



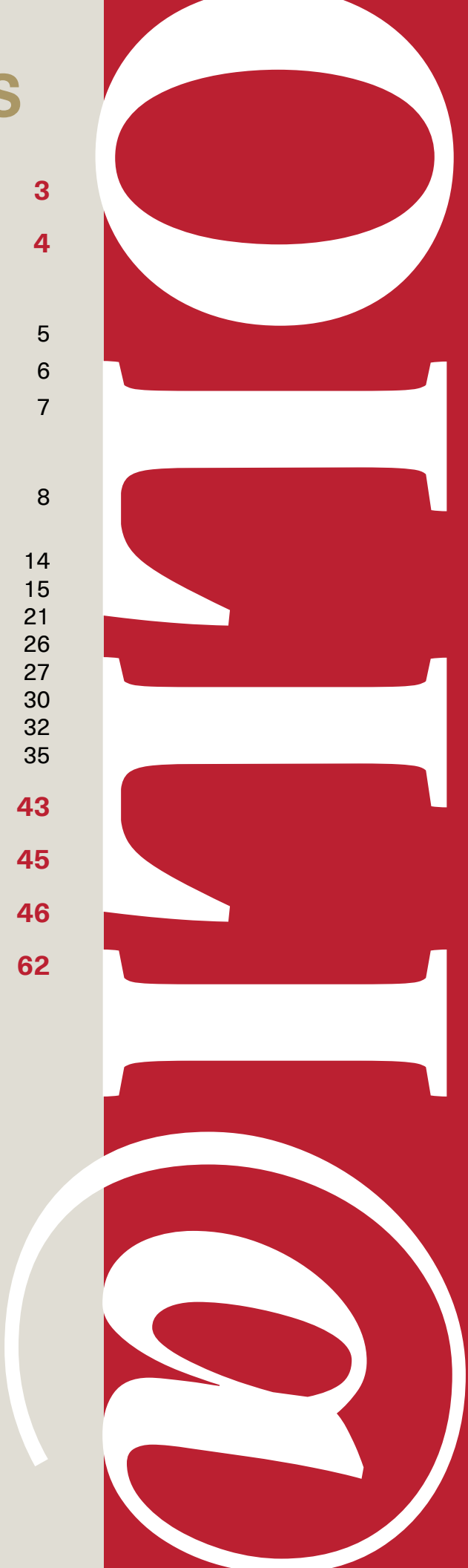
 UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

OLLI@DU / 2026

WINTER CATALOG

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Welcome to OLLI at DU

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Denver (OLLI at DU) offers a rich array of courses, lectures, webinars, and social and travel opportunities designed for adults 50+. With no tests and no grades, it's learning purely for the love of it.

At the heart of OLLI at DU is a vibrant, welcoming community of curious minds. Whether you prefer the energy of a classroom or the convenience of logging in from home, you'll find a place where you can explore new ideas, share your experiences, and connect with others who value lifelong learning as much as you do.

With multiple locations across the Denver metro area and robust virtual offerings, OLLI at DU makes it easy to stay engaged, inspired, and connected—wherever you are.

OLLI at DU is part of a national network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes endowed by The Bernard Osher Foundation.

Membership Has Its Benefits

Join our vibrant community and experience the joy of lifelong learning. With a wide variety of engaging courses and programs offered at five convenient locations across the Denver metro area—and even more available online—there's truly something for everyone. Become a member today and start exploring!

A \$65 annual membership gives you access to these benefits and more:

- 300+ online and in-person courses*
- Free Friday morning STEM webinars
- Fall recess and Summer Webinar Series*
- Free weekly online fitness classes
- Member-only events and travel opportunities*
- A variety of Shared Interest Groups
- Discounts at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts
- Access to the DU Library
- Reciprocal membership opportunity with OLLI at CSU*
- Discounts at the Colorado Symphony

**Registration fees vary by course/activity.*

To become a member, visit our website at olli.du.edu/olli/membership/#purchase

Questions? Visit our website at <https://olli.du.edu> or call our office between 9am and 2pm, Monday through Thursday (303-871-3181).

2,000+

Members

300+

In-Person and Online Courses

150+

Facilitators

15

FREE Webinars

Diverse Program Offerings

- Health and Wellness
- History and Economics
- Literature, Writing and Language
- Miscellaneous
- Psychology, Religion, Philosophy and Culture
- Public Affairs, Current Events and Politics
- STEM
- Visual and Performing Arts

OLLI at DU Main Office

University College at the University of Denver
University Hall, suite 323, 2197 S University Blvd., Denver, CO 80210
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–2 PM, Closed Friday
Phone: 303-871-3181 **Email:** olli@du.edu

OLLI at DU In-Person Class Locations

Get Directions: [Click here](#) to view our locations on Google Maps.

Ruffato Hall
1999 E. Evans Ave, Denver, CO 80210

Chamber's Center for the Advancement of Women
1901 E. Asbury Ave, Denver, CO 80210

First Universalist Church of Denver
4101 E. Hampden Ave, Denver, CO 80222

Columbine United Church
6375 S. Platte Canyon Rd, Littleton, CO 80123

Jefferson Unitarian Church
14350 W. 32nd Ave, Golden, CO 80401

Broomfield Community Center
280 Spader Way, Broomfield, CO 80020

OLLI at DU Staff

Meet Our Team
Visit our website at [lli.du.edu/lli/about/#staff](https://www.lli.du.edu/lli/about/#staff) to learn more about the people behind OLLI at DU.

COME FOR THE COURSES,
STAY FOR THE CONNECTIONS

OLLI at DU Course Registration

Before registering for courses and programs, you'll need to create an account and purchase a 2025–2026 annual membership (\$65). It's quick and easy!

New to OLLI? Start Here.

- 1. Go to [lli.du.edu](https://www.lli.du.edu)
- 2. Click the **gold Member button** in the top right corner and select **Create Account**
- 4. Complete the form and save your **username** and **password** for future use

Returning Member? Welcome Back!

- 1. Go to [lli.du.edu](https://www.lli.du.edu)
- 2. Click the **gold Member button** in the top right corner and select **Sign In**
- 3. Enter your **username** and **password**

After signing into your account, you'll be directed to the OLLI at DU Registration Portal. You can also access the portal anytime by clicking **Register** on our homepage at [lli.du.edu](https://www.lli.du.edu).

Purchase Your Annual Membership

To purchase your membership, scroll to the **Membership and More** section on the left side of the portal and click **Purchase a Membership**.

Choose your Courses and Programs

To register for courses and programs, use the menu to search by day, subject, or location. To browse the full list of offerings at once, scroll again to **Membership and More** and click **View All Courses Alphabetically**. When you're ready to register, click **Add to Cart** next to your selected course. When you are ready to check out, click **Cart** at the top of the screen and follow the prompts. You'll receive a confirmation email once your registration is complete.

Having trouble registering? Call our office at 303-871-3181.

WINTER REGISTRATION OPENS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 at 10 AM

Courses are filled on a first-come, first-served basis—plan ahead and register early!

Registration Fees (2025–2026)

8 week courses:	\$70
7 week courses:	\$65
6 week courses:	\$60
5 week courses:	\$55
4 week courses:	\$50

Special Events and Webinars

Special Events, Fall Recess Webinars, and Summer Short Webinars are individually priced. *If financial hardship is preventing you from participating, please contact the office to inquire about tuition assistance.*

Course Waitlist

If a course or event is full, a waitlist will open automatically during online registration. You may add yourself to the waitlist, and if a spot becomes available, you'll receive an email notification. You'll have 24 hours to register and pay before the spot is offered to the next person on the list. Waitlisted spots will only be offered through the first week of classes; after that, no additional seats will be filled. Please note that the course fee remains the same regardless of when a participant joins from the waitlist.

Refund Policy

Refunds are available based on the type of course or event. For multi-week courses, members are eligible for a full refund if they cancel before or during the first week; no refunds or partial refunds will be issued after that point. For one-day courses, a full refund is available if the cancellation is made at least three business days before the course date. Refunds for special events vary and are determined on a case-by-case basis—please refer to the specific event details on our website or contact the office for more information. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the office.

Weather Closure Policy for In-Person Classes

In-person OLLI classes follow the weather closure decisions of the local school district or the University of Denver (for DU-based classes). If the district or DU campus is closed, OLLI classes at that location are cancelled. If there's a delayed start, OLLI classes will still begin at their regular time. On teacher in-service days when the weather is bad, closures may not be announced publicly—please check the OLLI website or call 303-871-3181 for updates. Your safety is our top priority—please use your best judgment when traveling in inclement weather.

Need Info About Your Classes? It's All In Your OLLI Account!

Looking for your course location, Zoom link, syllabus, or facilitator bio? The fastest, easiest way to get the details you need—any time, day or night—is by signing into your OLLI account.

How to log into your OLLI Account:

- 1. Go to the OLLI at DU website (<https://olli.du.edu>)
- 2. Click on the **gold MEMBERS button** on the top right of the homepage
- 3. When the menu opens, click **SIGN IN**.

How to access course information and Zoom links:

Once you're logged in, click on **MY ACCOUNT** at the top of the page, and you'll have access to everything related to your courses and membership.

Here's what you can do from your account:

- View your course info – Click on **CLASS LIST** to see in-person locations, Zoom links, and syllabi.
- Check your registration history – Click **HISTORY** to review past and current memberships and course registrations.
- Update your contact info – Use **MY PROFILE** to change your email or phone number.
- Update your login – Use **USERNAME** and **PASSWORD** to make changes to your login credentials.
- Make a payment – Click on **MAKE A PAYMENT** to settle any outstanding balance.

Still have questions or need help with registration or membership?
Contact us by email at olli@du.edu or call our office at (303) 871-3181.

Discover Osher Online Courses – New This Winter at OLLI at DU!

Expand your learning horizons with Osher Online, an exciting new opportunity for OLLI members! These six-week online courses, created by the Osher National Resource Center at Northwestern University, feature distinguished instructors from Osher Institutes nationwide. Each course includes weekly 1.5-hour sessions.

After registration, you'll receive your Osher Online login credentials, access to course materials and discussion boards, plus an invitation to an important pre-class orientation. We strongly encourage all participants to attend to familiarize yourself with the Vimeo platform used to deliver these courses. Sessions are live and not recorded, so plan to attend each week for the full experience.

Look for these new courses labeled **Osher Online**

SAVE THE DATE: Osher Online Course Orientation, Jan. 7 at 12 p.m. Mountain Time (online)

COURSES AT-A-GLANCE - WINTER 2026

MONDAY AM

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/26	Brain and Behavior in the Era of Digital Technology	Labkovsky	Online	6	34
1/26	History of Sicily	Kenning	Online	6	19

MONDAY PM

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/12	The Hebrew Bible, A Literary and Academic View (Part 2)	Levin	Online	6	21
1/12	Golden Age Legends: The Songwriters Who Defined Broadway & Hollywood	Kaufman	Online	8	35
1/19	Matinee at the Bijou - Film Noir No. 3	McHugh	Online	8	41
1/26	The History of American Television	McKairnes	Online	6	41
1/26	The Story of Money	Voelz	Broomfield	4	19

TUESDAY AM

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/13	A National Issues Forum: Examining Perspectives	Epperson	Denver	6	30
1/13	Before Monet, There Was Pissarro	Elliott	Golden	6	35
1/13	Current Events (Tuesday)	Reinish/Myers	Denver	8	30
1/13	Deliberating Colorado's Health Care Future	Passoth	DU Campus	8	12
1/13	Emerging World Issues in Water Resources	Kunkel/Steele	Denver	8	32
1/13	Inspired Leadership: The Worlds of Gandhi, King, and Mandela	Wygarden	Online	8	13
1/13	<i>It Can't Happen Here</i> : Sinclair Lewis's Novel and Extremism in 1930s America	Lippman	Denver	8	14
1/13	Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes	Peyton	Online	8	33
1/13	Resistance! Germans Who Stood Against Hitler	Moody	DU Campus	8	15
1/13	Westerns: Myth And History On Screen	Grant	Online	8	38
1/13	Who Are We Humans? Some Major Issues in Philosophy and Science Today	Putman	Online	8	28
1/20	The History Behind Denver's Historic Districts	Tiegs	Online	4	18
1/20	The Poetry of Mary Oliver	Morgan/ VanScoyck Simon	Golden	7	24
2/3	<i>To the Lighthouse</i> : Virginia Woolf and the Uses of Memory	Eastman	DU Campus	5	25

TUESDAY PM

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/13	Capital, Inequality, & Ideology: An Intellectual History, Part 4	Stewart	DU Campus	8	27
1/13	Expect the Unexpected: Shorts with Twists & Contemporary Commentaries	Smilanic	Online	5	21
1/13	Exploring Democracy Together	Prevedel/ Tsoucatos	Denver	8	30
1/13	Foundations of Quantum Mechanics	Friedman	DU Campus	6	32
1/13	Generations in America: How and Why Do They Differ?	Marshall Christner	Online	6	13
1/13	Introduction to Music Theory and Composition	Farina	DU Campus	8	35
1/13	Jewish History and Christianity: Common Roots and Intertwined Branches	Draznin	DU Campus	4	14
1/13	Music, History, and the Lives of Composers Edition 2.0	Dais	Golden	8	36
1/13	Regional Cultures of the United States	Rich	Online	8	15
1/13	Seven Modern Geniuses Everyone Should Know More About	Hoffman	DU Campus	8	33
1/13	Song and Dance: A Tour of Scenes From Hollywood Musicals	Matten	Online	8	36
1/13	Studio to Stage: The Life of a Dancer	Engel/Engel	Golden	4	36
1/13	The Blues: Roots and Branches, Part 2	Tannenbaum	Golden	8	37
1/13	The Confident Digital Photographer: Camera, Lenses, and Flash Made Simple	Payler	DU Campus	4	37
1/13	The Kabbalah of Meaning: Jewish Wisdom for Finding the Purpose that Connects All Parts of Life	Serebryanski	Online	6	27
1/13	The Worst Hard Time: America in the Dirty Thirties	Bennett/Adams	Denver	8	15
1/13	Through the Artists' Eye: Renaissance, Reformation, and the Birth of the Modern World	Mackey	Denver	8	28
1/13	World War I (Part 2) 1917–1919 (Hybrid - In Person)	McHugh	DU Campus	8	16
1/13	World War I (Part 2) 1917–1919 (Hybrid - Online)	McHugh	Online	8	16
2/10	The Traveling Eye: Photographing the Spirit of the American West	Payler	Online	4	42
2/10	Video Delight: A Medley of Documentaries, TED Talks, and Discussions	Hughes	Golden	4	31

COURSES AT-A-GLANCE - WINTER 2026

WEDNESDAY AM

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/14	Before Monet, There Was Pissarro	Elliott	Online	6	38
1/14	Big Eyes on the Sky: Exploring the Universe with New Telescopes	Wiedenheft	Denver	8	33
1/14	Bridge: Defense in the 21st Century	Holmes	Online	8	26
1/14	Common Humanity: Why Humans Predictably Unite and Divide, Succeed and Fail	Meagher	Littleton	8	29
1/14	Current Events (Wednesday)	Reinish/Myers	Denver	8	30
1/14	Exploring Japanese Culture, History, and Traditions	Mercure	Littleton	8	29
1/14	Great Decisions 2026 (Section I)	Brovarone	DU Campus	8	31
1/14	Halsey's Folly: The Greatest Skin-of-Your-Teeth Victory in U.S. Naval History	Moody	Littleton	8	17
1/14	Swing Sister: The History of Women in Jazz	La Certe	Denver	6	39
1/14	The Road to Imperialism: 1700–1890	Hochstadt	Denver	7	17
1/14	Wit and Wisdom: A Journey Through Brief Literary Forms	Scott	Denver	8	23
1/21	Advanced Beginner Spanish	Gordon	Denver	6	24
1/21	Heaven, Earth, and Everything In Between: Community and Identity in James McBride's America	Peters/Peters	Online	7	24
1/21	Shakespeare to Star Wars: Classical Music for Stage and Screen	Schwarm	Online	6	41
1/28	What You Do Not Know About World Migration	Swenerton	Broomfield	4	31

WEDNESDAY PM

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/14	50+ Years of Truly Mind-Blowing Research on Near Death Experiences (NDEs) and What Awaits Us After "Bodily Death"	Arapakis	Online	7	28
1/14	Bitcoin: Boom, Bust, or the Future of Money?	Walters	Denver	1	16
1/14	Foreign Films	Reinish	Denver	8	38
1/14	From Marbles to Mario: A Historical, Nostalgic Journey Through Toys and Games	Conklin	Littleton	6	16
1/14	Great Decisions 2026 (Section II)	Tebbe	Littleton	8	31
1/14	<i>It Can't Happen Here</i> : Sinclair Lewis's Novel and Extremism in 1930s America	Lippman	Online	8	17

WEDNESDAY PM (continued)

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/14	Journeys: Learning Through Travel	Werren	Online	8	26
1/14	Joy, Death, and Memoir in Short Form Poetry	Frances	Denver	4	22
1/14	Planning the Defense: Step Up Your Game II	Holmes	Online	8	26
1/14	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> : Faulkner, a Degenerate Family, and an Unregenerate South	Morris	DU Campus	5	22
1/14	Time Travel: History of an Idea	Holt	Littleton	8	34
1/14	Understanding the American Indian: Past and Present	Collins	Denver	8	18
1/28	The Secrets to Investing in Retirement from an Investment Pro	Walters	Denver	1	19
2/4	Bitcoin: Boom, Bust, or the Future of Money?	Walters	Denver	1	20
2/11	Colored Pencil for Beginners	Verma	Online	4	42

THURSDAY AM

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/15	Great Film Directors	Magnani	Online	8	40
1/15	Mysterious Places: Regional America	Lange	Online	8	23
1/15	Robert Redford: A Celebration of Defying Expectations	Paul	Online	5	40
1/15	<i>Stormy Weather</i> by Paulette Jiles: A Novel of Hardship and Hope	Batt/Batt	Online	8	23
1/15	The American Revolution: Why Did It Happen and How Did It Succeed	Kleinschmidt	Online	8	18

THURSDAY PM

DATE	COURSE TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION	# WEEKS	PAGE
1/15	A Look at the Wild West, Italian Style	Vice/Lungerhausen	Online	8	39
1/15	Camille Pissarro: The Father of Impressionism	Walling	Online	5	39
1/15	How Healthy is Our Healthcare? Why Does It Cost So Much?	Markovchick	Online	4	12
1/15	Invisible Intelligence: The Unseen Algorithms Reshaping Your Daily Life	Bethke	Online	6	34
1/15	Robert Redford: A Celebration of Defying Expectations	Paul	Online	5	40
1/22	Pharmaceuticals and Poisons: Chemistry at the Edge	Hendrickson	Online	6	34

Deliberating Colorado’s Health Care Future

In-Person **Tuesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Richard Passoth
Location: DU Campus **Cost:** \$70

This will not be a discussion, debate, argument, or continuing complaint about current problems with health care. Deliberation is a well-known process called a “reasoning exchange” where members examine several “frameworks” or sections of a public problem. This keeps the group focused on only one piece of the issue and not bogged down on a more global view. It will include 15–20 OLLI members, hopefully various health care professionals, citizens who have no involvement in health care, and perhaps leaders in the community from business, education, and nonprofits. Luckily, perhaps a local political leader. Each framework will call for the “considered judgment” of each participant, not a vote up or down. This process is more personal, with respect for each person’s opinions. The first class will be a brief presentation on the process. Each session will present a specific framework to engage: the standing of health care in a modern society, what is universal care, financing health care in the state, governance and its specific services, cost containment, service delivery, evolution of malpractice, and funding and development of professional manpower in the state.



How Healthy is Our Healthcare? Why Does It Cost So Much?

Online **Thursday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/15–2/5 **Time:** 1–3
Facilitator: Vince Markovchick
Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$50

These four interactive sessions include lectures, group discussions, and online readings/ videos. Session one examines U.S. healthcare status and insurance options (Medicaid, Medicare, Medicare Advantage, VA, private). Compares international health systems and quality measures between the U.S. and other developed nations. Session two traces the \$4.8 trillion spent annually on U.S. healthcare: where it originates and how it’s allocated, as well as exploring why America spends twice the per capita amount of other developed countries yet leaves millions uninsured or underinsured. Session three is a two-hour deep dive into the \$1 trillion problem of healthcare waste, fraud, and abuse. Finally, session four discusses pathways toward universal, comprehensive, affordable health insurance that eliminates medical bankruptcy, ensures adequate coverage, and provides quality care for all Americans.

Generations in America: How and Why Do They Differ?

Online **Tuesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–2/17 **Time:** 1–3
Facilitator: Anne Marshall Christner
Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$60

Lately, we have been bombarded with commentary about generational differences. We hear that Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) are hogging prime real estate and leadership positions, while Gen X (born 1965–1979) are described as out-of-sight–similar to middle children. Furthermore, Millennials (born 1980–1994) are selfish due to delaying marriage and child-bearing, and Gen Z (born 1995–2012) are said to be pessimistic and unmotivated. Meanwhile, the Silent Generation (born 1925–1945) are...silent!

- Are the popular descriptions of people in those five generations accurate? Or are they about as reliable as horoscopes?
- If there are real differences, what contributed to the variations in attitudes and behaviors?

By reviewing economic, political, and social-cultural events and trends for the decades between 1940 and 2020, we will confirm actual differences associated with generational groups while identifying contributors to those deviations. This course will involve active group discussions and conclusions.



Inspired Leadership: The Worlds of Gandhi, King, and Mandela

Online **Tuesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Gary Wyngarden
Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$70

While some leaders have sought power, money, and glory in their pursuits, others like Gandhi, King, and Mandela, chose to lead their oppressed peoples against seemingly invincible power in search of justice and freedom. Rather than earning great wealth, they were imprisoned and, in two cases, assassinated. Why did they do that?

This course will explore several important questions. What was in their makeups and their backgrounds that led them to lead their oppressed peoples in a fight for justice and freedom? What “magic” did they have that led them to harness the support of their peoples? What unique strategies did they use to win against superior power?

And finally, what have been the long-term outcomes of their heroic efforts? What can we learn about leadership from these men?

The eight weeks of classes will consist of some lecture, videos, and lots of discussion.

It Can't Happen Here: Sinclair Lewis's Novel and Extremism in 1930s America

In-Person **Tuesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: [David Lippman](#)
Location: First Universalist Church **Cost:** \$70

This course will be a combination literature and history class. The book we'll read is Sinclair Lewis's 1935 novel *It Can't Happen Here*. Lewis was the first American recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature. He's well-known for such novels as *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, *Elmer Gantry*, *Arrowsmith*, and *Dodsworth*. In his 1930 Nobel acceptance speech, Lewis warned that in America, literature was stifled by a "standardization of thought," and he criticized publishers, critics, and readers who resisted frank portrayals of American life.

In addition to reading Lewis's book, we'll take a close look at the history of 1930s America. The 1930s in the United States (in the shadow of the Great Depression and global political upheavals) saw a wide range of extreme political personalities and movements. Among the individuals we'll examine are Father Coughlin, Huey Long, William Pelley, and Francis Townsend. We'll also focus on social movements such as the National Union for Social Justice, the American Liberty League, the Silver Legion of America, the German American Bund, America First, Share Our Wealth, and the Communist Party USA.

Required text: Sinclair Lewis: *It Can't Happen Here*, copyright 1935

Jewish History and Christianity: Common Roots and Intertwined Branches

In-Person **Tuesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–2/3 **Time:** 1–3
Facilitator: [Boris Draznin](#)
Location: DU Campus **Cost:** \$50

The origin of Judeo-Christian values that cemented the foundation of Western Civilization must be studied and understood in order to preserve these values for the future. This series of lectures will cover Jewish history, addressing the major points of positive and negative intersections with Christianity and their complex relationship. The series will emphasize that Judaism and Christianity have more commonalities than divisions. The topics will cover Biblical and post-Biblical Jewish history through the First and the Second Temples, the history of the diaspora, the birth of Christianity, the interplays between the Church and Synagogue in antiquities, Renaissance, Middle Ages through Reformation up to the Enlightenment and finally, modern times. The goals of this series of lectures are to build a better understanding of the shared history and shared values within the Judeo-Christian world in order to construct bridges to a common future for many generations to come.

Recommended reading: 1) Max I. Dimont. *Jews, God, and History*. 2) Paul Johnson. *A History of the Jews*. 3) A.N. Wilson. *Jesus: A Life*. 4) James Carroll. *Constantine's Sword*.

Regional Cultures of the United States

Online **Tuesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3
Facilitator: [Myra Rich](#)
Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$70

America is a single nation but made up of states, of regions, and of peoples. Increasingly, we talk about regional differences based on religion, ethnicity, and national origin. How did these regions arise? Why do they matter? Using Colin Woodard's book *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, we will trace the growth of regional differences and attempt to understand their continued influence.

Required text: Colin Woodard, *American Nations*.

Resistance! Germans Who Stood Against Hitler

In-Person **Tuesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: [Gregory Moody](#)
Location: DU Campus **Cost:** \$70

While movies, documentaries, and books may seem to portray the German population meekly falling in line with the Nazi agenda, a small percentage stood against the Nazi threat, unaffected by the populist pipe dream. Students such as the White Rose, military officers such as von Stauffenberg, newspapers like the Munich Post, and Jews such as the Herbert Baum Group, Niuta Teitlebaum (Little Wanda), and Roza Robota all stood bravely in the face of death. This class examines the courage needed to stand against mindless tyranny.

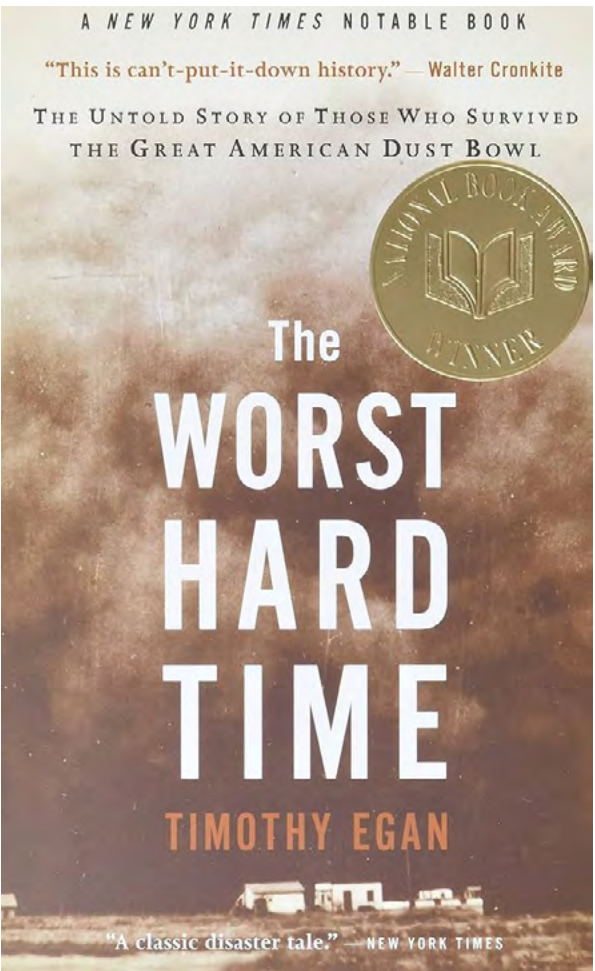
The Worst Hard Time: America in the Dirty Thirties

In-Person **Tuesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3
Facilitators: [Becky Bennett](#), [Gregory Adams](#)
Location: First Universalist Church **Cost:** \$70

The 1930s were a decade of uncertainty and dramatic change in the US and throughout the world. In this course, we will use Timothy Egan's book *The Worst Hard Time* as a jumping-off point to explore many of the events that defined the 1930s. A few of the topics we will touch on include: the Dust Bowl, the stock market crash, the New Deal, economic protectionism, American isolationism, the westward migration, and the effects of the depression on everyday life and family dynamics.

Required text: Timothy Egan, *The Worst Hard Time*.



World War I (Part 2) 1917–1919

Hybrid/In-Person **Tuesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: [Mac McHugh](#)

Location: DU Campus **Cost:** \$70

Hybrid/Online **Tuesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: [Mac McHugh](#)

Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$70

“The Yanks Are Coming!” The Allies on the Western Front were exhausted. Three years of hard and bitter fighting drained the countries of their finest men. Casualties were appalling. Poison gas, machine guns, and artillery caused a stalemate that resulted in trench warfare. “Over the Top” was the cry, but it meant walking into a hail of bullets and shells. New blood and new ideas were needed. Could the Yanks supply both? With Russia now out of the war, the Germans could move their troops from the Eastern Front to the West and attack one last time. Battles such as Meuse-Argonne, Belleau Wood, and others led to the final collapse of the German forces. We end the class with a look at the Versailles Treaty. It was supposed to solve the problems that caused the war and prevent another from ever happening again. How did it fail?

Bitcoin: Boom, Bust, or the Future of Money?

In-Person **Wednesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–1/14 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: [Eric Walters](#)

Location: First Universalist Church **Cost:** \$10

Bitcoin has been called everything from “digital gold” to “a passing fad.” What’s the truth? This class offers a clear, non-technical introduction to Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies—what they are, how they work, and why they’ve captured so much attention.

Together, we’ll explore whether this technology could reshape money or simply fade away. We’ll explore what money is and how it has evolved over time from commodity money (seashells, coins, paper) to electronic money (wire transfers, credit cards, and peer-to-peer transfer such as Venmo and Zelle) and then explore digital currencies. We’ll explore whether Bitcoin is an investment asset, a speculation, or an emerging technology—or all of the above.

From Marbles to Mario: A Historical, Nostalgic Journey Through Toys and Games

In-Person **Wednesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–2/18 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: [Natalie Conklin](#)

Location: Columbine United Church **Cost:** \$60

Step into a world of fun and nostalgia as we explore the history of play, toys, and games through the ages. This engaging class traces the timeless joy of play, from ancient dice and spinning tops to Victorian dolls, tin soldiers, and board games, all the way to the rise of electronic toys and video games in the modern era. Along the way, we’ll look at how culture, technology, and history shaped the ways children and adults have played and share personal memories of favorite pastimes. Whether you grew up playing Candy Land, jacks, jump rope, Lionel trains or Barbie dolls, this class offers a chance to revisit cherished moments, learn surprising historical stories behind familiar toys, and discover how play has always been a universal part of human life. Quoting Roy Angel, inventor of Pictionary, “Everyone has their own toy box of memories... Let’s open the lid wide open!”

Halsey’s Folly: The Greatest Skin-of-Your-Teeth Victory in U.S. Naval History

In-Person **Wednesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 9:30–11:30

Facilitator: [Gregory Moody](#)

Location: Columbine United Church **Cost:** \$70

William F. Halsey was, quite possibly, the most popular admiral in U.S. Navy history during World War II. His aggressive risk-taking throughout the war led to U.S. victories at Guadalcanal, Midway (even though he was hospitalized), numerous island landings, and Leyte Gulf, culminating in the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Questions surround Halsey’s actions at Leyte Gulf and during Typhoon Cobra, however. Was he lured from a desperate battle by a Japanese decoy fleet? Did he hold too long before releasing his ships to return to the San Bernardino Strait? Did his actions lead to the loss of men and vessels both at Samar and in Typhoon Cobra?

Over the course of eight weeks, we’ll touch on those parts of the Pacific War that drove the U.S. to Leyte Gulf and see how even heroes can make mistakes—mistakes which may be saved by selfless acts of courage and sacrifice by others.

Recommended text: James D. Hornfischer, *Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors*.

It Can’t Happen Here: Sinclair Lewis’s Novel and Extremism in 1930s America

Online **Wednesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: [David Lippman](#)

Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$70

This course will be a combination literature and history class. The book we’ll read is Sinclair Lewis’s 1935 novel *It Can’t Happen Here*. Lewis was the first American recipient of the

Nobel Prize for Literature. He’s well-known for such novels as *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, *Elmer Gantry*, *Arrowsmith*, and *Dodsworth*. In his 1930 Nobel acceptance speech, Lewis warned that in America, literature was stifled by a “standardization of thought,” and he criticized publishers, critics, and readers who resisted frank portrayals of American life.

In addition to reading Lewis’s book, we’ll take a close look at the history of 1930s America. The 1930s in the United States (in the shadow of the Great Depression and global political upheavals) saw a wide range of extreme political personalities and movements. Among the individuals we’ll examine are Father Coughlin, Huey Long, William Pelley, and Francis Townsend. We’ll also focus on social movements such as the National Union for Social Justice, the American Liberty League, the Silver Legion of America, the German American Bund, America First, Share Our Wealth, and the Communist Party USA.

Required text: Sinclair Lewis: *It Can’t Happen Here*, copyright 1935

The Road to Imperialism: 1700–1890

In-Person **Wednesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–2/25 **Time:** 9:30–11:30

Facilitator: [Shellie Hochstadt](#)

Location: First Universalist Church **Cost:** \$65

European empires followed their quest for raw materials into a new world. The advent of the Industrial Revolution transformed that quest into a new appetite for more power. The Road to Imperialism traverses revolutions, philosophical shifts, and global wars. Join Shellie on this road, from 1700–1890, that leads us to the modern world.

Understanding the American Indian: Past and Present

In-Person **Wednesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: Roger Collins

Location: First Universalist Church **Cost:** \$70

How much do you really know about the American Indian? Where did the American Indian come from? What about the wars between the American Indian and the white man? What are some of their ceremonies, and what is a powwow? What happened at boarding schools? Have you ever seen an American Indian opera with its story of song and dance? Learn the influence of American Indian music and jazz shared in a film titled *Spirit*. See the facilitator's examples of American Indian art forms, such as paintings, weavings, pottery, and jewelry. Bring your examples of American Indian art to share with the class. Who were code-talkers of World War I and II? View and learn of American Indian poverty versus wealth through casinos. This information will be shared using PowerPoint presentations, DVDs, discussions, and your impressions of what you may or may not know about the American Indian.

The American Revolution: Why Did It Happen and How Did It Succeed

Online **Thursday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/15–3/5 **Time:** 9:30–11:30

Facilitator: Thomas Kleinschmidt

Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$70

This class will explore the causes, events, and legacy of the American Revolution, designed to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Participants will examine the political, social, and economic forces that led to colonial resistance, from taxation without representation to the rise of revolutionary ideas. We will study key figures such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and

Benjamin Franklin, as well as the debates that shaped the movement toward independence. Major battles and turning points, such as Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and Yorktown, will be analyzed, with attention to military leadership, strategy, and the role of international alliances, particularly France. The class will also consider how revolutionary ideals influenced the Declaration of Independence and the creation of the United States. Class participants will gain a deeper understanding of how the Revolution transformed thirteen colonies into a new nation and forged a lasting legacy.

The History Behind Denver's Historic Districts

Online **Tuesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/20–2/10 **Time:** 9:30–11:30

Facilitator: Carol Lynn Tiegs

Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$50

Denver has nearly 60 designated historic districts. We will visit them all over this four-week class and explore what each one adds to an understanding of Denver's history and culture. Our first class will cover Denver's Historic Preservation Ordinance and the process and criteria for historic district designation. We'll also look at significant architectural styles of the periods represented in various historic districts. Subsequent classes will look at each historic district and who and what made it significant. Districts are spread throughout Denver, so this is an opportunity to get to know some new parts of town. There are no reading requirements, but a reading guide will be provided.

History of Sicily

Osher Online **Monday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/26–3/2 **Time:** 11–12:30

Facilitator: Douglas Kenning

Location: Online (Vimeo) **Cost:** \$60

Sicily has been a mythic crossroads of heroes, conquerors, and culture for over 3,000 years. From Odysseus and the Arabo-Norman Golden Age to the Mafia and modern mythmakers like Garibaldi and Coppola, Sicily's story is rich, complex, and central to Western history. This course explores its pivotal role in shaping civilization—and why Goethe famously said, "To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is not to have seen Italy at all."

This is an Osher Online course offered through the Osher National Resource Center. Please see page 7 for important information.

The Story of Money

In-Person **Monday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/26–2/23 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: Joel Voelz

Location: Broomfield Community Center **Cost:** \$50

Money. We work for it, chase it, save it, spend it, win it, and lose it. But do you know what money really is, how and why it was invented, who controls it, how it affects history and the economy, and what the future holds? This is the Story of Money. Depending on time and class interest, we will explore what money really is, early forms of currency, paper currency, the Gold Standard and fiat currency, the banking system, the Federal Reserve, inflation, and the future of money, including cryptocurrency.

No class on 2/16, President's Day.

The Secrets to Investing in Retirement from an Investment Pro

In-Person **Wednesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/28–1/28 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: Eric Walters

Location: First Universalist Church **Cost:** \$10

Drawing on two decades of portfolio management and retirement advising, this OLLI course shows what truly works—and what doesn't—when your savings need to last. You'll get practical, real-world lessons on simple rules for building a resilient investment portfolio, income strategies, spotting and avoiding high-fee investments that underperform, and examples of mistakes that have cost retirees time and money. The emphasis is on usable steps and plain-English explanations you can evaluate for your own situation. We'll also explore a mindset shift that reduces stress about market swings by reframing decisions around income needs, time horizons, and tolerable risk instead of daily price movements. Along the way, Eric will introduce a few lesser-known asset types and professional techniques—explained so they're understandable and actionable—that can play a thoughtful role in retirement planning when used appropriately. Bring your questions and specific scenarios; the session is designed to leave you more confident and better prepared to make practical investing choices for retirement.

Bitcoin: Boom, Bust, or the Future of Money?

In-Person Wednesday PM Register >

Dates: 2/4-2/4 Time: 1-3
Facilitator: Eric Walters
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$10

Bitcoin has been called everything from “digital gold” to “a passing fad.” What’s the truth? This class offers a clear, non-technical introduction to Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies—what they are, how they work, and why they’ve captured so much attention.

Together, we’ll explore whether this technology could reshape money or simply fade away. We’ll explore what money is and how it has evolved over time from commodity money (seashells, coins, paper) to electronic money (wire transfers, credit cards, and peer-to-peer transfer such as Venmo and Zelle), and then explore digital currencies. We’ll explore whether Bitcoin is an investment asset, a speculation, or an emerging technology—or all of the above.



The Hebrew Bible: A Literary and Academic View (Part 2)

Online Monday PM Register >

Dates: 1/12-2/16 Time: 1-3
Facilitator: Michael Levin
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$60

The Bible is considered the foundation document of Western thought and is often taken as absolute truth. Modern scholarship views the Hebrew Bible as an anthology that expresses diverse ideas through stories rich in ambiguity. Join us to see if you agree. This class will take a fresh look at the Hebrew Bible. By closely examining biblical narrative, we are challenged regarding motive, moral character, and psychology. Robert Alter gives us tools to address those challenges in The Art of Biblical Narration (not required). We will dig deeply into selected material alongside 30-minute lectures from Professor Amy Jill Levine (The Old Testament, a Great Courses series). She is a widely sought-after speaker who has delivered talks on biblical subjects to academic and non-academic audiences, many of which are available via YouTube. Each week we will watch two lectures and struggle with selected texts.

Expect the Unexpected: Shorts with Twists & Contemporary Commentaries

Online Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13-2/10 Time: 1-3
Facilitator: Patty Smilanic
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$55

Sorry, this isn’t a course about fashion sense and/or adult beverages. Instead, it asks what Charlotte Perkins Gilman, O. Henry, Katherine Mansfield, Zora Neale Hurston, and four other authors have in common. Answer: They each have written a short story that appears on a “great” or “best” list of national and international short stories.

So, what makes these “shorts” memorable? Do they surprise you with unexpected elements? How do the authors elevate your reading experience? What makes them great or the best? Join me as we determine for ourselves whether they are the BEST!

As for “the unexpected part,” the commentaries are 21st century essays that explore the Beatles and hip-hop. Thus, one might ask: what relationship exists between the “shorts” and the “commentaries?” Maybe none. However, perhaps our readings, analyses, and discussions will reveal multiple connections.

Soft copies of all stories and essays will be emailed to participants.



OLLI AT DU SHARED INTEREST GROUPS

Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) unite OLLI members around shared interests in peer-led, activity-based communities.

SIG leaders coordinate activities, plan field trips, spark conversation, and offer a fun way to connect.

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Board Games

Chess Club

Hiking

Opera

Play Mahjong

The Woman Question

Joy, Death, and Memoir in Short Form Poetry

In-Person Wednesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/14–2/4 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Sara Frances
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$50

Imagine a memoir in 17 syllables all about beauty and endings, the two greatest topics in literature. Personal stories are so relevant today, but how to take a different, exciting, simple, and approachable path, both for writer and reader? Poetry is the answer! Many Asian forms in particular, such as the familiar haiku, are conducive to pithy statements that embody far more than the actual words, an unexpected impetus to the memoirist ready to share sparkling bits of experience, but perhaps not a full book. This class bridges reading, appreciation, discussion, and a generative writing workshop to create mini-memoir poems. Presentations first offer a wide-ranging variety of poetic and short poetic prose works for analysis and inspiration; second, explanations of structure, style, punctuation (or not), and how to find the “right words” to begin the path toward valuable experiential memoir; and third, end with composition and time to share and appreciate creative efforts with participants.

The Sound and the Fury: Faulkner, a Degenerate Family, and an Unregenerate South

In-Person Wednesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/14–2/18 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Hal Morris
Location: DU Campus Cost: \$55

How low can a family go? For Faulkner’s Compsons, it is alcoholism and child abuse; mental impairment and mutilation; promiscuity and incestuousness; madness and suicide; warped time and raging revenge. Then, rinse and repeat!

The Sound and the Fury is a recondite telling and re-telling of the coming of age of four children amidst this dissolution and the decay of the South’s Lost Cause mythology. But there is a Black family deeply entangled in this story, and the voices and actions of “the help” stand in muffled but meaningful contrast to the surrounding disintegration. Join us in taking on the book that made Faulkner’s reputation and explore whether the past is, indeed, ever really past.

Required text: William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, with an Introduction by Casey Cep, Vintage International Edition (2025), ISBN 978-0-679-73224-2

No class on 1/28.



Wit and Wisdom: A Journey Through Brief Literary Forms

In-Person Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/14–3/4 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Mark Scott
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$70

Join us for an engaging literary journey through brief, captivating lectures on the rich history of short forms of literature. This class is designed for participants to dive deep into the art of concise expression, primarily through the reading and writing of short literary constructs. You’ll have the opportunity to share your insights and discoveries in lively small group discussions, within a collaborative learning environment.

Our focus on brevity will invite you to experience and contribute to the literary legacy of the shortest forms—including sentences, maxims, aphorisms, anecdotes, couplets, quatrains, characters, captions, comments, notes, and tweets.

Our rich reading list features timeless works, including Sei Shonagon’s enchanting *The Pillow Book*, Benjamin Franklin’s clever *Poor Richard’s Almanac*, and Ambrose Bierce’s sharp and witty *The Devil’s Dictionary*.

Embark on this exploration of literature’s succinct forms and discover the power of words in their most concise and transformative expressions!

Required texts: *The Pillow Book* of Sei Shonagaon (\$5), *The Devil’s Dictionary* of Ambrose Bierce (\$5), *Wit and Wisdom from Poor Richard’s Almanac* (\$4), *Women’s Wit and Wisdom: A Book of Quotations* (\$5), *Book of African-American Quotations* (\$8), *Music: A Book of Quotations* (\$3)

Mysterious Places: Regional America

Online Thursday AM Register >

Dates: 1/15–3/5 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Linda Lange
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

Book club and armchair travel! We focus on mysteries with a powerful sense of place, this time exploring various American regions or cities. A different author/series each week gives us stories to explore place as a character and how that location plays into the plot. Choose a couple or read a book a week, but plan to join in the wide-ranging discussions every week.

Stormy Weather by Paulette Jiles: A Novel of Hardship and Hope

Online Thursday AM Register >

Dates: 1/15–3/5 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitators: Don Batt, Gracie Batt
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

The novel is set in East Texas during the Great Depression. A family of women, abandoned by their husband and father, set out to rebuild their lives through their own ingenuity and resourcefulness. The book should be purchased before class begins and is available online and at local bookstores. Although you may be tempted, please do not begin reading before class.

We approach reading as discovery in a reading community; therefore, much of the reading is done in class so that, together, we encounter the text as a group. We encourage all class members to mark their books to aid in discussion.

Required text: Paulette Jiles, *Stormy Weather*. Purchase before first class.

The Poetry of Mary Oliver

In-Person Tuesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/20–3/3 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitators: Kirsten Morgan, Susan VanScoyck Simon
Location: Jefferson Unitarian Church Cost: \$65

In this deep dive into the elegant and accessible poetry of Mary Oliver, we'll study a wide variety of her poems in depth and then have fun doing our own writing. You'll have an opportunity to share, but this is always optional. We hope most of all that students enjoy the process of creating a poem—it's not as difficult as it appears. We welcome aspiring or practicing poets of all levels, but take particular interest in those who are new to the craft.

Advanced Beginner Spanish

In-Person Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/21–2/25 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Linda Gordon
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$60

The course will have speaking, reading, and writing. The primary objective is to teach enough vocabulary and expressions that you can begin to speak and understand others who speak Spanish. We will build a community of safety together, where everyone is praised for trying to communicate and there is no room for criticism. It is difficult to learn another language, making it necessary for everyone to be patient with one another. We can laugh together while we all make mistakes!

Required text: Dorothy Richmond, *Practice Makes Perfect Spanish Verb Tenses*, Fifth Edition

Heaven, Earth, and Everything In Between: Community and Identity in James McBride's America

Online Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/21–3/4 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitators: Dave Peters, Susan Peters
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$65

James McBride's *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* opens with the discovery of a skeleton in a well in the Chicken Hill area of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. This sets up a sense of mystery as the narrative jumps back nearly 50 years to explore the town, its secrets, and its people.

Chicken Hill is a vibrant community of Jewish and Black immigrants—a mix of characters with intertwined lives and shared histories. McBride, who is Black and Jewish, tells their stories with affection, humor, and some vexation with the world when a deaf boy in town is left without a mother and the state looks to take him into their custody.

It's a well-written, intriguing story about people who are struggling, and their ambitions, successes, and disappointments. In this compassionate, life-affirming, and often funny novel, McBride explores what it means to live in a community on the margins of "white" America.

Required text: James McBride: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*.

To the Lighthouse: Virginia Woolf and the Uses of Memory

In-Person Tuesday AM Register >

Dates: 2/3–3/3 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Gloria Eastman
Location: DU Campus Cost: \$55

Virginia Woolf is considered one of the most important writers of the twentieth-century because of her modernist "stream of consciousness" technique and because of her feminist essays. She was also at the center of the Bloomsbury Group, a group of artists, writers, and philosophers who came to define the intellectual life of England between the two world wars.

In this novel, published in 1927, a large family and their guests spend summers in a house in the Hebrides, just as Woolf and her family spent summers in St. Ives in Cornwall in the Southwest of England. The novel presents the personalities and tensions among this large cast of characters. Additionally, Woolf raises issues of gender, change, bereavement, finding meaning in artistic creation, and the ways that memories and the past continually impinge on the present. Join us as we explore *To the Lighthouse*.

Required text: Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*, the Virginia Woolf Library Annotated Edition. ISBN 978-0-156-9073922. (Please obtain this edition so we can all be, literally, on the same page.)

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Bridge: Defense in the 21st Century

Online Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/14-3/4 Time: 9:30-11:30
Facilitator: Michael Holmes
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

Defense in the 21st Century is an eight-week online course designed for individuals new to the game of bridge or those who have been absent from bridge for a while. This course helps bridge students learn the basics of defending a bridge hand. Students will learn opening leads in both notrump and trump contracts, second- and third-hand play, defensive signals, developing defensive tricks, interfering with declarer, and developing a defender's plan. Defense in the 21st Century is the text, provided to students free, sponsored by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). There is a \$20.00 non-negotiable and non-refundable fee for this class, covering the book mailing and virtual bridge app fees.



Journeys: Learning Through Travel

Online Wednesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/14-3/4 Time: 1-3
Facilitator: Barbara Werren
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

Barbara Werren loves to share the beauty of our world with you! Whether you are eager to travel and want some ideas about future trips, or you're an armchair traveler who enjoys seeing the beauty of the world, you'll enjoy this class. Furthermore, if you are as concerned as Warren is about current overtourism, you will share her concern and discuss the problem. She hopes to have class participation and hear about your travels and concerns.

Planning the Defense: Step Up Your Game II

Online Wednesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/14-3/4 Time: 1-3
Facilitator: Michael Holmes
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

The facilitator will provide notes for the classes and will use class discussion, drills, and play of bridge hands to demonstrate and reinforce the concepts learned. Participantss will review planning by counting points, counting tricks, counting distribution, second-seat play, planning when to cover, and play hands related to the concepts learned in class. There is a \$20.00 non-negotiable and non-refundable fee for this class. The fee offsets the app fees so students can play bridge online, as well as postage to mail a book to students (there is no text for this class).

Capital, Inequality, & Ideology: An Intellectual History, Part 4

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13-3/3 Time: 12:45-3:15
Facilitator: Mitchell Stewart
Location: DU Campus Cost: \$70

This is Part Four of a four-course political philosophy ensemble extending over four academic periods starting Fall 2024 and concluding Winter 2026. Its primary focus is on issues of inequality and their relationship to capitalism and liberalism. The primary text, Thomas Piketty's Capital and Ideology (Part Four for this course), is divided into four parts of roughly 200-250 pages each. The course will generally follow the chapter structure with additional readings and videos augmenting and critiquing Piketty's arguments.

The Winter 2026 course will generally focus on Piketty's thinking regarding the political-ideological conflicts on the question of "just inequality." The text provides a foundation for thinking about inequality as well as a point of departure for considering contemporary capitalism, liberalism, illiberalism, and democracy.

The previous courses, Parts 1 through 3, are not necessary prerequisites for Part 4; however, participants will be expected to be familiar with the key concepts introduced in the Piketty text.

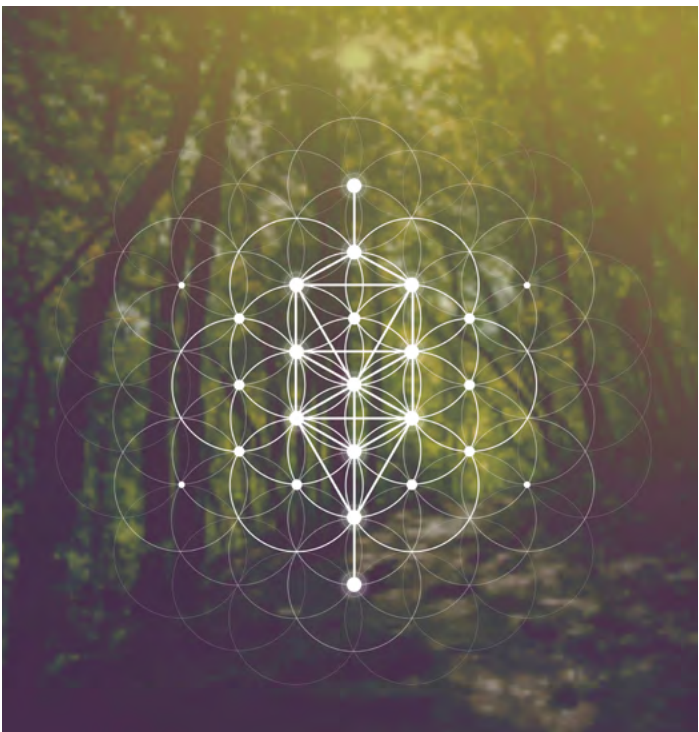
Required text: Thomas Piketty, *Capital and Ideology*. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2020. Available in hard copy, EBook, and Audio Book.

The Kabbalah of Meaning: Jewish Wisdom for Finding the Purpose that Connects All Parts of Life

Online Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13-2/17 Time: 1-3
Facilitator: Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$60

Life is busy. What connects it all? Join this six-session course to discover Judaism's timeless approach to meaning in life. Participants will hear answers to some of life's most fundamental questions: What is life's meaning, where does it come from and if we have it all, why do we seek more? Participants will gain tools to see the meaning in the routines, relationships, and rhythms of time that shape their lives. Discover the purpose in what has been achieved and in what lies ahead. *No previous Jewish learning required. This course will satisfy the continuing education requirements of doctors, psychologists, social workers, LMFTs, and LMHC/LPCs in most states. Go to myjli.com/continuingeducation for a complete accreditation statement. myJLI.com :: Courses Fee for book.



Through the Artists’ Eye:
Renaissance, Reformation, and
the Birth of the Modern World

In-Person **Tuesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3
Facilitator: Michael Mackey
Location: First Universalist Church **Cost:** \$70

The art of a culture often reflects its values, concerns, struggles, and preoccupations. This truism is especially accurate when it comes to the birth of our world in the tumultuous years of the Renaissance and Reformation. The art of Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Donatello, and Albrecht Dürer—to name only a few—is a crucial window into the birth pangs of our world. In this course, we will delve into the emergence of our world and explore how the artists’ eyes help us to understand, appreciate, and explore the challenges, opportunities, and anxieties that continue to shape our lives today.

Who Are We Humans? Some
Major Issues in Philosophy and
Science Today

Online **Tuesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Dan Putman
Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$70

The questions of who we are as human beings and our place in the world have been at the heart of human thinking since ancient times. In this class, Dan will cover fundamental issues about who we are and the universe we live in, drawing on two major philosophical questions and current scientific research. Do we have free will? What is time? What is our location in the universe? Is reality the same at the quantum level as it is at our everyday scale? The close relationship between philosophy and advances in science reveals answers that stretch our minds in ways our ancestors could not have conceived.

50+ Years of Truly Mind-Blowing
Research on Near Death
Experiences (NDEs) and What
Awaits Us After “Bodily Death”

Online **Wednesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–2/25 **Time:** 1–3:30
Facilitator: Maria Arapakis
Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$65

What happens to human consciousness when we die? In 1978, Dr. Raymond Moody’s landmark book Life After Life reported on Moody’s investigation of 150 people who died clinically, were subsequently revived, and reported similar extraordinary experiences. His book started a revolution in popular attitudes regarding an afterlife and forever changed how we understand both death and life.

Since then, with vastly improved resuscitation techniques, five decades of research on thousands upon thousands of NDEs reported around the world have brought us powerful evidence that yes, Virginia, there is “life” after physical death and, as frosting on the cake, what awaits us is both heart-warming and extremely comforting. Physicians and professors at prominent universities, medical schools, and hospitals worldwide continue to study this phenomenon with mind-blowing results. This course brings you up to speed on these findings and on what we now know about other exceptional paranormal phenomena like Out-of-Body and Shared Death Experiences.

Common Humanity: Why Humans
Predictably Unite and Divide,
Succeed and Fail

In-Person **Wednesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Chris Meagher
Location: Columbine United Church **Cost:** \$70

Though humans share 99.9% of their genes, human learning across the planet results in great differences in languages, values, beliefs, and tastes. This course will address how humans--united by nature--still divide and suffer conflict and frustration. It also addresses how humans tap into their inherent strengths, both genetic and learned, to minimize conflict and frustration and to flourish.

Common Humanity is a multidisciplinary course that taps into history, biology, psychology, and anthropology. Participants will explore the basic human forces of instinct, emotion, thought, and habit that determine why individuals and groups succeed and fail.

Participants are asked to bring an open mind and heart to class. Activities to fuel learning include group conversations, short lectures, game-playing, short videos, and surveys. Before each weekly class, a relevant short article or a brief survey activity will be provided.

Exploring Japanese Culture,
History, and Traditions

In-Person **Wednesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Jerry Mercure
Location: Columbine United Church **Cost:** \$70

This class brings the unique history, culture, and traditions of Japan to life! Participants will enter the heart of Japanese culture—past and present. Whether you’re fascinated by art, history, philosophy, or simply seek answers about Japan’s allure, this immersive journey will deliver.

Travel through Japan’s history, explore the traditional arts, and learn about the culture’s perspectives on resilience, beauty, and harmony. Dive into the philosophies and values that shape Japanese thinking. Connect ancient wisdom with contemporary issues to see how they inform pop culture to business etiquette. Encounter Japan’s rich mythology, religious traditions, and folktales that inspired generations and still influence its art, film, and literature today.

Whether you’ve been to Japan and want to expand your knowledge, are considering a future trip, or just want to immerse yourself in another culture, this class is for you.

Instruction will consist of lectures and videos, as well as opportunities to engage with the material.



A National Issues Forum:
Examining Perspectives

In-Person Tuesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/13–2/17 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Kent Epperson
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$60

Each week participants will consider a different critical or current issue. The group will analyze at least three perspectives or viewpoints for addressing this issue. We will use the Deliberative Democracy framework to thoughtfully review each of these ideas. Topics will be selected by the group in a survey in the first session. Class members are encouraged to bring open minds and analytical thinking to our discussion-oriented class.

Current Events (Tuesday)

In-Person Tuesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitators: Richard Reinish, Sydney Myers
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$70

This is a discussion of the current week’s events in the first hour. Dick will do the first week overview. Then the facilitators would like two people in class to volunteer each week to do an overview of the week before. The second hour will be a discussion of a specific topic.

The facilitators of this class express a progressive point of view on American politics. They welcome conservative or other points of view and encourage discussion as part of our learning experience.

Exploring Democracy Together

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 1–3
Facilitators: Michael Prevedel, Alec Tsoucatos
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$70

This class will be based on the format of dialogue, which exemplifies the heart of democracy. The facilitators propose to discover together with participants what constitutes a deep and resilient democracy. A sample of some questions that will be considered is as follows: What virtues does democracy require of individuals, members of institutions, and society at large? What inspiration and practical advice will we be able to offer ourselves and our grandchildren as a consequence of our exploration? The facilitators leave you with this quote by Buckminster Fuller: “You can never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”

Required text: John Keane, *The Shortest History of Democracy*, The Paperback Edition

Current Events (Wednesday)

In-Person Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/14–3/4 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitators: Richard Reinish, Sydney Myers
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$70

This is a discussion of the current week’s events in the first hour. Dick will do the first week overview. Then the facilitators would like two people in class to volunteer each week to do an overview of the week before. The second hour will be a discussion of a specific topic.

The facilitators of this class express a progressive point of view on American politics. They welcome conservative or other points of view and encourage discussion as part of our learning experience.

Great Decisions 2026
(Section I)

In-Person Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/14–3/4 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Dennis Brovarone
Location: DU Campus Cost: \$70

(Section II)

In-Person Wednesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/14–3/4 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Dean Tebbe
Location: Columbine United Church Cost: \$70

Great Decisions is a course on United States foreign policy. Each week, we will focus on a specific topic related to that policy from a U.S. perspective. Other perspectives on that policy topic are valued and encouraged. In addition, each week the class will watch a video, prepared by the Foreign Policy Association, to further define the week’s topic. Students are encouraged to provide their thoughts and opinions on the presented materials and be ready to discuss with and learn from their classmates. Topics included are:

- America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy
- Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy
- U.S.-China Relations
- Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation
- Ukraine and the Future of European Security
- Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order
- U.S. Engagement of Africa
- The Future of Human Rights and International Law

Required text: *Great Decisions Briefing Book 2026* available from the Foreign Policy Association.

What You Do Not Know About
World Migration

In-Person Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/28–2/18 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Steve Swenerton
Location: Broomfield Community Center Cost: \$50

Three hundred million people are migrating every year globally. We hear about the horrors of Gaza, Syria, and Afghanistan, but far more people are migrating from violence and starvation in various parts of Africa in wars that have been going on for years. The UN has declared that Sudan is the most serious humanitarian disaster in the world, but more people are escaping from Venezuela than any other country. Why are these events happening, what future ones can we expect, and how is it that most migration is for economic reasons? Migration into Europe and America has been reduced, but what does the future hold? This class will give you the answers to these and many other important questions.

Video Delight: A Medley of
Documentaries, TED Talks, and
Discussions

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 2/10–3/3 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Tom Hughes
Location: Jefferson Unitarian Church Cost: \$50

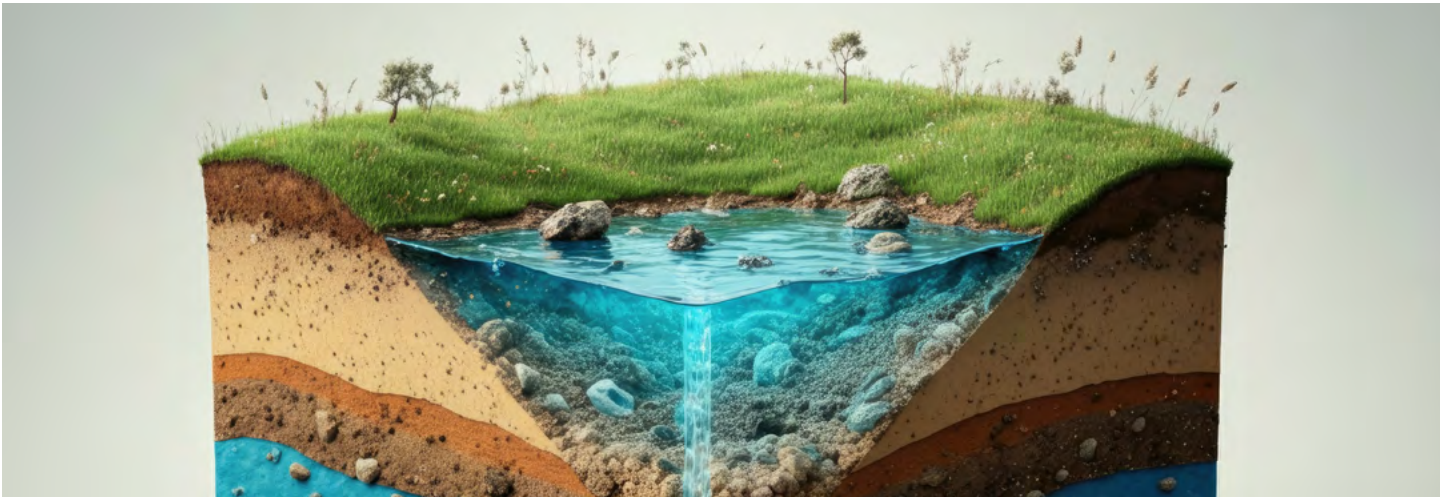
This class will feature two or more videos per session, followed by a discussion of the subjects featured in each video. The films will be primarily documentaries and TED Talks focused on issues of importance and current interest. These topics are guaranteed to be wide-ranging. Please join us and bring your curiosity, discussion skills, and sense of humor.

Emerging World Issues in Water Resources

In-Person Tuesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitators: James Kunkel, Timothy Steele
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$70

Overexploitation of groundwater aquifers occurs worldwide. The Atlantic and Coastal Plains Aquifer in the U.S. exemplifies recent trends to rely more on groundwater. Emerging topics include undersea fresh-water aquifers, how ground-water pumping is altering the rotation of the earth, and geoengineering to mitigate climate change. These are some of the emerging issues to be discussed in this course. As water scarcity becomes more acute, by 2030, fresh-water demand may exceed supply by 40%. Water-supply contamination and water-management issues are affecting drinking-water supplies in rural areas. A case study in the Guanajuato state in Mexico will involve water-supply contamination, regulatory conflicts, and frustrations by local community activists to resolve this issue. Mitigation of climate change using geoengineering may help reduce freshwater demands. Some of the proposed geoengineering methods include the three broad categories (1) carbon dioxide removal (CDR); (2) solar radiation management (SRM), and (3) earth surface interventions such as glacial geoengineering and ocean heat management.



Foundations of Quantum Mechanics

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13–2/17 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Edward Friedman
Location: DU Campus Cost: \$60

Quantum mechanics is arguably the most important invention of the human mind. Our standard of living has increased significantly due to applications of technology in computers and communications, education, entertainment, medical devices, navigation, energy production, travel safety, and other advancements, yet many mysteries remain. Experiments show that the quantum world is weirder than science fiction. Scientists cannot agree on how to interpret its seemingly illogical predictions, despite the theory’s continued success in explaining the world of the atom and its components. This class will present the history of quantum science, its key personalities, and a non-technical explanation of its guiding tenets, what is and isn’t understood, and the exciting future it offers in computing and communication security. Professors usually say “Shut up and calculate” to students who want answers about the foundations of quantum mechanics. We will expose those shadowy areas and offer the best current explanations.

Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes

Online Tuesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Lynn Peyton
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

Why are there volcanoes in Washington and Oregon, but not in Idaho? Why is California threatened by large earthquakes, but Colorado is seismically quiet? Why is the island of Hawaii, the world’s highest mountain from sea floor to summit, located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, but Mt. Everest is landlocked? In this class, we will review and discuss the history and evidence for the theory of plate tectonics, which was the most significant advance in geology in the 20th century. This unifying theory explained many geological conundrums and has withstood the test of time. We will examine how the outer rigid layer of Earth is broken into several plates that move with respect to each other. Movement of these plates creates earthquakes, volcanoes, mountains, ocean basins, and continents. Buying a retirement home in California or Costa Rica? You might want to learn about plate tectonics first!

Seven Modern Geniuses Everyone Should Know More About

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Morris Hoffman
Location: DU Campus Cost: \$70

In this course, we will survey the lives of seven modern geniuses who profoundly altered their fields but who remain largely anonymous in the public eye: Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin (astronomy); Stanley Miller (chemistry); George Cantor (infinity); Vernon Smith (economics);

Robert Trivers (biology); V. S. Ramachandran (neuroscience); and Kurt Gödel (truth). When we’re done, we’ll get a glimpse of the surprising connections across some of these seemingly disparate fields of study, and perhaps also a glimpse of the sometimes-porous boundary between genius and madness.

Big Eyes on the Sky: Exploring the Universe with New Telescopes

In-Person Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/14–3/4 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Wilson Wiedenheft
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$70

With powerful new telescopes, scientists are making observations that challenge our theories of the cosmos. Each week, we will meet a different telescope, discussing why it was built, how it was developed, and what makes it special. Then we will review the key discoveries it helped make and how those confirm or disrupt our current understanding of the universe. The telescopes include the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the early universe and exoplanets; Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI), dark energy and dark matter; Vera C. Rubin Observatory, a 10-year survey of the universe; Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe (SPHEREx); Euclid Space Observatory, dark energy and dark matter; Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA), viewing the universe at radio wavelengths; Nancy Roman Grace Telescope. Prior knowledge of cosmology is not required, as we will review the underlying cosmological principles at an introductory level.

Time Travel: History of an Idea

In-Person **Wednesday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: Charles Holt

Location: Columbine United Church **Cost:** \$70

This class will be a mind-bending exploration of time travel—from its origins in literature and science to its influence on our understanding of time itself. We will explore physics, technology, philosophy, and art as each relates to time travel and tells the story of the concept's cultural evolution—from H.G. Wells to Doctor Who, from Proust to Woody Allen.

We will take a close look at the porous boundary between science fiction and modern physics. And we will ultimately delve into what it all means in our own moment in time—that is, the world of the instantaneous, with its all-consuming present and vanishing future.

Classes will include lecture, discussion, and presentations from The Great Courses series, “Mysteries of Modern Physics: Time.”

Required text: James Gleick, *Time Travel: A History*. Suggested additional text: Carlo Rovelli *The Order of Time* (2018).

Invisible Intelligence: The Unseen Algorithms Reshaping Your Daily Life

Osher Online **Thursday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/15–2/19 **Time:** 3–4:30

Facilitator: Eliot Bethke

Location: Online (Vimeo) **Cost:** \$60

Artificial Intelligence (AI) shapes our daily lives in subtle yet powerful ways. In this non-technical course, we will explore six case studies that reveal how AI systems work, the ethics behind machine decision-making, and the impact of these technologies on our world. We will gain a deeper understanding of AI's current influence—and the possibilities ahead.

This is an Osher Online course offered through the Osher National Resource Center. Please see page 7 for important information.

Pharmaceuticals and Poisons: Chemistry at the Edge

Osher Online **Thursday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/22–2/26 **Time:** 1–2:30

Facilitator: Johnnie Hendrickson

Location: Online (Vimeo) **Cost:** \$60

Some substances heal, others harm—and some do both. This chemistry-rich (but non-technical) course explores the fine line between pharmaceuticals and poisons. We will examine drug development, venom-inspired medicine, and the history of FDA regulation shaped by scandal and reform. From aspirin's industrial roots to Gila monster hormones, participants will uncover the fascinating, sometimes unsettling chemistry behind what we choose to swallow.

This is an Osher Online course offered through the Osher National Resource Center. Please see page 7 for important information.

Brain and Behavior in the Era of Digital Technology

Osher Online **Monday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/26–3/2 **Time:** 9–10:30

Facilitator: Elena Labkovsky

Location: Online (Vimeo) **Cost:** \$60

Explore how digital technologies and artificial intelligence affect the brain, behavior, and mental health. This course examines the impact of modern devices on attention, memory, emotions, and decision-making, while addressing ethical concerns like privacy and tech-based addictions. We will learn how neuroscience and psychology offer tools to support well-being in a rapidly evolving digital world.

This is an Osher Online course offered through the Osher National Resource Center. Please see page 7 for important information.

Golden Age Legends: The Songwriters Who Defined Broadway & Hollywood

Online **Monday PM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: Lee Kaufman

Location: Online (Zoom) **Cost:** \$70

The music of Broadway and Hollywood musicals is an art form in and of itself. It takes a team of multi-talented performers and an orchestra to produce these entertainment extravaganzas. At the heart are creative geniuses who set the whole thing in motion: the songwriters! In this multimedia course, we will cover Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter, Alan Jay Lerner, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jerome Kern, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Leonard Bernstein, Jule Styne, and George Gershwin. Much attention will be paid to their collaborators as well. The facilitator will share many videos to demonstrate the songs as they appear on stage and screen.

Before Monet, There Was Pissarro

In-Person **Tuesday AM** **Register >**

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30

Facilitator: Susan Elliott

Location: Jefferson Unitarian Church **Cost:** \$60

“Before Monet, there was Pissarro,” writes the Denver Art Museum in its announcement of the extraordinary exhibition Camille Pissarro: The Honest Eye, open from October 24, 2025, to February 8, 2026. This course will focus on the life and times of Camille Pissarro, his unusual background, and how he became the supporter and mentor to the famed painters of his milieu: Monet, Renoir, Degas, Cassatt, Sisley, and Morisot—the Impressionists known as the painters of “soft skies and radical ideas.” Also included in the six PowerPoint presentations will be those painters who influenced Pissarro and how he, in turn, influenced those who followed him. The course will be presented in two formats: Tuesday mornings in person at Jefferson

Unitarian Church and Wednesday mornings via Zoom. Participants may attend either or both presentations. The course includes six classes in January and February. Participants will pay for only six classes, but the facilitator is offering two bonus sessions: a morning at the museum on Tuesday, January 27, and an all-French breakfast on Tuesday, March 3.

Introduction to Music Theory and Composition

In-Person **Tuesday PM** **Register >**

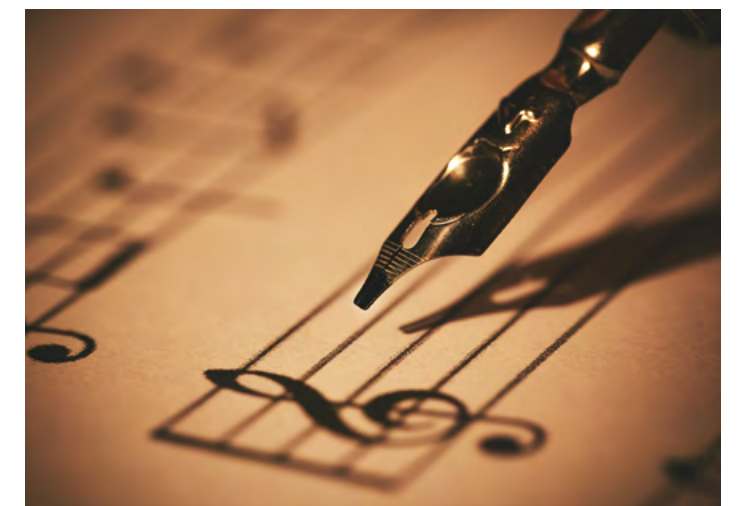
Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3

Facilitator: Emerson Farina

Location: DU Campus **Cost:** \$70

Explore the foundations of music in this fun and accessible course designed for lifelong learners. We'll cover the basics of rhythm, melody, harmony, and musical form, using familiar examples and interactive exercises. You'll also have the chance to try your hand at simple composition, with guidance and feedback in a supportive environment. No prior music experience is necessary—just curiosity and a love of music!

Participants should have a laptop with the ability to run musescore (a free program that needs Windows 10 or higher, Mac OS 11.5 or higher, or recent Linux distributions). The facilitator prefers that participants load musescore before the first class.



Music, History, and the Lives of Composers Edition 2.0

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Hille Dais
Location: Jefferson Unitarian Church Cost: \$70

This course will have the same format as Spring Term 2024, but with different composers and historic events. This class is for lovers of music and history. During each session, we will learn about one particular time in a composer’s life and the composition it inspired. Our chosen composers are Mozart, Beethoven, Glinka, Wagner, Shostakovich, and Crumb. Histories will cover the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires, France during and after the Revolution, Russia and its tsars, Germany and the industrial revolution, the Soviet Union under Stalin, and the United States during the Vietnam War. Each session is selected from “Music as a Mirror of History,” a lecture series by Professor Robert Greenberg, a prolific presenter of music-related topics for Great Courses, who presents in a lively, engaging style. Here, he turns to connections between specific compositions and their historical context. Many of these topics will have somber backstories. We will hear and view one lecture per session, leaving ample time for discussion and further exploration.

Song and Dance: A Tour of Scenes From Hollywood Musicals

Online Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Larry Matten
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

Let’s go back and enjoy some of Hollywood’s best song and dance scenes. We will see some classical dance scenes with Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Donald O’Connor, Chayanne, Ginger Rogers, Ann Miller, Vanessa Williams, Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey, Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez, Jennifer Beals, John Travolta, Bob Fosse,

Gwen Verdon, and many more. Much of the music will come from well-known musicals such as Damn Yankees, On the Town, Swing Time, Hellzapoppin, Fiddler on the Roof, Mamma Mia, Rocketman, Singing in the Rain, Andrew Lloyd Webber shows, Rodgers and Hammerstein shows, Cole Porter, Lerner and Loewe, and George M. Cohan. This is a class to sit back and enjoy.

Studio to Stage: The Life of a Dancer

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13–2/3 Time: 1–3
Facilitators: Jeffrey Engel, Joy Engel
Location: Jefferson Unitarian Church Cost: \$50

Join former professional dancers Joy and Jeffrey Engel for an insider’s view of the life of a professional ballet dancer. The Engels will share their experiences and insights using videos and discussions to explore how young ballet students develop into professional dancers. The first class will focus on the different training styles and student progress using videos of classes from some of the world’s major ballet academies. The next class will feature dancers auditioning and in competitions. The last two classes will explore the challenging career of a professional ballet dancer with videos of rehearsals and onstage performances. Comments and questions from class members are always appreciated.



The Blues: Roots and Branches, Part 2

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 1–3:15
Facilitator: Larry Tannenbaum
Location: Jefferson Unitarian Church Cost: \$70

The Blues: Roots and Branches, Part 2 continues to explore The Blues, its origins, evolution and expansion into other musical genres, particularly rock ‘n’ roll. This course is independent of The Blues, Part 1, and can be taken and enjoyed without one having taken Part 1. The class includes lectures, music, music videos, documentaries, and class discussion. The class will focus upon the important and influential musicians of The Blues and its branches, as well as others whose contributions helped the genre and its “branches” to grow, evolve and branch out. There will also be lecture and discussion regarding the connections between The Blues and its branches and the socioeconomic and historical influences upon The Blues and the musical genres that evolved out of The Blues. The class will conclude with an examination of the recent and current state of The Blues, including some recent video of current Blues musicians, such as Joe Bonamassa, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, and Kingfish Ingram.

Among the important and influential musicians and contributors to be discussed in Part 2 will be (not in the following order) Muddy Waters, Howlin’ Wolf, B.B. King, Sam Phillips, Elvis Presley, the Chess Brothers, Chuck Berry, Lonnie Donegan, The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Jimmie Page, Paul Butterfield, Mike Bloomfield, Buddy Guy, Albert King, Freddie King, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Joe Bonamassa.

The Confident Digital Photographer: Camera, Lenses, and Flash Made Simple

In-Person Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/13–2/3 Time: 1:30–3:30
Facilitator: Mark Payler
Location: DU Campus Cost: \$50

Take the mystery out of digital photography and start creating images you’re proud of. This interactive, hands-on course introduces you to the fundamentals of using your digital camera (point-and-shoot, mirrorless, hybrid, DSLR—this is NOT a smartphone camera course), selecting lenses, and mastering light with portable flash units. Whether you’re new to photography or seeking a creative refresher, you’ll gain confidence, technical understanding, and an artistic eye through guided instruction and practice on the University of Denver campus.

Required materials: Point-and-shoot, mirrorless, hybrid, DSLR type camera– this is NOT a smartphone camera course. Recommended materials: Portable or attached flash unit.



Westerns: Myth And History On Screen

Online Tuesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Tom Grant
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

This course covers the panorama of Westerns in cinema. We'll watch classic Westerns and discuss them. Why have Westerns resonated so powerfully with audiences? Why did they dominate the large and small screen, and why did they become less popular? What makes Westerns endure, and how have they adapted into other genres and cultures? Who were the important directors, writers, and actors of Western cinema? How do Westerns depict or distort history? How have Westerns influenced our culture and politics? Course sessions will include a mix of presentation and discussion. The facilitator will give some background on that week's topic, followed by a discussion of the movie of the week.

Each week, we will watch a movie before class and discuss. Rental of movies on streaming services will be required.



Before Monet, There Was Pissarro

Online Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/14–3/4 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Susan Elliott
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$60

"Before Monet, there was Pissarro," writes the Denver Art Museum in its announcement of the extraordinary exhibition *Camille Pissarro: The Honest Eye*, open from October 24, 2025, to February 8, 2026. This course will focus on the life and times of Camille Pissarro, his unusual background, and how he became the supporter and mentor to the famed painters of his milieu: Monet, Renoir, Degas, Cassatt, Sisley, and Morisot—the Impressionists known as the painters of "soft skies and radical ideas." Also included in the six PowerPoint presentations will be those painters who influenced Pissarro and how he, in turn, influenced those who followed him. The course will be presented in two formats: Tuesday mornings in person at Jefferson Unitarian Church and Wednesday mornings via Zoom. Participants may attend either or both presentations. The course includes six classes in January and February. Participants will pay for only six classes, but the facilitator is offering two bonus sessions: a morning at the museum on Tuesday, January 27, and an all-French breakfast on Tuesday, March 3.

There will be weekly handouts sent by email.

Foreign Films

In-Person Wednesday PM Register >

Dates: 1/14–3/4 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Richard Reinish
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$70

Each week a foreign film will be viewed, followed by a class discussion. Before each class, the facilitator will send to participants the name of the film that will be shown in the next class. None of the films will have been shown in the facilitator's prior classes.

Swing Sister: The History of Women in Jazz

In-Person Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/14–2/18 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Lance La Certe
Location: First Universalist Church Cost: \$60

As with so many aspects of life, women have traditionally been marginalized by men. The field of music, and for our purposes, jazz, is no different. This course is designed to bring women out of the shadows of the patriarchy and discover their immense talent, not only as singers (the most traditional role) and swingers, but as instrumentalists, composers, and bandleaders. We will explore the origins of jazz beginning in the 19th century and the evolution of this African-American art form through the women who influenced it. Instruction will be multi-media, including PowerPoint presentation, audio, and video. All sessions are designed to stimulate interaction with participants, including commentaries, questions, and perhaps even relating personal experiences.

A Look at the Wild West, Italian Style

Online Thursday PM Register >

Dates: 1/15–3/5 Time: 1–3
Facilitators: Dixie Vice, John Lungerhausen
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

Saddle up for a journey into the world of the Spaghetti Western—the Italian reinvention of America's most iconic film genre. In this course, we'll explore how directors like Sergio Leone and Sergio Corbucci transformed the classic Western into something darker, grittier, and far more stylized. With unforgettable music by Ennio Morricone, stark landscapes, and morally ambiguous antiheroes, these films redefined what it meant to ride into the sunset. Each session will feature a screening and discussion focusing on cinematic style, cultural context, and the enduring influence of the Spaghetti Western

on global cinema. We'll look at Leone's classics like *A Fistful of Dollars*, *For a Few Dollars More*, and *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, Corbucci's eerily gripping *The Great Silence*, plus some others. We show each film in its entirety with English subtitles. Longer films will be spread across two class periods to allow ample discussion time. Be advised that these films contain violent content.

Camille Pissarro: The Father of Impressionism

Online Thursday PM Register >

Dates: 1/15–2/12 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Sally Walling
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$55

Camille Pissarro earned the title "Father of Impressionism" through his influence on younger artists and his remarkable kindness toward fellow painters, including Monet, Cézanne, Matisse, and Berthe Morisot. Born on St. Thomas in a prominent Jewish community, Pissarro and his brother attended a Moravian missionary school with predominantly Black students after a family dispute with the synagogue. This unique education gave him fluency in English and an unusual immunity to prejudice—qualities that shaped his inclusive approach to art and life.

After studying in France, Pissarro settled near Paris with his family, becoming the only artist to exhibit at all ten Impressionist exhibitions. He led these radical painters in challenging the rigid Paris Salon with fresh, impressionistic views of nature and the world.

As the Denver Art Museum presents its Pissarro exhibit (October 26, 2025–February 8, 2026), join Walling for a detailed exploration of his life, work, and artistic impact.

Text: Anka Muhlstein, *Camille Pissarro The Audacity of Impressionism* (Other Press 2023).

Great Film Directors

Online Thursday AM Register >

Dates: 1/15–3/5 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Robert Magnani
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

Some directors have an identifiable brash style that we can all appreciate; some strive to be invisible—if you can see their efforts, they feel they have usurped the story. Whichever way, the great directors with long, successful lists of films to their credit are, in reality, supreme artists of film that can make you laugh through tears and surprise you with unexpected film twists. How do they do that? What direction and what film grammar do they know and use on you to tell their stories in compelling ways? Take this course and begin to see how they do it. We will look at a range of directing techniques, then at a series of great directors: Steven Spielberg, Sidney Pollack, Joel and Ethan Coen, Stanley Kubrick, Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese, and Quentin Tarantino. We'll see excerpts of their work, biographic information, interviews with them, and detailed commentaries on their techniques, mostly in the form of YouTube videos. Two hours per session, eight sessions. Come see, learn, and discuss.

Warning: many of these films are violent (Tarantino, Scorsese, and Kubrick especially), so know this before you sign up.



Robert Redford: A Celebration of Defying Expectations

Online Thursday AM Register >

Dates: 1/15–2/12 Time: 9–12
Facilitator: Patricia Paul
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$55

Robert Redford: A Celebration of Defying Expectations

Online Thursday PM Register >

Dates: 1/15–2/12 Time: 1–4
Facilitator: Patricia Paul
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$55

“What really matters is the work.” Robert Redford *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* made Robert Redford a star as a lovable rogue—but he immediately shattered that image with *Downhill Racer*, creating a coolly unsympathetic portrait of ambition. Such risk-taking began a career that became a laboratory for artistic innovation.

During his mid-career, he followed his moral compass to create two true explorations of scandal, both hinging on the ethics of journalism and entertainment and showing how institutions protect deception: *All the President's Men*, as actor and producer, and twenty years later, *Quiz Show*, as director. He brought his journey full circle with *The Old Man and the Gun*, a graceful farewell to his own persona, a man who can't stop practicing his craft.

Join us for behind-the-scenes revelations, full screenings, and spirited discussions. We'll celebrate Redford's lifelong commitment to hard work, innovation, and the pleasure of doing something well. “Work keeps me going.”

Matinee at the Bijou - Film Noir No. 3

Online Monday PM Register >

Dates: 1/19–3/9 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Mac McHugh
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$70

“Film Noir,” as the French called the American movies that emerged from World War II, implies dark film or black movie. It refers not only to the fact that movies were in black and white but also to the plot, actors, and film production. This time, we meet a murderer for hire, a lonely professor and a femme fatale, an actress helping Scotland Yard, a gang that commits the perfect crime, a jaded ex-con, a party girl who wakes up with a corpse, a bride who loses her husband on an ocean cruise, and an Army officer who rescues a soldier from East Germany. Along with our movies, we will have weekly action-packed serial episodes. We will have a short discussion before and after each movie to discuss the stars, plot, and why the movie was successful. Due to movie lengths, the class will start at 12:30.

Shakespeare to Star Wars: Classical Music for Stage and Screen

Online Wednesday AM Register >

Dates: 1/21–2/25 Time: 9:30–11:30
Facilitator: Betsy Schwarm
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$60

Hamlet and Luke Skywalker may not have much in common—other than father issues! However, both characters become more vivid to audiences with musical support. Is he thoughtful or anguished? Ready for action or fearful of failure? The script may hint at the answers, but music brings it home to us. In this six-session Zoom course, music historian and frequent OLLI presenter Betsy Schwarm explores the subject. She'll consider music for stage plays, from Shakespeare to Peer Gynt. Then it's operetta and musical theater, including Mozart, Gilbert

and Sullivan, and Sondheim. Film music gets two sessions: one for John Williams and another for other great names. After all, Robin Hood's Merry Men and the Titanic's tragic lovers require very different music. Then there's that shark and those Jedi! How does great music add to what we see on the stage or screen? That's Betsy's topic for the winter term of 2026 with OLLI!

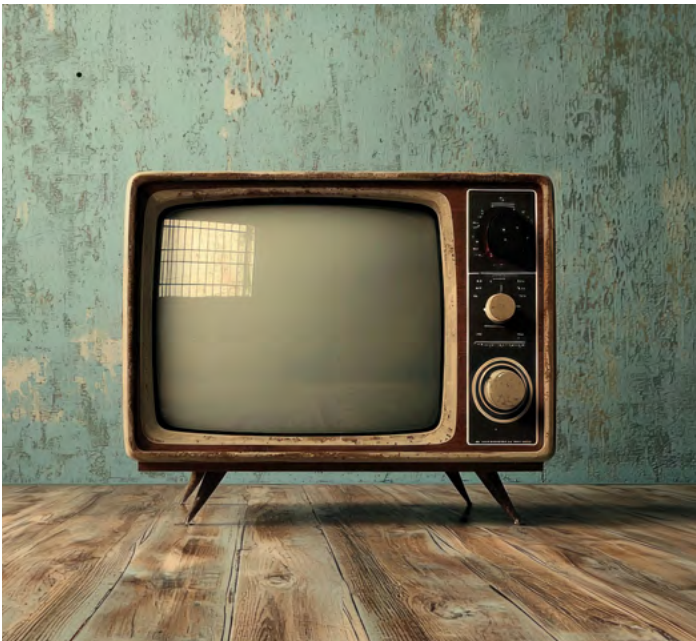
The History of American Television

Osher Online Monday PM Register >

Dates: 1/26–3/2 Time: 1–2:30
Facilitator: Jim McKairnes
Location: Online (Vimeo) Cost: \$60

This engaging, video-rich course tells the story of American television—from its 1920s origins to today's streaming era. We will explore decades of iconic shows, genres, and cultural moments that shaped the medium and its audiences. From sitcoms and dramas to news and sports, we will rediscover how TV evolved, adapted, and transformed American culture—one broadcast, cable channel, and streaming service at a time.

This is an Osher Online course offered through the Osher National Resource Center. Please see page 7 for important information.



The Traveling Eye: Photographing the Spirit of the American West

Online Tuesday PM Register >

Dates: 2/10–3/3 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Mark Payler
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$50

Embark on a virtual photography journey through the awe-inspiring landscapes of the American West. From the rugged frontier of Yellowstone to California's coastal cliffs and Joshua Trees, this online course explores both iconic and lesser-known locations across Arizona, California, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and surrounding regions. You'll learn how to capture the essence of place through light, composition, and timing—while discovering insider tips from a “been there” photographer’s perspective. Each session features practical shooting advice, visual storytelling techniques, and location-specific insights that inspire creativity for photographers of all levels. Whether you’re planning your next trip or simply love to explore from home, you’ll come away ready to turn your travels into powerful visual and oral stories.

Required materials: Digital camera or Smartphone camera, curiosity, and a notebook.
Recommended: Regional Map



Colored Pencil for Beginners

Online Wednesday PM Register >

Dates: 2/11–3/4 Time: 1–3
Facilitator: Mitra Verma
Location: Online (Zoom) Cost: \$50

Unlock your artistic potential and explore the captivating world of colored pencils in this comprehensive course. Whether you are a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this course offers an immersive experience in the art of colored pencils. The fundamental technique of blending and how to mix colors together will be taught to achieve a realistic 3D look with colored pencils. We will learn color-mixing concepts and how to color objects with the color pencils. Participants will also learn how to look at light and shadow in an object, and how to look at details in a reference photo to make drawings realistic. At the end of class, they will have a better understanding of shading and blending with colored pencils. Join Mitra and let your creativity flourish!

Required materials: pencil, eraser, set of 36 or 48 Color pencils (Mitra has Prisma color soft core color pencils), Canson vellum paper.

Is Personalized Medicine Coming Soon for Everyone?

Friday, 1/16/2026, 10–11:30 AM Register >
Presenter: Larry Gold

Human beings are complicated, and every person is at least slightly different. Most drugs work for only a fraction of patients. The five major medical conditions in developed countries are cardiac diseases, cancers, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases, and aging. For decades we have imagined that personalized diagnoses and treatments could extend healthy, active lives for additional decades. The oldest person in the world recently died in France at about 117, showing what might be possible. I will describe unbiased proteomics—a method we invented thirty years ago, explaining in plain English, how this approach could fundamentally change our health for the better.

Exploring Earth’s Most Unusual Microbiology to Find Solutions to Humanity’s Most Pressing Challenges

Friday, 1/23/26, 10–11:30 AM Register >
Presenter: Braden Tierney

From hydrothermal vents and frosty peaks to sulfuric caves, Earth’s most extreme places are home to microscopic life with extraordinary talents. In this talk, Dr. Tierney will share stories from the field and the lab through the Two Frontiers Project, a nonprofit that hunts for “microbial superpowers” that could help tackle pollution, increase crop yields, and improve human health. We will explore how these invisible ecosystems work, why they matter for everyday life, and how citizen scientists and students can help map this hidden world.

The Past, Present and Future of Our Infrastructural Systems

Friday, 1/30/26, 10–11:30 AM Register >
Presenter: Deb Chachra

If you are reading this, you almost certainly are embedded in our infrastructural systems: electricity, water and sewage, transportation, telecommunications, and more. This talk is an overview of these shared systems: where they came from, what they have in common, how they shape our lives and give us agency to act in the world. We will also talk about why we can no longer take them for granted and look towards how we can make them more resilient, equitable, and sustainable.

Advancing Cancer Care Through Insights at the Single Cell Level

Friday, 2/06/26, 10–11:30 AM Register >
Presenter: Clay Smith

Despite tremendous advances in technology and in treatments of many cancers, the outcomes for far too many cancers and individuals remain unacceptable. One of the root causes of this is that many cancers exhibit tremendous heterogeneity across populations and at the cellular level within a single individual. Newly developed single cell omics techniques are leading to critical insights into cancer cell biology at the population and individual level that have the potential for revolutionizing cancer care. This webinar will focus on both the challenges and the opportunities associated with this potential revolution.

Harnessing Biology for Sustainable Technologies

Friday, 2/13/26, 10–11:30 AM [Register >](#)
Presenter: [Ariel Furst](#)

Electron transfer is the basis of most cellular processes, ranging from photosynthesis to cellular respiration. These processes have evolved over billions of years to be highly efficient, far surpassing engineered systems. Our research harnesses this natural efficiency by integrating materials science with synthetic biology to develop versatile, low-cost, and user-friendly technologies, ranging from inexpensive diagnostics for infectious disease to improved catalysis for sustainable conversions.

Unlost: Recovering the Text of the Unopenable Herculaneum Scrolls

Friday, 2/20/26, 10–11:30 AM [Register >](#)
Presenter: [Christy Chapman](#)

Dr. Chapman will present the exciting story behind the research to virtually unwrap the carbonized papyrus scrolls from the ancient city of Herculaneum. The scrolls were buried and carbonized by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, and since their discovery in 1752, various attempts have been made to open them, with disastrous results. Hundreds of them remain unrolled and unread. In 2024, after more than twenty years of research and a global, \$1 million AI contest called the Vesuvius Challenge, Professor Brent Seales and his team were able to reveal for the first time—and purely via computational methods—sixteen columns of text from within an unopened Herculaneum scroll. This talk will provide a behind-the-scenes look at how the decades of work Dr. Seales the open-source software development competition cracked open this window into the ancient world.

The Boomer Archaeologist: A Graphic Memoir of Tribes, Identity, and the Holy Land

Friday, 2/27/26, 10–11:30 AM [Register >](#)
Presenter: [Thomas E. Levy](#)

What happens when ancient dust meets modern academic grit? Thomas E. Levy’s *The Boomer Archaeologist* is a thrilling excavation of the past and an unflinching look at a life in archaeology’s personal and professional upheavals. Through vivid graphic storytelling, Levy guides readers on expeditions across Israel, Jordan, Greece, and beyond, where dig sites become lenses for exploring identity, belonging, and purpose—capturing the rush of discovery alongside disillusioning shifts in elite American universities over three decades. More than career memoir, it’s a meditation on tribes—ancient and modern, academic and cultural, chosen and inherited—resonating with anyone piecing together meaning from the past while grappling with the present. A candid postscript reflects on how October 7, 2023, reshaped fieldwork and scholarly life in the region.

Durably reducing conspiracy beliefs through dialogues with AI

Friday, 3/6/26, 10–11:30 AM [Register >](#)
Presenter: [David Rand](#)

Conspiracy theory beliefs are notoriously persistent. Yet we are able to substantially reduce belief among believers by leveraged developments in generative artificial intelligence (AI). When we engage conspiracy believers in personalized evidence-based debunking dialogues with AI models such as GPT, we reduced conspiracy belief by ~20%. The effect remained 2 months later, generalized across a wide range of conspiracy theories, occurred even among participants with deeply entrenched beliefs, and occurred even if participants were led to believe they were talking to a human expert instead of an AI. These findings suggest that many conspiracy theory believers can revise their views if presented with sufficiently compelling evidence.

Meditation in Motion: The Art and Science of Tai Chi

[Online](#) [Monday AM](#) [Register >](#)

Dates: 1/12–3/9 Time:
Faciliators: [Joseph Brady](#), [Jacqui Shumway](#)
Location: Online Cost: FREE for Members
Experience for yourself the accumulated wisdom of centuries with the timeless exercise of T’ai Chi. According to the Harvard Medical Health Publication, “Tai chi is often described as meditation in motion, but it might well be called medication in motion.” Designed to be hands-on, this class will explore the principles and basic exercises in T’ai Chi and the growing body of evidence of its value in treating or preventing many health problems. This introduction to T’ai Chi Ch’uan is both practical and participative. These exercises can powerfully complement medical intervention. Modern studies have reported positive effects of Tai Chi on balance, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis, cancer, COPD, heart disease, and depression. Many more studies are underway to explore the medical benefits of this mind/body exercise.

Gentle Hatha Yoga

[Online](#) [Tuesday AM](#) [Register >](#)

Dates: 1/13–3/3 Time: 8–9 AM
Facilitator: [Lisa Theis](#)
Location: Online Cost: FREE for Members
This movement-oriented class will combine seated, standing, and kneeling postures. Modifications will be given for most postures—the point of this hour is more about giving yourself time to breathe and move with your body than it is about doing a posture in a particular way. We will combine dynamic and static movements, simple mobility exercises with postures that help to build strength and stability. Props are highly encouraged—blocks, blankets, chairs, and straps, in addition to mats, will help give you great success if you find you have limits in a posture. Instruction on how to use these props will also be provided. Join us in connecting body, mind, and spirit.

Medical Qigong: Healing Exercises from China

[Online](#) [Wednesday AM](#) [Register >](#)

Dates: 1/14–3/4 Time: 8–9 AM
Facilitators: [Joseph Brady](#), [Jacqui Shumway](#)
Location: Online Cost: FREE for Members
In traditional Chinese medicine, the patient is expected to be an active participant in their own healing, not just a victim of disease. Strong believers that exercise is medicine, Qi-gong evolved over centuries to become the primary form of exercise therapy in traditional Chinese medicine. Medical Qi-gong exercises are considered superior to herbal medicine and acupuncture because patients learn to keep themselves healthy by cultivating a strong mind and body. With over 3,600 psychophysiological exercises, medical Qi-gong provides tools for everyone to participate actively in their own health. This course introduces students to the most popular exercise sets in a safe, progressive way. Learn evidence-based therapeutic exercises you can use in your own life.

Breath, Meditation & Community

[Online](#) [Thursday AM](#) [Register >](#)

Dates: 1/15–3/5 Times: 8–9 AM
Facilitator: [Lisa Theis](#)
Location: Online Cost: FREE for Members
Something magical happens when we harness the power of our breath. The mind slows, the body relaxes, and we remember that we are part of something so much greater. This course will serve as a way to remember, as we combine these three powerful aspects of life—breath, meditation, and community. Each class will begin with a breathing exercise connected to simple seated movements to prepare the body and mind for guided meditation practice. Meditation will last about 20-25 minutes, after which we will share our experience with one another in breakout rooms. Sharing is an important part of the process, for meditation is different for everyone and no one experience is the same, nor is there a right or wrong way to meditate.

MEET OUR FACILITATORS

Gregory Adams

Gregory Adams' career as an award-winning chef with multiple restaurants, serial entrepreneur, and advocate for organic and biodynamic agriculture has evolved in the last 20 years into even more deeply socially conscious work. With a degree in Philosophy and a deep emphasis on Cultural Anthropology, Greg served as Director of Economy for the Common Good USA from 2017 to 2022, Future Impact Partners LLC, and CeresNexus LLC. He is currently a facilitator for his third class at OLLI at DU. Life, though, has always been in balance with his love for the piano and music history. First prize winner at the Concours des Grandes Amateurs in Paris in the early 2000s, Gregory's performance of Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a theme by Paganini with the Orchestra of the Republican Guard at the Sorbonne was met with much acclaim. Performing occasionally in Europe and the United States, Gregory's love for music and family includes a small piano studio in Castle Rock, Colorado.

Maria Arapakis

Maria Arapakis is a psychologist, international trainer, speaker, and author with over 40 years of experience training people around the world. Maria has been teaching at OLLI since 2010 and is currently a Diamond Facilitator. Since 2010, she has helped seniors become more adept with the remarkable powers of "All Things Apple" technologies. More recently, she is focused on sharing what 50+ years of research on Near Death Experiences is teaching us about human consciousness, what awaits us when we die, and what matters most in life. She moved to Denver from San Francisco 30+ years ago and built her home in Cherry Creek North where she still happily resides with her precious kitties, Koko and Koko's son, Simba. Maria has always been a "teacher at heart" and deeply appreciates OLLI for giving her the opportunity to continue doing what she most loves: teach what can help and support others.

Don and Gracie Batt

Don and Gracie Batt, retired high school English and theatre teachers in the Cherry Creek Schools, have facilitated courses on Irish literature and literature of the American West with OLLI for several years.

Eliot Bethke (Osher Online Instructor)

Eliot Bethke is a PhD candidate in computational bioengineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He previously worked in research and development at several Midwest start-ups, focusing on product design and manufacturing. After running a summer internship program, he shifted his focus to education and now shares his expertise in hardware and software development with future engineers.

Becky Bennett

Upon retiring from 32+ years as a Human Resources Specialist with the federal government, Becky joined OLLI in 2011. She enjoys participating in OLLI classes, particularly literature, art, and history. When she decided to take the leap into facilitating, it was the history topics that caught her interest. The *Worst Hard Times* will be Becky's tenth foray into facilitating at OLLI Central. She's looking forward to sharing this book with all of you. Becky lives in Centennial with her husband (also an OLLI facilitator), two dogs, and a cat.

Joseph Brady (Facilitator and OLLI FIT Facilitator)

Joseph Brady MSTCM, L. Ac. Dipl. O.M. RAND REACH Scholar and nationally board certified practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Joe taught on healthy aging issues and coordinated the Gerontology program at the University of Denver for twenty years. He also taught classes in Tai Chi, Qigong, and Traditional Chinese Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and he currently teaches Tai Chi and Qigong at the Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Joe wrote many articles on healthy aging for the Rocky Mountain News, and has presented at many scientific conferences, and has lectured and presented research at Harvard Medical School's Osher Institute for Integrative Medicine and at the Oxford Union Debating Hall and Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, U.K.

Dennis Brovarone

Dennis has been practicing business law in Colorado for almost 40 years. He graduated from CU with a degree in Political Science in 1978 and DU Law in 1986. He raised three Millennials and still enjoys age-appropriate cycling, hiking, skiing, and horseback riding.

Deb Chachra (Webinar Speaker)

Deb Chachra, PhD, is the author of *How Infrastructure Works: Inside the Systems That Shape Our World* (Riverhead/Torva, 2023), recognized by Publishers Weekly as a 'Best Book of 2023', and Professor of Engineering at Olin College of Engineering (on leave 2025-2026), outside Boston, Massachusetts, where she was among the earliest faculty members. She works primarily at the intersection of technology and culture: she writes, thinks, speaks, builds, consults, collaborates, and facilitates globally, with a focus on infrastructure and the built environment, design, equity and inclusion, and education (particularly engineering education).

Her writing has appeared in the Atlantic, Time, the Guardian, and Nature. She appeared on Vox's "Future Perfect 2024" list of activists and thinkers working to build a more positive future, and her TED talk on infrastructure can be found online.

Roger Collins

Roger is a graduate of the University of Denver. He retired from Sears Roebuck & Company after 25 years and opened a Signal Graphics Printing franchise. He retired again in 2000 and began developing a passionate interest and hobby. During the last 23+ years, he has been involved in the study of the history, culture, lifestyles, and religions of American Indians. He has traveled extensively, spending a day to a week with various tribes throughout the United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, and Peru (Machu Picchu). He has given 16 classes concerning American Indian history with OLLI over the past 12 years. His goal is to help his class truly understand the American Indian and, in this course, their art through his knowledge, compassion, and appreciation of our brothers and sisters, the American Indian.

Natalie Conklin

Natalie has enjoyed taking and facilitating classes at OLLI since retiring from a career in education, from special education, to classroom, to media specialist, to reading teacher. Most classes she has facilitated have been in the visual and performing arts, but also in history and literature. How the social, economic, and cultural events in history affect our daily lives has always been of great interest to her, and she enjoys sharing with OLLI participants what she has learned doing her research on a wide variety of topics.

MEET OUR FACILITATORS

Hille Dais

Hille Dais grew up and completed high school in Hamburg, Germany and has lived in the United States since the late 1960s. She retired from public administration positions with the State of Colorado in 2003. Hille is an amateur pianist and enjoys symphony and chamber concerts. Hille has facilitated many OLLI courses on baroque and classical era music and composers and on European history.

Boris Draznin

Dr. Boris Draznin is currently a Professor of Medicine at the Anschutz Campus of the University of Colorado. He is an internationally renowned leader in endocrinology with a special emphasis on diabetes research and clinical practice. Dr. Draznin has been a diligent student of Jewish history for decades. He has written and published two books on various aspects of Jewish history (*Stepchildren of Mother Russia*, 2000; and *How History and Genetics Define Jewish Diversity and Identity*, 2023), while his third book describing the malevolent deeds of Jewish apostates is coming out later this year. He has been lecturing about Jewish history and the branching of Christianity from Judaism at numerous Denver-area synagogues and churches, attracting a great number of followers and widespread interest. He also lectured nationally on both the history and genetics of Jewish people.

Gloria Eastman

Gloria (Lori) Eastman enjoys bringing alive the historical and cultural backgrounds of classic literature and making the readings relevant to our 21st-century lives. She particularly delights in encouraging the varied responses of the participants as we explore the readings together. She taught high school English and journalism for 26 years in the Jefferson County Public Schools, while also earning her Ph.D. in 19th-century British literature from CU-Boulder. Recently retired, she is Professor Emerita at Metropolitan State University where she taught British literature and English education.

Susan Elliott

Susan Elliott is a Master Facilitator who has presented over 17 OLLI art history courses. She specializes in European and American art. She is a practicing artist and life-long art teacher. She taught studio art at the college level for 20 years after working in the education department of the Denver Art Museum. She is keenly interested in her students learning how to look at art. She holds a Master's degree from Stanford University.

Joy and Jeffrey Engel

Former professional dancers Joy and Jeffrey Engel trained for many years in Russian classical ballet, met in a studio in New York City, and honeymooned on an Equity summer stock tour of Carousel. Their performing careers included dancing and touring in the United States, Canada, and Europe. They have also choreographed productions and taught dance in various studios, schools, and colleges. They shared their experiences and insights into the world of ballet for 14 years with a lifelong learning program at the University of South Carolina in Aiken, and they look forward to doing the same in Denver. They always invite and appreciate comments and questions from those attending the classes.

Kent Epperson

Kent Epperson is a graduate of Denver East High School and the University of Colorado Boulder. He worked at all levels of public education and in three Denver-area school districts. He maintains an interest in history and current events and has been with OLLI for four years.

Emerson Farina

Emerson Farina is a multi-instrumentalist and composer with a passion for sharing the joy of music. He performed alongside the Colorado Symphony during his college years and has had multiple original compositions performed by a wide range of ensembles. With experience in classical, electronic, and contemporary music, Emerson brings a well-rounded and engaging approach to teaching. His goal is to make music theory and composition accessible, inspiring students of all backgrounds to explore their creative potential.

Sara Frances

Sara Frances self-defines as a photojournalist-poet. Her MA (Comparative Literature) and Poetry Collective of Lighthouse Writers Workshop combine uniquely with photographic title Master Photographic Craftsman. Her published books combine art monographs and memoir or poetry. *Unplugged Voices: 125 Tales of Art and Life from Northern New Mexico, the Four Corners and the West* is a 324-page, illustrated, four-color coffee table collection of verbal narratives from the West, each a 5-minute read—winner of 10 book awards. Her ongoing *Unplugged Voices* Project is currently in curation and edit of Colorado and Four Corners stories for the 250-150 sesquicentennial. Her photographic memoir, *Fragments of Spirit: 60 Years: A Photographer's Recollections of Taos Pueblo, the Region and its Arts*, was published in January 2021. A regular OLLI presenter, she coaches photojournalism with text; poetry, and memoir workshops; and tech photo. She has two new poetry/image books in process.

Edward Friedman

Dr. Ed Friedman holds a Ph.D. in physics and is an active lecturer on topics in physics and cosmology. He worked in for-profit and nonprofit science organizations that focused on astrophysics and space science, consulted with NASA and the National Academy of Sciences, and authored four optical engineering books and 79 professional journal articles. He was successful in guiding the work of two aerospace engineering PhD candidates. He lectures on science to adult education students at two universities, on cruise ships, and to community groups. He has extensive experience in the Osher program, including frequently teaching cosmology at the University of Denver.

Ariel Furst (Webinar Speaker)

Ariel L. Furst is an Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT. Her lab combines biological, chemical, and materials engineering to solve challenges in human health and environmental sustainability. They develop technologies for implementation in low-resource settings to ensure equitable access to technology. She completed her Ph.D. in the lab of Prof. Jacqueline K. Barton at the California Institute of Technology developing new cancer diagnostic strategies based on DNA charge transport. She was an A. O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellow in the lab of Prof. Matthew Francis at UC, Berkeley, developing sensors to monitor environmental pollutants. She is the recipient of the NIH New Innovator Award, the NSF CAREER Award, the Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, and the Sloan Fellowship. She is the cofounder of three startups and is passionate about entrepreneurship, in addition to STEM outreach and increasing participation of underrepresented groups in engineering.

MEET OUR FACILITATORS

Larry Gold (Webinar Speaker)

Larry Gold was born in 1941 in Schenectady, New York. He went to Yale to get a degree in Biochemistry in 1963, went to the University of Connecticut to get a PhD in Biochemistry in 1967, studied in New York and in Geneva, Switzerland, and moved to Boulder in 1970. He is in the department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. He has been an active biotech participant since 1981, having started five companies and a few charitable entities. One effort, the Colorado Longitudinal Study (COLS) attempts to biobank and study samples from a large cohort to improve health trajectories. Larry Hunter - a computer whiz - and Dr. Gold run an event every May called the Gold Lab Symposium (to which you are all invited, and it is free).

Linda Gordon

Linda Gordon is a retired principal of schools for both Denver Public Schools and Adams County School Districts. She was a principal for 16 years and, before that, she was a dean, coach, and Biology teacher. The reason she speaks Spanish is that she lived in Mexico City for ten years. Linda taught science at the American School and ESL at various locations in the city. She married a pro soccer player, had two kids, and got robbed four times. After the fourth time, she decided it was time to move back to the U.S. with her kids. She left that husband behind!

Tom Grant

Tom Grant is a retired technology professional and lifelong film buff. Growing up in Southern California, he eagerly consumed and studied a wide array of movie genres from all eras and countries. Film noir has always been a favorite for its impact on American culture, its significance to the film industry, its reflection of the tensions in American society, and its roots in Los Angeles, the quintessential setting for noir. Tom has also been a blogger and podcaster about popular culture and politics. You can't expect to watch a movie with Tom without talking about it afterwards.

Johnnie Hendrickson (Osher Online Instructor)

Johnnie Hendrickson, PhD, is a Teaching Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University. He holds a PhD 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.

Shellie Hochstadt

Shellie Hochstadt graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in history and a minor in political science. She was a divisional merchandise manager for a department store until 1994 when she returned to her core interest and passion for world history. She taught AP World History, AP Government, and economics until her retirement in 2010. She combines her interests in history, travel, and reading into her teaching, where she endeavors to bring a thoughtful global perspective.

Morris Hoffman

Morris Hoffman was a district judge in Denver from 1991 to 2021. He has been an adjunct professor of law at the University of Denver and University of Colorado, where he taught classes on jury history and selection, law and the biology of human nature, and law and neuroscience. He is a member of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience, the author of *The Punisher's Brain: The Evolution of Judge and Jury* (Cambridge University Press 2014), and a co-author, with four of his MacArthur colleagues, of *Brain Science for Lawyers, Judges, and Policymakers* (Oxford University Press 2024). Judge Hoffman is now writing fiction. His debut novel, *Pinch Hitting* (Black Rose Writing 2024) was short-listed for the 2024 CASEY Award for best baseball book of the year, the only novel on the list. His latest book is a novella entitled *Boy of Heaven* (Resource Publications 2025). Judge Hoffman lives in Denver with his wife Kate, who is a retired lawyer, and their two retired puppies.

Michael Holmes

Dr. Michael Holmes worked in public education for 37 years. He has taught the game of bridge for over 19 years and is a Certified ACBL Online Bridge Teacher and Audrey Grant Bridge Teacher, Gold Life Master, ACBL Certified Club Director and ACBL Certified Tournament Assistant Director, and board member of the American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA)

Charles Holt

Charlie Holt is a Platinum Facilitator with a career as an engineer in R&D and R&D management for over 35 years. He has a strong interest in science and technology as well as history and diplomacy, with a focus on key personalities shaping science and history. He holds a PhD in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, an MS, and a BS in Aeronautical Engineering. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

Tom Hughes

Tom Hughes, OLLI Diamond Facilitator, is a veteran OLLI at DU West student who has enjoyed every one of his classes. He is a lifelong learner who loves to join others in discussing the issues of the day. His background includes a varied career in the financial services industry, as well as significant experience as a volunteer in several not-for-profit organizations. Tom has a BA from CU Boulder and an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis.

Lee Kaufman

Lee Kaufman has taught music courses in continuing education for 24 years. This includes classical music listening courses in the Parkway School District and at St. Louis Community College and Chautauqua Institute. Film score composers have been included in "Music of the Movies" as well as separate courses on Broadway and Hollywood songwriters. He was founder and secretary of the North American Chapter of the Elgar Society and co-produced with Hershey Felder three plays with music: *George Gershwin Alone*, *Monsieur Chopin*, and *Beethoven as I knew him*. He had his own company for 33 years in the flooring contracting business and graduated from college with bachelor's and master's degrees in business. He lives in St. Louis, where he is married with two daughters and five granddaughters.

Douglas Kenning (Osher Online Instructor)

Douglas Kenning, PhD (University of Edinburgh), is a writer, lecturer, and former professor of literature and history. He has taught in the U.S., Tunisia, Japan, and Italy. Now based in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sicily, he offers dynamic lectures on Mediterranean civilizations and leads small-group tours exploring history, myth, and culture.

Thomas Kleinschmidt

Tom Kleinschmidt has been interested in the study of history, especially American History in the 18th and 19th centuries, for his entire life. He has read extensively on this period and visited many of the historical locations. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Kearney State College (now University of Nebraska-Kearney) and an MBA from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. After a career in financing equipment and power generation projects, both domestically and internationally, Tom retired in 2015. Since retiring, he has facilitated OLLI classes in both Albuquerque and Denver.

MEET OUR FACILITATORS

James Kunkel

James R. (Jim) Kunkel, Ph.D., P.E. is a semi-retired engineer with 57 years of domestic and international experience in hydrology and water resources. He has worked on water resources projects in 32 states and 22 foreign countries. He has lived in Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Chile during his career. His academic experience includes 17 years as an adjunct associate professor at Colorado School of Mines (CSM), where he taught graduate hydrologic engineering courses in the Department of Geological Engineering. Dr. Kunkel is the co-author of the university textbook *Unsaturated Zone Hydrology for Scientists and Engineers*, published by Prentice Hall. He has given presentations, professional technical lectures, and short courses to news media, government agencies, and professional societies in the U.S., Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Mexico. Dr. Kunkel has given lectures and courses previously at OLLI East, Central, West, Online, On-the-Move, and OLLI Webinars.

Elena Labkovsky (Osher Online Instructor)

Elena Labkovsky, PhD, is a neuroscientist and clinical neuropsychologist with over 30 years of experience in cognitive psychology and psychophysiology. She specializes in neurobehavioral modulation, integrating psychological, neuropsychological, and physiological approaches to support emotional and cognitive well-being. Her work focuses on how brain function shapes behavior and on developing innovative, research-based treatments for mental health challenges.

Lance La Certe

Lance La Certe is a retired clinical psychologist, having obtained his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Denver. Growing up in Santa Monica, CA, his parents instilled in him the love of education, travel, art, and music. An avid scuba diver, motorcyclist, skier, jazz and ska devotee, his favorite mantra is: "The more I know, the more I know what I don't know." This fuels his ever-curious mind about a multitude of subjects.

Linda Lange

Voracious reader of mystery and science fiction and enthusiastic gardener, Linda Lange is retired from teaching finance and accounting at Regis University. She created the first Mysterious Places class in 2019 to enthusiastic response and has built the series since, choosing different themes for each term and occasionally revisiting a popular theme to update author choices.

Michael Levin

Michael Levin is a Denver native with a BA from Grinnell College and an MA from the University of Colorado, both in math. He retired from Raytheon in 2006 as a Senior Principal Systems Engineer. Much of his career involved classified work related to remote sensing: ground and airborne radar, satellite payloads, and mission planning. To offset the stress at work in the mid-1980s, Michael engaged in Great Books and adult Jewish education. He inherited the leadership of a southeast Denver Great Books group in 2008. Michael has facilitated OLLI short story and Jewish text discussions.

David Lippman

David Lippman spent most of his career in educational publishing, where he held several positions, including editor-in-chief and publisher. He directed the development of texts in many subjects including history, government, science, mathematics, and literature. David earned degrees in the social sciences from the University of Southern California and the University of Chicago, and began his career doing social science research in legal areas for the American Bar Foundation. David is a long-time history facilitator for OLLI.

John Lungerhausen

John Lungerhausen, Master Facilitator, joined OLLI soon after he retired from CenturyLink in 2016, where he enjoyed a 17-year career (including US West and Qwest) as a software developer, Team Lead, and Development Manager. John and his longtime partner, Dixie, have been living in Golden with their bevy of cats since 1987. They have collaborated in putting together a number of film classes for OLLI and share a deep enjoyment of independent and foreign films, which frequently offer a far more engaging perspective than most of the typical Hollywood fare. John received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan.

Michael Mackey

Michael is a passionate scholar of religion, history and culture. He holds a BA and MA in English from Colorado State University and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. While he was trained for the ministry, he has spent his life in higher education, where he has taught English, literature, humanities, history and world religions at the college level.

Robert Magnani

Bob Magnani has attended over 130 OLLI courses and facilitated 55 classes both online and at 4 Colorado locations. His courses include Movies and Movie Making, Acting, Comedy, and Chess. He has Arts and Engineering degrees from Columbia; PhD work at NYU; telecommunications design and management at Bell Laboratories and US West Advanced Technologies; and Product Management at AT&T. Bob has seen several thousand U.S. and foreign films in his lifetime, loves theater, chess (was a member of the Manhattan Chess Club), and acting. He is delighted to be able to pursue these interests at OLLI. Bob is a Platinum Facilitator and has been an OLLI member since 2010.

Vince Markovchick

Dr. Markovchick is a former Director of Emergency Medical Services at Denver Health, where he practiced full-time for 32 years. He is a Past President of the American Board of Emergency Medicine and is a Professor Emeritus of Emergency Medicine in the University of Colorado Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Markovchick's interest in access to affordable quality health care comes from the myriad of patient encounters he has had with patients in the Denver Health Emergency Department, many who had serious illnesses and injuries but had no health insurance. He has been lecturing on this topic locally and nationally for the last 30 years. His current focus is on the unsustainable, absurdly high cost of health, much of it due to waste, fraud, and abuse on the part of private health insurers, private equity investors, drug companies, hospitals, and health care providers.

MEET OUR FACILITATORS

Anne Marshall Christner

Anne Marshall Christner, Platinum Facilitator, is fascinated by change - why it happens, its impact, and how people respond to it. Generational differences fall into that realm. Anne has facilitated many OLLI courses after careers in college teaching, adult training and consulting. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst.

Larry Matten

Larry Matten, Botanist, Paleobotanist, Elder Law Attorney, Spellbinder, Rotarian, OLLI Platinum Facilitator, has been doing movie courses since 2014. He has facilitated 24 movie courses over the years. Larry has also facilitated courses in science fiction literature, dinosaurs, human evolution, mass extinctions, evolution, fossil stories, Darwin, Fitzroy, baseball, and botany. While at The Academy, he also did courses in Estate Planning and chess. Music is one of Larry's true loves and he hopes to share it with others. Larry and his wife, Susan, enjoy traveling and visiting with their 6 children, 14 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Mac McHugh

Mac McHugh, Platinum Facilitator, joined OLLI Denver in 2011. Mac spent 38 years with the Department of Defense in the areas of accounting, auditing, and systems development. He is a lifelong movie buff and a World War II history buff and has facilitated numerous courses on technology, film, and history at OLLI.

Jim (James) McKairnes (Osher Online Instructor)

Jim McKairnes is a former CBS Television executive who writes and teaches about television history. He has taught at DePaul, Temple, and Middle Tennessee State universities, and is the author of *All in the Decade*, a book on 1970s television. Since 2020, he has taught regularly for OLLI programs across the country and currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Chris Meagher

Chris Meagher is a retired high school and university instructor. His prior and current areas of study and teaching include history, religion, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, soccer, and swimming. Chris attended Boston College, the University of Maryland, and the University of Colorado. His passions include spending time with family and friends, reading, biking, hiking, dancing, skiing, and learning.

Jerry Mercure

Jerry Mercure was an engineer in the defense industry for 35 years, where he designed, developed, integrated, tested, and maintained systems for military applications. Starting around 1982, he developed a strong affinity for Asian art and decor. He was a member of the Asian Art Association with the Denver Art Museum. More recently, he has become an avid enthusiast for Japanese prints and culture. Through OLLI, he enjoys sharing the beauty and insights of Japanese art, history, and traditions with others.

Gregory Moody

For the past 50 years, Greg Moody has been a media reporter, critic, and historian in all news radio, newspapers, online, and television. He has covered film, Hollywood history, Broadway theater, music, books, television, and news media extensively. He is the author of five novels, all available on Amazon, as well as two produced plays. He is a 1974 graduate of Western Michigan University in Theater and English. Moody is an eight-year United States Naval Reserve veteran and a former stand-up comedian. While those two career paths seem to have very little in common, he has made a number of admirals laugh at Navy dinners.

Kirsten Morgan

Kirsten Morgan is an OLLI Master Facilitator and graduate of the 2-year Poetry Book Project at Lighthouse Writers. Through this experience and a variety of workshops with well-known poets, she has fallen deeply in love with the art and craft of this unique genre. She has published in many journals and is the author of award-winning *Inside Out*, a book of poems honoring homeless women at The Gathering Place, a day shelter where she taught a weekly writing class for ten years.

Hal Morris

Since taking an undergraduate seminar on William Faulkner, Hal Morris has had an abiding interest in his fiction. He has been reading about Faulkner and his works ever since, taking graduate coursework and twice attending the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference in Oxford, MS. Happily retired from the practice of natural resources and bankruptcy law, Hal has been an OLLI enthusiast since 2018. He grew up in Evergreen, and holds degrees from Rice University and the University of Colorado.

Sydney Myers

Sydney Myers, OLLI Platinum Facilitator, is a former retail executive who lived in Mexico for seven years. She returned to Denver in 2006.

Richard Passoth

Mr. Passoth is returning as a Master Facilitator with OLLI. He has two master's degrees: MDiv, MEd. He practiced as a licensed psychotherapist in Denver. He has facilitated 5 courses for OLLI, including a prior deliberation on health care, similar to his upcoming Winter course.

Patricia Paul

Patricia Ann Paul, an OLLI Diamond Facilitator, feels the remarkable career of Robert Redford deserves a celebration due to his deep commitment to cinematic craft and innovation. From unforgettable moments like Sundance's admission, "I can't swim," to the crisp crunch of snow beneath David Chappellet's skis, replacing the musical score, Redford's performances have always challenged the norm. She marvels at his ability to transform a meticulous journalistic investigation like *All the President's Men* into a riveting thriller, and she's struck by the prescient final line of *Quiz Show*: "I thought we were gonna get television. The truth is, television is gonna get us." In a fitting capstone, Redford's final film, *Old Man and the Gun*, came exactly sixty years after his TV debut role. Over eighty years old, he performed his own stunt driving and wore his own clothes, a testament to the artistry and authenticity that defined his work. Here's to Robert Redford!

Mark Payler

Mark A. Payler is a practicing Colorado landscape, street, and travel photographer. With over five decades of photography and teaching experience, Mark's work has been highlighted in the landmark book, *A Day in the Life of American*, as well as the featured double-page photo spread in the 50th anniversary issue of *Popular Photography* magazine. Mark's Route 66 travel photography was also presented in a portfolio-style spread in *Route Magazine*. Mark has extensive travel and photography experiences in Italy, Iceland, Great Britain and Wales, Costa Rica, Jamaica, New York City, various locations in the American Southwest, the greater Yellowstone National Park region, as well as throughout Colorado. Mr. Payler's photo projects include photographing musical performances for Denver's premier jazz club, creating a photographic gallery experience at a new bank location on Pearl Street Mall in Boulder, as well as experimenting with in-camera and post-production generative and AI techniques.

MEET OUR FACILITATORS

Dave Peters

Dave Peters holds a BS in Computer Science and an MS in Telecommunications Engineering. With a strong technical background, Dave combines analytical skills with a passion for creative pursuits. Outside of work, Dave enjoys reading, watching good movies, and indulging in woodworking. He and his spouse, Susan, also share their home with two loyal dogs, adding a warm and lively presence to everyday life.

Susan Peters

Susan Peters spent her career in IT. With a master's degree in telecom, she became a telecommunications consultant, working for Big 5 consulting firms before becoming independent. Literature has been a passion, and Susan likes to facilitate classes featuring notable books. Another passion has been fostering dogs, including newborn litters. She and her husband, Dave, have taken in almost 200 mainly retriever dogs.

Lynn Peyton

Dr. Lynn Peyton is a (mostly) retired geophysicist with over 25 years exploring for oil and gas. Lynn obtained her PhD in tectonics from the University of Arizona where her research focused on the Rocky Mountains. She has facilitated several classes for OLLI since 2019, including The Oceans, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, How Your City Works, Earth - the Big Picture, and Science Potpourri. She served as the STEM chair for OLLI Denver Central during 2022 and 2023.

Michael Prevedel

Michael is a retired educator at the high school and college levels. He has a BA in History and an MA in International Relations. He has offered numerous classes for OLLI, mostly in the realm of religion. His passions and interests are reading, fly fishing, biking, and being a grandfather to twins. In addition, on a part-time basis, a friend and Mike had a stained glass business called the Lucky Horseshoe Company. Their biggest commission was windows for a chapel in Crestone, Colorado.

Dan Putman

Dan Putman is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy. He received his BA from Marquette University, his MA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and his PhD from the University of Southern California. Dan taught Philosophy for 37 years at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, a freshman-sophomore branch of the UW. (Since his retirement in 2011, UW-Fox Valley has become part of UW-Oshkosh.) Dan has published over 40 articles in Philosophy. He and his wife, Elaine, have two children, one in New York City and the other in Boulder. Dan started teaching OLLI courses in winter 2013 for OLLI-UA in Green Valley, Arizona. In 2014, he and Elaine moved from Wisconsin to Colorado to be near the grandchildren. He has facilitated courses for OLLI at DU since 2015.

David Rand (Webinar Speaker)

David Rand is a Professor of Information Science, Marketing and Management Communications, and Psychology at Cornell University. He uses computational social science and cognitive science to explore how human-AI dialogue can correct inaccurate beliefs, why people share falsehoods, and ways to reduce political polarization and promote cooperation. He has published over 200 articles, including in top journals like Nature, Science, and PNAS. Rand has advised companies such as Google, Meta, Twitter, and TikTok on improving online information quality and labeling AI-generated content, as well as the U.S. and UK governments. He has received numerous awards, including Wired's "50 People Who Will Change the World" and Poets & Quants' "Best 40-Under-40" Business Professors.

Richard Reinish

Dick Reinish, OLLI Platinum Facilitator, is a retired antitrust lawyer, which required that he learn about various industries from nuclear power to cat litter. Dick has given several classes on both documentary and foreign films, as well as current events, with an abundance of positive comments about both his film selections and his current events discussions.

Myra Rich

Myra Rich grew up in Detroit, received her B.A. from Radcliffe College and PhD in History from Yale University. She taught initially at Hunter College and, after moving to Denver, at the University of Colorado-Denver. Her primary interest is American history from the Colonial period to the Civil War, but she also teaches the history of women in America and the history of immigration to the United States.

Betsy Schwarm

With a background in classical radio, pre-performance talks, and university teaching, Betsy Schwarm has developed a user-friendly approach to sharing her enthusiasm for great music. The Colorado Symphony declared her an "icon" of the business, and she has been Opera Colorado's performance speaker for over twenty years. Listeners to the vintage KVOD Radio 99.5 FM, "The Classical Voice of Denver," came to value what she said and how she said it. Music lovers who wish to know more of what goes on behind the notes, how this great music came to be, and how to listen to it more effectively regularly find that Betsy Schwarm is exactly what they need.

Mark Scott

Mark Scott is a Denverite who has published three collections of poetry. He taught English literature and language in colleges and universities from 1987 until 2024. He was a professor at Nara Women's University in Japan from 2012 to 2025.

Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski

Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski, with his wife, is the co-director of Chabad at DU, a Jewish campus ministry. Rabbi Yossi is a popular teacher of adult education in the wider Jewish community and is excited to remain with the OLLI team of lifelong learners.

Jacqui Shumway (OLLI FIT Facilitator)

Jacqui Shumway, MA Therapeutic Kinesiologist/Living Younger Longer Institute. Having researched and taught T'ai Chi Chuan and Medical Qigong for over 25 years Jacqui Shumway, M.A. is dedicated to the joy of active living. She combines western therapeutic kinesiology (preventive physical therapy) with Medical Qigong healing exercises from China and the meditational martial art of T'ai Chi. An old Chinese saying is that "The greatest healer is a teacher," and Jacqui is a master teacher... who also loves to have fun! Dedicated to providing students with compelling information on health issues coupled with ancient wisdom, Jacqui inspires students to have fun taking control of their own health through her compassionate attention to mindful healing through physical movement.

Patty Smilanic

Patty Smilanic loves reading novels. Short stories, not so much. Becky Stout changed that attitude when they co-facilitated a magical realism short story course. Patty learned to appreciate the artistry of the short story. Amor Towles description of the short story increased her appreciation of the "shorts." She was surprised by how much she enjoyed reading and researching the 8 shorts and 2 commentaries for this course.

MEET OUR FACILITATORS

Timothy Steele

Dr. Steele's career encompasses 59 years in water-quality hydrology and regional assessments of water resources. During 40 years as a consultant, he has managed many multidisciplinary projects and has directed hydrologic baseline and modeling studies for water-resources planning and management studies, as well as coal mining, oil-and-gas properties, minerals mining, and several oil-shale projects. He has consulted on numerous projects dealing with groundwater contamination, aquifer and lake/reservoir restoration, tailings disposal, hazardous waste management, design and evaluation of hydrologic monitoring networks, pollution-control plans, water-quality stream standards and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) assessments, and regional/international groundwater planning and integrated water-resources management (IWRM). His professional career has included overseas experience in 13 foreign countries. Over a recent period (2000-2006), Dr. Steele conducted numerous block (short) courses dealing with concepts of integrated watershed approaches, global water issues, and climate change at two German universities and through OLLI in Denver and Ann Arbor (invited).

Mitchell Stewart

Mitchell Stewart received his BA in International Studies from The American University and his master's in Public Administration from Harvard University. He spent 16 years with the State Department and then 21 years with the Bureau of Reclamation (Interior Department) before retiring. He began taking OLLI courses in 2010 in lieu of returning to graduate school, and started facilitating in 2014, leading seminars in political and moral philosophy with occasional side trips into political theory and intellectual history. In addition to taking OLLI courses, he sits in on political theory courses at DU's Korbel School of International Studies and philosophy courses at DU's Philosophy Department. He is a member of the Hunting Working Airedales, Inc., though he does not hunt, and his Airedale does not work.

Steve Swenerton

Steve Swenerton has a BA in Political Science and an MBA in International Business. He served 3 years as a U.S. Coast Guard officer. He managed sales and marketing departments for three different residential building products companies in the U.S. for a total of 40 years. And he served as an international sales and marketing consultant in Asia, Australia, and South America for 7 years. He has traveled to over 50 countries on business and for pleasure. Steve has taught over 500 classes for Active Minds, 4 for OLLI, and 3 for Boulder JCC.

Larry Tannenbaum

Larry Tannenbaum, Master Facilitator, was a practicing attorney in Colorado for 43 years, 27 of those as a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Colorado Attorney General's Office. In the latter part of his career, Larry specialized in real estate litigation. Throughout his career, Larry tried a number of cases. Upon retiring, Larry gravitated to one of his lifelong interests - music. He spends a considerable amount of his time reading music-related books and reviewing electronic media about music and artists. He also spends countless hours listening to music and watching videos. Larry's passion is music and history, and he has presented a number of OLLI classes that are music (and history) related. For a number of years, Larry has focused on the origin of The Blues and its evolution into a number of musical genres that followed.

Dean Tebbe

Dean Tebbe studied computer science and film at the University of Colorado Denver, while building a 35-year career in network engineering and management. He is an avid reader with a wide range of interests including: geopolitics, human ecology, climate, and science fiction. Dean currently spends his time volunteering and permaculture gardening.

Lisa Theis

(OLLI FIT Facilitator)

Lisa has been a student of yoga since 2000 and has been teaching yoga in the Denver area since 2008. She has taught in numerous studio settings as well as corporate offices, gyms, and fitness centers. She owns and operates Third Eye Yoga in Littleton, CO and leads trainings, retreats, and workshops domestically & internationally. Her classes are a beautiful combination of appropriate body alignment in asana (postures) and the deeper wisdom of yogic thought she has learned from her studies with myriad master teachers. She encourages everyone to find their own unique way to practice, as yoga is meant to be an exploration of the body, mind, and spirit. She is most influenced by the teachings of Para Yoga and the Sri Vidya tradition. Lisa's most heartfelt intention is to use the teaching of yoga to help point you back to your inner light and wisdom, which is the source of all understanding & knowing.

Carol Lynn Tiegs

Carol Lynn Tiegs is a dedicated history buff. A tour docent for History Colorado, she holds master's degrees in German Studies and in Journalism from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She has taught German at CU-Boulder and Public Relations at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her communications background includes time as a reporter/editor for local, national, and international publications as a public, community, and government relations coordinator for Kaiser Permanente; running a film festival in Crested Butte; and as executive director of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association. She loves delving into the history of every area she finds herself in.

Alec Tsoucatos

Alec Tsoucatos, PhD, was born to Greek parents in Alexandria, Egypt, a day before Pearl Harbor in 1941. He attended a primary British school in Alexandria and finished junior and senior high school in Athens, Greece. Alec has lived in Egypt, Greece, England, and America. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from UC Berkeley and his PhD from CU Boulder under the tutelage of Kenneth Boulding. Alec's main interests are in new economics, progressive politics, integrative medicine, positive psychology, and mystical Christianity.

Susan VanScoyck Simon

Susan is captivated by the use of words in poetry, literature, and languages—especially poetry, where each word has a special role. She's written poetry and studied its craft for many years and has taught several poetry classes with Kirsten Morgan. As to her past lives, ages ago she finished a BA in Asian Religions and, after receiving her MD, launched a long career in Child Psychiatry.

Mitra Verma

Mitra Verma is an art educator, artist, and craft designer. She received a Bachelor's in Fine Arts and completed her master's from a distinctive handicraft design institute in India. Mitra creates because she loves and wants to feel colors, forms, and nature in her creations. Working in various mediums, she creates paintings celebrating the Indian culture and tradition with distinctive, colorful designs, which are treated with religious and mystical motifs and patterns. Mitra is a self-motivated, conscientious, passionate artist, and for the past twelve years she has held classes and workshops in painting and crafts. She is eager to share her love of art with students who want to venture into new areas.

MEET OUR FACILITATORS

Dixie Vice

Dixie Vice, Master Facilitator, retired in 2015 from state and federal government where she worked as a computer programmer/analyst and has been taking OLLI classes in Music, Literature, and Film ever since. Her background includes a degree in Anthropology from CU with an effective minor in Film Studies. Her interest in Foreign Films began at 16 when she was finally old enough to be admitted to the art film theatres in Indianapolis. She lives with her longtime partner, John, and their 3 orange kitty boys, Jimmy, Eddie, and Sparky.

Joel Voelz

Joel Voelz is a retired Professor of Economics, co-founder of two AI software firms, 20+ year executive in the electronics and software industry, and avid long-distance cyclist. A life-long learner himself, he has had several “careers” starting in the semiconductor, consumer electronics and computer aided design software market. Along the way he co-founded two successful software firms based on AI research. At 62, he decided to follow up his interest in Economics and returned to school for a graduate degree in Economics and then spent the next 8 years teaching Economics at two San Francisco universities. His cycling journeys include two successful completions of the 1200 Kilometer (750 mile) Paris-Brest-Paris cycling event. Education: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, BS 1975; University of Chicago, MBA 1978; San Francisco State University, Master's/Economics 2017.

Sally Walling

A long-time middle school and high school English instructor, Sally Walling has a lifelong passion for diversity in Art in all its guises, whether it be painting, movies, and all forms of literature. By studying the greats of the past and the present with others, she hopes to find the light at the end of the tunnel that will guide us to a way to live peacefully together!

Eric Walters

Eric Walters has more than eighteen years of experience advising high-net-worth families and managing portfolios. Eric is the co-founder of Summit Hill Wealth Management, a registered Investment Advisory firm that provides comprehensive financial planning and portfolio management services to high-net-worth families, endowments, foundations, and retirement plans. Eric has served in leadership positions in national investment firms where he helped lead the Rocky Mountain region and served on investment strategy committees overseeing more than \$200 billion of client assets. Eric graduated Magna Cum Laude from Columbia University. He is a CFA Charterholder and a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER TM professional. Eric has been quoted in numerous publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *MarketWatch*, *Investment News*, *TheStreet.com*, *Financial Planning Magazine*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and the *Denver Business Journal*. He enjoys hiking, cycling, camping, skiing, and paddleboarding with his three teenage children.

Barbara Werren

Barbara Werren was born in New Orleans. She moved to Colorado when she was 14 and rapidly adopted the Colorado lifestyle, becoming an avid skier, hiker, biker, and traveler. She has hiked on all 7 continents and traveled to 100 countries. She has been on both sides of the travel business, having been a hiking and skiing guide for adventures in the mountains of the world and, more recently, a participant in less strenuous journeys with Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT - 33 trips), Roadsolar, Viking, Vantage, etc. Barbara has combined her passion for travel with her passion for photography. She is a noted travel journalist, giving travel presentations to groups throughout Colorado. As much as she has seen the world's most beautiful and interesting places, she realizes her great fortune in living in the very best place, our beautiful state, Colorado!

Wilson Wiedenheft

Wilson Wiedenheft has degrees in electrical engineering, master's in business administration, and Master's of Science in geology. After spending most of his engineering career directing software and hardware development programs at Motorola, Wilson retired in 2012 to finally engage with his love for science. His interest and research have ranged broadly and are reflected in the classes he has taught for OLLI at DU since 2016, which include physics, cosmology, geology, and the history of science. His passion is making the complex and fascinating topics of science accessible to the curious general public.

Gary Wyngarden

Gary Wyngarden has a BA from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Loyola University. His career was spent in the health care industry and included tenure as CEO of a \$2 billion company. He is a Diamond Facilitator with OLLI, co-chair of the OLLI South Curriculum Committee, and a member of the Executive Advisory Council.



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THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO

OLLI at DU is strengthened by the committee volunteers who generously share their time, expertise, and experience to guide our organization. Your dedication makes a meaningful difference. Thank you.

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