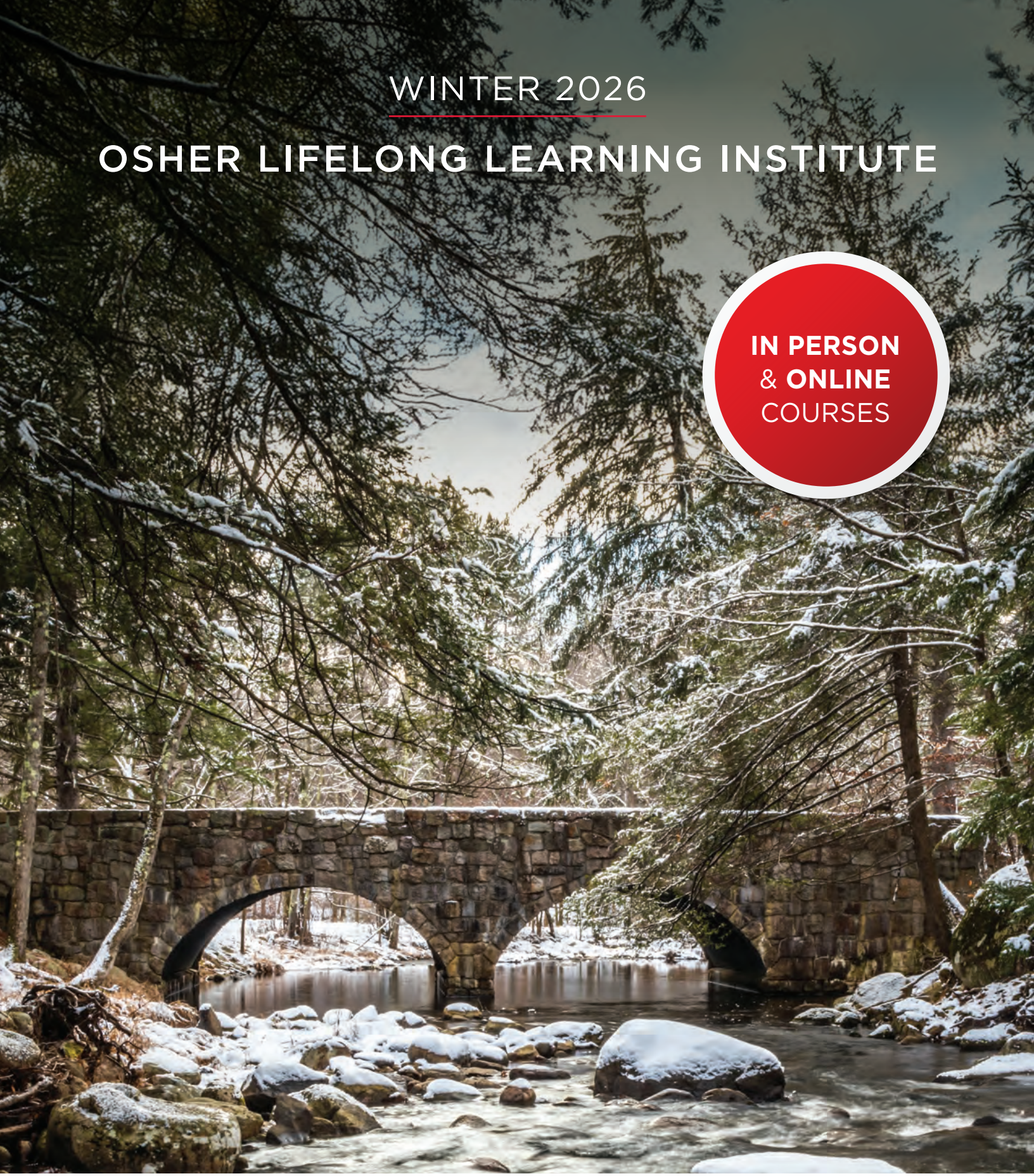
WINTER 2026

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



IN PERSON & ONLINE COURSES

Stay Curious.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE OLLI | R

Winter 2026

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RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Continuing Studies
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

OLLI-RU Experience

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University (OLLI-RU) is proud to be part of The Bernard Osher Foundation's nationwide network of outstanding centers providing continuing education to individuals over 50, who are looking for an opportunity to expand their horizons, learn in an engaging environment, and meet new friends. OLLI-RU offers noncredit education that is stimulating, friendly, and informal. There are no tests and no grades! You will be part of a learning community that is full of diversity, insight, wisdom, intellectual and cultural stimulation, and friendship.

MEMBERSHIP

To ensure we can continue to serve our community, like many sister OLLI's across the nation we have a separate annual membership cost of $50. Once a year (starting before our spring session) our community will renew their membership so they may take courses at the member rate and enjoy other benefits. Should an individual opt-out of membership, we welcome your participation and we have an alternate course fee structure to accommodate non-members.

- **Current 2025 memberships include the winter 2026 session**.
- **2026 membership starts with the spring registration in January but you can sign-up for the new membership now!**

ONLINE CLASS EXPERIENCE

Zoom links are emailed to registered students approximately 3 to 5 days before the first class. Please make sure to check for the link at least 24 hours before your class. If it's not in your inbox, make sure to check your junk or spam file. If not there, email olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu.

Things still happen: At times technology can fail one or all of us. We do our best to help when we can, but some things are beyond our control. The ability to connect to the class and the quality of the connection depends on many factors and we will not be able to troubleshoot or solve every issue. OLLI-RU has no control over issues with a student's technology that may prevent them from logging in to a class.

IN-PERSON CLASS EXPERIENCE

We are pleased to continue holding in-person courses in New Brunswick and Freehold. Parking in both locations is free for students.

MEMBERSHIP

When: OLLI-RU membership runs from Spring session to Winter session.

Pay it once a year to enjoy the benefits all year.

2026 memberships begin with spring session registration in January.

- Memberships can be purchased at any point of the year but are not be pro-rated.

Current 2025 membership includes the winter (January 2026) session.

What: The once-a-year $50 membership fee provides the following:

Register for courses at the member rate. Non-members can still take courses but it's at an increased rate.

Longer withdrawal periods to receive a full refund. Members can get a full refund if they notify OLLI-RU before the start of the fourth class meeting. Non-members only have until before the start of the second class.

Members can get refunds for one-day programs if notifying OLLI-RU staff in writing before the program takes place. Non-members are not provided refunds for one-day programs.

Priority registration and pricing for our highly subscribed day trips as well as for certain events and programming.

Special events and programming for members only.

How: Go to our website olliru.rutgers.edu

- On our website, (olliru.rutgers.edu) click on "Register"
- You will see "OLLI-RU 2026 Membership" as a course listing. Proceed to register for your membership just as you would sign up for a course.

Secure membership <u>before registering for courses</u> to receive membership rate.

REGISTRATION

How to Register Online

1. Go to **OLLI-RU website- olliru.rutgers.edu** and **click the "Register" tab**. Scroll down to see course listings.
2. Click "**Register**" next to the chosen class
3. Scroll to the bottom right of that page and click **"Register/Sign-in Now"**
4. Follow directions through the rest of the process
5. **Receive two confirmation emails** - one for registration and one for payment.
    a. **If you do not receive both emails, check your spam or junk folder.** If they are not there, please contact us at olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu or call 848-932-6554.

If you are unsure about online registration, call or email us and we will get you signed up.

Call 848-932-6554 or email olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu.

POLICIES

REFUND POLICY

MEMBERS

Multi-week courses (5 weeks and above): A full refund for multi-week courses will be provided if we receive the request in writing before the start of the fourth class. **Courses that are 2-4 weeks**, refunds are available if OLLI-RU is notified before the start of the second class. Refunds will be issued in the original form of payment and only to the individual who paid for the class.

One-day programs: Refunds will be issued for one-day programs if OLLI-RU is notified in writing before the program takes place.

NON-MEMBERS

Multi-week courses: A full refund for multi-week courses will be provided if we receive the request in writing before the start of the second class. Refunds will be issued in the original form of payment and only to the individual who paid for the class.

One-day programs: no refunds for one-day programs.

To request a refund or transfer *(transfers permitted for any student at any time upon confirmation from OLLI-RU)* email ollirurefunds@docs.rutgers.edu.

HOLIDAYS

OLLI-RU is a secular organization that is part of a public university. As such, we follow the University schedule and do not close for any religious holiday. If you plan to miss a class due to observing a religious holiday, please contact our office well in advance and we will gladly work with you and the instructor to ensure you stay abreast of important content. Email olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu with your request.

RECORDINGS

OLLI-RU does not record online classes on a regular basis, but students may ask their instructor if they need a specific class recorded for any reason. Please be aware, instructors may decline to record. The course material presented is an instructor's intellectual property that they have developed over many hours. Some may want to protect that material by not allowing a recording of their course to be disseminated. Please respect an instructor's decision.

MISSED CLASSES

Individual classes that are canceled for any reason by OLLI-RU or the instructor will be made up either by adding additional time to each remaining class or by extending the class by an additional meeting.

CANCELED COURSES

Students registered for a course that gets canceled will be notified approximately one week before the class is scheduled to start. You can transfer to an alternate open class or receive a refund.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University endeavors to create a positive and affirming environment that fosters learning and social connection. As members of the broader Rutgers community, individuals are subject to Rutgers University's Student Code of Conduct and other policies that prohibit discrimination, sexual harassment, disruptive behavior, and other disrespectful or inappropriate conduct. Additionally, OLLI-RU is a department of the Division of Continuing Studies, and we embrace the core values adopted by the Division: Integrity, People, Excellence, DEIA, Consideration, Service, and Lifelong Learning. Individuals are expected to demonstrate mutual respect, personal and academic integrity, kindness, and a commitment to civil discourse. Ensuring OLLI-RU is a welcoming, inclusive and affirming learning community is a responsibility we all share.

These principles apply to all OLLI courses, in-person and via Zoom.

We welcome the lively and passionate exchange of ideas and perspectives. Opposing viewpoints are welcomed and appreciated. Instructors are responsible for leading and moderating classroom discussion to allow for diverse perspectives while maintaining an inclusive atmosphere.

Members, instructors, and staff of OLLI-RU are encouraged to contact the Associate Vice President (AVP) and/or current OLLI-RU supervisor with concerns regarding violations of our code of conduct (olliru@docs.rutgers.edu). Violations may result in suspension/termination of membership, volunteer, or teaching privileges as well as other conditions as determined by the AVP and/or OLLI-RU supervisor and Code of Conduct committee.

Code of Conduct Procedure

Upon receiving a concern in writing regarding violation of our code of conduct, the AVP and/or supervisor will convene a meeting of the Code of Conduct committee and the complainant to further discuss the matter. The committee may ask for additional information (witnesses, clarifying statements, history, etc.) to help make an informed decision. Information will be collected and shared with the committee and AVP and/or supervisor. A final decision regarding outcomes will be sent to the complainant and any related parties.

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In-Person Courses

IN PERSON in NEW BRUNSWICK LOCATION

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	AARP Driver Safety Class *Irwin Horowitz* 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Jan. 13 & Jan. 15 *must attend both dates	**Acrylic & Mandala Art** *Komal Mehra* 10:30 am - 12 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)*	**AARP Driver Safety Class** *Irwin Horowitz* 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Jan. 13 & Jan. 15 *must attend both dates	This symbol means it's a one-day class 1
	Why Joy is my Watchword and How You Can Discover Yours 1 *Noreen Braman* 10:30 am - 12:30 pm January 13	**Princeton and the Atomic Bomb** *Steve Yacik* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)* **HYBRID**	**Serious Fun: Improv for Adults** *Susan Speidel* 10:30 am - 12:30 pm 1/8 – 2/5 *(5 weeks)*	
	Spanish Colonial American History *Alexander Christopoulos* 1 pm – 2:30 pm 1/6 – 2/3 *(5 weeks)*	**A Very Short Intro to Artificial Intelligence (AI)** *Frank Wallace* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)* **HYBRID**	**Watercolor Art** *Komal Mehra* 10:30 am - 12 pm 1/8 – 2/5 *(5 weeks)*	
		Mosaic Frame Workshop 1 *Ann Ludwig* 1 pm – 2:30 pm January 14		

IN PERSON in FREEHOLD LOCATION

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
No courses in Freehold this winter.				

Online Courses

ONLINE – Winter 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Family Relationships in the Bible *Steve Frankel* 10:30 am – 11:30 am 1/5 – 2/2 *(4 weeks)* **no class on 1/19*	**E.C.R. Lorac's *The Devil and the C.I.D.*** *Hugo Walter* 10:30 am – 11:30 am 1/6 – 2/3 *(5 weeks)*	**The Art of Hygge: Secrets of Wellbeing** *Monica Shah* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/7 – 1/28 *(4 weeks)*	**All Aboard! Armchair Train Travelers in Film** *Sally Bauer Cohen* 10 am – 12 pm 1/8 – 2/5 *(5 weeks)*	**The Art of Ikigai: Living with Purpose** 1 *Monica Shah* 10:30 am – 12 pm January 16
In the Time of the Tudors: The Pole Family *Lyndell O'Hara* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/5 – 2/2 *(4 weeks)* **no class on 1/19*	**The Final Frontier: Star Trek at 60** *Bruce Tucker* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/6 – 2/3 *(5 weeks)*	***Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen** *Vandana Walia* 10:30 am - 12 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)*	**Lights! Camera! Action! Eclectic Topics on Broadway and Movie Musicals** *Sam & Candy Caponegro* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/8 – 2/5 *(5 weeks)*	This symbol means it's a one-day class 1
Whose Beaches? Power, Policy and the Jersey Shore *Stephen Eisdorfer* 10:30 am - 12 pm 1/5 – 2/9 *(5 weeks)* **no class on 1/19*	**Poetry for a New Year** *Maxine Susman* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/6 – 2/3 *(5 weeks)*	**Princeton and the Atomic Bomb** *Steve Yacik* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)* **HYBRID**	**Medical Devices and Diagnostics: What Consumers Should Know** *Donna Gasper* 10:30 am – 11:30 am 1/8 – 1/22 *(3 weeks)*	
The American Revolution and the Fate of the World 1 *Richard Bell* 1 pm – 2 pm January 12	**Winter Sketch Class** *Jeff Cohen* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/6 – 2/3 *(5 weeks)*	**A Very Short Intro to Artificial Intelligence (AI)** *Frank Wallace* 10:30 am – 12 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)* **HYBRID**	**Living Well, Aging Well: Exploring Age-Friendly Care** 1 *Donna Lisi* 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm January 29	
Building and Managing Your Family Tree on Ancestry.com *Carla Zimowsk* 1 pm – 2:30 pm 1/5 – 2/9 *(5 weeks)* **no class on 1/19*	**Movies About Lives Examined** *Roz and Steve Shaw* 1 pm – 2:30 pm 1/6 – 2/3 *(5 weeks)*	**Disunion in America: A Brief History of Secession in the U.S.** *Bruce Tucker* 1 pm – 2:30 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)*	**Riveting History from Erik Larson: *The Splendid and the Vile*** *Nawaz Merchant* 1 pm – 2:30 pm 1/8 – 2/5 *(5 weeks)*	
Watercolor Painting and Drawing: Decorative Patterns from World Cultures *Karl Lorenzen* 1 pm – 3 pm 1/5 – 2/9 *(5 weeks)* **no class on 1/19*	**Winter Painting Studio** *Jeff Cohen* 1 pm – 2:30 pm 1/6 – 2/3 *(5 weeks)*	**Great Mysteries: Sydney Pollack Movies** *Nawaz Merchant* 1 pm – 2:30 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)*	**Understanding Jazz: How the Music Speaks** *Kevin Witt* 1 pm - 2:00 pm 1/8 – 2/5 *(5 weeks)*	
	Writing Backwards: Starting from the End of the Story *Deborah Greenhut* 1 pm – 2 pm 1/6 – 2/3 *(5 weeks)*	**Roots of Rock and Roll** *Paul Howe* 1 pm – 3 pm 1/7 – 2/4 *(5 weeks)*	**Two Novels by Ernest Hemingway** *Nicholas Birns* 3 pm – 4:30 pm 1/8 – 2/5 *(5 weeks)*	

Catalog information

Order of Course Listings

Multi-week courses: listed Mon-Fri and separated into

- Morning
- Early Afternoon
- Late Afternoon

Locations

- Course locations are listed under each course title.
- Parking is free and large lots are available at each building.
- Addresses for our Freehold and New Brunswick locations:

Freehold In-Person Course

Western Monmouth Higher Education Ctr
3680 Route 9 South, Freehold, NJ

New Brunswick In-Person Course

Rutgers Lifelong Learning Center
3 Rutgers Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ
(off Route 1 and off Ryder's Lane)

OLLI-RU Community News

Registration Fee Change for Spring 2026

Beginning with the Spring 2026 session (starts March 2026), you will notice a modest increase in OLLI-RU course registration fees. The rates are primarily a return to the fees we had in Spring 2023 before they were lowered that Fall in honor of OLLI-RU's 30-year anniversary.

For members, rates for most courses will go from $8 per week to $10 per week. For non-members, most courses will go from $12 per week to $15 per week. The membership fee remains the same.

We have worked hard to keep our courses affordable, and we remain deeply grateful for the ongoing support of Rutgers University, our dedicated instructors, Advisory Council, and volunteers.

Because registration fees are OLLI-RU's sole source of revenue, this adjustment is necessary to maintain the program's strength and sustainability. We hope to ensure a continued capability to offer high-quality courses, expert instructors, and a welcoming community that makes OLLI-RU such a special place to learn.

Farewell Vinnie Bruno

The OLLI-RU community honors the life of long-time instructor Vinnie Bruno, who passed away on August 11, 2025.

Vinnie was a beloved member of our teaching community and an extraordinary instructor who brought the history of music to life. Though he taught a wide range of music history courses, his true passion was sharing the story of rock 'n' roll—and especially *The Beatles*.

His enthusiasm was infectious; his classes were lively and engaging driven by a deep and joyful knowledge and appreciation of his subject.

Vinnie was also a favorite among the OLLI-RU staff. He always had a story to tell and his energy could fill a room.

Vinnie's spirit and passion left an indelible mark on our community. He is deeply missed and fondly remembered.

As one student said, "Mr. Bruno is a treasure." He sure is. Our hearts go out to his family and friends.

ONE-DAY CLASSES

The American Revolution and the Fate of the World

Monday, Jan. 12
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $10 / Non-Member: $15

Listen to author, Richard Bell, talk about his latest book, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*. A fascinating and unfamiliar recasting of America's war of independence as a transformative international event. The American Revolution was not only the colonies' triumphant liberation from the rule of an overbearing England; it was also a cataclysm that pulled in participants from around the globe and threw the entire world order into chaos.

Repositioning the Revolution at the center of an international web, this surprising new narrative history ranges as far afield as India, Africa, Central America, and Australia. As our lens widens, the "War of Independence" manifests itself as a sprawling struggle that upended the lives of millions of people on every continent and fundamentally transformed the way the world works, disrupting trade, restructuring penal systems, stirring famine, and creating the first global refugee crisis. *(course code RD1)*

Instructor: Richard Bell

Why Joy is My Watchword & How You Can Discover Yours New Brunswick

Tuesday, Jan. 13
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick
Member: $10 / Non-Member: $15

Looking for meaning in your life? Start off with a watchword. Wondering about your purpose? Your watchword can guide you. The expression seems old-fashioned, something akin to a secret password. And yet, discovering your watchword gives you a simple "guiding star" that will influence your entire life. It has profound meaning and can support resilience and well-being in times of uncertainty. In the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, one of the definitions of a watchword is "a word…that embodies a principle or guide to action…" Inspired by OLLI-RU class attendees, let's discover together how important one word can be. *(course code NBD2)*

Instructor: Noreen Braman

Mosaic Frame Workshop — New Brunswick

Wednesday, Jan. 14
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick
Member: $15 / Non-Member: $20

Enjoy a fun and relaxing creative session with fellow crafters! Using a kit that includes everything you need—tiles, adhesive, grout and a wooden frame—you'll make your own mosaic picture frame. It's easy, enjoyable, and a wonderful way to spend time with others while creating something beautiful to keep or share. All materials provided – registration fee includes cost of materials. *(course code NBD3)*

Instructor: Ann Ludwig

Meet new instructor **Ann Ludwig**

Ann is a retired transportation planner with over 30 years of experience in environmental design and public infrastructure. She holds a Master's in Landscape Architecture and a Bachelor's in Mathematics and Studio Art from SUNY. Ann has recently returned to her visual art roots, studying collage and mosaic through lifelong learning programs. She enjoys helping others explore creative expression in accessible, rewarding ways.

The Art of Ikigai: Living with Purpose

Friday, Jan. 16
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $10 / Non-Member: $15

What if your most meaningful years are still ahead of you? Join us for an inspiring exploration of Ikigai - the Japanese art of finding your "reason for being." Through guided reflection, meaningful discussion, and mindful exercises, uncover what truly energizes you, identify your unique gifts the world still needs, and create a clear path toward more joyful, intentional living. Research shows that living with purpose may protect brain health as we age and reduce cognitive decline. Perfect for anyone ready to transform free time into fulfilling time and discover not just what to do next, but who you're meant to become. All participants will receive a free link to the online audiobook of ***Ikigai, The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life*** by Héctor García and Francesc Miralles. *(course code RD4)*

Instructor: Monica Shah

Living Well, Aging Well: Exploring Age-Friendly Care

Thursday, Jan. 29
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $10 / Non-Member: $15

Have you heard? The "Age-Friendly" movement is transforming how we live, age, and care for one another. This course explores the national and statewide initiatives that make communities, health systems, and public health programs more responsive to the needs of older adults. Learn what it means to be part of an Age-Friendly State or Community, how Age-Friendly Health Systems focus on what truly matters to older adults and their families, and how public health efforts are supporting healthy aging. Discover how you can become an advocate for your own well-being—and for a more age-friendly world. *(course code RD5)*

Instructor: Donna Lisi

MULTI-WEEK CLASSES

MONDAY Morning

Family Relationships in the Bible

Mondays*, Jan. 5 – Feb. 2 *(4 weeks- *no class 1/19)* Location: Online
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Member: $32 / Non-Member: $48

We will explore the complex family relationships depicted in the Bible, primarily focusing on the Books of Genesis and Exodus. We will examine couples such as Adam and Eve, as well as Moses and Tzipporah, and siblings like Cain and Abel, in addition to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. How can understanding these relationships enhance our comprehension of the Bible's message, and how relevant are these insights for today? (course code RM6)

Instructor: Steve Frankel

In the Time of the Tudors: The Pole Family

Mondays*, Jan. 5 – Feb. 2 *(4 weeks- *no class 1/19)* Location: Online
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: $32 / Non-Member: $48

Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury, was the niece of the last two Plantagenet kings of England, Edward IV and Richard III, and the cousin of Queen Elizabeth, wife of Henry VII. She held a strong claim to the English throne, yet she served with loyalty in the courts of both Henry VII and Henry VIII. She was a confidant of Queen Katherine of Aragon and the governess of Princess Mary. As Henry VIII's marriage to Katherine unraveled, the allegiance of the Pole family came under suspicion and Lady Margaret, with her sons Geoffrey and Henry, attempted to ride out the rising storm of Henry VIII's wrath against her other son, Cardinal Reginald Pole. (course code RM7)

Instructor: Lyndell O'Hara

Whose Beaches? Power, Policy and the Jersey Shore

Mondays*, Jan. 5 – Feb. 9 *(5 weeks-no class 1/19)* Location: Online
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

For the past 200 years we have been fighting over who gets to use the Jersey Shore and for what. Sometimes these battles have been fought with clubs and fists, sometimes in the Legislature, and sometimes in the courts. We will consider five episodes, ranging from the "oyster wars" of the early 19th century to the contemporary struggles over hurricanes, "shore protection," and the rising ocean. Each episode has involved a set of public policy choices, active players, and both short-term and long-term consequences. We will read original sources, consider the policy choices, and follow the consequences of each of these battles. Our primary mode of learning will be conversation, discussion and debate. *(course code RV8)*

Instructor: Stephen Eisdorfer

MONDAY Early Afternoon

Building and Managing Your Family Tree on Ancestry.com

Mondays*, Jan. 5 – Feb. 9 *(5 weeks- *no class 1/19)* Location: Online
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Do you have a family tree growing on Ancestry.com®? Are you just getting started? Either way, come take a deeper dive into building and managing your digital family tree on Ancestry.com®! In this 5-week virtual course, you'll learn how to build, organize, and manage your family trees effectively, evaluate and attach sources, collaborate with relatives, synchronize with other tree-building software, and integrate DNA results. Each 90-minute session will combine instruction, live demonstration, and your specific questions! Bring your laptop and prepare to dive deep into your family tree. (course code RV9)

Instructor: Carla Zimowsk

Watercolor Painting and Drawing: Decorative Patterns from World Cultures

Mondays*, Jan. 5 – Feb. 9 *(5 weeks- *no class 1/19)* Location: Online
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

We will draw and paint beautiful patterns inspired by the decorative arts of Europe, South Asia, the Australian Aboriginal, and the African Continent. Drawing and painting samples will be provided by the instructor. The material has been developed so that it is available to students at all levels of ability: no previous art experience is required. (course code RV10)

Class Descriptions:

1. Paint motifs from Southern African fabrics with watercolor using a wax resist technique.
2. Draw motifs from Australian Aboriginal culture by Stippling (drawing swirling clusters of dots) with magic markers.
3. Create examples of European knotwork in watercolor.
4. Draw a decorative paisley from India with magic markers.
5. Create examples of NORTH AFRICAN geometric patterns in watercolor.

Required Materials: Prang Watercolor Oval Pan Set, 8 colors. This set includes a mixing tray and #6 round watercolor brush; Student grade #0 watercolor round brush; Clear wax crayons; Magic markers.

Instructor: Karl Lorenzen

Give the Gift of Learning!

- no batteries required
- always fits
- lasts a lifetime

For information on gifting an OLLI-RU Membership or course,
contact us at:
olliru@docs.rutgers.edu
848-932-6554

TUESDAY Morning

E. C. R. Lorac's *The Devil and the C.I.D.*

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 3 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

E. C. R. Lorac was a very prolific writer of detective fiction. In this course we will read and discuss Lorac's novel *The Devil and the C.I.D.* which features the impressive and exemplary Chief Inspector Macdonald of Scotland Yard. Chief Inspector Macdonald solves the challenging crimes in this case efficiently and successfully. Text for the course: any edition of Lorac's *The Devil and the C.I.D.* *(course code RV11)*

Instructor: Hugo Walter

The Final Frontier: Star Trek at 60

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 3 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Where were you on a Thursday night September 8, 1966 at 8:30pm? It was the night that the NBC television network introduced its viewers to the very first episode of a new science fiction program produced at Desilu studios in Hollywood called *Star Trek*. It was pitched to the network by creator Gene Roddenberry as a wagon train in space but it became much more than that.
This course explores how that TV show came about, why, although it only lasted 3 years, it still has such broad appeal and is still both relevant and popular today, almost 60 years later. Prior to each of our classes we will watch assigned episodes from the original series only (1966-1968) and then have some in class discussions. Episodes of the original *Star Trek* series should be available at your local library or via streaming from Amazon, YouTube, Netflix, Paramount or Apple TV. I do hope you will consider engaging with us and make it so! *(course code RV12)*

Instructor: Bruce Tucker

Poetry for a New Year

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 3 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

In this workshop-style class, we will write poems about what's in the news, in our hearts, and on our minds. We will read published poems by a variety of poets present and past, with lively discussions about meaning, craft, voice, the poem's look on the page, and other creative choices. Each week's discussion will lead to a prompt for writing a new poem. Class members have a weekly chance to read their work and to participate in critique in a non-competitive, supportive atmosphere. *(course code RV13)*

Instructor: Maxine Susman

Winter Sketch Class

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 3 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Learn to capture the essence of a scene, a still life and people, with the simplest lines. It's great fun. I will guide you along the way, so you can expect plenty of individual attention. Please be prepared to complete assigned homework and receive direct feedback on your work. Come sketch with me. *(course code RV14)*

Supplies needed: F Faber/Castelli graphite pencil, 3B Faber/Castelli graphite pencil, 7B Faber/Castelli graphite pencil, medium pink beveled eraser, 11x14 50lb stock sketch pad or Canson 70lb. stock drawing pad.

Instructor: Jeff Cohen

AARP Driver Safety Class

Dates: Tues., Jan. 13 and Thurs., Jan. 15; 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. both days
Location: Rutgers Lifelong Learning Center, 3 Rutgers Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ
Fee: $20 for AARP members and $25 for non-members

The AARP Driver Safety course is intended to help drivers live more independently as they age and remain safe on today's roads. The class consists of two 3-hour sessions. Once completed, the participant is eligible to receive a state-mandated, multi-year discount on their auto insurance premiums as well as 2 points off their license, if applicable.

- AARP members are required to show their membership card.
- You do NOT need to be a member of AARP to take the class.
- No tests are given.

To register, click here: AARP Driver Safety Registration **or go to our website at olliru.rutgers.edu**

TUESDAY Early Afternoon

Movies About Lives Examined

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 3 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

The films curated for this course come from different countries and represent a variety of genres and themes – a famous British royal, a bombshell interview, childhood friendship, a con man, emigration, false identity, fame in a previous career, living life on the edge, love, relating to an animal, returning to ones' childhood home to heal emotionally, self-isolation. The films are available on Netflix and must be viewed at home prior to the week's class discussion. They will be discussed in the order listed below. ***Past Lives***, South Korea (2013-106 mins); ***The Rogue Agent***, UK (2022-115 mins); ***The Outrun***, UK (2023-118 mins); ***PIG***, United States (2020- 92 mins); ***Scoop***, UK (2024-102 mins). *(course code RV16)*

Instructors: Roz and Steve Shaw

Spanish Colonial American History — New Brunswick

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 3 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

This course offers a more accurate and eye-opening account of early American history tracing events from 1513 to 1565 that shaped the continent's future. Discover the fascinating early years of the Spanish Empire in St. Augustine, Florida, the California coast, as well as uncover the myths and realities surrounding Christopher Columbus. *(course code NBV17)*

Instructor: Alexander Christopoulos

Winter Painting Studio

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 3 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

This course will focus on how to paint. You decide the medium you would like to paint in-- watercolor, acrylics, or oils. Come to the first class with a subject you are interested in tackling -- a copy of an artist's work, a photo, or something from life, and be ready to get started. For experienced painters, I will offer suggestions to help sharpen your skills. Be prepared to be assigned homework and direct feedback on your work. *(course code RV18)*

Supplies needed for watercolor: #1, #4, #8 round watercolor brushes (camel, sable hair, or synthetic), Yarka watercolor set (12 color, pan, not tube), Strathmore 9"x12" cold press watercolor pad or Bienfang 9"x12" watercolor pad of ph neutral paper, 2B pencil with eraser.

Supplies needed for acrylics: Liquitex six pack basics (feel free to bring any additional colors you may own), acrylic synthetic round brushes (#2, #5, #8), 9"x12" pad of canvas paper, plastic or china plate to use as palette, small cup for water, 2B pencil and eraser.

Supplies needed for oils: Starter oil set (containing primary colors and black and white – feel free to bring any additional colors you may own), synthetic round brushes (#2, #5, #8), 9"x12" pad of canvas paper, palette or plastic plate to use as palette, small amount of turpentine in small jar (odorless, if possible), 2B pencil & eraser.

Instructor: Jeff Cohen

Writing Backwards: Starting from the End of the Story

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 3 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Challenge the traditional beginning-middle-end structure by starting at the end! This 5-week course will guide students through the process of writing from resolution to origin using targeted prompts, literary models, and guided reflection. Note: Flashback is one technique, and we'll look at others. Each week will include a brief lecturette analyzing a published work that uses reverse chronology or starts at the end, followed by in-depth writing workshops using provided prompts. Participants will generate new material and explore various ways of approaching narrative time. Fiction authors may include Virginia Woolf, Katherine Ann Porter, John Updike, O'Henry, Joan Didion, and Ernest Hemingway. Online links will be provided. Students can work on fiction, poetry, memoir, or creative non-fiction. The instructor will provide a complimentary zoom review of students' writing on request. *(course code RV19)*

Instructor: Deborah Greenhut

WEDNESDAY Morning

Acrylic and Mandala Art — New Brunswick

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 4 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

** Mandala art is a meditative form of art that involves creating intricate geometric shapes and patterns. The process of creating repetitive patterns in mandala art helps an individual relax, heal and rejuvenate!*

Get ready to unveil your artistic skills! Learn and apply the basic techniques of acrylic art and the meditative Mandala art to create some aesthetic paintings on canvas. Students will learn about blending acrylic colors, applying brush techniques and creating some intricate designs with a pen, while bringing together a beautiful art piece. Each student receives step-by-step guidance and personalized attention. Students will have a reference painting (created by the instructor) to refer to during this class; to which they can add their own creative touch as well. *(course code NBV21)*

Supplies Needed: White primed canvas board/panel (preferred size: 11”x 14”); acrylic paint set (preferably “Apple Barrel” bottled paint set); acrylic paint brushes (preferably “Artecho” set with a variety of flat, round and thin brushes); fine-liner pens; drawing compass, protractor, paint palette tray or disposable plate (for mixing and blending colors); masking/art tape; cup for water; paper towels; pencil, eraser, ruler and sharpener; table top easel stand (optional). Full list of supplies and the suggested purchase links will be emailed to the registered participants.

Instructor: Komal Mehra

The Art of Hygge: Secrets of Wellbeing

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Jan. 28 *(4 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $32 / Non-Member: $48

Do you know how to hygge? This heart-warming concept that originates from Denmark, consistently ranked “happiest country in the world,” refers to a cozy and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment. The self-care principles behind Hygge (such as baked goods, dinner with friends, bringing nature indoors) are scientifically proven to reduce stress and improve health and relationships. Together, let’s invite hygge into our homes through art, journaling, conversation, games, short films and stories, crafts and other ways of fostering connection and happiness. Through 4 weeks, you will enjoy a greater sense of wellbeing as you learn easy, tangible ways to infuse your everyday life with the warm philosophy of hygge. Bring a hot drink (mulled apple cider, green tea, etc.), a comforting treat (slice of cake, banana bread, cinnamon-dusted sweet potato, etc.), a candle, notebook, and any art supplies you like. *(course code RM22)*

Instructor: Monica Shah

Mansfield Park by Jane Austen

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 4 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Mansfield Park was Austen's third novel to be published, in 1814, and was an immediate success with the public. Critical acclaim came later and today the book is considered Austen's most profound work. This course, apart from discussing the plot and characters, is aimed at exploring the various grey areas of English society at the time, the acknowledgment of British imperialism, the moralistic tone of the novel, and a heroine who has come in for much debate! *(course code RV23)*

Instructor: Vandana Walia

Princeton and the Atomic Bomb — Hybrid

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 4 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid: can be in-person (NB) or online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Princeton was at the center of the Manhattan Project, both during and after WWII. In addition to J. Robert Oppenheimer serving as director of the Institute for Advanced Study from 1947 until his death in 1967, more than two dozen Princeton University faculty members researched and developed the atomic bomb. Along with the local—and global—history, class participants will be invited to share their own remembrances and perspectives.

A walking tour of the University campus, including locations where *Oppenheimer* was filmed, will be made available to students by the instructor at another date. The tour does not go to the Institute for Advanced Study. *(course code HYV24)*

Instructor: Steve Yacik

This is a **hybrid** course. It can be taken either in-person or online. **The instructor will be in-person**.

For help registering give us a call at 848-932-6554 or email us at olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu

A Very Short Intro to Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hybrid

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 4 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid: can be in-person (NB) or online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Artificial Intelligence (AI) seems to make headlines every day—but what does it really mean? This short course will help you make sense of the rapidly changing world of AI through engaging lectures, live demonstrations, and hands-on exploration. We'll examine what AI is, where it came from, and where it's headed--meeting the pioneers who started it all and the innovators shaping its future. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop, tablet, or a smartphone to try the exercises, giving you the opportunity to experiment directly with AI tools.

Along the way, we'll discuss key ideas such as how to write effective prompts; the difference between artificial intelligence AI), artificial general intelligence (AGI), and artificial superintelligence (ASI); and the potential benefits—and risks—of this increasingly powerful technology. We'll also demystify some of today's buzzwords, from "multimodal models" to "GPUs" and "NVIDIA," the hardware and companies central to AI's computational advances. Participants will come away with a working understanding of today's AI tools and a foundation for following future developments in the field. No prior technical experience is required—just curiosity and a willingness to explore. *(course code HYV20)*

Instructor: Frank Wallace

This is a **hybrid** course. It can be taken either in-person or online. **The instructor will be in-person**.

Meet new instructor **Frank Wallace**

Frank Wallace is a retired software engineer with more than 40 years of experience in the computer industry, including extensive work in software development, systems design, and project management. He began his computer career teaching high school seniors to program computers, then held technical positions with Sperry-Univac, Ohio Bell Telephone, and Bell Communications Research—later acquired by Ericsson—where he spent the remainder of his career.

WEDNESDAY Early Afternoon

Disunion in America: A Brief History of Secession in the U.S.

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 4 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

When we think of secession in America we typically think of the Civil War between 1861 and 1865, but historical events show that secession from the union was not so unique. In this class we will examine and explore just a few of the previous secession movements along with their issues or reasons for seeking a separation. One of the first examples occurs just before we have a constitutional convention and after our peace treaty is signed in Paris with Great Britain in 1783. Then there's Shay's Rebellion, between 1786 and 1787, involving farmers and others protesting against the perceived harsh economic policies, taxation and corruption of both the state and federal governments. It threatens our still very young and unstable union. Many such similar historical situations and political conditions would follow as America grows and expands creating new grounds for separation or secession from the Union. *(course code RV25)*

Instructor: Bruce Tucker

Great Mysteries: Sydney Pollack Movies

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 4 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Let's discuss Sydney Pollack's fab, but lesser-known movies. Plan to see each movie before class. Consider plot and theme, intriguing characters, their motivations and relationships. What makes them memorable? Suspenseful? Poignant? They are available at libraries, On Demand or on Netflix. We will discuss the following movies: ***Three Days of the Condor*** (1975), ***Tootsie*** (1982), ***The Yakuza*** (1974), ***Jeremiah Johnson*** (1972), ***The Way We Were*** (1973). (Note: In case some of these movies are unavailable, they may be switched before the term begins.) *(course code RV26)*

Instructor: Nawaz Merchant

Roots of Rock and Roll

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 4 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

We will examine the development of rock starting with the heroes of early American popular music in the generation before Elvis and Little Richard. We'll hear how rock and roll got its name, and we'll trace the saga of the visionary producers and artists who wove together the genres of blues, country, gospel, boogie-woogie, mambo, and more. No preparation for attendees will be necessary. Presentation with music, photos, lyrics, etc. will be followed by group discussion where a whole lot of shakin' will be going on! *(course code RV27)*

Instructor: Paul Howe

THURSDAY Morning

All Aboard! Armchair Train Travelers in Film

Thursdays, Jan. 8 – Feb. 5 *(5 weeks)*
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

From an Agatha Christie adaptation to the British *Casablanca*, from film noir thrillers to memorable Hitchcock gems, these films invite you on mysterious, romantic and exciting rail journeys. Two of the films are available free on Archive.org (I.A.). The other three can be located by consulting Justwatch.com for viewing platforms. You will watch the films before each week's discussion and do the companion readings on film techniques in your online curriculum. My goal is to help you enhance your cinema literacy. The following are the tentatively selected titles: 1/8: ***The Lady Vanishes*** (I.A.); 1/15: ***Brief Encounter*** (I.A.); 1/22: ***The Narrow Margin***; 1/29: ***Strangers on a Train***; 2/5: ***Murder on the Orient Express***. *(course code RV28)*

Instructor: Sally Bauer Cohen

Lights! Camera! Action! Eclectic Topics on Broadway and Movie Musicals

Thursdays, Jan. 8 – Feb. 5 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Using many clips from classic and modern musicals, we will explore and discuss various aspects of musical theater. Lecture topics will include different types of villains: the con man, the lazy, the beautiful, the lovable, and the evil sinister ones. Another lecture will feature costumes that relate to the mood of a musical and the careers of several costume designers. If time allows, other subjects may include Busby Berkeley musicals and the exploration of obscure musical numbers. *(course code RV29)*

Instructors: Sam & Candy Caponegro

Medical Devices and Diagnostics: What Consumers Should Know

Thursdays, Jan. 8 – Jan. 22 *(3 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Online
Member: $30 / Non-Member: $45

This three-week course offers an inside look at the business, development, and consumer aspects of medical devices. In the first session, we'll explore the global medical device market, highlight major industry players, and take a closer look at the companies and innovations based in New Jersey. We'll also review how the FDA defines and classifies medical devices. In the second week, we'll examine how medical devices and diagnostics are developed—from concept through regulatory approval. The final session will focus on the important questions to ask healthcare providers when such devices are part of their care. *(course code RM30)*

Instructor: Donna Gasper

Serious Fun: Improv for Adults — New Brunswick

Thursdays, Jan. 8 – Feb. 5 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

Improvisation offers an engaging way to tap into individual creativity and sharpen cognitive skills in a relaxed and social atmosphere. And, it's just plain fun. Participants in this class will explore the basic tenets of improv, as employed by performers at Second City and on "Whose Line Is It Anyway?," starting with a series of theatre games and exercises, designed to encourage creativity, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance listening skills. This will lead to the performance of short skits or scenes based on prompts from the instructor and other members of the class. No lines to memorize - and no prior experience is necessary! *(course code NBV31)*

Instructor: Susan Speidel

Watercolor Art — New Brunswick

Thursdays, Jan. 8 – Feb. 5 *(5 weeks)*
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

For beginners and semi-beginners alike, we will create art together while learning and practicing the basic techniques of watercolor art. I will provide step-by-step guidance and personalized attention to help you create beautiful paintings during class and help you develop skills so you can feel comfortable painting on your own. Each student will receive a pre-sketched watercolor paper, so you can focus on painting and learning the techniques of watercolor. Students can add their own touch and creativity to the painting! *(course code NBV32)*

Required Supplies: White watercolor paper (preferred sizes: 9" x 12" and 7" x 10"); watercolor paint set; paint brushes: 1 flat brush, 1 round brush and 1 thin brush (for details); paper towels; cup for water; masking/art tape; pencil, eraser, sharpener and ruler. Full list of supplies and the suggested purchase links will be emailed to the registered students.

Instructor: Komal Mehra

THURSDAY Early Afternoon

Riveting History from Erik Larson: *The Splendid and the Vile*

Thursdays, Jan.8 – Feb. 5 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

What is true leadership? Over 5 weeks, we'll read and discuss this gripping non-fiction novel *The Splendid and the Vile*. On Winston Churchill's first day as prime minister, Adolf Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. This true-life drama of political brinkmanship is also an intimate domestic drama. Let's learn about the day-to-day experience of Churchill and his family during London's darkest year, and how he held a country, and his family together. Each week students read about 90 pages for discussion. Share your observations and hear classmates' perspectives. Borrow or buy: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson. *(course code RV33)*

Instructor: Nawaz Merchant

Understanding Jazz: How the Music Speaks

Thursdays, Jan.8 – Feb. 5 *(5 weeks)*
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

We move on from "what jazz is" to "how jazz works on the bandstand and who shaped its language." This course will use Personal Experience, Musical Conversations, Cultural Triggers—as our constant lens while we explore roles on the bandstand and the voices of key instrumentalists and vocalists. *(course code RV34)*

Instructor: Kevin Witt

THURSDAY Late Afternoon

Two Novels by Ernest Hemingway

Thursdays, Jan.8 – Feb. 5 *(5 weeks)*
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: $40 / Non-Member: $60

This five-week course delves into two of Ernest Hemingway's most iconic novels, ***A Farewell to Arms*** (1929) and ***For Whom the Bell Tolls*** (1940), offering an immersive exploration of his distinctive style, themes, and their historical background. Through close reading, critical analysis, and engaging discussions, we will examine Hemingway's portrayal of love, war, and human resilience, as well as his signature minimalist prose. The course will contextualize the novels with respect to the conflicts they chronicle, namely World War I on the Italian front and the Spanish Civil War. This will help us explore how Hemingway's experiences and the 20th century's collective experience of total war shaped his narratives and continue to infect their enduring legacy. *(course code RV35)*

Instructor: Nicholas Birns

INSTRUCTOR BIOS

Richard Bell, PhD (pg. 12) received a BA from the University of Cambridge and a PhD from Harvard University. He joined the Department of History and the University of Maryland in 2006, earned tenure in 2012 and promotion to the rank of full professor in 2020. Rick has published four books and more than a dozen articles and book chapters. He is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. His most recent book is entitled *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World.*

Nicholas Birns (pg. 27) teaches at NYU and is the author of many books and articles of literary and cultural criticism. He is the Fall 2024 recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award.

Noreen Braman (pg. 12) is an award-winning strategic communications professional, a certified laughter wellness instructor, and member of the Association for Applied & Therapeutic Humor (AATH). She is author of *Treading Water - The Pandemic Edition* and *What Gets You Out of Bed in the Morning?* Her motto is "Don't go gently, go laughing!"

Sam and Candy Caponegro (pg. 25) are passionate about American musicals. They met in a musical and have acted, co-directed, and taught theater courses for over 40 years. Their base is OLLI-RU, but they have lectured on Princess Cruise Lines, at libraries, senior centers, and universities throughout the United States. Their motto: If music be the food of life, let's gorge ourselves.

Alex Christopoulos (pg. 19) is a history instructor at Middlesex County College who has also taught history and the social sciences at a New York City college for many years. He holds a Master's degree in History from Rutgers University-Newark.

Sally Bauer Cohen (pg. 25) holds a M.Ed. degree in Media Ecology (NYU) and a Master of Library Science degree (Rutgers). A successful career teaching English and Film Studies in NYC high schools culminated in her 2009 retirement. She has enjoyed creating exciting film courses and developing the cinema literacy of her dedicated students at OLLI-RU since 2011.

Jeff Cohen (pgs.18, 20) is an award-winning painter and sculptor. He earned a BA in art at Upsala College and completed graduate work at New York University. Jeff currently serves as a commissioner at the Barron Arts Center in Woodbridge, NJ. He is a recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award.

Stephen Eisdorfer (pg. 15) is a graduate of Haverford College and Harvard Law School. He clerked for the New Jersey Supreme Court, practiced law for 45 years, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Among other things, he was outside trial counsel to the State of New Jersey in connection with its vast post-Sandy "shore protection" project.

Steve Frankel (pg. 14) was born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and educated both in the NYC public school system and an Ultra-Orthodox High School. Steve graduated from Brooklyn College, majoring in Judaic Studies and Political Science. He has lived in Israel for the past 48 years, organizing tours and educational experiences and lecturing internationally about Jewish Life at the end of the Temple Period. He currently works for The Israel Experience as the Director of their Birthright Onward Israel programs.

Donna Gasper (pg. 25) Med Tech (ASCP), MBA with certificates in Quality Auditing and Supply Chain. Donna has worked in the Medical Device and Diagnostics industries for over 40 years across large companies and start-ups. She has experience in operations, quality, regulatory, and marketing medical devices and components.

Deborah Greenhut (pg. 20) is an award-winning author of novels, plays, and poetry. A Rutgers GSNB Alumna, Dr. Greenhut directed the Douglass/Cook Writing Center. Following her time as an Assistant Professor of Literacy Education at NJCU, she served as Associate Dean for Humanities and Social Sciences at Hudson County Community College. Her first novel *The Hoarder's Wife* debuted from Woodhall Press in April 2022, followed by a framework for family caregivers, *The Rational Caregiver* (Amazon 2024).

Paul Howe (pg. 24) taught college writing and English courses from 1980-88 and English and Film Appreciation for high school from 1988-2019. During that time, he has also taught continuing education classes at various locations. His classes have included poetry, music and culture, and film.

Donna Lisi (pg. 13) PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, BCACP, BCPP, BCMTMS, FASCP, FAAPP, is an Age-Friendly Clinical Pharmacist and a trained Literacy Volunteer. She has been in the field of Geriatric Pharmacy since 1985 and has over 40 years of clinical experience teaching both patients and fellow health care professionals.

Karl Lorenzen (pg. 16) is a professional and community artist based in Queens, NY who partners with non-profits in presenting art workshops for diverse communities in New York City. His artwork has been exhibited and published in numerous venues and journals including The San Francisco Botanical Garden, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, the United Nations Headquarters in NYC, The American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, The Harvard Advocate (Harvard University), and The Columbia Journal (Columbia University).

Ann Ludwig (pg. 13) is a retired transportation planner with over 30 years of experience in environmental design and public infrastructure. She holds a Master's in Landscape Architecture and a Bachelor's in Mathematics and Studio Art from SUNY. Ann has recently returned to her visual art roots, studying collage and mosaic through lifelong learning programs. She enjoys helping others explore creative expression in accessible, rewarding ways.

Komal Mehra (pgs. 21, 26) is an artist, a crafter and an art instructor, who is passionate about creating life on canvas. She works with a variety of art mediums like watercolors, oil pastels, acrylics, pencils (pencil sketching), colored pencils, cords (macramé), thread (embroidery), paper strips (paper quilling), and digital art (graphic designing). She continues to hone her skills, learn new art techniques and loves to share her passion for art with creative friends around the community.

Nawaz Merchant (pgs.24, 26) writing as Nev March, Nawaz Merchant is the author of Edgar Award nominated mystery *Murder in Old Bombay*, which won national MWA's Best First Crime Novel Award and other literature awards. Ms. Merchant writes and edits for the *FEZANA Journal* and has been published in *Writers Digest*, *Mystery Tribune* and other publications. She is president of the NY Chapter of Mystery Writers of America and is working on her fifth mystery novel.

Lyndell O'Hara, PhD (pg. 14) is a recently retired history professor who has taught at the undergrad and graduate levels for over 35 years.

Monica Shah (pgs. 13, 21) is a professional educator who holds a BS from Penn State, and an EdM from Harvard University focused on adult development. The author of multiple essays, poems and several books, her background also includes the performing arts. With extensive experience in teaching a variety of subjects, the common thread that runs through her diverse experiences and interests is an intrinsic spirit of exploration and discovery and the expertise to support others in their own learning journeys.

Roz & Steve Shaw (pg. 19) have been teaching film classes at OLLI-RU since 2003. They take pride in finding movies off the beaten path and have never repeated a movie in 22 years of teaching! They love engaging in interesting discussions with their students.

Susan Speidel (pg. 26) has directed over 70 professional, community, college, and high school productions and her performing career span off-Broadway, regional theatre, cabaret, and concerts with the Key West Pops, the Portland and Seattle Symphonies, and the Orchestra of St. Peter's by the Sea. She served as the first Director of Education for Paper Mill Playhouse and currently teaches for the Theatre Conservatory at Kean University. She attended Montclair State, holds master's degrees from NYU and Kean, and earned her doctorate at Drew University.

Maxine Susman (pg. 18) holds a Ph.D. in English from Cornell. She has written 8 books of poetry, has been published in many journals, and gives community readings and workshops. She taught writing and literature at Rutgers as Associate Director of the Writing Program, at Seton Hall University, Duksung Women's University in Korea, and Caldwell University where she was Poet Laureate. She has taught at OLLI-RU since 2013, receiving the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award.

Bruce Tucker (pgs.17, 24) holds a B.A. in political science and history and an M.S. degree in information technology and project management from Stevens Institute of Technology. Bruce has been a member of the Rutgers OLLI-RU faculty since 2009 and was a recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award in 2015.

Vandana Walia (pg. 22) has a master's degree in literature and thirty years teaching experience in India. She has been an instructor at OLLI-RU for more than ten years and is the recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award for Fall 2022.

Frank Wallace (pg. 23) is a retired software engineer with more than 40 years of experience in the computer industry, including extensive work in software development, systems design, and project management. He began his computer career teaching high-school seniors to program computers, then held technical positions with Sperry-Univac, Ohio Bell Telephone, and Bell Communications Research--later acquired by Ericsson—where he spent the remainder of his career.

Hugo Walter (pg. 17) has a B.A. from Princeton University, an M.A. from Old Dominion University, and a Ph.D. from Drew University. Dr. Walter has taught at Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Rutgers University. He has published several books on European literature, including *Devoted to the Truth: Four Brilliant Investigators* and *Investigating Evil: Heroic Sleuths and Their Exceptional Cases.*

Kevin Witt (pg. 27) is a jazz drummer, editor, and education advocate who blends deep musicianship with a passion for storytelling and jazz history. Kevin studied at the University of Colorado Boulder before moving to New York City in 2000. There, he honed his craft under Peter Retzlaff (Drummers Collective/Manhattan School of Music) and studied privately with legendary drummers Jimmy Cobb (Miles Davis) and Cindy Blackman (Lenny Kravitz, Santana). Since relocating to Austin in 2009, Kevin has performed with a wide range of respected artists, cofounded the trio 3jazz and now leads the B-side Quartet, a group dedicated to exploring jazz's lesser-known works.

Steve Yacik (pg. 22) has a passion for learning about and teaching US history. Now fully retired, he creates and leads tours through the Historical Society of Princeton and through the University. Yet Steve remains a proud Rutgers graduate with a BA in English (In other words, he loves a good story.).

Carla Zimowsk (pg.15) recently retired from 25 years as technology manager for the History Department at Princeton University. She has decades of experience incorporating the ever-changing technological landscape in her own genealogical pursuits. Carla holds a Master's in Information Studies, a certificate in Digital Asset Management from the Rutgers School of Communication and Information Studies, and she is working towards genealogy certification. She has been published in the *Chicago Genealogist*. Carla is the owner of AncestorTech© LLC, exploring today's technology for today's genealogy!