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*Paul Bernstein of Newseum Education Staff Leads Class on Fighting Fake News to Get Empowered, October 22*

## November 1, 2019

Editor of the Week: Paul Van Hemel

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### Alerts & Notices

- Reston Program Planning Group meeting, Monday, November 4, 10:00, United Christian Parish (UCP) Room 117.
- *Reminder:* A preview of winter term courses, including some tasty brunch treats, will take place in the coffee room at UCP in Reston Thursday, November 7 at 11:05. No registration required.
- OLLI Veterans Day celebration, Friday, November 8, 1:00, Tallwood, VA-1.
- *Note:* Upcoming Mason Jazz Concerts for fall 2019 include the Jazz Combos/Steel Pan Concert November 4, 8:00 ([click here](#) for details), and *Jazz 4 Justice* November 8, 8:00 ([click here](#) for details).
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, November 8; regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, November 5, at 6:00.

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## 2019 Tax Planning - Qualified Charitable Donation



*By Brenda Bloch-Young, OLLI Economics Potpourri Co-coordinator*

With the changes in the tax laws last year that raised the standard deduction to \$12,200 (single taxpayers and married filing separately), \$18,350 (head of household), and \$24,400 (joint returns and surviving spouses,) retirees may now find it to be more beneficial to reduce taxable income with a portion of your retirement plan's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Consider a qualified charitable distribution; this is a contribution from an IRA or 401(k) (tax-advantaged retirement) account directly to a charity. By making the contribution with a portion of your RMD, you reduce taxable income while still meeting the required distribution. There may be several good reasons to reduce taxable income (e.g., tax brackets and monthly Medicare premiums are based on taxable income).

The alternative strategy is bunching deductions in alternate years. Where an individual's total itemized deductions will come close to, but not exceed, the standard deduction for 2019 and/or 2020, one strategy to consider is bunching certain itemized deductions such as charitable contributions into alternate tax years.

It may be helpful to consult with your tax advisor prior to the end of the year to determine which strategy may be most beneficial for you. Note that many financial institutions require requests for a qualified charitable distribution be made prior to the end of November, as the volume of requests received at year end is often overwhelming. Also, they may ask you to limit the number of contributions you make, or require that the amount of the contribution be above a certain dollar amount.

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## OLLI Holiday Party



*By Elaine Leonard, Hospitality Committee Chair*

Come and enjoy OLLI's biggest social event of the season. The OLLI annual holiday party will be on Wednesday, December 4, from 11:30 to 2:30 at the Country Club of Fairfax, located at 5110 Ox Road in Fairfax. The OLLI recorder consort will be on hand to perform as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Entrées include chicken marsala, pasta primavera, or chipotle chicken salad. The chicken marsala and pasta primavera meals include rolls and salad; all meals include beverage and dessert. You can indicate your choice of entrée and pay the \$38 when you register on the OLLI portal ([click here](#)). After lunch you will be entertained by the Tallwood Trio. A drawing for door prizes will follow. Also, Friends of OLLI (FOLLI) will hold a 50/50 raffle (winner gets 50% of the raffle-ticket sales, with the remaining 50% going to FOLLI). OLLI members are welcome to bring a guest. Registration ends on Thursday, November 21.



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## Reston Book Club Meeting November 7



*By Nancy Scheeler and Luci Martel, Reston Book Club Coordinators*

The Reston Book Club will meet on Thursday, November 7, 2019, 2:15, at the United Christian Parish in Reston. The book selection is *Normal People* by Sally Rooney, which was longlisted for the 2018 Man Booker prize. It is the story of two unlikely young people who slip in and out of friendship and romance (and reverse roles) as they make the transition from their final year in high school in a quaint Irish village to Dublin's Trinity College, and of how difficult it is for people to change how they are.

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## History Club to Meet November 6



*By Elizabeth Lambert, History Club Coordinator*

The November meeting of the History Club will take place on Wednesday, November 6, at 2:15 in TA-1. Our presenter will be Ed Janusz, who has given us a very interesting title to an illuminating talk, "The Bear that Helped Defeat Hitler." The scene is a place you may have visited: The Benedictine Monastery at Monte Cassino in Italy, where a pivotal battle of WWII took place in 1943/44. Ed will detail the important role played by the Polish 2nd Corps in that battle, as well as the fascinating history of the Corps, a history involving both the Soviets and the British.

Don't miss this November History Club offering; it promises to be surprising in many ways.

Remember, all OLLI members are invited to our meetings; come and bring a friend.

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## Oh, Shenandoah



*By Carolyn Kramer, Event Coordinator*

OLLI Special Event 999, Painted Shenandoah Valley, is coming up Wednesday, November 13, at 2:15. Attendees will be treated to a presentation by *plein air* artist Andrei Kushnir, whose passion is painting scenic and cultural landscapes in the Shenandoah Valley. His works have been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout the United States. To learn more about Mr. Kushnir's work, you may view information on the following links:

[http://www.gftbooks.com/pdf/Kushnir\\_Painted%20Shenandoah%20Weekend\\_Johnson.pdf](http://www.gftbooks.com/pdf/Kushnir_Painted%20Shenandoah%20Weekend_Johnson.pdf)

[http://www.dailyprogress.com/entertainment/oh-shenandoah-captures-abiding-love-of-the-land-in-paintings/article\\_4a9f9246-1021-11e7-ae8f-232671c5f0a3.html](http://www.dailyprogress.com/entertainment/oh-shenandoah-captures-abiding-love-of-the-land-in-paintings/article_4a9f9246-1021-11e7-ae8f-232671c5f0a3.html)

[http://www.gftbooks.com/pdf/review\\_Maine%20Antique%20Digest-Kushnir.pdf](http://www.gftbooks.com/pdf/review_Maine%20Antique%20Digest-Kushnir.pdf)

To attend, register for Special Event 999 at the [member portal](#).

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## The Running of the Bulls



By Carolyn Kazemi, OLLI Member

The "Running of the Bulls," a famous race tradition in Pamplona, Spain, was the topic of discussion in a recent Spanish Conversation class. The race, attended by people from all over the world, is part of a seven-day festival honoring San Fermin, the patron saint of Pamplona. The bulls ("los toros") run along designated streets each day of the festival where participants, mostly men, begin the run and are "chased" by the bulls. The run ends at the Pamplona Arena, where the bulls meet their fate at the hands of skilled matadors in a fight to the death.

Instructor Ligia Glass wore the attire associated with this race: white pants and shirt, red beret, bandana, and sash (*photo by Carolyn Kazemi*). A short film of the race was presented. Lively conversation after the film confirmed that the class enjoyed learning about this famous Pamplona tradition.



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## 2019 CHINA Town Hall November 18



By Dr. Michael Chang, Associate Professor, Mason Department of History and Art History

George Mason University, together with the National Committee on US-China Relations (NCUSCR), will convene the 13th Annual **CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections** from 5:45-8:00 Monday, November 18, 2019, in The Hub, Ballroom at Mason. This year's CHINA Town Hall is intended to serve as an open forum in which local participants might candidly share and discuss their thoughts, concerns, and feelings

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regarding US relations with China. If you have questions or simply want to discuss and explore key issues in US-China relations, this will be a wonderful opportunity to engage with experts in the field.

For more details, please see [this link](#) or contact Dr. Chang at [mchang5@gmu.edu](mailto:mchang5@gmu.edu).

**This event is free and open to the public, so please spread the word among friends, family, and others who might be interested.**

We hope you'll be able to join us on November 18!

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## Poet's Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

Chill  
 Falling leaves  
 Darkness coming early  
 Foxes' coats thickening up  
 Flowers bid farewell for now  
 Ah but here come my camellias  
 Shades of pink now dare the frost  
 Leaves will fall and slowly form many piles  
 Children play outside catching the last rays of warmth  
 So we close summer and open the opportunities of autumn

*Sally Sibley*

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## Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances, November 1 through November 11



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

For tickets for either Center for the Arts Concert Hall (CFA) or Hylton Center, 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 Center [ticket purchase page](#).

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**At the Fairfax Campus Venues**

**Taj Express**

Sat, Nov 9, 8:00

Concert Hall

A pre-performance discussion begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on Monson Grand Tier.

Admission: \$48, \$41, \$29.

**Zurich Chamber Orchestra: *The Four Seasons***

Sun, Nov 10, 2:00

Concert Hall

A pre-performance discussion begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on Monson Grand Tier.

Admission: \$48, \$41, \$29.

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**Mason Student and Faculty Performances**

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

**Mason School of Theater: *Rags***

Thu, Oct 31 through Sat, Nov 2, 8:00

Sat, Nov 2, 2:00

Sun, Nov 3, 4:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$30 Adults; \$15 seniors.

**New Sound Collective Concert**

Sat, Nov 2, 6:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, 3001

Admission: Free.

**Jazz Combos/Steel Pan Ensemble Concert**

Mon, Nov 4, 8:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, 3001

Admission: Free.

**Clarinet Studio Recital**

Tue, Nov 5, 8:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, 3001

Admission: Free.

**Fall New Dances**

Thu, Nov 7, 8:00

Fri, Nov 8, 2:00 and 8:00

Sat, Nov 9, 8:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: \$15 Adults; \$10 seniors.

**The Mason Players Staged Reading Series: *Cock***

Nov 8, 3:00

deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace

Admission: Free.

**Jazz 4 Justice**

Fri, Nov 8, 8:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$24 Adults; \$19 seniors.

**Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band Concert**

Mon, Nov 11, 8:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$12 Adults; \$8 seniors.

**Horn Day**

Sat, Nov 9, beginning at 8:00

Throughout deLaski Performing Arts Building

Admission: Free.

**Trumpet Day**

Sun, Nov 10, beginning at 8:00

Throughout deLaski Performing Arts Building

Admission: Free.

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**At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)**

**Gallery Exhibit: *Exploring Identity with Women Veterans***

Oct 29 to Dec 7

Buchanan Partners Art Gallery

The Buchanan Partners Art Gallery is open to the public Tue-Sat, 10:00-6:00.

Gallery Reception: Nov 7 from 6:00-8:00.

Gallery receptions are free and open to the public. Please RSVP to

smeyer3@gmu.edu.

Admission: Free.

**Los Kjarkas**

Fri, Nov 8, 8:00  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: \$89, \$79, \$65, \$55.

**The U.S. Army Band Pershing's Own: *We Honor Them All***

Sat, Nov 9, 7:00  
Merchant Hall  
Admission: Free.

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

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## 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 for the most up-to-date information, please view the latest forecast of coming 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, kick-off coffees, etc. (bolded below).*

Sat Nov 2	10:30am	Tai Chi Club–TA-3
Mon Nov 4	10:00am	<b>Reston Program Planning Group Meeting–UCP Room 117</b>
	10:00am	Hospitality Committee Meeting–Annex
Wed Nov 6	1:30pm	Mah Jongg Club–Annex
	1:45pm	Bridge Club–TA-3
	2:15pm	History Club–TA-1
Thu Nov 7	2:15pm	Reston Book Club–UCP Room 117
Fri Nov 8	9:15am	Recorder Consort–TA-3
	9:30am	Photography Club–TA-1
	9:30am	Crafts and Conversation Group–Annex
	11:00am	Classic Literature Club–TA-2

	11:00am	Homer, etc.–Annex
	1:00pm	<b>OLLI Veterans Day Celebration–TA-1</b>
Sat Nov 9	10:30am	Tai Chi Club–TA-3
Wed Nov 13	1:30pm	Tallwood Book Club–Annex
	1:45pm	Bridge Club–TA-3
	1:45pm	Spanish Club–TA-2
Fri Nov 15	9:15am	Recorder Consort–TA-3
	9:30am	Craft and Conversation Group–Annex
	10:00am	<b>Board of Directors Meeting–TA-1</b>
	11:00am	Classic Literature Club–TA-2
	11:00am	Homer, etc.–Annex
	12:30pm	Dr. Who Club–TA-3
Sat Nov 16	10:30am	Tai Chi Club–TA-3
	1:00pm	Personal Computer User Group–TA-1

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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 Editor: David Gundry  
Weekly Editor Team: David Gundry, John Nash, Sheri Siesseger, Leslie Vandivere, Paul Van Hemel  
Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Linda Randall, Tom Appich, Roz Stark, Jane Hassell  
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:** 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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