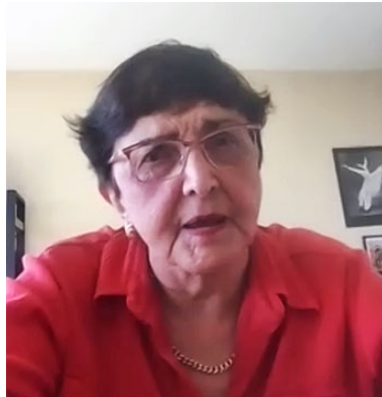


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**Dr. Helen Desfosses, Retired Professor of Public Administration, Addresses the Dynamics of the 2020 Presidential Election, October 22**

**October 30, 2020**

**Editor of the Week: Leslie Vandivere**

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### Alerts & Notices

- OLLI Annual Town Hall Meeting, online, Friday, November 6, 10:00; followed by fall Thanksgiving volunteer celebration at 1:00. All members welcome at both events.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, November 6; regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, November 3, at 6:00.

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### From the Desk of the Executive Director



**By Jennifer Disano, Executive Director**

For the last two weeks, OLLI President Paul Howard and I had the great pleasure to attend the 2020 Osher National Conference—held virtually this year. The conference invitees included directors and volunteer leaders from the 124 OLLIs around the country.

The conference sessions included topics related to operating in the “new normal” of remote course offerings, welcoming and equipping teachers, donor engagement, and teaching about systemic racism. One especially engaging session featured Beth Steinhorn of VQ Volunteer Strategies. Beth discussed supporting volunteers during these unprecedented times by sustaining community among volunteers and members. She highlighted Charles Volg’s book *The Art of Community: Seven Principles of Belonging*, in which he talks about nurturing relationships in teams.



Volg suggests we need to find ways to make members feel more connected, welcome, proud, and excited to be part of the group. Beth further iterated a need to help each other stay connected with the existing technology, social engagement, and intellectual stimulation. These ideas are

vital takeaways I plan to share with staff, committee chairs, and the OLLI Board of Directors to keep in mind as we lead OLLI during these different and challenging times.

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## History Club



*By Elizabeth Lambert, History Club Coordinator*

The next meeting of the History Club (via Zoom) will take place on **Wednesday, November 4 at 4:00**. On what promises to be a most interesting day in the history of this country, our speaker will be **Heather Dudley** and her subject is the **Electoral College**.

As Heather notes, "The spirit of party infuses our opinion about whether or not the electoral college is a good thing. Republicans will tend to defend it, and Democrats, having lost two elections where they won the popular vote, will generally promote change. We will delve into how and why the framers came up with this odd system for electing the president."

Her talk will focus on the debates in the Constitutional Convention and how the system evolved over time. Those who have taken her classes know the discussion will be stimulating and highly informative. All OLLI members are invited.

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## Poet's Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

### Extravagant Love

You are my chocolate chip brownie  
dark, sweet, soft in the middle  
just a little chunky.

My Italian espresso,  
a burst of vitality  
energizing my existence.

My eagle soaring  
in imagination's sky,  
a tiger topaz sharp, dangerous.

My oak, my hardwood lover,  
milkweed feeding my butterfly,  
boy-toy distraction.

You are my chocolate chip brownie.

*Carolyn F. Wyatt*

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## Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances, October 30 through November 9



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

### Virtual Performances

Although Mason's campus is shut down, online entertainment continues for us to access and enjoy. Dr. Linda Apple Monson produces a periodic "Notes from the Director." This email is full of interesting online performances by the students and faculty of the School of Music. If you would like to receive these bulletins, just send an email to Brianna Schoen at [bschoen@gmu.edu](mailto:bschoen@gmu.edu). 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. Information can also be found at [CFA ticket purchase page](#) or the [Hylton ticket purchase page](#).

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### At the Fairfax Campus Venues

#### Wycliffe Gordon, Trombone

Fri, Oct 30, 11:30  
Meeting ID: 894 7873 7235  
Passcode: trombone

#### Elisabeth Adkins: Strings Masterclass

Fri, Oct 30, 12:30  
Meeting ID: 937 2470 2455  
Passcode: 313079

#### Prof. Chris Jewell: Bassoon Masterclass

Sat, Oct 31, 10:00  
[Register](#)

#### Dr. Louise Toppin, Soprano: Vocal Masterclass

Thu, Nov 5, 3:00  
Meeting ID: 957 7800 2624

Passcode: 191479

**GMU Trumpet Day**

Sun, Nov 8, 10:00

[Register](#)

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Michael Brown, piano**

Sun, Nov 8, 7:00

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**Mason Student and Faculty Performances**

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

**Santa Catarina Federal University: 1,001 Plays**

Fri, Nov 6, 2020 6:00

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/124632347707>

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

**Manassas Ballet Theatre: Frankenstein**

Sat, Oct 31, 7:30

Admission: \$25 ([online ticket platform](#)).

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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:** Physical meetings for clubs and activities are canceled until further notice in accordance with Mason’s guidelines. OLLI is conducting its classes and activities online. Refer to

the university’s [coronavirus website](#) for official university updates and check the [OLLI calendar](#) for revised 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 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). The OLLI office has sent (or will send) emails with links and meeting passwords to club members; you may also log in at the [member portal](#) and click on ZOOM CLASS LINKS.*

Sat Oct 31	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club
Tue Nov 3	4:00 pm	Tai Chi Club
Wed Nov 4	4:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club Ethnic Eats Lunch Club History Club
Thu Nov 5	4:00 pm	Tai Chi Club
Fri Nov 6	10:00 am 1:00 pm	<b>Annual Town Hall Meeting</b> <b>Fall Thanksgiving Volunteer Celebration</b>
Sat Nov 7	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club
Tue Nov 10	4:00 pm	Tai Chi Club
Wed Nov 11	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group
Thu Nov 12	4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Reston Book Club Tai Chi Club
Fri Nov 13	9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 2:30 pm	Photography Club Craft & Conversation Classic Literature Club Homer, etc. Tallwood Book Club
Sat Nov 14	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club

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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: [ollieditor@gmail.com](mailto:ollieditor@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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