

SUMMER 2026

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



IN PERSON
& ONLINE
COURSES

Stay Curious.




Summer 2026

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 Email:
olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu

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Scan this QR code to go directly to the OLLIRU 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 2026 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.

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. Parking is free for students.

MEMBERSHIP

- ★ Memberships are \$50 for 1 year and cover spring, summer, fall and winter.
- ★ It begins with spring session registration in January and runs through the winter session.
- ★ Memberships can be purchased at any point of the year but are not pro-rated.
- ★ Memberships are not required to take OLLI-RU courses.

Membership includes:

- ★ **Reduced rate for courses and other programming.**
- ★ **Longer withdrawal periods to receive a full refund.** Members can get a full refund if they notify OLLI-RU before the start of the 4th class meeting. Non-members only have until before the start of the 2nd 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.

- ★ **Local theater discounts.** Discount codes are sent to members after membership purchase.

How to sign up

- On our website, (olliru.rutgers.edu) click on “Register” tab.
- You will see “OLLI-RU Membership” as the first 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 April 14

REGISTRATION

How to Register Online

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



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

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

POLICIES



REFUND POLICY

MEMBERS

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

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

NON-MEMBERS

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

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

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

HOLIDAYS

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

RECORDINGS

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

MISSED CLASSES

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

CANCELED COURSES

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

CODE OF CONDUCT

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

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

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

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

Code of Conduct Procedure

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



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In-Person Courses

IN PERSON in NEW BRUNSWICK LOCATION

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>How They Croaked: The Curious Deaths of History's Famous and Infamous <i>Charlie Smith</i> 10:30 am – 11:30 am 6/1 – 6/22 (4 weeks)</p>	<p>Flannery O'Connor: Selected Short Stories <i>George Schroepfer</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/26 – 6/23 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Scam Landscape: Avoiding Fraud and Staying Vigilant Against Cybercrime 1 <i>Marty Siederer</i> 10:00 am – 12 pm June 10 HYBRID</p>	<p>Watercolor Art <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/28 – 6/25 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>The Art of Forest Bathing (Shinrin-yoku) 1 <i>Monica Shah</i> 10 am – 12 pm June 5 <i>Location will be at a park in Middlesex County</i></p>
<p>Paper Quilling <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 6/1 – 6/29 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Origami Workshop <i>Shelley Phillips</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 5/26 – 6/23 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>A Concise History Of The Beatles <i>Kevin Buck</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 6/3 – 6/10 (2 weeks)</p>	<p>Short Films: The Art of the Instant <i>Deepak Hegde</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 5/28 – 6/4 (2 weeks)</p>	
		<p>Oil Pastel & Colored Pencil Art <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/27 – 6/24 (5 weeks)</p>		
		<p>Orson Welles' Great Villains: Unbridled Ego, Ambition and Power <i>Jane Lasky-MacPherson</i> 1 pm – 3 pm 5/27 – 6/17 (4 weeks)</p>		
		<p>The Odyssey of Homer <i>Steve Yacik</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 5/27 – 6/17 (4 weeks)</p>		<p>1 This symbol means it's a one-day class</p>



Online Courses

ONLINE				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Chair Yoga and Relaxation <i>Pratibha Jani</i> 10:30 am – 11:30 am 6/1 – 6/22 (4 weeks)</p>	<p>Boss Rule in Jersey City: Hague, Kenny and Whelan <i>Peter Begans</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 6/2 – 6/9 (2 weeks)</p>	<p>American Sign Language Primer: How to Talk When the Band is Too Loud <i>Naomi Miller</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/27 – 6/24 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Elements of a Great Broadway Musical <i>Sam & Candy Caponegro</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/28 – 6/25 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Acrylic Art <i>Komal Mehra</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/29 – 6/26 (5 weeks)</p>
<p>Soul Sounds <i>Paul Howe</i> 10 am – 12 pm 6/1 – 6/29 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>The Importance of Being Hercule Poirot 1 <i>Hugo Walter</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm June 16</p>	<p>Emma by Jane Austen <i>Vandana Walia</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/27 – 6/24 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>In the Time of the Tudors: The Seymour Family <i>Lyndell O'Hara</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/28 – 6/18 (4 weeks)</p>	<p>Art of War: Selected Paintings from the American Revolution 1 <i>Steve Yacik</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm June 5</p>
<p>AI for Genealogy: Applications for Today's Family Historian <i>Carla Zimowsk</i> 1 pm - 2:30 pm 6/22 – 6/29 (2 weeks)</p>	<p>Summer Poetry Workshop <i>Maxine Susman</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/26 – 6/23 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Ignite Your Imagination: A Creative Practice for Well-Being <i>Monica Shah</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/27 – 6/17 (4 weeks)</p>	<p>A 250th Birthday: The Declaration of Independence <i>Lou Ruprecht</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 5/28 – 6/25 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Excel Basics 1 <i>Krishna kumaari Janakiraman</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm June 12</p>
<p>Attend the Tale: The Real Sweeney Todd and Sondheim's Masterpiece <i>Susan Speidel</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 6/1 – 6/22 (4 weeks)</p>	<p>Summer Sketch Class <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/26 – 6/23 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Scam Landscape: Avoiding Fraud and Staying Vigilant Against Cybercrime 1 <i>Marty Siederer</i> 10:00 am – 12 pm June 10 HYBRID</p>	<p>How to Listen to Jazz <i>Kevin Witt</i> 1 pm – 2 pm 5/28 – 6/25 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>The Secluded Self: Isolation in Literary Short Fiction <i>Mary Ann McGuigan</i> 10:30 am – 12 pm 5/29 – 6/26 (4 weeks) <i>*no class June 19</i></p>
<p>1 This symbol means it's a one-day class</p>	<p>Doing the Right Thing <i>Roz and Steve Shaw</i> 1 pm - 2:30 pm 5/26 – 6/23 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Writing Workshop: "Inner Weather" as Inspiration 1 <i>Deborah Greenhut</i> 10 am – 12 pm June 3</p>	<p>John Steinbeck's East of Eden <i>Nicholas Birns</i> 3 pm – 4:30 pm 5/28 – 6/25 (5 weeks)</p>	
	<p>Summer Painting Studio <i>Jeff Cohen</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 5/26 – 6/23 (5 weeks)</p>	<p>Cannabis in NJ: What It Is, How It Works, and What It Means for You <i>Stu Zakim</i> 1 pm – 2:30 pm 6/3 – 6/17 (3 weeks)</p>		

ONE-DAY CLASSES

Writing Workshop: "Inner Weather" as Inspiration

Wednesday, June 3
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$23

This two-hour writing workshop is inspired by Robert Frost's phrase "inner weather," which he used to describe the shifting landscape of our emotional lives. Writers of all levels and in all genres are invited to explore how feelings, moods, and inner experiences can shape creative work. Through a series of guided prompts and short writing exercises, participants will experiment with ways to describe and translate their "inner weather" onto the page—whether calm and reflective, turbulent and stormy, or somewhere in between. There will be opportunities to write, reflect, and, for those who wish, share their work in a supportive setting. The workshop is designed to spark new ideas, loosen creative muscles, and provide inspiration as you begin or renew your writing practice for the summer. *(course code RD1)*

Instructor: Deborah Greenhut

The Art of Forest Bathing (Shinrin-yoku)

Friday, June 5
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Middlesex County area park
Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$23

Forest bathing is the ancient practice of immersing yourself in nature to nurture deep well-being. This restorative remedy offers remarkable benefits: lower blood pressure and cortisol, improved mood and sleep, and even enhanced immunity. Join us for a meditative journey into the woods, where we'll walk slowly and mindfully (under 1 mile round trip) with ample time to pause, rest, and reflect. Through journaling, art, poetry, and gentle rituals, you'll reconnect with nature's beauty and wonder in ways that awaken the senses and quiet the mind. Bring: a notebook/journal and pen (art supplies like colored pencils or watercolors are welcome but optional). Wear: comfortable clothing you don't mind getting a bit earthy (long sleeves and sneakers recommended), or blanket for sitting. *(course code NBD2)*

Instructor: Monica Shah

Art of War: Selected Paintings from the American Revolution

Friday, June 5
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$23

"Every picture tells a story". Together we will examine some well-known paintings, depicting key people and events from the American Revolution. In addition to the images portrayed, we will delve deeper into the stories behind them: Who painted them? Why did they paint them? What did they intend to teach? *(course code RD3)*

Instructor: Steve Yacik

Scam Landscape: Avoiding Fraud & Staying Vigilant Against Cybercrime

Wednesday, June 10
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid-attend in-person (NB) or online
Member: **FREE** / Non-Member: **FREE**

OLLI-RU is pleased to offer this to the community at no charge.

Let's all learn how we can avoid identity theft, fraud and cybercrime!

Presented by AARP, this program helps empower individuals in the fight against fraud with proven resources and tools to help you spot and avoid identity theft and other fraud. In today's fast-paced online environment, protecting your personal information is more crucial than ever. This workshop is designed to empower you with the knowledge and tools to navigate the digital world safely. We'll cover how to stay safe in public, at home, when using social media and when shopping and banking. We'll also look at common scams and how to avoid them. *(course code HYD4)*

Instructor: Marty Siederer

Excel Basics

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

Location: Online
Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$23

This course will cover the basic concepts of MS Excel. Students will learn to enter values in an Excel worksheet and perform several mathematical calculations and create charts using the data. *(course code RD5)*

Instructor: Krishna kumaari Janakiraman

Meet Krishna kumaari Janakiraman

Krishna kumaari Janakirama has been teaching Computer Science courses at Union County College for the past 7 years. Krishna kumaari tutors students in K-12 and conducts volunteering group sloka Sanskrit language Vishnu Sahasranamam recitals.

The Importance of Being Hercule Poirot

Tuesday, June 16
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: \$15 / Non-Member: \$23

Hercule Poirot, one of the most famous detectives in the history of world literature, is featured in many novels and short stories by Agatha Christie. In this one-day course Hugo Walter will discuss the importance of Hercule Poirot as an exemplary and inspirational investigator who is dedicated to searching carefully, fairly, and honestly for the truth in every case. Dr. Walter will focus especially on Poirot's exceptional detective work in several of Christie's most celebrated novels. No reading is required. *(course code RD6)*

Instructor: Hugo Walter

MULTI-WEEK CLASSES

MONDAY Morning

Chair Yoga and Relaxation

Mondays, June 1 – June 22 (4 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

This session includes gentle joint exercises on the chair and standing gentle yoga poses at beginner level. It will be combined with relaxed breathing techniques (pranayam) to release stress and anxiety. It also helps to lower blood pressure and cholesterol and reduce joint pains. Almost all exercises are done seated on the chair except for some balancing exercises that are done standing next to the chair. (course code RM7)

Instructor: Pratibha Jani

How They Croaked: The Curious Deaths of History's Famous and Infamous

Mondays, June 1 – June 22 (4 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

How did some of history's most famous—and infamous—figures meet their end? In this engaging and occasionally surprising course, we will explore the circumstances surrounding the deaths of notable individuals from across the centuries. From ancient rulers such as King Tutankhamun and Cleopatra to American figures like George Washington and literary icon Edgar Allan Poe, each story offers clues about the medical knowledge, cultural beliefs, and historical conditions of its time. (course code NBM8)

Instructor: Charlie Smith

Soul Sounds

Mondays, June 1 – June 29 (5 weeks)
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

The intense feelings that make soul music a powerful and distinctive experience come in many shades of sound. This course will present a selection of some of the many styles from the classic first generation of soul singers in the 1960s and 70s. Topics will include the Philadelphia Sound (including the runaway hits produced by Gamble and Huff), Sisters of Soul (prominent women singers), and The Art of the Soul Duet. No preparation for attendees will be necessary. Presentation with music, photos, lyrics, etc. will be followed by group discussion. Come and warm your soul in some classic rhythms and harmonies! (course code RV9)

Instructor: Paul Howe

Paper Quilling

Mondays, June 1 – June 29 (5 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: in-person in New Brunswick
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. Students will learn the basic paper quilling techniques, create a finished paper quilling project and gain confidence to continue paper quilling independently! Specifically, students will be shown how to roll colorful paper strips and create a variety of paper quilling shapes, such as tight coils, open coils & tear drops; 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.

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. Full list of supplies and the suggested purchase links will be emailed to the registered participants. (*course code NBM10*)

Instructor: Komal Mehra



For registration assistance or any other questions, give us a call at
848-932-6554 or
email us at
olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu

MONDAY Early Afternoon

AI for Genealogy: Applications for Today's Family Historian

Mondays, June 22 – June 29 (2 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: \$25 / Non-Member: \$38

Discover how artificial intelligence is transforming family history research in this beginner-friendly, two-week course. You'll get a clear, plain-English overview of what AI is (and isn't). You'll see real genealogy examples and learn where AI can save time, spark new ideas, and help break through research roadblocks. Then, we'll take a hands-on look at today's leading AI tools including ChatGPT, Gemini, and others, and how genealogists are using them in 2026. You'll learn how to:

- Summarize and analyze documents
- Transcribe and translate historical records
- Brainstorm research plans and timelines
- Turn notes into family stories
- Create research logs, checklists, and correspondence

By the end of the course, you'll have practical strategies — and ready-to-use prompt ideas — to confidently incorporate AI into your own genealogy workflow. (course code RM11)

Instructor: Carla Zimowsk

Attend the Tale: The Real Sweeney Todd and Sondheim's Masterpiece

Mondays, June 1 – June 22 (4 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

The fictional character Sweeney Todd first appeared in the Victorian penny dreadful serial *The String of Pearls*, published between 1846 and 1847. Claims that Todd really existed are disputed by scholars, though many legendary prototypes exist. What is not disputed is that the character is at the center of the musical that many refer to as Stephen Sondheim's greatest work. This class will explore the legend behind the character and how Sondheim and his collaborators brought the story to life on stage. (course code RM12)

Instructor: Susan Speidel

TUESDAY Morning

Boss Rule in Jersey City: Hague, Kenny, and Whelan

Tuesdays, June 2 – June 9 (2 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Online
Member: \$25 / Non-Member: \$38

This course will examine the history of bossism and corruption that dominated Jersey City NJ for decades. It will begin with the ascent of the Irish to political power in the late 19th century that led to the triumph of Frank Hague. Mayor Hague ruled the city with an iron fist for 30 years. Famous for his statement “I am the Law,” Hague built his organization on kickbacks and gambling protection, but also on the voters' sincere appreciation for his safe streets and free health care. Hague’s organization delivered remarkable election pluralities, some from the city’s graveyards, and he quickly became a linchpin of Franklin Roosevelt’s National Democratic Party. We will examine why Hague’s successors, though equally canny and corrupt, were unable to keep his organization intact, and how Federal prosecutors sent the city’s entire Democratic leadership to prison in the early 1970s.

(course code RM13)

Instructor: Peter Begans

Frank Hague



John Kenny



Thomas Whelan



Peter Begans was born and raised in Jersey City. He is a speechwriter, journalist and curator at the Museum of Jersey City History. For three decades he served as a public affairs executive in Washington, D.C. He has been an Osher instructor since 2019.

Flannery O'Connor: Selected Short Stories

Tuesdays, May 26 – June 23 (5 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

One of the greatest short story writers in American literature, O'Connor created universe as profound as Hawthorne or Camus. With a blend of violence and humor she exposed the consequences of sin and the nature of human redemption. We will begin with "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," and move on to "The Displaced Person," "Everything that Rises Must Converge" "The Lame Shall Enter First," and conclude with "Revelation." I intend to post the stories online and can recommend additional stories. *(course code RV14)*

Instructor: George Schroeffer

Summer Poetry Workshop

Tuesdays, May 26 – June 23 (5 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

In this creative workshop-style class we will write about what's on our minds and in our hearts. We will read published poems by poets past and present; lively conversations about the poets' meaning, craft, artistic choices, and creative process will lead to a prompt for writing an original poem. Everyone has a chance each week to read their new work and participate in supportive, non-competitive critique. *(course code RV15)*

Instructor: Maxine Susman

Summer Sketch Class

Tuesdays, May 26 – June 23 (5 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

You will learn to capture the essence of a scene, a still life, people, with the simplest lines. No previous experience is necessary. It's great fun. I will guide you along the way, so you can expect plenty of individual attention. Come sketch with me. There will be homework and direct, pointed feedback designed to help you improve your skills. *(course code RV16)*

Supplies needed: Strathmore or Bienfang 9x12 drawing pad, Faber/Castel pencils (F, 2B, 7B), ball point pens, pink eraser.

Instructor: Jeff Cohen

TUESDAY Early Afternoon

Doing the Right Thing

Tuesdays, May 26 – June 23 (5 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

The five films curated for the course come from different countries and represent a variety of genres and themes - workplace injustice, fighting for one's beliefs, a pilgrimage, friendship, religion, a Holocaust survivor, mother/daughter/grandson relationship, coping with grief, telling lies, a female scientist, communism, nuclear weapons, spying, family dynamics, older woman/college student friendship, journalism, family dynamics, AA support group, a seriously ill teenage boy, refusing medical treatments, ethical and moral decisions, female judge, courtroom.

The films are available on Netflix and each film must be viewed prior to the weekly class discussion. They will be shown in the following order: **Lilly, The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, Red Joan, The Children Act, Eleanor the Great.** (course code RV17)

Instructors: Roz and Steve Shaw

Origami Workshop

Tuesdays, May 26 – June 23 (5 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Participants will learn the beautiful and meditative art of paper folding. Each session will introduce a variety of traditional and contemporary origami models, gently challenging and engaging the mind and hands. All materials will be provided. Hands-on instruction with step-by-step guidance will be given. Models range from simple to slightly more advanced. The class will be fun, slightly challenging and deeply satisfying, offering a sense of discovery and delight as participants transform a simple sheet of paper into something beautiful. Emphasis will be placed on encouragement and patience in a welcoming, non-judgmental environment. (course code NBV18)

Instructor: Shelley Phillips

Meet new instructor Shelley Phillips

Originally from Philadelphia, Shelley attended Tyler School of Fine Arts of Temple University and taught elementary art for many years. Origami has been a long-time love and hobby of hers. She was a member of OrigamiUSA, has taught origami in local libraries and went to several origami conventions in New York City.

Summer Painting Studio

Tuesdays, May 26 – June 23 (5 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

There's no better time to capture the season in all its glory. You will paint bright, colorful paintings that will keep summer alive throughout the year. Create works that you will be proud to hang in your home, give away as gifts, or even sell. No experience is necessary. You can expect plenty of individual attention. You will have the option of painting in watercolor, acrylics, or oils. There will be homework and direct, pointed feedback designed to help you improve your skills. *(course code RV19)*

Supplies needed if you are interested in Watercolor: #1, #4, #8 round watercolor brushes (camel or sable hair) Yarka watercolor set (pan, not tube) Strathmore 9x12 cold press watercolor pad or Bienfang 9x12 watercolor pad of ph neutral paper, 2B pencil with eraser.

Supplies if you are interested in Acrylic: Liquitex six pack Basics, 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 if you are interested in Oils: Starter oil set (Containing primary color and black and white), synthetic round brushes (#2, #5, #8), 9"x12" Pad of canvas paper, palette or china plate to use as palette, small amount of turpentine in small jar (odorless, if possible), 2B pencil and eraser.

Instructor: Jeff Cohen



Help Us Grow!

Most people discover our hidden gem through a friend or neighbor.

If you've enjoyed your experience with OLLI-RU, we hope you'll share it and help others discover what makes our community so special.

SHARE OLLI-RU!

If you would like catalogs, or if you think people at your community would like to know more about OLLI-RU, please contact us at olliregistrations@docs.rutgers.edu.

WEDNESDAY Morning

American Sign Language Primer: How to Talk When the Band is Too Loud

Wednesdays, May 27 – June 24 (5 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

Students will learn fingerspell, short phrases, vocabulary in various themes such as going to the doctor, or ordering in a restaurant. You will also learn to sign songs and have short conversations. (course code RV20)

Instructor: Naomi Miller

A Concise History of THE BEATLES

Wednesdays, June 3 – June 10 (2 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

No one can argue that The Beatles remain one of the most significant and influential bands in modern history. Their innovations in songwriting, recording techniques, album-oriented rock and artistic self-expression reshaped the music industry and continue to influence artists across genres. Most people know something about The Beatles, but how well do you really know the Fab 4 and where they came from?



Through lecture and song, this course offers a focused history of The Beatles, tracing their rise from working-class origins in Liverpool to becoming global cultural icons. Students will explore the band's early formation and influences, their breakthrough years and their major creative periods that ranged from pop-driven early albums, through their experimental middle phase, to their final years as studio innovators. We will also examine the internal tensions, business pressures and artistic differences that led to the group's breakup in 1970. (course code NBM21)

Instructor: Kevin Buck

Emma by Jane Austen

Wednesdays, May 27 – June 24 (5 weeks) Location: Online
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 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 writer of literary realism. (course code RV22)

Instructor: Vandana Walia

Ignite Your Imagination: A Creative Practice for Well-Being

Wednesdays, May 27 – June 17 (4 weeks) Location: Online
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

Creativity shows up everywhere -- in how we solve problems, tell our stories, connect with others, and stay curious about the world. In this playful, interactive course, you will engage in guided explorations that invite new ways of thinking, making, and seeing. These may include crafting twisted fairy tales, collaborating on a song, designing a self-portrait, discovering found poetry, and other surprising exercises. Research in neuroscience shows that creative engagement strengthens cognitive flexibility, supports memory and attention, reduces stress, and enhances emotional well-being as we age. You will leave with renewed energy, practical tools for everyday creativity, and the pleasure of learning in community. Uses simple household materials such as pen, paper, scissors, glue, and magazines. (course code RM23)

Instructor: Monica Shah

Oil Pastel & Colored Pencil Art

Wednesdays, May 27 – June 24 (5 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Member: \$50 / Non-Member: \$75

Get ready to unveil your artistic skills and learn the art of oil pastels & colored pencils! Create vibrant art pieces, using the unique depth and richness of oil pastel colors in combination with the luminosity and intricacy of colored pencils. Students are provided a pre-sketched paper to focus on learning and applying the oil pastel & colored pencil techniques and tools to create their lovely artwork. You can add your own touch and creativity to each piece. Step-by-step guidance and personalized attention will be provided to each participant during the sessions. (course code NBV24)

Required Supplies: white mixed media paper (preferred size 7"x10"); oil pastel color set (preferably "Pentel of America" oil pastels); colored pencil set (preferably "Prismacolor" colored pencils); Q-tips; art/masking tape; paper towel; pencil, eraser, sharpener, ruler. Full list of supplies and the suggested purchase links will be emailed to the registered participants.

Instructor: Komal Mehra

WEDNESDAY Early Afternoon

Cannabis in NJ: What It Is, How It Works, and What It Means for You

Wednesdays, June 3 – June 17 (3 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online

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

This course will help students understand the evolving world of legal cannabis in New Jersey. Since legalization, both medical and adult-use cannabis have expanded rapidly, and this course offers an introduction to how the industry works and what it means for consumers. Through guided discussions and expert guest speakers, participants will explore topics such as the history of legalization in NJ, how dispensaries and cultivation facilities are licensed and operated, what it takes to bring cannabis products to market and a virtual guided tour of shopping at a dispensary. Three sessions will focus on a different aspect of the industry, featuring an industry expert on the topic of the class:

- The science behind cannabis; what are cannabinoids and how do they affect your reaction to consuming cannabis.
- The journey of cannabis legalization in NJ; how did it become legal, who qualifies for a license to open a dispensary, cultivation or processing facility and the road they had to take to get there.
- Our final class will take us through the experience of shopping at a legal dispensary. We will show the entire process, from security check in to hearing from a budtender (the person who is your guide for your shopping) about the variety of cannabis products now produced. *(course code RM25)*

Instructor: Stu Zakim

Meet Stu Zakim

Stu has been in the cannabis space since 2013 as both a PR professional and advocate. Zakim's firm has represented clients in multiple states and he is a member of the executive board of the Cannabis Chamber of Commerce. Zakim, a graduate of Boston University's College of Communication, is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. He was recognized by his peers as one of Top 100 people in the cable industry and serves on the Board of Directors of the Publicity Club of New York.



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

The Odyssey of Homer

Wednesdays, May 27 – June 17 (4 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

Although created thousands of years ago in ancient Greece, *The Odyssey* is regarded as a timeless, universal classic. It continues to teach and inspire in our day and time. (Christopher Nolan's film version of the story will debut in mid-July.) Please read *The Odyssey* in full before our first class. The recommended translation is by Emily Wilson. Together we will informally discuss the major themes of the work, what we can learn from it, and apply it in our lives. (course code NBM26)

Instructor: Steve Yacik

Read the book before the summer blockbuster film version comes out July 17!

Directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Matt Damon, Tom Holland and more!

Orson Welles' Great Villains: Unbridled Ego, Ambition and Power

Wednesdays, May 27 – June 17 (4 weeks) Location: in-person in New Brunswick
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Member: \$40 / Non-Member: \$60

“There is a villain in each of us, a murderer in each of us, a fascist in each of us, a saint in each of us, and the actor is the man or woman who can eliminate from himself those things which will interfere with that truth.”

- Orson Welles

Orson Welles' films, and the larger-than-life characters he chose to play, most often exposed the darker side of human nature and the corrupting effects of power. He was fascinated by two main character types: the powerful, egotistical, cynical and manipulative American man, who lives outside or above the law and society; and the rather naive, virtuous man, who has his eyes opened to the effects of the lust for fame, wealth and unbridled power. Repeatedly, he selected stories that centered on the conflict between the “villain” and the “saint,” and the contagious nature of evil. This course will examine a sampling of Welles' larger-than-life antagonists that audiences still love to hate in four of his most famous performances: Harry Lime in ***The Third Man***, Charles Foster Kane in ***Citizen Kane***, Hank Quinlan in ***Touch of Evil***, and Charles Rankin/Franz Kindler in ***The Stranger***. (course code NBM27)

Instructor: Jane Lasky-MacPherson

THURSDAY Morning

Elements of a Great Broadway Musical

Thursdays, May 28 – June 25 (5 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

Love Broadway musicals? Sit back and learn while you enjoy those wonderful numbers that make musicals great! They can be songs that make you laugh yourself silly, big numbers at the end of act one that make you come back for more, ballads that make you cry, and production numbers that make you stand up and cheer. (course code RV28)

Instructors: Sam & Candy Caponegro

In the Time of the Tudors: The Seymour Family

Thursdays, May 28 – June 18 (4 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

The Seymour family was a gentry family living 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 courtly deceit. (course code RM29)

Instructor: Lyndell O'Hara

Watercolor Art

Thursdays, May 28 – June 25 (5 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

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! (course code NBV30)

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.

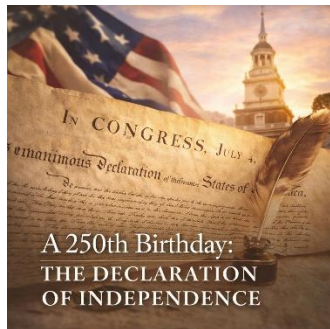
Instructor: Komal Mehra

THURSDAY Early Afternoon

A 250th Birthday: The Declaration of Independence

Thursdays, May 28 – June 25 (5 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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



In this course we will consider the political and philosophical forces that coalesced in 1776 to produce this foundational document. We will consider the influence its words have had on this nation and the peoples of other countries. We will, of course, look at the words themselves and ask to what extent they have been realized. We'll also look at whether July 4, 1776 was really our nation's birthdate. (course code RV31)

Instructor: Lou Ruprecht

How to Listen to Jazz

Thursdays, May 28 – June 25 (5 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

**Learn to hear jazz as a living conversation—
through iconic recordings and the artists shaping its sound today.**

In this guided listening course, we will explore what makes certain jazz recordings enduring masterpieces and how to listen to them more deeply. Through five landmark albums—including *Kind of Blue* by Miles Davis, *Time Out* by Dave Brubeck, *Sunday at the Village Vanguard* by Bill Evans, *Speak No Evil* by Wayne Shorter, and *A Love Supreme* by John Coltrane—participants will develop practical listening skills and learn to recognize the elements that make jazz both artistically and historically significant.

Each session focuses on a different aspect of jazz listening, from understanding tone and space to hearing the subtle musical “conversations” within a group. Each classic recording will be paired with a contemporary artist—such as Robert Glasper, Linda May Han Oh, and Ambrose Akinmusire—highlighting how the core ideas of jazz continue to evolve in today’s music. The course concludes with a guided listening to Thelonious Monk’s *Round Midnight*, bringing together themes of history, creativity, and enduring artistic expression. No prior musical training is required—only curiosity and a willingness to listen closely. (course code RV32)

Instructor: Kevin Witt

Short Films: The Art of the Instant

Thursdays, May 28 – June 4 (2 weeks)
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

This is a short introduction to an art form that can pack powerful punches - often more than full-length movies, in an audiovisual nugget that is less than thirty minutes, and often less than fifteen. This has become highly relevant in today's fast-paced, interconnected world of social media and limited attention spans. We will watch four highly acclaimed / Oscar-winning short films and a detailed director's commentary on one of them. As a group, we will discuss each film's impact, message, cinematic choices, characters, relationships portrayed, its resonance with your experiences, and its relevance in today's society. Students will also receive additional information so you can watch the film again at leisure, see/read reviews, discuss, and/or share with your family, friends. The tentatively scheduled short films we will view are: "Unwinding" - 25 mins; "Toyland" (Spielzeugland)- 14 mins; "The Neighbor's Window" - 20 mins; and "Curfew" – 19 mins. (course code NBM33)

Instructor: Deepak Hegde

THURSDAY Late Afternoon

John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*

Thursdays, May 28 – June 25 (5 weeks)
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* (1952) is a modern family saga. Covering three generations of an American family from the Civil War to the turbulence of the 20th century, the novel retells the Biblical story of Cain and Abel in a modern context. Set amid the agricultural and ecological context of California's Salinas Valley, this Steinbeck novel is one of the most ambitious 20th century American novels in narrative, ethical, and environmental terms, and is still a gripping and intriguing read today. (course code RV34)

Instructor: Nicholas Birns

FRIDAY Morning

Acrylic Art

Fridays, May 29 – June 26 (5 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

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 refer to during this class; to which they can add their own creative touch as well. *(course code RV35)*

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 students.

Instructor: Komal Mehra

The Secluded Self: Isolation in Literary Short Fiction

Fridays*, May 29 – June 26 (4 weeks)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
**no class on 6/19*

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

Life sometimes has an ungentle way of reminding us that we're on our own. We may find ourselves feeling isolated in a new job, or alienated by society's expectations, or facing illness on our own, or feeling alone in a new country, or even alone in a marriage. The trauma that results from such estrangement has inspired many writers, creating characters in which we may recognize ourselves and our own pain or perhaps breathe a sigh of relief that we've been spared. We'll read and discuss four stories—including some by Raymond Carver, Chimamanda Ngozi, and Anthony Doerr—that feature men and women, from very different worlds, coming face to face with the inescapable truth of where life has placed them and the choices they make in response.

Instructor will email links to PDF copies of the stories to the students. *(course code RM36)*

Instructor: Mary Ann McGuigan

INSTRUCTOR BIOS

Peter Begans (pg. 15) is a speechwriter, journalist and curator at the Museum of Jersey City History. For three decades he served as a public affairs executive in Washington, D.C. He has been an Osher instructor since 2019.

Nicholas Birns (pg. 25) 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.

Kevin Buck (pg.19) 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. 23) are passionate about American musicals. They met in a musical and have acted, co-directed, and taught theater courses for over 40 years. Their base is OLLI-RU, but they have lectured on Princess Cruise Lines, at libraries, senior centers, and universities throughout the United States. Their motto: If music be the food of life, let's gorge ourselves.

Jeff Cohen (pgs.16,18) 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.

Deborah Greenhut (pg.10) 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).

Deepak Hegde (pg.25) is a retired management consultant and a former executive in the Information Technology sector. He has travelled extensively within the country and worldwide. He is a fan of short films from around the world. They have extended his global exposure beyond his travels, deepened his understanding of people, and his appreciation of the similarities that bring us together, amidst our differences and disparities. Beyond entertainment and education, Mr. Hegde loves a variety of podcasts and streaming content. He loves acting as an art form. His other creative interests include writing, poetry, painting, and photography. He is a BS, MBA, PMP (Retired).

Paul Howe (pg.12) 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.

Krishna kumaari Janakiraman (pg.11) has been teaching Computer Science courses at the Union County College for the past 7 years. Krishna kumaari tutors students in K-12 and conducts volunteering group sloka Sanskrit language Vishnu Sahasranamam recitals.

Pratibha Jani (pg.12) received yoga certification from Mumbai and is an E- RYT and a certified Yoga therapist. Pratibha has taught at the County College of Morris and the Piscataway Senior Center and presently teaches online. A NJ resident for over 38 years, Pratibha has a BS in Ancient Indian history/Culture from Bombay University, India

Jane Lasky-MacPherson (pg.22) 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.

Mary Ann McGuigan (pg.26) writes creative nonfiction and short stories that appear widely in journals, including *The Sun*, *North American Review*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, and *Brevity*. She's the author of two short story collections—*PIECES* and *THAT VERY PLACE*—and her novels are ranked as best books for teens. *WHERE YOU BELONG* was a finalist for the National Book Award. Mary Ann taught English and was a financial editor, mainly for Bloomberg L.P. For more about her writing, visit www.maryannmcguigan.com.

Komal Mehra (pgs.20,23,26) is an artist, a crafter and an art instructor, who is passionate about creating life on canvas. She works with a variety of art mediums like watercolors, oil pastels, acrylics, pencils, cords, thread, paper strips, and digital art. She continues to hone her skills, learn new art techniques and loves to share her passion for art with creative friends around the community.

Naomi Miller (pg. 19) learned sign language to communicate with her deaf son. She and her late husband are co-founders of Parents For Deaf Awareness—a NJ support group for parents and families with a deaf child. She has worked as a speech therapist teaching deaf students and has received several awards for her unique and creative style of teaching language, including the Marlene M. Pomper teaching award in spring 2025.

Lyndell O'Hara, PhD (pg.23) 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.

Shelley Phillips (pg.17) Originally from Philadelphia, Shelley attended Tyler School of Fine Arts of Temple University and taught elementary art for many years. Origami has been a long-time love and hobby of hers. She was a member of OrigamiUSA, has taught origami in local libraries and went to several origami conventions in New York City.

Lou Ruprecht (pg.24) 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.

George Schroepfer (pg.16) was an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Writing Program at Rutgers.

Monica Shah (pgs. 10, 20) is a professional educator who holds a BS from Penn State, and an EdM from Harvard University focused on adult development. The author of multiple essays, poems and several books, her background also includes the performing arts. With extensive experience in teaching a variety of subjects, the common thread that runs through her diverse experiences and interests is an intrinsic spirit of exploration and discovery and the expertise to support others in their own learning journeys.

Roz & Steve Shaw (pg.17) 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 23 years of teaching! They love engaging in interesting discussions with their students.

Charlie Smith (pg.12) is a long-time OLLI-RU instructor, experienced presenter, published author, and history buff.

Susan Speidel (pg.14) has directed over 70 professional, community, college, and high school productions, and her performing career spans 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 Department of Theatre at Kean University. Her undergraduate work was at Montclair State, and she holds master's degrees from NYU and Kean. She earned her doctorate at Drew University.

Maxine Susman, PhD (pg.16) has written eight books of poetry, publishes in dozens of journals, and gives community readings and workshops. Before retiring she taught writing and literature at Rutgers as Associate Director of the Writing Program, at Seton Hall University, Duksung Women's University in Korea, and Caldwell University. She has taught at OLLI-RU since 2013 and won the Marlene M. Pomper Distinguished Teaching Award.

Vandana Walia (pg. 20) 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.

Hugo Walter (pg.11) has a B.A. from Princeton University, an M.A. from Old Dominion University, and a Ph.D. from Drew University. Dr. Walter has taught at Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Rutgers University. He has published several books on European literature, including *Devoted to the Truth: Four Brilliant Investigators* (2022) and *Emissaries of Justice: Courageous Searchers for Missing Persons* (2025).

Kevin Witt (pg. 24) is a jazz drummer, editor, and education advocate who blends deep musicianship with a passion for storytelling and jazz history. Kevin studied at the University of Colorado Boulder before moving to New York City in 2000. There, he honed his craft under Peter Retzlaff (Drummers Collective/Manhattan School of Music) and studied privately with legendary drummers Jimmy Cobb (Miles Davis) and Cindy Blackman (Lenny Kravitz, Santana). Since relocating to Austin in 2009, Kevin has performed with a wide range of respected artists, cofounded the trio 3jazz and now leads the B-side Quartet, a group dedicated to exploring jazz's lesser-known works.

Steve Yacik (pgs.10,22) has a passion for learning about and teaching US history. For years he has created and led a variety of tours through the Historical Society of Princeton and the University. Yet Steve remains a proud Rutgers graduate with a BA in English (In other words, he loves a good story.)

Stu Zakim (pg.21) has been in the cannabis space since 2013 as both a PR professional and advocate. Zakim's firm has represented clients in multiple states and he is a member of the executive board of the Cannabis Chamber of Commerce. Zakim, a graduate of Boston University's College of Communication, is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. He was recognized by his peers as one of Top 100 people in the cable industry and serves on the Board of Directors of the Publicity Club of New York.

Carla Zimowsk (pg.14) 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!