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	Code of Conduct • While all other federal judges are required to abide by a Code of Conduct, the Supreme Court justices only use the Code for "guidance." • Given the significant allegations of misconduct by Supreme Court justices a voluntary system of adherence to ethical guidelines is not enough. • In fact, the voluntary system, and the misconduct that results, has left our judiciary and democracy in deep crisis.	Code of Conduct • As stated in the Code of Conduct, "the integrity and independence of judges depend on their acting without fear or favor." • Ethical conduct by judges also serves to preserve public confidence in the courts as fair and impartial arbiters. • As the Supreme Court itself recognized "the power and the prerogative of a court to perform this function rest in the end upon the respect accorded to its judgments." • The citizen's respect for judgments depends upon the losing court's absolute adherence to the highest principles and ideals.	The Need for Reform • With confidence in the Supreme Court at an all-time low, and our democracy in peril, the Court remains without a Code of ethics. • In this presentation I will review the history of ethics and the Federal courts, outline the Code of Conduct for federal judges, and catalogue some of the misconduct that has happened since 2011. • Finally, I will discuss additional ethics reforms needed to make a mandatory Code effective and review the Code recently announced by Supreme Court.
A Code of Conduct & Ethics • In 2011, after several years of particularly egregious misconduct allegations, there was a campaign calling upon Congress and the Supreme Court to reform the Court's ethics rules. • A report about the Code of Conduct, catalogued allegations of extrajudicial, political misconduct by Supreme Court justices. • More than ten years have passed since the 2011 campaign, and allegations of misconduct have continued and there still has been no reform to the ethics rules.	CANON 4 • Canon 4 prohibits participation in extrajudicial activities that "interfere with the performance of the judge's official duties" or "reflect adversely on the judge's impartiality." The new include fundraising activities, political or otherwise. • CAN 4 tells me explicitly that a judge may not work as a speaker, a guest of honor, or be featured in the program of a fundraising event. • Several activities that federal judges are prohibited and even sanctioned for engage in, include, speaking, writing, and lecturing on the law, or associating with nonprofit and charitable organizations. • However, participating in an organization focused on changing the law is an allowed activity, whether through policy or impact.	Policy Recommendations • The Judicial Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act of 2022 • The Judicial Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act makes the existing Code of Conduct for U.S. judges, mandatory for Supreme Court justices. • Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act of 2022 • The Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act requires the Supreme Court to create its own code of conduct. • The 21st Century Courts Act is very similar to the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act; it also requires the Supreme Court to create its own code of conduct.	Recusals • Recusal is the act of a specific judge or justice being removed from a specific case, typically for ethical reasons – as an end discrete themselves. • It reflects a concern about self-interested judging that is at odds with the impartial, independent judiciary envisioned by our Constitution and serves two general purposes: • The first is to prevent individual judges from biased judges. • The second is to protect the integrity of the judiciary, which is essential to restore public confidence in our judicial system and participants.
Warren's Reform Proposal Sen. Elizabeth Warren has proposed a reform package that would require federal judges and justices to abide by rules that are analogous to those followed by their counterparts in the other branches in a way that does not impinge upon judicial independence. Proposals for the judiciary that are included in Warren's Anti-Corruption and Public Integrity Act are as follows: • Banning individual stock ownership by federal judges and justices. (Currently, the Justices – Roberts and Alito – own individual shares, though they have each significantly reduced their holdings.)	Warren's Reform Proposal Sen. Elizabeth Warren has proposed a reform package that would require federal judges and justices to abide by rules that are analogous to those followed by their counterparts in the other branches in a way that does not impinge upon judicial independence. Proposals for the judiciary that are included in Warren's Anti-Corruption and Public Integrity Act are as follows: • Banning individual stock ownership by federal judges and justices. (Currently, the Justices – Roberts and Alito – own individual shares, though they have each significantly reduced their holdings.)	The Supreme Court Code of Conduct The Court announced on November 13, 2023: • The absence of a Code has led to the misunderstanding that this court regarded themselves unrestricted by any ethics rules. • To dispel this misunderstanding , we are issuing this Code, which represents a codification of principles that we have long regarded as governing our conduct.	The Supreme Court Code of Conduct Rule of Necessity • A rule permitting or requiring a judge or other official to adjudicate a case despite bias or personal interest when disqualification would result in the lack of any competent tribunal. Rule of Disqualification • A Justice should disqualify himself or herself in a proceeding in which the Justice's impartiality might reasonably be questioned by an unbiased and reasonable person aware of all circumstances.

And Finally: The code does not specify how the rules would be enforced or by whom

Ben Gold, OLLI member and Supreme Court docent, addressed the Supreme Court: Ethics and Recusals; February 14

July 5, 2024

Editor of the Week: John Nash

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Alerts & Notices

- The next issue of OLLI E-News will be published Friday, July 12; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, July 9, at 6:00.

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Trivia Club News



By Pete Oliver, Trivia Club Coordinator

Last month, our trivia team, Los Viejos, followed up a first-place win with an equally surprising second-place finish.

Final question: *Which NHL team, which has already won three Stanley Cups in this century, is the oldest in the Western Conference?*

We will be meeting again this Thursday (the 11th) at Kalypso's in Reston, which is in the same complex as the Lake Anne OLLI campus. The game starts at 7:00. Andi and I are usually there around 6:30 to hold a table.

If you decide to give it a try, please text or e-mail in advance: (423) 524-5149 and amount1963@gmail.com. We may not meet again until August.

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Caregivers' Support Group @ OLLI



By Doris Bloch, Caregivers' Support Group Co-Coordinator

Did you know that OLLI Mason sponsors a biweekly Zoom support group meeting for caregivers on Friday afternoons? Originally an informal gathering, the group is now listed on the registration portal and you can sign up to be on the email list.

The support group covers several helpful areas. We give our participants an opportunity to talk about their caregiving situation(s) with a supportive group, and also try to provide practical information, both from our own personal experience and/or from other knowledgeable resources. These resources could be internet-based or referrals to local social service agencies. We also draw on the expertise of the George Mason University School of Social Work, which supports us by providing the group meetings with a facilitator from their Master's in Social Work program.



Participation is low-key and you can remain anonymous if you prefer to do so.

Our meetings usually last no more than one hour. Our next Zoom-based meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 12, at 2:30 and the link will be listed on the Daily Schedule for that day. Just jump in; you

don't need to register.

Questions? contact Doris Bloch, dbloch50@hotmail.com.

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Tallwood Book Club



By Betty Ellerbee, Tallwood Book Club Coordinator

The Tallwood Book Club will meet via Zoom at 2:30 on Friday, July 12th. The book we will discuss is ***Under the Wide and Starry Sky*** by Nancy Horan.

Our August book is ***Moloka'i*** by Alan Brennert.

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Dance Club Interest Meeting



By Lila Goldstein, Dance Club Coordinator

Do you like to dance, listen to music, meet people, and have fun? Join us for a "dance club interest meeting" via Zoom on Tuesday, July 30 at 2:00. The Zoom link will be included in the OLLI daily schedule.

No expertise in dancing is needed. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome for making this another great OLLI activity. If you have questions, please email Lila Goldstein at <mailto:lwgoldstein@gmail.com>.



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Some Programs Cannot Come to OLLI, But We Can Go to Them



By Camille Hodges, Humanities and Social Sciences/Current Events Co-Chair, and Diversity Advisory Group Co-Chair

While OLLI is looking for presenters with expertise regarding American Indian history, you can find out more about the heritage, customs, and daily life of our Native Americans at the 2024 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Here's an excerpt from the Smithsonian website:

From the website <https://festival.si.edu>: "At the 2024 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall, Indigenous artists and makers, professional chefs and home cooks, musicians, dancers, athletes, and storytellers will demonstrate the depth of multigenerational traditions as well as new, innovative approaches to cultural expression.

Join a circle of celebration with stories, songs, and dance. Experience ancestral foods like the Three Sisters (beans, corn, and squash) and inventive, sustainable cuisine. Learn stories that underlie Indigenous sports and games. Hear how Indigenous youth are reclaiming their languages through spoken-word and hip-hop. Explore traditional arts that flourish in their connections to place and environmental knowledge."

Keep in mind that it's hot in early July! Those of us who have attended these festivals know it's worth the trip, but don't do too much in one day. Take your grandkids, bottled water, snacks, wear a hat, and enjoy. Thanks!

Editor's Note: This article appeared in prior issues of E-News; it is repeated here to encourage your participation in celebrating the National Museum of the American Indian.

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Wednesday Team Bloch Conversation—July 10



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

Every Wednesday afternoon at 4:00, Team Bloch moderates an online conversation on OLLI's 24/7 Chat Line. Each week we choose a different topic and encourage sharing of our thoughts, experiences, and opinions.

Our topic for July 10: Tell us about the first time you voted—e.g., where and how old you were, what you had to do to register, how you felt about it. Would you encourage your younger family members to register to vote?



You can find the Team Bloch (Brenda Bloch-Young and Doris Bloch) conversation Zoom link listed in the Daily Schedule each Wednesday.

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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

The Coming Waterfall

decades ago
it took nine hard months to

break
from my fiancé

the eventual split was accompanied
by the agony of losing a best friend

excruciating
like I'd severed my right arm

now
knowing my angst at parting
even when things no longer fit;

dread bleeds
onto the thought of selling
my childhood home

holding on from a long distance
doesn't make sense - I am

weary
what was most dear
has died or moved on

but knowing I could always return
walk through the door
inhabit the space of

memories
cherished and jarring

has been a comfort
a reassurance
that in some way
it's all there

still

it's time to move forward
and I brace for the coming

waterfall

– Susan Rexroad

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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances July 12 through July 21



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. You can also 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](#).

Dr. Linda Apple Monson produces a periodic "Notes from the Director." This email is full of information on 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

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

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

No Performances

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)

**At the Gregory Family Theater
Prince William Little Theatre presents *110 in the Shade***

Fri, Jul 12, 8:00
Sat, Jul 13, 2:00 and 7:00
Sun, Jul 14, 2:00
Fri, Jul 19, 8:00
Sat, Jul 20, 2:00 and 7:00
Sun, Jul 21, 2:00
Admission: \$30 Adult, \$25 Senior.

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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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**Keep your face ALWAYS toward the sunshine -
And the SHADOWS will fall behind you.
- Walt Whitman**

Meetings & Clubs

Please note: OLLI Meetings and Clubs may currently take place in several formats: some are in person only, some are online only, and some are hybrid, meaning that they take place in person and are accessible online simultaneously. 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 Jul 6	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Jul 8	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	10:00 am	Board Game Club
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
Tue Jul 9	1:00 pm	Stay Active and Independent for Life – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Jul 10	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:00 pm	Conversation with Team Bloch – online
Thu Jul 11	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Jul 12	9:30 am	Photography Club
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation

	10:00 am	Spanish Club
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	11:30 am	Cooking Club
	1:00 pm	Stay Active and Independent for Life – online
	2:30 pm	Tallwood Book Club – online
	2:30 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
Sat Jul 13	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Jul 15	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	10:00 am	Bridge Club
	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
Tue Jul 16	1:00 pm	Stay Active and Independent for Life – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Jul 17	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
	4:00 pm	Conversation with Team Bloch – online
Thu Jul 18	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Jul 19	9:30 am	Dabbling Artists Club
	9:30 am	Mah Jongg Club
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	1:00 pm	Stay Active and Independent for Life – online
Sat Jul 20	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
	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, Tom Appich, Martha Kossoff, Anne Hartshorn, Bonnie Becker, Carol McManus

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.

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.

Notice: You received this newsletter because either you are a current OLL