

NEW

Register online or call 401-874-4197

Spring CLASSES



Enhancing Kingston Station: RIPTA's Vision for a Modern Transit Hub

1 Session with Ella Ackerman on Monday, April 14, 1:30PM-3:00PM

Join us for an informative session on the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority's (RIPTA) exciting project to enhance the bus circle area at Kingston Station in West Kingston, RI. Ella Ackerman, a Long-Range Transit Planner at RIPTA, will lead the presentation, detailing the planned improvements and enhancements at Kingston Station. The session will cover the project's history and context, an overview of the current conditions at the station, and the conceptual plans RIPTA is moving forward with. We'll conclude with a Q&A and discussion period. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more and share your thoughts!

Ella Ackerman is a Long-Range Transit Planner at the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority. She has worked at RIPTA since the fall of 2023, managing the planning phases for various capital projects, supporting fleet decarbonization efforts, writing grant applications, and supporting the Authority with data and mapping needs. Ella holds a bachelors of Urban and Regional Planning from Cornell University and has a background in education, municipal planning, and environmental science. Ella is passionate about improving transit systems to realize the public and environmental benefits they can provide, including greater equity, mobility, and accessibility for all people, improved public health outcomes, and more sustainable, connected, and livable communities.

TickSmart: Mastering Tick Biology, Identification, and Protection

3 Sessions with Thomas Mather
Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20
9:30AM-11:00AM Limit: 20

With ticks and tickborne diseases increasing as dangerous public health threats, it's more important than ever to be TickSmart. Almost everyone seems to know something about ticks, but unfortunately often what they know is just wrong enough to leave them at risk for a bite and possibly a disease. We will dispel common tick myths, and you will learn important aspects of tick biology, tick identification, tick hosts and disease reservoirs, along with safe and effective personal and residential tick protection strategies. And we'll even practice some of what you'll learn, so that, next time, you'll be just right enough to stay tick safe whenever and wherever you venture outside. In the meantime, we encourage you to save any ticks you may encounter in a small Ziplock bag and bring them to the second class. The third class is a field trip to Potter Woods in Kingston where you will learn to work as a tick biologist.



Thomas Mather, often referred to as the TickGuy, is a professor of public health entomology and zoonotic diseases at URI. He is director of URI's Center for Vector-Borne Disease and its TickEncounter Resource Center. His research interests include the ecological dynamics of tick-transmitted diseases and optimizing tick control and awareness. He has raised more than \$20 million to support tickborne disease research and outreach, published over 140 papers on the subject, edited one book and holds 4 U.S. patents and 2 U.S. trademarks. More recently, in addition to tick control and tick bite protection research, his team is focused on reimagining tick bite protection education and developing just-in-time learning tools and platforms to help people and pets be ready for ticks.



Colonial Newport- A Walking Tour

1 Session on with Ken Johnson
Tuesday, June 3, 10:00AM-11:30AM
Limit: 20

This walking tour includes stops at Washington Square, White Horse Tavern, the Quaker Meeting House, the 1697 Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House (the oldest house still standing), the oldest synagogue in America, the Colony House, burial/gravestones at Trinity Church, and Queen Anne Square, to name a few. Information on a meeting spot and parking will be sent to those who register.

Ken Johnson is an internationally known retired chemical oceanographer and a first-generation Swedish-American. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees (URI and the University of Minnesota, respectively), and an honorary Ph.D. from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He has given many talks on Swedish history for the OLLI. In addition, he has been a long-term guide in Newport, RI, working in the Newport Mansions for 9 years, and as a step-on bus guide for 12 years giving tours in English and German for the Miami based firms Destinations North America, Intercruises, and JRickers Travel Concepts.

These classes are
all **NEW** and were not
listed in the spring
catalog!

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Earth Care Farm Tour

1 Session with Jayne Merner-Senecal
on June 10, 10:00AM-11:30AM
Limit: 20

Learn about what makes a high-quality compost. Join Jayne Merner Senecal for a walking tour of Earth Care Farm as she explains what goes into her family's compost making process. Then check out what a good quality garden soil looks like under the microscope. Feel free to bring a sample of your own soil to look at. You are bound to get excited by the unseen world under your feet.

Jayne Merner Senecal owns Earth Care Farm, which was started by her father Michael Merner (an OLLI member) in 1977. Jayne regularly teaches about compost through international conferences, podcasts, weekly Youtube videos and tours. She was named Professional of the Year 2018 by the RI Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA), awarded 1st place for Landscape Design, and named the Providence Business News PBN 40 under 40 in 2019. Jayne enjoys sharing her deep love of nature with the community.



exclusive OPPORTUNITY for OLLI MEMBERS

FREE PRESHOW TALK with THE DIRECTOR

Purchase tickets for *Guys and Dolls* performance at 2:00PM on Sunday, April 27, and attend an exclusive free PRE-SHOW talk with the Director, Jimmy Calitri at 1:15PM. This is an **exclusive offer** for OLLI members. Please register online for the FREE PRESHOW TALK or call the OLLI office at 401-874-4197. Location information available online. Tickets to the performance can be purchased by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR Code.

VOLUNTEER DOCENTS NEEDED

Complimentary tickets to the show will be issued to all volunteers. All volunteers must be present by 1:00pm. Please send an email in advance to paulam@uri.edu.

Second Sessions Added Open to all members on March 31.

*With so many large wait lists, we were able to plan additional sessions of these classes.
Register online or call the office at 401-874-4197.*

A Gilded Age Tale of Seduction, Betrayal and Revenge

Second session: Monday, April 21, 3:30PM-5:00PM

Mary Katherine Goddard: The Only Woman whose Name is on the Declaration of Independence.

Second session: Thursday, May 29, 1:00PM-2:30PM

Navel Torpedo Station Newport

Second session: Wednesday, April 30, 10:00AM-11:30AM

State of RI Birds: An Update

Second session: Thursday, May 8, 3:30PM-5:00PM

The Enslaved Women of Smith's Castle

Second session: Wednesday, May 14, 2:00PM-3:30PM

The Federal Budget and the National Debt

Second session: Thursday, May 29, 1:00PM-2:30PM

There's Something Happening Here: Laurel Canyon in the '60s and '70s.

Second session: Friday, June 6, 9:30AM-11:30AM

Preserving Your Assets After Retirement and Beyond

New session on Friday, April 25, 10:00AM-11:30AM. If you are on the wait list for the first session, please call the office to register. Currently only open to members on the wait list.

Open to all members beginning 5/4/25.

