OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

OLLI

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



OLLI@DU / 2027

WINTER CATALOG

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OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE | UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Welcome to OLLI at DU

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

At the heart of OLLI at DU is a welcoming community of curious learners. Whether you enjoy in-person classes or the convenience of learning from home, you'll find opportunities to explore new ideas, share experiences, and connect with others who value lifelong learning.

With locations across the Denver metro area and a wide range of virtual offerings, OLLI at DU makes it easy to stay engaged, inspired, and connected. OLLI at DU is part of a national network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes supported by The Bernard Osher Foundation.

OLLI at DU Staff

Visit our website at olli.du.edu/olli/about/#staff to learn more about the people behind OLLI at DU.

OLLI at DU Main Office

College of Professional Studies at the University of Denver
University Hall, 2197 S University Blvd., Suite 323, Denver, CO 80210
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–1 PM, Closed Friday
Phone: 303-871-3181 **Email:** olli@du.edu

OLLI at DU Class Locations

Get Directions: **Click here** to view our in-person locations on Google Maps.

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

DU Campus
University of Denver,
2197 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80208
(On-campus locations may vary)

Golden
Common Flame
14350 W. 32nd Ave.
Golden, CO 80401

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

Broomfield
in partnership with the City and County of Broomfield
Broomfield Community Center
280 Spader Way,
Broomfield, CO 80020

Online
Hosted on Zoom

Osher Online
Offered nationwide through the National Resource Center for OLLI at Northwestern University



REGISTRATION

Before registering for courses and programs, you'll need to create an account and purchase a 2026–2027 annual membership. It's quick and easy!

New to OLLI? Start Here.

1. Go to olli.du.edu
2. Click the **gold Member button** in the top right corner and select **Create Account**
3. Complete the form and save your **username** and **password** for future use

Returning Member? Welcome Back!

1. Go to olli.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 olli.du.edu.

Purchase Your Annual Membership

In the registration portal, click the **Purchase a 2026–2027 Annual Membership** button to purchase your membership.

Choose your Courses and Programs

To register for courses and programs, use the menu to search by day, subject, or location. 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? Email us at olli@du.edu.



OLLI Courses

At the heart of OLLI at DU is an **expansive lineup of engaging courses offered each year across eight subject areas and three academic terms.** Courses are available both online and in person and are led by passionate facilitators who bring deep knowledge, lived experience, and infectious curiosity into the classroom. Whether you're exploring something new or diving deeper into a longtime interest, OLLI courses are designed to spark learning, conversation, and connection.

Osher Online

Take your learning beyond DU with Osher Online—an exclusive opportunity for OLLI at DU members. These **six-week online courses** are developed by the Osher National Resource Center at Northwestern University and taught by distinguished instructors from Osher Institutes across the country. **Each course includes weekly 1.5-hour live Zoom sessions** and offers the **chance to connect with a national community of lifelong learners.** OLLI at DU membership is required. Registration and course fees apply. Osher Online classes are non-refundable.

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 themselves with the online platform used to deliver these courses. Sessions are live and not recorded, so plan to attend each week for the full experience.

Friday STEM Webinars

Friday **STEM webinars** are a member favorite—and **free for OLLI at DU members**. Held on **Zoom Friday mornings from 10–11:30am**, these live presentations feature esteemed speakers exploring captivating topics in science, technology, engineering, and math. Join fellow members for thought-provoking ideas, fresh perspectives, and lively Q&A, all from the comfort of home.

OLLI Fit Classes

Stay active, energized, and connected with **OLLI Fit classes—free for OLLI at DU** members. These fun, dynamic **Zoom-based classes** are designed for adults who want to improve fitness, maintain mobility, and enjoy movement in a supportive environment. **Classes are held Monday through Thursday mornings from 8–9am.**

OLLI on the Move

Take learning out into the community with OLLI on the Move—featured off-site **courses held throughout the Denver area**. These special offerings highlight local destinations, experiences, and expertise. OLLI membership is not required, so feel free to bring a friend. Registration and course fees apply.

OLLI Travel

OLLI Travel offers **members-only group travel experiences** designed for curious minds and adventurous spirits. From destinations across the U.S. to journeys around the globe, these thoughtfully curated trips blend cultural exploration, learning, and community. Travel with fellow members, deepen your understanding of the world, and create meaningful shared experiences along the way.

Shared Interest Groups

Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) are a vibrant and member-driven part of the OLLI community. Organized and facilitated entirely by OLLI members, SIGs bring people together around **shared hobbies, passions, and interests**—without the structure of a traditional course. Join a SIG to connect with others, explore what you love, and strengthen your OLLI experience.



Course Content Disclaimer

OLLI at DU is committed to lifelong learning that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, open dialogue, and the facilitation of free expression through the respectful exchange of ideas. The views and opinions expressed by facilitators and guest speakers are their own and not those of OLLI at DU or the University of Denver. The inclusion of a course does not constitute endorsement by OLLI at DU or the University of Denver. We encourage members to engage thoughtfully and to participate in respectful dialogue in a manner that does not unduly interfere with communication between the facilitator/guest speaker and members.

Registration Fees (2026–2027)

8 week courses:	$70	4 week courses:	$50
7 week courses:	$65	3 week courses:	$40
6 week courses:	$60	2 week courses:	$30
5 week courses:	$55	1 week courses:	$15

Special Events, Osher Online, Webinars, and Weekends

Special Events, Osher Online, Weekends, 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.

Monday AM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/25–3/1	Functional Healthspan: Measuring What Matters	Fulton	Osher Online	20
1/25–3/1	Gilded Age New York	Kocurek	Osher Online	33

Monday PM

no classes on MLK Day (1/18)

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/11–2/8	So You Want to Walk the Camino! (Hybrid)	Petty	DU Campus & Online	49
1/11–2/8	Why Democracies Fail	Ortlieb	Online	49
1/11–2/8	Great Composers of the String Quartet	Lauscher	Broomfield	59
1/11–3/8	Climate Change: Where Do We Go from Here?	Edelstein	Online	55
1/11–3/8	Matinee at the Bijou: Film Noir, Part 4	McHugh	Online	59
1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 3/1	The Pre-Raphaelites: Writers, Painters, and the Victorian Avant-Garde	Eastman	DU Campus	38
2/8–3/1	A Place at Amor's Table	Smilanic	Online	40
2/8–3/1	Reclaiming the Women of Greek Mythology	Steele-Inama	DU Campus	41
2/15–3/8	Understanding AI: System Components, Capabilities, and Human Touch Points	Ortlieb	Online	58

Monday Evening

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/25–3/1	Broadway Musicals: A Fascinating History	Abramovits	Osher Online	64
2/1–3/8	The Power of Introverts	Bingham	Osher Online	54

Tuesday AM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/12–2/16	Music, History, and the Lives of Composers Edition 3.0	Dais	Golden	60
1/12–2/2	Turning Points: The Stories That Shape Our Lives	Boerstler	Online	34
1/12–2/2	Understanding Personalities: The 7 Archetypes that Shape Relationships	Kennedy	DU Campus	50
1/12–3/2	AI Data-Center Impacts on Water, Energy, Minerals, and the Socio-Environment	Kunkel/Steele	Golden	55
1/12–3/2	Human Knowledge and the World We Live In	Putman	Online	50
1/12–3/2	Left, Right, Center: Examining Issues	Epperson	DU Campus	45
1/12–3/2	The Reawakening Dragon	Wyngarden	Online	46
1/19	The U.S. Healthcare System: Choices, Trade-Offs, and Access	Royle	DU Campus	21
2/2–3/2	Landscape Photography CANCELED	Vega	Online	65

Tuesday PM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/12	Understanding Personal Coaching for Seniors	Weinbaum	Online	18
1/12–2/16	Democracy and the Baltic States	Bowen	Golden	45
1/12–2/16	Lyndon Johnson: Larger Than Life	Gravlee	Denver	23
1/12–2/16	On the Road to Facilitating an OLLI@DU Course	Hyatt	DU Campus	42
1/12–2/16	The History of Quantum Mechanics	Friedman	DU Campus	56
1/12–2/9	Jewish History and Christianity: Common Roots and Intertwined Branches	Draznin	Denver	51

Tuesday PM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/12–3/2	1950s America: Politics, Pop Culture, and Weird Science CANCELED	Holt	Online	22
1/12–3/2	Building the First Transcontinental Railroad	Jones	Online	22
1/12–3/2	Law and Neuroscience: Six Cases, Six Challenges	Hoffman	DU Campus	56
1/12–3/2	Music Lounge	Moore	Online	60
1/12–3/2	Song and Dance, Part 2: The Movie Experience	Matten	Online	61
1/12–3/2	The Vietnam War (Part 2) 1968-1985 (Hybrid)	McHugh	DU Campus & Online	23
1/12–3/2	*Unsung Heroes of World War II*	Bennett	Denver	24
1/12–3/2	What Is Socialism, Really? Part 2: Beyond Propaganda and Distortion	Hughes/ Tsoucatos	Golden	25

Tuesday Evening

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/12–1/26	Earth-Centered Deathcare: Your Final Act of Stewardship	Simmons	Online	18

Wednesday AM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/13–2/17	Chatting In Spanish for Intermediate and Advanced Students	Gordon	Denver	35
1/13–3/3	Bridge Basics II: Competitive Bidding	Holmes	Online	43
1/13–2/24	Imperialism and War: 1890-1939	Hochstadt	Denver	27
1/13–2/3	Constructing Your Story: Memoir Writing and The Color of Water	Smilanic/Stout	Littleton	35

Wednesday AM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/13–2/3	Great TV Sitcoms That Changed America	Sieke	Broomfield	61
1/13–3/3	50 States of Wonder: Discovering America	Conklin/ Bramley	Littleton	26
1/13–3/3	Current Events	Reinish/Myers	Denver	46
1/13–3/3	Explore Colorado with the CPR Postcards!	Petty	Online	26
1/13–3/3	Great Decisions 2027	Brovarone	DU Campus	47
1/13–3/3	Shakespeare: Murder, Mayhem, Mystery, Mirth, and Monarchy	Moody	Littleton	36
1/13–2/17	The Reconstruction Era: America's First Attempt to Form a Multiracial Democracy	Edelman	DU Campus	27
1/13–3/3	What Is Socialism, Really? Part 2: Beyond Propaganda and Distortion	Tsoucatos	Denver	25
1/13–3/3	What Tales These Buildings Tell	Tiegs	Online	28

Wednesday PM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/13–3/3	Bridge Play of the Hand and Defense Clinic	Holmes	Online	43
1/13–2/17	Current Economic Issues: Facts and Fallacies	Sahling	Online	29
1/13–2/17	Walt Whitman: The Great American Poet	Melillo	DU Campus	36
1/13–2/3	Beautiful Italy—My Four Favorite Regions in Pictures	Huber	Littleton	42
1/13–3/3	Buddhism: Finding Wisdom in the Everyday	Prevedel	Denver	52
1/13–3/3	Confronting Power: Films About People Who Fought the System	Howe	Littleton	28

Wednesday PM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/13–3/3	Eight Classic Films	Reinish	Denver	62
1/13–3/3	Great Decisions 2027	Tebbe	Littleton	48
1/13–3/3	Journeys: Learning Through Travel	Werren	Online	44
1/13–3/3	The French Revolution—Why Do We Still Care?	Mackey	Denver	29
1/20–3/3	*The Four Winds*, a Historical Novel by Kristin Hannah	Lambert/ Peters	Online	40
1/20–3/3	What the BLEEP Do We Know About Theoretical Physics?	Gilbert	Denver	58

Wednesday Evening

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/13–2/3	How Healthy Is Our Healthcare? The Cost of Our Health System	Markovchick	Online	19
1/20–2/24	Paper Trails: The History of US Mass Media Ownership	Nappo	Osher Online	31

Thursday AM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/14–2/18	Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance - Guest Speaker Series (Hybrid)	Young/Aucone	DU Campus & Online	57
1/14–2/18	Top Movie Composers and Their Film Scores	Magnani	Online	62
1/14–3/4	*Mean Spirit* by Linda Hogan: A Novel of the Osage and their Fight for Survival	Batt/Batt	Online	37
1/14–3/4	London Calling: When a Sense of Unity and Common Purpose Triumphed	Baker	DU Campus	30
1/14–3/4	Mysterious Places: MusicLand	Lange/Corona	Online	37

Thursday AM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/21–2/25	Folk Singers, the FBI, and the Second Red Scare	Leonard	Osher Online	32
1/28–3/4	If Einstein Climbed Everest: Alexander von Humboldt's Hero's Journey to South America	Simon	Osher Online	32

Thursday PM

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/14–2/25	50+ Years of Mind-Blowing Research on Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) & What Awaits Us After "Bodily Death"	Arapakis	Online	20
1/14–3/4	Across the Divide: Friendship on Film	Vice/ Lungerhausen	Online	63
1/14–3/4	Bestselling Books as Social Protest in U.S. History	Christner	Online	38
1/14–3/4	Creating Our Social Safety Net	Rich	Online	31
1/14–2/18	Modern Cosmology	Friedman	Online	57
1/14–3/4	Political Theory Part II: Judith Shklar's Political Thought	Stewart	DU Campus	53
1/14–3/4	Understanding Heathcliff: *Wuthering Heights* and Its Many Adaptations	Walling	DU Campus	39
1/28–3/4	Embodying the Inner Truth: The Films of Denzel Washington	Blumberg	Osher Online	65

Thursday Evening

Dates	Title	Facilitator	Location	Page
1/21–2/25	50 Years of *Star Wars*	DiPaolo	Osher Online	63
1/21–2/25	Deaf Culture and History	Cooper	Osher Online	53

Webinars

Date	Title	Presenter	Location	Page
1/15	When Parts Cannot Wait: Manufacturing at the Point of Need	Blane Fillingim	Online	68
1/22	The Role of Botanic Gardens in Saving Biodiversity	Jennifer Ramp Neale	Online	68
1/29	What Genes Tell Us About the Sense of Smell	Tatsuya Tsukahara	Online	69
2/5	Interstitial Spaces: The Implications of Another Multi-Scale, Body-Wide System of Fluid Flow	Rebecca Wells	Online	69
2/12	From Drones to DNA: The Value of Technology and Science in Law Enforcement	Ron Thomas	Online	70
2/19	When Mountains Move: An Odyssey to a New Vision of Planetary Change	James Balog	Online	70
2/26	How Are Vaccines Developed? Lessons from Development of a Vaccine Against Dengue Fever	Gilad Gordon	Online	71
3/5	The Record-Smashing 2026 Water Year in Colorado and the West	Russ Schumacher	Online	71

OLLI Fit

Day	Dates	Title	Location	Page
Monday	1/11–3/8	Meditation in Motion: The Art and Science of Tai Chi	Online	66
Tuesday	1/12–3/2	Gentle Hatha Yoga	Online	66
Wednesday	1/13–3/3	Medical Qigong: Healing Exercises from China	Online	67
Thursday	1/14–3/4	Breath, Meditation, and Community	Online	67





Understanding Personal Coaching for Seniors

Online | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Marvin Weinbaum
Location: Online **Member Price:** $15

Elite athletes, business leaders, musicians, and performers often rely on coaches to help them reach their goals, overcome obstacles, and perform at their best. Why should coaching stop at retirement or be limited to performance goals? This engaging two-hour seminar explores how personal coaching can help older adults navigate life's transitions, clarify priorities, pursue meaningful goals, and find greater satisfaction in retirement. Whether you're adjusting to retirement, considering new opportunities, strengthening relationships, improving well-being, or simply seeking more purpose and fulfillment, coaching offers a structured, supportive partnership focused on your growth and success. Participants will learn what coaching is (and isn't), how the process works, and the benefits of having a trusted thinking partner. Real-life examples will illustrate how coaching can help people move from feeling stuck or uncertain to taking purposeful action.

Earth-Centered Deathcare: Your Final Act of Stewardship

Online | Tuesday Evening | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–1/26 **Time:** 6:30–8:30 PM
Facilitator: Elizabeth Simmons
Location: Online **Member Price:** $40

For those who have spent a lifetime caring for the planet, the final chapter can reflect the same values. This class explores earth-centered end-of-life options available in Colorado, including terramation (transforming human remains into nutrient-rich soil), water cremation, and natural green burial. Participants will compare the environmental impact of each choice alongside conventional burial and cremation, learn what makes a funeral truly eco-conscious, and discover meaningful eco-rituals such as laying-in and laying-out ceremonies. We'll also discuss how planning ahead lets you make informed, values-aligned decisions and ease the burden on loved ones. Presented from an environmental stewardship perspective, the class leaves you with practical knowledge and a fresh view on leaving a net-positive legacy.

How Healthy Is Our Healthcare? The Cost of Our Health System

Online | Wednesday Evening | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/3 **Time:** 6:30–8:30 PM
Facilitator: Vince Markovchick
Location: Online **Member Price:** $50

These four interactive sessions include lectures, group discussions, and online readings and videos. Session one examines the state of U.S. healthcare and insurance options (Medicaid, Medicare, Medicare Advantage, VA, and private) and compares health systems and quality measures in the U.S. and other developed nations. Session two traces the $5.3 trillion the U.S. spends annually on healthcare, where the money comes from and how it's allocated, and explores why America spends twice as much per capita as other developed countries yet leaves millions uninsured or underinsured. Session three is a two-hour deep dive into the more than $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.





50+ Years of Mind-Blowing Research on Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) & What Awaits Us After "Bodily Death"

Online | Thursday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–2/25 **Time:** 1–3:30 PM
Facilitator: Maria Arapakis
Location: Online **Member Price:** $65

What happens to human consciousness when we die? In 1975, 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 heartwarming 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.

Functional Healthspan: Measuring What Matters

Osher Online | Monday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/25–3/1 **Time:** 9–10:30 AM
Facilitator: Scott Fulton
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60

This hands-on course explores healthspan, the length of time a person lives in good health, through the lens of functional ability. We will examine how strength, endurance, mobility, flexibility, and cognition support independence and quality of life. Each session will blend evidence-based instruction with active self-assessments to help identify personal blind spots. By the end of the course, we will develop a personalized 12-week plan for building and maintaining function in daily life.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1203487177?fl=ml&fe=ec

The U.S. Healthcare System: Choices, Trade-Offs, and Access

In Person | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/19 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Melissa Royle
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $15



Why does the U.S. healthcare system spend more on healthcare than many other developed countries yet continue to struggle with affordability and access? How did we develop such a complex mix of employer-sponsored insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and private health plans?

This course explores how our healthcare system evolved through decades of decisions, legislation, and changing expectations about the responsibilities of individuals, employers, and government. We'll examine how longstanding U.S. values emphasizing individual choice, private enterprise, and limited government intervention have shaped our approach to healthcare – and how that approach compares with some healthcare systems in selected European countries. We'll also explore Medicare and Medicare Advantage, how hospitals are paid, the challenges facing rural healthcare, and the relationship between insurance coverage and meaningful access to care.

Through discussion and international comparisons, participants will consider the trade-offs between cost, choice, access, and collective responsibility – and ask a fundamental question: If we were designing our healthcare system today, would we create the one we have?



1950s America: Politics, Pop Culture, and Weird Science

Online | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Charles Holt
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Beneath the calm, conformist exterior, new ideas and attitudes were percolating. This was the decade of McCarthyism, Levittown, and men in gray flannel suits. But the 1950s also saw bold architectural styles, the rise of the paperback novel and the Beat writers, CinemaScope and film noir, television variety shows, the golden age of the automobile, subliminal advertising, fast food, Frisbees, and Silly Putty. Meanwhile, teens took on a more prominent role in American culture with hot rods, rock 'n' roll, preppies and greasers, and—gasp—juvenile delinquency. At the same time, the threat of nuclear war lurked beneath the surface of the postwar decade. Here were the beginnings and stirrings of the social, political, and technological upheaval that led to the turbulent '60s.

CANCELED

Recommended Readings: *Welcome to Mars—Politics, Pop Culture, and Weird Science in 1950s America*, by Ken Hollings. The material will also be supplemented by excerpts from the book *American Popular Culture Through History: The 1950s* by William H. Young with Nancy K. Young, Greenwood Press, 2004.

Building the First Transcontinental Railroad

Online | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Stewart Jones
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

On July 1, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act authorizing construction of a transcontinental railroad, but building didn't begin in earnest until the Civil War ended in 1865. In many ways, the project was comparable to the effort to put people on the moon in the 1960s. It faced huge challenges: political, logistical, technical, financial, demographic, organizational, and labor-related. This course will explore how each of these challenges was met to complete the railroad in four years and how the project changed America forever.

Required Reading: *Nothing Like It in the World* by Stephen Ambrose

Lyndon Johnson: Larger Than Life

In Person | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–2/16 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Glenn Gravlee
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $60

Whether you loved or despised him, you have to admit that LBJ was a memorable president and a unique character. This six-week course will trace his 64 years, beginning and ending in the Texas Hill Country. LBJ spent almost 40 years in Washington, D.C., rising from Congressional Aide to President by way of the offices of Congressman, Senator, and Vice President. He was a legislative titan as both Senator and President, yet this towering figure was slowly felled by the Vietnam War and by the Black American unrest he had worked so hard to contain.

Recommended Reading: Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*. An optional reading list will be provided to class registrants.

The Vietnam War (Part 2) 1968-1985 (Hybrid)

In Person | Online | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Mac McHugh
Location: DU Campus & Online **Member Price:** $70

Vietnam—the name brings memories back to many of us. In Part 2, we start with the new year—1968. It brings the pivotal battle that changed the war, Tet. After Tet everything changed. Cronkite briefed America. President Johnson refused to run for re-election. Riots in the streets of Chicago were on TV. Finally, a new President was elected. From now on the U.S. goal was not victory but an honorable peace. But wait...it wasn't that easy. Years of conflict still faced the nation. Places like Khe Sanh, the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Cambodia, Vietnamization and the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong would happen before the Paris Peace Conference bore fruit. We will wrap up the class with the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, which officially ended the war. We return for a visit 10 years later.

Note: This course is offered in a hybrid format, presented in person and online simultaneously. When registering, you must select one attendance method: In-Person OR Online. Switching between attendance methods during the course is not permitted.





Unsung Heroes of World War II

In Person | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Becky Bennett
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $70

Unsung Heroes of World War II is a series of twelve 30-minute lectures from The Great Courses, presented by historian Lynne Olson. Each lecture focuses on one or more people who influenced the war but are little known to history: Andrée de Jongh; the Tory rebels who helped bring Churchill to power; Victor de Laveleye; Queen Wilhelmina and King Haakon; Polish pilots and the Battle of Britain; Wendell Willkie; the Earl of Suffolk and heavy water; Marie-Madeleine Fourcade; John Winant; Marian Rejewski and the Enigma code; Tommy Hitchcock and the P-51 Mustang; and three Dutch sisters who saved a general. In addition to the lectures, we will discuss other individuals and groups who affected the outcome of the war but have since been lost to history.

Recommended Reading: *The Freedom Line* by Peter Eisner and *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell

What Is Socialism, Really? Part 2: Beyond Propaganda and Distortion

In Person | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitators: Alec Tsoucatos, Ralph Hughes
Location: Common Flame **Member Price:** $70

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Alec Tsoucatos
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $70

This course continues the exploration we began in fall 2026. In Scandinavia and in FDR's New Deal, leaders recognized the toxic shortcomings of capitalism as an economic system and addressed them through reform. We'll follow these efforts, which yielded good results but were incomplete because they did not address the underlying structure of capitalism. We still suffer from instability in the form of business cycles, destruction of the environment, and poisonous levels of income and wealth inequality. We'll bring these shortcomings to life by examining and contrasting the Scandinavian countries and the New Deal. We'll also look at how these very successful programs continue to be threatened by various political forces.

Recommended Readings: Booklets on Capitalism and Socialism published by the Heritage Foundation





50 States of Wonder: Discovering America

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitators: Natalie Conklin, Sue Bramley
Location: Columbine United Church **Member Price:** $70

If all you remember from studying the 50 states is geography and capitals, have we got a class for you! Did you know that the world's largest ball of twine is in Cawker City, Kansas? That in Minnesota it's illegal to grease a pig for a pig-catching contest (Statute 343.36)? That Illinois's official state snack food is popcorn? Colorado is famous for the Rocky Mountains, world-class ski towns, and craft beer, but what are the 49 other "inferior" states famous for? In eight fun weeks, we'll share trivia, historical facts, and stories you never knew you needed to know: unusual laws, bizarre places to visit, famous and infamous people, state symbols, traditions, foods, songs, and more. We hope you'll leave with a new appreciation for all our diverse country has to offer.



Explore Colorado with the CPR Postcards!

Online | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Christine Petty
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Do you listen to Colorado Public Radio (CPR)? Do you smile, or think, "I didn't know that!" when you hear a Colorado Postcard? Using selected Postcards as a starting point, we will delve deeper into Colorado history and explore the state's peoples, animals and plants, culture, geography, and unique stories. Each week will focus on a different Postcard theme, building on the Postcards we listen to in class. The last class (weather permitting) will be a walking tour of downtown Denver, visiting some of the places we discussed along with a few new sites.

Imperialism and War: 1890-1939

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/24 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Shellie Hochstadt
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $65

By 1890, the territorial ambitions of Europe's imperial powers were leading the world toward war. World War I ushered in the modern world and created a host of complications—from the autocratic rule of Kaiser Wilhelm II and Czar Nicholas II to the rise of Lenin, Mao, and Hitler. The Great Depression and ensuing political chaos created instability in world leadership and a struggle to find a peaceful path into the 20th century. Join the facilitator for a journey through the years from 1890 to 1939, a period that continues to shape today's world.

The Reconstruction Era: America's First Attempt to Form a Multiracial Democracy

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/17 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Jim Edelman
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $60

The end of the Civil War brought a period of great hope and peril. America needed to heal, rebuild, and provide justice after bitter conflict. Enslaved people were emancipated, but what would it mean to be free? What social, economic, and political rights would they have? What about accountability for those who led the rebellion, many of whom continued to pursue its goals? Reconstruction was the nation's first attempt at multiracial democracy (though only for men). About 2,000 freedmen held office across the South, including hundreds of state legislators, 14 congressmen, and two senators. White supremacists fought back through voter suppression, falsely disputed elections, and massacres sanctioned by local law enforcement, while the courts undermined legislation. Sound familiar? Rev. William Barber, Henry Louis Gates Jr., and others argue we are in a new Reconstruction era. Perhaps this history can help us strengthen our democracy and pursue freedom for all.



What Tales These Buildings Tell

Online | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Carol Lynn Tiegs
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Explore Denver through the stories preserved in its architecture. The city has more than 350 historically designated buildings and 60 historic neighborhoods, each offering a distinctive view of the Denver that came before us. Over eight weeks, photo-filled presentations will introduce the city's oldest buildings, major architectural styles, intriguing residents, and the forces that have shaped its growth and change. Topics will include the city's women, artists, architects, immigrant groups, civic passions, and politics. The course will also explain Denver's historic preservation process, trace its history, review current preservation activities, and include conversations with Historic Denver representatives. No reading is required; participants will receive reference lists and summaries of each class segment.

Confronting Power: Films About People Who Fought the System

In Person | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 12–3 PM
Facilitator: Larry Howe
Location: Columbine United Church **Member Price:** $70

Can one individual change history? Through eight acclaimed films, we examine people who challenged systems of political, racial, economic, and colonial power. In *Good Night, and Good Luck*, Edward R. Murrow confronts McCarthyism. In *Selma*, Martin Luther King Jr. challenges Jim Crow. Corporate pollution is exposed by *Erin Brockovich*. *Michael Collins* portrays the struggle for Irish independence, while *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* follows the decades-long fight against apartheid.

We explore why individuals resist authority, the strategies they employ, and why some movements succeed while others fail. Background readings provide historical context for each film and the conflict it portrays. Our discussions return to a central question: Does history change because of exceptional individuals—or because circumstances and movements make change possible, perhaps inevitable?

Current Economic Issues: Facts and Fallacies

Online | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/17 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Leonard Sahling
Location: Online **Member Price:** $60

This course will cover six key economic issues: the current slowdown in economic growth, economic inequality, the United States' mounting national debt, the United States' inefficient health care system, soaring prescription drug prices, and immigration. We'll explore questions such as these: Is the current slowdown in U.S. economic growth a temporary lull or the beginning of prolonged economic stagnation? What is driving the United States' widening income inequality? What's wrong with big government deficits and a growing national debt? Why does the United States spend so much more on health care than other high-income countries, and is it getting its money's worth? Why do prescription drugs cost so much more in the United States than in other industrialized countries? What are the benefits and costs of immigration to U.S. citizens, and do the benefits outweigh the costs?

The French Revolution—Why Do We Still Care?

In Person | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Michael Mackey
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $70

When you catalog the events that have created our complex, contradictory world, the French Revolution is certainly near the top of the list. This political, economic, and cultural crisis shattered the late medieval world into incoherent fragments, offered hope for a just and equitable society, and unleashed the terrors of communal and dictatorial violence that rival, and perhaps prefigure, the disasters of the twentieth century. In short, our world, with all its possibilities, paradoxes, and struggles, was born in the streets of Paris in the late eighteenth century. Through multimedia lectures and Socratic discussion, we will trace the origins, central events, and ongoing implications of this pivotal era.





London Calling: When a Sense of Unity and Common Purpose Triumphed

In Person | Thursday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Natalie Baker
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $70

Wartime London became the capital of the free world and a home away from home for many architects of the Western alliance, among them Americans who stood with Britain to overcome U.S. isolationism, exiled European monarchs and statesmen, pioneers of broadcast journalism, resistance operatives, and soldiers from occupied countries who risked everything to reach Britain and continue the fight against the Nazis. The history of this era meets great storytelling in the character-driven work of Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud. Olson's *Citizens of London* is the required, foundational text for a broader inquiry into forming alliances against unimaginable odds. How World War II ended is no mystery. Getting there, however, required that "sense of unity and common purpose" to withstand the siren songs of personal ambition and power, nationalist superiority, and blinding confidence. Together, we will bring this historic alliance to life and explore lessons it offers for policymaking today.

Required Reading: *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour,* by Lynne Olson

Recommended Movies: *Darkest Hour: A Man with the Heart of a Nation; The King's Choice; Pressure: The Untold True Story of D-Day; de Gaulle: Resistance, Part I* (assuming timely US access).

Creating Our Social Safety Net

Online | Thursday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Myra Rich
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

This class will trace our nation's journey from the expansion of settlement houses in the late 19th century to the Social Security Act of 1935. The rapid spread of industrialization, coupled with massive immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe at the end of the 19th century, precipitated a wave of reform efforts. Men's and women's groups, labor unions, and a few government agencies tried to find ways to help the growing number of working poor in American cities. Questions about whether the poor were "deserving" or "undeserving," along with deeper questions about the respective roles of governments and charitable associations, permeated public conversations. How Americans of opposing beliefs answered those questions will be the subject of our discussions.

Paper Trails: The History of US Mass Media Ownership

Osher Online | Wednesday Evening | Register ↗

Dates: 1/20–2/24 **Time:** 5–6:30 PM
Facilitator: Caroline Nappo
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60

In this course, we will trace the history of American journalism and examine how control of the press has shifted, from political patrons and penny-press advertisers to broadcast regulators, cable moguls, and today's social media platforms. We will consider how these changes shaped journalism's relationship to democracy and public trust, while developing a more critical eye for the structural forces that influence news coverage and the institutions working to sustain journalism as a public good.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1204193591?fl=ml&fe=ec

Folk Singers, the FBI, and the Second Red Scare

Osher Online | Thursday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/21–2/25 **Time:** 9–10:30 AM
Facilitator: Aaron Leonard
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60

Some of the 20th century's most prominent folk singers, including Woody Guthrie, Sis Cunningham, Pete Seeger, and Burl Ives, were also political activists with ties to the American Communist Party. As a result, the FBI and other organizations kept meticulous files on them and worked to push them from the cultural realm. Through music, video, news clippings, and Freedom of Information Act records, we will explore these artists and the surveillance and suppression they faced.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1184907897?fl=ml&fe=ec

If Einstein Climbed Everest: Alexander von Humboldt's Hero's Journey to South America

Osher Online | Thursday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/28–3/4 **Time:** 9–10:30 AM
Facilitator: Eric Simon
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60

Learn about the incredible life and career of Alexander von Humboldt, Prussian naturalist, mountaineer, polymath, and the era's second most famous European (after Napoleon). Humboldt's journey to South America (1799-1804) was a ground-breaking accomplishment. We will discuss how his reports from this trip rippled throughout society, affecting politics, history, science, and art. We will explore how his work is an excellent example of consilience: how science and art can intersect to reveal truths about the natural world.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1189444925?fl=ml&fe=ec

Gilded Age New York

Osher Online | Monday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/25–3/1 **Time:** 9–10:30 AM
Facilitator: Adam Kocurek
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60



The Gilded Age continues to captivate the public imagination, with glamour and excess that inspire both fascination and critique. In this course, we will trace this transformative era across nearly half a century, examining how it reshaped the U.S. socially, culturally, and economically. With a focus on New York City, we will discuss the people, scandals, places, and trends that defined the period and why they still matter today.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1205909490?fl=ml&fe=ec



Turning Points: The Stories That Shape Our Lives

Online | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–2/2 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Heidi Boerstler
Location: Online **Member Price:** $50

"You're never going to kill storytelling, because it's built in the human plan. We come with it." —Margaret Atwood

If someone asked you to describe a turning point in your life, what would you say? Why is story our preferred way to describe experience, often over images, dates, and places? In this class, we explore turning-point narratives from a diverse group of ordinary Americans in an ongoing study of storytelling. You will meet participants such as Patrick, Hannah, Margaret, and James, each of whom defied the odds, declaring, "I'm bigger than they say I am." We'll consider how older adults, looking back on their lives, made sense of the world, economics, and life decisions at turning points, and what those moments mean in the context of culture, race, gender, and social ecology. Participants are welcome to share their own stories. Come discover how story unites us all.



Chatting In Spanish for Intermediate and Advanced Students

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/17 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Linda Gordon
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $60

This course combines reading, writing, and speaking Spanish, with the goal of having students converse in Spanish for the entire session. We will use *Spanish Verb Tenses* (fifth edition), *Spanish Conversation*, and *Spanish Short Stories* to support practice, verb usage, and conversation. Participants need to bring only *Spanish Verb Tenses*; the facilitator will provide exercises from the other books. Each lesson begins with an explanation of when and how a particular verb tense or expression is used. Participants then practice the new material in conversation with each other, supported by additional reading, writing, and speaking exercises. Every class offers time for questions. Learning another language takes time and a lot of practice, but once you no longer have to translate in your mind, you are on your way to fluency. The emphasis is on communication in both formal and informal Spanish.

Required Text: *Spanish Verb Tenses* by Dorothy Richmond (5th edition)

Constructing Your Story: Memoir Writing and *The Color of Water*

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitators: Patty Smilanic, Becky Stout
Location: Columbine United Church **Member Price:** $50

Everyone, including YOU, has an origin story. A unique story informed by familial, geographical, environmental, historical, and cultural memories. Prompted by his editor, James McBride detailed "his memories" in a Mother's Day article (1981) published in the Boston Globe. Over the years, he developed it into *The Color of Water* (1995), a tribute to his white mother. Join us as we read and discuss *The Color of Water* and explore origin stories with writing prompts inspired by McBride.

Note: This is a reading and writing course. Participants are encouraged but not required to read their writing in class.

Required Reading: *The Color of Water* (1995) Riverhead Books.



Shakespeare: Murder, Mayhem, Mystery, Mirth, and Monarchy

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Greg Moody
Location: Columbine United Church **Member Price:** $70

You endured him in high school. He was constantly shoved under your nose. You read him, struggling with every sentence, and prayed you would at least land a C by the end of the semester. But then, for a lucky few, it clicked. You understood the rhythm. You recognized the ambition, lust, and true love at the heart of the story. These were no longer dead people in tights; they were friends, family, and neighbors, all struggling with their lives and emotions. Discover the man behind the Bard and why we are so lucky to still have him.

Recommended Readings: *Shakespeare* by Bill Bryson; *Introduction to the First Folio* (selected reading); *The Millionaire and the Bard: Henry Folger's Obsessive Hunt for Shakespeare's First Folio* by Andrea Mays

Recommended Films: *Henry V* (1944), directed by and starring Laurence Olivier; *Shakespeare: The Man Who Pays the Rent* by Judi Dench and Brendan O'Hea

Walt Whitman: The Great American Poet

In Person | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/17 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Neil Melillo
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $60

This class will provide an overview of *Leaves of Grass*, with intense emphasis on "Song of Myself." Participants should expect to experience Whitman's poetry as an entirety, to discuss Whitman's influence on American poets of the 20th century, and to discover the sources of Whitman's voice and personality.

Required Reading: *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman, any edition

Mean Spirit by Linda Hogan: A Novel of the Osage and their Fight for Survival

Online | Thursday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitators: Don Batt, Gracie Batt
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

At once history, magical realism, and murder mystery, *Mean Spirit* tells the tale of two Native American families during the Oklahoma oil boom of the early 1920s. The author, Linda Hogan, is a Chickasaw poet, novelist, and essayist. Born in Denver, Hogan has taught at the University of Colorado and the Indigenous Education Institute. The class will read the book together and discuss its characters and themes in depth, as well as how it affects us as readers.

Required Text: Paperback edition of *Mean Spirit,* published by Ballantine Books in 1992 (available on Amazon and at local booksellers). Please purchase the book before the class begins.

Mysterious Places: MusicLand

Online | Thursday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitators: Linda Lange, Thomas Corona
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Mysteries featuring musical instruments, songwriting, bands, and one bird. Classical to grunge by way of blues, bluegrass, and rock and roll. Facilitators Linda and Tom share the lead in this course. After Linda guides our book club discussions of these musical mysteries, Tom takes us backstage to delve further into instruments, composition, and songwriting (and who gets credit), recording, performance, and the music business. Read a few books or all of them—your choice! Either way, join the discussion, and we'll discover new authors and learn something new about music together.

Bestselling Books as Social Protest in U.S. History

Online | Thursday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Anne Christner
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Times are troubling. What can you do? How about a provocative book for a better grasp of an issue and possible solutions you can get behind? You could seek more information, and people and groups you could join to change things. You could vote for candidates who champion your cause.

Such actions have been repeated frequently in U.S. history, and we have book authors to thank. It is writers and their books we will examine in this course, including their impact on change in attitudes, behaviors, and public policy that address specific social problems. Starting with *Common Sense* (1776), we will examine 14 books – mostly fiction – published during the 19th and 20th centuries to see that dynamic playing out repeatedly. (No need to read them all!)

The Pre-Raphaelites: Writers, Painters, and the Victorian Avant-Garde

In Person | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 3/1 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Lori Eastman
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $50

Rossetti, Holman Hunt, Millais, Burne-Jones, Morris, and Ruskin were among an avant-garde group of painters and writers who resisted the industrialization and moral absolutes of Victorian England. Naming themselves the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (1848) in order to emphasize their allegiance to a medieval and pre-industrial England, their paintings are sensual and aesthetic. Much of their writing might also be described as "painterly." William Morris features the myths of King Arthur, and Christina Rossetti infuses "Goblin Market" with fable-like mystery. They intertwined their lives and female models and wives in scandalous ways, while also creating paintings and poetry of lasting beauty.

Required Reading: *The Pre-Raphaelites from Rossetti to Ruskin*, Dinah Roe, editor, Penguin Classics paperback. 2010. ISBN 978-0-141-19240-6.

Recommended Texts: Art books from personal or public libraries.

Understanding Heathcliff: *Wuthering Heights* and Its Many Adaptations

In Person | Thursday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Sally Walling
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $70

When did you first hear the name Heathcliff, and why does he remain one of literature's most compelling characters? Published in 1847, 14 years before the start of the American Civil War, Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* introduced readers to the unforgettable Heathcliff, Cathy, Hindley, Edgar, Isabella, and others against the haunting backdrop of the Yorkshire moors. Over the decades, this Gothic tale has inspired more than 30 film and television adaptations. In this eight-week, discussion-based class, we will read the novel, explore its enduring characters and themes, and watch excerpts from several adaptations, including the newest version. Join us with an open mind—and be ready to share your perspective!

Required Reading: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, Penguin Classics
ISBN 978-0-141-43955-6





The Four Winds, a Historical Novel by Kristin Hannah

Online | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/20–3/3 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitators: Susan Peters, Pat Lambert
Location: Online **Member Price:** $65

Set in the 1930s during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, *The Four Winds* centers on Elsa Wolcott Martinelli, an unloved young woman who finds belonging after marrying into a farming family in the Texas Panhandle. When relentless drought and catastrophic dust storms ravage the land, Elsa's husband abandons the family, and her young son falls critically ill with dust pneumonia. Facing starvation and grief, Elsa makes the perilous journey west to California with her two children in search of work and a better life. Instead of the promised land, they find squalid migrant camps, brutal exploitation by agricultural growers, and hostility from locals. Pushed to the brink, Elsa transforms from an insecure outsider into a fierce protector, ultimately standing up for workers' rights and finding her voice to fight for her family's future and dignity. Throughout this course, we'll discuss the novel section by section, exploring its portrait of the Dust Bowl migration, its historical roots, and the questions it raises about resilience, family, and justice.

Required Reading: *The Four Winds*, a book by Kristin Hannah

A Place at Amor's Table

Online | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 2/8–3/1 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Patty Smilanic
Location: Online **Member Price:** $50

Rumor has it that Amor Towles' next novel, scheduled for a September 2027 release date, features two characters from *Table for Two* (2024). He refuses to identify them whenever asked. Who could those two characters be? Towles explains the title of *Table for Two*; accordingly, the stories contain a conversation between two characters at a kitchen table. Those conversations become pivotal in the characters' lives. Let's prepare for Towles' 5th novel by reading and discussing *Table for Two*. Which characters, whose lives have been altered by a kitchen-table conversation, are the focus of his next opus?

Required Reading: Amor Towles, *Table for Two: Fictions* (2024)

Reclaiming the Women of Greek Mythology

In Person | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 2/8–3/1 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Marley Steele-Inama
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $50

Women in Greek myth have been sidelined and ignored, betrayed, or cast as monstrous and vengeful, and for thousands of years their stories have been misunderstood. Guided by these women's own narratives, this course traces the origins of their mythic reputations and considers how their stories might be reclaimed. Each week centers on a new theme: women villainized as "monsters" for surviving trauma (Medusa and Scylla); women scapegoated for the ambitions and desires of men (Pandora and Helen of Troy); and women whose power made them seem a threat to the world around them (Circe and Medea). Our final week turns to Clytemnestra, whose classical role as the treacherous wife brings together every theme of the course. Throughout, we will ask three central questions: Why were these women villainized in the first place? How does knowing their fuller stories change the way we see Greek mythology? Can we reclaim these stories through a feminist lens?

Consider traveling to Greece with OLLI this May! Click the flyer below, sign up for this amazing travel opportunity, and enjoy this course FREE! Discover the myths, legends, and stories of ancient Greece before experiencing the places that inspired them firsthand.



On the Road to Facilitating an OLLI@DU Course

In Person | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–2/16 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Candace Hyatt
Location: DU Campus **Price: FREE**

Whether you are new to OLLI at DU or have taken several OLLI classes, if you've ever wondered, "Would I or could I ever facilitate an OLLI class?" this course is for you! Together, we will explore possible topics to teach, investigate the developmental characteristics of lifelong learners, consider how to facilitate classes for them, develop skills for managing productive and inclusive classroom participation, discover current research-based resources to enhance your topic, and build your understanding of the course proposal process. Classroom experiences with seasoned facilitators, peer critiques of proposals, and optional class presentations will give you the confidence and expertise to begin a rewarding and renewing facilitation journey. This class is open to all OLLI members interested in facilitating and is free of charge.

Beautiful Italy—My Four Favorite Regions in Pictures

In Person | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/3 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Curtis Huber
Location: Columbine United Church **Member Price:** $50

We will visit four regions of Italy: the Dolomites, the Amalfi Coast, Southern Italy, and Tuscany and the Cinque Terre. This photographic journey, based on the facilitator's travels through Italy over the last 10 years, will include narration on geology, architecture, food, and some history. We will focus more on villages and the countryside than on large cities. There will also be time for group discussion so that participants who have traveled to Italy can share their knowledge.

Bridge Basics II: Competitive Bidding

Online | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Michael Holmes
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Bridge Basics II is for people new to bridge, those returning after time away, and current players who want a refresher. The class meets online on Wednesdays for eight weeks, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and combines direct instruction with play of bridge hands on the Shark Bridge app.

An additional $20 fee for course materials and online bridge access is payable to the facilitator by the second class. To remain enrolled, payment must be received by that time.

Bridge Play of the Hand and Defense Clinic

Online | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Michael Holmes
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Bridge Play of the Hand and Defense Clinic is designed for members who have some bridge experience and helps the participant to develop play of the hand techniques and improved defense strategy. Each class, participants will be engaged with supervised play on either play of the hand or defense strategy. After the hand has been played, the facilitator will lead a discussion and demonstration of the important strategies leading to success with each hand. Participants will work on subjects such as promotion and length, using the finesse, entries, trumping and discarding, defensive signals, leading through strength up to weakness, interfering with declarer, and making your defense plan.

An additional $20 fee for course materials and online bridge access is payable to the facilitator by the second class. To remain enrolled, payment must be received by that time.

Journeys: Learning Through Travel

Online | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Barbara Werren
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Facilitator Barbara Werren loves sharing the beauty of the world with you! Whether you're eager to travel and want ideas for future trips or you're an armchair traveler who enjoys seeing our beautiful world, you'll enjoy this class. If you share the facilitator's concern about "overtourism," we'll discuss that problem, too. We will also explore how AI has affected our travel choices and travel photography.



Democracy and the Baltic States

In Person | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–2/16 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: John Bowen
Location: Common Flame **Member Price:** $60

The eastern edge of the Baltic is home to young democracies caught up in the post–Cold War struggle between Russia and Western Europe. Finland has a long-established national identity. Lithuania was a great power in the Middle Ages but fell into the crosshairs of empires and was crushed out of existence, only to be reimagined at the end of World War I. Its independence was snuffed out by the Soviet Union, and it reemerged as an independent state in 1990. Kaliningrad, once Königsberg, the great fortress of the Prussian state, was annexed by the Soviet Union and is now a Russian exclave isolated by the decline of Russian power. What are the region's prospects for an independent future, and what salient features do these places share? This course will address these questions.

Left, Right, Center: Examining Issues

In Person | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Kent Epperson
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $70

Each week, we will look at one or more newsworthy topics from multiple perspectives. We will use a number of resources, including the AllSides app, to review the top arguments from different viewpoints on major issues of the day. This class focuses on analyzing positions, not on persuading people to accept one solution. As we examine three or more perspectives on each topic, we will try to identify the strongest and most vulnerable arguments adherents use to justify their positions. In many ways, this course is an extension of previous courses on National Issues Forums. The class encourages discussion and sharing.

The Reawakening Dragon

Online | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Gary Wyngarden
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Will China overtake the United States as the world's leading superpower? China's extraordinary economic growth and military modernization have made it the principal challenger to American global leadership. This course examines China's rise from Deng Xiaoping's market reforms in 1978 to Xi Jinping's drive for national rejuvenation and expanded global influence. We will also explore the 3,000-year cultural and historical traditions that continue to shape China's political values and worldview. Topics include the tension between individual rights and the common good, China's ambitions toward Taiwan and the South China Sea, the difficulties facing minorities such as Tibetans and Uyghurs, and the implications of China's rise for the United States and the world. Classes will include lectures, videos, and discussion.

Current Events

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitators: Richard Reinish, Sydney Myers
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $70

This course takes a **distinctly progressive perspective** on current affairs. The first hour of each session is devoted to discussing the week's events, opening with a recap of the previous week's news. The facilitator will lead this recap in the first week, and in the following weeks, two class volunteers will take turns recapping the previous week's events. The second hour focuses on discussion of a specific topic.

Great Decisions 2027 (DU Campus)

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Dennis Brovarone
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $70

In Person | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Dean Tebbe
Location: Columbine United Church **Member Price:** $70

Great Decisions is a program of the Foreign Policy Association and is new each year. High-quality educational materials are prepared and provided to discussion groups in cities and universities throughout the United States. On each topic there will be a chapter describing the current issues around the selected topic and a video of background information and relevant interviews with world leaders and scholars.

Topics:

1. American Foreign Policy and the Future of Multilateralism
2. American Options in the Middle East
3. The Future of Germany in Europe and the Atlantic World
4. U.S.–China: The Case for Engagement
5. Brazil and the Global South: Confronting a New America
6. AI and American Choices
7. Energy Security: Challenges for American Foreign Policy
8. Organized Crime in the Americas

Required Book: *Great Decisions 2027 Briefing Book*, available from the Foreign Policy Association. https://fpa.org/product/great-decisions-briefing-book-2027-pre-order/





So You Want to Walk the Camino! (Hybrid)

In Person | Online | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/11–2/8 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Christine Petty
Location: DU Campus & Online **Member Price:** $50

We will learn what a pilgrimage is and the history and myths of the Camino de Santiago. We will also learn about how to prepare, plan, and pack for walking the Camino de Santiago and about the various Camino paths in Spain and Portugal and in Europe, as well as some of the other world pilgrimages.

Note: This course is offered in a hybrid format, presented in person and online simultaneously. When registering, you must select one attendance method: In-Person OR Online. Switching between attendance methods during the course is not permitted.

No class 1/18.

Why Democracies Fail

Online | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/11–2/8 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Terry Ortlieb
Location: Online **Member Price:** $50

This course is designed to help us understand the real issues facing democracy, rather than the manufactured issues pushed by the media and today's political parties. It is not a polemic for or against fascism or authoritarianism. The goal is to provide foundational principles of democracy that will help participants see past the distractions surrounding most issues presented on social media. The good news: we will work from a four-page summary of Francis Fukuyama's 688-page book *Political Order and Political Decay*. The better news: the class is designed for neither the red team nor the blue team; instead, it focuses on the philosophical principles of a working democracy. The best news: the class will shine light on possibilities that put us in the driver's seat for future political decisions.

No class 1/18.

Human Knowledge and the World We Live In

Online | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Dan Putman
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Many of the ideas we take for granted today about knowledge and the world have a long history in philosophy, which has been a central way of exploring what and how we know, what science is about, and how humans understand themselves. This course will look at three of the greatest Western philosophers—Aristotle, David Hume, and Immanuel Kant—and their strikingly different approaches to knowledge. We will then spend five classes examining how their ideas bear on important questions today: free will, the nature of consciousness, modern science, and (over two classes) the challenge quantum physics poses to what we can know and how we understand the world.

Understanding Personalities: The 7 Archetypes that Shape Relationships

In Person | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–2/2 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Tyson Kennedy
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $50

Archetype Profiling explores seven personality types and how they influence communication, relationships, behavior, and emotional responses. Participants will gain a deeper understanding not only of the people around them but, more importantly, of themselves and who they authentically are. Through this course, participants will identify personal strengths, recognize weaknesses, and learn practical tools for improving communication, reducing conflict, and building healthier relationships. The class encourages greater self-awareness, compassion, and respect for individuality without judgment or the need to change others. Participants can expect to leave with increased confidence in their interactions, stronger communication skills, and a new perspective on human behavior that they can apply immediately in everyday life.



Jewish History and Christianity: Common Roots and Intertwined Branches

In Person | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–2/9 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Boris Draznin
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $55

The origins of the Judeo-Christian values that cemented the foundation of Western civilization must be studied and understood if they are to be preserved. This lecture series covers Jewish history and its complex relationship with Christianity, addressing major points of intersection, both positive and negative, while emphasizing that the two faiths share more than divides them. Topics include biblical and post-biblical Jewish history through the First and Second Temple periods, the diaspora, the birth of Christianity, and the interplay between church and synagogue in antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and modern times. The goal is to build a better understanding of shared history and values and to construct bridges to a common future.

Recommended Readings: *Jews, God, and History* by Max I. Dimont; *A History of the Jews* by Paul Johnson; *Jesus: A Life* ***by A. N. Wilson***; and *Constantine's Sword* by James Carroll.



Buddhism: Finding Wisdom in the Everyday

In Person | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Michael Prevedel
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $70

This course invites participants to explore how Buddhist teachings can illuminate ordinary experiences, large or small: struggling with change, reacting to criticism, or wanting things to go our way. Participants will engage with central Buddhist ideas such as mindfulness, compassion, impermanence, and interdependence. Rather than treating Buddhism as a distant philosophy or religious tradition, the class asks how Buddhist wisdom can help us respond more skillfully to the pressures and possibilities of contemporary life. The course welcomes people of all religious, spiritual, and secular backgrounds. It combines talks, short readings, and personal reflection through discussion, questions, and journaling.

Required Reading: *The Dhammapada: The Buddha's Path of Wisdom* by Acharya Buddharakkhita. Price $14.95 in paperback. Please have the book by the first session.



Political Theory Part II: Judith Shklar's Political Thought

In Person | Thursday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Mitchell Stewart
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $70

This course continues our exploration of Judith Shklar's work, focusing on two of her most important books: *Ordinary Vices* and *Faces of Injustice*. *Ordinary Vices* expands on arguments she first presented in her essay "The Liberalism of Fear." Her focus is political: the "vices" that political and community structures visit upon citizens, especially those at the margins. In *Faces of Injustice*, she explores injustice as a discrete political conception, not merely a negative counterweight to justice or even its mirror opposite. She argues that injustice requires a different perspective and a type of narrative distinct from that of justice. There is no prerequisite for this course; however, new participants should be familiar with the essays that anchored Political Theory, Part 1. Contact the facilitator for access to these essays.

Required Readings: *Ordinary Vices*, Judith Shklar (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1984); *Faces of Injustice*, Judith Shklar (Yale University Press, 1990)

Deaf Culture and History

Osher Online | Thursday Evening | Register ↗

Dates: 1/21–2/25 **Time:** 3–4:30 PM
Facilitator: Matthew Cooper
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60

In this course, we will introduce key aspects of Deaf Culture in the United States and explore what defines the Deaf community as a cultural minority. We will examine cultural identity, group norms, social interaction, values, and traditions, while emphasizing awareness, diversity, and language preservation. We will investigate how modern technology shapes community life, along with emerging issues, trends, and advocacy. We will also discuss communication, terminology, educational alternatives, legislation, and community resources.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1139062445

The Power of Introverts

Osher Online | Monday Evening | Register ↗

Dates: 2/1–3/8 **Time:** 5–6:30 PM
Facilitator: Jeri Bingham
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60

"Introverts are hermits. Introverts don't like people. Introverts can't hold a conversation." In this course (a repeat Osher Online offering), we will unpack these myths and explore introversion as a misunderstood personality type. We will discuss the power of introverts, the exhaustion of masking as extroverts, and the stigma attached to the word itself. Together, we will consider how introverts and extroverts can better understand, support, and honor one another.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1204617329?fl=ml&fe=ec





Climate Change: Where Do We Go from Here?

Online | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/11–3/8 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Ron Edelstein
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

The course will first answer some basic questions about climate change: Is it real? Is it human-caused? What are the consequences and tipping points? This course will examine the history and use of fossil fuels, renewable and other zero-carbon options, actions by major players such as the U.S. and China, geoengineering approaches, alternatives such as adaptation and resilience, and the consequences of overshooting the Paris Agreement targets of 1.5°C and 2°C. Finally, we will run the En-ROADS climate solutions model, in which you will act as climate czars making choices to reduce global temperatures.

No class 1/18.

AI Data-Center Impacts on Water, Energy, Minerals, and the Socio-Environment

In Person | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitators: James Kunkel, Timothy Steele
Location: Common Flame **Member Price:** $70

States and counties across the U.S. are actively luring artificial intelligence (AI) data centers with tax breaks, electricity, water, land, and other incentives, hoping to claim new municipal revenue and a piece of AI's explosive growth. The stakes are high, because data centers are truly resource-ravenous. Even a midsize data center consumes as much water as a small town, and larger ones use up to 5 million gallons a day—as much as a city of 50,000 people. Powering and cooling their rows of server racks also takes considerable electricity: a conventional data center, such as one supporting cloud storage or video streaming, draws as much power as 10,000 to 25,000 households. This series of OLLI sessions will examine AI data centers' demands for water, energy, minerals, and land, as well as their potential environmental and social impacts, with examples from around the world, the state, and our local community.

Law and Neuroscience: Six Cases, Six Challenges

In Person | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Morris Hoffman
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $70

Can neuroscience change how the law judges human behavior, evaluates evidence, and assigns responsibility? Could discoveries in brain development affect criminal responsibility and sentencing? Can brain imaging help establish that even mild traumatic brain injury can result in permanent injuries? Can neuroscience reliably detect deception? Through six real legal cases, each paired with a neuroscience paper, this course will examine these questions, and in the process, we'll explore how neuroscientific discoveries might challenge some established legal principles. Conversely, we'll consider the limits of neuroscience and the difficult choices that sometimes arise when the law demands answers neuroscience cannot yet give. Topics will include juvenile criminal responsibility, traumatic brain injury, definitions of death, the neuroscience of memory, intoxication as a criminal defense, and lie detection. No prior knowledge of law or neuroscience is required, and there will be almost no overlap with the facilitator's previous OLLI course on law and neuroscience.

The History of Quantum Mechanics

In Person | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–2/16 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Edward Friedman
Location: DU Campus **Member Price:** $60

This is a new version of the quantum physics class Dr. Ed Friedman has taught at DU for years. The redesign emphasizes the history and personalities behind quantum physics, arguably the most important science ever developed. In-class demonstrations and realistic simulations of key experiments build an intuitive understanding of quantum science despite its many mysterious properties. This is a no-math class, and a comprehensive companion book complements the class meetings.



Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance - Guest Speaker Series (Hybrid)

In Person | Online | Thursday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–2/18 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitators: Jon Young, Brian Aucone
Location: DU Campus & Online **Member Price:** $60

Explore the science and practice of wildlife care and conservation through various guest speakers sharing the work of Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance. This course examines evidence-based approaches to animal well-being, strategies for connecting Colorado communities with wildlife, and conservation initiatives developed with partners around the world. Through case studies from Colorado, Africa, Peru, and Southeast Asia, participants will consider how modern zoos integrate research, education, fieldwork, and public engagement to address complex conservation challenges. Learners will gain a deeper understanding of the distinctive role zoos play in protecting wildlife, inspiring informed action, and advancing conservation locally and globally.

Note: This course is offered in a hybrid format, presented in person and online simultaneously. When registering, you must select one attendance method: In-Person OR Online. Switching between attendance methods during the course is not permitted.

Modern Cosmology

Online | Thursday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–2/18 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Edward Friedman
Location: Online **Member Price:** $60

This isn't a typical astronomy class; we'll skip the solar system and focus on the big picture. Throughout six weeks of classes, this course surveys the recent revolution in cosmology and astrophysics. Topics include the structure of the cosmos, from galaxies and galaxy clusters to dark energy and dark matter; the theories of Einstein, Friedmann, and Lemaître (with no math); the early universe and its production of light elements; the cosmic microwave background and what it reveals about the cosmos; new observational methods, such as gravitational-wave detectors, and their findings on black holes and neutron stars; the latest discoveries from the James Webb Space Telescope and other observatories; and unanswered questions, including the Hubble tension, candidates for dark matter, and the physical basis of dark energy. Animated graphics will bring these concepts to life. Participants will receive a reading list, YouTube videos, and lecture notes.

What the BLEEP Do We Know About Theoretical Physics?

In Person | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/20–3/3 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Peter Gilbert
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $65

This course offers an introductory, nonmathematical overview of areas of theoretical physics you've heard of but never fully explored. The following topics will be covered: (1) gravity from Isaac Newton to Albert Einstein; (2) quantum theory and the search for a "theory of everything"; (3) particle physics from the ancient Greeks to the latest on the quest for the "God particle"; (4) cosmology from the Big Bang to the universe's ultimate fate; and (5) astrophysics and the life cycle of stars, including our sun. No previous knowledge is required; the course provides a broad, engaging introduction to these fascinating areas of theoretical physics, offering a big-picture understanding of the ideas, discoveries, and unanswered questions that shape our understanding of the universe.

Understanding AI: System Components, Capabilities, and Human Touch Points

Online | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 2/15–3/8 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Terry Ortlieb
Location: Online **Member Price:** $50

There is currently significant confusion about what is and is not AI. This class will examine the components that make up an AI system and explore the touch points and levers for control. Participants will learn techniques to evaluate which AI components are present in existing systems that call themselves AI. We'll also explore how today's systems function as intelligence augmentation (IA) tools, helping people extend their own capabilities, and how these differ from the concepts of artificial general intelligence (AGI) and artificial superintelligence (ASI). Finally, we'll examine how human involvement, information sources, and bias affect AI systems.



Matinee at the Bijou: Film Noir, Part 4

Online | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/11–3/8 **Time:** 12:30–3 PM
Facilitator: Mac McHugh
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Film noir, as the French called the American movies that emerged after World War II, means "black film" or "dark film." The term refers not only to the black-and-white cinematography but also to the plots, characters, and production style. This time, we meet a sports promoter accused of murder, a gangster extorting shopkeepers, a bank cashier involved with a young hustler, an ex-con trying to go straight, an undercover FBI agent, a roadhouse manager going off the deep end, a newlywed wife with a boyfriend, and a cop pursuing a ruthless criminal. Each movie is paired with an action-packed serial episode, and we'll hold a short discussion before and after to talk about the stars, the plot, and why the movie succeeded. Whether you're a returning regular or catching your first matinee, all are welcome. Due to the movies' length, class will start 30 minutes early at 12:30 p.m.

No class 1/18.

Great Composers of the String Quartet

In Person | Monday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/11–2/8 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Susan Lauscher
Location: Broomfield Community Center **Member Price:** $50

Spend four weeks doing a deep dive into the string quartets of masters of the literature: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Ravel, Debussy, Bartók, and Shostakovich. Who were they and what instruments did they play, why were they so important to the development of the literature, what makes their compositions stand out from what was being composed at the same time, what signature recordings have been made of their pieces? Listen to old favorites and discover new ones. There will be lots of videos, listening, and discussion.

No class 1/18.

Music, History, and the Lives of Composers Edition 3.0

In Person | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–2/16 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Hille Dais
Location: Common Flame **Member Price:** $60

This class is for music lovers and amateur historians. Each session focuses on one period in a composer's life and the composition that experience inspired. Our composers are George Frideric Handel, Hector Berlioz, Louis Moreau Gottschalk, Mily Balakirev, and Alban Berg. Histories will cover England's royal succession, France after the Revolution, New Orleans and the beginning of the American sound, Russia and its nationalist movement in music, and Austria during and after World War I. Each session is drawn from *Music as a Mirror of History*, a lecture series by Professor Robert Greenberg, a prolific and engaging presenter of music-related topics for The Great Courses. Some topics have somber backstories. We will view one lecture per session, leaving ample time for discussion and further exploration.

Music Lounge

Online | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Terri Moore
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Music Lounge is a weekly interactive gathering that uses music to spark memories, conversation, and connection. Each week, the facilitator will introduce a loose theme, such as rain, leaves, sunshine, or mountains, and invite participants to bring a song that connects to it. The connection doesn't have to be exact; a song that reminds participants of the theme, or simply one that is loved, is welcome. During the session, the facilitator plays each participant's song and shares interesting history, background, or fun facts about the music. The group will then briefly discuss the song, the memories it brings up, or why the participant chose it before moving on to the next selection. No musical experience or expertise is required—just a favorite song and a story or memory to share. The goal is to create a welcoming, joyful space where we can connect with one another through the powerful memories and emotions music evokes.



Song and Dance, Part 2: The Movie Experience

Online | Tuesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 1–3 PM
Facilitator: Larry Matten
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Hollywood has been giving us movie musicals for nearly a century. Let's recapture some of those golden moments when song and dance lifted us above our daily lives. In this course, you'll see memorable highlights, openings, and closings, and thanks to Zoom, you can sing along with the stars from the comfort of your own home. Larry hopes that you'll be humming, singing, and dancing from one week to the next. Join us for eight weeks of fun.

Great TV Sitcoms That Changed America

In Person | Wednesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–2/3 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Jim Sieke
Location: Broomfield Community Center **Member Price:** $50

"I hate spunk." | "Stifle it." | "NORM!" | "Picture it: Sicily, 1922..."

Do you recognize these catchphrases? Can you name the sitcoms? This four-week course explores four great American sitcoms: *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *All in the Family*, *Cheers*, and *The Golden Girls*. Each week we'll focus on one show, watch a full episode, and discuss how it reflected and influenced American culture. We'll also meet the creative minds behind these programs and the times that shaped them. Why were we ready for a single career woman in Minneapolis, a bigot in a living-room armchair, a Boston bar where everybody knew your name, or four women over 50 sharing a home in Miami? Join us for a closer look at how these sitcoms helped shape our society, and enjoy plenty of laughs and memories along the way.

Eight Classic Films

In Person | Wednesday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 12:45–3 PM
Facilitator: Richard Reinish
Location: First Universalist Church **Member Price:** $70

Grab a seat and settle in! Each week, your facilitator will share one of his all-time favorite films, followed by a lively group discussion where everyone's take is welcome. This winter's lineup (subject to availability) includes *Harold and Maude*, *The Princess Bride*, plus six more hand-picked gems to be revealed along the way. Class begins at 12:45 p.m. and may run a few minutes past 3:00 p.m.



Top Movie Composers and Their Film Scores

Online | Thursday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–2/18 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Robert Magnani
Location: Online **Member Price:** $60

Movie music is designed to marry the film it's in: its highs and lows, heroes and villains, action, love, and life stories. Beyond that, music brings a film to life, giving depth and meaning to what you see on screen. Come meet some of the top composers behind this magic and explore their work. We'll learn how they approached composing and listen to the best of their scores through YouTube videos. You'll come away with a deeper appreciation of what music adds to film and the many ways the masters of the art achieve it.



Across the Divide: Friendship on Film

Online | Thursday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 1–3:30 PM
Facilitators: Dixie Vice, John Lungerhausen
Location: Online **Member Price:** $70

Friendship can surprise us, sustain us, challenge us, and sometimes change the course of a life. Unlike family or legal ties, friendships are relationships of choice. This film series explores how directors have brought friendship to the screen through an eclectic group of movies. *The Station Agent* (2003) follows three unlikely companions brought together by loneliness and chance. *Jules* (2023) finds warmth and humor in friendship later in life. *My Dog Skip* (2000) revisits the bond between a boy and his dog, while Akira Kurosawa's *Dersu Uzala* (1975) takes us into the Russian wilderness for a moving story of friendship across cultures. Other selections expand the theme to include loyalty, isolation, social differences, and friendship under pressure. We'll look at how filmmakers use character, setting, humor, conflict, and visual style to illuminate this enduring human relationship. All films are shown in their entirety, with English subtitles as needed.

50 Years of *Star Wars*

Osher Online | Thursday Evening | Register ↗

Dates: 1/21–2/25 **Time:** 5–6:30 PM
Facilitator: Marc DiPaolo
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60

In 2027, we will mark the 50th anniversary of *Star Wars*, George Lucas' underdog film that became a cultural phenomenon. We will explore how its sequels, prequels, comic books, video games, and action figures made a galaxy far, far away worthy of serious study and fan appreciation. We will consider Lucas' inspirations, the legacy of *Episode IV: A New Hope*, political themes, questions of authorship, and the influence of fan culture.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1203491869?fl=ml&fe=ec

Broadway Musicals: A Fascinating History

Osher Online | Monday Evening | Register ↗

Dates: 1/25–3/1 **Time:** 3–4:30 PM
Facilitator: Emanuel Abramovits
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60



Musicals have shaped American theater, from Tin Pan Alley-driven comedies of the early twentieth century to the integrated classics of midcentury. In this course, we will explore book musicals, concept musicals, and the rise of European mega-productions. We will spotlight influential composers, lyricists, writers, choreographers, directors, and performers. With the help of audiovisuals, we will study landmark shows including *Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady*, *Show Boat*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hair*, *Cabaret, Rent, Wicked, Hamilton*, and more.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1145343112?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci

Embodying the Inner Truth: The Films of Denzel Washington

Osher Online | Thursday PM | Register ↗

Dates: 1/28–3/4 **Time:** 1–2:30 PM
Facilitator: Arnold Blumberg
Location: Osher Online **Member Price:** $60

Denzel Washington brings an intensity and dedication reminiscent of Sidney Poitier and Gene Hackman. In this course, we will examine his career across television, film, theater, directing, and producing. We will consider his early work on *St. Elsewhere*, his performances in *Cry Freedom*, *Malcolm X*, and *The Equalizer* trilogy, and his Oscar-winning performances in *Glory* and *Training Day*. We will explore his directorial debut with *Antwone Fisher,* and his work as producer, adapting August Wilson's plays.

Course Preview: https://vimeo.com/1204658427?fl=ml&fe=ec

Landscape Photography

Online | Tuesday AM | Register ↗

Dates: 2/2–3/2 **Time:** 9:30–11:30 AM
Facilitator: Eli Vega
Location: Online **Member Price:** $55

CANCELED

If you know the basics of photography and use a digital camera, this course is for you. In this highly interactive course, you will learn about landscape composition, exposure, lenses, landscape equipment and accessories, depth of field, lighting, time and timing, photographing in different seasons, dealing with flare, shooting in snow, and much more! You will have the opportunity to receive feedback on your photos from the facilitator.

Meditation in Motion: The Art and Science of Tai Chi

Online | Mondays | Register ↗

Dates: 1/11–3/8 **Time:** 8–9 AM
Facilitators: Joseph Brady, Jacqui Shumway
Location: Online **Member Price:** FREE for OLLI at DU 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 a hands-on learning experience, 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, the course introduces you to the basics of T'ai Chi Ch'uan, the skills and principles involved. These exercises can be a powerful complement to medical intervention. Modern studies have reported positive effects of Tai Chi on balance and falls reduction, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis, cancer, COPD, heart disease, depression and even schizophrenia. Many more studies are underway to explore the medical benefits of this mind/body exercise. Topics for discussion will include the global health care implications of Tai Chi as well as applications in daily life.

Gentle Hatha Yoga

Online | Tuesdays | Register ↗

Dates: 1/12–3/2 **Time:** 8–9 AM
Facilitator: Lisa Theis
Location: Online **Member Price:** FREE for OLLI at DU 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, so you can get comfortable enough to focus on your breath, the most powerful part of practice. Join us for a beautiful session connecting body, mind and spirit.

Medical Qigong: Healing Exercises from China

Online | Wednesdays | Register ↗

Dates: 1/13–3/3 **Time:** 8–9 AM
Facilitators: Joseph Brady, Jacqui Shumway
Location: Online **Member Price:** FREE for OLLI at DU Members

In traditional Chinese medicine, patients are encouraged to be active participants in their own healing rather than passive recipients of care. Rooted in the belief that exercise is medicine, Qigong has evolved over centuries into a cornerstone of traditional Chinese exercise therapy. Through mind-body practices designed to cultivate strength, balance, and well-being, students learn tools they can use to support their own health. This course introduces a variety of popular Qigong exercises in a safe, progressive format, including therapeutic movement, self-massage, equipment-based practices, nature-based therapies, and recreational exercise. Taught by leading professors of traditional Chinese medicine from the University of Denver and the Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the class explores evidence-based practices that can be incorporated into everyday life.

Optional Reading: *Chinese Medical Qigong* Paperback – May 28, 2013 by Tianjun Liu (Editor), Xiao Mei Qiang (Editor)

Breath, Meditation, and Community

Online | Thursdays | Register ↗

Dates: 1/14–3/4 **Time:** 8–9 AM
Facilitator: Lisa Theis
Location: Online **Member Price:** FREE for OLLI at DU 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 class will serve as a way to remember, as we combine these 3 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 the mind for a guided meditation practice. Meditation will last about 20-25 minutes, after which we will have time to 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. This class offers a unique way to connect to your fellow human, realizing we all share much more in common than we think.

When Parts Cannot Wait: Manufacturing at the Point of Need

Online | Friday | Register ↗

Date: 1/15 **Time:** 10–11:30 AM
Presenter: Blane Fillingim
Member Price: FREE for OLLI at DU Members

A ship needs a replacement part. A factory needs a repair. What if making it nearby is a better answer than waiting for delivery? Blane Fillingim of Oak Ridge National Laboratory will explore technologies that combine 3D printing, precision machining, and inspection to make and repair components closer to where they are used. Drawing on industrial applications and field demonstrations, he will explain what is possible today, what still needs development, and why bringing these capabilities into everyday use depends as much on people and training as on machines.

The Role of Botanic Gardens in Saving Biodiversity

Online | Friday | Register ↗

Date: 1/22 **Time:** 10–11:30 AM
Presenter: Jennifer Ramp Neale
Member Price: FREE for OLLI at DU Members

Botanic gardens serve not only as cultural institutions that provide beauty, respite and relaxation to our audiences, but also as educators on challenging topics such as biodiversity loss and climate change. Denver Botanic Gardens leads plant conservation efforts not only locally through engagement with the State Wildlife Action Plan, but nationally through the U.S. Action Plan for Plant Conservation and internationally through implementation of the Global Plant Conservation Strategy. Jennifer will share how gardens are leading efforts to halt biodiversity loss and impacts of climate change.



What Genes Tell Us About the Sense of Smell

Online | Friday | Register ↗

Date: 1/29 **Time:** 10–11:30 AM
Presenter: Tatsuya Tsukahara
Member Price: FREE for OLLI at DU Members

Olfaction is essential for our well-being by linking chemicals (odors) from the environment and other individuals to various aspects of our life including emotion, memory, and danger (such as predators and rotten food). Odors are detected by olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs) in the nose through a large family of cell membrane-associated proteins called olfactory receptors (ORs). Mice and humans have ~1100 and ~400 OR genes, respectively, and each OSN produces only one OR. This talk will discuss how genes in OSNs define where in the nose each OR is located and how it is activated by odors.

Interstitial Spaces: The Implications of Another Multi-Scale, Body-Wide System of Fluid Flow

Online | Friday | Register ↗

Date: 2/5 **Time:** 10–11:30 AM
Presenter: Rebecca Wells
Member Price: FREE for OLLI at DU Members

The anatomic and functional concept of interstitial spaces in the body has recently been expanded, with significant implications for understanding body-wide fluid flow and communication. This talk will describe the history of the interstitium over the last hundred years, then focus on the implications of new findings for understanding body-wide signaling at different scales, links between Eastern and Western medicine, and both malignant and non-malignant diseases.

From Drones to DNA: The Value of Technology and Science in Law Enforcement

Online | Friday | Register ↗

Date: 2/12 **Time:** 10–11:30 AM
Presenter: Ron Thomas
Member Price: FREE for OLLI at DU Members

How are the latest emerging technologies and science changing police work? Denver Police Chief Ron Thomas explores the technologies now used in the field and the laboratory: drones, license plate readers, gunshot detection, and robotics on the street, and DNA and ballistic testing behind the scenes. Learn how these tools improve safety, help strengthen cases for prosecutors, and what they mean for public safety and our justice system.

When Mountains Move: An Odyssey to a New Vision of Planetary Change

Online | Friday | Register ↗

Date: 2/19 **Time:** 10–11:30 AM
Presenter: James Balog
Member Price: FREE for OLLI at DU Members

For 45 years, photographer James Balog has broken new artistic ground on some of the most important environmental issues of our era, from climate change, receding glaciers, and wildfire to endangered wildlife, the world's great trees, and deforestation. In this captivating presentation, James will share his adventures and historic insights—and inspire hope for the environmental future. Our show will feature a 40-minute presentation of James' latest film, *Chasing Time* (now screening nationwide in abbreviated form on PBS).

How Are Vaccines Developed? Lessons from Development of a Vaccine Against Dengue Fever

Online | Friday | Register ↗

Date: 2/26 **Time:** 10–11:30 AM
Presenter: Gilad Gordon
Member Price: FREE for OLLI at DU Members

Vaccines were first developed in the 18th century to combat smallpox. Since then, numerous vaccines have been developed to treat a large variety of infectious diseases, and their effect on mortality and morbidity has been profound, leading to an increase in life expectancy. The speaker has been involved in the development of a number of vaccines, most notably, a recently approved vaccine for dengue fever. He will provide insights into how vaccines are developed in the lab, how they are tested in humans, and how they are ultimately marketed, priced, and distributed to the populations at risk.

The Record-Smashing 2026 Water Year in Colorado and the West

Online | Friday | Register ↗

Date: 3/5 **Time:** 10–11:30 AM
Presenter: Russ Schumacher
Member Price: FREE for OLLI at DU Members

Water Year 2026 was the warmest one on record for Colorado, and among the driest. The mountain snowpack was in poor shape as of the beginning of March, and then an unprecedented heat wave led to rapid snowmelt for so early in the season. The result was widespread expansion and intensification of drought, and large-scale declines in regional water supply and serious multi-sectoral drought impacts. In this presentation, we'll look back at how the warmth and drought in 2025-26 evolved, and also assess where things stand thus far in Water Year 2027.

OLLI Facilitators

Emanuel Abramovits *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Emanuel Abramovits is a mechanical engineer and has been a concert promoter for over two decades. He is involved in events by international artists like Itzhak Perlman, Gustavo Dudamel, Sarah Brightman, Roger Hodgson, ASIA, Journey, and Kenny G. Abramovits has designed and staged original orchestral events, including an Event of the Year winner and several world premieres. He served as the cultural director at Union Israelita De Caracas, releasing books and organizing film cycles, concerts, and art exhibits.

Maria Arapakis | Diamond Facilitator Maria Arapakis is a psychologist, international trainer, speaker, and author with 45+ years of experience training people around the world. For the past 16 years, she has helped seniors use the remarkable powers of Apple technologies. More recently, she has focused on sharing what 50+ years of research on Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) tell us about human consciousness, what awaits us when we die, and what matters most in life! Maria has always been a teacher at heart and loves teaching what can help and support others.

Brian Aucone | A herpetologist by training, Brian has worked for 30 years in zoos, starting his career in the Tropical Discovery habitat at Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance. Having been a child who was able to experience wildlife from around the globe at the zoo, he realized the importance of how a zoo can connect people to wildlife and dedicated his career to having an impact on wildlife and people. From the work on the zoo campus, the desert southwest of the United States, and the jungles of Vietnam, Brian has participated in and led a wide array of wildlife conservation efforts around the globe for the positive benefit of people and wildlife.

Natalie Baker | Natalie Baker holds a PhD in Public Affairs (public policy track) and Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver and Master of Business Administration from The Denver University. She has designed and taught graduate courses in the Policy Sciences of Democracy at UC Denver. Additionally, Natalie's professional experience spans three decades in communications and information technology, notably in regulatory and government affairs. Relevant here, the multi-disciplinary policy sciences instruct that the 'present and the future have nowhere to come from but the past.' Thus, public policy, including immigration policy, exists on a historical continuum whereby certain underappreciated actors can be brought to life to provide insights that, in turn, inform the ongoing pursuit of a liberal world order.

James Balog *(Webinar Speaker)* | Large portfolios of James's visual exploration of the Anthropocene have been collected for permanent preservation at the Library of Congress, Cornell and Yale universities, and fine art museums in Denver, Houston, San Diego, and elsewhere. The Extreme Ice Survey, conceived of and led by James, is the most extensive, ground-based, photographic study of glaciers ever conducted. It was the basis of three documentaries, most notably Chasing Ice, which won an Emmy and the Sundance award for cinematography. James is an emeritus professor at Cornell University and is the recipient of dozens of awards, including the Heinz Award, Lucie Award for Humanitarian Photography, Ansel Adams Award, and an Honorary Fellowship from Great Britain's Royal Photographic Society (RPS). Media appearances have included NBC, CBS, CNN, ABC, BBC, MSNBC; and feature programs like CBS Sunday Morning (3X), Real Time with Bill Maher, Late Night with David Letterman, NPR's Fresh Air (2X), Democracy Now; and programs in Great Britain, South Korea, Japan, India, and Brazil. He is the author of nine books.

Don & 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 at DU for several years.

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. *Unsung Heroes of World War II* will be Becky's 11th foray into facilitating at OLLI Central. She's looking forward to sharing these lectures with all of you. Becky lives in Centennial with her husband (also an OLLI facilitator), two dogs, and a cat.

Jeri Bingham *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Jeri Bingham has been an administrator and non-profit leader who has managed people, policy, and programs in academia and mission-driven organizations for more than 25 years. She serves as Vice President, External Affairs and Director of Public Safety for Prairie State College. Bingham served in similar leadership roles for the Illinois Department of Public Health, Resurrection University, March of Dimes, American Dental Association, Chicago State University, Leo Burnett USA, and City Colleges of Chicago.

Arnold Blumberg *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Arnold Blumberg, PhD, is a publisher, author, artist, and pop culture historian. He has taught courses in media literacy and cultural studies at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the University of Baltimore, Community College of Baltimore County, and Towson University. With fifteen years of experience in the comic book industry and five years curating a pop culture museum, he now runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

Heidi Boerstler | Heidi Boerstler Dr.PH, JD, MPhil is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Colorado Denver. She loves her work, which involves collecting life stories from ordinary Americans, who tell extraordinary narratives about turning points in their lives and what it means today to be an American. Her work has been presented at both professional and community settings and is always cited as fun, important, and inspiring. She has degrees from Northwestern University, Yale University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

John Bowen | John Bowen is a long-time observer of international affairs with particular interest in Eastern Europe. After practicing law for many years in unrelated areas, he now has time to study international relations in greater depth and keeps abreast of military technological developments.

Joseph Brady *(OLLI Fit Instructor)* | 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.

Sue Bramley | Sue Bramley has always been fascinated by quirky factoids, curious characters, unusual places, and unexpected stories that make America endlessly intriguing. She's traveled to 47 states, diving deep into history and oddball traditions. Other times simply dipping a toe in the water to get a feel for what makes the place tick.

Colorado holds a prominent place with its colorful history, curious claims, and grand mountain spirit. She'll also wander through the Four Corners, the Great Lakes and along the mighty Mississippi, following the fascinating threads connecting America's landscapes, people, music, and peculiar past. She's excited to share her discoveries and unexpected surprises in a class that celebrates the wonderfully weird side of these American states. Her motto? Geography and history aren't maps and dates—they're about the stories that make you smile, scratch your head, and say, "Who knew?"

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.

Anne Christner | Anne Christner, Platinum Facilitator, has never taught English, but she has always loved to read, and is fascinated by the power of reading as it adds to the public discourse. Anne has facilitated many OLLI courses after a career in college teaching and adult training. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

Natalie Conklin | Natalie has enjoyed taking and facilitating classes at OLLI since retiring from a career in education. She has facilitated courses primarily in visual and performing arts, history, and literature. Having visited most states in our country, she is fascinated by the little-known facts and trivia, beyond what they taught us in school, that make each state unique. She is looking forward to sharing with OLLI participants what she has learned through her research on the 50 states.

Matthew Cooper *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Matthew Cooper is an Assistant Professor of American Sign Language at the University of Tulsa and adjunct faculty at Tulsa Community College. Born to two Deaf parents, Cooper grew up a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults) in a family who were leaders and active participants in the Deaf community. In 2025, Cooper was a TEDx Editor's Pick for his TEDx Talk titled Between Two Worlds: A CODA's Perspective. He is currently writing a book about the modern CODA experience.

Thomas Corona | As a meteorologist for 50 years, Tom Corona knows the challenges and satisfaction of accurately predicting the weather and studying climate issues. In addition to his 27 years of teaching meteorology courses at Metropolitan State College/University, he is an accomplished musician on banjo, resophonic, and acoustic guitar. Tom has written around 90 songs and recorded three CDs as a solo performer and with various bands. Over the years, he has been a member of 16 bands, and his musical tastes run to Folk, Bluegrass, and Americana genres, but he also listens to and enjoys most types of music. Tom was a Sound Tech for Swallow Hill Music for close to 40 years and knows enough about the music business and music theory to be dangerous. He will share this knowledge during his half of the class.

Hille Dais | Hille Dais grew up 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 live symphony and chamber concerts. She has facilitated many courses for OLLI focusing on music, history, and the intersection of these topics, and has invited musicians to share about their lives and instruments—most recently, artists playing wind instruments.

Marc DiPaolo *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Marc DiPaolo, PhD, is an assistant professor of humanities at Moraine Valley Community College. He has written the autobiographical novel Fake Italian (2021), and the academic books Fire and Snow: Climate Fiction from the Inklings to Game of Thrones (2018) and War, Politics, and Superheroes (2011). He co-edited the essay collection Italian/American Fantastika, and books on film directors Yasujiro Ozu and Mike Leigh. He has been interviewed on NPR, BBC4, and in the AMC docuseries Robert Kirkman's Secret History of Comics.

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 has also lectured nationally on both the history and genetics of Jewish people.

Lori Eastman | Gloria (Lori) Eastman enjoys bringing the historical and cultural backgrounds of classic literature to life and making the readings relevant to 21st-century lives. She particularly delights in encouraging the varied responses of participants as they explore the readings together. She taught high school English and journalism for 26 years in the Jefferson County Public Schools while also earning her PhD 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.

Jim Edelman | After a career in corporate and investment finance, Jim Edelman changed careers to teach math and economics at a public high school in Memphis, Tennessee. Since retiring to Boulder in 2015, Jim has taught at Front Range Community College, Monarch High School, and the Boulder County Jail. He taught this Reconstruction class for the EXCHANGE Program in Boulder in the spring of 2024, where it was well received.

Ron Edelstein | Ron has three engineering degrees: Aerospace Engineering, Engineering Science-Solid Mechanics, and Engineering Science-Environmental Science & Technology. He has 50 years of experience in gas turbine development, solar energy R&D, and natural gas R&D, including working at the Solar Energy Research Institute in Golden. Since retiring, Ron has taught courses in energy and climate change at Osher-JHU, OLLI-AU, and OLLI-GMU.

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. Kent strives to facilitate courses rather than lecture. Classes are structured to promote a respectful exchange of ideas.

Blane Fillingim *(Webinar Speaker)* | Dr. Kenton Blane Fillingim is an R&D staff member specializing in Human Factors in Design and Manufacturing at Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Manufacturing Demonstration Facility. His research bridges advanced manufacturing technologies with the people and processes required to implement them effectively, focusing on hybrid and convergent manufacturing, directed energy deposition process development, and human-centered design. His recent work emphasizes integrating additive manufacturing, machining, inspection, and digital technologies into flexible manufacturing platforms, with applications in industrial production and expeditionary manufacturing and repair. He is particularly interested in improving operator training, knowledge transfer, and standardized workflows to make advanced manufacturing more accessible and repeatable. He holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech and a B.S. from the University of South Alabama.

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.

Scott Fulton *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Scott Fulton is recognized internationally as a "Redefiner" in the positive aging space. Fulton's research focuses on improving adult aging outcomes. He teaches lifestyle Medicine and Aging, is an American College of Lifestyle Medicine member, and sits on the True Health Initiative Council. His book, *WHEALTHSPAN, More Years, More Moments, More Money*, hit #1 on Amazon. Fulton is a multiple Ironman triathlete and lives in a demonstration home he designed and built for the future of optimal aging across a lifespan.

Peter Gilbert | Born and raised in England and educated at Leeds University in science and engineering. Now retired and living with his American wife in Colorado after serving 34 years in the British Royal Air Force.

Gilad Gordon *(Webinar Speaker)* | Dr. Gilad Gordon is an expert in clinical development of therapeutics with over 35 years of experience. Dr. Gordon has served in various senior positions at a number of bio-pharmaceutical firms including Eli Lilly, Synergen, Ribozyme and Inviragen. As President of Orra Group, LLC, Dr. Gordon led clinical teams which designed and implemented multi-nation clinical trials for novel vaccines, anti-cancer drugs and drugs for various other medical conditions. A number of these therapies, including a vaccine for dengue fever and a drug for colon cancer, were approved by the FDA and EMA. Dr. Gordon attended Harvard College and received his MD from the Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology at Harvard Medical School. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado and is Board certified in Internal Medicine. He completed the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellowship at the University of Washington where he received his MBA. Dr. Gordon is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and lives in Boulder, CO.

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 US with her kids. She left that husband behind!

Glenn Gravlee | Glenn Gravlee is Professor Emeritus of Anesthesiology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and is a Master Facilitator for OLLI at DU. He is a retired subspecialist in cardiothoracic anesthesiology. Glenn has co-facilitated approximately 20 courses for OLLI at DU on a range of topics including popular music history (1950s and 1960s), military history, movies, the Berlin Wall, the Eisenhowers in Colorado, France in World War II, and others.

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 for thirty years. 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, was short-listed for the 2024 CASEY Award for best baseball book of the year, the only novel on the list. His latest books are a novella entitled Boy of Heaven and a spy novel called Killing Einstein. 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 20 years and holds certifications as an ACBL Online Bridge Teacher, an Audrey Grant Bridge Teacher, a Gold Life Master, an ACBL Certified Club Director, and an ACBL Certified Tournament Assistant Director. He is also a board member of the American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA).

Charles Holt | Charlie Holt is a Platinum Facilitator with more than 35 years of career experience as an engineer in R&D and R&D management. 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 and both an MS and a BS in Aeronautical Engineering. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

Larry Howe | Larry Howe's career reflects a passion for cultural dynamics and the power of information technology. With degrees in American Studies (BA), Communications (MA), and an MBA, he blends insight into culture, media, and business. His global outlook began with Peace Corps service in post-independence Kenya. In media, he worked with NBC News (KNBC-TV) and Public TV (KCET-LA) producing documentaries, news and public affairs shows, and then the cable industry, managing video programming, launching broadband ventures, and advising organizations in the early internet era.

Larry's commitment to cultural resilience includes social enterprise work in India, Mozambique, and Indonesia, plus involvement with arts and environmental groups Sound of the Rockies, Trout Unlimited, and now OLLI@DU.

Curtis Huber | Curt Huber has lived in Colorado for 39 years. His interest as a presenter is in European travel. He has Master's degrees in Religious Studies, Social Work, and Public Administration. His career prior to retiring in 2016 was in administration of non-profit voluntary health organizations, including the National MS Society, American Diabetes Association, and American Lung Association.

He and his wife Katie have visited 20 European countries, mostly over the last ten years. They book their own trips, lodging, and transportation, mostly using Eurail for travel with a little help from buses, Uber/taxis, and rental cars. Many years they are there for four weeks in the spring and four weeks in the fall.

Curt's hobbies include photography, hiking/backpacking, and until two years ago, snowboarding.

Ralph Hughes | Ralph Hughes is a Stanford-trained economist, a retired business analytics consultant, and the author of three nonfiction books. He is the host of the monthly Post-Partisan Forum at the Secular Hub and has facilitated OLLI discussion classes on political economy for over eight years.

Candace Hyatt | A graduate of Elmira College (BA) and University of Denver (MA), Candace (Candy) Hyatt has been an educator, pre-K through adult, for over 50 years. Her roles have included middle school teacher and principal, elementary school principal, professional development central office administrator, and leadership and English language acquisition consultant in an educational research and development non-profit setting. Her work is characterized by a mission to provide access to high-quality educational opportunities for learners of all ages, cultures, and abilities in a wide variety of both formal and informal settings. She's a long-time Colorado resident with a love of reading and the outdoors.

Stewart Jones | Stewart Jones has been an Episcopal priest for fifty-seven years and has served several parishes and missions in the Denver area during that period. He has also been a systems and software engineer for thirty-nine years with the Gates Rubber Company and Martin Marietta, where he was a Senior Staff Engineer. He is currently a volunteer at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. He holds a BA in mathematics from Northwestern University and a Master's in Theology from Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Chicago. He has a lifelong association with the Episcopal Church.

Tyson Kennedy | Tyson Kennedy has spent more than 20 years helping people better understand themselves and the relationships that shape their lives. Using personality profiling techniques, she teaches individuals how to recognize different personality types and communicate more effectively with family, friends, spouses, co-workers, and children. Her work is based on a long-standing profiling

system centered around seven core personality types, with each person carrying a blend of three of the seven. Tyson has used this approach for decades with remarkable success in helping people reduce conflict, improve communication, and build healthier, more respectful relationships. She is passionate about this work because participants often experience immediate insight and practical change beginning with the very first class. Her classes are interactive, approachable, and focused on giving people tools they can apply right away in everyday life.

Adam Kocurek *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Adam Kocurek is a PhD candidate in history at The CUNY Graduate Center. His research lies at the intersections of LGBTQ+ history, labor history, and the history of higher education. He is an adjunct lecturer at Hunter College where he teaches modern American history. He has held fellowship positions at Queensborough Community College and Medgar Evers College. He is also a tour guide for Big Onion Walking Tours, leading locals and visitors on innovative and exciting tours through New York's ethnic neighborhoods and historic districts.

James Kunkel | James R. (Jim) Kunkel, Ph.D., P.E. is a retired engineer with 59 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.

Pat Lambert | Pat Lambert is a longtime Southern California resident, with degrees from Pepperdine University and USC. In 2023 she retired from a long career in librarianship, which included law libraries and public libraries. She spent many years managing Adult Reference Services, book selection and programming at a busy urban public library.

In retirement, she is actively involved as a docent for a historic house museum, as well as a local historical society. Her love of rescue dogs led to another volunteer job as a placement rep for a local golden retriever rescue. She's been an OLLI student from afar since the COVID days and enjoys interactions with like-minded people. As time permits, reading, quilting, and gardening make for a busy retirement.

Linda Lange | A voracious reader of mystery and science fiction and an 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.

Susan Lauscher | Sue Lauscher is a retired lawyer who has been interested in politics and world affairs since she helped organize grape boycotts in her hometown in the 1960s. She's also an amateur cellist and most recently taught a class at the Broomfield Community Center on the violin family. She participated in the Great Decisions class and then facilitated it in 2020.

Aaron Leonard *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Aaron Leonard is an author and American historian whose writing focuses on the interplay of radicalism and governmental repression in the 20th century. Among his books are *Heavy Radicals, The Folk Singers and the Bureau*, and *Menace of Our Time: The Long War on American Communism*. Leonard has a BA in Social Sciences and History, magna cum laude, from New York University.

John Lungerhausen | John Lungerhausen, Master Facilitator, joined OLLI soon after he retired from CenturyLink in 2016, where he enjoyed a 17-year career as a software developer, Team Lead, and Development Manager. John and his longtime partner, Dixie Vice, have lived in Golden since 1987. They have collaborated in developing film classes for OLLI since 2016 due to their deep enjoyment of great films. 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. Although trained for the ministry, he has spent his career in higher education, teaching 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 and 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 of whom 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 care, 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.

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 World War II history buff and has facilitated numerous courses on technology, film, and history at OLLI.

Neil Melillo | As a student of English literature, writing and philosophy, Neil became interested in all things New York as he explored the city as an undergraduate, becoming fascinated when he first read Whitman. He became more intensely engaged in Whitman's poetry as a graduate student. Using the Socratic method, Neil transformed many students into lifelong lovers of Whitman through close reading of his poems. Now retired, he spends each day reading various books in his library's upwards of fifteen thousand volumes, and still enjoys discussions about each of them.

Greg Moody | For the past 50 years, Greg Moody has been a media reporter, critic, and historian in news radio, newspapers, online media, 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.

Terri Moore | Terri Moore is a lifelong learner, artist, musician, educator, and community facilitator who loves bringing people together through creativity, conversation, and music. She has spent more than 30 years teaching, creating, and building community, including 12 years of homeschooling and teaching art and enrichment programs to children and adults.

Terri currently facilitates virtual programs for older adults and enjoys creating welcoming spaces where people can share their experiences, learn from one another, and have fun. She is a singer and ukulele player with a lifelong love of music and the stories and memories that songs can bring back. Through Music Lounge, Terri combines her love of music and conversation to help participants connect, reminisce, discover new songs, and share the music that has meaning in their lives.

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.

Caroline Nappo *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Caroline Nappo, PhD, is an independent scholar with interests in the history of libraries and information institutions, information as a public good, and the political economy of information. She has an MS and PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois.

Jennifer Ramp Neale *(Webinar Speaker)* | Jennifer serves as the Director of Research & Conservation at Denver Botanic Gardens where she leads the institutional scientific strategy. The team of scientists at the Gardens works to investigate and explain biodiversity patterns and processes. Working collaboratively, they document and conserve our natural heritage working towards a vision of a biodiverse world. Serving as the public face of the department, she participates in regional, national, and international collaborative projects focused on biodiversity conservation. As the President of the Board of Directors for Botanic

Gardens Conservation International - U.S., she serves on the Steering Committee for the U.S. Conservation Action Plan for Plant Conservation. For the American Public Gardens Association, she has served in Community leadership roles as well as on the Program Selection Committee. Her passion is helping gardens connect their conservation work to global conservation targets. She contributes to the conservation of Colorado rare plants through collaboration and genetic assessments.

Terry Ortlieb | Terry Ortlieb started in technology by putting engineering changes on IBM computers in high school. After attaining his degrees in Philosophy, he moved on to start his own process and systems engineering company, which he built and then sold. Now he is combining his two interests into facilitating classes that integrate technology and philosophy.

Susan Peters | Susan Peters spent her career in IT. With a master's degree in telecommunications, she became a telecommunications consultant, working for Big Five consulting firms before going independent. Literature has been a lifelong passion, and Susan enjoys facilitating classes featuring notable books. Another passion has been fostering dogs, including newborn litters. She and her husband, Dave, have taken in nearly 200 dogs, mainly retrievers.

Christine Petty | Christine Petty joined OLLI in 2014 and has facilitated nearly 15 courses since 2017. She grew up in Illinois along the Mississippi River and has spent time in Wisconsin and Minnesota and Lake Michigan. This third time living in Colorado has been since 2009. She is a retired family physician and health insurance executive. She enjoys travel, especially trips that combine long-distance walking, pilgrimages, and opportunities to explore local history and culture. Her pilgrimages have included multiple Camino routes, St. Olavsleden from Sweden to Norway, and Japan pilgrimages that include Kumano Kodo (once) and the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage, completed twice, in 2024 and 2026. Since 2021, she has served as lead coordinator for the Colorado Front Range Chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino. She also enjoys learning about the history, geology, culture and the people along the way, and especially learning more about the Denver area and Colorado.

Michael Prevedel | Michael is a retired educator at the high school and college levels. He has a B.A. in History and an M.A. 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.

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.

Melissa Royle | Since 2022, Melissa Groneman Royle has taught in the Frontline Manager Leadership Program while providing coaching and professional development as an Adjunct Professor in the University of Denver's College of Professional Studies. Throughout her career, Melissa has held senior human resources leadership positions with organizations including Eating Recovery Center, Centura Health, First Data, and PeopleSoft. She brings more than 25 years of executive human resources and organizational leadership experience across healthcare, financial services, and technology.

Melissa also serves as a Fractional HR Executive specializing in healthcare, working with organizations ranging from innovative healthcare delivery companies to rural hospitals and large health systems. She is the author of Resilience in Rural Healthcare and holds a Master's degree in organizational management and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

Melissa enjoys bringing real-world experience into the classroom, encouraging thoughtful discussion and helping students explore complex issues from different perspectives.

Leonard Sahling | Leonard Sahling earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Michigan. His first position was as a macroeconomist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, followed by a role as macroeconomist at Fannie Mae in Washington, D.C. He then reinvented himself as a real estate economist and REIT analyst, launching a real estate research group at Merrill Lynch in New York City. After 9/11, Leonard joined ProLogis, an industrial Real Estate Investment Trust based in Denver, where he started and led a real estate research operation. When ProLogis was acquired by another REIT, he reinvented himself once again as an agricultural economist, accepting a position at CoBank, where he built and managed a research group. He is now retired and, among other pursuits, enjoys teaching an OLLI class on economic issues.

Russ Schumacher *(Webinar Speaker)* | Russ Schumacher is a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University and serves as the Colorado State Climatologist and Director of the Colorado Climate Center. He received his M.S. in 2003 and Ph.D. in 2008 in Atmospheric Science at CSU. His research and teaching interests include extreme precipitation, weather prediction, the climatology of precipitation, and Colorado's weather and climate. In 2021, he received the Clarence Leroy Meisinger early-career research award from the American Meteorological Society.

Jacqui Shumway | Having researched and taught T'ai Chi Chuan and Medical Qigong for over 25 years, Jacqui 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.

Jim Sieke | Jim Sieke grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia and graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Speech-Communication and a minor in Broadcasting. After spending 3 years working in television advertising in New York and Chicago, he came to KMGH-TV Channel 7 in Denver where he worked for 34 years in sales and sales management. Jim joined OLLI after retiring and has facilitated Comedy Appreciation numerous times as well as classes on The Great Silent Film Comedians and Great Sitcoms in the Denver-Boulder area.

Elizabeth Simmons | Elizabeth has spent her whole career in liminal spaces, those tender thresholds where life changes shape. For about a decade she worked as a birth doula, birth educator, and founder and financial director of The Birth Center of Boulder. She then founded The Doula Network, the first organization to secure a direct contract with a Medicaid health plan for doula services. It grew to 26 states and is now part of Pomelo Care.

After a series of losses among family and friends, and a deeply beautiful experience with The Natural Funeral, Elizabeth knew where she wanted to be. She joined the team in February, bringing her love of education, honest conversation, and the topics most of us would rather avoid. She believes that when we talk about death with warmth and without pressure, we get to choose goodbyes that feel true.

Elizabeth lives in Lyons with her three kids and her dog, Turtle.

Eric Simon *(Osher Online Facilitator)* | Eric Simon, PhD, is professor of biology at New England College. He received his PhD in biochemistry from Harvard University. An avid traveler and award-winning nature photographer, Simon leads educational international trips to destinations including Belize, the Galapagos, Tanzania, Cuba, the Amazon River, and Patagonia. Simon is the author of a widely used series of college biology textbooks with over 2 million books in print that help teach biology to students in over 40 countries.

Patty Smilanic | In the 20th century, Patty Smilanic earned an MA in Rhetoric and Composition and a PhD in 19th-century American Literature from Texas A&M University. Her career, though, was in the financial industry, and she retired from Janus Henderson in the 21st century. Joining OLLI was her answer to that "what are you going to do" in retirement question. While her recollection of literary theories and terminology may be fuzzy, she has not lost her love and appreciation for consummate storytellers and engaging prose. OLLI allows her to tap into the wonders of literature and writing. (Yes, she has read *Moby Dick* and Joyce's *Ulysses* from cover to cover.) She enjoys collaborative facilitating, creating memorable courses, and taking long walks in Sterling Ranch.

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 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.

Marley Steele-Inama | Marley Steele-Inama is the Director of Programming at OLLI at DU, where she spends her days helping curious minds keep exploring. She came to OLLI after 25 years at Denver Zoo, working in informal learning, social science research, and program evaluation, followed by three years at Women's Wilderness helping women and girls discover their true selves outdoors. A proud two-time University of Denver graduate, Marley holds a BA in Spanish and Anthropology and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction. She's drawn to the stories of women in history, the wonders of the natural world, and the phenomenon of awe. A Colorado adventurer through and through, she can be found on a trail, a mountain bike, the pickleball court, the ultimate frisbee field, or a snowboard. Her favorite place, though, is floating down a river with family and close friends, remembering what really matters in this world.

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.

Becky Stout | From her childhood days when she read under the covers with the help of a flashlight, Becky Stout has been enamored with literature. As an avid consumer of literature, Becky began facilitating its various iterations for OLLI—from *Grace*, Paul Lynch's coming-of-age novel to British Colonial Women writers to *Hamnet* to the dark and stormy nights of the mystery novel and magical realism short stories and those independent artistic women of the west (the last three with her partner in crime, Patty Smilanic). Her courses include not just the main subject of the written word or novel but art, poetry, music, and essays, among other features. She loves bringing more focus to her classes by rounding out discussion with historical, cultural, scientific, religious, and political ideas of the time in question.

As you can tell, the arts in general are a growing interest. Becky has participated in a Niall Williams writing workshop in Ireland as well as local author Sandi Ault's classes, started watercolor during the pandemic, and just completed a watercolor retreat in Scotland with Harriet de Winton. Singing in a local choral group rounds out Becky's artistic life at the moment.

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 | 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 and 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 and knowing.

Ron Thomas *(Webinar Speaker)* | Chief Ron Thomas began as a Department of Safety cadet after graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School and joined the Denver Police Department in 1989, continuing a family tradition of service. He served in Patrol, Investigations, Administration, and Special Operations, including Commander of Districts Two and Five and Internal Affairs. Division Chief of Patrol from 2018, he became Chief in 2022 under Mayor Hancock and was

reappointed by Mayor Johnston in 2024. His priorities: lowering crime, improving response times, and increasing trust. He launched public dashboards on crime, response times, and internal affairs, created fentanyl and auto theft teams, and invested in license plate readers, drones, a helicopter, e-bikes, and a robot dog for bomb detection. He worked to improve hiring of experienced officers and increase female and minority officers, expanded Spanish-speaking community outreach, and created the Wellness and Resiliency Unit. A collaborative leader, he graduated summa cum laude from Columbia Southern University and studied at the Naval Postgraduate School, FBI National Academy, Northwestern University Command College, and Senior Management Institute for Police.

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, 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, the 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.

Tatsuya Tsukahara *(Webinar Speaker)* | Dr. Tatsuya Tsukahara is an Investigator and Assistant Professor at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute at Sinai Health System and the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto in Canada. He received his BS, MSc, and PhD from the University of Tokyo in Japan. He then moved to the U.S. and was trained as a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard Medical School in the laboratory of Dr. Sandeep Robert Datta where he started working on mammalian olfaction using mice as a model system. He has been leading a research group since fall 2023. His group studies how the sense of smell is impacted by both odors in the environment and internal states such as inflammation and life stages, with a special emphasis on olfactory sensory neurons in the nose that directly interface with odors. He has won several awards, including the 2011 GE & Science Prize for Young Scientists (Regional Winner for Asia).

Eli Vega | Eli Vega is a highly published, award-winning photographer and author. He has published two books on photography. He has taught photography for thirty years including field workshops in Rocky Mountain National Park and classes for OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) throughout the country. He makes his classes and workshops casual, engaging, and fun.

Dixie Vice | Dixie Vice, Master Facilitator, retired in 2015 from state and federal government, where she worked as a computer programmer and analyst. She has been taking OLLI classes ever since. Dixie has a degree in anthropology from CU with an effective minor in film studies. Her interest in foreign films began at age 16, when she was finally old enough to be admitted to the art film theatres in Indianapolis.

Sally Walling | A longtime middle school and high school English instructor, Sally Walling has a lifelong passion for diversity in art in all its forms—whether painting, film, or literature. By studying the greats of the past and present alongside others, she hopes to find the paths that can guide us toward living more peacefully together.

Marvin Weinbaum | Marvin Weinbaum is a personal coach and columnist. His column, "Coach's Corner," is published monthly in Colorado's Prime Time News and other independent, senior news outlets throughout the country. Marvin is the retired Dean of Online Learning at Golden Gate University (San Francisco) having spent a 40-year career at the intersection of Counseling, Education, Technology, and Administration. He holds a Master's degree in Education from The City College of New York (CUNY).

Rebecca Wells *(Webinar Speaker)* | Rebecca G. Wells received her undergraduate training at Yale, medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and internal medicine and gastroenterology/hepatology training at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. She did postdoctoral work at Harvard Medical School and the Whitehead Institute. She has been on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for more than 24 years, where she is now Professor of Medicine and Bioengineering. Dr. Wells studies the matrix and mechanical factors underlying diseases of the liver and bile ducts, particularly in fibrosis; she has been a leader in defining the role of stiffness and other mechanical factors in driving fibrosis, including in steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and the neonatal disease biliary atresia. Dr. Wells and colleagues recently proposed an expanded definition of the interstitial spaces of the body that has significant implications for understanding body structure as well as the flow of fluid, solutes, and signals throughout the body.

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), Road Scholar, 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!

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. Gary has a strong interest in the effects history plays in current-day crises, which manifested in his series of courses on Palestine and will again with the China classes.

Jon Young | Jon Young is retired, with 42 years' experience in the design and commercialization of emerging technologies initially in healthcare (funded under the Visiting Scientist program of the Weizmann Institute) and then in broadcast technologies. His volunteer work includes: Chair of STEM Curriculum Committee at OLLI Central, organizing OLLI's Friday STEM Webinars, President of the Aging Services Foundation of Boulder County, board member of the Radio Reading Service of the Rockies, serving the visually impaired of Colorado, where he also produced a weekly science news show.

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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