Action*

Aug 29–Oct 2

Buchanan Partners Art Gallery

This exhibition presents photographs of the work of pioneers who are using art as a catalyst for creative solutions to climate change. The Gallery is open to the public Tue–Sat, 10:00–6:00, Thu, 10:00–8:00 and two hours before performances.

Gallery Reception: Thu, Sep 8 from 6 :00–8:00.

RSVP is required. RSVP to [iconnor8@gmu.edu](mailto:iconnor8@gmu.edu).

Admission: Free.

**Arts Alive! 2016**

Sat, Sep 17, 12:00

Featuring Arts Council members and other community performers and fine artists. Multiple stages of performances indoors and out, plus food and craft vendors.

Hylton Center

Admission: Free.

**The Capitol Steps: What to Expect When You're Electing**

Sun, Sep 18, 7:00

Pre-performance discussion: Member of the company.

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$46, \$39, \$28.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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

[Back to Top of Page](#)

**Meetings & Clubs**

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master online calendar maintained by the office, with direct web links added when available. The list is accurate as of mid-week but to check anytime for the latest information, please view the latest forecast of upcoming events on our website (News/[OLLI Calendar](#)). *Note: All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors, committees and resource groups, kickoff coffees, etc. (**bolded** below).*

Tue Sep 6	9:30am	Annex Art–Lord of Life Fairfax Fellowship Hall
	10:00am	Bridge Club–Lord of Life Fairfax Fellowship Hall
Wed Sep 7	10:00am	Mah Jongg Club–Lord of Life Fairfax Conference Room
	10:30am	Tom Crooker Investment Forum–Lord of Life Sanctuary
Fri Sep 9		

	9:30am	Photography Club–Lord of Life Fairfax Youth Room
	9:30am	Craft and Conversation–Lord of Life Fairfax
	10:30am	Conference Room
	11:00am	Recorder Consort–Lord of Life Fairfax Sanctuary
	12:00pm	Homer, etc–Lord of Life Fairfax Parlor
		Religious Studies Club–Lord of Life Fairfax Conference Room
Sat Sep 10	10:30am	Tai Chi Club–TA-3
Mon Sep 12	10:00am	What’s in the Daily News, cont’d–TA-1
Tue Sep 13	9:30am	Annex Art–Annex
	10:00am	Spanish Club–TA-2
Wed Sep 14	10:00am	Bridge Club–TA-3
	10:00am	Book Club–TA-2
	10:30am	Tom Crooker Investment Forum–TA-1
Fri Sep 16	9:00am	Recorder Consort–TA-3
	9:30am	Craft and Conversation–Annex
	10:00am	<b>Board of Directors Meeting–TA-1</b>
	11:00am	Homer, etc–Annex

[Back to Top of Page](#)

---

## 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

Technical Editor: Irene Osterman

Associate Editor: Sheri Siesseger

Weekly Editorial Team: Jean Boltz, John Nash, Sheri Siesseger, Leslie Vandivere,  
Paul Van Hemel

Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Lorna Moran, Marilyn O'Brien, Susan Van Hemel

Backup Chief Editor: Alice Slayton Clark

**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](mailto:ollienewseditor@gmail.com).

**Deadline** – 6:00 Tuesday for that week’s issue (6:00 Monday 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.

[Back to Top of Page](#)