

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

OLLI

FALL 2026 UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

OVER 100 CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

IN PERSON & ONLINE

Fall 2026 Registration
begins Tuesday,
September 1.

Register online:
URI.EDU/OLLI

Back^{to} School

*Your
Way!*





OLLI STAFF

We're Here to Help!

Welcome to FALL 2026 at URI OLLI!

Online registration begins
Tuesday, September 1, at 7:00 AM.

The office will open at 9:00 AM for
phone and walk-in registration.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at URI provides learning opportunities to enhance the enjoyment, meaning, and direction of adult lives, as well as the health and well-being of adults, while developing a community of older learners.

Established in 2009 and offering diversified courses and activities, OLLI at URI enjoys a rich relationship with the University. Membership is open to anyone fifty years of age or better. Whether teaching, learning, playing, or exploring, OLLI members constitute a vibrant lifelong learning community.

OLLI at URI is part of the national network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation. Closer to home, OLLI has ties with local community and civic organizations. OLLI members are essential in shaping, managing, and leading the organization.



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OFFICE INFO

 **FALL 2026 Office Hours**
Mon - Thu, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Fri, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

 **210 Flagg Rd., Kingston, RI 02881**

 **(401) 874-4197**

 **www.uri.edu/olli**

 **OLLI@URI.edu**

FALL 2026 HOLIDAYS

October 12 Columbus Day
November 3 Election Day
November 11 Veterans Day
November 26 Thanksgiving
December 25 Christmas

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability and need an accommodation, please call the OLLI office at 401-874-4197. A two-week advance notice is suggested. We are committed to equal access for persons with disabilities and we will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations.

REGISTRATION STARTS TUESDAY, SEPT 1, 2026 - ONLINE AT 7:00 AM

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HOW TO REGISTER

-  **REGISTER ONLINE**
This is the easiest way to register. To log on to your OLLI account go to URI.EDU/OLLI and click on Member Login. Payment is accepted with a credit card: Visa, Mastercard or Discover.
-  **REGISTER BY PHONE**
Call us to register! 401-874-4197. Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. If you leave a message, we will do our best to return your call within 24 hours.
-  **REGISTER BY MAIL**
Download the registration form from our website (or pick one up in the office). Fill it out and include a check (or call with credit card #) for payment.
-  **REGISTER IN PERSON**
Visit us! URI OLLI is located at 210 Flagg Rd. Take the stairs or elevator to the second floor.



DIRECTOR'S

Message

Beth Leconte

As URI students return to campus for a busy fall semester, OLLI members will also have a packed schedule, with more than 100 courses and activities offering countless opportunities to continue their journey of life-long learning—with the added benefit of no tests or grades!

URI welcomes OLLI members as part of the university community, and we are fortunate to call the Kingston campus our home.

Beyond OLLI's own programs, members can take advantage of a wide variety of activities and resources across campus. These include lectures, musical performances, the Honors Colloquium, "Interstellar Exploration: Journey Beyond Your Limits," special reduced fees for use of the Mackal Field House, discounted tickets to selected sporting events, and URI Theatre productions, including Proof, Cabaret, The Revolutionists, and Charlotte's Web.

OLLI members also have opportunities to participate in intergenerational programs and research studies, while supporting URI students through internships and other collaborative experiences.

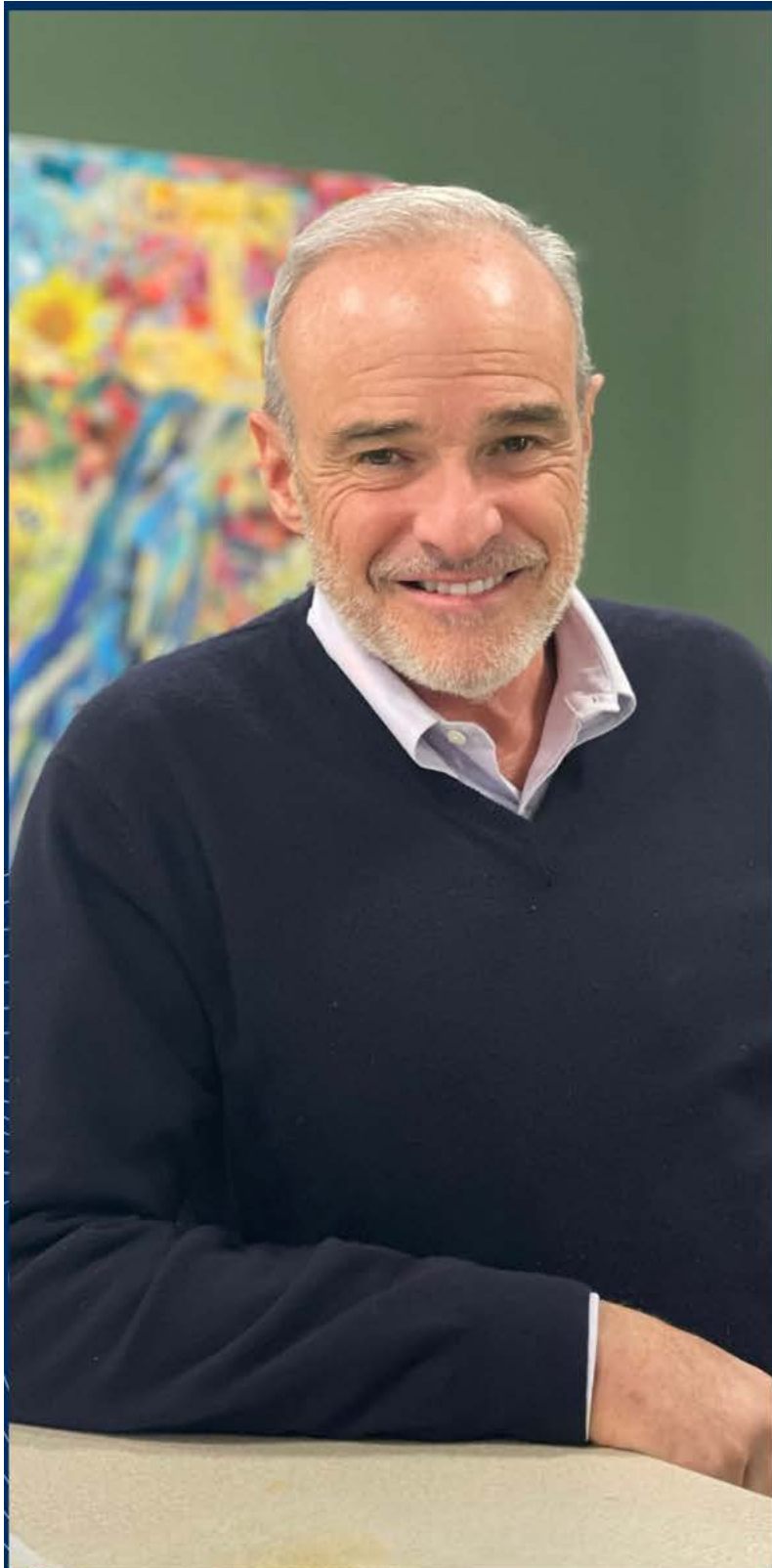
In November, OLLI will honor our veterans with a special program. Veterans and members are invited to join us as to view the film Flying With the Angels. Join us for this exhilarating documentary that puts audiences directly in the cockpit with the Navy's legendary Flight Demonstration Squadron. A Q&A session after the movie will be led by CDR Bob Flynn, USN (ret.) and Kathy Conlon who together run the award-winning URI Military and Veteran Education Center (MAVE) here at the University of Rhode Island.

Looking forward to a great Fall semester!

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



*Where Learning
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In-person & Online
Fun-filled Activities
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SCAN FOR MORE INFO

[or click here.](#)

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POLICIES

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership must be valid throughout the duration of the classes you register for. If you're not sure of your renewal date, call the office at 401-874-4197.

OLLI DISCLAIMER

The courses offered by OLLI do not imply the endorsement of a particular philosophy, product, or procedure. The content is the view of the presenter and is for educational and information -al purposes only and not as professional advice for specific cases or circumstances. Participants need to be aware of the potential risks of using limited knowledge when integrating techniques and procedures that are new to them. Participants need to consult their own financial, legal, and medical professionals for advice.

WAITING LISTS

If you get closed out of a class, you should always add your name to the wait list. There are always cancellations before a class and if an opening becomes available, we will call you and register you over the phone. In some cases, if this is a large wait list, we will try to schedule a second session. Wait list members get first priority to register for the new session.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The mission of the OLLI at the University of Rhode Island is to develop and nurture a community of older learners through courses, presentations, tours and events which will enhance their learning, enjoyment, health and well-being.

To fulfill this mission, all segments of the OLLI at URI community – members, faculty and staff – agree to the following standards of behavior:

- OLLI will foster an inclusive culture supporting the University of Rhode Island as a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community – a vibrant, integrated university that celebrates the uniqueness of its members and fosters a culture of valuing people, excellence, and giving back.
- All interactions and communications will be conducted with integrity and respect.
- Classroom and remote (e.g., via Zoom or WebEx) discussions among and between faculty and members will encourage a positive and respectful exchange of ideas and information. With mutual respect for our experiences, ideas, value systems and beliefs, we will engage in informative discussion and civil debate.
- Members, Faculty and Staff affirm their commitment to a learning philosophy based on tolerance. OLLI students and instructors do not attempt to “convert” others to their ideas or beliefs. Consensus is not the goal, but rather, listening to and considering, different points of view.

Violation of the above Code of Conduct may result in being asked to discontinue participation in a particular class, and may lead to discipline in accordance with the URI Student Handbook, applicable University policies, including the Policy on Nondiscrimination, and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Memberships are non-refundable. To withdraw from a class and receive a full refund or credit, you must notify the OLLI office at least two weeks before the start of the class. Call the office at 401-874-4197 or email olli@uri.edu. No-shows forfeit their course fees.

Day trips and special tours are prepaid so there are no refunds for cancellation or withdrawal.

Classes that do not meet minimum student registration numbers are subject to cancellation.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos taken during OLLI events or programs may be used in promotional material for OLLI@URI. If a member objects, they may do so by contacting OLLI's Executive Director, Beth Leconte (bleconte@uri.edu).

ASSUMPTION OF RISK/LIABILITY FORM

All participants on tours or in classes that meet in a location other than OLLI are required to fill out an Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability Form.



Parking is FREE for OLLI members, but registration is required.
ALL PARKING PERMITS EXPIRE YEARLY ON JULY 31.
Renew online or call 401-874-4197.

Handicapped Parking is available off West Alumni Avenue.
 Drive past the Ryan Center and turn left right before Brookside Dorm.

You only need to register your vehicle once during the academic year (August-July). Parking permits are virtual and no stickers are provided.

If you do not register your vehicle, you risk a \$50 ticket.

Only one vehicle per member may be registered. If you bring a different vehicle to campus or your license plate number changes, you will need to log into your parking account and update the vehicle information prior to parking your car. Call the office for assistance at 401-874-4197.

Parking permit is only valid for:

- Lot #25 - Plains Road
- Lot #6 - Fine Arts Center
- Maps located in the office and [online](#).

CONSTRUCTION ON CAMPUS is underway, and some areas may shift from week to week. To stay informed about detours or other construction, please make sure to read your weekly OLLI emails. They'll always include the most up-to-date information so you know exactly where to go and what to expect. Thank you for your attention—and for your patience—as the campus continues to grow and improve.

Compassionate Conversations: Learning to Communicate from the Heart

4 Sessions with Kathy Black

Mon, Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 5

9:30 AM -11:00 AM

Max: 16 Fee: \$45.00

Communicating with the people in our lives can seem challenging and frustrating. Understanding the compassionate skills needed to listen deeply and really connect with others makes all the difference. In this class students learn the basic components of Compassionate Communication and how to use them in any conversation. We'll learn how to release judgment, practice empathic listening, and uncover behaviors that impede our ability to truly connect with others.

Required Text: Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD, *Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life* (PuddleDancer Press, 2003).

Assignment for the first class: Review chapters 1 & 2 and bring a photo of yourself with other people to share in class.

Kathy Black holds a B.S. in social work and a comprehensive certification as a life-empowerment coach. She has over 20 years of experience leading personal growth workshops and retreats, coaching women to own their power and use their voices, and instructing students in the art and practice of compassionate communication. A life-long student herself, Kathy has studied meditation with Buddhist monks in Prague, bhakti yoga with Hare Krishna devotees in New South Wales, and mindfulness practice with new thought leaders across the U.S.

Sea Lions, Turtles & Boobies – Vince's Galápagos Adventure

1 Session with Vince Burks

Mon, Sept 14

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Come learn about the Enchanted Isles as Vince shares photos, videos, and amazing stories about his wildlife encounters. The animals have no fear of humans, allowing up close interactions beyond belief. For Vince, this trip truly brought to life the quote by Anthony Douglas Williams, "When I look into the eyes of an animal, I do not see an animal. I see a living

being. I see a friend. I feel a soul." Come to this class to learn about, as well as be moved by, the beautiful creatures we are privileged to share this earth with.

Vince Burks worked for Amica Insurance for thirty-seven and a half years holding various positions including director of training and communications director. Vince holds a B.A. in communications with a minor in business administration from Lynchburg University. He is a member of the National Speakers Association and an active participant in The Moth storytelling events, which you may be familiar with if you're a fan of NPR. He is also teaching Noel Coward's *Design for Living* this semester.



Slavery, Emancipation, and Race in New England

6 Sessions with Joanne Melish

Mon, Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, (Skip 12), 19, 26

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$55.00

We will examine two phases of New England's, and especially Rhode Island's, complicated relationship with slavery and its racial legacies, a crucial part of the region's, and America's, story. The rise of maritime commercial New England, and Rhode Island in particular, was fueled by the American trade in enslaved Africans, and the use of enslaved Indigenous and African laborers in New England to produce cheese, grain, livestock, and other commodities for export to the slave societies of the West Indies. The second, industrial phase of New England's growth was rooted in the success of its textile industry, heavily dependent on slave-grown cotton and on southern markets for "slave cloth."

Joanne Pope Melish is associate professor of history emerita at the University of Kentucky, where she also directed the American Studies Program for several years. Dr. Melish received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in American civilization from Brown University. She is the author of *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and "Race" in New England, 1780-1860* (Cornell University Press, 1998) and many essays on

race and slavery in the early republic and on slavery in public history. Currently she is working on a book-length project tentatively entitled "Gradual Alienation: How a Multiracial Laboring Class Formed, Persisted, and Became Invisible in the Post-Revolutionary North."

Iran, the USA, and Other Conflicts

3 Sessions with Jim Buxton and Amir Mohammadi
Mon, Sept 14, 21, Tue, Sept 22*
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Max: 45 Fee: \$40.00

We will attempt to unravel the complex relationships and interactions behind the current conflict in Iran. We'll spend the first two sessions reviewing the chronology and background of the conflict, with Dr. Mohammadi's help, with the third session reserved for discussion. We'll review the influential countries involved: the U.S., Israel, Iran, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and others. We'll look into the basic cleavages causing rifts between Sunni vs. Shia, Arabs vs. Persians, monarchy vs. theocracy, the oil-rich vs. the poor, and possessors of nuclear weapons vs. those without. We'll tackle all of this with the goal of achieving greater clarity about the roots of the current conflict and potential issues moving forward.

*Please note class dates on Mon & Tue.

Jim Buxton taught global studies and international relations at South Kingstown HS for 32 years. During that stretch, he earned numerous teaching awards, including the RI High School Social Studies teacher of the Year in 1997, and the RI High School Girls Soccer Coach of the Year in 1988. In 1997-98, he taught in England under the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program. His Model UN program lasted 19 years and, at its height, included 380 students from 25 schools. After teaching high school, he taught international politics courses in the URI Political Science Department. From 2009 until 2016, he also taught in the Salve Regina Education Department, and supervised high school social studies student teachers. He has taught OLLI courses for over a decade.

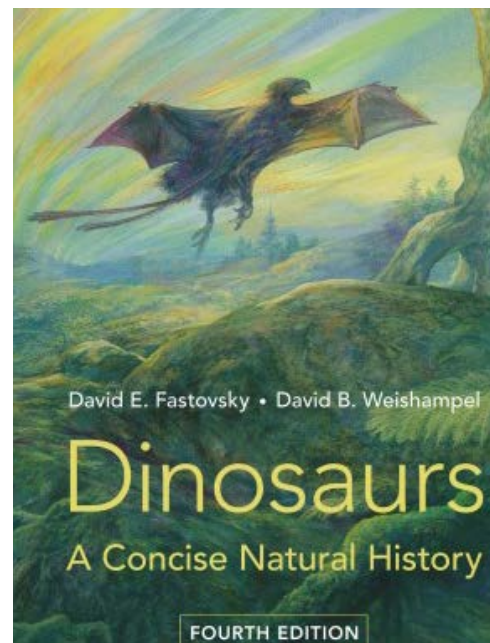
Amir Mohammadi, Jim Buxton's brother-in-law, was born and raised in Iran. He attended university at Adelphi and majored in business. Much of his working life has been serving as vice president in the following

universities: West Virginia, Delaware State, Shippensburg, and St. Mary's of Maryland. He opposed the rule of the Shah in Iran, as well as the rule of the Ayatollahs. He is an opponent of current U.S. policy towards Iran and opposes Iran's policy towards the U.S.

Where Do Birds Come From, and Why are Birds Living Dinosaurs?

2 Sessions with David Fastovsky
Mon, Sept 28, Oct 5
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Max: 45 Fee: \$35.00

The conundrum is simple: If dinosaurs are reptiles (and they are) but birds are dinosaurs, how can a bird



be a reptile? The answer is fascinating and goes back to dated 18th-century pre-evolutionary ideas still being taught in schools. Although the evolution from non-bird dinosaurs to birds has only been recognized for the past 40 years, it has become one of the most astounding and best-documented

transitions in evolution. We'll go through the steps in detail. Ultimately, you'll know how modern birds evolved, as well as understand how a bird can be a reptile. And as for dinosaurs? They taste like chicken!

David Fastovsky is a vertebrate paleontologist specializing in dinosaurs and dinosaur-bearing environments. He retired from the University of Rhode Island Department of Geosciences in December 2022 after 36 years of teaching paleontology, Earth history, sedimentology, and evolutionary biology. Over the course of his career, he published approximately 58 peer-reviewed papers, 82 abstracts supporting oral presentations, 53 popular articles, and two books. His first book, an overview of Dinosauria, is now in its fifth edition with Cambridge University Press. His second, co-authored with URI Ph.D. and Brown Professor

(Fastovsky, cont. pg 12)

(Fastovsky, cont.)

David Upegui, is a primer introducing antiracism in evolutionary biology classes, published by Routledge in 2024.

Fastovsky is an active member of four professional societies: the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, the Paleontological Society, the Geological Society of America, and the Society for Sedimentary Geology. He has served on 20 National Science Foundation proposal-review panels and held multiple editorial roles, including Science Editor for three Geological Society of America journals: *Geology* (2000–2006), *GSA Today* (2007–2010), and *Geosphere* (2018–2025).

His distinguished career has been recognized with numerous honors, including two Fulbright awards (2004–2005; 2015), the Researcher of the Year award (1996–1997) from URI’s College of Resource Development, the GSA Distinguished Service Award (2006), and election as a Fellow of both the Geological Society of America (2006) and the Paleontological Society (2021).

Music of the Sea

2 Sessions with B.J. Whitehouse

Mon, Sept 28, Oct 5

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 25 Fee: \$35.00

This course is for those folks who like to sing music of the sea. Along with B.J. Whitehouse, a former instructor with the Mystic Seaport sea shanty class,



we’ll sing work songs, ballads, forebitters, and play some music that may have been heard on a 19th-century sailing vessel. Students are invited to bring along instruments and

ideas for songs. B.J. will provide some opportunities to work with a block-and-tackle and other simple machines that would have been found on a sailing vessel.

Assignment for the first class: Bring an instrument if you’d like.

Suggested reading: Stan Hugill, *Shanties from the Seven Seas* (Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1961, reprinted 1987).

Joanna Colcord, *Songs of the American Sailormen* (W.W. Norton and Co., 1938).

B.J. Whitehouse is a choral director, voice teacher, and retired music teacher. He has been singing music of the sea for a long time. He was on the demonstration squad at Mystic Seaport some years back and was a member of the Mystic Seaport shanty class prior to the onset of the pandemic. He called shantys on the whaling ship *Charles W. Morgan* as well as the *Joseph Conrad*. He believes that everyone can and should sing.



The Nature of Autumn

2 Sessions with Bruce Fellman

Mon, Sept 28, (classroom), Oct 5 (field)

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 20 Fee: \$35.00

With the arrival of the fall equinox, there’s a chill in the air, brilliant color in leaves and flowers, and a sky filled with southbound migrants. All of this activity, from Jack Frost’s foliage-painting artistry to the migratory restlessness known as *zugunruhe*, proceeds under the direction of physical and biological mandates. To understand the myriad ways this season impacts the citizenry of the natural world, including us, we’ll take a deep, illustrated dive into how scientists have teased apart the inner workings of fall and how one naturalist and his colleagues have presented these discoveries in words and photographs. In our second session, we’ll hit the trail to observe autumn in action.

Note: The second session will take place outdoors at a local coastal wildlife preserve, the exact locale to be determined. We’ll be walking about a half mile on relatively flat and wide trails (not wheelchair accessible) in search of migrating animals, from monarch butterflies and dragonflies, to, of course, birds, as

well as the wildflowers that can fuel their travels. Since the terrain is likely to vary from beach sand to muddy pond edges, please wear appropriate waterproof shoes or boots and long pants. We'll discuss bug- and tick-proofing strategies in our first class.

Bruce Fellman began his career nearly 50 years ago at newspapers such as *The Narragansett Times*, *The Providence Journal*, and *The Boston Globe*. He later served as a science and feature writer and editor for numerous periodicals, including *Smithsonian*, *National Wildlife*, and *Yale Alumni Magazine*, where he has worked since 1992. He is perhaps best known locally for the many outdoor programs he leads for a variety of conservation organizations, as well as for "A Naturalist's Journal," a weekly column in Rhode Island and Connecticut newspapers that debuted in 1978. The column combines observations of the natural world, documentary photography, and an endless curiosity into a blend of science and the human spirit.



Rhode Island's Elections Explained

1 Session with Rob Rock
Mon, Oct 5
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Join us for an overview of how elections work in Rhode Island. Rob Rock is a former director of elections under Secretary of State Gorbea and has years of experience with elections and their administration in Rhode Island. He will talk about election processes, including voter list maintenance, mail balloting, voting methods, and post-election audits — all timely and important issues for citizens.

Rob Rock is a 2005 graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor's degree in political science. He began working at the Rhode Island Department of State as an intern in the summer of 2005. Rob was an elections assistant from 2005-2013 when he left to become the town administrator

in the town of Richmond, RI. In 2015, Rob returned to the RI Department of State to serve as Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea's director of elections. Rob is now the deputy secretary of state for Secretary of State Gregg Amore. He has a master's in public administration from the University of Rhode Island. Rob served as the president of the National Association of State Election Directors' (NASED) Executive Board and was the chair of the Electronic Registration Information Center.

The Science of Andy Weir

2 Sessions with Doug Gobeille
Mon, Oct 19, 26
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Max: 20 Fee: \$35.00

We'll examine the science behind *The Martian* and *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir, using them as case studies to explore real-world physics, chemistry, astronomy, and problem-solving. Students will critically evaluate what the stories get right and where fiction diverges from reality. Readings and film viewings are completed outside of class; class time is devoted to student-led, discussion-based analysis driven by prepared questions, fostering scientific reasoning, curiosity, and collaborative inquiry.



Required reading:

Students can choose to either read or watch the movies:

- Andy Weir, *The Martian* (Ballantine, 2011)
- Andy Weir, *Project Hail Mary* (Ballantine, 2021)

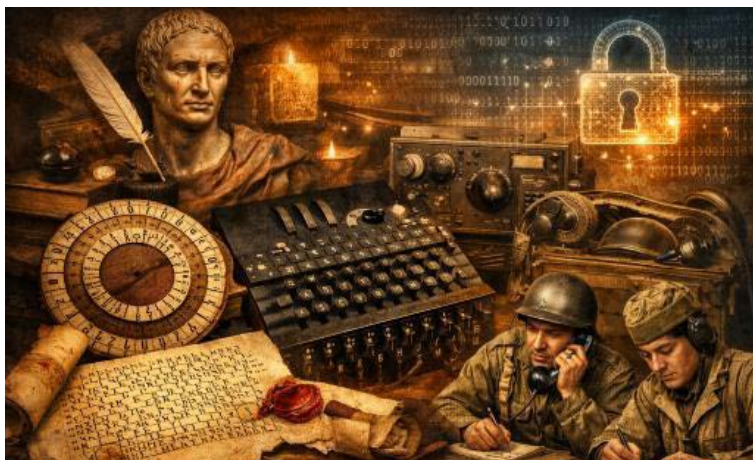
Doug Gobeille is a URI teaching professor of astrophysics who incorporates modern observations and publications into introductory classroom investigations of life in the universe. His primary research focuses on the study of supermassive black holes, specifically their production of active galactic nuclei and their evolution through cosmological time.

(Gobeille, cont. pg 14)

MONDAY

(Gobeille, cont)

This work focuses on studying the morphology of radio loud quasars using the Very Large Array (JVLA) in Socorro, NM, as well as observations made with the SWIFT, Chandra, XMM Newton, and Fermi space telescopes investigating x-ray and gamma-ray energy production mechanisms in high redshift quasar jets. This research builds on his work with Dr. Leslie Brown at Connecticut College, and graduate studies with Dr. John Wardle at Brandeis University. At URI, Professor Gobeille focuses on life, humanity, and their place in the universe through incorporating modern observations and publications into introductory classroom settings.



Codes and Ciphers

1 Session with Carol Gibbons

Mon, Oct 19

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

The need to transmit information securely has existed for centuries. Ciphers and codes were developed to convey military information without the enemy's knowledge. Today, codes identify products at the grocery store and help protect our privacy when we use credit cards. We will explore a brief history of encryption and examine examples such as the Caesar cipher, the Navajo Code Talkers, and credit card security codes. Come learn how to decipher secret messages!

Carol Gibbons is emerita professor of mathematical sciences at Salve Regina University, where she taught a variety of courses over 35 years, including calculus, linear algebra, and statistics. Her research interests include difference equations, geometric Islamic tiling patterns, and concepts of infinity.

Walking Rhode Island – Trailblazers

1 Session with John Kostrzewa

Mon, Oct 26

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

John Kostrzewa, who writes the “Walking Rhode Island” column for *The Providence Journal*, has been hiking for decades across the state. He has lectured at OLLI before, but this is a new presentation with new hikes, new slides, and more information about the trailblazers—the men and women who cleared the way. He'll discuss the history of the areas where he has hiked and the variety of birds, trees, and geological features he has found. A special focus of the presentation will be a description of the North-South Trail and places to hike in the fall. Along the way, he'll explain what makes Rhode Island's trails unique and outline some of the challenges that Rhode Islanders face regarding maintaining the state's public places.



John Kostrzewa worked for 45 years in the newspaper industry, including the last 29 at *The Providence Journal* as a business reporter, columnist, business editor, and assistant managing editor. He retired in 2017 and spent the next three years as an adjunct professor at Bryant University, where he taught a writing workshop course to first-year students. In 2020, he began writing freelance stories for the *Journal* about business and economics during the pandemic. In January, he launched “Walking Rhode Island,” a weekly column online and in the Sunday newspaper, about hiking in the state. A College of the Holy Cross graduate, Kostrzewa also worked at the *Worcester Post*, *Lawrence Eagle-Tribune*, and *Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal*.

**Not sure what room
your class is in?
Check the TV monitor
located in OLLI Lobby.**

From Sesame Street to YouTube: How Children's TV Shapes Young Minds

1 Session with Sara Sweetman

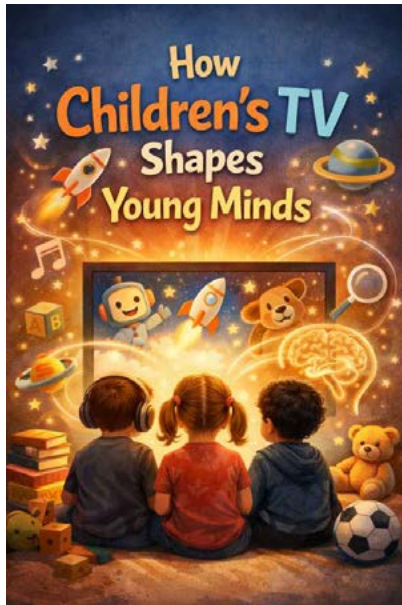
Mon, Nov 2

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Children's television is often praised for supporting learning yet criticized for harming attention and development. What does research actually show? We will explore the mixed evidence on children's media, from classic educational programs to today's digital platforms. We'll see how educational television is developed, including behind-the-scenes clips from production, and learn what parents and grandparents can look for when choosing media that truly benefits young children.

Sara B. Sweetman, Ph.D., is an associate professor of education in the College of Education and Professional Studies at the University of Rhode Island (URI). Her scholarship centers on children's learning through educational media, with particular attention to STEM engagement, environmental belonging, and multi-modal learning across television, digital games, and interactive platforms. Dr. Sweetman works closely with media producers, writers, station educators, and researchers to develop and support the design and evaluation of developmentally appropriate, research-informed content for children and families. She has served as an advisor to multiple national children's media initiatives, including PBS KIDS Ready to Learn Initiative and Sesame Street.



The Constitution as Applied: The Amendments

6 Sessions with Geoffrey Schoos

Mon, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec 7

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$55.00

Neither a first-year law class nor a high school civics class, this course will examine *The Constitution's* Amendments that protect our rights to speak, publish, practice religion, assemble and petition our government, bear arms, be safe in our homes against arbitrary government action, and our rights to due process.

Suggested reading and assignment for the first class: In preparation for this class, read *The Constitution* as amended online at the National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>. Additional reading materials will be provided before each class.

Geoffrey A. Schoos, Esq. (Retired) is a former high school classroom government, history, law, and economics teacher; an attorney for three decades with a focus on serving low-income individuals and families in a variety of civil legal issues; founder of a non-profit legal services organization; board chair of three nonprofit organizations and member of several more; consultant to nonprofits on a variety of legal issues; and an author of an article published in C.U.N.Y. Law Review and of a book focusing on legal services to the poor.



**FALL REGISTRATION BEGINS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, ONLINE AT 7:00 AM**



America's "Sickcare" System: Profits Over Patients?

5 Sessions with Bob Persons

Mon, Nov 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec 7

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$50.00

Americans are unhealthier than ever. Life expectancy is falling. Chronic diseases are rising. And, despite spending more on healthcare than any other nation on Earth, Americans are getting sicker, not healthier. Meanwhile, mega corporations in the pharmaceutical, food, and health insurance industries continue to generate billions in profits, and are the largest spenders on advertising, contributors to university research, and lobbyists in Washington. We will critically examine the incentives and motivations that drive America's healthcare policy. Is it time for a second opinion? Please bring an open and curious mind.

Bob Persons recently retired from a 35-year investment career in Boston. He holds a B.A. from Bucknell University and an M.B.A. from Northwestern University. He has spoken at countless investment conferences worldwide and for 12 years was a guest lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management. He has a passion for uncovering the truth and has taught nine previous OLLI classes on controversial topics including the JFK assassination, American war propaganda, wrongful convictions, and the FBI's abuses in its war on terror. His classes encourage critical thinking and open and thoughtful debate.

Four Big Ideas from 20th Century Science

4 Sessions with Bob Klein

Mon, Nov 16, 23, 30, Dec 7

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$45.00

The 20th century has provided exciting and unexpected new ideas that underpin our lives today. In this course, we will explore four of the biggest. Each of these breakthroughs has transformed our world and changed the lives we lead. We will spend one session on each topic:

- Electricity for light and power
- Antibiotics for medicine
- Broadcast radio and television for instant communication across the globe
- Artificial Intelligence, which may define the era to come

We'll review the key technical concepts in the context of their history, and discuss how these ideas have touched our lives. We'll also review where these technologies have led us and examine the outlook for further development.

With technical degrees from MIT, an MBA from Northeastern, and a membership card to the Baby Boom generation, **Bob Klein** feels we live in the most interesting and exciting times of all. His background in science and engineering ties to his interest in the history of the 20th century, the time when science propelled our world forward at ever-increasing velocity.



Register Online

URI.EDU/OLLI

Online registration begins

Tue, June 16, at 7:00 AM.

The office will open at 9:00 AM for in-person and phone registration.

Redefining the Future of Aging at Home

with Jessica Smith

Director, atHome Together Membership Program

Mon, November 16

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 30 Fee: \$0.00



Join us to learn how the Saint Elizabeth Community is offering a new supportive and innovative way for aging adults to plan for their future care needs today, offering personalized care coordination, preferred access to care and services, long-term financial protection, and most importantly, peace of mind.

Light refreshments will be served.

Jessica Smith joined Saint Elizabeth Community in 2025 as our Continuing Care at Home Program Director. She is an accomplished business professional who has a unique blend of strategic planning, project management, and personal finance expertise. Jessica built her career around her dedication to her family and her desire to build meaningful relationships with whomever she meets. Through her personal experience of caring for loved ones and navigating the complexities of long-term care, she is committed to helping our members maintain independence, protect their financial security, and provide peace of mind that Saint Elizabeth Community will be there when they need it. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Bryant College and is a member of the North Kingstown community where she lives with her husband and two sons.

[Click to view the St. Elizabeth flyer on page 75.](#)

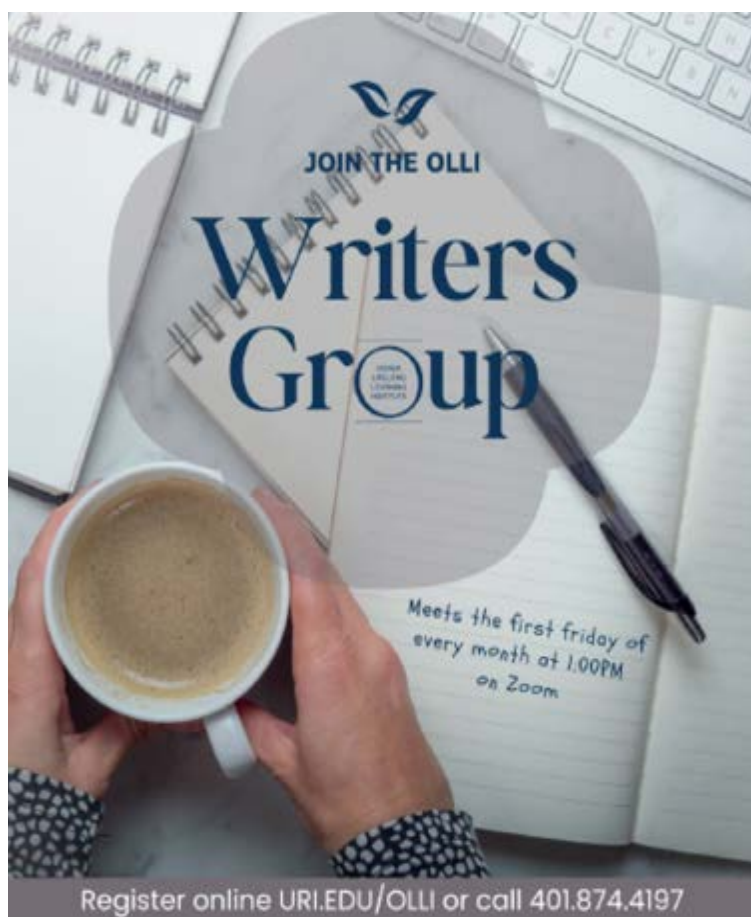


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What Seniors Should Know About Heart Disease

1 Session with Arun Singh, MD

Tue, Sept 15

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

As we grow older, our heart becomes the most important organ to protect. Heart disease remains the leading cause of illness and death after the age of 65, yet much of

it is preventable and treatable. Dr. Arun K. Singh will share what every senior should know: how to recognize early warning signs, how to reduce risk, and what modern treatments can offer to help you live longer and better.



Arun K. Singh, M.D. was born in India and received his medical degree there, followed by surgical training at Columbia University, Brown University's Alpert Medical School, and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London. He practiced at RI Hospital from 1975 – 2016. A member of the faculty at Brown University's Alpert Medical School since 1976, he is now professor emeritus. For more details about his life and his achievements, go to yourheartmyhands.com/about-dr-singh/.

Writing, Illustrating, and Self-Publishing A Children's Picture Book

1 Session with Rick Billings

Tue, Sept 15

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Max: 15 Fee: \$15.00

Have you ever wanted to write a children's picture book? Do you have an idea for one? Are you an artist or a writer with an interest in children's books? Join Rick Billings as he shares his experiences writing, illustrating, and self-publishing. Rick will provide hands-on examples of his own work as well as the work of others. There will be time for Q & A and discussion about the pros and cons of creating your own book.

Rick Billings is a writer, illustrator, aspiring musician, and proponent of general creativity. He has pub-

lished several of his short stories and poems as well as three children's picture books and a book of fire-fighting-related cartoons. Rick studied art at Rhode Island College and illustration at RISD and MassArt. He has been an artist since he could hold his first crayon. Rick is originally from Pawtucket and currently lives in Barrington with his wife Kathy and Nala the Wonder Dog.

Paris in the Dark: The Nazi Occupation 1940 - 1944

4 Sessions with Christopher Menard

Tue, Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$45.00

On June 14, 1940, the victorious German army marched triumphantly into Paris to take control of the city most coveted by Adolf Hitler. The mighty French army had been defeated in just 46 days. The retreating French government had de-



clared Paris an "open city" to preserve her from the destruction of a siege. On that day, the City of Light went dark and would remain so for the next four years of the Nazi occupation. Though the city would remain mostly intact physically and visually (aside from the appearance of German street signs and the clocks being set to German time), living under the rule of cruel and tyrannical conquerors would have a profound effect on the lives of all Parisians. While we will touch upon key political and military events, primarily we will focus our discussion on the lived experience of ordinary Parisians, trying to look beyond the simplistic resistant or collaborator narrative and consider, rather, the moral ambiguity that confronted every French man and woman, profoundly influencing their decisions and behavior in nearly every aspect of day-to-day life.

Suggested Reading: Ronald C. Rossbottom, *When Paris Went Dark: The City of Light Under German Occupation, 1940-1944* (Little, Brown & Co., 2014).

Charles Glass, *Americans in Paris: Life and Death Under Nazi Occupation* (Penguin Books, 2009).

Martin Dugard, *Taking Paris* (Dutton Caliber, 2021)

C.J. Menard worked primarily in higher education advancement/development at various institutions including Boston University, Northwestern, Harvard, and Amherst College, as well as Deerfield Academy. He graduated from Colgate University with honors in history. His senior thesis focused on the decision in 1915 by Tsar Nicholas II to take command of the Russian army during WWI and the consequences of that decision.

Pen, Ink and Wash: Drawing Home Scapes

4 Sessions with Pike Powers

Tue, Sep 15, 22, 29, Oct 6

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Max: 15 Fee: \$50

Sketching in ink and painting with color washes is a facile way to capture lively architectural, rural, and urban landscape imagery. Southern Rhode Island, with its stone walls, farms, mills and historical houses—from beach cottages to palatial mansions—provides a broad offering of landscape subject matter for the artist. We will aim at improving our perspective, composition, contrast and light values while helping to loosen up our drawing style. Exercises will offer ways of meeting the challenge of a timid drawer who says, “I can barely draw a stick figure.” In class demonstrations, individual attention and encouragement will key us to understanding what drawing is.



[Click here for the materials list.](#)

Pike Powers takes a multipronged approach to her creative career. She has exhibited her award-winning artwork in painting, glass, and mixed-material sculpture internationally. She was a foundation professor at Parsons School of Design, art director of Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle, and past executive director of Boca Grande Art Alliance, FL. Powers received her B.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design and M.F.A. from Yale University. At home in her native Rhode Island, she freelances in design, consulting, and teaching.

The Birth of the English Detective Story:

The Moonstone

4 Sessions with Jenny Reed

Tue, Sep 15, 22, 29, Oct 6

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Max: 16 Fee: \$45.00

We will read and think about Wilkie Collins's masterpiece, *The Moonstone*, published in 1868 and often considered the first English detective novel. It inaugurates the form of the classic English detective story: a mysterious and compelling crime in an English country house, a large cast of potential suspects, and a brilliant investigator. Told from a variety of character perspectives, it is domestic and international in its scope, suspenseful and delightful, and will leave you with a new way of thinking about all the detective stories that came after, from Agatha Christie to the *Knives Out* movies. This will be a discussion-based class, and we'll sink our teeth into character, plot, and influence in our conversations.



Required reading: Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone* (Penguin Classics, 1999).

Assignment for the first class: Please watch the introductory lecture on the detective novel and *The Moonstone* (the lecture will be sent by email as a video to students enrolled in the class).

Jenny Reed received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia in 2015. She has fifteen years of teaching experience across a range of different institutions, including the University of Virginia, Brandeis University, Colby College, and the College of the Holy Cross. She specializes in eighteenth-century and early modern British literature.

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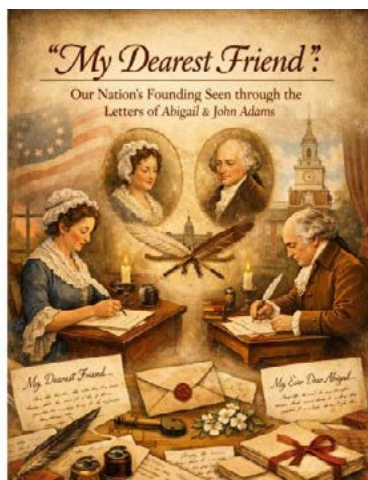
"My Dearest Friend": Our Nation's Founding Seen through the Letters of Abigail & John Adams

2 Sessions with Marilyn Harris

Tues, Sept 22, 29

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$35.00

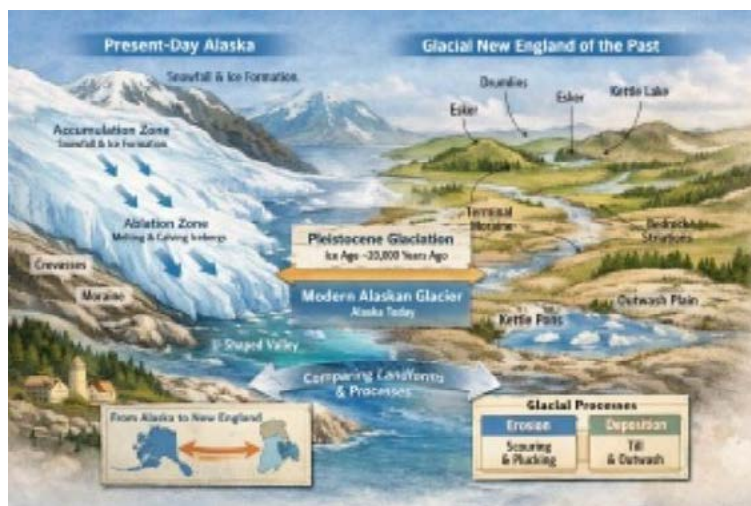


During the formative years of our nation, Abigail and John Adams corresponded through more than a thousand letters, which they thoughtfully preserved for posterity. These letters offer us a valuable insiders' perspective on the challenges, anxieties, and achievements characteristic of that era. In this two-week course, we

will examine selected exchanges between what is often regarded as America's first power couple. Week 1 will look at correspondence concerning the time leading up to open hostilities. Week 2 will feature a "visit" with an elderly Abigail Adams remembering some of the letters related to the writing of the *Declaration of Independence*, the war, and eventual peace.

Suggested reading: Hogan, Margaret A. and C. James Taylor, ed., *My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams* (The Belknap Press, 2007). Adams Electronic Archive on-line at <https://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive/letter/>

Marilyn Harris, a Midwesterner with degrees from the University of Illinois and Kutztown University, retired as enrichment coordinator for Canton, MA in the early 2000s. She has since taught over 40 classes at OLLI, as well as doing presentations for local senior centers, libraries, and community groups. In 2023, she was named to the OLLI Hall of Fame. As a docent at Smith's Castle, Marilyn contributes to historical research and adult education programs, including the book *The Women of Cocumscussoc*. During this 250th Celebration of the Declaration year, she has been busy doing presentations throughout Rhode Island on related topics.



The New England/Rhode Island/Alaska Connection is GLACIAL!

2 Sessions with Don Hermes and Darryl Keith

Tue, Sept 29, Oct 6

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$35.00

A common geologic principle holds that "the present is the key to the past," i.e., by understanding processes operating today, we can better interpret ancient history. To understand how glaciation affected the New England/Rhode Island landscape, we can look to geological processes and landforms of present-day Alaska, comparing these newer landscapes with the older glacial features of New England and Rhode Island. In two classes, we will explore the glacial history of these areas; learn about glacial forms, processes, and motion; and discuss how these landscapes will evolve in response to future climate change events.

Suggested reading: James W. Skehan, *Roadside Geology of Connecticut and Rhode Island* (Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2008).

Darryl Keith holds geological degrees from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and URI Graduate School of Oceanography.

Don Hermes is a professor emeritus in the URI Dept of Geological Sciences. He holds degrees in the Geosciences from Washington University and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Heroes & Headaches: New England's Story of Piracy at Home and Abroad

2 Sessions with Luca Rebussini

Tue, Sept 29, Oct 6

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$35.00

We'll explore the history of the pirates and pirate hunters of New England during the golden age of piracy. Topics to be discussed include weapons and tactics used, politics on board a pirate ship, the workings and social structures of a pirate crew, and the stories of the pirates, privateers, and pirate hunters themselves. Welcome aboard as we discuss this hidden part of New England's history!

Luca Rebussini is founder and CEO of R.I. Pirate Guy LLC, and a 6th grade social studies teacher. He holds bachelor's degrees in history and secondary education respectively from URI and a master's degree in ESL from Western Governors University. His interest in pirate history grew out of his love of history, passion for teaching, and the fun of learning about pirates. Since the founding of R.I. Pirate Guy LLC, he has shared his piratical programming with universities, libraries, yacht clubs, breweries and distilleries, and other organizations across southern New England and beyond, in person and through TV and social media.

Reading *The Age of Innocence* in Cynical Times

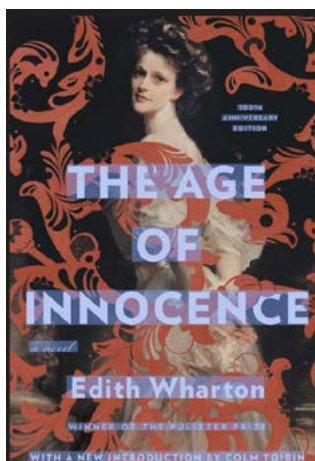
1 Session with Jane Barstow

Tue, Oct 13

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$15.00

Edith Wharton wrote her 1920 Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel in a gentler, less satirical mode than previous works. In her mid-fifties following the end of the war, the deaths of close friends, and the lingering aftermath of a passionate affair, she experienced a degree of nostalgia for the old New York of her childhood but also a degree of hope in the brash, less cultivated younger generation. We will look at the novel in the context of Wharton's life and art, her ongoing critique of American society, and her portrayal of men and women seeking to lead meaningful if limited lives.



Suggested reading: Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* (any edition).

Jane Barstow retired from the University of Hartford in 2010 after many years as a member of the English department where she taught American literature with a focus on African-American and immigrant women writers. She also served as dean of Hartford College for Women and taught abroad in Greece and Bulgaria as a Fulbright scholar. More recently she has offered on-line courses on immigrant narratives to graduate students in gender studies at Southern Connecticut State University. And she has lectured on Edith Wharton, Margaret Atwood, Edwidge Danticat, and Toni Morrison to adult learners in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Her publications include many essays on women writers and the 1997 bio-bibliography *One Hundred Years of American Women Writing, 1848-1948*. Jane enjoys playing bridge, hiking, and traveling and says her major obsession is the *Sunday New York Times* crossword puzzle.

Got Milkweed? The Importance of Milkweed for Monarch Butterflies

1 Session with Mary Jo MacKinnon

Tue, Oct 13

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Monarch butterflies depend on milkweed plants for their life cycle. Milkweed is the only plant monarch caterpillars eat and the butterflies lay their eggs on. Over time, milkweed plants have significantly decreased, one of the reasons which led to monarchs being placed on the endangered species list. We can change that! Let's talk about how we can make a difference and make a Pledge to Plant!

Assignment for the class: Please look in your yard or neighborhood for milkweed plants. We'll take a poll during class.

Dr. Mary Jo Mackinnon, FNP-BC, ND, is a monarch enthusiast who wants to preserve the monarch butterflies for generations to come. She is a nurse practitioner by trade, but her love of monarch butterflies and their diminishing numbers led her to create a website dedicated to educating people about the importance of milkweed in the environment. Her website, ProjectMonarchButterfly.com encourages everyone to take the "Pledge to Plant" in their area.

The Doctor Broad: A Mafia Love Story

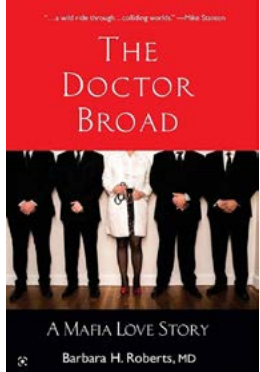
1 Session with Barbara Roberts, M.D.

Tue, Oct 13

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

How did someone raised in a devout Catholic family become a pro-choice, anti-war activist, the cardiologist to the head of the New England Mafia, and the lover of one of his associates? This talk traces her life's trajectory as a woman who was raised in one world but came of age in another; who expected to live one life but found herself ad-libbing something completely different; who faced challenges undreamt of by her mother, while providing a new paradigm for her daughters.



Suggested reading: Barbara H. Roberts, [The Doctor Broad: A Mafia Love Story](#), (Heliotrope Books LLC, 2019).

For the class: Bring any questions you have for the author about her experiences as a woman physician activist.

Barbara Roberts, M.D. is a graduate of Barnard College and Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. She is a clinical associate professor of medicine emerita at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. While at the NIH (National Institutes of Health) and Brown, she participated in studies examining the effect of cholesterol-lowering drugs on heart disease. She is the author of *How to Keep from Breaking Your Heart: What Every Woman Needs to Know About Cardiovascular Disease*, *The Truth About Statins: Risks and Alternatives to Cholesterol-Lowering Drugs*, and *The Doctor Broad: A Mafia Love Story*.

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Navigating Medicare: Making Sense of Your Options

1 Session with Jeanne LaChance

Tue, Oct 13

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Turning 65, retiring, or facing a qualifying life event, with joining Medicare on the horizon? Medicare's maze of plans, premiums, and penalties can be overwhelming. This course aims to cut through the confusion and lay out a clear, step-by-step path for anyone approaching Medicare eligibility—or already enrolled. We'll define key terms, walk through your coverage choices, and explain how to avoid costly late-enrollment penalties. You'll leave with the knowledge and tools to navigate Medicare confidently, ask the right questions, and make informed decisions.

Jeanne LaChance has more than 30 years of experience in healthcare finance and leadership across hospitals and community-based organizations. She has served as a chief financial officer, chief operating officer, and chief executive officer, focusing on financial management and operations. Jeanne currently works as a Medicare health plan advisor, helping individuals understand their coverage options. She also serves as a fractional CFO with Focus CFO, supporting organizations in financial planning. She previously held leadership roles at Thundermist Health Center, Westerly Hospital, and United Memorial Medical Center. Jeanne holds an M.B.A. from Salve Regina University and a B.S. in Accounting from Canisius College. She is a certified internal auditor and a former C.P.A. (New York).

My Life as a Dog

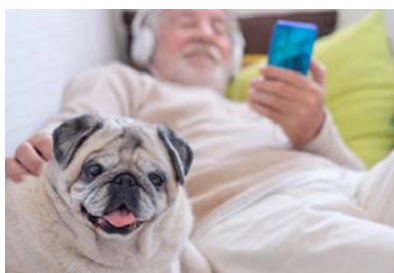
1 Session with David Aguilar

Tue, Oct 20

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

According to fossil records, wolves bonded with paleolithic humans around 16,000 years ago to become “man’s best friend” and create a lasting relationship unmatched by any other species. From ancient hunting companions to highly trained service animals to early cancer detectors, dogs have adapted their social skills to match ours, learning how to read social and emotional cues far better than our closest primate relatives. Dogs bring us love, comfort, and companionship in stressful times but there is another attribute many miss: If we lived our lives more like our canine companions, we might be happier, healthier, and live longer. Join us as we take a fun, humorous look at how we, too, can learn some new tricks and live our lives more like dogs.



David A. Aguilar is an internationally recognized naturalist/astronomer, author, onscreen science contributor and space artist with the unique ability to open minds to the vast frontiers of space and their potential effects on our own world. He is the former director of science information at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and past director of marketing communications for Ball Aerospace in Boulder, Co. David has written and illustrated 12 award-winning children’s books for National Geographic, was a member of the NASA Pluto Encounter Mission, has consulted and appeared in the History Channel’s Universe series

Design for Living by Noel Coward: Champagne, Wit, and Chaos!

6 Session with Vincent Burks

Tue, Oct 27, Nov (skip 3,) 10, 17, 24, Dec 1, 8

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$55.00

We’re going a little naughty this time. Together, let’s explore Noel Coward’s *Design for Living*, a witty, lawless, three-act comedy of manners that focuses on a love triangle between Gilda, Otto, and Leo. We’ll delve into the themes of unconventional love, art obsession, celebrity, and self-absorption. Not sure if this class is for you? Consider the words of Mr. Coward himself, “Trust your instincts. If you have no instincts, trust your impulses.”



Required reading: Noel Coward, *Design for Living* (Methuen Drama, 2023). Available to [read online](#) or purchase on [Amazon](#).

Assignment for the first class: Please read the entire play before the first class.

Vince Burks worked for Amica Insurance for thirty-seven and a half years holding various positions including director of training and communications director. He is a huge fan of Noel Coward and his various plays. Vince first read *Design for Living* as an adult. His sectarian, Catholic high school would never have allowed hormonal teens to read this witty, scandalous, naughty play. Vince holds a B.A. in communications with a minor in business administration from Lynchburg University. He is a member of the National Speakers Association and an active participant in The Moth storytelling events, which you may be familiar with if you’re a fan of NPR.

REFUND POLICY

Memberships are non-refundable. To withdraw from a class and receive a full refund or credit, you must notify the OLLI office at least two weeks before the start of the class. Call the office at 401-874-4197 or email olli@uri.edu. No-shows forfeit their course fees. Day trips and special tours are prepaid so there are no refunds for cancellation or withdrawal. Classes that do not meet minimum student registration numbers are subject to cancellation.

Finding the Story: Tracing the American Revolution in the Blackstone Valley

1 Session with Allison Horrocks

Tue, Oct 27

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00



How did people living away from the front lines of the American Revolution experience this period of great change? During this talk, Park Ranger Allison Horrocks, Ph.D., will explore how ordinary people confronted this age of revolutions in the late 18th century, with a focus on local history and the Blackstone Valley.

Allison Horrocks is a park ranger at Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. Allison earned her Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut in 2016 and has worked as a historian at a number of historic sites in New England. She has worked as a podcast co-host and is the co-author of *Dolls of Our Lives: Why We Can't Quit American Girl*. Allison lives in Lincoln, RI.

What's Really Happening in the Cockpit

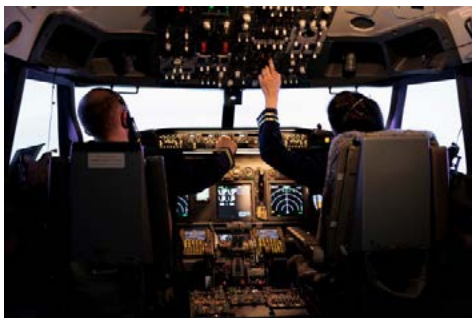
1 Session with Bill Conley

Tue, Oct 27

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

After 30 years as a commercial pilot, Bill Conley is often asked about what life is like inside the airline industry. These questions involve scheduling, delays, autopilots, weather, de-icing, routes, and emergencies among other queries. Passengers want to know, "What's going on behind that locked cockpit door?" Bill will give us some answers to those questions as well as others you may have.



Bill Conley is a recently retired airline pilot with over 30 years in the cockpit flying worldwide. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate and former naval aviator, Bill spent his post-military career at U.S. Airways (now

American) and FedEx Express. He is qualified as a captain on the Boeing 737, 757, 767, and MD-11, and on the Airbus A319, A320, and A321. Bill lives in South Kingstown with his wife, Wendy.

Letter-writing in Literature and Life: A Writing Course

4 Sessions with Gale Eaton

Tue, Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 20 Fee: \$45.00

You are invited to a discussion of letters: the ones we've received or inherited, what they've meant to us, and what we need to do with them now.

(Oh, no!) The ones we have to write (again? oh, no!!!), and how to get (and give) the most pleasure or solace from writing them. The ones we read (in fiction or nonfiction, poetry or prose), what they reveal (or hide), and how they do it. Come ready to discuss *The Correspondent*, by Virginia Evans, and at least two letters you write or discover in other sources. (Only literary critics read collected letters, according to James Thurber, and anybody else who says he does is a liar. True or false?)



Required reading: Virginia Evans, *The Correspondent* (Generic, 2026). You can [read *The Correspondent* online](#) through several major digital retailers and library services.

Suggested reading: Your choice of another epistolary novel or book of collected letters.

Gale Eaton, Ph.D., is the author of *A Story of Civilization in 50 Disasters* and co-author of *A Story of Medicine in 50 Discoveries*. She retired in 2012 as director of URI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. Since then, she has published four nonfiction books and several poems, taught for OLLI, and made repeated efforts to organize her home office. She still specializes in the annual holiday letter.



Enneagram

1 Session with Joan McLaughlin

Tue, Nov 10

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Are you a Reformer? A Giver? An Achiever? An Individualist? An Observer? A Loyalist? An Enthusiast? A Protector? A Mediator? The Enneagram gives you a window into your motivations, as well as your blind spots or negative tendencies that cause suffering. It gives you a window into your own psyche, and offers insight into the behavior of others. The Enneagram is a tool that builds self-awareness and suggests strategies to transform negative aspects of your personality, often protectors, into higher states of being to help you live a more peaceful and productive life.

Joan McLaughlin is a tutor for GED students and after-school programs. She was a special education teacher for 15 years in Massachusetts public schools. Previously, she worked as an information graphic artist and designer for the *Hartford Courant* and *The Boston Globe*. She became interested in the Enneagram through Helen Palmer's work and, most recently, Richard Roth and Andreas Ebert's teachings.



Axel von Fersen – A Swedish Count, A French Officer, and an American Revolutionary

2 Sessions with Ken Johnson

Tue, Nov 24, Dec 1

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$35.00

Born in 1755, Axel von Fersen inherited wealth, a propensity for languages, international connections, and good looks. Access to the highest societies enabled his participation in the political upheavals of his time. From Paris to Stockholm to Newport to Yorktown his language and military skills were useful to Sweden, France, and America in the American Revolution. Stationed in Newport as General Rochambeau's adjutant he served with distinction. Reputed to be Marie Antoinette's lover, he returned to France, but faced with the revolutions of the time, he found he could save neither the Queen, the French monarchy, nor eventually even himself. Join us to learn about this interesting, yet lesser known, historic personage.



Suggested reading:

H. Arnold Barton, *Count Hans Axel von Fersen: Aristocrat in an Age of Revolution* (Twayne Publishers, 1975).

Antonia Fraser, *Marie Antoinette* (Anchor Books).

Herman Lindqvist, *Axel von Fersen* (Fisher & Co., Rimbo (in Swedish, 1991).

Herman Lindqvist, *Mordet på Axel von Fersen (The Murder of Axel von Fersen)*, Historiska Media (in Swedish, 2006).

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. Fluent in German and Swedish he has given many talks on Swedish and German history for 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 14 years giving tours in English and German for the firms Destinations North America, Inter-Cruises, New World Travel, and JRickers Travel Concepts.



ROGER WILLIAMS: BEYOND THE MYTH

Please register for each session separately. All sessions are free.
Suggested reading and assignment for the class available online.

Max per class: 45 Fee: \$0.00



Join National Park Service Ranger Andrew Schnetzer as we explore one of the most influential contributors to the principles of freedom in America. Each session will cover an introduction to many primary sources from Roger Williams' lifetime. But more importantly, it will be a discussion about how these historical events fit into our modern understanding of America. Active participation is central to student success.

All the World's a Stage

Tue, Sep 29, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Roger Williams is perhaps the most studied early colonial figure. The basic facts of his life are covered in school by almost every Rhode Island student. But his personal life, political and philosophical ideas, and his legacy are complicated, confusing, and often stunning. The cast of characters include Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Francis Bacon, Edward Coke, Shakespeare, and others.

A Man's Home is His Castle

Tue, Oct 13, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

This session continues the exploration of Rhode Island's founder and important colonial figure in our nation's history. We'll look at Williams' formative years, his marriage, and his emigration to the Puritan New World. We'll introduce new characters like Mary Bernard, King Charles I, Cotton Mather, John Winthrop, and the Puritan reformers.

Theology, Magistrates, and Banishment

Tue, Nov 10, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

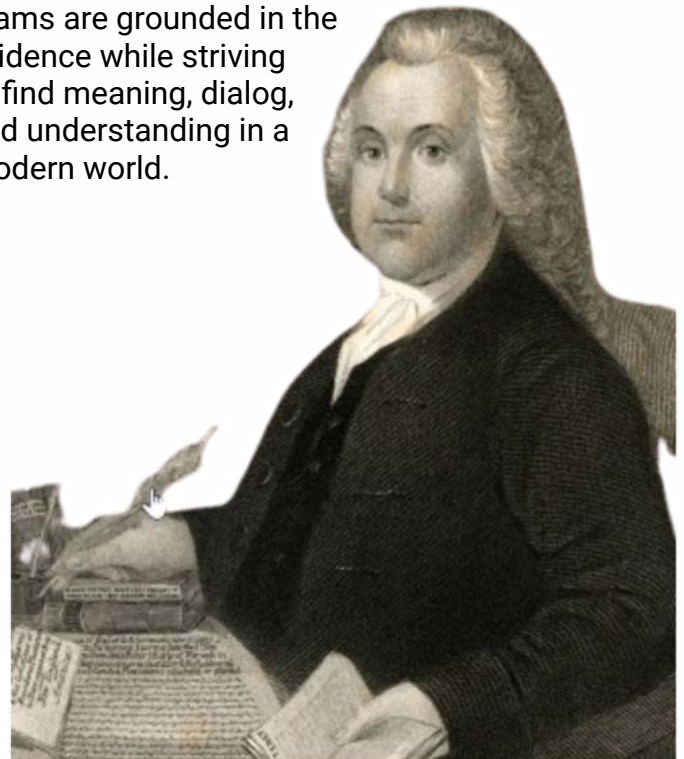
This third session focuses on Rhode Island's Founding Father at a critical moment in his life and career. We'll explore the arguments that led to Roger's banishment from Massachusetts Bay in 1635, his flight into the "wilderness" in 1636, and his establishment of Providence. We will discuss his views on Indigenous land rights, the role of magistrates in matters of conscience, and his arguments for separation from England.

Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History

Tue, Dec 1, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

This session brings in prominent and influential women in Williams' life. In this class, we'll discuss the role of Mary Williams, Anne Hutchinson, Anne Dyer, Anne Sadleir, Jane Verin and others whose contributions to the development of a Rhode Island identity are often underappreciated, if not altogether unknown.

Andrew Schnetzer has worked for the National Park Service for over 19 years. As a park ranger at Roger Williams National Memorial, he focuses on making the ideals of our nation's earliest thinkers central to the American experience. Andrew does not consider himself a historian, but an interpreter of American stories. His programs are grounded in the evidence while striving to find meaning, dialog, and understanding in a modern world.



LEARN TO PLAY MAH JONGG

2 Sessions with Karen Sanderson

Wednesdays, Oct 7, 14 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Max: 20 Fee: \$40

This introductory, two-hour American Mah Jongg course provides a hands-on foundation in the essential rules (in accordance with the National Mah Jongg League Rules), card reading, terminology, and gameplay needed to confidently join a table. Students will begin with guided instruction on tile sets, game flow, and key strategies. A card for the instruction will be provided. The session will conclude with one or two full practice rounds, time permitting, to reinforce learning through real-time play.

Karen Sanderson is a certified Mahjong instructor and an Ambassador for The Mahjong Line. She teaches American Mahjong with a hands-on, friendly, and encouraging style, and she especially enjoys introducing new players to this beautiful, engaging, and mentally stimulating game. With more than 15 years of experience in corporate training and adult learning, Karen excels at breaking down complex ideas into clear, simple steps that help learners feel confident quickly. Whether she's leading large group classes or hosting Mahjong events across Southern Rhode Island, she focuses on building community, sparking connection, and creating a welcoming environment for beginners. Karen is passionate about guiding new players on their Mahjong journey and looks forward to welcoming each learner to the table.



JOIN OLLI'S BIKING GROUP



**MEETS WEEKLY ON
TUESDAYS**

REGISTER ONLINE: URI.EDU/OLLI

WELCOME *New Member*

New members and returning friends are invited to a warm, easygoing introduction to all that OLLI offers. We'll walk through our current programs, special interest groups, and the many ways to get involved, while also helping you get comfortable with our website and registration system. There's plenty of time for questions, conversation, and connection. Coffee and refreshments will be waiting—come join us! Bring a friend! Non-members welcome!

Mon, Sept 14

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Tue, Oct 27

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Thu, Nov 19

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Wed, Dec 9

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM



Fun with Poetry: A Look at Three Great Nonsense Poets

3 Sessions with Kathy Pesta

Wed, Sept 16, 23, 30

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$40.00

We will briefly discuss the musicality of poetry and take a quick look at Lewis Carroll and a longer look at Edward Lear, often called the King of Limericks, and Ogden Nash, known for his inventive and humorous end rhymes. We may even try our hand at emulating their styles with our own offerings if we're so inclined!

Kathy Pesta taught for many years in the English department at The Prout School. Her poems have appeared in America Magazine, English Journal, and other national venues. She has self-published two books of poetry and is currently at work on her third. She delights in sharing the beauty, wisdom, joy, and humor found in poetry.



Anton Chekhov: *The Cherry Orchard* and Stories

3 Sessions with Ann Ferrante

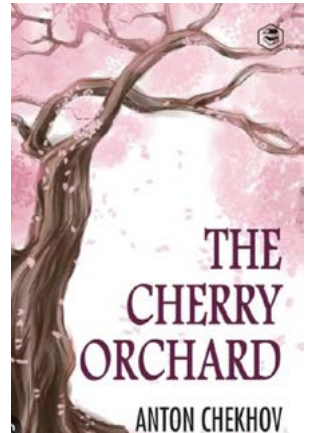
Wed, Sept 16, 23, 30

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Max: 25 Fee: \$40.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* examines the lives of characters living in pre-revolutionary Russia, a time when traditional values and ideals were being questioned. Aristocrats long for a world that is rapidly disappearing, while recently liberated characters struggle to adapt to their changing status. We will discuss the conflicts and evolution of lives in a world they do not fully understand. We will proceed from *The Cherry Orchard* to beautifully crafted short stories such as "Gooseberries" and "The Lady with the Pet Dog." Throughout these works, characters struggle to find meaning in a topsy-turvy world. The stories are open-ended, allowing for different interpretations, and they have contemporary relevance.



Required reading:

Anton Chekhov, *The Major Plays*. Translated by Ann Dunnigan. (Signet Classics, 2006)

Anton Chekhov, *Selected Stories of Anton Chekhov*. Translated by Richard Pevear and Louisa Volokhonsky (Modern Library, 2000).

Ann Ferrante received her Ph.D. in English in 1985 at URI. She is a retired distinguished lecturer and faculty emerita of RISD where she taught for 30 years. Her specialty is 19th- and early 20th-century American literature.

Register Online

URI.EDU/OLLI

Online registration begins

Tue, Sept 1, at 7:00 AM.

The office will open at 9:00 AM for in-person and phone registration.

The Birth, Life, and Death of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

5 Sessions with John McGeehan

Wed, Sept 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$50.00

On August 6, 1965, five months after the Bloody Sunday attack on civil rights marchers in Selma, Alabama, President Johnson signed the 1965 Civil Rights Act into law. Sections 2 and 5 of the Act prohibited any election rule or practice that would “deny or abridge” the right to vote, thus imposing a “permanent, nationwide ban on racial discrimination in voting.” Section 5 required that certain states with histories of discriminatory election laws would need federal pre-clearance for voting law changes. The 2013 Supreme Court case of *Shelby v. Holder* all but eliminated the pre-clearance requirement of section 5 and restrictive voting laws immediately followed. On April 29, 2026 the Supreme Court, in *Louisiana v. Callais*, held that Louisiana’s new congressional map represented “racial gerrymandering” and therefore gutted the protective provisions of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and rendered it useless. We will spend five weeks not only discussing the life and death of the 1965 Civil Rights Act, but simultaneously examining the 2026 midterm elections. Perhaps we can determine if Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s reference to “throwing away your umbrella in a rain-storm because you are not getting wet” in her *Shelby* dissent was, in-fact, prophetic.

Suggested reading: To be assigned on a weekly basis.

Reading assignment for the first class: [“Finishing Off Voting Rights Act, Supreme Court Declares Racism Over-Again.”](#)

John R. McGeehan holds a B.A. in history from St. Lawrence University, an M.A. in liberal studies from Stony Brook University (SUNY), and J.D. from Catholic University’s Columbus School of Law. Before retiring from a career in public education, he spent 25 years as a high school history teacher. For OLLI at URI he has taught *Twenty-five Songs: A Social History, 1930–2000*, *Do Our Votes Really Count?* and *The Right to Vote*.



Cancer Essentials: Understanding and Navigating the Cancer Journey

2 Sessions with Ron Peck

Wed, Sept 23, 30

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$35.00

This two-part series offers a comprehensive exploration of cancer for non-medical audiences. In session 1, Understanding Cancer, Dr. Ron Peck will explain the biology of cancer, common cancer types, risk factors, screening approaches, and what goes into a new cancer diagnosis. Session 2, Navigating Cancer Care, will provide practical guidance for patients and caregivers, including how to evaluate treatment options, understand clinical trials, communicate with doctors to best advocate for themselves, and how best to support loved ones who were just given a new cancer diagnosis or are living with cancer.

Suggested reading: Siddhartha Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* (Scribner, 2010).

Check these websites:

- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [National Cancer Center Network Patient Resources](#)
- [Cancer Care National Cancer Institute](#)

Ron Peck, M.D. is a medical oncologist with 30 years of expertise in cancer care and drug development. Dr. Peck earned his M.D. at Thomas Jefferson University and completed his internal medicine and oncology/hematology training at Georgetown University. Thereafter, Dr. Peck served on the medical faculty at University of Virginia Cancer Center before embarking on a career as a clinical researcher and expert in oncology drug development in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology arena. He currently consults with biotechnology companies that are developing new cancer medicines and is an adjunct faculty member at Yale University School of Medicine. Throughout his career, he has received great satisfaction in applying his knowledge towards helping friends and family navigate cancer.



Hurricane History of Southern Rhode Island

1 Session with Robert Muller

Wed, Sept 23

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

We'll review the historical record from 1635 to the present, including detailed weather data and subsequent investigative reports, photos, and stories. A particular focus will be on the hurricane of 1938 and Carol in 1954, the last two category 3 storms to hit this region. This data will be supplemented with a discussion of various recent sediment studies undertaken in MA and RI that put together a record of hurricanes going back 2,000 years. What does this history tell us about current risk in southern Rhode Island? Is another major storm likely? We'll conclude with various climate change studies and what they indicate for future hurricanes in New England as well as the status of emergency management planning in the state for a major storm.

Suggested reading:

Everett S. Allen, *A Wind to Shake the World: The Story of the 1938 Hurricane* (Commonwealth Editions, 2006).

R. S. Scotti, *Sudden Sea: The Great Hurricane of 1938* (Back Bay Books, 2004). Both are wonderful accounts of the 1938 Hurricane.

Robert Muller worked in the field of government and public finance for fifty years. The last 41 years he worked at JP Morgan as head of municipal finance research and strategy. He holds a B.A. in history from Trinity College and an M.P.A. from New York University in urban public policy studies.

Beginning French for Travel - Part 2

4 Sessions with Kathryn Zimmerman

Wed, Sept 23, 30, Oct 7, 14

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 25 Fee: \$45.00

This course builds on the skills introduced in Beginning French for Travel. Our four class sessions will revolve around navigating a visit to a Francophone location. Through listening, reading, and speaking activities, we will practice useful phrases and continue to build on the basics of the French language. We will try to use French as much as possible for class activities. Much of the class time will be devoted to practicing interactions among participants, with the instructor circulating to explain and answer questions. Between classes students will be encouraged to read and watch the assigned lessons in *French in Action*, exposing them to new situations, and to try to do the exercises on their own.



Prerequisite: Some prior experience in French or completion of the OLLI Beginning French for Travel class. Required reading and assignment for the first class available online.

Assignment for the first class: Review Leçon 5 in *French in Action* (pages 25-29). Thereafter we will do a lesson per week.

Required textbook: Pierre Capretz (Author), Marie Odile-Germain (Contributor), Beatrice Abetti (Contributor), *French in Action: A Beginning Course in Language and Culture: The Capretz Method*, Textbook 2nd Edition (Yale University Press, 1994). OLLI has six copies in the office to loan on a first-come first-serve basis.

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INTERESTED IN BRINGING A GUEST TO CLASS?

Please call the office the day before
your class begins.

401-874-4197

Jump the Shark

1 Session with Robert Perlow

Wed, Sept 30

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Ever wonder how a show runs out of steam then gets cancelled? You know it when you see it. It's the moment on a favorite TV show when a new character is introduced, the romantic leads share a passionate embrace, or the gang takes a trip to Tahiti. In other words, the moment when the TV show loses its magic and begins a long, painful slide to the television show graveyard.



Jumping the shark is that precise moment things go terribly, irrevocably wrong, and we will explore how this happens on favorite shows or in real life.

Bob Perlow spent his working life in the television industry as a writer, actor, and producer. He is author of the book *The Warmup Guy* and has worked on such iconic shows as *Laverne & Shirley*, *Taxi*, *Newhart*, *Cheers*, *Friends*, and more including 15 years on the *Tonight Show*. Bob is a graduate of URI and received an M.B.A. and taught at Johnson and Wales before entering the entertainment industry. He has often been asked the question: "What did you do in life?" His answer: "I was the warmup guy."

Honor, Desire, and Betrayal: Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*

6 Sessions with Kara Marziali

Wed, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 Nov 4, (Skip 11), 18

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$55.00

In an Italian-American enclave where loyalty is everything, one man's forbidden desire and self-delusion ignite a devastating community betrayal. Arthur Miller's 1955 masterpiece, *A View from the Bridge*, remains a raw and urgent modern Greek tragedy, pitting the codes of the Brooklyn waterfront against the brutal

pull of fate. We will explore Miller's life and his belief in the common man as a tragic hero, while examining the play's enduring themes: undocumented immigration, patriarchal control, masculinity, justice, and the fear of losing one's place in the world. Through the psychological unraveling of longshoreman Eddie Carbone, we will witness how pride, desire, and secrecy lead to the protagonist's tragic downfall.

Required reading: Arthur Miller, *A View from the Bridge* (any unabridged edition).



Suggested reading: Any supplemental materials, including selected essays, interviews, and short historical readings will be provided by the instructor.

Kara Marziali is most comfortable in environments that stimulate curiosity, cultivate creativity, kindle compassion, and facilitate connections. She is the author of *Kara Koala and Her Kaleidoscope of Feelings* and its accompanying activity book and journal. She is also featured in five ARIA anthologies published by the Association of Rhode Island Authors, and she serves as the artist-in-residence at Wood River Health, offering creative outlets to help people with their well-being. Kara teaches dramatic literature, theater, and art for OLLI at URI including several Shakespeare plays, 20th century plays, and an intro to theater, as well as painting classes in creating DIY watercolor notecards

Holiday Fun at OLLI

STOP BY

DURING THE WEEK OF DEC 7-11

Grab your ugliest (or nicest) holiday sweater and join us for some fun!

celebrate HANUKKAH

Enter to Win

We're giving away 10 \$25 OLLI vouchers.

One entry for taking your photo and another for bringing a donation for Rhody Outpost.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Happy New Year!

Irish Famine Ships of the An Gorta Mor

4 Sessions with Richard Kaley

Wed, Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$45.00

Join us for an introductory dive into the Irish An Gorta Mor (The Great Famine), the ships that carried famine emigrants, and the famine's residual impact on the U.S. and Europe. Covered topics will include the geo-political situation of 1845, Irish demographics, the years of blight, and the British response. We will follow emigrants on their journeys on the famine ships to their destinations abroad.

Suggested reading:

Tim Pat Coogan, *The Famine Plot: England's Role in Ireland's Greatest Tragedy* (St. Martin's Press, 2012).

Edward Laxton, *The Famine Ships: The Irish Exodus to America* (Henry Holt & Co., 1997).

Susan Campbell Bartoletti, *Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine, 1845-1850* (Clarion Books, 2005).

Richard Kaley is a "regular" OLLI member. A career in the military provided various opportunities to lead, teach, and instruct various topics, at all levels, and under a variety of circumstances. He embraces his Irish heritage.

Ingmar Bergman: Cinematic Visionary

8 Sessions with Paul Stein

Wed, Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, (skip 11), 18, (skip 25),

Dec 2, 9, 16

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$65.00

"I am living permanently in my dream, from which I make brief forays into reality." – Ingmar Bergman.

In a letter to Bergman, Stanley Kubrick wrote: "I believe you are the greatest filmmaker at work today ..., unsurpassed by anyone in the creation of mood and atmosphere, the subtlety of performance, the avoidance of the obvious, the truthfulness and completeness of characterization..." We will screen and analyze eight of Bergman's films: *The Seventh Seal* (1957), *Wild Strawberries* (1957), *The Magician* (1958), *The Virgin Spring* (1960), *Through a Glass*

Darkly (1961), *Winter Light* (1963), *Cries and Whispers* (1972), and lastly, his masterpiece, *Persona* (1966). Participants will receive several reviews about a week before each showing. On the day of the showing, we will screen the movie, then discuss it: Was it visually appealing, what did the film have to say, and was it successful?



Paul Stein studied film production at the NYU Graduate School of Film. For OLLI at URI, he has

taught several film courses, including Film Appreciation: The Art of Watching Films; Film Noir; The French New Wave; New German Cinema; and the films of Jean Renoir, Alfred Hitchcock, Akira Kurosawa, Federico Fellini, Ingmar Bergman, and more.

Assignment for each class: Read the reviews provided each week in preparation for seeing the film. This will help you better understand the motive behind the movie.

Contemporary Buddhist Ethics

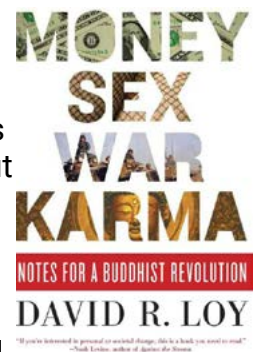
4 Sessions with Dan Novak

Wed, Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 20 Fee: \$45.00

One could argue we have a contemporary consensus and there is very little non-trivial to argue about in the field of ethics. Who in their right mind would advocate for rampant dishonesty, or the compelling need for wanton killing? In the West there has been a general shift from the juridical Abrahamic religions' emphasis on obedience to divinely given commands to the Buddhist emphasis on ethical precepts as training guidelines helpful in pursuing a/the spiritual path to a liberated consciousness. We will use Engaged Buddhist David Loy's very sophisticated framing to tease out some issues not so easily dealt with on the way to a vital cultural revolution.



Required reading: David R. Loy, *Money, Sex, War, and Karma: Notes for a Buddhist Revolution* (Wisdom Publications, 2008).

Assignment for first class: Read the first 30 pages of *Money, Sex, War, and Karma*. Bring your toughest questions. We will collect and discuss a selection of those questions!

Dan Novak has taught education, pedagogy, the psychology of learning and philosophy in various colleges and universities in New York and Rhode Island. He has been on numerous Buddhist Vipassana (Insight Meditation) retreats at the Barre Insight Meditation Center in MA, and at Naropa Institute (now University) in Boulder, CO. He has taught a futures studies seminar at URI in Providence.



The Art of Fermentation: Foods for Health and Longevity

6 Sessions with Kathy Tonelli

Wed, Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, (skip 11), 18, (skip 25,) Dec 2, 9
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 16 Fee: \$55.00

Come learn the age-old art of fermenting foods! You'll learn about fermentation and how incorporating fermented foods into your diet positively impacts your overall health and longevity. Classes will include samples as well as learning how to make several commonly fermented foods. You'll try your hand at making some in class and receive recipes and directions for making others at home. Recipes will include fermented apples, apple cider vinegar, sauerkraut, kimchi, yogurt, and kombucha. Most home ferments are easy and inexpensive and taste so much better than store-bought varieties! Some materials will be necessary and available for purchase through the instructor or on your own.

A materials list will be provided to registered participants.

Kathy Tonelli is a certified integrative nutrition health coach. She owns and operates Healthy Life Enterprises which includes South County Health Coaching and Meadowland Greens. She is also a certified Square Foot Garden instructor. Kathy has created several all-natural products for sale locally including Mutt Munchies dog treats, an all-purpose spray cleaner, and a dishwasher powder, with more in the works. She resigned from the South Kingstown School Department in June 2022 after teaching elementary special education for 33 years. She is passionate about gardening, permaculture, living sustainably, and health and wellness. She enjoys teaching people of all ages and making learning fun!

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Pathways to Healthy Brain Aging

1 Session with John Robinson

Wed, Nov 18

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Research indicates that we can do a lot to prevent and even reverse the effects of brain aging by changing what we do. There is a growing list of potentially modifiable lifestyle practices that impact brain health, such as changes in diet, exercise, and cognitive engagement. Neuroscientist Dr. John Robinson will introduce and explain how certain modifiable lifestyle choices can slow or accelerate brain aging and affect your risk of dementia. We will then discuss some real-world examples of behavior change strategies, showing how you can customize a health-promoting lifestyle that is sustainable and fits your unique interests and situation.

Dr. John K. Robinson, the URI Thomas M. Ryan Professor of Neuroscience, is a noted behavioral neuroscientist specializing in the use of rodent models to understand nervous system dysfunction and disease. He is co-director of the George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience, professor of psychology in the College of Health Sciences, and professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy at URI. In collaboration with Ryan Institute co-executive director William Van Nostrand, he has made significant contributions to the understanding of modifiable risk factors for dementia, including the roles of diet, cardiovascular exercise, and cognitive and social stimulation. In addition to his distinguished research achievements, Dr. Robinson is a highly regarded educator and mentor, receiving numerous teaching and service awards throughout his career.

The Star of Bethlehem

1 Session with David Aguilar

Wed, Dec 9

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

More than 2,000 years ago, a most unusual man was born at Bethlehem in Judea, and we are told his birth was accompanied by the appearance of a most unusual star in the heavens. Astronomers have tried for centuries to find out what this celestial phenomenon was, what caused it, and why it was interpreted the way it was.

A wide variety of unusual and rare events have been observed in the universe throughout time, so using the best historical and astronomical research capabilities available today, let's go back and see if we can uncover what miraculously appeared in the skies above Bethlehem changing human history forever.



David A. Aguilar is an internationally recognized naturalist/astronomer, author, onscreen science contributor and space artist with the unique ability to open minds to the vast frontiers of space and their potential effects on our own world. He is the former director of science information at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and past director of marketing communications for Ball Aerospace in Boulder, CO. David has written and illustrated 12 award-winning children's books for National Geographic, was a member of the NASA Pluto Encounter Mission, has consulted and appeared in the History Channel's Universe series and has been honored with his own asteroid for achievements in furthering science education.

We are so happy to see so many members stopping by the lobby for coffee and to socialize before their class starts! We continue to accept donations of ground coffee, coffee pods, cups and cash. Thanks for your support!





*“Lovely days don’t come to you;
you should walk to them.”*

— Rumi

Facilitators: Brenda Bibb & Marian Goldsmith

Looking for a short outing with a snack to follow? Join the Rhody Ramblers for a morning adventure. Our walks will last about half an hour at a leisurely pace over accessible paths, followed by a coffee or a snack at a nearby destination.

All walks are on Thursdays and begin at 10:00 AM

If weather or trail conditions are likely to interfere with the safety of the walk it will be cancelled by email to participants before 9:00 AM the day of the walk. If you are unable to attend a scheduled walk, please cancel in advance by calling OLLI at 401-874-4197 so someone on a waiting list may attend.

Please wear **blaze orange** as required on all RI DEM properties during hunting season.

September 17 - URI Bike Path

Meet and park in the parking lot behind Independence Square and the URI Boss Arena. We will walk along the paved URI Bike Path extension into Peckham Farm fields. After our walk we will have coffee or treats at TLC in West Kingston.

October 22 - Roaring Brook

Meet and park at the RI DEM Upper Roaring Brook Trail, across from Browning Mill Pond in Exeter, RI. From Rte. 138. Turn right in Hope Valley on Rte. 3, then left on KG Ranch Road. This will merge onto Arcadia Road in about 2 miles. You will see a parking area on your right in about 0.3 miles. This trail was designed as a handicap accessible trail by RI DEM, a boardwalk beside small ponds which should have excellent fall color in October. We will stop afterwards at Higher Grounds Community Coffee Shop on Rte. 138.

November 12 - Sachuest Point

Meet and park at the Visitor Center, Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge in Middletown, RI. One of five National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island, Sachuest is located on the southeast tip of Aquidneck Island, jutting out into the Sakonnet River and Rhode Island Sound. Coffee and treats at Ma's Donuts on West Main Road in Middletown.

December 17 - Wickford Village

Meet in the parking lot behind Shayna's off Brown Street in Wickford for a stroll past holiday lights and decorations. Coffee location to be determined prior to the Ramble.



THURSDAY

Intergenerational Perspectives on Healthy Living Environments

6 Sessions with Skye Leedahll
Thu, Sept 17, 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Location: Multicultural Student Services Center
Max: 15 Fee: \$30.00

This class is a chance to connect across generations, share perspectives, and have some fun along the way. The OLLI community participants will join URI students in HDF 440: Healthy Living Environments for Older Adults, creating a dynamic, intergenerational learning experience where everyone has something to teach and to learn. Discussions on topics ranging from nutrition and physical activity, to living spaces and community engagement, will lead to team collaborative projects to be presented and shared with the class. The goal is to spark conversation, laughter, and new insights for everyone.

Class note: The class will meet four times during the already scheduled URI class in the Hardge Forum in the Multicultural Student Services Center.

Parking: Please park in the Plains Road lot and walk or take the shuttle to the Memorial Union, then follow the walkway in front of the building to the Multicultural Student Services Center. Parking is also available in the Fine Arts staff lot (#6). Enter on Bills Rd.

Skye N. Leedahll holds a Ph.D. in social work and a master's in gerontology from the University of Kansas. A URI faculty member with a joint appointment in the political science and human development & family studies departments, she is passionate about social integration for all older adults and has come to enjoy designing and implementing intergenerational programs and opportunities.



Right Plant – Right Place: Perennial Garden Design

5 Sessions with Will Green
Thu, Oct 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Max: 20 Fee: \$50.00

This class is for garden enthusiasts interested in designing or redesigning a perennial garden. Whether you want colorful beds that change with the seasons, an inviting sanctuary, a wildlife habitat, or simply a spot to experiment with, this class can help get you there. Start by choosing an area where you want to place a garden, learn about its particular conditions, develop a base plan and a rough concept, and select and place plants as you desire. By our last class, you should be ready to refine the plan and begin its implementation. The course will include lectures, discussion, homework assignments, and possibly a visit to a local nursery or a landscape garden.

Assignment for first class: Examine your yard and select a location for a new perennial garden or an existing one. The garden size should be between 100s.f.+/- and 250s.f.+/- . You might stake out and measure the area to get a sense of scale. Take photos of the area selecting 5 of the images that best capture your site conditions. Number each image and in a sentence or two describe what is important to know. Condition might be full sun, deep shade, windy, sloping, standing water, etc. Notes can be written as a word or text doc. Send images and text to Will Green at wagre17@gmail.com no later than 2 days prior to our first class.

Suggested reading: Chapters will be taken from the following books and shared before each class.

Recommended Publications:

Creating Beds and Borders, America's Best Gardeners Share Creative Ideas (Fine Gardening Design Guides) (The Taunton Press, 2001).

*Special thanks to our
publication editors:*

Paula Grey

Pat LaRose

Jane Trehy,

Varuna Abeywardane

Mark Hevenor

Cindy Erickson &

Maralee Parker.



Tracy DiSabato-Aust, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* (Timber Press, 2006).

American Horticultural Society, Essential Guide to Perennial Gardening (Cool Springs Press, 2025)

Will Green, FASLA, is professor emeritus at the University of Rhode Island where he taught in the accredited bachelor of landscape architecture program for 30 years and served as department chair for 15 years. His design studios have addressed complex community, urban, and coastal design issues for cities and towns from around the state. His work was awarded commendations by RIAPA, RIASLA, and ASLA. He is an elected member of the Council of Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects. He was the coordinating landscape architect for the RI Holocaust Memorial in Providence. He is an avid gardener with an extensive collection of daylilies and hostas. When he is at home, he is often found in his gardens.

The History of Architecture and Urbanism from Brutalism to the Present

3 Sessions with Richard Levy

Thu, Oct 1, 8, 15

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$40.00

We will examine the development of architecture and urbanism from 1980 to 2020, a period marked by the fragmentation of modernist ideals and the emergence of a more global, technologically driven, and environmentally conscious built environment. We'll begin with the rise of postmodern architecture in the 1980s, when history, symbolism, and popular culture as legitimate design tools challenged the formal and ideological clarity of modernism. As part of this discussion, the course traces the history of the American shopping mall, from its origins as a suburban civic and commercial center in the postwar era to its gradual decline in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The final lecture addresses the impact of digital technologies and sustainability, including computational design, adaptive reuse, and regional planning, and considers the rise of the super-tall skyscraper in Asia and the Middle East as a defining architectural form of the era.

Suggested readings:

Peter Calthorpe, *The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community, and the American Dream* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1997).

Kenneth Frampton, *Modern Architecture: A Critical History* (Thames & Hudson, 2020).

Charles Jencks, *The Language of Post-Modern Architecture* (Rizzoli, 1984)

Rem Koolhaas, *Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan* (The Monacelli Press, 1997). (Original work published 1978.)

Saskia Sassen, *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo* (2nd ed.) (Princeton University Press, 2001). (Original work published 1991.)

Robert Venturi, *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* (The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1977).

General reading on architecture: Paul Goldberger, *Why Architecture Matters* (Yale University Press, 2009). Short, elegant essays on why buildings matter culturally and socially. Very accessible.

Books for designers: Mohsen Mostafavi, *Ecological Urbanism* (Lars Müller Publishers, 2010).

Richard M. Levy is professor emeritus in urban planning and design at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He has a B.S. in civil engineering (BSCE) from Tufts University and an M.Arch, and Ph.D. in architectural history from the University of California, Berkeley. He has taught courses in architectural and urban history at the University of Calgary, Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Throughout his career, Dr. Levy has taught a diverse range of courses, including architectural and urban history and urban design. Currently, he teaches real estate development and finance as a part-time faculty member in the URI College of Business.

THURSDAY

Spanish 101

9 Sessions with Colleen McAlister
Thu, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12,
(skip 19, 26), Dec 3, 10
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Max: 20 Fee:
\$70.00

¡Hola! ¿Hablas español? If you'd like to learn the fundamentals of the Spanish language and about diverse Spanish-speaking cultures from around the world, join us for Spanish 101. Each session will focus on a specific grammar topic and vocabulary. Topics will include: food, music, family and friends, architecture, geography and nature, visual arts, travel, and fiestas.

Colleen McAlister is an assistant teaching professor of Spanish at the University of Rhode Island. She completed her Ph.D. in Spanish at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2023. At URI, Professor McAlister teaches all levels of Spanish-language-acquisition courses, as well as courses in culture and literature.



Finding Beauty in Everyday Life

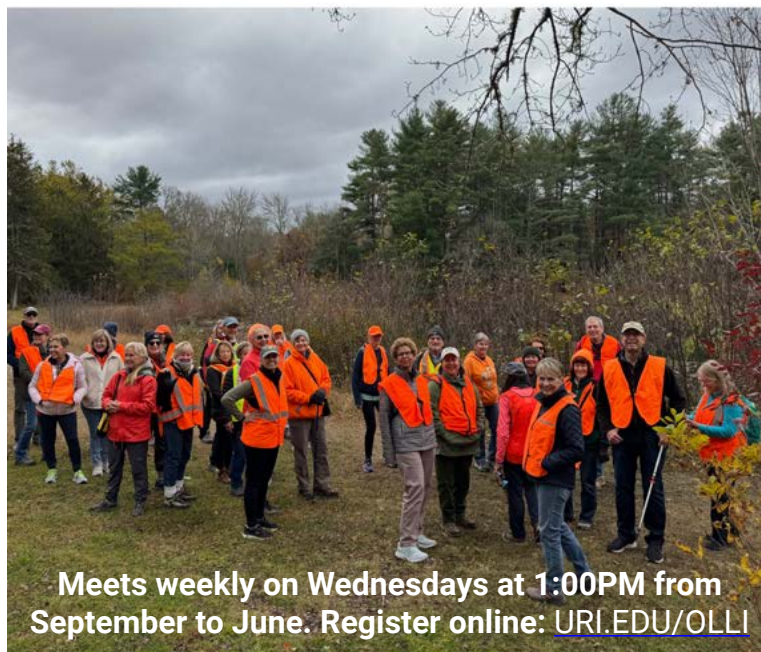
3 Sessions with Jan Armor
Thu, Oct 8, 15, 22
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Max: 45 Fee: \$40.00

Join us for an exploration of photography using your iPhone and your eyes. There is beauty all around us. We'll discover how ordinary moments, morning light, peeling paint, coffee cups, clouds, grandchildren, dogs, and even the mysterious contents of your

refrigerator can become photographs worth remembering. We'll explore topics like the magic of light and shadow, pictures that tell a story, and why timing matters. Along the way we'll use the work of great photographers for inspiration. You'll learn simple ways to make more interesting and meaningful photographs using the camera already in your pocket. Come join the iPhone fun!

Jan Armor has been a photographer all his life and a teacher for the past 25 years. He takes his teaching seriously and wants to help you make stronger photographs. An award-winning educator and fine art photographer with 40 years of experience in both digital and traditional media, he has received grants and awards for environmental photography and has taught at the Newport Art Museum, the Bristol Art Museum, Wickford Art Association, South County Art Association, and others. For more information about Jan and his work [check out his website](#). You can also find him on his [YouTube channel](#), or on [Instagram](#) or by simply searching in Google using @janarmor.

Note: This class is for iPhone users only.



Facilitators: Cindy Opaluch & Sara Nelson

Using AI as a Co-Intelligence: Trends and Capabilities

4 Sessions with Bill Meisner and Barbara Nicholson

Thu, Oct 8, 15, 22, 29

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 25 Fee: \$45.00

Have you ever dreamed of having a personal assistant powered by cutting edge technology? It's not a dream any more...it's already happening. Everyone can currently benefit from artificial intelligence (AI) whether using it directly, rarely, or never. During this



4-week collaborative learning course we will help you explore the expanding world of AI, see how AI can act as an intellectual partner in daily life, and find out how you can use it in productive

ways. We will have hands-on opportunities to experiment and leverage AI as a tool to make more things happen for us, individually and collectively.

Suggested reading: A welcome letter, including links to suggested reading, will be sent to all participants about 2 weeks before the first class.

Assignment for the first class: Participants will need to bring a fully charged laptop, tablet, or device that can connect to the wi-fi network in the OLLI classroom and read the suggested articles posted in the hello letter.

Bill Meisner started as a programmer and then transitioned to computer networking at the dawn of the Ethernet while working at Digital Equipment Corp. He continued his focus on emerging technologies in the areas of networking and security (e.g., ATM, NAC, Frame Relay) while working at *The Boston Globe*, Cisco Systems, and a number of startups.

Barbara Nicholson holds a B.A. in psychology from Brown and an M.Ed. from Harvard. She taught for 30 years, retired to RI, and has led adult lifelong collaborative learning courses since 2001 at Brown, at Salve Regina and then, for the past decade, at OLLI at URI. The most recent courses that she has led (over the last 3 years) were on the topic of the evolving nature of AI and how to use it as a co-intelligent tool.



Let's Skate!

9 Sessions with Dorothy Cunningham

Thu, Oct 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, (skip 26), Dec 3, 10

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Max: 25 Fee: \$70.00*

Refresh your ice-skating skills or get started in a sport that is challenging, social, and a lot of fun. Starting with the basics, each skater will be given personal attention by our coach according to the step-by-step learning programs of the United States Figure Skating Association and the Ice Sports Industry. Participants may continue skating after class until 10:20 AM.

* Additional Fees:

- Admission to the Boss Arena: \$35 for 6-week skate card
- Skate rental: \$30 for 6 weeks.
- What to wear: Ski jacket and pants, gloves, mittens, winter hat or helmet.

Dorothy M. Cunningham holds a B.A. in English from URI and has taught in public and private schools for over 40 years. The Iditarod has been a favorite topic among her students and their parents throughout this time. Her presentations at URI, George Mason, and the Westerly College Club have brought enthusiastic reviews and interest. She attended the Iditarod in person for its 50th anniversary. Dorothy has also coached figure skating and hockey skills classes for four decades. Her Franklin Blades Skating School has produced skaters for professional ice shows, various learn-to-skate programs, and coaches who work with all levels from beginners to Olympic skaters. Dorothy teaches private lessons for skating skills in figure and hockey skating at various arenas in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Urban Wildlife

1 Session with Greg Gerritt

Thu, Nov 5

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$15.00

Nearly every day, Greg Gerritt films wildlife in Providence. From tadpoles to coyotes, he documents and films dozens of different species over the course of a year, turning the footage into short videos. Greg will show a selected sample of interesting wildlife videos, discuss the art of filming wildlife and wildlife behavior, and answer questions from participants.



Greg Gerritt is not really a naturalist; he only plays one on YouTube. For the last 27 years he has been very involved in shaping environmental and economic development policy in Rhode Island via writing, testimony, conference creation, and networks like the Environment Council of Rhode Island. In his work as the watershed steward for Friends of the Moshassuck, he started making wildlife videos in Providence cemeteries in 2013 and has now made more than 3,100 videos. To see what other wildlife videos were being made in RI, he started the RI Nature Video Festival in 2015, which continues to blossom. His environmental work has been recognized with lifetime achievement awards from Clean Water Action, Save The Bay, the EPA, and Senator Whitehouse.

What Our Parents Did in the War

1 Session with Gale Eaton and Emil Jarczyński

Thu, Nov 5

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 30 Fee: \$15.00

What happened to our families during World War II? What stories did they tell us—or not tell us? Panelists will share very different accounts from opposite sides of the world and then open the session for discussion.

Gale Eaton, Ph.D., is the author of *A Story of Civilization in 50 Disasters* and co-author of *A Story of Medicine in 50 Discoveries*. She retired in 2012 as director of URI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. Since then, she has published four nonfiction books and several poems, taught for OLLI, and

made repeated efforts to organize her home office. She still specializes in the annual holiday letter.

Emil Jarczyński enjoyed a career at General Electric, where he served as technical leader of heat transfer and fluid dynamics and as a project manager in advance technology for large power generators. He is currently enjoying a second career as a writer of fiction, poetry, and memoir, and is working on his first novel. Emil's parents emigrated to America from their native Poland following World War II, after spending the war years in Germany.

New England Cottontail Conservation in Rhode Island

1 Session with Nick Ernst

Thu, Nov 5

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Once common in Rhode Island's shrublands and young forests, the New England cottontail has declined because of habitat loss and competition from the introduced eastern cottontail. This course offers an accessible look at the science and hands-on restoration work aimed at recovering this native rabbit. We'll explore how biologists are re-establishing populations on state and federal lands through captive breeding and strategic releases, how habitat is being restored and monitored, and why strong conservation partnerships are essential to the species' recovery. Participants will gain an inside view of the ongoing effort to restore this species to Rhode Island.



Nick Ernst has worked as a wildlife biologist for the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex since 2013. He earned a master's degree in biology from East Stroudsburg University, where he studied the foraging behavior and reproductive success of the Louisiana waterthrush in northeastern Pennsylvania. He specializes in habitat restoration and the management of threatened and endangered species. His work includes invasive species management, wildlife monitoring, and recovery efforts for rare species such as the New England cottontail, salt-marsh sparrow, and spadefoot toad. Current projects include salt marsh restoration, native grassland enhancement, invasive species control, and the use of prescribed fire to restore pitch pine forests and other rare habitats.



A Community Together: A Resource for Healthy Aging

1 Session with MJ Henderson,
President of the Board of Directors of
A Community Together
Thu, Nov 17
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Max: 45 Fee: \$0.00

What's next? Most adults prefer to age in place, that is, to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level. Find out about A Community Together – a non-profit organization open to residents of South Kingstown and Narragansett, creating a support network that allows older adults to age in place safely at home – and stay in their communities. Join members of the group for a slide presentation followed by Q&A.

*A Community Together is part of the Village to Village (VtV) Network, a grassroots idea started in Boston more than 20 years ago. VtV is now an international movement that encompasses approximately 350 villages in the U.S. and Canada providing ongoing support to member villages including 10 villages in Rhode Island.

M.J. Henderson is president of the board of directors of A Community Together.

Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of Rhode Island

1 Session with Brian Wallin
Thu, Nov 19
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Their ships slipped in and out of Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay in the 17th and 18th centuries. Privateers sailed with official government authorization to capture enemy merchant vessels. Captains and crews shared bounty with the government. But some went into business for themselves and flew the black flag of piracy. Their voyages brought fortune to some and ended at the gallows for others. On July 14, 1723, twenty-six pirates met the hangman in New-

port. Before long, colonial America had enough and the Golden Era ended. Today, the legend of elusive treasure troves persists. We'll examine that colorful period and the men and women who sought fortune under the Jolly Roger.

Brian L. Wallin is a graduate of Stonehill College and earned his master's degree from American International College. He is a former radio-television reporter-anchor and a retired hospital administrator (vice president, Kent Hospital). A member of the U.S. Naval Institute, he is also a docent at the Naval War College Museum and a narrator for the RI Fast Ferry lighthouse cruises. He is a recognized author and historian and a frequent lecturer throughout the state. He is co-author of *World War II Rhode Island* (History Press, 2017).

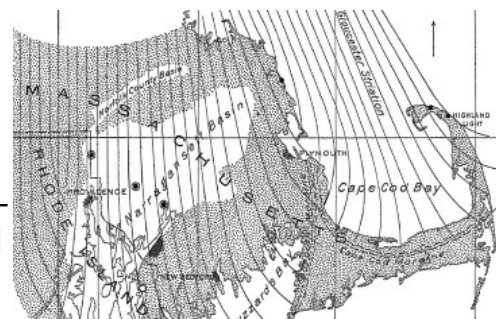
The Narragansett Basin

1 Session with Ernest Zielinski
Thu, Nov 19
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Narragansett Bay is more than the body of water we see today. Its age stretches back to 300-million-plus years as a coal swamp with

origins about 640 million years ago, and as an archipelago that geologists have named the Avalon micro-continent. We'll

explore the origins of this rift valley and its evolution to the present with descriptions of life in the Carboniferous Period, the origins of the RI coal deposits, glaciation, and more.



Ernest Zielinski holds a B.A. in biology from URI and an M.S. in business from Troy State University, with an emphasis on hazardous materials handling and hazardous waste disposal. He has worked in aerospace, manufacturing, and environmental industries in various managerial positions and has taught various training classes in industry and the military. Currently VP of the RI Mineral Hunters Club, he has given talks at CCRI, Bryant University, URI Master Gardeners (East Farm), Mineral Club. His subjects have included toxic minerals, the Narragansett Basin, RI coal mining, and rare fossil sites (Lagerstätte).



A Christmas Carol

1 Session with Jenny Reed

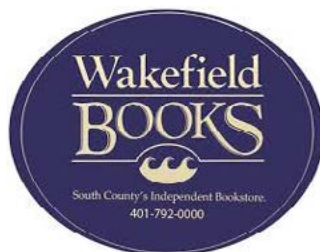
Thu, Dec 10

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 20 Fee: \$15.00

Let's read and discuss Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* this holiday season! Join us as we learn about and discuss Dickens' classic Christmas tale. The class will provide historical and literary context for the novel in relation to Dickens's career, the making of Christmas traditions, and the Christmas ghost story. Most importantly, this will be a discussion-based meeting in which we share our thoughts and insights about the book, which is both extraordinarily familiar and has plenty of strangeness and surprises still to offer.

Jenny Reed received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia in 2015. She has fifteen years of teaching experience across a range of different institutions, including the University of Virginia, Brandeis University, Colby College, and the College of the Holy Cross. She specializes in eighteenth-century and early modern British literature.



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OLLI MEMBER BENEFIT

URI Campus Recreation offers OLLI members a special discount to access the Mackal Field House facilities!

A special day pass rate of \$5 (regularly \$10) is available to OLLI members. This access includes use of the track, cardio room, weight room, and even the basketball courts. It's a great place to stay active or go for a walk on cold winter days.

To utilize this benefit and receive the discount, OLLI Members must request an OLLI membership card from the OLLI office.

The card must be presented each time you visit the Mackal Field House. Limited parking with your OLLI parking pass is available near the field house.

**STOP IN THE OFFICE
TO GET YOUR CARD TODAY!**

The Mystifying and Magnificent Teenager (And Early 20s)

1 Session with Renae Martin

Fri, Sept 18

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$15.00



Got a teenager in your life? Or someone in their early 20s? Ever scratch your head and wonder, "What were they thinking when they did THAT???" If you have, you are not alone, but did you know there are real structural and functional processes at work in their brains that explain the curious choices these lovable (but sometimes frustrating)

creatures make? In this class, we will dive into human brain development and shine light on the physiological explanations behind their behavior and the developmental milestones they are working hard to solve. Be prepared for some "aha" moments, newfound compassion, and a few ideas of how to relate to these truly amazing young people.

Renae Martin is a registered nurse and the health and longevity coach and founder at The Wellness Flame, LLC in Narragansett. She is nationally board-certified as both a holistic nurse and holistic health and wellness nurse-coach through the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation. Renae's background is in cardiac nursing and cardiac rehabilitation at Yale New Haven Hospital, clinical research at the Yale School of Medicine, and community health nursing in RI. She is dual-baccalaureate-prepared in nursing and exercise physiology. Renae is a certified Reiki master; a HeartMath practitioner for stress, anxiety, and self-regulation techniques; and a certified holding space practitioner

QUESTIONS?

Call 401-874-4197 or
email OLLI@URI.EDU

The British Invasion

4 Sessions with Brett Morse

Fri, Sep 18, 25, Oct 2, 9

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 30 Fee: \$45.00

The British Invasion began in the United States in the mid-1960s, when rock and pop music and other aspects of British culture became popular. We will explore the very beginning of this invasion and its impact on our culture. And most importantly, we will be entertained while listening to great music and learning about the artists that made the invasion happen: the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Animals, the Kinks, the Dave Clark Five, the Yard Birds, the WHO, and so many more. Join us as we listen and explore the impact of the British Invasion on our lives.

Brett Morse worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 40 years. A graduate of Bryant College, he served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era. His love for music began at an early age when he was introduced to many celebrities in the music industry through his father's work with RCA and Columbia Records.

Patanjali's Yamas & Niyamas

6 Sessions with Linda Morse

Fri, Sept 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 16, 23

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 30 Fee: \$55.00



Patanjali is considered the "grandfather of yoga" and "spiritual physician." Come to this 2000-year-old philosophical view of yoga as we explore the wisdom and threads of knowledge of Patanjali's Yoga Sutra. Within the Sutras, we'll explore the Eight Limb Path to Enlightenment that includes the five Yamas and Niyamas. These are the code for moral conduct that will be covered in this class.

Linda M. Morse, a URI grad, has been a yoga and meditation practitioner most of her life, teaching for over 25 years. Certified professionally through the Kripalu Center in MA, she owned and operated the Yoga Center in Melbourne, FL. With her relaxed and humorous approach, she hopes to inspire students in body, mind, and spirit. For OLLI at URI, Linda has taught Intro to Yoga, Chair Yoga, Breath Techniques, Taking the Inward Journey, Meditation, the Chakra Energy System, and several science fiction film programs.

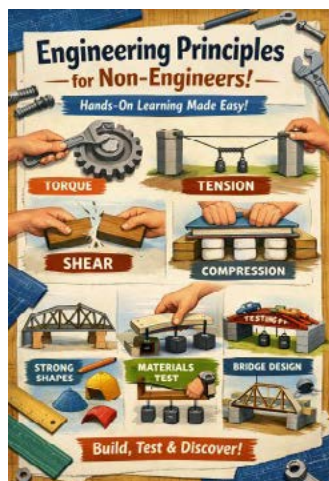
Fun with Engineering for Non-Engineers

2 Sessions with Mark Brady

Fri, Sept 25, Oct 2

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 24 Fee: \$35.00



Not an engineer? No problem. We'll engage in hands-on, project-based exploration of basic engineering principles in a way that makes them understandable to non-engineers. We'll focus on torque, tension, shear, and compression and how engineers use shapes, design, and materials to counter their impact.

Note: *This class is for non-engineers only.*

Mark Brady was born with a curious mind and admits that he was one of those kids who took the TV apart to see how it worked. He is still in awe that planes can get off the ground, let alone fly. He has a Ph.D. in engineering, spent much of his career in technology and related fields, and has taught engineering and architecture courses in city high schools outside Boston.

Topics in Ecology

5 Sessions with Peter Stetson

Fri, Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 18 Fee: \$50.00

Have you ever asked yourself how ecosystems work? Ever wondered about the changes that have occurred in our environment in the nearly 400 years since the Pilgrims landed? Do you want to understand how a food chain fits into a food web, or a population fits into a community? We will cover each of these intriguing questions as well as additional relevant topics. First, we'll examine the basics of ecological systems, including biotic/abiotic factors, trophic levels, and food chains/food webs. Next, we'll focus on plant and animal succession, while the final classes will explore how populations change over time.

Suggested reading: Read through the information presented at basicbiology.net/environment/ecology.

Assignment for the first class: Read through the Ecology section within the suggested reading.

Peter Stetson is a retired teacher who taught biology, earth science, and environmental science over the course of 35 years in the Coventry public schools. He also served for 16 years as coach for the school's Envirothon, six-time winners in the Rhode Island State competition and participants in the national competition.

Reading Columbus

1 Session with Susan Besse

Fri, Oct 9

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Upon returning from his first voyage to the New World, Columbus wrote a letter to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella describing the lands and peoples he "discovered." Together, we will identify the claims he made (many contradictory) about the native Taino inhabitants and assess the reliability of those claims. This exercise will allow us to understand elements of Columbus' late medieval world view and to appreciate how the radical newness of encounters with New World peoples changed Europe as much as it did the Americas. Delving into the past might encourage each of us to ponder our own cultural blinders/biases and how they impact our relationships with "others," past and present.



Required reading and assignment for the first class: "Christopher Columbus's Letter to Ferdinand and Isabella," 1493. A PDF of the reading will be sent to registered participants or [CLICK HERE](#) to find it online. Please print a copy and bring it with you to the class. If you are unable to access a copy online, please contact the OLLI office to request a hard copy. To compare this translation to the original Spanish text and/or to read a literal English translation of the text, [CLICK HERE](#).

Suggested reading: Tzvetan Todorov, *The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other* (1984). Read the "Columbus and the Indians" chapter in Part I, Discovery, pp. 34-50. Click one of these links:

- [Link 1](#)
- [Link 2](#) (contains pp. 49-50)

Margarita Zamora, "If Cahonaboa learns to speak...: Amerindian Voice in the Discourse of Discovery," *Colonial Latin American Review*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 1999, pp. 192-205. Available online.

Susan Besse taught Latin American history at URI in the mid-1980s and then at City College (City University of New York) for the rest of her career. She believes that critical reading of historical documents contributes to an understanding of relations of power, change over time, cultural differences, and ourselves. Ideally, it also fosters empathy and informed citizenship.

Empowered Aging: Reinvention, Purpose, and Timeless Vision

1 Session with Durga Larkin

Fri, Oct 16

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Aging is a period of growth, a time of rich emerging possibilities. Blending research, storytelling, personal reflection, and practical insights from a 35-year career as a physician, Dr. Larkin will explore how identity evolves as we age; how moments of change (personal, professional, or physical) can become catalysts for reinvention; and what recent science tells us about aging with purpose and power. In her talk and the following discussion, she encourages participants to challenge limiting cultural narratives and embrace her "Timeless Vision" approach to aging as an expansive, more intentional approach to the future.



Durga Larkin, M.D., Ph.D. is a physician, ophthalmic surgeon, and author of the international bestselling book *Timeless Vision: Empowered Aging Redefined*. Based on a 35-year career as a physician, her own experience of an unexpected career transition, and cutting-edge research on positive aging, she invites us all to approach new life chapters with grace, vitality, and joy. www.durgalarkinmd.com.

The Women Who Stopped the Drugs: The Birth of Modern Drug Safety

1 Session with John McLane

Fri, Oct 23

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

The FDA had very little regulatory oversight until the 1930s, a trajectory fundamentally altered by pivotal interventions from women scientists. In 1937, a lethal strep throat elixir claimed 100 lives, mostly children. A graduate student exposed the toxin, sparking the 1938 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Decades later, that same woman—Frances Oldham Kelsey—blocked the approval of thalidomide at the FDA, averting a national tragedy. Inspired by Kelsey, Alma Hayden in 1963 unmasked a cancer drug fraud, Krebiozen. The scientific rigor of these exceptional women not only prevented harm but also catalyzed enduring regulations at the FDA. They weren't expected to hold such power, yet their resolve helped develop the evidence-based standards we rely on today by regulations and by individuals who chose to act when it mattered most.



John (Jack) McClane, M.D. has been involved with drug development for 40 years. He is a Ph.D. graduate from URI and went from there to Yale School of Medicine where he met his wife. He has worked in senior positions with large pharmaceutical companies and biotechnology companies, conducted clinical trials, helped get a few drugs approved worldwide, and has a long-term interest in medical history and evidence-based science.



Naval Torpedo Station Newport

1 Session with Brian Wallin

Fri, Oct 30

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

In 1869, the Navy established a facility on Newport's Goat Island to develop and test underwater weapons. Over the decades, the Naval Torpedo Station (NTS) has played the key role in evolution of these devices. In World War II, however, our undersea warfare capabilities had fallen behind those of our enemies for many reasons. This is the story of the early days, through the problem eras and into the 21st century. The legacy of NTS is carried on today by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, whose professional staff endeavor to ensure our Navy has the best in weaponry while also working with academia and private industry for peaceful applications of undersea technology.

Brian L. Wallin is a graduate of Stonehill College and earned his master's degree from American International College. He is a former radio-television reporter-anchor and a retired hospital administrator (vice president, Kent Hospital). A member of the U.S. Naval Institute, he is also a docent at the Naval War College Museum and a narrator for the RI Fast Ferry lighthouse cruises. He is a recognized author and historian and a frequent lecturer throughout the state. He is co-author of *World War II Rhode Island* (History Press, 2017).

Chair Yoga: For Body, Mind, and Spirit

6 Sessions with Linda Morse

Fri, Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, (skip 27), Dec 4, 11

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 25 Fee: \$55.00

Are you interested in practicing yoga but feel restricted or uneasy about having to get down to the floor? Do you simply want to achieve better flexibility and strength of movement? Whether you are seated at a desk or table or confined to a wheelchair, yoga practiced in a chair can provide the same benefits as floor



practice. In this very relaxed and enjoyable program, you will gain flexibility, muscle strength, and peace of mind. Learn ways to move as well as breathing techniques for daily living, all at your own pace. Wear comfortable clothing that allows freedom of movement.

Linda M. Morse, a URI grad, has been a yoga and meditation practitioner most of her life, teaching for over 25 years. Certified professionally through the Kripalu Center in MA, she owned and operated the Yoga Center in Melbourne, FL. With her relaxed and humorous approach, she hopes to inspire students in body, mind and spirit. For OLLI at URI, Linda has taught Intro to Yoga, Chair Yoga, Breath Techniques, Taking the Inward Journey, Meditation, the Chakra Energy System, and a number of science fiction film programs.

The Music and Events of the '70s

6 Sessions with Brett Morse

Fri, Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, (skip 27), Dec 4, 11

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 30 Fee: \$55.00

The '70s, referred to by many as the "me" decade, was a time of self-discovery and newly manifested individualism as people became more dissatisfied with wars and politics. The tumultuous decade was highlighted by anti-war demonstrations, Watergate, women's rights and the ERA, the Iranian hostage crisis, Sky Lab, pet rocks, mood rings, Kent State, and Nixon's resignation. In music, we were introduced to disco, as well as a revival of rock and roll. Using a timeline, movie clips, and videos, we will witness the events of those years and the music that affected our lives and changed the world around us.



Brett Morse worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 40 years. A graduate of Bryant College, he served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era. His love for music began at an early age when he was introduced to many celebrities in the music industry through his father's work with RCA and Columbia Records

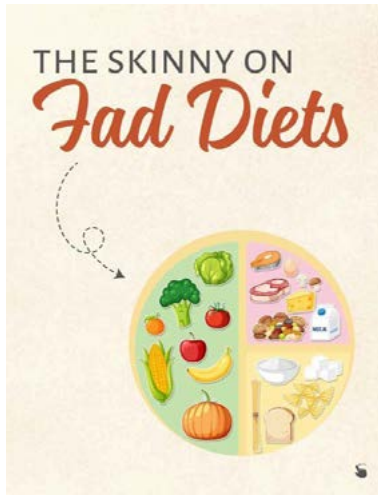
What's the Real Skinny with Fad Diets

1 Session with Renae Martin

Fri, Nov 6

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00



There is so much conflicting "information" around about diet, all claiming to have THE solution on what to eat for health. It can be confusing and lead to frustration, if not health-undermining results. But there is a BIG difference between influencers and evidence. So...stop surfing the web and join us to learn evidence-based

information grounded in scientific research and dietary guidelines recommended by the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. The truth is that dietary risk factors are the #1 contributing factor to dying of chronic disease. Said another way, a balanced, whole-food diet is one of the best ways you can take control of your health and longevity.

Renae Martin is a registered nurse and the health and longevity coach and founder at The Wellness Flame, LLC in Narragansett. She is nationally board-certified as both a holistic nurse and holistic health and wellness nurse-coach through the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation. Renae's background is in cardiac nursing and cardiac rehabilitation at Yale New Haven Hospital, clinical research at the Yale School of Medicine, and community health nursing in RI. She is dual baccalaureate prepared in nursing and exercise physiology.[2.1] Renae is a certified Reiki master; a HeartMath practitioner for stress, anxiety, and self-regulation techniques; and a certified holding space practitioner

Performing for the Powerful -The Influence of the Monarchy on Shakespeare and His Contemporaries

1 Session with Michael Langlois

Fri, Nov 13

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00

Shakespeare's works span the reign of two monarchs: Queen Elizabeth I and King James. As England transitioned from Elizabeth to James, the theatre saw radical transformations stylistically and thematically. Hear from Shakespeare and his contemporaries, and discover the shifts that occur in popular entertainment as societies change their leadership. This lecture then asks the larger question: "Are those same forces at work in society today?" Using a unique blend of monologue performance and lecture, Michael Langlois offers insights to classic works in a way that no lecture alone can provide.



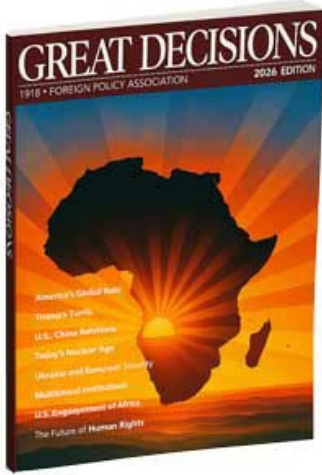
Michael Langlois is a theatre artist, lecturer, performer, and storyteller with decades of experience in directing, performance, and arts education. He has directed productions throughout New England, and spent more than a decade as Associate Artist with New London, Connecticut's Flock Theatre. Drawing on his theatre background, Michael lectures nationwide on topics ranging from acting and directing to the ways passion and storytelling can bridge divides and foster meaningful connection. His recent focus, exploring the intersection of culture and history, is seen in many of his lectures including "From Liberty to Legacy", "Shakespeare Through Performance" and "A Taste of the Colonial Tavern."

INCLEMENT WEATHER

During the snowier months, it is important to stay up-to-date with the weather forecast. OLLI follows URI's policy of cancelling classes. If the University is closed due to inclement weather, OLLI will be closed. Use the URI Alert Page: (uri.edu/safety/alert) for information of power outages, weather alerts, and the campus notices. Your safety is our concern. Should the OLLI staff determine it is best to cancel OLLI classes every attempt will be made to notify you two hours prior to the start of your scheduled class. Please check the OLLI website at uri.edu/olli

You can also call the OLLI office at 874-4197 for a recorded message.

Always check your email for updates from OLLI. You will be notified of class makeup dates.



The Great Decisions Foreign Policy Association sessions meet 8 times a year and are FREE to all members. Sessions are member-led and include a presentation as well as class discussion. Members MUST register for each class session.

Facilitators: Jim Findley & Emilia Gonzalez-Torpey

Fee: Free for members but registration is required Limit: 45
Books can be purchased on the [FPA.org](https://www.fpa.org) website for \$35.00.

The Future of Human Rights and International Law

Please register for one session:

- 1 Thu, Sept 17, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
- 2 Fri, Sept 18, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

As democracy and human rights retreat globally—and the U.S. pulls back—how can civil society and legal norms remain effective in a divided world? What is the role and force of international law in this era of impunity?



CURRENT EVENTS GROUP

Meets bi-weekly on Thursdays
at 11:00AM

REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL 401.874.4197

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MOVIE GROUP

JOIN US ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 3:00PM TO DISCUSS
THE LATEST MOVIES AVAILABLE IN THEATERS OR STREAMING. AND ON
OCCASION, WE MAY VIEW A FILM ON SITE.

MOVIE SELECTIONS
AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE: [URI.EDU/OLLI](https://uri.edu/olli)



Rhody Outpost is URI's basic needs pantry for students experiencing food insecurity. The Outpost provides fresh and non-perishable food and personal care items at no charge to students.

Donations can be dropped off in the OLLI lobby.

uri.edu/rhody-outpost/



zoom

CLASSES AT OLLI

Zoom classes are hosted by OLLI staff. Links to Zoom classes are sent in your reminder email two days before the class begins. The same link will be used each week. For your convenience, a link is also sent 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each class session. If you need assistance joining a Zoom meeting, please call the office well in advance of your class.

We are happy to help with any Zoom-related matters. Call 401-874-4197 to set up an appointment. Not all Zoom sessions are recorded. If you miss a Zoom session, please contact the office to see if a recording is available.

The Contemporary American Short Story, Part I

6 Sessions with Robert Weibezahl
Wed, Sept 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Max: 25 Fee: \$55.00 

Like the country itself, the American short story has changed dramatically in the last 50 years. Reading from *The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story*, we continue our journey into the art of the story as we explore a wide range of stories written between 1970 and 2020. The writers range from Pulitzer winners and bestsellers to less familiar story masters, including writers of color and Indigenous and first-generation voices. Participants read the stories in advance, then

we discuss them within the context of their time (and our own), investigating individual and recurring aspects of each story, while always searching for unifying "American" themes.

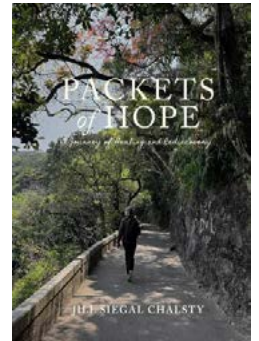
Required reading: John Freeman, Ed., *The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story* (Penguin Books, 2022, ISBN: 978-1-9848-7782-6).

Robert Weibezahl is a playwright, fiction writer, and forty-five-year publishing industry veteran. He wrote the monthly literary book review column "Well Read" for *BookPage* for two decades. Since 2020, he has been engaging lovers of literature as an instructor at OLLI programs from New England to Hawaii.

107 Days at Sea: The Journey That Changed Everything

1 Session with Jill Chalsty
Thu, Sept 17
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Max: 45 Fee: \$15.00 

At 63, Jill Chalsty boarded a ship alone, grieving her husband's death and battling cancer. What began as a voyage around the world became far more than a trip. Jill will share the story behind her memoir *Packets of Hope*, inviting us to travel alongside her through the ports she visited, the people she met, and the reflections that transformed personal adversity into strength and global impact. Jill demonstrates how one person's courage can create ripples that span continents.



Suggested reading: Jill Chalsty, *Packets of Hope* (2025). Free download at <https://www.packetsof-hope.com/get-your-copy>.

Jill Siegal Chalsty has devoted her life to the transformative power of education. As founder of Overcoming Obstacles, the nonprofit she launched in 1992, Jill pioneered life skills instruction that has now reached more than 180 million students worldwide. What began as a mission to help young people navigate life's challenges has evolved into a global movement for youth empowerment. Following the profound loss of her husband and her own battles with cancer, Jill embarked on a voyage of healing and reflection. That journey inspired her memoir, *Packets of Hope*, an exploration of resilience, love, and finding meaning through service. She's made her book available for free at packetsof-hope.com.



How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer

1 Session with Marc-Anthony Arena

Mon, Oct 19

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 30 Fee: \$15.00 

Are you frustrated with your computer? Noticing how it slows down over time? Wondering who's spying on us and why we must keep buying new devices? It turns out that the vast majority of headaches, security issues, tech expenditures, and e-waste are preventable. Marc-Anthony will de-mystify the IT industry in plain English (Especially the Windows 11 cash grab this past October).

Among the things he'll explain are:

- Why antivirus software is obsolete
- Why software is becoming more complicated every day
- The 4 new threats
- How to avoid fake wi-fi
- How smart TVs watch you
- Why complicated passwords are ineffective.

Suggested reading: David Platt, *Why Software Sucks...and What You Can Do About It* (Addison-Wesley Professional, 2006).

Marc-Anthony Arena is an honors graduate of both McQuaid and RIT. He is the author of *How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer*, the host of *The Computer Exorcist Podcast*, and teaches technicians around the country how to protect consumers from the IT industry.



What's the PERFECT GIFT for Any Occasion?

An OLLI Gift Certificate, of course! You can purchase eGift Cards year-round, and they are available at any value. [Purchase online](#) or call the OLLI office at 401-874-4197.

FEEDBACK



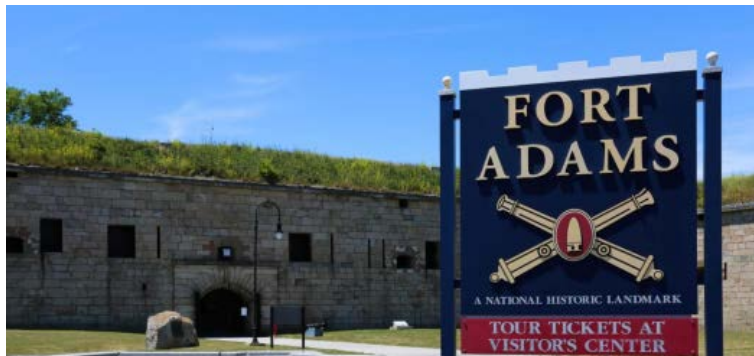
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We'd love to hear from you! Are you looking for a course on a particular topic? Do you know someone who would make a great OLLI instructor? Do you have an idea for a course but aren't quite certain? We're happy to answer all your questions and talk you through your ideas! Email OLLI@URI.EDU or call 401.874.4197.

TOURS & TRIPS

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Members must provide their own transportation to each tour. Please check your class confirmation, class reminder, or online catalog for directions, parking information and other important information.



Tour of Historic Fort Adams

Choose 1 tour:

① Tue, Sept 15 ② Thu, Sept 17

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Max: 20 Fee: \$15.00

Fort Adams, a National Historic Landmark, built 1824-57 and remaining in active use through World War II, is the most complex coastal fortification in the United States. Best known as the host site of the Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals, Fort Adams was designed to defend against attacks from both land and sea. Your guided tour will last approximately 75 minutes, involve nearly one mile of walking, and provide scenic views of Newport Harbor from atop the walls, as well as access to the underground listening tunnels deep beneath. On the tour, your guides will discuss the history of Fort Adams and the City of Newport from the colonial period through WWII, as well as the ongoing restoration of Fort Adams and its status as a National Historic Landmark.

Note: Upon arrival, tour guides will meet you at the Fort Adams Museum, on the first floor. Please wear proper footwear and dress appropriately for the weather that day.

Public parking is available on-site at the Fort Adams State Park Parking Lot at 80 Fort Adams Drive, Newport, RI. It is located just a few steps from the Visitor Center and features hundreds of spaces, including ADA van-accessible spots.

Identifying Common Invasive Plants

1 Session with Tom Hoagland

Thu, Oct 29

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Max: 15 Fee: \$15.00

Invasive plants overpower native and ornamental species and then spread quickly to starve native plants and animals from sunlight, nutrients, and habitat. This disrupts the biological and ecological network that has developed over millions of years. On this walking tour at Canonchet Farm, learn about the major invasive species found locally, how to identify them, remove them, and maintain removal by replanting the area with native species. Along the trail we will observe the effects of invasive plants in a second-growth woodland and discuss best practices for homeowners in controlling the spread of plants like privet and burning bush. There will be detailed handouts for participants, and an illustrated booklet on invasives given to all participants.

Park and meet at the South County Museum parking lot.

Tom Hoagland is a 2010 URI master gardener, president of the Friends of Canonchet Farm, and an RI certified invasive plant manager. For the OLLI at URI, Tom led a tour of the URI demonstration garden at East Farm in 2018. He also taught the Invasive Plants class for OLLI several times since 2018.

The Rhode Island Courts

1 Session with Justice Gilbert Indeglia

Fri, Oct 2

9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Max: 15 Fee: \$15.00

After a welcome by Hon. Gilbert V. Indeglia, retired Supreme Court justice, and Kara Picozzi, deputy director, Community Outreach and Public Relations, our tour will include the Rhode Island Superior Court, the State Law Library, and the Rhode Island Supreme Court, where a Q&A session will take place.

(RI Courts cont. pg 52)

TOURS & TRIPS

(RI Courts cont.)

Suggested reading: Go to <https://www.courts.ri.gov/Courts/Pages/default.aspx>

Meeting place: Fifth floor, Licht Judicial Complex, 250 Benefit Street, Providence. The building's accessible entrance is at the rear of the building, on South Main Street. There are elevators and a main staircase. The group will be standing upon arrival through introductions. Then, after a walk to a courtroom close by, all will be seated. Elevators are an option for traveling from floor to floor.

Parking: There is two- and three-hour parking on the streets surrounding the Licht Judicial Complex. You can also locate metered parking in the City of Providence. There is a parking garage on South Main Street next door to Hemenway's restaurant. Please remember to allow extra time for traffic and parking. For more information on parking in Providence, [please click here](#).

Gilbert V. Indeglia, Rhode Island Supreme Court justice, retired, is a former associate justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court, former associate judge of the Rhode Island District Court, and a former legislator.

Tour of the Westerly Armory

1 Session with Roberta Mudge Humble
Thu, Oct 1
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Max: 20 Fee: \$15.00

Become acquainted with one of Rhode Island's 18 historic armories from the headhouse filled with museum rooms and the home of The Westerly Band (oldest active community band in the nation), to the drill hall that hosts a multitude of events, to the lower level where you can see Mrs. Goodwin's mailbox chickens and the Armory's celebrated float. Gain an appreciation of the remarkable architecture of William R. Walker & Son who designed 5 ½ of the state's armories, over half of the state's town halls, and many houses, some of great significance.

If you like, bring your lunch. Water and soda will be available and you can have your lunch in the Armory's drill hall.



Parking is limited at the Armory. Street parking is available and there is a free municipal lot located a short 0.2-mile walk from the Armory on Canal Street.

Roberta Mudge Humble, a lifelong resident of Rhode Island, is a retired professor of English at CCRI where she taught for 47 years. She is best known for her work with the 18 historic armories of RI and her RI books and games. Her passion has been the promotion of Rhody as the state with the deepest national history. Roberta has worked with the U.S. military as a writer and volunteer. On the board of the Warwick Historical Society, she is a resident of Warwick, but a native of Westerly. Her distinctive RI games and books were inspired by the response of the governor and audience when she gave an address featuring RI's firsts, bests, and uniques at the State House on RI Independence Day. In 2022, she was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

The Workings of the Frosty Drew Observatory

1 Session with Frank Puglia
Fri, Nov 6
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Max: 20 Fee: \$15.00

Join us for an exciting three-part evening event! We'll begin with a guided tour of the Frosty Drew Observatory in Charlestown, Rhode Island exploring their impressive telescopes and learning about the scientific achievements. Then we'll enjoy an engaging presentation on recent NASA asteroid missions and discoveries. A large meteorite collection will also be available for review. We'll cap off the night with a stargazing session through one of Frosty Drew's many telescopes.

Note: Time may run later depending on the amount of time you spend stargazing! Rain date TBD.

While attending the event, participants are encouraged to make a donation to the observatory.

Frank Puglia holds both a B.S. and M.S. in chemical engineering from URI. He has been in the battery industry for almost 30 years, of particular note, as the lead designer for all of the batteries for all of NASA's Mars Rovers. He recently returned to URI as an adjunct professor and to complete his Ph.D. He is a regular presenter at Frosty Drew Observatory covering many NASA missions and technology topics.

Reforestation Newport: Miantonomi Park

1 Session with Joe Verstandig

Wed, Nov 4

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Max: 25 Fee: \$15.00

Join the Newport Tree Conservancy (NTC) for a walk through Newport's largest public greenspace, Miantonomi Park. Over the last decade disease, climate change, and invasive plant species have significantly reduced the forest canopy in a major portion of this historic park. NTC living collections manager, Joe Verstandig, and City of Newport grounds foreman, Charlie Ridolf, will highlight notable



specimen trees and recent plantings, focusing on reforestation plantings they've partnered on over the last several years. Silvicultural techniques, species selection, and invasive species management will be discussed in detail. The tour will end with a visit to the park's World War I Memorial tower.

Note: The guided tour will be a .75 mile loop through the woods of Miantonomi Park, on compacted dirt/gravel roads and paths, with the potential for some uneven ground. We will be walking uphill to start, before descending downhill to finish, with no steep inclines. The meeting location will be the southern gate, also along Hillside Ave and near a beautiful grove of Dawn Redwood Trees. Parking will be on the street along Hillside Avenue, which runs along the eastern side of the park.

Joe Verstandig is the Living Collections Manager at Newport Tree Conservancy. He graduated from the University of the Rhode Island in 2017 with a B.S. in ornamental horticulture. While in college, he interned at the Mohonk Mountain House, in New Paltz, New York, as a gardener. During his schooling at URI, Joe worked part-time in the University Greenhouses. After school, he worked as a full-time horticulturist at Blithewold Mansion, Gardens, and Arboretum. During his time there, he helped maintain world-class gardens, supervised volunteer groups, taught classes, and wrote horticultural articles and blogs. Joe also holds RICH certification.

Peace Dale Museum and Village Tour

1 Session with Julie Wardwell & Mary Cocroft Brown

Wed, Sept 30

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Max: 15 Fee: \$15.00

Begin at the birthplace of the U.S. Industrial Recreation Movement (1856), now the Peace Dale Museum, in the mill village founded by Rowland Hazard I in the early 19th century.

After a tour of the museum gallery featuring artifacts from all over the world, cross the road to the Peace Dale Library to hear about the large bronze relief, "The Weaver," by Daniel Chester French (known for his seated Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.). The tour continues through the village of Peace Dale where you will learn about its history and the many buildings and mills that were built by the Hazard family.



Note: The museum is located on the second floor of an old granite building. You must be able to climb 2 flights of steep stairs to view the collection and walk up to a mile on the outdoor tour. We encourage you to make a donation to the museum. Donations are sincerely and greatly appreciated, as they contribute to the continued success and impact of the Peace Dale Museum.

Julie Wardwell is a South Kingstown resident who is retired and currently the office administrator at the Peace Dale Museum of Art and Culture. She enjoys learning about the local history and giving the outdoor walking tours of the Peace Dale Village to people of all ages.

Mary Cocroft Brown is the children's educator and a board member of the Peace Dale Museum of Art and Culture. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of the museum's collection. She has an art background and appreciates the museum's diversity of artifacts.

All participants on tours or in classes that meet in a location other than OLLI (210 Flagg Rd.) are required to provide their own transportation and will be required to fill out an Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability Form.

Beneath the Breakers Tour

Choose 1 tour:

① Mon, Sept 21 ② Tues, Sept 29

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Max: 12 Fee: \$30.00

Based on research by Preservation Society staff and period documents, this tour shares with visitors how the great house changed with the times as domestic technology evolved through the Gilded Age and into the 20th century. Learn how the development of electricity changed life at the mansion, how the revolutionary infrastructure heated and cooled the great house, how modern plumbing and laundry facilities affected attitudes about hygiene and cleanliness. The detailed journals of the house engineer help us understand how it all worked.



- This is an underground experience in a historic structure.
- There are 30 stairs.
- You will pass through some enclosed spaces.

TAKE NOTE Breakers Tour Attendees

Tours at The Breakers do not include a visit to the “regular” tour of the house. If you want to add a visit to the house after your tour you may pay an additional \$18pp upon arrival.

Tours are not accessible for those with mobility devices.

Comfortable, flat shoes are recommended.

Parking lot for The Breakers is across the street from the entrance gates. Visit Newportmansions.org for more information and directions.

Members should meet in the gravel driveway just inside the entrance 5 minutes prior to the tour. An OLLI representative will take attendance.

The Breakers Third Floor Preservation in Progress Tour

Choose 1 tour:

① Mon, Sept 14 ② Thu, Sept 24

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Max: 10 Fee: \$30.00

The Breakers Third Floor Preservation in Progress Tour is a limited, guide-led experience of private bedrooms, bathrooms, and recreational spaces used by the Vanderbilt family and household staff for more than a century. But it’s also much more than that. Guests will witness preservation work in action, as the research, planning and physical work to restore these spaces is taking place right now. You’ll see floors and walls that have been restored and others that have been left untouched to show the effects of time and the elements. You’ll see décor from the 1890s, 1940s and later reflecting the family’s changing uses of the third floor. This is a much different experience than the standard Breakers tour, and we hope guests will appreciate the Vanderbilt family legacy like never before.



- This is a true upstairs/downstairs tour.
- You will climb 85 stairs and descend 95 stairs and must stay together as a group.
- There is no elevator available for public use to or from the third floor.
- Photography is not allowed on this tour.

FEEDBACK

A few days after your class ends, you will receive an email feedback survey. We encourage you to take a few minutes and share your thoughts with us. You can also email or call us any time to share your opinions - good or bad. Paper surveys are also located in the lobby.

LEARN HERE EXPLORE THERE

Join OLLI as we blend our classroom instruction with real-world experiences. This two-step model—learn here, explore there—helps members connect, engage more actively, and reflect more meaningfully. Please read the the notes about meeting locations and recommendations. Members must provide their own transportation.

History of a One-Room School

2 Sessions with Betty Cotter and Kristen Chambers
Tue, Sept 29, (visit to Schoolhouse)

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Oct 6, (classroom), 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$35.00

We'll discuss the trajectory of the history of the Bell School in Richmond, RI (ca. 1826–1935) and how it is representative of all the one-room schools that once dotted the New England landscape. We'll start with a tour of the school led by Kristen Chambers, president of the Richmond Historical Society and follow up with a classroom session the next week. We'll learn about the travails of students, teachers, and parents negotiating their roles at the dawn of public education and watch an oral-history video of a teacher describing her experiences in a rural one-room school classroom in nearby Exeter.

Note: The schoolhouse is not handicapped accessible. There are two high granite steps with a handrail at the entrance and seating inside is limited. There is plenty of parking in the town hall lot.



Assignment: Come prepared to discuss your own classroom experiences.

Betty J. Cotter, a South County native, is a journalism instructor at the University of Rhode Island and head of its Community News Lab. She has written histories of South County Hospital and Theatre-by-the-Sea, in addition to four books of local history published by Arcadia Publishing.

Kristen Chambers worked for 34 years in the Griswold (CT) public schools as a speech-language pathologist. She is currently president of the Richmond Historical Society and the Clark Memorial Library board. Kristen is active in the League of Women Voters - South County and in local gun violence prevention groups. She is a Richmond resident.

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URI.AIMSPARKING.COM
OR CALL 401.874.4197



Osher Online™

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

*Registration for Osher Online classes begins on Sept 1 and
ends on Sept 13.*

Osher Online is an online partnership in collaboration with the National Resource Center (NRC) at Northwestern University School of Professional Studies. Osher Online was created to expand member access, institute collaboration and sharing of resources, and ensure the legacy of all 123 Osher Institutes.

These classes are 90-minutes long and delivered by the Osher NRC, and its staff will provide moderators and technical assistance.

They are meant to complement our program and give you access to instructors from other locations in our country.

- ▶ Osher Online classes are 6 weeks and cost \$60.
- ▶ Osher Online is available to OLLI members only.
- ▶ Space is limited to 13.
- ▶ Osher Online classes are not recorded.

We hope you enjoy the opportunity to learn from premiere instructors along with OLLI members from across the nation!



IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Did you know your membership must be in effect throughout the length of your class?

If you're not sure when your renewal date is, feel free to call the office at
401-874-4197.

BEFORE YOUR FIRST OSHER CLASS PLEASE ATTEND:

Osher Online Member Orientation Tue, Sept 22, at 2:00 PM

Once registered for an Osher Online course, you will receive an email from Osher inviting you to attend the Member Orientation. We encourage you to attend the session as details on logging in to your Osher account will be provided. If you are not able to attend the orientation a recording will be available.

While all Osher Online registrations are processed by URI OLLI, support for Osher Online classes is provided by the Osher Online team at Northwestern University School of Professional Studies. All questions should be directed to Osher Online, 312-503-5555 or email osheronline@northwestern.edu.

Why OSHER Classes are not recorded.

Local Institute Policies: We work with Osher Institutes across the country. Each Institute is an independent program of its host university or college. As such, the host institutions have varying policies about recording – some prohibiting and some permitting. To comply with all participating Institutes, we follow the strictest policies.

Intellectual Property: Our high-caliber instructors are often involved in significant research or book authoring. The content that they share in Osher Online courses is their intellectual property and therefore not approved for recording.

Privacy: We commit to our Osher Online members that their likeness will not be recorded in classroom settings.

Learning: Just as would be the case for in-person experiences, occasionally a member will have to miss a class due to conflicts, illness, or unexpected circumstances. Fortunately, materials are often available on the Osher Online website that will help members stay engaged even when they must miss a class.

Great Artists in American Roots Music

6 Sessions with Taylor Ackley

Mon, Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Max: 13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

From its emergence amid rapid cultural change in the early 20th century, country music has resonated with people who feel left behind by a shifting world. A key genre



of American roots music, it captures hardships of modern life while intentionally evoking emotional response. Whether facing troubled relationships, unemployment, homelessness, loneliness, or spiritual bereft, there is a country song for you. This course traces the history of country and American roots music through the stories and artistic developments of influential performers. Each session highlights key figures including the Carter Family, Bill Monroe, Hank Williams, and Dolly Parton.

Taylor Ackley, Ph.D. is a scholar, composer, and performer of American roots music. He holds a Ph.D. and a master's degree in composition, and a master's in ethnomusicology from Stony Brook University. Ackley is an independent scholar and professional musician based in northwestern Montana and is writing his first book, *Hearing Class*. A singer and multi-instrumentalist, he has performed nationwide, released four albums, and presented at major conferences in music, sociology, and ethnomusicology.

Art Detectives: Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication

6 Sessions with Christine Maasdam

Mon, Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Max: 13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

The public often sees the art world as the domain of wealth, trendsetters, and high rollers, yet deception lurks behind the façade. After weapons and drugs, art is the third most lucrative illicit trade, with reports suggesting that more than half of artworks are fake or misattributed. In this course, we will ask: When is a copy simply a copy, and when is it a forgery? What techniques do master forgers use? Does a collector hold true title, and how important is provenance?

What can science tell us about art authenticity? We will uncover riveting stories of criminal art activity, gallery closings, and master forgeries.

Christine Maasdam holds a master's in humanities and a bachelor's in cultural geography. Maasdam studied art at The Courtauld Institute, the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, and the University of Glasgow. She trained in art crime investigation and is a member of the International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection. She holds Sotheby's certifications in art law and appraisal, serves as a museum education docent, and has volunteered on archaeological projects in Israel.

Winning the White House: The Evolution of the Presidency

6 Sessions with John White

Tue, Sept 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Max: 13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

Harry S. Truman once described the presidency as "the most peculiar office in the world." In this course, we will explore how the Founding Fathers left the office for future presidents to define, creating conditions for a dramatic expansion of executive power.



We will examine how the presidency has come to dominate the three co-equal branches, with Congress and the Supreme Court at times ceding authority. We will

consider how and why this shift occurred, how this peculiar office is won or lost, how presidents have exercised power, and how the rise of the administrative state has reshaped the balance envisioned by the framers.

John White is a political scientist specializing in American political parties and the US presidency. White is the author of several books, including *The New Politics of Old Values*, *Still Seeing Red*, *Barack Obama's America*, *Grand Old Unraveling*, and *Democracy on the Edge*, co-authored with Matthew R. Kerbel. He taught at The Catholic University of America and writes a biweekly column for *The Hill*, a Washington, D.C. based publication covering the White House and Capitol Hill.

A Cosmic Grand Tour: The Realms of the Universe

6 Sessions with Andrew Frankoi

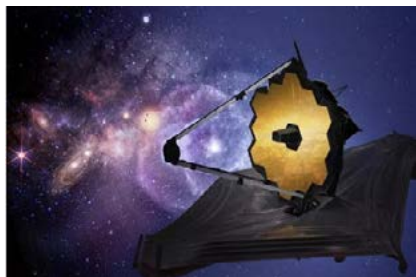
Tue, Sept 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Max:13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

In this course, we will explore the three fascinating realms of the cosmos: nearby planets and moons, the stars, and the galaxies (the great island of stars that turn out to be the building blocks of the universe). Our discussion will be in everyday language, without any math, and will be accompanied by remarkable color images from the latest space probes and the world's largest telescopes, including the latest breathtaking



images from the James Webb Space Telescope.

Andrew Frankoi, retired chair of the astronomy department at Foothill College, continues to teach noncredit astronomy courses at San Francisco State University and the University of San Francisco. He is lead author of *OpenStax Astronomy*, the most frequently-used, introductory astronomy textbook in North America. He appears regularly on radio, explaining astronomical developments in everyday language, and was named California Professor of the Year. He writes science fiction, has published eight stories, and has an asteroid named in his honor, recognizing his contributions to the public understanding of science.

WAIT LISTS

If you get closed out of a class, you should always add your name to the wait list. There are always cancellations before a class and if an opening becomes available, we will call you and register you over the phone. In some cases, if this is a large wait list, we will try to schedule a second session. Wait list members get first priority to register for the new session.

Apple at 50: How it Revolutionized Computing and Transformed Daily Life

6 Sessions with Leander Kahney

Tue, Sept 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Max:13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

This course traces Apple's fifty-year history and its massive impact on personal computing, design, product culture, platforms and ecosystems, and daily life. Each session focuses on a different decade in Apple's history, from the birth of the PC in the late 1970s to the latest Apple silicon, VR headsets, and future iPhones.

We will learn how Apple reshaped not just technology, but how people live, work, and communicate.



Leander Kahney is a veteran technology reporter who has covered Apple for more than 30 years. He has written six books about the company, including two *New York Times* bestsellers. He is the editor and publisher of *Cult of Mac*, a long-running Apple blog, and was previously news editor at *Wired.com*.

"Studies Show..." (Or Do They?): Under the Hood of a Scientific Study

6 Sessions with John Hendrickson

Thu, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Max: 13 \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

What really changes when we read beyond the abstract? In this interactive course, we will open real research papers (many in health and nutrition) and explore what scientists actually look for. We will explore how small design choices can dramatically shape a study's meaning, and why headlines rarely tell the full story. No technical background is required—just curiosity. By the end of the course, we will never read "studies show..." the same way again.

John Hendrickson, Ph.D. is a teaching professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University. He holds a Ph.D. in chemistry and is the author of the textbook *Chemistry in the World*. His academic work centers on science communication and the reciprocal relationship between science and society.

Sacred Mountains of the World

6 Sessions with Jonathan Duncan

Mon, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Max: 13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶



People throughout time and across cultures have looked to the mountains as powerful symbols. The Buddhists of the Himalayas, the Inca of the Andes, the Inuit of the far north, and the Romantics of Europe all created unique stories of what mountains mean and how they are to be approached. This course will provide an interdisciplinary exploration of the beliefs, traditions, and mythologies that have been inspired by the world's mountains. Through richly illustrated lectures, short readings, and open discussion, this course will open a window into the world's sacred mountains and encourage exploration of our relationship with the Earth's high and wild places.

Jonathan Duncan is a photojournalist, writer, teacher, and public speaker with more than 25 years of experience. His work has been published in *National Geographic*, *The Himalayan Journal*, *Sailing*, *Rock and Ice*, and by the *University of Utah Press*. He has taught at the Art Institute of Portland, Western Washington University, and Westminster University. His work explores humanity's complex relationship with the natural world, often in remote landscapes and cultures.



We'd love to hear from you! Are you looking for a course on a particular topic? Do you know someone who would make a great OLLI instructor? Do you have an idea for a course but aren't quite certain? We're happy to answer your questions and talk you through your ideas. Email olli@uri.edu or call 401-874-4197.



The History and Experience of Route 66

6 Sessions with Peter Dedek

Mon, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Max: 13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

Route 66 is as much an idea as it is a place. Since its creation in 1926, America's most famous highway has evolved from a 2,400-mile transportation corridor into a powerful symbol of nostalgia, travel, and the American road. Today, it functions as a kind of pilgrimage route, marked by neon signs, roadside attractions, and preserved motels, cafés, and gas stations. In this course, we will explore the history, cultural meaning, and enduring appeal of Route 66. Together, we will examine its origins, rise and decline, late-20th-century revival, the role of nostalgia and car culture, preservation efforts, and the possible futures of this iconic highway.

Peter Dedek, Ph.D. is a professor of American history at Texas State University whose work explores the cultural history of the built environment and the stories embedded in historic places. Dedek brings together cultural, design, and social history to illuminate how people shape, and are shaped by the spaces they inhabit. He is the author of *Hip to the Trip: Route 66 Centennial Edition* and *The Cemeteries of New Orleans: A Cultural History*, and wrote *Historic Preservation for Designers*, a guide integrating preservation with design.

uri.edu/olli



Please refer to the online catalog for the most up-to-date course information. Virtual class previews and instructor bios can be found online.

August Wilson and His American Cycle - The First Five: 1904-1957

6 Sessions with Ladrica Menson-Furr
Wed, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Max: 13 \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

August Wilson was the first African American playwright to have a Broadway theater bear his name, a fitting tribute to a dramatist who brought African American culture and lived experience to the stage. In this course, we will read, watch, and examine the first five plays in Wilson's American Cycle, a ten-play series representing each decade of the African American culture's 20th century. We will explore Wilson's life and the influences behind his work while focusing on *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *Seven Guitars*, tracing his powerful interpretation, celebration, and perseverance of African American culture.



Ladrica Menson-Furr is assistant dean of undergraduate programs and associate professor of African American literature. Menson-Furr is the author of August Wilson's *Fences* and August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and has published on Zora Neale Hurston and Pearl Cleage. She has led academic programs in African American studies and served as a Provost's Fellow and a Tennessee Board of Regents' Maxine Smith Fellow.

The 60s Through the Great Speeches

6 Sessions with Arthur Benedict
Fri, Oct 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Max: 13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

The 1960s is a decade wrapped in myth and misunderstanding. In this course, we will cut through that haze by turning to something powerful and concrete: the speeches of the era. The times and the conditions demanded these significant speeches. Together, we will listen to the voices that moved a nation and shaped history. With recordings preserved through television, video, and YouTube, we will discover what these speeches still have to teach us today.

Arthur Benedict (Buck) is a former lecturer at Wharton and the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught public speaking for 16 years. He also created and taught speechwriting classes. He was awarded the first Excellence in Teaching Award at the Fels Institute and was nominated for the university-wide Provost Award for non-standing faculty.

Power and the People: The Evolution of the U.S. Federal Judiciary

6 Sessions with Lauren Andersen
Thu, Oct 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 19
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Max: 13 Fee: \$60.00

PLAY VIDEO ▶

The American Experiment began with the *Declaration of Independence* and led to the creation of the federal judiciary, one of the country's greatest experiments. In this course, we will trace the evolution of the courts from their English roots to their formal establishment in the Constitution. We will explore how the Supreme Court, lacking the power of the purse



or military, derives its authority from its ability to connect with the people of the U.S. and protect democracy. We will examine the creation of the federal judiciary and the power of the Marshall

Court, the Court's evolution through the New Deal, the Vinson Court, the Warren Court's "Rights Revolution," and the role of today's U.S. Supreme Court.

Lauren Andersen is the director of the Utah Judicial Institute. Andersen practiced appellate law in the state of California and presented arguments to the California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. During this time, Andersen closely studied the Roberts Court. She has lectured about the Supreme Court and the death penalty. Her opinions were quoted by *The New York Times* and the *ABA Journal*. She was previously the director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Utah.



OLLI Veterans Day Special Event

Flying with the Blue Angels: Film & Conversation with Bob Flynn and Kathy Conlon from the URI Center for Military and Veteran Education

Thu, Nov 5, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Max: 45 Fee:

Join us for this exhilarating documentary that puts audiences directly in the cockpit with the Navy's legendary Flight Demonstration Squadron. Filmed with IMAX cameras for maximum visual impact, the film follows a full training season—from the grueling selection process through the demanding eight-month show schedule—capturing breathtaking aerial formations at speeds up to 400 mph. Beyond the spectacle, it's an intimate look at the teamwork, sacrifice, and camaraderie behind one of the most recognizable symbols of American aviation. Directed by Paul Crowder and produced by Glen Powell and J.J. Abrams, this crowd-pleasing tribute to precision flying is a must-see for aviation and military history enthusiasts alike.

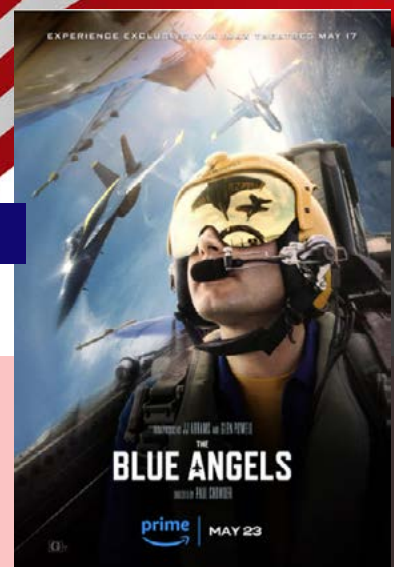
A Q&A session after the movie will be led by CDR Bob Flynn, USN (ret.) and Kathy Conlon who together run the award-winning URI Military and Veteran Education Center (MAVE) here at the University of Rhode Island. In 2014, Bob was selected as the first ever Blue Angels Executive Officer and trained and traveled with the Blue Angels for the nationwide 2015 and 2016 seasons, traveling over 220 days a year. As a career Naval Flight Officer, Bob assisted the "Boss" in running the day-to-day operations of the squadron as well as being the tactical air control officer during practices and demonstrations, running the airspace and communicating with the demonstration pilots throughout each show and practice.

Kathy Conlon, a 16-year veteran of URI, was selected to get a flight with the Blue Angels in 2015 while they performed at Quonset Reserve Base as part of their Key Influencer program. This is a high honor in the community and happened to be during Bob's tour with the Blues. They would meet for the first time at URI years later, discovering this unlikely connection!

Bob Flynn graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1992 with a degree in English and holds master's degrees from Troy

University and the U.S. Naval War College. He has deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Southern Watch, and Decisive Endeavor on three different aircraft carriers as well as a ground tour in Basra, Iraq supporting the U.S. Army's counter-IED efforts. Recently, Bob served on the military faculty of the Strategy and Policy Department at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI. His most recent aviation assignment was as Executive Officer of the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels) where he stood up the XO position. Bob is currently on the Board of Directors for the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County and the Vice President of the Blue Angels Association.

Kathy Conlon is a native Rhode Islander, having attended Boston College receiving a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Salve Regina University receiving a Master's degree in Administration of Justice. After working as a Federal Probation Officer for 11 years, she changed careers into higher education. She worked as an Academic Advisor at the Community College of RI for 5 years and as a Senior Academic Advisor for URI's College of Business for the past 15 years. Her father was a career Navy Pilot and her husband was a Military Police Officer in the Air Force as well as a RI State Trooper. Kathy has two children who have attended URI. One daughter is now a Nurse and her second daughter is a senior dietetics major applying to Registered Dietetics graduate programs. Kathy is active on the URI campus and enjoys anything involving the outdoors. As part of a military family, Kathy has lived in many places, supported NAPS students and once flew in the back seat with the Blue Angels. Kathy lives in South Kingstown and is going on her 16th year as a URI employee.





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Block Island Breakaway

Tue, Sep 15

11:00 AM - Recommended Ferry Departure from Point Judith

12:15 PM - Brunch gathering at [The National Hotel](#)

Ferry return options: 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM, or 8:00 PM

Max: 16 Fee: Each participant is to pay for their ferry ticket and meal individually.

Come enjoy brunch on Block Island at the National Hotel's restaurant and an afternoon of shopping or sightseeing at your own pace. OLLI will make restaurant reservations for the group. All activities—after brunch—are on your own both for planning and expense. All those interested should explore these websites to make personal arrangements: [Visit the Block Island Ferry website](#) for schedules and fees. (Note: The Point Judith to BI traditional ferry leaving at 11:00 AM accommodates this brunch reservation best. OLLI members on this ferry departure will congregate at the Point Judith facility to travel together, if desired.)

Must be registered with OLLI to participate.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thur, Nov 12, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Trivia starts at 6:30PM. Please arrive by 6:00PM.) Max: 30 Fee: \$0.00
All members must register.

Join fellow OLLI members for an evening of friendly competition, laughter, and community spirit at the [Carriage Inn in North Kingstown](#). Trivia kicks off at 6:30 PM, so plan to arrive by 6:00 PM to get settled and grab a seat. Food and beverages will be available for purchase throughout the evening. Come test your knowledge, support local business, and enjoy a relaxed night out with both new and familiar friends.

Create Your Own Handmade Holiday Gift

Thu, Dec 3

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: [Create! Color Art Studio](#)

Max: 30 Fee: Pricing will depend on what item/project you choose. The pottery pieces are all individually marked and range in price.

Join your OLLI friends at [Create! Color Art Studio](#) and get creative! Make a fused-glass bowl, piece of pottery or resin suncatcher to give as a gift or keep yourself. Choose your own project and design it in

your own personal style while enjoying other creative souls' company. Fees are paid directly at the site to the art studio.

- 6-inch fused glass bowl \$41
- 6-inch resin suncatcher \$30
- 12-inch resin suncatcher \$60

Must be registered with OLLI to participate.



FLOWERS

with  Friends



Classes meet at [Floral Designs by Donna](#), 140 point Judith Road, Unit 13A, Mariner Square, Narragansett

Make Your Own Fall Flower Arrangement

Tue, Oct 27

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Max: 20 Fee: \$55.00



Celebrate fall by creating your very own pumpkin floral arrangement. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or a complete beginner, this workshop guides you step-by-step through building a centerpiece that's fresh, festive, and uniquely yours. Choose from a muted orange or crisp white reusable ceramic pumpkin filled with vibrant seasonal flowers.

Holiday Boxwood Tree Workshop

Tue, Dec 8

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Max: 20 Fee: \$65.00

Get into the holiday spirit by creating your very own festive Boxwood Tree! Each participant will receive a reusable base, twinkling lights, fresh greenery, flowers, and ample decorations to make their tree truly shine. Our experienced instructor will guide you step-by-step, sharing insider tips and tricks of the trade to help you craft a professional-looking centerpiece with ease. Choose from three beautiful decoration themes to personalize your tree: Classic red and white, traditional red and green, or elegant blue, white, and silver. By the end of class, you'll leave with a stunning holiday tree that's ready to brighten your home for the holiday season!

CRIBBAGE

AT OLLI

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP





Meets in the lobby on Wednesdays at 2:00PM. Register online: URI.EDU/OLLI

OLLI

May 15 – *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson

June 12 – *The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong

Meets one week early due to June 19th holiday.

July 17 – *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell

August 21 – *Happy Land* by Dolan Perkins-Valdez

September 18- *The Price of Democracy* by Vanessa Williamson

October 16 – *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

November 20 – *Migrations* by Charlotte McConaghy

December 18 – *The Land and its People* by David Sedaris

Third Friday of the month from 1:00PM-2:30PM
Downstairs Conference Room





Sepsis: What to Know about Prevention, Treatment, and Survival

1 Session with Ann MacDonald

Wed, Sept 16

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$0.00

Sepsis is as dangerous as a heart attack or stroke and requires prompt medical treatment. Sepsis occurs when the immune system overreacts to any type of infection. This class will include medical information and stories of Rhode Islanders who have experienced sepsis so that participants can learn how to prevent sepsis, how to recognize its signs and symptoms, how it is treated, and what resources exist for survivors.

Ann MacDonald earned a B.A. in politics at Brandeis University. She has been a medical writer for more than 30 years. She is a former editor at Harvard Medical School, managed content at the Informed Medical Decisions Foundation, and has worked in communications at several Boston teaching hospitals.

**FALL REGISTRATION BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1,
ONLINE AT 7:00 AM**

Safe & Sound: Protecting Your Home and Family from Modern Scams

1 Session with Jonah Tomsick

Tue, Nov 17

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 45 Fee: \$0.00

In an era where technology moves faster than ever, staying safe requires more than just locking your front door. Join Jonah Tomsick, a licensed real estate professional and local community advocate, for an empowering and eye-opening session on modern scam prevention. Jonah will pull back the curtain on the new wave of scams, from AI-generated voice cloning and sophisticated phantom hacker attacks to the latest fake inheritance schemes targeting property titles and local brokerages. You will learn to recognize the psychological triggers scammers use to create panic and will walk away with a practical safety checklist.



Jonah Tomsick was born and raised in Cleveland, OH and moved to Rhode Island with his wife, Colleen, to start their journey together. As transplants to the area, they know firsthand the importance of finding a community where you feel a sense of belonging. They found their perfect home in Charlestown for their son, Fox, and their pets, (a tuxedo cat named Margot and a golden retriever named Maple), and have since become active members of the community. Jonah is involved as a board member for the Cross' Mills Public Library, a volunteer firefighter for the Richmond Carolina FD and a member of the Charlestown Dog Park Committee. Jonah also maintains a number of other skills and hobbies. He is an avid musician, fitness enthusiast, and enjoys traveling with his family.

LET'S MEETS THURSDAYS IN THE LOBBY PLAY MAH JONGG

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10:00AM BEGINNER PLAYERS
1:00PM EXPERIENCED PLAYERS



Join OLLI at Old Mountain Lanes in Wakefield on
Wednesdays, at 12:30 PM.
\$3 per game/\$1.00 shoe rental
Facilitator: Peter Stetson



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*Did you know that OLLI membership
and course fees have remained the
same for the last 12 years thanks to the
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If you need help making your gift, please call (401) 874-4786



Explore the world with OLLI! We're delighted to offer our members the chance to discover new places together through thoughtfully curated travel experiences. In partnership with Collette Tours, we're opening the door to journeys that are enriching, engaging, and built around the interests of our community.

Each trip grows out of the conversations sparked in our courses, lectures, and special interest groups—transforming classroom learning into real-world exploration. Travel with fellow members who share your curiosity, and see the world through the lens of lifelong learning.

[PORTUGAL'S OLD-WORLD CHARMS](#)

featuring Douro Valley, Alentejo & Lisbon
Apr 25 – May 5, 2027, 11 days

[HAWAIIAN ADVENTURE](#)

featuring three Islands: O'ahu, the Big Island, and Maui
Feb 21 – Mar 2, 2027, 10 days

[SCOTLAND DISCOVERY](#)

Jun 12 – 21, 2027, 10 days

[DISCOVER THE HIGHLIGHTS OF NORWAY](#)

Aug 29 – Sep 6, 2027, 9 days

[COLORADO ROCKIES](#)

Sep 17 – 25, 2027, 9 days

[EXPLORE NORTHERN ITALY](#)

Oct 21 – 29, 2027, 9 days

[ANTARCTICA: THE WHITE CONTINENT](#)

Dec 12 – 23, 2027, 12 days

SPECIAL TRAVEL PRESENTATION at OLLI

Thu, Sept 17, 11:30 AM, Antarctica

Mon, Sept 21, 3:00 PM, Scotland, Norway and Colorado Rockies

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*Learn
more*



Visit our website for information
on OLLI travel: URI.EDU/OLLI

OLLI

Special Interest Groups & OLLI Extras

OLLI Special Interest Groups are member-led discussion and activity groups that meet regularly and offer new and enriching opportunities for lifelong learning as well as social experiences. They are FREE and exclusively for OLLI members. Full descriptions and meeting dates and times are available online.

Registration is required. URI.EDU/OLLI

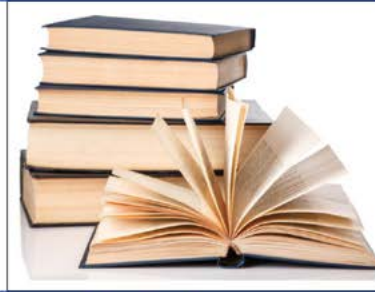
Biking



Writers



Book



Movie



Bowling



OLLI Serves



Mah Jongg



Hiking



Cribbage



Creativity & Play



Current Events



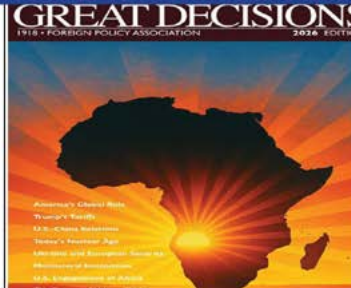
Game On!



Photo Friday



Great Decisions



Lunch and Learn



Rhody Ramblers



FALL 2026 HONORS COLLOQUIUM INTERSTELLAR EXPLORATION

JOURNEY BEYOND YOUR LIMITS

SEPT. 15 Realistic Interstellar Travel—The Challenges of Distance, Time, and Known Physics

Les Johnson, former chief technology officer at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, discusses the possibilities of future interstellar travel, what is realistic to expect, and why.

SEPT. 22 An Inclusive, Audacious Journey Transforms Life Here on Earth and Beyond

Mae Jemison, engineer, physician, and astronaut, considers the ways to generate, activate, and execute practical steps to achieving the extraordinary.

SEPT. 29 Mars Direct: Humans to the Red Planet Within a Decade

Robert Zubrin, astronautical engineer, explains how we can send humans to Mars in our time—and why we must.

OCT. 6 More Than Martians

Tanya Harrison, planetary scientist and “professional martian,” discusses the history of the search for life on Mars, and why exploring matters even if we never find aliens.

OCT. 13 The Final Frontier Is Not Space—It's Trust

Timiebi Aganaba, assistant professor of space and society at Arizona State University and international space lawyer, explores how we design fair, inclusive systems for life on and beyond Earth.

OCT. 20 Directed Energy for Relativistic Propulsion

Philip Lubin, professor of physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, discusses paths to relativistic flight using directed energy propulsion and its transformative implications for exploration in our solar system and beyond.

OCT. 27 Searching for New Earths

Lisa Kaltenegger, astronomer and director of the Carl Sagan Institute, offers deep insights, discusses challenges and opportunities, and explores the profound implications of searching for life in the cosmos.

NOV. 2* History Rhymes: Ethics, Human Rights, and Our Future in Space

Astrophysicist **Erika Nesvold** explores the ethical challenges awaiting us in space settlements, asking what we can learn from our past on Earth to build a better future in space.

NOV. 10 Science at the Stellar Shores: Sampling the Realms Between the Sun and Stars

Princeton researcher **Jamie Rankin** delves into the history and science of interstellar exploration through the vantage point of the Voyager spacecrafts—surveying surprises, discoveries, curiosities, and lessons learned from humanity's longest-lasting mission.

NOV. 17 NASA Scientist: You

Marc Kuchner, NASA astrophysicist and citizen science officer, shows how volunteers have helped NASA find exoplanets and samples of interstellar material and shares how you can join a NASA science team—right now.

DEC. 1 NASA Space Exploration Technologies for an Oceanography Moonshot

Professor, National Geographic Explorer, and inventor **Ved Chirayath** shares new technologies he is developing to see beneath the waves and explore oceans across the solar system.

DEC. 8 Failure Is Mandatory: How To Achieve the Impossible

Paul Sutter, cosmologist and NASA advisor, discusses what it actually takes to reach the stars. The provocative answer—one that begins with accepting that failure isn't the enemy. It's the key.

* All lectures will be held Tuesdays, with the exception of Monday, Nov. 2.

uri.edu/hc

Visit us online for additional events:



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If you need a reasonable accommodation or have a question about accessing this event, please call 401.874.2303 at least five business days in advance. For TTY assistance, please call the R.I. Relay Service at 711.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

OLLI WEEKLY NEWS



Keep up-to-date on new classes, special offerings, and weekly happenings. OLLI weekly emails are sent on Monday mornings. If you are not receiving them, please call 401-874-4197

Creativity & PLAY



OLLI SPECIAL
INTEREST GROUP

MEETS MONTHLY

Meets the second
Thursday of each
month at 10:00 AM
(LOCATIONS VARY)



We are interested in exploring drawing, painting, sculpture, creative writing, poetry, creative challenges, community projects, movement and games, and much more.



Register online:
URI.EDU/OLLI



THE AGE-FRIENDLY VISION FOR URI

The University of Rhode Island became a member of the Age-Friendly Global Network in 2018. The AFU effort has depended greatly on the contributions of many OLLI members, including those who serve on our work group, attend intergenerational classes, and participate in special projects and pro-grams. OLLI is a critically important part of what the AFU vision and mission represent at URI, and we look forward to continuing to work with OLLI members as we move forward to make URI more age-friendly!

Background

Every day in the US until the year 2028, 10,000 people will turn 65. By 2024, 20% of the US population will be 65+; and by 2034, older adults will outnumber children for the first time in US history. How should higher educational institutions respond to this demographic change and the challenges it creates? The Age Friendly University (AFU) movement was initiated in 2012 at Dublin City University in Ireland, inspired by a vision of how to make universities more globally responsive to the needs and interests of older adults. At present, over 45 universities in the US are members, and the mission is supported by the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education. URI became an AFU in 2018, in the belief that higher educational institutions must be transformed in ways that recognize the unprecedented impacts of aging on all aspects of society.

AFUs are not just age-friendly, but they are aging-friendly. They embrace the educational needs of adults as they age through the life course, changing jobs and preparing for new careers and occupations. However, education is more than just getting the knowledge and skills necessary for the workplace. It also includes how one spends one's time and energy on other important life pursuits, such as family, health, leisure, civic engagement, and spirituality.

Current Projects and Activities

The AFU workgroup at URI is presently focusing on the following initiatives: (1) creating Intergenerational programs, such as Cyberseniors, and classes with both URI students and older adults, (2) increasing access by older adults to regular URI courses, (3) developing a retirement community on or near the URI campus that could also serve as the home for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), (4) creating a retired faculty and staff association, and (5) expanding research involving older adults, particularly with regard to health and wellbeing.

OLLI and the AFU Vision and Mission

The AFU effort has depended greatly on the contributions of many OLLI members, including those who serve on our work group, attend intergenerational classes, and participate in special projects and programs. OLLI is a critically important part of what the AFU vision and mission represent at URI, and we look forward to continuing to work with OLLI members as we move forward to make URI more age-friendly!

10 AFU PRINCIPLES

AFU institutions endorse ten principles that provide an ongoing evaluation of efforts to make the University an open and welcoming community for adults of all ages. The principles are not a set of absolute criteria that must be met; rather, they are a set of standards to identify gaps and opportunities for growth.

The ten principles are:

- (1) encourage participation of older adults in all core activities of the university,
- (2) promote personal and career development,
- (3) recognize the range of their educational needs,
- (4) promote intergenerational learning for reciprocal sharing of expertise,
- (5) widen access to online educational opportunities,
- (6) ensure the research agenda is informed by the needs of an aging society,
- (7) increase student understanding of the complexity and richness that aging brings to society,
- (8) enhance access to a range of health and wellness programs and arts and cultural activities,
- (9) engage actively with the university's own retired community, and
- (10) ensure dialogue with organizations representing interests of aging population.

OLLI MAIL-IN REGISTRATION - FALL 2026

MONDAY

- ☐ America's "Sickcare" System - Profits Over Patients? (\$50)
- ☐ Codes and Ciphers (\$15)
- ☐ Compassionate Conversations: Learning to Communicate from the Heart (\$45)
- ☐ Four Big Ideas from 20th Century Science (\$45)
- ☐ From Sesame Street to YouTube: How Children's TV Shapes Young Minds (\$15)
- ☐ Iran, the USA, and Other Conflicts (\$40)
- ☐ Music of the Sea (\$35)
- ☐ Redefining the Future of Aging (free)
- ☐ Rhode Island's Elections Explained (\$15)
- ☐ Sea Lions, Turtles & Boobies – Vince's Galápagos Adventure (\$15)
- ☐ Slavery, Emancipation, and Race in New England (\$55)
- ☐ The Constitution as Applied: The Amendments (\$55)
- ☐ The Nature of Autumn (\$35)
- ☐ The Science of Andy Weir (\$35)
- ☐ Walking Rhode Island - Trailblazers (\$15)
- ☐ Where do Birds Come from, and Why are Birds Living Dinosaurs? (\$35)

TUESDAY

- ☐ Axel von Fersen – A Swedish Count, A French Officer, and an American Revolutionary (\$35)
- ☐ Design for Living by Noel Coward: Champagne, Wit, and Chaos! (\$55)
- ☐ Enneagram (\$15)
- ☐ Finding the Story: Tracing the American Revolution in the Blackstone Valley (\$15)
- ☐ Got Milkweed? The Importance of Milkweed for Monarch Butterflies (\$15)
- ☐ Heroes & Headaches: New England's Story of Piracy at Home and Abroad (\$35)
- ☐ Letter-writing in Literature and Life: A Writing Course (\$45)
- ☐ My Dearest Friend: Our Nation's Founding Seen through the Letters of Abigail & John Adams (\$35)
- ☐ My Life as a Dog (\$15)
- ☐ Navigating Medicare: Making Sense of Your Options (\$15)
- ☐ Paris in the Dark: The Nazi Occupation 1940 - 1944 (\$45)
- ☐ Pen, Ink and Wash: Drawing Home Scapes (\$50)
- ☐ Reading *The Age of Innocence* in Cynical Times (\$15)
- ☐ Roger Williams: A Man's Home is His Castle (free)
- ☐ Roger Williams: All the World's a Stage (free)
- ☐ Roger Williams: Theology, Magistrates and Banishment (free)
- ☐ Roger Williams: Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History (free)
- ☐ The Birth of the English Detective Story: *The Moonstone* (\$45)
- ☐ The Doctor Broad: A Mafia Love Story (\$15)

TUESDAY (cont)

- ☐ The New England/Rhode Island/Alaska Connection is GLACIAL! (\$35)
- ☐ What Seniors Should Know About Heart Disease (\$15)
- ☐ What's Really Happening in the Cockpit (\$15)
- ☐ Writing, Illustrating, and Self-Publishing A Children's Picture Book (\$15)

WEDNESDAY

- ☐ Anton Chekhov: The Cherry Orchard and Stories (\$40)
- ☐ Beginning French for Travel - Part 2 (\$45)
- ☐ Cancer Essentials: Understanding and Navigating the Cancer Journey (\$35)
- ☐ Contemporary Buddhist Ethics (\$45)
- ☐ Fun with Poetry: A Look at Three Great Nonsense Poets (\$40)
- ☐ Honor, Desire, and Betrayal: Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* (\$55)
- ☐ Hurricane History of Southern Rhode Island (\$15)
- ☐ Ingmar Bergman: Cinematic Visionary (\$65)
- ☐ Irish Famine Ships of the An Gorta Mor (\$45)
- ☐ Jump the Shark (\$15)
- ☐ Learn to Play Mah Jongg (\$40)
- ☐ Pathways to Healthy Brain Aging (\$15)
- ☐ The Art of Fermentation: Foods for Health and Longevity (\$55)
- ☐ The Birth, Life, and Death of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (\$50)
- ☐ The Star of Bethlehem (\$15)

THURSDAY

- ☐ *A Christmas Carol* (\$15)
- ☐ A Community Together - A Resource for Healthy Aging (free)
- ☐ Finding Beauty in Everyday Life (\$40)
- ☐ Intergenerational Perspectives on Healthy Living Environments (\$30)
- ☐ Let's Skate! (\$70)
- ☐ New England Cottontail Conservation in RI (\$15)
- ☐ Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of RI (\$15)
- ☐ Right Plant - Right Place, Perennial Garden Design (\$50)
- ☐ Spanish 101 (\$70)
- ☐ The History of Architecture and Urbanism from Brutalism to the Present (\$40)
- ☐ The Narragansett Basin (\$15)
- ☐ Urban Wildlife (\$15)
- ☐ Using AI as a Co-Intelligence: Trends and Capabilities (\$45)
- ☐ What Our Parents Did in the War (\$15)

FRIDAY

- ☐ Chair Yoga: For Body, Mind and Spirit (\$55)
- ☐ Empowered Aging: Reinvention, Purpose, and Timeless Vision (\$15)
- ☐ Fun with Engineering for Non-Engineers (\$35)
- ☐ Naval Torpedo Station Newport (\$15)

OLLI MAIL-IN REGISTRATION - FALL 2026

FRIDAY (cont)

- ☐ Patanjali's Yamas & Niyamas (\$55)
- ☐ Performing for the Powerful - The Influence of the Monarchy on Shakespeare and His Contemporaries (\$15)
- ☐ Reading Columbus (\$15)
- ☐ The British Invasion (\$45)
- ☐ The Music and Events of the '70s (\$55)
- ☐ The Mystifying and Magnificent Teenager (And Early 20's) (\$15)
- ☐ The Women Who Stopped the Drugs: The Birth of Modern Drug Safety (\$15)
- ☐ Topics in Ecology (\$50)
- ☐ What's the Real Skinny with Fad Diets? (\$15)

GREAT DECISIONS-FREE

- Great Decisions - The Future of Human Rights
- ☐ Thursday, Sept 17, 3:00PM
 - ☐ Friday, Sept 18, 10:00AM

TOURS AND TRIPS

- Beneath the Breakers Tour (\$30)
- ☐ ① Mon, Sept 21
 - ☐ ② Tues, Sept 29

- The Breakers - Third Floor Preservation in Progress Tour \$30.00
- ☐ ① Mon, Sept 14
 - ☐ ② Mon, Sept 24

- Tour of Historic Fort Adams (\$15)
- ☐ ① Tue, Sept 15
 - ☐ ② Thu, Sept 17

- ☐ Identifying Common Invasive Plants (\$15)
- ☐ Peace Dale Museum and Village Tour (\$15)
- ☐ Reforesting Newport: Miantonomi Park (\$15)
- ☐ The Rhode Island Courts (\$15)
- ☐ The Workings of the Frosty Drew Observatory (\$15)
- ☐ Tour of the Westerly Armory (\$15)

ZOOM CLASSES

- ☐ 107 Days at Sea: The Journey That Changed Everything (\$15)
- ☐ How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer (\$15)
- ☐ The Contemporary American Short Story, Part I (\$55)

OSHER ONLINE (\$60)

- ☐ A Cosmic Grand Tour: The Realms of the Universe
- ☐ Apple at 50: How it Revolutionized Computing and Transformed Daily Life
- ☐ Art Detectives: Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication
- ☐ August Wilson and His American Cycle - The First Five: 1904-1957
- ☐ Great Artists in American Roots Music
- ☐ Power and the People: The Evolution of the U.S. Federal Judiciary

OSHER ONLINE (cont)

- ☐ Sacred Mountains of the World
- ☐ Studies Show... (Or Do They?): Under the Hood of a Scientific Study
- ☐ The 60s Through the Great Speeches
- ☐ The History and Experience of Route 66
- ☐ Winning the White House: The Evolution of the Presidency

LEARN HERE/EXPLORE THERE

- ☐ History of a One-Room School (\$35)

OLLI MEMBER EVENTS

- ☐ Block Island Breakaway*
- ☐ Create Your Own Handmade Holiday Gift*
- ☐ Flying with the Blue Angels: Film & Conversation (free)
- ☐ Holiday Boxwood Tree Class (\$65)
- ☐ Make Your Own Fall Flower Arrangement (\$55)
- ☐ Trivia Night

*Participants pay their own way

MEMBERSHIP WELCOME

- ☐ Mon, Sept 14, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
- ☐ Tue, Oct 27, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
- ☐ Thu, Nov 19 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
- ☐ Wed, Dec 9, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

RHODY RAMBLERS

- ☐ Sept 17 - URI Bike Path
- ☐ Oct 22 - Roaring Brook
- ☐ Nov 12 - Sachuest Point
- ☐ Dec 17 - Wickford Village

LUNCH AND LEARN

- ☐ Safe & Sound: Protecting Your Home and Family from Modern Scams (free)
- ☐ Sepsis: What to Know about Prevention, Treatment and Survival (free)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- ☐ Biking
- ☐ Book Club
- ☐ Bowling
- ☐ Cribbage
- ☐ Creativity and Play
- ☐ Current Events
- ☐ Game On!
- ☐ Hiking
- ☐ Photo Friday
- ☐ Beginner Mah Jongg
- ☐ Mah Jongg
- ☐ Movie
- ☐ Writers

FALL 2026 REGISTRATION

For mail-in registrations we only accept payments by check.

Name: _____

Address _____

Total # Classes _____ Class Total \$ _____

Renewal Fee \$ _____ Credits to Apply \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

If you think you may have credits to apply, please call the office to confirm before writing your check.

Parking Pass Information:

Vehicle: Make _____ Model _____ Color _____

License Plate # _____ ☐ Gas ☐ Hybrid ☐ Electric

Payment Method:

☐ Check (Payable to URI) # _____

If you are paying by credit card, please call the office at 401-874-4197 or register online

URIOLLI.AUGUSOFT.NET

OFFICE USE:

Date Rcv: _____

Date Processed: _____

Initials: _____

MEMBERSHIP:

☐ CURRENT ☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

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OLLI AT URI MEMBERSHIP FORM

210 FLAGG ROAD, ROOM 212, KINGSTON, RI 02881
401-874-4197 OLLI@URI.EDU

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION (Please use one form per person)

☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE: _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Seasonal Address _____ Begin Date _____ End Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relation: _____ Phone _____

MEMBER PROFILE

The following information is used to help us better understand our OLLI Membership as a community and to better serve you. This information is optional and confidential.

URI Alumni: ☐ No ☐ Yes Year _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Highest Level of Education: ☐ High School ☐ Some College ☐ Associates Degree /Certification

☐ Bachelor's Degree ☐ Master's Degree ☐ Doctorate

Employment Status: ☐ Retired ☐ Work Full-Time ☐ Work Part-Time ☐ Not Currently Employed

Current/Former Occupation: _____

Referral: _____

PLEASE CHECK THAT YOU AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

☐ Refund Policy (see below)

☐ Photos taken during OLLI events or programs can be used in promotion material for OLLI at URI.

☐ OLLI and URI will not be held liable for members or guests for any damage or personal injury.

REFUND POLICY

- Memberships are non-refundable.
- To withdraw from a class and receive a full refund or credit, you must notify the OLLI office at least two weeks before the start of the class. Call the office at 401-874-4197 or email olli@uri.edu.
- No- shows forfeit their course fees.
- Day trips and special tours are prepaid so there are **no refunds** for cancellation or withdrawal.
- Classes that do not meet minimum student registration numbers are subject to cancellation

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Annual Membership Fee: \$65
(non-refundable)

Payment Method:

For Mail-in Registrations, we only accept checks

☐ Check (Payable to URI)

If you are paying by credit card, please
call the office at 401-874-4197 or

register online: URI.EDU/OLLI



URI THEATRE

2026-2027 Season

PROOF

by David Auburn

October 16-18 & October 21-25, 2026, J Studio

CABARET

Book by Joe Masteroff

Based on the play by John Van Druten

Stories by Christopher Isherwood

Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb

December 4-6 & December 9-13, 2026, Will Theatre

THE REVOLUTIONISTS

by Lauren Gunderson

February 26-28 & March 3-7, 2027, J Studio

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Adapted by Joseph Robinette

Based on the Book by E.B. White

April 23-25 & April 30-May 2, 2027, Will Theatre

Questions or Additional Information, please contact: 401.874.5922 or 401.874.5921

www.uri.edu/theatre



REDEFINING THE FUTURE OF AGING AT HOME



- **Will I have enough money?**
- **Who will care for me?**
- **Where will I go?**
- **I don't want to burden my family.**

Many older adults are wondering how to maintain their independence and protect their assets while ensuring they have the support and care they need as they age. Planning for that future is often overwhelming and complex.

An atHome Together membership is a life care program designed to take that worry out of aging, associating aging not with decline, but with confidence, purpose and wellness. It is an innovative, wrap around solution offering older adults a way to thrive in the home they love for as long as possible.

Members join while they are healthy and living independently and, when the time comes that they need support, we help coordinate and cover the costs of that care.

An atHome Together membership becomes your trusted partner for life with proactive planning, advocacy and peace of mind for you and your family.

» **TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:**



SAINT ELIZABETH COMMUNITY
Trusted Care Since 1882

www.athometogether.org



Jessica Smith

401-773-7499

jsmith@stelizabethcommunity.org

EVENT DISCOUNTS

OSHER
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FOR OLLI MEMBERS



JOHN MULANY: MISTER WHATEVER

8:00 PM RYAN CENTER \$49+



DEREK HOUGH DANCE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

8:00 PM RYAN CENTER \$43+



[or CLICK HERE](#)

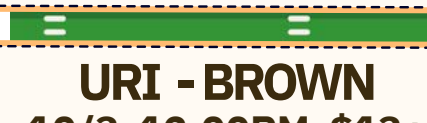


All URI Football games
will be at Centerville
Bank Stadium,
Pawtucket, RI



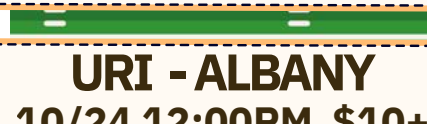
URI - ELON

9/12 12:00PM \$13+



URI - BROWN

10/3 12:00PM \$13+



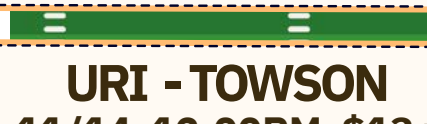
URI - ALBANY

10/24 12:00PM \$10+



URI - MAINE

10/31 12:00PM \$13+



URI - TOWSON

11/14 12:00PM \$13+



Teach for OLLI

At the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at URI, learning isn't about grades or degrees—it's about curiosity, connection, and the joy of discovery. With a vibrant community of nearly 1,800 engaged members, OLLI offers a unique opportunity for URI instructors to share their expertise with motivated adult learners who are eager to explore new ideas.

We offer four semesters of enriching courses across subjects such as: History, English & Literature, Science & Technology, Languages...and more.

Why Teach with OLLI?

- Teach without grading or exams
- Engage with enthusiastic, discussion-driven learners
- Explore topics you're passionate about
- Be part of a welcoming, intellectually curious community

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Scan for Course Proposal Form
[or click here](#)

URI.EDU/OLLI

210 FLAGG RD., KINGSTON, RI 02881

Contact Us :

401.874.4197





How the Beatles Changed the World

More than 100 OLLI members filled the room as instructor David Aguilar brought the Beatles' story to life. A full house, a fantastic class, and lifelong learners loving every minute.



CSI@URI

Dennis Hilliard, director of the Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory at URI, gave an overview of the laboratory's work and the various types of forensics, including a course that is offered to law enforcement officers. He will also talk about the URI Forensic Science Partnership and the seminar course that is open to the public and has been offered since 1999.

OLLI Interns

OLLI hosted two paid interns from the College of Health Sciences for Summer 2026. Olivia, a second-year graduate student in Communication Disorders with a focus in Speech-Language Pathology and Isabella, a junior majoring in clinical neuroscience major with a minor in chemistry. Both interns conducted extensive interviews with OLLI members about various health conditions including hearing challenges, stroke, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's and MS and proposed a pilot program for caregivers.



Exploring Dvořák's "American Quartet" with the Terra String Quartet

This semester the Kingston Chamber Music Festival (KCMF) offered a unique opportunity to OLLI members. The event included an intergenerational workshop with a discussion and performance by the Terra String Quartet; Harriet Langley (violin), Amelia Dietrich (violin), Chih-Ta Chen (viola), and Audrey Chen (cello), winners of the 2025 Naumburg Chamber Music Competition. The workshop focused on Dvořák's "American Quartet" which was written during his residency in the United States and first performed in Boston in 1894. Members who attended received a free ticket to the opening performance which celebrates 250 Years—A Chamber Music Journey from 1776 to Modern America.



The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

A summer of wit, wonder, and Wilde! Kara Marziali's summer class brought Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* to life—studying the play, unpacking Victorian etiquette, spotting farcical moments, and even debating tea traditions. A field trip to the Contemporary Theater Company and final presentations, along with sweet refreshments, made this "trivial comedy for serious people" the highlight of the season.



Thank You TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our committees play a big role in keeping OLLI strong and vibrant.
If you'd like to explore volunteer opportunities or see where your skills might fit,
reach out at 401-874-4197 or email olli@uri.edu.

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Phil Clark
Sandra Enos
Beth Flanagan
Joanne Gemma
Debbe Hayes
CJ Menard
Louise Paquin
John Schibler

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John Schibler, CHAIR
Rick Borschuk
Mark Brady
Ann Dantzig
David Favre
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