OLLI E-News June 30, 2023

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Michael R. Heib, Mason Research Professor at Center for Excellence in C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence) and Cyber, Describes Research on Drones as First Responders to Traffic Accidents, June 22

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Editor of the Week: Sheri Siesseger

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Alerts & Notices

- OLLI will be closed Independence Day, July 4.
- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, July 7; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, July 4, at 6:00.

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Why Should I Come to Class?



By Doris Bloch, Program Committee Co-Chair

In the last three years, Zoom has made a huge difference in all our lives and especially with our OLLI program.

Three years ago, we published an *E-News* article that enumerated all the ways that online participation in OLLI courses was desirable! Lots of members told us that they hated Zoom and they never wanted to go online. Instructors said that they would not teach online. Nevertheless, due to the pandemic we were forced to cancel all our in-person classes.

Times change, and the tables have turned. Now it seems that online access is so popular that we have a majority of members using and preferring that mode of class attendance.

The pandemic is not 100% over, but OLLI's policies have pivoted to accommodate safety measures to keep us apart in the classroom space. We have vaccines and medications to protect us from Covid and boost our immunity. For the most part, recently we have adapted to a reasonable amount of risk-taking, some more than others. And social isolation brings its own physical and mental challenges.

Our instructors have told us that they want to see more faces: faces on the Zoom screen, but more importantly, faces in the classroom. It is disheartening to prepare for an 85-minute class (and devote many hours in preparation ahead of class) and then see fewer than 10 people in the lecture room.

Why should I come to class? Well, for starters, there is a social aspect to OLLI that is absent in

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the online experience. How can we make friends or be friends when we can't even see your face? It is hard to make friends with "Laptop3" in the right-hand corner of the screen . The classroom is where we meet face to face to share our questions and views, where we might agree or disagree, where we meet with others who have similar interests. There is more to OLLI than a lecture utility. Get to know the staff, the physical layout, the coffee room. Get to know your instructors! By the way, the annuals planted in the Tallwood gardens are spectacular right now and worth a trip to see.

Zoom has its benefits, but let's also recall how much fun it is to return to togetherness in the classroom. It adds a whole new dimension to OLLI membership!

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Wednesday Team Bloch Conversation - July 5



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 July 5 at 4:00. Our chosen topic this week is "Classical Music and Its Resurgence."

Did you know that there has been a recent resurgence of interest in classical music? Are you a regular listener?

It seems that younger generations discovered classical music during the pandemic. The movie *Tar* is credited with driving Mahler's 5th to the top of Spotify's playlists last fall. Classical music has become so popular that Apple has created a separate iPhone App just for this genre. Have you tried it? If you are a fan, do you listen to specific composers or prefer themed playlists? Or do you stick with classical radio stations?

A few online resources of interest are available at <u>this link</u>. WQXR (NYC) runs a podcast on classical music that is also good.

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

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

Constant Awe

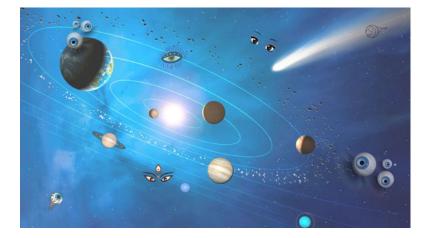
As a creature of constant awe I dare to turn my gaze

to the wonder of stars to the beauty of a sticky web to my cat as it rips its prey

As a creature of constant awe I kiss my lover with open eyes and plunge into freezing ponds yet dread the growing apathy from a dear, old friend

As a creature of constant awe
I marvel at the enormity
of a planet bursting with life
yet tremble to the piercing laughter
of a small child's joy

Slipping through wonder worlds, I look away yet cling tight with slippery fingers to lust and life, unsure if my inner creature dare close its many, many eyes



--Valerie Horton

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Obituaries

Kay Menchel

Kay Menchel, OLLI member since 2021 and long-time OLLI instructor in literature courses, died June 28.

Richard Crawford writes:

It is with a heavy heart that we share the tragic news that our beloved teacher and friend Kay Menchel passed away on June 28 after her fierce battle with cancer. Kay had been a 12-year instructor here at OLLI. Her courses covered a wide range of literary expression, including Victorian and classic novels, Jewish writers, poetry, and graphic novels. And her discussions covered much more than the written words. She would go into detailed explorations of the working conditions of children in factories in the 1800s, or the customs and mores that shaped a Victorian lady's day-to-day life. In her recent class on "Keep the Home Fires Burning" we learned personal stories from diaries and news clippings of how families fared in Britain during World War II.

Kay was a constant source of sharp wit and unflagging vitality. She had a passion for good writing in any form and frequently joked that her pile of books 'to read' grew by three for every one she read. During the challenging months of COVID, she graciously led us through some of the longest novels—between sessions—to keep us reading, laughing, and connected with each other. In other words, she kept us sane. She was generous with her humor, time, and compassion. We at OLLI join with her husband Marc and children Hannah and Cameron in mourning her loss.

There will be a memorial service on Monday, July 3, at 11:00, at the Adams-Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170. The family ask that guests leave the first three rows free for close family.

Doris James

Long-time OLLI member (since 2001) Doris James died on June 20 after a battle with cancer. Born in 1931, she graduated from Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio, where she received a teaching certificate in 1952. She spent a year in Denver and then returned to Ohio State University to begin a master's program and was recruited to work for the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington DC. She was highly respected for her leadership role at work. In 1976, she received her Master of Science degree in Library Science from Catholic University, Washington DC.

Services will be held at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, VA 22015 as follows: July 1, 10:00 Saturday – visitation; 11:00 – services with reception immediately following. More information is available at https://doi.org/10.108/j.chm/

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances June 30 through July 8



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 <u>CFA ticket page</u> or the <u>Hylton Center ticket purchase page</u>.

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.

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At the Fairfax Campus Venues

No performances scheduled

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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)

ARTfactory's Pied Piper Theatre: Disney's Descendants: The Musical

Fri, Jul 7, 7:00

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Sat, Jul 8, 2:00 and 7:00

Hylton Performing Arts Center, Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$20 Adult, \$15 senior and under 17.

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For further details on any of the above events, see the <u>CFA event calendar</u> and the <u>Hylton Center event calendar</u>.

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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 <u>OLLI calendar</u> and daily schedule email for location and other event information). Refer to the university's <u>coronavirus website</u> 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.. 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.

10:30 am	Tai Chi Club
10:00 am	Bridge Club
10:00 am	Walk & Talk Club
4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club
4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club
4:00 pm	Spanish Club
4:00 pm	Conversation with Team Bloch
4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club
9:30 am	Craft and Conversation
11:00 am	Homer, etc.
10:30 am	Tai Chi Club
9:30 am	What's in the Daily News?
10:00 am	Bridge Club
4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club
11:00 am	Spanish Club
2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group
4:00 pm	Conversations with Doris & Brenda
4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club
	10:00 am 10:00 am 4:30 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm 9:30 am 11:00 am 10:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 4:30 pm 11:00 am 4:30 pm

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Fri Jul 14	9:30 am	Mah Jongg Club
	9:30 am	Photography Club
	9:30 am	Craft and Conversation
	11:00 am	Homer, etc.
	11:30 am	Cooking Club
	1:00 pm	Stay Active and Independent for Life
	2:30 pm	Tallwood Book Club
Sat Jul 15	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club
	1:00 pm	Personal Computer User Group

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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: 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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