

SPRING 2026

# OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

**IN PERSON  
& ONLINE  
COURSES**

**Stay Curious.**



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848-932-6554



Email:

[olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu](mailto:olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu)

Website: [olli.ru.rutgers.edu](http://olli.ru.rutgers.edu)

### OLLI-RU Staff

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Scan this QR code to go directly to  
the OLLI-RU website.



# 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.

- **2026 membership starts with the spring registration in January. Renew your 2025 membership or 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](mailto: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 pro-rated.

**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](http://olliru.rutgers.edu)

- On our website, ([olliru.rutgers.edu](http://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 before registering for courses to receive membership rate.**

# Registration opens Jan. 27

## REGISTRATION

### How to Register Online

1. Go to **OLLI-RU website-** [olliru.rutgers.edu](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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
<b>From Colonies to Fledgling Republic - America in 18th Century</b> <i>Ed Malberg</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/2 – 5/4 (10 weeks) <b>HYBRID</b>	<b>An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Robotics</b> <i>Frank Wallace</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)	<b>The Contemporary Irish Novel</b> <i>George Schroeffer</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/4 – 5/6 (10 weeks)	<b>Mendeleev's Masterpiece: Science, Scandal &amp; the Periodic Table</b> <span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">1</span> <i>Rob Herber</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm April 9 <b>HYBRID</b>	<b>Irish Rebellions in Song &amp; Story with Hank McNally &amp; the Cook College Ramblers!</b> <span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">1</span> Friday March 20 1 pm – 2:30 pm 
<b>Paper Quilling for Beginners</b> <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am – 12:30 pm 3/2 – 4/6 (5 weeks) <i>*no class on 3/30</i>	<b>Let's Make a Scene</b> <i>Susan Speidel</i> 10:30 am – 12:30 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)	<span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">1</span> <b>Music in the 1950s</b> <i>Kevin Buck</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm April 8	<b>Sinatra on Screen</b> <i>Jerry Wichinsky</i> 10 am – 12:30 pm 3/5 – 5/14 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 4/16</i>	
<span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">1</span> <b>A Tale of Two Italys, The North-South Divide</b> <i>Daniel Possumato</i> 10:00 am – 12:00 pm March 30	<b>The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels</b> <i>Brooks Smith</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/3 – 4/14 (7 weeks)	<b>Acrylic Art</b> <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/4 – 5/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 3/25</i>	<b>Watercolor Art</b> <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/5 – 5/14 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 3/26</i>	
<b>Politics by Other Means</b> <i>Gerry Pomper &amp; Lou Ruprecht</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm; 3/2 – 4/13 (7 weeks) <b>HYBRID</b>	<b>Five Short Stories: Edgar Allan Poe Creates Detective Fiction</b> <i>Maureen McVeigh-Berzok</i> 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm 3/3 – 4/7 (5 weeks) <i>*no class 3/17</i>	<b>Modern Social Connection: The Art and Science of the Well-Connected Life</b> <i>Polly Palumbo</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/4 – 3/25 (4 weeks)	<b>Columbo in the Classroom: Season 2</b> <i>Larry Stanley</i> 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 4/9- 5/7 (5 weeks)	
<b>Tough-talking, Smart and Sassy: The Dames of Howard Hawks Films</b> <i>Jane Lasky-MacPherson</i> 1 pm – 3 pm 3/2 – 4/20 (8 weeks)	<b>Masterworks of World Cinema</b> <i>Dr. Keki Dadachanji</i> 1 pm – 3:30 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)	<b>The Universe: What We Know and Don't Know</b> <i>Stephen Schnetzer</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/4 – 5/13 (10 weeks) <i>*no class on 3/18</i>	<b>The Powerful Messages our Homes Send, as Sellers and Dwellers</b> <i>Annette DeCicco</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 4/30 – 5/7 (2 weeks)	
<b>Two Novels by Thomas Hardy</b> <i>Nicholas Birns</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 4/6 – 5/4 (5 weeks)				

### IN PERSON in FREEHOLD LOCATION












MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Irish Works of Art: A Journey through Time</b> <i>Maureen Brady</i> 10:30 am – 12:30 pm 3/2 – 3/23 (4 weeks)	<b>It's in Your Blood! From Types and Cells to Clots and Disorders</b> <i>Barbara Bogner</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/24 – 4/21 (5 weeks)			

# Online Courses

## ONLINE – Spring 2026 (first half)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>From Colonies to Fledgling Republic – America in the 18th Century</b> <i>Ed Malberg</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/2 – 5/4 (10 weeks) <b>HYBRID</b>	<b>Buddhist Art and Architecture of South Asia</b> <i>Sayyid Tirmizi</i> 10:30 am - 11:30 am 3/3 – 3/31 (5 weeks)	<b>The Collage Seascape</b> <i>Joel Adas</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/4 – 4/8 (6 weeks)	<b>Lullaby: A Writing Workshop Inspired by the Songs That Rock Us to Sleep</b> <i>Shelley Benaroya</i> 10 am - 12 pm 3/5 – 4/9 (6 weeks)	
<b>Learn to Collage</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am - 12 pm 3/2 – 5/4 (10 weeks)	<b>Drawing Workshop</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am - 12:00 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)	<b>Logic and Critical Thinking</b> <i>Alison Brown</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/4 – 5/6 (10 weeks)	<b>Dancing Masters of Broadway Musicals</b> Sam & Candy Caponegro 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/5 – 4/2 (5 weeks)	
<b>Religious Jewish Responsa during the Holocaust</b> <i>Steve Frankel</i> 10:30 am – 11:30 am 3/9 – 3/30 (4 weeks)	<b>The Films of Robert Redford</b> <i>Bruce Tucker</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/3 – 3/24 (4 weeks)	<b>Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie</b> <i>Vandana Walia</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/4 – 5/6 (10 weeks)	<b>Emma by Jane Austen</b> <i>Vandana Walia</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/5 – 4/2 (5 weeks)	
<b>Anthony Trollope's Phineas Redux</b> <i>Nicholas Birns</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/2- 3/30 (5 weeks)	<b>In the Time of the Tudors: The Seymour Family</b> <i>Lyndell O'Hara</i> 10:30 am - 12 pm 3/3- 3/24 (4 weeks)	<b>Rome: How the Losers of the Trojan War Became the Masters of the Mediterranean World</b> <i>Barbara Griffin</i> 10:30 am - 11:30 am 3/4 – 3/25 (4 weeks)	<b>Grow Old Along with Me: How Aging Has Been Portrayed on Screen</b> <i>Sally Bauer Cohen</i> 10 am – 12 pm 3/19 – 5/7 (7 weeks) *no class on 4/2	
<b>Painting Studio</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/2 – 5/4 (10 weeks)	<b>A Reading of Shakespeare's Hamlet</b> <i>Allen Ascher</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)	<b>The Six Books of Mishnah</b> <i>Joe Rosenstein</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/4 – 3/25 (4 weeks)	<b>India: Enigma or Opportunity?</b> <i>Deepak Hegde</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/5 – 5/7 (10 weeks)	
<b>Politics by Other Means</b> <i>Gerry Pomper &amp; Lou Ruprecht</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/2 – 4/13 (7 weeks) <b>HYBRID</b>	<b>Spring Poetry Workshop</b> <i>Maxine Susman</i> 10:30 am - 12 pm 3/3 – 4/28 (8 weeks) *no class on 3/24	<b>Presidential War Powers</b> <i>Bruce Tucker</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/4 – 3/25 (4 weeks)	<b>Irish Family History Research</b> <i>Patricia Brady</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/4 – 4/2 (5 weeks)	
<b>The Quest: Searching for Ancestors Online</b> <i>Carla Zimowsk</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/2 – 4/6 (6 weeks)	<b>Art Through the Ages</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 – 2:30 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)		<b>Jazz Giants and Rising Stars</b> <i>Sanford Josephson</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/5 – 4/9 (5 weeks) *no class on 3/12	
<b>Joseph Campbell Mythos I: The Shaping of our Mythic Tradition</b> <i>Charlie Pearlman</i> 3 pm – 4:30 pm 3/2- 3/30 (5 weeks)	<b>Revision Strategies for Memoir Writing</b> <i>Deborah Greenhut</i> 1 – 2:30 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)		<b>Yoga Sūtras of Patanjali</b> <i>Keki Dadachanji</i> 3 pm – 4:30 pm 3/5 – 5/7 (10 weeks)	
	<b>A Smorgasbord of Films</b> <i>Roz and Steve Shaw</i> 1 – 2:30 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)			

# ONLINE – Spring 2026 (second half)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>From Colonies to Fledgling Republic - America in 18th C.</b> <i>Ed Malberg</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/2 – 5/4 (10 weeks) <b>HYBRID</b>	<b>Drawing Workshop</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am - 12:00 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)	<b>Logic and Critical Thinking</b> <i>Alison Brown</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/4 – 5/6 (10 weeks)	 <b>Agatha Christie's The Body in the Library</b> <i>Hugo Walter</i> 10:30 am – 11:30 am 4/9 – 4/30 (4 weeks)	 <b>Hot Topics: A Moderated Discussion</b> <i>Jeffrey Davis</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 4/17 – 5/8 (4 weeks)
<b>Learn to Collage</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am - 12 pm 3/2 – 5/4 (10 weeks)	<b>A Reading of Shakespeare's Hamlet</b> <i>Allen Ascher</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)	<b>Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie</b> <i>Vandana Walia</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 3/4 – 5/6 (10 weeks)	 <b>The Courts, the Law, and the Administration- Part II</b> <i>Lou Ruprecht</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 4/9 – 5/7 (5 weeks)	<div>  <p>This symbol means it's a one-day class</p> </div> <div>  <p>This symbol means the course starts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the session.</p> </div>
<b>Painting Studio</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/2 – 5/4 (10 weeks)	<b>Spring Poetry Workshop</b> <i>Maxine Susman</i> 10:30 am - 12 pm 3/3 – 4/21 (8 weeks)	 <b>Space Exploration Films</b> <i>Bruce Tucker</i> 1 pm - 2:30 pm 4/8 – 4/29 (4 weeks)	<b>Grow Old Along with Me: How Aging Has Been Portrayed on Screen</b> <i>Sally Bauer Cohen</i> 10 am – 12 pm 3/19 – 5/7 (7 weeks) <i>*no class on 4/2</i>	
<b>Politics by Other Means</b> <i>Gerry Pomper &amp; Lou Ruprecht</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm; 3/2 – 4/13 (7 weeks) <b>HYBRID</b>	<b>Art Through the Ages</b> <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 – 2:30 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)	 <b>Spring Flowers in Watercolor</b> <i>Karl Lorenzen</i> 1 pm - 3 pm 4/8 – 5/6 (5 weeks)	 <b>Mendeleev's Masterpiece: Science, Scandal &amp; the Periodic Table</b> <i>Rob Herber</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm April 9 <b>HYBRID</b>	
 <b>Lost in One's Own Mind: Exploring Myths and Facts about Dementia</b> <i>Donna Lisi</i> 3 pm – 4:00 pm 4/20 – 5/4 (3 weeks)	<b>Revision Strategies for Memoir Writing</b> <i>Deborah Greenhut</i> 1 – 2:30 pm 3/3 – 5/5 (10 weeks)		<b>India: Enigma or Opportunity</b> <i>Deepak Hegde</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 3/5 – 5/7 (10 weeks)	
 <b>Poetic Voices of the Holocaust</b> <i>Ronni Rose</i> 3 pm – 4 pm 4/13 – 4/27 (3 weeks)	 <b>Southern Soul Scene: Music in the 1960s</b> <i>Paul Howe</i> 1 – 3 pm 4/7 – 5/5 (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.

## Tell a Friend!

Dear OLLI-Rutgers Community,

As the Winter term winds down, we want to take a moment to acknowledge what you've helped create here. Each class depends on the curiosity and energy that you bring into the room. That spirit is what sets OLLI apart, and it's the reason people keep coming back.

Most of the new faces who join us each year come because someone they trust said, "You should take a look at this." That simple nudge—one person sharing their experience with a friend, a neighbor, or a family member—is more effective than anything we could put in a brochure or an email blast.

If you've enjoyed the conversations this term, consider passing that experience along. Think about the people in your life who might benefit from a place where learning is done for its own sake: someone newly retired, someone who misses being part of a group, someone who's curious but hasn't had the chance to explore new interests in a while. A quick mention, a forwarded catalog, or even bringing them to a future open house can make a real difference.

The stronger our community becomes, the more courses we can offer, the more voices we can welcome, and the more opportunities we can create for everyone.

Thank you for being part of OLLI-Rutgers. Your enthusiasm is what keeps this program moving forward, and your word-of-mouth support has always been the backbone of our growth.

Warm regards,  
The OLLI-Rutgers Advisory Council

# ONE-DAY CLASSES

Hank McNally & the Cook College Ramblers present



**Friday, March 20; 1 pm – 2:30 pm**

**Lifelong Learning Center, 3 Rutgers Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ**

**Light refreshments provided!**

**Fee: \$25 for members; \$35 for non-members**

It is said of wars that the victors write the History but the defeated write the Songs. Nowhere is that more true than Ireland. This program will look at four Irish Rebellions, none successful if measured in the usual way. But each rebellion left a legacy of further resistance to living under English rule and each defeat inspired subsequent generations of Irish men and women to rise again. That resiliency and determination to be free is forcefully illustrated in the tradition of Irish Rebel Music. This program will include "Story" by Hank McNally and "Song" by the Cook College Ramblers. For the undercover rebel in the audience, there will be ample opportunity to sing along. *(course code*

*NBD1)*

## A Tale of the Two Italys, The North-South Divide

Monday, March 30  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$23

Italy's economy is more geographically divided than any other country in Europe. The north has a GDP per capita equal to 127% of the EU average, while the south has only 56%. There is a pronounced social, cultural, and political divide as well. The well-worn stereotypes about the north and south persist, both within the country and abroad. People are rich and reserved in the industrial north, while the south is friendly but impoverished, chaotic, and crime-ridden. We will examine how true these statements are, the historical differences between the two regions, and ponder the reasons why all efforts to eliminate the disparity since the 19th century have failed. *(course code NBD2)*

**Instructor:** Daniel Possumato

### Meet new instructor **Daniel Possumato**

Daniel is a retired senior civilian employee of the U.S. Army. He has a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and a diploma from the U.S. Army War College. He has taught at several OLLI programs in Maine and Pennsylvania. He is a dual U.S. — Italian citizen and enjoys sharing his knowledge of Italy with others.

## Music in the 1950s: The Rise (And Almost Death) Of Rock & Roll

Wednesday, April 8  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$23

Rock and Roll may have burst onto the scene in the mid-1950s, but its roots run deep through gospel, blues, country, and R&B. In this class, we'll trace the origins of this electrifying new sound, explore the cultural and musical forces that shaped it, and examine how — just as it was taking off — rock and roll faced an unexpected backlash that nearly silenced it. Discover the artists, innovations, and controversies that defined the decade and set the stage for the music revolution to come. *(course code NBD3)*

**Instructor:** Kevin Buck

### Meet new instructor: **Kevin Buck**

Kevin is the author of *A Concise History of Rock 'n' Roll*. He is fascinated by music history and the myths and legends that abound within.

## Mendeleev's Masterpiece: Science, Scandal & the Periodic Table

Thursday, April 9  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid- attend in-person (NB) or online  
Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$23

The “Periodic Table of the Elements” seems to appear everywhere - on tee shirts, as retail store decorations, in coffee shops, within company logos, and more. But, what is it telling us and where did it come from? In this class for non-chemists, we will discuss how the periodic table of the elements works and how it is used. When Dmitri Mendeleev developed and proposed his method to give order to the elements, it created drama across the scientific community. We will go further and dig into the challenges Mendeleev faced (personal and professional). This class is sure to help you look at the “matter” around you in a new way! *(course code NBD4)*

**Instructor:** Rob Herber

Thank you to the bakers who shared their delicious cookies with us for the OLLI-RU Winter Party Cookie Bake-Off! We loved every bite!!!

Congratulations to the winners!



**First Place:** Susan Tanner's Lemon Turmeric Cookies  
**Second Place:** Cynthia Wineinger's Cocoa Islands  
**Third Place:** Alison Smith's Frosty Snowballs





# MULTI-WEEK CLASSES

## MONDAY Morning

### From Colonies to Fledgling Republic: America in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

Mondays, March 2 – May 4 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid- attend in-person (NB) or online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

The history of England's settlements on the eastern edge of North America in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century is much more complex than watching a growing population of democratically inclined pioneers cheerfully building the societies that will fight the Revolution, write the Constitution and institute republican government. Join us as we learn about the remarkable population growth of the colonies, the diversity of this population, the culture these colonies encouraged, the politics they practiced, the religious innovations they embraced, the notions of liberty they entertained, the road that led from protest to independence, the political clashes that characterized the early republic. In ten sessions of lecture and discussion, we will detail the following:

1. American slavery, American Freedom
  2. Growth and Diversity of the British Colonies
  3. Rise of the Assemblies and Expansion of the Public Sphere
  4. Great Awakening and the Impact of Imperial Rivalries
  5. Battle for the Continent between the British and the French
  6. The American Revolution
  7. The Revolution Within
  8. Devising a New Constitution
  9. Establishing a Government for the New Republic
  10. Politics and Partisanship in the Young Nation
- (course code HYT5)

**Instructor:** Ed Malberg

### Irish Works of Art: A Journey Through Time

Mondays, March 2 – March 23 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in Freehold  
Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

Ireland is known for many things – but rarely its art. This course explores the country's expansive artistic heritage by considering a selection of works of art, including oil painting, watercolor, metalwork, sculpture, stained glass, and more. Discover Irish artists, the stories behind their work, and the history that shaped them. Enjoy interactive discussions where you get to be an art critic! (course code FM6)

**Instructor:** Maureen D. Brady

## Learn to Collage

Mondays, March 2 – May 4 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

Collage is an art form that dates back hundreds of years, reappearing in the works of Picasso and Braque. Now you can express yourself by pasting magazine and newspaper clippings, ribbons, colored paper, photographs, found objects and more, into works of art that can be a thing of beauty, a reflection of your viewpoint, or even a humorous or satirical take on a particular subject. (course code RT7)

**Supplies needed to begin:** 9" x 12" pad of drawing paper, bottle of Elmer's white glue, pair of scissors, 3 assorted magazines.

**Instructor:** Jeff Cohen

## Paper Quilling for Beginners

Mondays\*, March 2–April 6 (5 weeks-*\*no class 3/30*) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75



Paper quilling is the art of rolling, swirling, shaping, and gluing together colorful paper strips to create some aesthetic designs. The course will give an opportunity for students to learn the basic paper quilling techniques, create a finished paper quilling project & gain confidence to continue paper quilling independently!

Specifically, students will learn how to roll colorful paper strips and create a variety of paper quilling shapes, such as tight coils, open coils & tear drops. I will also show you how to arrange and put together the quilled and shaped pieces to form nice compositions, patterns & designs. Step-by-step guidance and personalized attention will be provided to each participant during the sessions. The participants can add their own touch and creativity to the art piece. (course code NBM8)

**Required supplies:** Colorful paper quilling strips (preferred size: 5mm wide); White card stock paper pad (preferred size: 8.5" x 11"); Paper quilling pen (slotted); Quilling template board; Quilling comb; Tweezer; Liquid glue; Self-adhesive gemstones; A pair of scissors. The suggested purchase links will be emailed to the registered participants before the course starts.

**Instructor:** Komal Mehra

## Religious Jewish Responsa during the Holocaust

Mondays, March 9 – March 30 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

During the Holocaust, Jews faced unimaginable moral, spiritual, and practical challenges. In the midst of persecution and loss, rabbis continued to answer questions of Jewish law and faith: How could one observe the traditions in ghettos or camps? What was permitted in order to survive? Together we will read and discuss real questions from that time, gaining insight into human resilience, moral courage, and the enduring power of Jewish law and values. (course code RM9)

**Instructor:** Steve Frankel

## MONDAY Early Afternoon

## Anthony Trollope's *Phineas Redux*

Mondays, March 2 – March 30 (5 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

We explore Anthony Trollope's *Phineas Redux* (1874) as a richly textured work of Victorian political fiction, examining the interplay of power, morality, and personal life in the public sphere. Over five sessions, we will trace the trajectory of the protagonist Phineas Finn—from his bereavement and return to Parliament, through personal rivalries, and the sensational, melodramatic suspense of his accusation and trial, to his eventual acquittal and marriage—while also diving into Trollope's unflinching depiction of jealousy, social expectation, and political machination. Participants will engage closely with major characters such as Lady Laura Kennedy, Madame Max Goesler, and Mr. Bonteen, investigating how interior lives and social pressures collide. We will examine setting, style, and above all the theme of the outsider to understand how the novel reflects—and critiques—its age. By the end of the course, students will not only have developed a deeper appreciation of Trollope's craft but also gained tools for reading late-Victorian fiction in relation to modern debates about integrity, public duty, and personal morality. (course code RV10)

**Instructor:** Nicholas Birns

## Painting Studio

Mondays, March 2 – May 4 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

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. There will be homework and direct, pointed feedback designed to help you improve your skills. (course code RV11)

**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 and eraser.

**Instructor:** Jeff Cohen

## Politics by Other Means

Mondays, March 2 – April 13 (7 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Hybrid- attend in-person (NB) or online  
Member: \$70 / Non-Member: \$105

We study politics most often through journalism and academic political science. In this course, we take a different approach, looking at politics through media where we- a political scientist and a trial lawyer- are admittedly inexpert, and invite OLLI-RU students to join the exploration. Each week we will use a different medium to deal with the permanent issues of politics, such as loyalty, compromise, resistance. The media and examples we will consider are: **Short Stories**-Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*; **Novels**- Kurt Vonnegut's *Player Piano*; **Plays**-Sophocles' *Antigone* and Shakespeare's *Richard III*; **Music**- National Anthems; and **Architecture**- Washington, DC and other cities. We look forward to an unconventional time together. (course code HYM12)

**Instructors:** Gerry Pomper and Lou Ruprecht



## The Quest: Searching for Your Ancestors Online

Mondays, March 2 – April 6 (*6 weeks*)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$60 / Non-Member: \$90

Searching for your ancestors online? Overwhelmed by thousands of potential hits or frustrated with “no results found?” This 6-week class will look at strategies to help refine your online searching whether using websites such as Ancestry or FamilySearch, search engines such as Google, Bing, Yahoo, or lesser-known online genealogy research portals. We will explore both free and paid searching resources. (course code RM13)

**Instructor:** Carla Zimowsk

## Tough-Talking Smart and Sassy: The Dames of Howard Hawks Films

Mondays, March 2 – April 20 (*8 weeks*)  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

No matter the genre, auteur director Howard Hawks became known for his strong male heroes, men of action who operate within a professional or personal code. However, unlike most directors of his time, Hawks is also celebrated for his powerful female characters, women who stepped outside the Hollywood norm, not damsels in distress or sexualized objects, but who were known for their spunk, charisma, intelligence and ability to be cool under pressure. Film Critic Molly Haskell contends that “Hawks has given us some of the most exhilaratingly rambunctious and assertive heroines in cinema.”

“The Hawksian woman,” with a nickname like Cesca, Poppi, Bonnie Lee, Sugarpuss, Hildy, Slim, Lorelei Lee, Tess Millay or Feathers, was always the “ball of fire” that lit the flame in even the bravest of tough guys or most sophisticated of men by her independence, her witty, rapid-fire banter and ability to challenge and often overpower her man. Whether she’s played by Katherine Hepburn, Barbara Stanwyk, Rosalind Russell, Carole Lombard, Jane Russell, Marilyn Monroe, Ann Dvorzak or Hawks’ favorite, Lauren Bacall, she was tough, sexy and beautiful, and garnered the respect of all the guys. In this course, we’ll be watching these incandescent dames in action in a sampling of Hawks’ most famous films. (course code NBM14)

**Instructor:** Jane Lasky-MacPherson

## Two Novels by Thomas Hardy

Mondays, April 6 – May 4 (5 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

We will explore two of Thomas Hardy's most powerful and controversial novels—***Tess of the d'Urbervilles*** (1892) and ***Jude the Obscure*** (1895)—focusing on how Hardy interrogates love, social constraint, religion, fate, and the collision of personal desire with Victorian moral and class expectations. We will first trace Tess's arc from innocence to tragedy, examining how Hardy uses setting, nature vs. modernity, and the social double standard (especially around gender and sexual purity) to critique societal injustice and the follies and hypocrisies of Victorian culture. Then we will turn to *Jude the Obscure*, considering Jude and Sue's intellectual and emotional ambitions, the barriers erected by class and education, an early portrait of what the twentieth century would later call the "counterculture," Hardy's caustic portrayal of religion, and the interplay of fate, chance, and narrative design. Throughout, participants will engage with the novels' resonances for today's questions of identity, autonomy, and social constraint. (course code NBV15)

**Instructor:** Nicholas Birns

## MONDAY Late Afternoon

## Joseph Campbell Mythos I: The Shaping of Our Mythic Tradition

Mondays, March 2 – March 30 (5 weeks)  
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

Joseph Campbell synthesizes decades of study on psychology, ethnology, and comparative mythology to discuss what he called "the one great story" of humanity. Mythos I: The Shaping of Our Mythic Tradition, explores the foundations of myth in human consciousness. In each class, we'll watch a Joseph Campbell lecture, about 50-55 minutes, followed by a discussion of its meaning and relevance to our lives. I hope you'll join me on the journey. The topics covered include:

1. Psyche and Symbol: The psychological sources of myths and dreams.
2. The Spirit Land: How myths imbued the world with meaning for early societies.
3. On Being Human: The emergence of myth in hunter-gatherer cultures.
4. From Goddess to God: The shift in divine personification from feminine to masculine deities.
5. The Mystical Life: The non-biblical mythic strains that influenced the Western world. (course code RV16)

**Instructor:** Charlie Pearlman

## Lost in One's Own Mind- Exploring Myths and Facts about Dementia

Mondays, April 20 – May 4 (3 weeks)  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$35 / Non-Member: \$53

One of the most common concerns among older adults is dementia. However, there is often confusion and fear around the term, which can make older adults fall victim to scams that promise to enhance or regain memory. This course will discuss the differences between normal age-related memory changes and dementia; describe the evidence behind popular "memory enhancers" and supplements; identify the effects that medications can have on memory; and offer tips to help preserve memory. (course code RM17)

**Instructor:** Dr. Donna Lisi

### **Donna Lisi**, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, BCACP, BCPP, BCMTMS, CDP, FASCP and FAAPP

Donna is a Clinical Pharmacist and a Certified Dementia Practitioner. She has worked in the field of Geriatrics since 1985. Dr. Lisi has given presentations on dementia to both caregivers and fellow health professionals. She facilitated an Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Group for 5 years in her community.

## Poetic Voices of the Holocaust

Mondays, April 13 – April 27 (3 weeks)  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$35 / Non-Member: \$53

This course presents the poetry of those who perished and those surviving the Holocaust who out of the darkness of inhumanity found words for an experience devoid of humanity and in their poetic images created humanity. The poetry of the children of the Terezin Concentration Camp preserved in the book *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* will be dramatically read with analysis and class discussion. Class will learn the historical background of Terezin and of the artistic teaching by Friedl Dicker-Brandeis. From the definitive anthology *Art From the Ashes*, the poetry of Nelly Sachs, Abraham Sutzkever, Paul Celon and Miklos Radnoti will be dramatically read with background presented beforehand for each poet, analysis and class discussion. Students can choose to obtain the two books, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* (Schocken Books) and *Art From the Ashes* (Oxford University Press). An enlightened understanding and perception of the Holocaust will be experienced by students and the gift of the art of poetry. (course code RM18)

**Instructor:** Ronni Rose

### Meet new instructor **Ronni Rose**

Ronni Rose is a poet who celebrates life through nature. As a teacher, she has taught the poetry of the Holocaust for years and more recently on the national, international Judaic online website Keeping It Sacred. Ronni was jazz director for over a decade working with leading performers and recording artists. As an Adult Education Chair, she has been directing a film series at Temple B'nai Shalom (East Brunswick).

# TUESDAY Morning

## Buddhist Art and Architecture of South Asia

Tuesdays, March 3 – March 31 (5 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

For over 2000 years, Buddhism and Buddhist Art of South Asia has made a significant contribution to the world of art, architecture, sculpture, and paintings. It has excited art historians, tourists, and people around the world because of its diversity and richness. This course will cover topics like the ancient caves of Ajanta and Ellora, iconic images of Buddha, Bodhisattvas, and the Tanka painting of Tibet. (course code RV19)

**Instructor:** Sayyid Tirmizi

## Drawing Workshop

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 5 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

Remember, the more you draw, the better you will get at it. Now you can experiment with different drawing materials as well as various subject matter. You will try your hand at graphite pencils, charcoal, pen and ink, tea staining. We will draw the human figure, portraits, landscapes, still life studies and more. Come draw with me.

**Supplies needed:** F Faber/Castell graphite pencil, 3B Faber/Castell graphite pencil, 7B Faber/Castell graphite pencil, General charcoal pencil (soft), a ball point pen (black ink), pink beveled eraser, 11"x14" 50 lb. stock Bienfang or Strathmore sketch pad. (course code RT20)

**Instructor:** Jeff Cohen

## The Films of Robert Redford

Tuesdays, March 3 – March 24 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

Robert Redford, who recently passed away on September 16, 2025 at the age of 89, appeared in over 50 films. While he began his career on television in the late 1950s, appearing in anthology series such as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *The Twilight Zone* and made his Broadway debut in Neil Simon's comedy *Barefoot in the Park* (1963), Redford achieved Hollywood stardom in the late 1960s with *Barefoot in the Park* (1967), *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969) and more. In this class we will explore a sample of four classic Robert Redford films: ***The Sting*** (1973), ***Three Days of the Condor*** (1975), ***All the President's Men*** (1976) and ***The Natural*** (1984). Watch the films on your own before each class (in the order they are listed) and we will discuss them in class. (course code RM21)

**Instructor:** Bruce Tucker



## In the Time of the Tudors: The Seymour Family

Tuesdays, March 3 – March 24 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

The Seymours lived quietly at Wolf Hall in Wiltshire County when their daughter, Jane, became Henry VIII's third wife. This is the fascinating story of Jane's short tenure as Queen, the education, ideals and rule of her son Edward VI and the political dominance of her brothers, Edward and Thomas, who sought power amidst accusations of treason, rebellions and ongoing deceit at court. *(course code RM22)*

**Instructor:** Lyndell O'Hara

## An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 5 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

Artificial Intelligence (AI) seems to make headlines every day—transforming the way we work, create, and even think—but what does it really mean for us? This course will help you make sense of the rapidly changing world of AI through engaging lectures, live demonstrations, and hands-on exploration as we 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 smartphone to try guided exercises. 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, along with today's buzzwords, from “multimodal models” to “GPUs” and “NVIDIA.” Over ten weeks, we'll take a deeper look at the foundations of AI while exploring how these ideas have leapt off the screen and into the physical world. We'll review today's industrial robots, humanoid devices, and recent advances in autonomous vehicles. *(course code RT23)*

**Instructor:** Frank Wallace

## It's in Your Blood! From Types and Cells to Clots and Disorders

Tuesdays, March 24 – April 21 (5 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in Freehold  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

Come be interactive and have some laughs as you learn about blood. Explore its many actions, components, blood cell formation, how some cells leave the blood, their functions and final destruction. Find out about all eight blood types, the universal donor and recipient and why blood is either positive or negative. Learn about transfusions and what happens when a mom and fetus have different blood types. Understand hemoglobin's make up and importance, blood doping and why carbon monoxide is so dangerous. Learn about hemoglobin and AIC, hemophilia, leukemia, embolisms, thrombus, edema and much more. *(course code FV24)*

**Instructor:** Barbara Bogner

## Let's Make a Scene

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 5 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

This acting class will utilize scenes from plays and films to help both novice and more experienced actors develop their skills. So, whether you are a beginner or someone with more experience, using scripts and screenplays will allow you to work from the text up to create believable characters and make active, text-driven choices. No memorization will be required. (course code NBT25)

**Instructor:** Susan Speidel



**Susan Speidel was awarded the  
Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award for Fall 2025  
by members of the OLLI-RU Advisory Council.**

## A Reading of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 5 (10 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

“I am attracted only to music which I consider to be better than it can be performed,” Artur Schnabel, the great concert pianist and teacher, once said. I would expand on this description of music -- “better than it can be performed,” to include “or read” as it readily fits *Hamlet*.

*Hamlet* is, perhaps, Shakespeare’s most intensely psychological play, and his longest. An examination of youthful loyalty, filial love, and confusion, the play seems deeper than anything that we can say about it – a revenge tragedy on a profound level, a portrayal of the effects of coming-of-age angst and despair, a contest between innocence and evil -- and all written in arguably the most moving poetry in Shakespeare and, perhaps, in all literature. Because of its length and our constrained time, I will read the play, line-by-line, as I usually do. But all of us will add to it our observations, experiences, and responses along the way.

**Required Text:** Please have a copy of the play with you at our first meeting. Any edition – Folger, Signet, Arden, etc.– will do, as long as it is Shakespeare’s original text (not a “friendly, modern translation,” although such a modernization can be very helpful as a side-by-side guide to Shakespeare’s language) and with the lines numbered for easy reference. I recommend a paperback edition as you may want to highlight/underline certain passages in the text. No previous experience with Shakespeare is necessary. (course code RT26)

**Instructor:** Allen Ascher

## The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels

Tuesdays, March 3 – April 14 (7 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$70 / Non-Member: \$105

*“With compelling narratives of past eras of strife and disenchantment, Meacham offers wisdom for our own time.” – Walter Isaacson*

Using Jon Meacham's book, ***The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels***, we will immerse ourselves in the struggles for justice throughout the history of America. His insights and our own will inspire and challenge us as we participate in the continuing struggle for the better angels of the American soul. Class members will be expected to read the book and share their insights. (course code NBT27)

**Instructor:** Brooks Smith

## Spring Poetry Workshop

Tuesdays\*, March 3–April 28 (8 wks; \*no class 3/24) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Member: \$80 / Non-Member: \$120

In our workshop-style class we will write poems on a range of subjects, with a focus on meaning and craft. We'll read and consider published poems by a diverse group of poets who come at poem-making in different ways, leading us to lively discussions about meaning, technique, voice, and creative choices. A prompt will be given each week for a new poem, stemming from our work in class. Everyone will have a chance to share their poems and to participate in non-competitive, supportive critique. (course code RM28)

**Instructor:** Maxine Susman

# TUESDAY Early Afternoon

## Art Through the Ages

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 5 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

This is your chance to hear about the various movements in art history and actually become a part of them. Each week you will learn about a period in art history. Then you will have the opportunity to create a piece of your own in the style of that period. Decorate pottery like the ancient Greeks, explore French Impressionism, experiment with Picasso's Cubism, and so much more. It's great fun. (course code RM29)

**Supplies needed:** #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.

**Instructor:** Jeff Cohen

## Five Short Stories: Edgar Allan Poe Creates Detective Fiction

Tuesdays\*, March 3 – April 7 (5 wks- \*no class 3/17) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

Let's leave that pit, pendulum, and all those rats behind, and meet Edgar Allan Poe's detective C. Auguste Dupin of Paris. We will read Poe's first published short story ***The Gold-Bug*** (a treasure, a scarab, a number puzzle, and a freed slave;) ***The Mystery of Marie Roget*** (a true-crime story based on a murder in New Jersey;) ***The Purloined Letter*** (using math, poetry, and stream of consciousness to solve crime;) and ***The Murders in the Rue Morgue*** (deductive reasoning and the process of elimination.) Sherlock Holmes (in an excerpt from *A Study in Scarlet*) may have thought Dupin "a very inferior fellow," but we will learn differently together. (course code RV30)

**Instructor:** Maureen McVeigh-Berzok

## Masterworks of World Cinema

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 5 (10 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

This course presents ten international films from seven different countries. Each film is seen and discussed in terms of its director, style, form, and unique technical language. The films selected provisionally are: ***The Browning Version*** (Asquith/UK), ***Iphigenia*** (Cacoyannis/Greece), ***Monsoon Wedding*** (Nair/India), ***Eyes Wide Shut*** (Kubrick/USA-UK), ***Él*** (Buñuel/Mexico), ***Paris, Texas*** (Wenders/USA-Germany), ***Room Next Door*** (Almodóvar/USA-Spain), ***Rififi*** (Dassin, France), ***Playtime*** (Tati/France), ***Breaking the Waves*** (von Trier/Denmark). Three of the films are 2.5 hours long. The final list will be distributed in the first class. (course code NBT31)

**Instructor:** Dr. Keki Dadachanji

## Revision Strategies for Memoir Writing

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 5 (10 weeks) Location: Online  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

This course explores how re-seeing a moment through time, perspective, and imagination can transform a personal memory into art. Each week, participants will experiment with re-entering a scene — a birthday, a loss, a triumph — from a different angle: another character's point of view, a distant future reflection, or even a vicarious experience imagined through empathy. By bending time or shifting voice, writers discover new emotional truths and meanings hidden in familiar memories. Drawing inspiration from memoirists, poets, novelists, and filmmakers, we'll practice revising not just for polish but for perception. Through guided exercises, discussion, and optional readings, participants will learn how to move from remembering to re-visioning — turning life's raw material into resonant story. This 10-week workshop offers a creative, compassionate space to refine the craft of reflection. (course code RT32)

**Instructor:** Deborah Greenhut

## A Smorgasbord of Films

Tuesdays, March 3 – May 5 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

The ten films curated for the course come from a range of countries - Argentina, Canada, China, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States - and span a wide variety of genres and themes. Topics include friendship, loneliness, unsolved murder, deceit, secrets, first test tube baby, secret agents, resilience, life of depth and beauty, changing America, family unity, adaptation, the mastermind of the Holocaust, and the all-black, all-female 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (nicknamed the six triple eight) deployed overseas during World War II.

The films are available on Netflix and must be viewed at home prior to the weekly class discussion.

The films will be discussed in the order listed here: ***Official Secrets, Match Point, Left-Handed Girl, The Train Dreams, Only We Know, Operation Finale, Joy-The Birth of IVF, Six Triple Eight, A Jazzman's Blues, Sundown.*** (course code RT33)

**Instructors:** Roz and Steve Shaw

## Southern Soul Scene: Music in the 1960s

Tuesdays, April 7 – May 5 (5 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

The course will present a survey of the sounds emerging from Southern states during soul music's great decade. We'll focus on the individual careers of such artists as Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, and Etta James. We'll also examine the distinctive styles developed at such legendary studios as Stax in Memphis and FAME in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. No preparation for attendees will be necessary. Presentation with music, photos, lyrics, etc. will be followed by group discussion. (course code RT34)

**Instructor:** Paul Howe



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# WEDNESDAY Morning

## Acrylic Art

Wednesdays\*, March 4–May 13 (10 wks-*\*no class 3/25*) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

Get ready to unveil your artistic skills! Learn and apply the basic techniques of acrylic art and create an aesthetic painting on canvas. Students will learn about blending acrylic colors, applying brush techniques and creating a lovely artwork while having a relaxing experience. Each student receives step-by-step guidance and personalized attention. Students will have a reference painting (created by the instructor) to use during this class to which they can add their own creative touch as well. (course code NBT35)

**Supplies needed:** White stretched and primed canvas (preferred sizes: 11" x 14" or 12" x 16"); acrylic paint set (preferably "Apple Barrel" bottled paint set); acrylic paint brushes (preferably "Artecho" set with a variety of flat, round and thin brushes); 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 Collage Seascape

Wednesdays, March 4 – April 8 (6 weeks) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$60 / Non-Member: \$90

We will explore the materials of collage and how they can be used to create a seascape. This is a fun course that dives into the freedom that collage can bring to creating fresh and new seascapes. With Matisse as our main source of inspiration, we will chart new ways to interpret and explore the sea and the beach. Our first project will combine acrylic paint and mixed media paper to see how different textures can be conjured up by applying the paint in unusual ways. The second project will be inspired by a series of paintings Henri Matisse made on the coast of Normandy. Our interpretation will feature dramatic cliffs and a still life of sea creatures on a nest of sea weed using acrylic paint, paper collage and materials from magazine photos. The third project will also draw on the work of Matisse but at a later stage in his career. We will paint pieces of paper in an array of colors using acrylic paint and then cut forms from them which will become an ocean scene of dazzling hues and shapes. The simplified forms and strong color of Matisse's cut outs will become the inspiration and guiding star for our projects. (course code RM36)

**Required Supplies:** a set of acrylic paints, brushes (at least one detail, one half inch, and one larger brush), glue, scissors and a pad of mixed media paper ideally 18"x 14".

**Instructor:** Joel Adas

## Meet new instructor Joel Adas

Joel is a painter living and working in Cape May, NJ. He has taught art to all age groups using a variety of media, previously in Brooklyn, NY where he resided for 25 years. Joel teaches with an aim of using art history as a source of inspiration.

## The Contemporary Irish Novel

Wednesdays, March 4 – May 6 (10 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

This course will examine several of the best Irish novels published in this century. We will begin with ***The Story of Lucy Gault*** by William Trevor, and examine ***Milkman*** by Anna Burns and ***The Gathering*** by Anne Enright. The course will conclude with ***Old Gods Time*** by Sebastian Barry and ***Small Things Like These*** by Clare Keegan. Central to the course will be how—and why—history is so important in the narratives we will encounter. (course code NBT37)

**Instructor:** George Schroeffer

## Logic and Critical Thinking

Wednesdays, March 4 – May 6 (10 weeks) Location: Online  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

Logic is the study of the principles of sound reasoning. It establishes standards for the way we ought to reason if we seek to reason well. Logic is central to exercising critical thinking: the ability to evaluate our own reasoning and the reasoning of others, enabling us to recognize common fallacies or errors that underpin what we often mistake for good reasoning. The goal of this course is to promote a greater capacity for sound reasoning and an awareness of the various ways our reasoning can go wrong. Topics include the nature of claims, the differences between facts and opinions, and between objective and subjective claims. We'll consider how we often fall victim to rhetoric and rhetorical devices, the way that ambiguities of language hamper good reasoning, and examine a host of common informal fallacies. Attention will be given to the nature and function of arguments and the difference between deductive and inductive arguments. Unfamiliar language and terminology will be clearly defined and questions are always welcome. Students are encouraged to engage in discussion. (course code RT38)

**Instructor:** Alison Brown

## **Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie**

Wednesdays, March 4 – May 6 (10 weeks) Location: Online

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

Published in 1981 *Midnight's Children* is a Best of the Booker novel which uses magical realism to tell the story of Saleem Sinai, a boy born at midnight on 14th-15th August 1947, the exact moment of India's independence from British rule. Just hours before the country had been partitioned to form the new nation of Pakistan. The novel is an allegory for the political events of the region, covering about thirty years. This class is for those who are familiar with Magic Realism and would like more of it, and also serves as an introduction to this literary genre for readers approaching it for the first time. (course code RT39)

**Instructor:** Vandana Walia

## **Rome: How the Losers of the Trojan War Became the Masters of the Mediterranean World**

Wednesdays, March 4 – March 25 (4 wks) Location: Online

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

The course will begin with a summary of Virgil's *Aeneid* - the great epic story of Rome's beginning. It will go on to consider how the early Romans overthrew their Etruscan kings, established a republican form of government in a world of monarchs and despots, and went on to conquer first the Italian peninsula and then the entire Mediterranean world. The sources used for the course will be Robert Fitzgerald's translation of the *Aeneid*, *The Rise of Rome* by Livy, and *The Classical World* by Robin Lane Fox. No books need to be purchased and no prior knowledge of Roman history or the Latin language is required. (course code RM40)

**Instructor:** Barbara Griffin

## **The Six Books of the Mishnah**

Wednesdays, March 4 – March 25 (4 wks) Location: Online

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

At the Passover Seder we sing a song one of whose verses asks the question "Who knows six?" and the answer is "Six are the books of the Mishnah." In this course, which ends just before Passover, you will learn what those six books are all about. In each session, we will focus on one of the books of the Mishnah, and look at and discuss a sample of teachings that are in that book. You don't need to have a Jewish background and, indeed, you don't have to be Jewish, to enjoy and benefit from this course. (course code RT41)

**Instructor:** Joe Rosenstein

# WEDNESDAY Early Afternoon

## Modern Social Connection: The Art and Science of The Well-Connected Life

Wednesdays, March 4 – March 25 (4 wks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

In today's fast-paced digital world, sustaining strong social ties has never been more essential—or more challenging. Division, competition, and uncertainty have frayed our social fabric and undermined our collective well-being. Yet research is clear: strong relationships and community ties boost one's health and well-being, even longevity. This course explores the current state of social connection and what it means to live a well-connected life in an era of division and declining trust. We'll examine why strong social ties matter to both individuals and communities; how modern life makes social connection difficult; and how to build better relationships and connection. Students will come away with strategies and resources for building social ties and stronger relationships; and approaches for navigating across divides (e.g., generational, cultural or political). Each session combines short presentations with lively facilitated discussions and in-class activities enriched with a curated set of readings and podcasts. *(course code NBM42)*

**Instructor:** Polly Palumbo

### Meet new instructor **Polly Palumbo**

Polly Palumbo is a social psychologist, well-being coach and social connection strategist, with over two decades of experience promoting well-being, belonging, and connection across academic, nonprofit, and organizational settings. While she began her career researching what pulls people apart (bias, discrimination), she now works to bring people together and she enjoys facilitating transformative conversations with people of all ages. Currently, Polly leads evidence-based trainings, workshops and coaching programs that help people build social connection and stronger relationships and also serves as an Ambassador for the Foundation for Social Connection in Washington, DC.



Scan the QR code to go directly to the OLLI-RU website.

## Presidential War Powers

Wednesdays, March 4 – March 25 (4 wks) Location: Online

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

A declaration of war is a formal declaration issued by a national government indicating that a state of war exists between that nation and another. For the United States, Article One, Section Eight of the Constitution says "Congress shall have power to ... declare War." The last time the United States formally declared war, using specific terminology, on any nation was in 1942 when war was declared against Axis-aligned Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania. Since then, every American president has used military force without a declaration of war. In this class we will explore the evolution of the President's war powers since WW2 starting with Korea in 1950, Vietnam in 1964, the War Powers act of 1973, the Gulf Wars, the impact of the 9/11 attack and most recently, the War in Afghanistan. (course code RM43)

**Instructor:** Bruce Tucker

## Space Exploration Films

Wednesdays, April 8 – April 29 (4 weeks) Location: Online

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

Many films have been made about space travel, from early science fiction fantasies to more realistic explorations of what leaving Earth might mean for humanity. This course focuses on films that take space travel seriously—not just as spectacle, but as a way to explore how humans might be changed by the experience and what we might discover about ourselves. We begin with two influential films from the 1950s and 1960s, created before humans actually traveled to the Moon, and then contrast them with two films made after spaceflight became a reality. Students are required to view each film prior to the corresponding class session. The films, to be viewed in the order listed, are: **Forbidden Planet** (1956), **2001: A Space Odyssey** (1968), **Gravity** (2013), and **The Martian** (2015). (course code RM44)

**Instructor:** Bruce Tucker

## Spring Flowers in Watercolor

Wednesdays, April 8 – May 6 (5 weeks) Location: Online

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

We will paint five lovely spring flowers in watercolor: Pink Stargazer lilies, Rainbow tulips, Yellow Trumpet daffodils, Purple pansies, and Zebra Blue primrose. Drawing and painting samples will be provided by the instructor, with particular attention given to the anatomy and details of each flower. The material has been developed so that it is available to students at all levels of ability: no previous art experience is required. Required materials: 8 color watercolor paint set and mixing tray, or tubes and watercolor palettes; 98 lb. medium grain 9"x12" mixed media pad; Student grade #1 and #6 watercolor round brushes. (course code RM45)

**Instructor:** Karl Lorenzen



## The Universe: What We Know and Don't Know

Wednesdays, March 4 – May 13 (10 weeks; no class 3/18)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

This course will explore what we have learned about the fundamental nature of the universe and what are the current mysteries and unknowns. We will discuss both the smallest and the largest aspects of the universe: the fundamental building blocks from which all is made (elementary particle physics) and the history and structure of the universe as a whole (cosmology). The goal is for the students to obtain an understanding of what fundamental physics research is (what we know) and what the pressing questions are that we are striving to answer (what we don't know). The discussion will be at an accessible level to the non-scientist and use of mathematics will be kept to a minimum. Students with a familiarity of simple high school mathematics, arithmetic and algebra, should be well prepared. Copies of class notes and presentation slides will be provided.

(course code NBT46)

**Instructor:** Stephen Schnetzer

### Meet new instructor **Stephen Schnetzer**

Stephen Schnetzer is a retired professor in the Rutgers Physics & Astronomy Department. His field of research was elementary particle physics and he most recently participated in experiments at the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland. He was the Undergraduate Program Director in the P&A Department from 2015 to 2018 and has taught courses at all levels: introductory, advanced undergraduate and graduate as well as first-year Byrne Seminars.

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**Thank you!!**

# THURSDAY Morning

## Agatha Christie's *The Body in the Library*

Thursdays, April 9 – April 30 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

Agatha Christie is one of the most important writers of classic mysteries and detective fiction in the history of world literature. In this course we will read and discuss Agatha Christie's *The Body in the Library*. This novel, which involves murder, deception, greed, manipulated identities, and malevolent intrigues, features the amazing Miss Marple who effectively solves the crimes. (course code RV47)

**Instructor:** Hugo Walter

## The Courts, The Law, and the Administration-Part II

Thursdays, April 9 – May 7 (5 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

This course will continue the subject matter discussed during the Fall semester; namely, the unprecedented litigation involving extraordinary actions taken by the Trump administration. Since this is a continually unfolding story, we do not know which matters will be most important when we gather. Suffice it to say, there will be no shortage of material. It is not essential that you participated in the Fall course to appreciate the subjects we will be considering. (course code RV48)

**Instructor:** Lou Ruprecht

## Dancing Masters of Broadway Musicals

Thursdays, March 5 – April 2 (5 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

If life's a dance, music is the rhythm, and the choreographer is God... or the director ... or both! In this course, we will explore the trademarks and styles of Gower Champion, Bob Fosse, Casey Nicholaw, Rob Ashford, Jerry Mitchell, Chris Gattelli, Josh Bergasse and many more. Join us, watch clips, and discuss from a director's view of dance. (course code RM49)

**Instructors:** Sam and Candy Caponegro

## Emma by Jane Austen

Thursdays, March 5 – April 2 (5 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

In Jane Austen's own words "I am going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like." Emma Woodhouse, the protagonist of the novel is indeed a complex character and the subject of much literary debate. In this class we will travel to nineteenth century England and the world of tea parties, romantic intrigues, and quite a bit of match making all written in Austen's inimitable style, revealing her genius as a world class writer.

(course code RV50)

**Instructor:** Vandana Walia

## Grow Old Along with Me: How Aging Has Been Portrayed on Screen

Thursdays\*, March 19 – May 7 (7 weeks; \*no class 4/2)  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$70 / Non-Member: \$105

Leo Mc Carey's 1937 movie, *Make Way for Tomorrow*, is often cited as the first film to portray the elderly in a sensitive and realistic way. Using more modern films, join us as we explore the rich, complex and often poignant cinematic treatment of growing older in the years since that pioneering film. Among the genres represented are drama, comedy and fantasy, tackling themes such as aging, friendship, loss, conscious dying, resilience, connection and immortality. The films will spark meaningful conversations about aging with dignity, humor and hope. You will view each film BEFORE that week's class discussion, but AFTER reading your preparatory online film glossary assignment. NOTE - Please check the site Justwatch.com for available viewing platforms. Also, Archive.org (the Internet Archive of various media forms) may offer free viewing opportunities.

The tentatively selected films are: 3/19: ***Driving Miss Daisy***; 3/26: ***The Lady in the Van***; 4/9: ***The Curious Case of Benjamin Button***; 4/16: ***Still Mine***; 4/23: ***Quartet***; 4/30: ***The Farewell Party***; 5/7: ***Limelight*** (Chaplin).

(course code RM51)

**Instructor:** Sally Bauer Cohen

## Lullaby: A Writing Workshop Inspired by the Songs That Rock Us to Sleep

Thursdays, March 5 – April 9 (6 weeks)  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$60 / Non-Member: \$90

"Someday we'll all be gone, but lullabies go on and on: They never die; that's how you and I will be."

—from *Lullabye (Goodnight, My Angel)* by Billy Joel

*Rock-a-bye Baby. Tura Lura Lura. Silent Night.* The lullaby—a song sung when darkness falls—has comforted young and old alike since time immemorial. In this six-week online writing workshop, we'll explore lullaby's legendary realms: its origins, purposes and promises. Join us as we engage with work by King David, Shakespeare, Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, Annie Lennox and many others, using their songs of the night as starlight for poems, stories and memoirs of our own. Dreamers at all stages of their writing careers welcome.

(course code RM52)

**Instructor:** Shelley Benaroya

## Sinatra on Screen

Thursdays\*, March 5 – May 14 (10 wks; \*no class 4/16) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

This course offers an in-depth look at Frank Sinatra's prolific movie career, examining his transition from teen idol in musicals to a respected, Academy Award-winning dramatic actor and a commanding presence in Hollywood. We will delve into his on-screen persona, chart his evolution as a performer and actor, and contextualize his work within the shifting landscape of American culture. Come with us as we explore the cinematic artistry of one of the greatest performers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, screening his historic films on a large screen in the cinema room at OLLI-RU! (course code RT53)

**Instructor:** Jerry Wichinsky

## Watercolor Art

Thursdays\*, March 5–May 14 (10 wks- \*no class 3/26) Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

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 watercolor techniques. Students can add their own touch and creativity to the painting!

**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 participants. (course code NBT54)

**Instructor:** Komal Mehra

# THURSDAY Early Afternoon

## **Columbo in the Classroom Season Two**

Thursdays, April 9 – May 7 (5 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

Attention *Columbo* fans! Stressful times call for comfort TV watching. What could be more comfortable than watching Lieutenant Columbo solve a murder? We will watch and talk about some of the best *Columbo* episodes from its second season 1972-73. And just one more thing...these episodes are completely restored, and there are no commercials. (course code NBV55)

**Instructor:** Larry Stanley

## **India: Enigma or Opportunity?**

Thursdays, March 5 – May 7 (10 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

India is the world's most populous country and is on track to become the third-largest economy. It is a founding member of the United Nations and a leading participant in major international groups, including the G20 (Group of Twenty), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), and the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with the United States, Japan, and Australia). India also has one of the largest English-speaking populations in the world and shares many secular and democratic values with the United States. New Jersey—especially Middlesex County—is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Indian-heritage communities in the country, making this topic particularly relevant to our local region. In this course, we will delve into India's history, geography, culture, and economics, and explore the opportunities India and the United States represent for each other—and for the rest of the world. (course code RT56)

**Instructor:** Deepak Hegde

### **Meet new instructor Deepak Hegde**

Deepak is a retired management consultant and a former executive in the information technology sector in India and the USA. He was born and raised in India and has worked a significant part of his career in both countries. He has a deep understanding of India and keen interest in following the growth and development of the two countries. He has travelled extensively within the two countries and across the world. He is a BS, MBA, PMP.



## Irish Family History Research

Thursdays, March 5 – April 2 (5 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

Through lecture and discussion, students will learn strategies and resources for uncovering the stories of their Irish relatives. The course will be structured around types of available information such as censuses and census-equivalents, marriage, birth and death databases, newspapers and legal records including the courts and the military. It will be helpful if students are working on their Irish family tree simultaneously with the class. (course code RV57)

**Instructor:** Patricia Brady

## Jazz Giants and Rising Stars

Thursdays\*, March 5–April 9 (5 wks; \*no class 3/12)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

This course explores the lives, careers, and musical legacies of jazz greats who shaped the sound of the music across generations. Four classes will focus on Jazz Giants: alto saxophonist Lou Donaldson, vocalist Dinah Washington, alto saxophonist David Sanborn, and pianist/vocalist Nat “King” Cole. Through video listening sessions, discussion, and historical context, we will examine what made each artist distinctive and why their music continues to resonate today. One additional class will turn to Rising Stars, offering a look at some of today’s young jazz musicians who may become the Jazz Giants of tomorrow. Where possible, the course will be enriched with guest appearances by current jazz musicians. (course code RV58)

**Instructor:** Sanford Josephson

## The Powerful Messages our Homes Send, as Sellers and Dwellers

Thursdays, April 30 – May 7 (2 weeks)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick  
Member: \$25 / Non-Member: \$38

This two-session class focuses on the messages our homes are sending to the casual or interested observer – neighbor, visitor, home buyer – that as owners we have stopped hearing. As Sellers, capitalize on 3 key essentials that pay a Home Seller a Premium: Pricing (3 ways to price a house for sale and not leave money on the table); Condition (decluttering, furniture editing & home staging); and Negotiation (counter-offer, multiple-offer, compelling terms, market shifts and regulatory changes). As Dwellers not Selling, learn how to implement DIY strategies to live in style and comfort. (course code NBM59)

**Instructor:** Annette DeCicco

## Meet new instructor Annette DeCicco

Annette DeCicco began her career with a Masters Degree in Education, teaching at a community college. She holds a NJ real estate broker's license, has worked in real estate for 40 years and is on the executive team as director of education and development at a Berkshire Hathaway brokerage. She is a contributing writer for Inman News, an online real estate publication.

## THURSDAY Late Afternoon

### Yoga Sūtras of Patanjali

Thursdays, March 5 – May 7 (10 weeks)  
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Online  
Member: \$100 / Non-Member: \$150

The Bhagavad Gītā says that there are four ways to approach the spiritual goal of life. We choose the path based on our natural inclinations. Rāja Yoga, the path of “Meditation and Allied Disciplines” has received much attention lately as people struggle with stress, anxiety, lack of purpose, and unavoidable setbacks of life. The primary manual of “Meditation and Allied Disciplines” is “The Yoga Sūtras of Patanjali.” This is what the term “Yoga” originally meant. In this course we will take a deep dive into this subject, both theory and practice. Individual students can set personal goals for benefits to be derived from this course. The translation and commentaries by Prabhāvananda and Isherwood (“How to Know God”) will be supplemented by handouts.

(course code RT60)

**Instructor:** Keki Dadachanji

## FRIDAY Morning

### Hot Topics: A Moderated Discussion

Fridays, April 17 – May 8 (4 weeks)  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

The purpose of this course is to discuss policy issues, explore root causes and logical approaches, attempting to explore an issue from both sides of the political aisle. The focus will be more on issues, although some politics will be included. Our discussions will strive to go deeper into the issues/policies than what mainstream media and emotion-rousing news outlets cover. The topics/agenda to be discussed will be emailed a day before class so just come prepared to share your thoughts and opinions. We will occasionally use a segment from a policy discussion program for class material (e.g., CNN’s Fareed Zakaria, Michael Smerconish; Chris Cuomo; NPR and WNYC), or an article from a media newspaper (e.g., NYTimes, the Wall Street Journal). Topics will include: how the new administration’s doing (e.g., ICE tactics, foreign policy actions/results); Biden administration short-fallings; healthcare; the economy, inflation and national debt; climate change, along with changing energy policy and society’s energy needs; energy and AI datacenter operation; education and education costs; childcare costs and what action could be taken to reduce costs; the coming midterm elections; foreign affairs; term limits for House and Senate, what are the valuable and detrimental issues emanating from the political extremes and more! (course code RM61)

**Instructor:** Jeffrey Davis

# INSTRUCTOR BIOS

**Joel Adas** (pg. 29) is a painter living and working in Cape May, NJ. He has taught art to all age groups using a variety of media, previously in Brooklyn, NY where he resided for 25 years. Joel teaches with an aim of using art history as a source of inspiration.

**Allen Ascher** (pg. 25) has a doctorate in English from the CUNY Graduate Center. He taught English in middle school and high school and was an adjunct professor of English at Brookdale Community College. In 2023 he received the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award given by the OLLI-RU Advisory Council. "The major thing I've learned from my experience at OLLI-RU, and with its extraordinary participants, is that teaching is a collaborative and reciprocal effort -- no one teaches to an empty room."

**Shelley Benaroya** (pg.36) is a published poet and teaching artist who has helped students of all ages discover the poet and storyteller within. In addition to her role as founding director of the Writing Center for Creative Aging, she has been a poet-in-the-schools for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Writers Theatre, and NJPAC. In 2023, she joined the roster of teaching artists at Lifetime Arts, national leaders in creative aging programming. That same year, she received OLLI-RU's Marlene M. Pomper Teaching Award and is a past recipient of poetry and teaching fellowships from the NJSCA and Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

**Nicholas Birns** (pgs.18,21) 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.

**Barbara Bogner** (pg.24) taught Human Anatomy & Physiology courses full time for 30 years at the college level. She holds degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Villanova University and has been teaching classes for the Rutgers OLLI-RU program for nine years and still loves doing it!

**Maureen D. Brady** (pg.16) holds an MA in Irish and Irish American Studies from New York University, including coursework and research at Trinity College Dublin. Her interactive courses cover topics in Irish history, literature and culture. She is honored to be a recipient of OLLI-RU's Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award.

**Patricia Brady** (pg.39) is a retired psychologist whose longtime passion has been the genealogy of her family. She is enthusiastic about meeting with others who want to discover the stories in their families' pasts.

**Alison Brown** (pg.30) taught philosophy at Union County College for 25 years. She loves both teaching and philosophy and is interested in making philosophy's value, methods, and areas of focus accessible and translatable to our everyday lives. She is honored to be the recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Teaching Award.

**Kevin Buck** (pg.14) is the author of *A Concise History of Rock 'n' Roll*. He is fascinated by music history and the, myths/legends that abound within.

**Sam and Candy Caponegro** (pg.35) 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 Rutgers University OLLI, 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..

**Jeff Cohen** (pgs.17,19, 23, 26) 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 Award for teaching excellence.

**Sally Bauer Cohen** (pg.36) 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.

**Keki Dadachanji** (pg. 27, 40) Dr. Keki Dadachanji has a Doctorate in Operations research from Case Western Reserve University. He was a senior manager in American corporations for 30 years. Subsequently he was a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University and a teacher of mathematics and computer science at Parsippany High School. Dr. Dadachanji is a certified Yoga teacher and his interests span religion, philosophy, yoga, literature, mathematics, and international cinema. Dr. Dadachanji is a recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Award for excellence in teaching.

**Jeffrey Davis** (pg.40) worked in the information technology arena and has had a long-held interest in public policy issues. He enjoys leading a variety of policy discussion groups, including at OLLI-RU. Jeffrey has attended lectures/watched programs sponsored by the PBS Newshour, Michael Smerconish and Fareed Zakaria's GPS on CNN, the Eagleton Institute of Politics, the Brennan Center for Justice, NoLabels and others.

**Annette DeCicco** (pg. 39) began her career with a Masters Degree in Education, teaching at a community college. She holds a NJ real estate broker's license, has worked in real estate for 40 years and is on the executive team as director of education and development at a Berkshire Hathaway brokerage. She is a contributing writer for *Inman News*, an online real estate publication.

**Steve Frankel** (pg.18) 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 50 years, organizing tours and educational experiences and lecturing internationally about Jewish Life at the end of the Temple Period. He recently retired from The Israel Experience as the Director of their Birthright Onward Israel programs, and now does guiding at "ANU-The Museum of the Jewish People" in Tel Aviv, and "The Menachem Begin Center" in Jerusalem.

**Deborah Greenhut** (pg.27) is an award-winning author of a novel, 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).

**Barbara Griffin** (pg.31) is a retired, highly experienced educator who taught at both the high school and college level for 40 years, where she shared her love of the history, literature and language of Ancient Rome. She holds a B.A. in Latin and an M.A. in history.

**Deepak Hegde** (pg. 38) is a retired management consultant and a former executive in the information technology sector in India and the USA. He was born and raised in India and has worked a significant part of his career in both countries. He has a deep understanding of India and keen interest in following the growth and development of the two countries. He has travelled extensively within the two countries and across the world. He is a BS, MBA, PMP.

**Rob Herber** (pg.15) is an energetic advertising person who has a B.S. in Chemistry, an M.B.A. in Pharmaceutical Management, and 20 years of having a seat at the table with marketing teams at some of the world's largest pharma companies. As a veteran of delivering workshops that make complex topics joyful, his course materials are dynamic and engaging. From May to October, you can find him sailing his Hobie Catamaran.

**Paul Howe** (pg.28) 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.

**Sanford Josephson** (pg.39) is editor of *Jersey Jazz Magazine* and author of two books: *Jazz Notes: Interviews Across the Generations* (Praeger/ABC-Clio: 2009) and *Jeru's Journey: The Life and Music of Gerry Mulligan* (Hal Leonard Books: 2015). His courses combine informed commentary with an enthusiasm for sharing great music.

**Jane Lasky-MacPherson** (pg. 20) has numerous years of experience teaching in her field as she recently retired from a 47-year career teaching English and Cinema Studies. She most recently was an Associate Professor at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ. Prior to that, she taught full-time at Essex County College in Newark, NJ..

**Donna Lisi** (pg.22) PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, BCACP, BCPP, BCMTMS, CDP, FASCP and FAAPP is a Clinical Pharmacist and a Certified Dementia Practitioner. She has worked in the field of Geriatrics since 1985. Dr. Lisi has given presentations on dementia to both caregivers and fellow health professionals. She facilitated an Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Group for 5 years in her community.

**Karl Lorenzen** (pg.33) 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).

**Ed Malberg** (pg.16) is a highly regarded veteran instructor and the recipient of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teaching Award. An adjunct professor at Raritan Valley Community College, Ed is a Rutgers graduate who holds a master's degree from the University of Kentucky and completed doctoral studies in American history at Northwestern University.

**Maureen McVeigh-Berzok** (pg. 27) is currently a professor at Middlesex College and Editor of *TAPinto East Brunswick*. Maureen has taught English for 43 years. She wants to help readers to re-engage with short stories and poetry.

**Komal Mehra** (pgs.17,29,37) 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.

**Lyndell O'Hara, PhD** (pg.24) is a retired history professor who taught for over 30 years at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Her main area of research and study is the Tudor Era of sixteenth century England.

**Polly Palumbo** (pg.32) Polly Palumbo is a social psychologist, well-being coach and social connection strategist, with over two decades of experience promoting well-being, belonging, and connection across academic, nonprofit, and organizational settings. While she began her career researching what pulls people apart (bias, discrimination), she now works to bring people together and she enjoys facilitating transformative conversations with people of all ages. Currently, Polly leads evidence-based trainings, workshops and coaching programs that help people build social connection and stronger relationships and also serves as an Ambassador for the Foundation for Social Connection in Washington, DC.

**Charlie Pearlman** (pg.21) has been studying mythology and various eastern philosophies for many years. He's always found that he learns much more from group discussions on these subjects than just reading about them on his own. Charlie has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, has written academic articles on creativity and motivation, and has taught OLLI-RU courses on the Tao, the Little Prince, the Alchemist, and Joseph Campbell's The Power of Myth. He also plays fiddle and guitar.

**Gerald Pomper** (pg.19) taught at Rutgers from 1962 to his formal retirement as Board of Governors Professor of Political Science in 2001. He continued to teach undergraduates until 2016 and has been a regular instructor for OLLI from 2004 to the present. With his family, he has funded the semi-annual Marlene M. Pomper teaching award.

**Daniel Possumato** (pg.14) is a retired senior civilian employee of the U.S. Army. He has a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and a diploma from the U.S. Army War College. He has taught at several OLLI programs in Maine and Pennsylvania. He is a dual U.S. — Italian citizen and enjoys sharing his knowledge of Italy with others.

**Ronni Rose** (pg.22) is a poet, who celebrates life through nature. As a teacher, she has taught the poetry of the Holocaust for years and more recently on the national, international Judaic online website Keeping It Sacred. Ronni was jazz director for over a decade working with leading performers and recording artists. As an Adult Education Chair, she has been directing a film series at Temple B'nai Shalom (East Brunswick).

**Joseph Rosenstein** (pg.31) was a professor of mathematics at Rutgers until he retired in 2017. Throughout his adult life he has been a student and a teacher of Judaism. He has published widely-used prayerbooks, which are both traditional and unconventional, and books on Jewish topics, as well as many mathematics publications. If you want to know more about him, check out his website [joerosenstein.com](http://joerosenstein.com)

**Lou Ruprecht** (pgs.19,35) has been a practicing lawyer for over 60 years and presently is the senior partner of a trial firm in Westfield, NJ. He was an adjunct law professor for many years and continues to lecture at continuing legal education meetings. He has tried hundreds of jury cases, civil and criminal, and has argued appeals in every level of state and federal courts. He is a recipient of the Marlene Pomper Teaching Award.

**Stephen Schnetzer** (pg.34) is a retired professor in the Rutgers Physics & Astronomy Department. His field of research was elementary particle physics and he most recently participated in experiments at the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland. He was the Undergraduate Program Director in the P&A Department from 2015 to 2018 and has taught courses at all levels: introductory, advanced undergraduate and graduate as well as first-year Byrne Seminars.

**George Schroepfer** (pg.30) is a recently retired Assistant Teaching Professor in the Writing Program at Rutgers. He has taught for many years at OLLI-RU and looks forward to a great semester with the students.

**Roz & Steve Shaw** (pg.28) 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.

**Brooks Smith** (pg.26) is a Presbyterian pastor with degrees from Wesleyan, University of Chicago, Colgate Rochester Divinity School and the New School. He has been active in the civil rights, peace and immigrant justice movements. His current interests focus on philanthropy, spiritual practices that are experientially grounded and justice struggles.

**Susan Speidel** (pg.25) 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.



**Larry Stanley** (pg. ) was a TV director for 32 years and received his BA in Broadcasting at San Francisco State University. He is a member of the Directors Guild of America.

**Maxine Susman** (pg.38) holds a Ph.D. in English from Cornell University. She was an Associate Director of the Writing Program at Rutgers, taught also at Seton Hall U. and Duksung Women's University (Seoul, Korea), and retired as Professor of English from Caldwell University. She has written eight books of poetry, published her work in dozens of journals, and gives community readings and workshops. A winner of the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teaching Award, she has taught at OLLIRU since 2013.

**Sayyid Tirmizi** (pg.23) (M.A., M.B.A., Ph.D.) is a former Associate and Adjunct Professor. Sayyid has taught both in the U.S. and abroad. He specializes in South Asian Art, culture, and religion as well as Islamic art history and culture. He has taught at the University of Tulane at the School of Continuing Education, at the City College of New York at OLLI-RU and OLLI Emory School of Continuing Studies.

**Bruce Tucker** (pgs.23,33) 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.31,36) 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.24) 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.35) has a B.A. from Princeton University, an M.A. from Old Dominion University, and a Ph.D. from Drew University. He has taught at Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Rutgers University. Dr. Walter has published several books on European and American literature including *Devoted to the Truth: Four Brilliant Investigators* (2022) and *Emissaries of Justice: Courageous Searchers for Missing Persons* (2025).

**Jerry Wichinsky** (pg.37) has over 40 years of experience in HR Management and Training. He is also a lifelong cinephile and Sinatraphile. He is also a veteran cabaret performer in NYC, NJ and PA.

**Carla Zimowsk** (pg.20) 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!

