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Photos by Paul Van Hemel, December 1, 2022

OLLI Holiday Party - a Social Occasion, December 1, Country Club of Fairfax

December 9, 2022

Editor of the Week: David Gundry

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Alerts & Notices

- There will be a meeting of the OLLI Personal Computer User Group (OPCUG) on Saturday, December 10 (tomorrow), at 1:00 via Zoom and in person in TA-1 at Tallwood; more information at [this link](#).
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, December 30 (skipping two weeks); the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, December 27, at 6:00.

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OLLI Walk & Talk at Lake Mercer



By Marilyn Harriman and Bob Heyer, OLLI Walk & Talk Co-Chairs

On Tuesday, November 22, the OLLI Walk & Talk Club met at South Run Park and walked the trail around Lake Mercer. The path on the south side hilly trail was covered with fallen leaves as it led through a long passage of beautiful tall trees and some undergrowth for small critters and birds in the forest. Approaching the lake, we looked down and saw three deer in the shallow end of the lake. There were also half a dozen mallard ducks on the lake.

Lake Mercer was created by cutting many trees down and building a 30-foot-high dam as the creek was flowing to the Occoquan River. As we walked down to a lower level, we found cranes, a pair of eagles, and other water birds perched on stumps in the water. Walking a bit further, we saw more than a dozen seagulls resting on the lake. Climbing back upward to the dam height, we found a beautiful grass runoff plain. The dam is about a quarter mile long and led to the other side trail which is actually in Springfield, with the riverbank on one side and the back of townhomes on the other side. At the beginning of the lake is a low area where lots of croaking frogs rest during the summertime

We arrived back at the cars in South Run Park after trekking 4.2 miles. We then headed out to the Chesapeake Bagel Factory in Burke Center for conversations and great bagel nourishments. Consensus was that this was one of the best and most rewarding Fairfax County Park walks.

The club's final walk for 2022 will be Monday, December 12, in Vienna at 9:00. Walkers will meet at the Vienna Community Center Parking lot, 120 Cherry Street SE. Afterward, we'll have an optional meet-up at Caffe Amouri (parking lot behind cafe), 107 Church Street NE, Vienna. If you'd like to walk December 12 and haven't signed up for the club, please register. In addition,

please contact one of the cochairs (mlwharriman74@gmail.com; rheyerw64@gmail.com), so we'll know to look for you on Monday.

Walks will resume in January. Schedules and locations will be sent out through the OLLI Walk & Talk Club member portal.

Are you interested in getting fresh air, conversation, and exercise this winter? If yes, sign up through the registration portal: type in OLLI Walk Talk Club to register. We'd love to have you join us.

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Standing: Bob Heyer, Bonnie Nelson, Yen Tra, Gay Alper, Mary Mudd, Vince Modugno, John Acton; Sitting: Toni Acton, Joan Carey, Phyllis Krochmal, Emily Roudsbush

Teach at OLLI Mason Summer 2023



By Camille Hodges, Humanities and Social Sciences/Current Events Program Planning Group Chair

As you relax during the upcoming holiday season why not consider teaching at OLLI during the upcoming summer 2023 session? If you have been thinking of sharing your area(s) of expertise, you can start by teaching a single class during the summer and then progressing to a multi-class course if you so desire. Those who have presented classes at OLLI have commented on the value of the experience and the thoughtful questions of OLLI members. Our in-person, "hybrid," and virtual-only classes will all be in effect in the spring 2023 session. The Humanities and Social Sciences cover a range of topics including psychology, philosophy, literature, culture, political science, geography, and law. Current Events is always a popular topic as well.

We would love to hear from you. To obtain a course proposal form, click on [this link](#).

Submissions to the OLLI Program Associates are due:

- January 17 for the summer 2023 session
- April 10 for the fall 2023 session.

For a multi-session class, submit your proposal to Shannon Morrow at smorrow4@gmu.edu. For a

single-session class, submit your proposal to Nancy Klein at nklein4@gmu.edu.

Looking forward to seeing your name in the OLLI catalog as a presenter!

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Winter Is Coming



By Michele Romano, Health Advisory Work Group Chair

December has arrived with all those nasty winter viruses: flu, RSV (primarily in children), colds, and, of course, more COVID19 Omicron variants. This happens every year.

So far, the variants are following a typical pattern: more contagious but less severe illness. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines severe COVID illness as hospitalization or death. So far, the vast majority of people are just getting symptoms of the common cold. As is common with infectious diseases, the people that die are the most vulnerable: the very young and the elderly who already have underlying conditions that weaken the immune system.

The CDC predicts that the flu season may be worse this year—we haven't really had a flu season in over two years. Therefore, our immunity to the flu is lower because it has not been challenged.

So, what should you do? Live your lives, but be smart about it. The CDC is placing the emphasis on personal responsibility. Wash your hands...a lot. Carry hand sanitizer and a good mask (N95 or KN95) with you. Wear a mask if you feel more comfortable or are in a high-risk environment (e.g., public transportation). Stay home if you don't feel well, test, and check with your provider. Get your 'CoFlu' (COVID bivalent booster and high dose flu) vaccines. You can get them both at the same time. Do. It. Now. It takes two weeks to build up immunity. It's not too late. The flu season usually lasts from December until early March.

Keep in mind that COVID boosters do not prevent COVID19. They are meant to prevent you from getting seriously ill or dying. You don't want to be sick and have to isolate over the holidays because you didn't take a few simple steps.

But there is good news. Hospitalizations and deaths linked to COVID19 in Fairfax County are still very low because we take care of ourselves and others. Give your friends and family the greatest gift of all this season – the gift of health. Happy Holidays. We'll see you in person in the spring.

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OLLI Weekly Conversations Continue - December 14



**By Brenda Bloch-Young and Doris Bloch,
Co-Moderators**

Continuing our Wednesday Conversations Series, Team Bloch (Brenda Bloch-Young and Doris Bloch) will moderate a Zoom discussion on December 14 at 4:00. Our chosen topic this week is **Elon Musk**.

December 14: What do you think of Musk? Genius? Villain? Everyone seems to have an opinion. Will he be successful sorting out Twitter? Join us and share your thoughts.

The Weekly Conversation Series will take a break between December 15 – mid-January. See you in January.

Check your Daily Schedule for the Zoom link on Wednesdays and plan on some social time with Team Bloch.

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Tallwood Book Club



By Betty Ellerbee, Tallwood Book Club Coordinator

The Tallwood Book Club will meet on Friday, December 9, at 2:30, via Zoom. The club will discuss *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. The Zoom link will appear in the emailed OLLI Daily Schedule.

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Miracle Tree

There were other miracles in the yard
But none so self-confident as
the gnarled old crabapple tree in spring

Canopied with pink-tinged white blossoms
Gradually growing into small sour ill-shaped apples
Peeled, quartered, cooked in a summer-hot kitchen
to become delicious jelly for winter toast.

Who then wouldn't believe fairies lived among the blossoms?

Betty Smith

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances, December 9 through January 12



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](#).

Current vaccination policy for the Center for the Arts and Hylton Performing Arts Center is summarized as follows:

Audience members are not currently required to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID19 test result for most events, **except** when required by the event organizer or artist. If proof of vaccination or a negative COVID19 test result is required for a specific event, it will be indicated on the web page with event details.

Specific requirements are detailed and any future policy changes may be found here: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/plan-your-visit/vaccination-policy>.

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 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. Information can also be found at [CFA ticket purchase page](#), [Center for the Arts YouTube Channel](#), or the [Hylton ticket purchase page](#).

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At the Fairfax Campus Venues

Vienna Boys Choir

Fri, Dec 9, 8:00

Concert Hall

A pre-performance discussion will take place in Monson Grand Tier, on the third level of the Center for the Arts lobby, 45 minutes prior to curtain.

Admission: \$55, \$47, \$33.

American Festival Pops Orchestra

Sat, Dec 10, 8:00

Concert Hall

A pre-performance discussion will take place in Monson Grand Tier, on the third level of the Center for the Arts lobby, 45 minutes prior to curtain.

Admission: \$60, \$51, \$36.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: *Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker*

Sat, Dec 17 at 4:00

Sun, Dec 18 at 4:00

Concert Hall

Admission: \$89, \$69, \$49.

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

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

No performances scheduled

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

Gallery Exhibit: Elizabeth Hall: *Viriditas*

Through Jan 8

Hylton Performing Arts Center, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery

Admission: Free.

American Festival Pops Orchestra

Fri, Dec 9, 8:00

Merchant Hall

A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.

Admission: \$60, \$51, \$36.

Prince William Little Theatre: *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*

Fri, Dec 9, 8:00

Sat, Dec 10, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, Dec 11, 2:00

Fri, Dec 16, 8:00

Sat, Dec 17, 2:00 and 7:00

Sun, Dec 18, 2:00

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: Adult \$20, senior \$17.

Manassas Symphony Orchestra Family Concert: *Explorations*

Sat, Dec 10, 3:30

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$25.

A Celtic Christmas with Seán Heely

Sun, Dec 11, 4:00

Merchant Hall

A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.

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

Manassas Ballet Theatre: *The Nutcracker*

Fri, Dec 16 at 7:30

Sat, Dec 17 at 3:00 and 7:30

Sun - Fri, Dec 18 - 23 at 3:00

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$75, \$65, \$55, \$45, \$35.

Old Bridge Chamber Orchestra: *Messiah Sing-A-Long*

Sat, Dec 17 at 8:00

Sold Out

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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: Although some physical meetings for clubs and activities are canceled, some may be meeting in person or, in a hybrid mode, both in person and online. 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). Refer to the university's [coronavirus website](#) for official university updates.

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 Dec 10	10:30 am 1:00 pm	Tai Chi Club Personal Computer User Group
Mon Dec 12	9:00 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	Walk and Talk What's in the Daily News Poetry Writing Club
Tue Dec 13	9:30 am 4:30 pm	Annex Art Tai Chi Club
Wed Dec 14	10:00 am 10:30 am 2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Bridge Club Investment Forum Memoir and More Writing Group Mah Jongg Club Conversations with Brenda and Doris Ethnic Eats Club
Thu Dec 15	10:00 am 11:50 am 4:30 pm	P5 Program Committee Meeting All the News Tai Chi Club
Fri Dec 16	9:15 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	Recorder Consort Craft and Conversation Homer, etc.
Sat Dec 17	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club
Mon Dec 19	9:30 am 11:00 am	What's in the Daily News? Poetry Reading Club
Tue Dec 20	9:30 am 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Annex Art Spanish Club Tai Chi Club
Wed Dec 21	4:00 pm	Conversations with Brenda and Doris
Thu Dec 22	11:50 am 4:30 pm	All the News Tai Chi Club
Fri Dec 23	9:15 am 11:00 am	Recorder Consort Homer, etc.
Sat Dec 24	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club

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issues, use [Search](#) or enter your search term(s) in [Google](#) followed by "site:olli.gmu.edu/" without the quotes. [amazonSmile](#) An Amazon Smile Link appears here. When you shop using the Smile link designating OLLI as your charitable choice, we'll receive a 0.5 % donation, based on the value of your purchase.

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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, Paul Van Hemel

Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Linda Randall, Tom Appich, Jane Hassell

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: ollinewseditor@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.

Search E-News: You can view past issues of OLLI E-News at [ENews Archives](#). To search the content within

