



OLLI Connections

Vol. 2 Issue 1
October 9, 2017

OLLI News!

OLLI is pleased to announce a new Members Only Event on Thursday, November 2, in Morgantown.

Join us at 3:00 p.m. to meet the new music director of the West Virginia Symphony, Lawrence Loh.

A similar event is being planned for Charleston so watch for more information.

Maestro Loh will share his vision for the future of the WVSO, as well as preview the orchestra's upcoming Morgantown performance of Verdi's Requiem. He will cover a brief survey of Requiem and how Verdi transformed the genre using



operatic elements. In reference to Verdi's work, Loh will cover general structure, challenges and performance practices.

Lawrence Loh was named Music Director of the West Virginia Symphony commencing in the 2017/2018 season after a search through resumes of 167 national and international candidates and his successful audition concert with the WV Symphony Orchestra in April 2017.

Loh's previous positions include Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Syracuse Opera; Resident Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra; Music Director of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra; Associate Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; Associate Conductor of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the

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www.olliatwvu.org

OLLI Connections is published quarterly and distributed via email to our current members. It is also posted on our website. If you are unable to read the newsletter online, you may request a printed copy by calling the OLLI office at 304-293-1793.



Director's Letter

Last month, our professional technologist and friend, Sonja Jewell Kelley, left OLLI to become the program coordinator of the WVU Launch Lab. Although it was difficult to see her go, this is a wonderful opportunity for her. But we didn't have to say goodbye. Sonja joined OLLI as a member this fall and will be volunteering when possible.

Sonja's departure presented the opportunity for a former staff member to return. Last week, we welcomed Steve Fleming back to OLLI. Steve will be helping us with all things technology for the next eight months. He will be in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays this fall. Stop by and say hi if you can!

There are many other new faces at OLLI this fall as well.

As part of the OLLI staff, we are pleased to have a new work-study student in the office this year. Dalyn Grimm is a junior marketing major from Wheeling, WV. If you're here for a class or need assistance on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday afternoon, you'll probably see him around.

You'll also see new members and instructors in the classroom. We have nearly 100 new members so far this year. Many have told us that they were encouraged by a friend or family to join OLLI. Thank you for helping to spread the word!

Jascenna

OLLI Welcome Charlene Marshall for Special Presentation

OLLI is pleased to welcome Charlene Marshall on Wednesday, November 8, for *The African American Experience in Morgantown During the Years of Segregation and After*.

During the first half of the 20th century, Morgantown, like much of the country, was segregated. Schools, hotels, theaters, and all public accommodations here were segregated. Charlene Marshall will describe her experiences and those of other African Americans growing up in Morgantown during those years and then the changes that affected the community when the schools were integrated in 1954. She will include photos of the schools that African American children

attended and their experiences getting to those schools.

Charlene Marshall was the Mayor of Morgantown from 1991-1998. She was the first African American female mayor in WV. She is the only African American to serve as a mayor of a major city in WV. She also served for 14 years in the West Virginia State Legislature.

The presentation will be Wednesday, November 8, at 3:00 p.m. in OLLI classroom B in Morgantown. The event is free to OLLI members. Reservations are requested.

Thank You!

As OLLI at WVU strives to achieve financial sustainability and launches a new annual fundraising initiative, we would like to say Thank You to all who gave so generously last year.

We would also like to recognize those who have generously contributed to one of our donation funds this year.

Robert & Aurie Acciavatti
Rudolph & Helen Almasy
Carolyn Behnsen
Betty Baily • Diana Beam • Mary Biggs
Carole Boyd • Marsha Brand
Mary Roberta Brandt
Joann Evans • Sandra Graff
Shirley Guiliani • Barbara Gutman
Rose Haislet • Susan Hardesty
Lynn Harper • Summers Harrison
Elissa Hoffman • Pat Jenkins • Maureen Johnson
Betty Maxwell • Randall Miller
Morgan & Nancy Mosser
Judith Mull • Margot Racin • Carol Rotruck
Anne Selinger • Jean Ann Toren
George & Viera Trapp
Wallace & Norma Venable
Judith Smith Wilkinson
Karl and Pam Yagle

Shopping Helps OLLI!

Supporting OLLI at WVU is as easy as shopping and traveling.

Earlier this year, OLLI at WVU joined the Kroger Community Rewards program. This week, we received our first donation check in the amount of \$96. Twenty OLLI member households have designated the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute/WVU Foundation as the charity of their choice when using their Kroger Plus Shopper's card.

We also receive a commission from Collette Travel each time our members choose their travel adventure from the Collette/OLLI trips. Our trips for this year have been booked but we're in the process of selecting our next adventures so watch for more information.

If your favorite store, restaurant, or other business offers a rewards program, let us know! We will investigate the possibility of joining.



Representing WVU at Glacier National Park

Which Committee Would You Like to Join?

OLLI at WVU is a membership-driven organization. *This means that the members choose which courses are offered. Members elect a Board of Directors--all volunteers--to represent their interests. Our instructors are all volunteers.* OLLI would not exist without members who are willing, when able, to help us keep the program running.

Every single person has a special talent to offer. What is yours? Do you like to write? Join our Membership Committee.

Do you like to read? Would you like to start a book-reading group?

Do you like working with numbers or computers or like to do filing or keep things neat and clean? We can use your help!

Here are some descriptions of our committees. Which one fits you best? Can you think of another way to help OLLI become the vibrant, engaged, relevant organization we all want it to be? Let us know. Come in and talk with our Executive Director any time.

• **Charleston Committee**

We need help in every single area. What is your area of expertise? Help us keep up our momentum to find more volunteer instructors, grow our membership, find us a permanent location, and increase our funding. Please let us know how you can help us.

• **Curriculum Committee**

Not only does this committee review all instructor proposals and discuss the merits of each one before choosing which courses to include in the next term's offerings, it also reaches out to everyone for new ideas and areas of interest. We review suggestions made on the course evaluation forms (can you help with this?), review the comments about each course and discuss policies relating to the curriculum. We think this is the committee that is the backbone of OLLI.

• **Catalog Committee**

A sub-committee of the Curriculum Committee reviews the courses submitted each term for grammar, wording, and consistency. The more eyes that review the catalog, the fewer mistakes are made! We can always use more help here.

• **Facilities & Technology Committee**

You may think that you will have to move furniture or know all the ins and outs of computing to be on this committee, but it isn't so. We welcome new ideas of how to make the most of our current facilities or would welcome your donation to build us a building of our own. Do you have ideas of how we can best share classes between the Morgantown and Charleston campuses? Well, yes, there is some attention given to helping maintain the classrooms and office day to day and anyone who's a handy-person is certainly encouraged to assist us. Ideas

for technology improvements are also always welcome.

• **Finance Committee**

Do you enjoy working with numbers? Do you understand investing terminology and accounting practices? Do you like making budgets? The Finance Committee can use you.

• **Fundraising Committee**

This new permanent committee was been established to follow up on some successes achieved during the past year. Several grants were applied for and some were accepted. We have new computer equipment, sound equipment, programming monies. Do you have ideas of new places to look for money or new ideas of things we need to ask for? We need ideas of how to make members realize that we all need to contribute more than dues to keep our organization going. Please join our committee.

• **Irving Goodman Aging Lecture Series Committee**

Every year we need to find an excellent speaker to come to kick off our fall term. Do you know of anyone? Do you have any ideas of what topic should be covered? Would you like to be part of a group that will discuss this and finally choose someone to come for a very special talk? We have just one task a year and usually accomplish it in just a few short meetings. Is this the committee for you?

• **Nominating Committee**

This committee also meets just a few times a year and is responsible for keeping track of who is a member of the Board of Directors and when his or her term expires and then meeting to brainstorm ideas for new board members, to compose a slate to be voted on at the annual meeting in June of each year. We also prepare a slate of officers of the board to be voted on at the first meeting of the new board the first Monday of July each year.

• **Membership and Public Relations Committee**

Do you know that this used to be two committees? And do you know that if the Curriculum Committee is considered the backbone of OLLI, the Membership and Public Relations Committee fleshes out the rest of the whole organization. We always need new ideas of places to go and people to meet to introduce them to OLLI. We need helpers to greet new members and potential members at our quarterly pre-term open houses. We want to make OLLI known to more people in the greater Morgantown and greater Charleston

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Which Committee... *continued*

areas. Do you have any ideas? Can you write good letters, make phone calls, compile lists? Will you talk about OLLI at your club, church, or other group of which you're a member or staff a table at various Expos? We need more help.

• **Special Events Committee**

Do you enjoy throwing a party? Have a flare for organizing volunteers, selecting menus, and decorating? We would love to have your help with the Open Houses, Holiday Bazaar, Special Member Events, and more.

• **Travel Committee**

Soon to get into full swing, several people will be meeting to talk about and possibly help organize some trips of interest to OLLI members. Do you have any ideas about touring locally, nationally, internationally? What do you think would be of most interest the membership? Is cost a concern or ease of travel? What are your ideas?

What else can you do to be a contributing member of OLLI?

Can you occasionally help out in the office? Could you work one hour a week or a half a day a month? Can you work on special projects? How do you want to hear about volunteer opportunities? Please let us know when we can call on you. Or can you make an extra financial donation? Can you bring in neighbors and friends to try out a term of classes? What ideas do you have? Please communicate! Join the conversation. Be an integral part of OLLI.

- Connie McCluskey, Volunteer Coordinator

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Denver Young Artists Orchestra.

Having a particular affinity for pops programming, Lawrence Loh has been engaged for repeat performances with Chris Botti, Idina Menzel, Ann Hampton Callaway, the Texas Tenors and more. He has assisted John Williams on multiple occasions and conducted numerous sold out John Williams tribute concerts. He is particularly adept at conducting concerts synchronizing live orchestral music with film and has led Pixar in Concert, Disney in Concert, Wizard of Oz and Singin' in the Rain among others.

Lawrence Loh is active as a guest conductor, both in the U.S. and abroad including engagements this season with the Boston Pops (Tanglewood); Seattle Symphony; Buffalo Philharmonic and the Cathedral Choral Society at the Washington National Cathedral. Recent engagements include the National (Washington D.C.), Indianapolis, Tacoma, Naples, Knoxville, Florida, Dallas, El Paso, San Luis Obispo, Edmonton, Colorado, Charleston (SC), Detroit, Malaysia, Daejeon (South Korea), and Greater Bridgeport Orchestras.

Lawrence Loh received his Artist Diploma in Orchestral Conducting from Yale, his Masters in Choral Conducting from Indiana University and his BA, and Certificate of Management Studies, from the University of Rochester.

Lawrence Loh was born in southern California of Korean parentage and raised in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He and his wife Jennifer have a son, Charlie, and a daughter, Hilary. Follow him on instagram @conductorlarryloh or twitter @lawrenceloh or visit his website www.lawrenceloh.com

The November 2 presentation is free and open to OLLI members. Rsvp recommended. Call the OLLI office at 304-293-1793 or register online at olliatwvu.org.

The West Virginia Symphony will present Verdi's Requiem in Morgantown on Friday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Creative Arts Center. The performance will feature select members of the WVU Community Chorus, Fairmont State University Chorus, Marshall University Chambers Singers and members of the WV Symphony Chorus. Guest soloists will be soprano Raquel Gonzalez, mezzo-soprano Stacey Rishoi, tenor Eric Barry, bass Wei Wu led by guest conductor Adam Flatt.

The concert in Charleston will take place on Saturday, November 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences.

More information about the concert and tickets is available at wvsymphony.org/.

Mark Your Calendars!

October 23	Winter course proposals due
November 2	WV Symphony presentation
November 8	<i>The African American Experience in Morgantown...</i> (Charlene Marshall)
December 13	OLLI Holiday Open House & Bazaar
January 2	Winter registration begins
January 22	Spring course proposals due Winter term begins
March 19	Spring registration begins
March 21	Spring Open House