

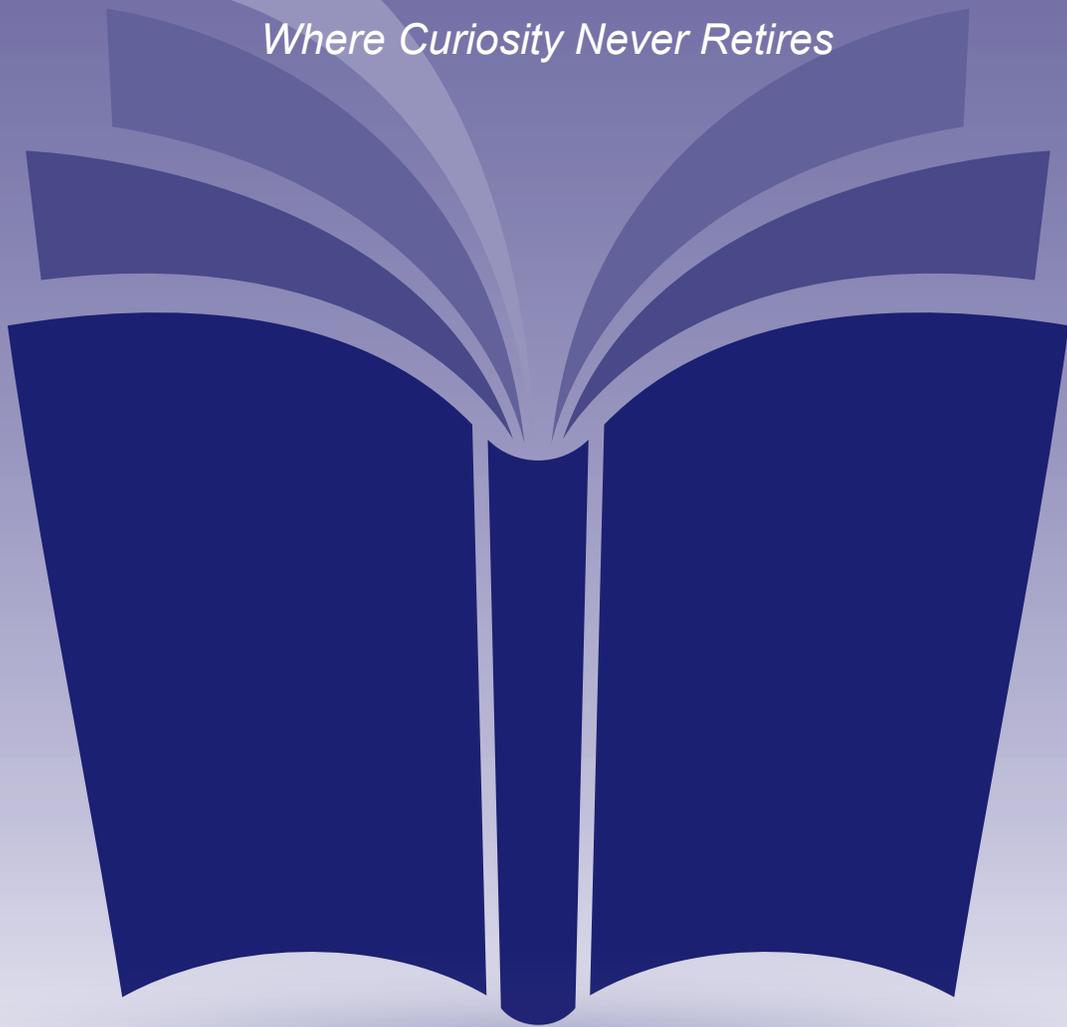
OSHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE

# OLLI

at American University

# FALL 2015 CATALOG

*Where Curiosity Never Retires*



# Welcome to the 2015 Fall Semester at OLLI at AU!

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Welcome new and returning members! Here is your fall catalog. Within its pages you will find the largest selection of classes in our 33 year history. Ranging from politics to philosophy and everything in between, there are classes for everyone. We thank both our returning study group leaders and those who are stepping up for the first time ... we wouldn't have a program without you. Should you feel inclined to lead a study group, we offer a study group leadership training session prior to the beginning of each semester.

We are again in a number of locations in addition to Temple Baptist Church. As you will see on the schedule of classes, all of the other locations for classes are handicapped accessible as shown by a new column on the schedule. There is a map showing all of our class locations with addresses on page 43. Although we have not completed a contract for our move to American University as this goes to press, we anticipate being able to update the membership on the status of the move in the fall.

Now and throughout the fall semester, remember to go to our website ([olli-dc.org](http://olli-dc.org)) to register and to find out about upcoming events. This past year 60% of members registered online. When you register for classes, remember to list six classes in order of priority, one being the highest priority and six being the lowest. This will enhance your ability to get into those classes that you have prioritized on the days and times you wish to attend. Our lottery for oversubscribed classes is working extremely well, and we find that most members are happy with their results.

In addition to our study groups, we also offer lectures, OLLI Shorts (a 3-, 4- or 5-day immersion class in February), social events, and online discussion groups. There may be a trip or two thrown in for good measure.

All that remains is for you to gather your school supplies: a thirst for knowledge, an eagerness for new experiences, and a fondness for friends old and new. You'll need them all for our fall semester.

Happy Learning!

**Gloria Kreisman**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

**Anne N. Wallace**  
*Executive Director*



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## OLLI Board of Directors

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Vice Chair .....	Stan Newman*
Secretary .....	Katy Adams*
Treasurer .....	Phil Schwartz*
Members .....	Sue Boley Lewis Cohen Bob Goodman Denise Liebowitz* Larry McCarthy Dave Palmeter Barbara Rollinson Betsy White

\*Executive Committee

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Curriculum Coordinator .....	Tony Long
Program Coordinator .....	Mary Fran Miklitsch
Administrative Assistant .....	Vivian Booker

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Budget .....	Phil Schwartz
Curriculum .....	Naomi Heller
Development .....	Stanley Newman
Facilities .....	Ray Rasenberger
Investment .....	Phil Schwartz
Lecture Series .....	Denise Liebowitz
Membership and Publicity .....	Larry McCarthy
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Social .....	Barbara Rollinson
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## OLLI Coordinators

Catalog Editor .....	Gloria Kreisman
OLLI Shorts .....	Bob Coe
Online Discussion Groups .....	Katy Adams
Study Group Leader Training .....	Selma Rosenthal
Study Group Representative Coordinator .....	Barbara Rollinson
Trips .....	To be announced

## Curriculum Committee

Stanley Asrael .....	100 Politics, Law, & Government
Marianne Soponis .....	200 Psychology, Sociology, & Culture
Betsy White .....	300 Economics
Suzanne Rosenthal .....	400 Biology, Physics, Chemistry, & Math
Naomi Heller.....	500 Visual Arts
Alan Frey & Mike Daniels .....	500 Music
Ellen Siegler .....	600 Literature
Sandy Leibowitz .....	600 Language
Bob Coe.....	700 History & Geography
Katy Adams .....	800 Philosophy & Religion



Printed on Recycled Paper

**OLLI does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, religious preference, national origin, or sexual orientation.**

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## Important Dates

Aug. 31	Lottery Day
Sept. 1	Registration Letters e-Mailed
Sept. 14	New Member Breakfast
Sept. 17	Open House: 10:00-11:30 am SGL/SGR Meeting: 11:30 am
Sept. 21	Classes Begin
Sept. 23	No Classes
Oct. 27	Town Hall
Dec. 11	Last Day of Classes
Dec. 15	Holiday Party

## Inclement Weather

**OLLI classes will be CANCELED ALL DAY whenever the District of Columbia Public School system announces school closings or delayed openings.** Members are urged to check our website as well as local television and radio stations that broadcast bulletins for the District's public schools.

# What is OLLI?

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Drawing on the talent and experience of seniors in the Washington, DC area, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at American University offers a unique opportunity to continue learning at the university level. Members come from varied social, economic, and career backgrounds, ranging from business, academia, and homemaking to education, the arts, and government service. What they have in common is a genuine interest in continuing their learning experiences and intellectual stimulation by participation in an organization with other “seasoned learners.” There are no educational prerequisites for membership in OLLI.

## Learning Community

The basic concept of the program is that of peer learning and teaching. Members participate fully in study groups through preparation for, and involvement in, discussions on a wide variety of subjects. There are no tests and no grades; members participate purely for the joy of learning. Members are encouraged to discuss the possibility of leading a study group with members of the Curriculum Committee and by participating in our Study Group Leader Training Course.

## Study Group Leadership Training

We offer a three-session class to give participants the confidence and skills to become effective study group leaders, and to give current or past SGLs the opportunity to share their wisdom or to improve their instructional and leadership styles. The topics covered in the class will include gathering resources, organizing a syllabus, and sharpening presentation skills. Members will have an opportunity to practice, to be videotaped, and to get feedback from each other. Coordinated by Selma Rosenthal, this class will be held **September 9, 10, and 15 from 10:00-11:50 am** at the Temple Baptist Church. If you are interested, please call the office at 202.895.4860 or email [OLLI@American.edu](mailto:OLLI@American.edu). **(This training may be taken in addition to three other courses.)**

## Membership Involvement

Members become involved not only as study group leaders or representatives but also as participants on an elected board and appointed committees. As a democratic membership organization, OLLI depends on the volunteer services of its members. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in one or more of the following:

**The Board and its various committees** develop and implement policies, procedures, and activities designed to enhance the overall program.

**Study Group Leaders (SGLs)** are members with special expertise or interests who wish to share these with other members by designing and leading study groups. **They are entitled to free classes during the semester they lead a group or the following semester.**

**Study Group Representatives (SGRs)** function as a liaison between their study group and the OLLI administration. They facilitate member participation, make announcements, and assist study group leaders.

## Expanded Social Experience

Membership in OLLI provides an opportunity for increased social interaction and new friendships based on a shared interest in learning. Informal lunchtime discussions and special events such as open houses, guest speakers, and coffee hours provide some of the many occasions for socializing. Many outgrowths of OLLI have developed among members interested in pursuing a topic in depth. Each “OLLI Opportunity” or “OLLI Op” meets independently and provides an environment of continued friendship and learning.

## Events

**Open Houses** occur each fall and spring, enabling new and continuing members to get together, learn about OLLI, and meet study group leaders.

**The Tuesday Lecture Series** takes place during the semester and features members of the greater Washington, DC community, each speaking on a special field of interest. Members are encouraged to have lunch together and then attend the lecture from 12:15 to 1:15 pm. Lectures are free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary.

**Interim Lecture Series** are held in January and June, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays—**from 10:00 to 11:30 am**, featuring speakers on a variety of subjects. Lectures are free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary.

**Special Events** include day trips, museum tours, discussions, and other activities.

**Town Hall** in the fall and **Annual Meeting** in the spring give members an opportunity to see others, voice concerns, ask questions, and learn more about OLLI’s future plans.

**A Holiday Party** is held in December. A **Spring Fling** is held in May.

# How is OLLI Organized?

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OLLI is an independent, nonprofit organization 501(c)(3) incorporated in Washington, DC, located at American University (AU), and is part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute National Network, which now includes 119 Institutes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. OLLI leases space from AU for its administrative offices. Members are eligible to use the university library, computers, parking, Metro shuttle service, campus store, dining facilities, and to join the Jacobs Fitness Center at a reduced rate.

Most educational activities of OLLI take place in classrooms leased to OLLI by the Temple Baptist Church (TBC) at 3850 Nebraska Avenue, NW. The church provides classrooms as well as office space, restrooms, and common areas. A limited number of marked parking spaces (18) **are available for handicapped members** (with visible permits) in the church parking lot.

Other classes are held at the Anderson Computer Lab (AC) on the A.U. campus, Forest Hills (FH), Gandhi Memorial Center (GMC), River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (RR), and St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral (GOC). See map on page 43.

## Online Discussion Groups

We are eager to offer additional online discussion groups. You can obtain more information on the OLLI website. If you have an interest in starting an online group to discuss a book you are reading or to have an online conversation about an issue that is important to you, please contact the office to see if we can help you get an online group started. This online and interactive environment provides you the opportunity to engage with other OLLI members in a format that goes beyond the traditional classroom and gives you the flexibility to participate at your convenience.

## Support of OLLI

Membership fees (\$275 per semester, or \$500 for fall and spring semesters) support the program. OLLI is further supported by an endowment from the Osher Foundation given to and managed by American University. OLLI receives a percentage of the interest from the endowment annually.

The OLLI Future Fund, established by the Board of Directors, is for future space needs. We welcome donations to OLLI at any time. OLLI is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

## Membership Application and Registration

Apply for membership, register for study groups, pay for membership, and donate, all at the same time. Send in the form at the back of this catalog with a check. Or apply online at [www.OLLI-DC.org](http://www.OLLI-DC.org) to pay with a credit card using our online registration system.

**Please email or call the office to register for a fourth course.** Do not assume there is space available if you see an empty seat. The number of participants for each study group is determined by the study group leader, by available space, and by the office.

**Our study group leaders spend a prodigious amount of time preparing their classes. Please attend the classes in which you are registered and only the classes for which you are registered.**

## The Registration Process

We highly recommend that members get their registrations into our office **before** Lottery Day (**August 31, 2015**). Class sizes are determined by Study Group Leaders and available space. If a study group is oversubscribed on that day, the registrations in that class are subjected to a random computer lottery process. Members who are not selected are put on a waiting list and will be notified by the office if space becomes available. **Registration confirmation notices will be emailed by September 2.** We will continue to accept registrations on a space-available basis until the semester begins.

OLLI reserves the right to cancel any study group. Members registered in a study group that is canceled will be notified immediately so that they may select an available alternate.

## Scholarships

**If you need scholarship assistance, please write a note to the executive director with your request. All requests are confidential.**

### Refund Policy

**The office must receive requests for refunds, in writing, no later than the end of the second week of the term for which the refund is requested. A \$25 processing fee will be assessed. This term the deadline for refunds is close of business Friday, October 2.**

# Schedule of Fall 2015 Study Groups

#	Study Group	Leader(s)	Start	Sessions	Site	
<b>MONDAY MORNING (10:00 am - 11:50 am)</b>						
120	The Quotable Mark Twain	Bliss	10/5	8	RR	
151	Middle East Institute Scholars Seminar	MEI	9/21	9	TBC	
241	Conscious Eldering	Jones-Carroll	9/21	8	GOC	
258	Writing and Sharing Your Family History	Benor	9/21	8	RR	
260	Thinking Outside the Box - in Science and Business	Eisner	9/21	8	RR	
425	Stem Cells	Cafoncelli	9/21	10	GOC	
542	Billings to Bernstein and Beyond: "Classical" Music in America	Bowen	9/21	9	TBC	
583	Eight Great 20th Century Composers	Squitieri	9/21	8	TBC	
631	Understanding Families Through Plays	Lewis	9/21	8	GOC	
681	Oedipus Trilogy by Sophocles	Willens	9/21	8	TBC	
721	The Bloody Breakup of Pakistan	Coe	9/21	10	TBC	
723	The Evolution of Civilization in Meso-America	Heilman	9/28	10	TBC	
771	Argentina's Dirty War	Orenstein	9/21	10	GOC	
<b>MONDAY AFTERNOON (1:00 pm - 2:50 pm)</b>						
112	Understanding Asia	Hadden	9/21	8	GOC	
177	The Affordable Care Act	Thorburn	9/21	8	RR	
187	Cybersecurity and Cyberwar	Weiss	9/21	10	TBC	
292	Having Fun and Living Healthier in Retirement	Bickford	9/21	8	RR	
510	The Free Range Drawing Studio: Developing Ideas and Skills	Zaremba	9/21	10	TBC	
516	Ballet's Back Story	Lipkowitz	9/21	10	TBC	
545	American Popular Song: The B-list Composers: 1930-1960	Moskowitz	9/28	10	TBC	
612	Cours de conversation en français	Labib	9/21	10	TBC	
621	Closed Cases: Lawyers and Courtrooms in Mystery Fiction	Coleman	9/21	8	TBC	
641	Henry Fielding's Tom Jones	Moody	9/28	10	GOC	
690	Shakespeare and the London Theater of His Time	O. Coffey	9/21	10	RR	
693	Essays: Classics, Favorites, Earmarked	Palmer	9/21	10	GOC	
724	James Madison, Founding Father and Political Philosopher	Roberts	9/21	8	GOC	
860	A Progressive and Rationalist View of the Road to Spiritual Maturity	M.P. Johnston	10/12	8	GOC	
<b>TUESDAY MORNING (10:00 am - 11:50 am)</b>						
185	India-United States Strategic Partnership	Mansingh	9/22	8	GOC	
265	Baseball Stories: Fiction and Fact	Boley	9/22	8	TBC	
350	Financial Planning and Investment Management in Retirement	Peterson	9/22	8	GOC	
466	Einstein's Greatest Challenge	Goldin	9/22	10	GOC	
508	Drawing and Watercolor Painting	Whitener	9/22	10	TBC	
615	Wie ist Ihr Deutsch? Wollen Sie es auffrischen?	Caraher	9/22	9	RR	
618	Spanish and South American Culture	Grigera	9/22	8	TBC	
651	Writing Down The Bones	Hansen	9/22	8	GOC	
715	Jewish History and Art: A Survey course	Berman	9/22	10	TBC	
769	The Decline of Violence	Forrest	9/22	9	RR	
777	Assessing Critical Political & Military Decisions & Events -- 1914-2015	K. Coffey	9/22	10	RR	
795	Imperial Russia	Levenbook	9/22	8	TBC	
<b>TUESDAY AFTERNOON (1:30 pm - 3:20 pm)</b>						
172	Current Events II	Nevins	9/22	8	TBC	
180	Today's Supreme Court: A Course for Citizens	Hansen	9/22	8	GOC	
297	World Health Organization Age-Friendly City Aspirant: Washington, DC	Kohn	9/22	10	TBC	
338	Following Economic Policy	Ooms	10/6	9	RR	
345	The Price of Inequality	Cohen	9/22	10	TBC	
370	Climate Change	Ridker	9/22	10	GOC	
415	Science and Public Policy	Katz	9/29	8	RR	
471	Old and New Math	Read	9/22	10	TBC	
492	Human and Animal Minds, and The Gap Between	Taran	9/22	10	GOC	
515	Tracing the Development of Modern Art in the Nineteenth Century	Steinitz	9/22	8	TBC	
548	Kenneth Clark's Civilisation Part 2	Michalowski	9/22	8	TBC	
662	The Sound and Stories of Faulkner's South	Heginbotham	9/22	8	GOC	
793	Year Zero: A History of 1945	H. Schwartz	10/6	8	RR	

#	Study Group	Leader(s)	Start	Sessions	Site	♿
<b>WEDNESDAY MORNING (10:00 am - 11:50 am)</b>						
148	America's First Ladies	Meacham	9/30	10	GOC	♿
171	Current Events	Dunnells	9/30	8	TBC	
381	Economic Policy Issues: Conservative and Progressive Views	Peterson	9/30	10	GOC	♿
511	Looking at Architecture	Vorhes	9/30	10	TBC	
523	Creating Art through Collage: Beginners and Advanced	Mosner	9/30	10	RR	♿
597	Famous Artists and Their Work	El-Khawas	9/30	9	TBC	
603	Poetry Craftshop: A Genealogy of African American Poets	Pierson	9/30	10	TBC	
619	French -- Back to the Basics	Bonhomme	9/30	10	TBC	
655	Dostoevsky and Tolstoy: Belief, Doubt, and Epiphany	Parlato	9/30	8	GOC	♿
671	Drama in America: Freedom and Free Spirits	White	9/30	9	GOC	♿
763	American Civil War: The Economics of the Civil War	Bradley	9/30	11	TBC	
790	Way Up South: History of School Segregation in Maryland	Buglass	9/30	9	RR	♿
803	Metaphysics: The Nature of Reality	Scherer	9/30	8	RR	♿
<b>WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (1:00 pm - 2:50 pm)</b>						
110	Contemporary Issues in Law, Government, and Policy	AU SPA	9/30	9	TBC	
210	Why Are Americans Different?	Denker	9/30	10	TBC	
310	Emerging Africa and America's Stakes in Its Development	Swamy	9/30	8	RR	♿
356	When Will They Ever Learn?	Opper	9/30	10	GOC	♿
475	The Stories Behind the Vaccines	Brunell	9/30	8	RR	♿
604	Poetry Craftshop: A Genealogy of African American Poets	Pierson	9/30	10	TBC	
638	Recent Poet Laureates: Their Styles and Themes	Coyle	9/30	9	GOC	♿
669	Enjoying The New Yorker Together	Hausman	9/30	10	GOC	♿
696	Fairy Tales--Not for Kids Only	Sachs	9/30	9	GOC	♿
730	The Life and Times of Winston Churchill	Newman	9/30	10	TBC	
826	The Message of the Holy Quran	Ayoubi	9/30	8	RR	♿
862	Understanding Hinduism	Rao	9/30	10	GOC	♿
865	Isaiah Berlin: The Power of Ideas	Palmeter	9/30	10	TBC	
<b>THURSDAY MORNING (10:00 am - 11:50 am)</b>						
105	The Public Policy Paradox	Nadel	10/8	8	GOC	♿
161	Current Issues	Allen	9/24	8	TBC	
215	American Pharmacy: Good Medicine?	Lieberman	9/24	8	RR	♿
256	A Good Death	Hausman	9/24	8	TBC	
290	Learning More About Life in Metro DC	Soponis	9/24	8	GOC	♿
351	Tax Policy	Silfen	9/24	10	GOC	♿
480	Understanding the Weather	Brown	9/24	10	GOC	♿
547	Modern Themes in Prehistoric Rock Art	Achrati	9/24	8	TBC	
616	Curso Intermedio de Conversación Hablemos en Español	Keller	9/24	8	RR	♿
646	The Book of Exodus-Narrative in the Ancient World	Lebow	9/24	10	TBC	
682	Oedipus Trilogy by Sophocles	Willens	9/24	8	TBC	
686	Enjoying Contemporary African-American Literature	Siegler	9/24	8	TBC	
875	Cultivating Compassion: Discovering What Compassion Really Is	Maher	9/24	8	RR	♿
<b>THURSDAY AFTERNOON ( 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm)</b>						
113	Revolutions (and Their Aftermath)	Elkin	9/24	8	TBC	
250	Cutting Edge TED Talks	Swan	9/24	8	TBC	
272	Mental Disorders: Selected Legal and Policy Issues	Farrell	10/1	8	TBC	
577	The American Experience in Literature, Musicals, and Film	Bortnick	10/1	9	TBC	
588	Discussions in the Visual Arts	Swan	9/24	8	TBC	
785	The Legacy of 'The Great War' -- Too Soon to Tell?	Palmer	9/24	10	TBC	
<b>FRIDAY MORNING 10:00 am - 11:50 am)</b>						
620	Literary Biography II	Leibowitz	9/25	10	FH	♿

#### OLLI LOCATIONS LEGEND

<b>AL</b>	Anderson Lab	<b>KC</b>	Katzen Arts Center
<b>FH</b>	Forest Hills	<b>RR</b>	River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
<b>GMC</b>	Gandhi Memorial Center	<b>TBC</b>	Temple Baptist Church
<b>GOC</b>	St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral	♿	Handicapped Accessible

See page 38 for a map showing the location of the Anderson Lab and page 43 for a map showing all other OLLI locations.

# Fall 2015 Study Group Descriptions

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## 100 Politics, Law & Government

### 105: The Public Policy Paradox

*Mark Nadel*

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**October 08**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

As we think about public policies covering everything from farm subsidies to taxes, many of us have clear assessments about what is fair, what the causes of public problems are, and what strategies should be employed to solve them. People of good will have greatly varying concepts of policy goals, issues, and solutions. This study group will discuss how our world view is shaped by differing views of such concepts as equity, efficiency, and liberty, and we will apply these views to current public policy issues. We will also cover ambiguities inherent in defining problems and consider how varying interests affect strategies for resolving policy problems.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Mark Nadel has taught public policy at Cornell University, Georgetown's McCourt School of Public Policy, and the University of Maryland. He spent 20 years covering various policy issues at the Government Accountability Office.*

### 110: Contemporary Issues in Law, Government, and Policy

*School of Public Affairs*

*OLLI Coordinator Ruth Darmstadter*

*Nine Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Each week we will focus on one of these issues:

- Climate Change Politics
- Current Issues Involving War Power
- What is Human Trafficking?
- Running from Office: Why Young Americans Are Turned Off to Politics
- Health Reform
- Representation in Policing
- Why Do People Participate in Political Violence?
- Developments in Reproductive Rights

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Ranked among the top schools of its kind, American University's School of Public Affairs offers education in the fields of political science, public administration, public policy, and justice. It was founded in 1934 with a handful of graduate students. Eighty years later, SPA has some 2,000 students and offers 13 programs to undergraduate and graduate students.*

### 112: Understanding Asia

*Rita Hadden*

*Eight Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

Are you interested in insights into how China, Japan, India, and their Asian neighbors have changed? Join us for intelligent conversation on issues such as: What historical tensions are holding back cooperation among Asian countries? How does Asian economic development impact marriage and family patterns? What drives business in Asia? Where are there further opportunities for major change in Asia? This study group will cover political, social, cultural, business, and historical topics. Each week, class members receive via email 3-4 articles that will be used for discussion. Reading of articles and participation in discussion is required. Videos on Asia may be viewed in class.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Rita Hadden is Chinese-American, born in Hanoi and raised in Saigon, Phnom Penh, Hong Kong, and the US. She has lived and traveled widely in Asia, and recently worked for a year in China. For over 40 years, Rita specialized in management and international consulting. She has been President of the Asian American Forum in Washington, DC, and is active on its Executive Board. Rita has lectured on Asian topics for the OLLI Lecture Series.*

### 113: Revolutions (and Their Aftermath)

*Stephen Elkin*

*Eight Thursday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Why do some revolutions succeed, leading to a stable and broadly liberal and democratic result, and others fail, leading to chaos and tyranny? Thus the American

Revolution succeeded, the French did not, nor did the Russian. Mightn't it be the case that thinking about these historical revolutions will help us analyze contemporary revolutions, most notably the Arab Spring, whose results press upon us in all kinds of ways. To help us think about these matters, we will read a great book, *On Revolution*, by a great modern political theorist, Hannah Arendt. We will also read a short book by another great theorist, Michael Walzer, *The Paradox of Liberation*. As well, we will read a small sample of analyses of the current upheavals in the Middle East.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

*Stephen Elkin has taught political theory at Smith, Penn and the University of Maryland for over 40 years. He has a PhD from Harvard and has been Study Group Leader for four OLLI courses.*

### **120: The Quotable Mark Twain**

**Donald Bliss**

*Eight Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**October 05**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Mark Twain is among the most quoted of all Americans. As an author, political and social commentator, humorist, lecturer, global traveler, and philosopher, Twain had a lot to say about a lot of subjects, including race, politics, imperialism, Congress, religion, journalism, war, taxes, bureaucracy, and more. In this study group, participants will pick a quotation from a basket, the study leader will provide some context, and the class will discuss the issue presented. Through this process, we will learn a lot about this multi-faceted American icon. Persons who believe that politics and religion should not be discussed in polite company should avoid this class.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Donald T. Bliss (retired ambassador) is the great-grandson and grandson of Mark Twain's publishers. He has written a book, Mark Twain's Tale of Today, about Twain's views on American politics (available on Amazon). He also has written a play about Twain, Halley's Comet Returns, about Twain's darker writings and personal tragedies.*

### **148: America's First Ladies**

**Carl Meacham**

*Ten Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

America's First Ladies have always occupied a very special place in the US political system. Viewed by their husbands as essential partners, their contributions to the success of particular administrations are now becoming known. Obviously, they have supported their spouses, but just as significantly, their advocacy of certain programs has meant the difference between success and failure. How they have used their unique bully pulpits, of course, may never be known. Yet recent studies have revealed that First Ladies are not just "pretty faces," but extremely bright individuals who, too, were qualified to be Presidents. In this study group, our focus is on the impact of First Ladies on the making, or influencing, of public policies.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Carl E. Meacham is a veteran OLLI Study Group leader. A Professor Emeritus, Political Science, College at Oneonta, State University of New York, where he taught for almost two decades, he has led study groups at OLLI since 2011.*

### **151: Middle East Institute Scholars Seminar**

**Middle East Institute**

**OLLI Coordinator Stanley Asrael**

*Nine Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

In one of OLLI's most popular offerings, nine scholars from the Middle East Institute (MEI) will present in-depth analyses on a wide-ranging set of issues, including diplomacy and religion, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, unrest in the Middle East, and cultural affairs in the region. MEI Scholars include former ambassadors, university professors, journalists, and senior government officials who are experts in their fields.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Founded in 1946, the Middle East Institute is the oldest Washington-based institution dedicated solely to the study of the Middle East. Its founders laid out a simple mandate: "to increase knowledge of the Middle East among the citizens of the United States and to*

*promote a better understanding between the people of these two areas.” That is precisely what this seminar will aim to do.*

### **161: Current Issues**

**Richard Allen**

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This study group will discuss current issues of public importance, including social, political, economic, environmental, foreign policy, and legal issues. The objective will be to stimulate civil discussion and different points of view. The study group is based on the group leader’s belief that there are at least two reasonable sides to almost all public issues. The group leader hopes to discuss three or four issues each session and to identify those issues and circulate articles and other materials one or two weeks in advance of each session.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Richard Allen is a lawyer practicing in Washington, DC. He has led four previous OLLI study groups on the Supreme Court, the Constitution, and criminal justice.*

### **171: Current Events**

**G. Richard Dunnells**

**Louis Nevins**

*Eight Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Two seasoned OLLI members who have participated in several Politics, Law and Government classes will lead discussions on current topics focusing on, but not limited to, political and legal issues and foreign affairs. Topics will be assigned in advance and specific newspaper articles may be suggested, but participants will be expected to be familiar with the issues. Members are expected to be active participants in discussions. Leaders will present topics with the intention of stimulating discussion, and class participants may be asked to make initial presentations. (Repeat with new material)

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Richard Dunnells is a senior partner at Holland & Knight LLP. He has been in private law practice in Washington for 43 years. He also served four years as*

*Deputy Assistant Secretary Housing Management at HUD, and he served on the President’s Commission on Housing.*

*Lou Nevins was a financial institutions and housing finance attorney and lobbyist for more than 35 years. He ran Washington operations for two financial trade associations and was a partner in one, a CEO in another; and was a partner in a Wall Street law firm for 10 years.*

### **172: Current Events II**

**Louis Nevins**

*Eight Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Lou Nevins will lead discussions on current topics focusing on, but not limited to, political and legal issues and foreign affairs. Norm Carr, Jessine Monaghan, and Jerry Sachs will co-lead specific sessions with Lou. Topics will be assigned in advance and specific newspaper articles may be suggested, but participants will be expected to be familiar with the issues. Members are expected to be active participants in discussions. Leaders will present topics with the intention of stimulating discussion, and class participants may be asked to make initial presentations.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Lou Nevins was a financial institutions and housing finance attorney and lobbyist for more than 35 years. He ran Washington operations for two financial trade associations and was a partner in one, a CEO in another; and was a partner in a Wall Street law firm for 10 years.*

*This study group will be co-led by Norm Carr, Jessine Monaghan, and Jerry Sachs.*

### **177: The Affordable Care Act**

**Phyllis Th rburn**

*Eight Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), which became law in 2010, offered major health care reform. It expanded access to health care by requiring citizens and legal residents to have health care coverage (the “individual mandate”), expanding Medicaid coverage and subsidizing private health care coverage for low-income

individuals; it also attempted to contain costs and improve the quality of health care. We will examine the ACA's major provisions relating to access, cost, and quality, and how they were implemented. We will also examine the various meanings of these terms, and the criteria that can be used to evaluate the law's success.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Phyllis Th rburn is a political scientist who worked for more than 15 years at the Government Accountability Office, where she focused primarily on Medicare issues.*

### **180: Today's Supreme Court: A Course for Citizens**

**Penny Hansen**

*Eight Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

This study group will explore the important cases and decisions that continue to be made by the Supreme Court under Chief Justice John Roberts. Presentation material and discussion will focus on the major Constitutional issues being decided by a clearly activist and divided court: election reform, health care, gun control, diversity, equality, climate change, the environment, religion, and presidential power. We will focus on the historical and political background of these issues and the legal philosophies of the justices, along with the procedural mysteries of this, the least well known of our three branches of government. We will read *The Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction* by Linda Greenhouse and *The Oath: The Obama White House and the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin, along with articles on more recent cases. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Penelope Hansen directed numerous programs at the Environmental Protection Agency during its first 30 years and played a major role in implementing the country's first recycling, hazardous waste, Superfund, acid rain, and environmental technology verification programs. She was educated at Skidmore College, Johns Hopkins University, and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.*

### **185: India-United States Strategic Partnership**

**Surjit Mansingh**

*Eight Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

The India-US Strategic Partnership is a defining relationship of the 21st century, according to President Obama and others. This will come as a surprise to those familiar with the Cold War description of "estranged democracies" applied to the two countries. We will explore how, when, and by whom this transformation was brought about and what it entails at the present and in the future. For example, India and the US have more joint military exercises with each other than with any other country, and President Obama is the only US President to have visited India twice while in office and been honored as the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations. Collaboration in commerce, education, energy, and maritime security are other features of the partnership we will explore.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Surjit Mansingh, PhD, presently teaches at the School of International Service, American University. Formerly, she was at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is the author of several books and numerous papers on Indian history and foreign relations.*

### **187: Cybersecurity and Cyberwar**

**Stanley Weiss**

*Ten Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This study group will consider some of the political, social, economic, legal, ethical, and national security implications of cybersecurity and cyberwar, and will include a generalized description of the workings of cyberspace sufficient to allow us to consider these broader issues. It has been said "the cyberspace universe is complex well beyond anyone's understanding." Nevertheless, the subject is so important to ourselves and our children and grandchildren that the effort must be made to learn as much about it as possible.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Stanley Weiss is a lawyer and ethicist who has led a number of study groups at OLLI, including classes on medical ethics, the ethics of climate change, and the ethics of modern asymmetric warfare.*

## 200 Psychology, Sociology & Culture

### 201: The Decline of Violence

*Bruce Forrest*

*Leslie Forrest*

*Nine Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

See description and bio of study group 769 on page 32.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

### 210: Why Are Americans Different?

*Joel Denker*

*Ten Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

“What then is the American, this new man?” Crèvecoeur, a French writer visiting America, asked expectantly. We will explore a variety of the factors — ethnic diversity, religion, social mobility, the frontier — that have been offered as explanations for American uniqueness. Richard Hofstadter’s *America at 1750, A Social Portrait* will set the stage for our discussions. If America, then, is so unique, what distinguishes it from other settler societies, like Canada, Latin America, and Australia? Note: This is not a study group about what is commonly thought of as American Exceptionalism, the idea that we have a unique destiny and obligation to export our values.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Joel Denker, a veteran teacher, OLLI leader, and author, has written widely about American culture. He received his doctorate from Harvard.*

### 215: American Pharmacy: Good Medicine?

*E. James Lieberman*

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

While not illegal, advertising prescription drugs to the public was considered unethical until the 1980s in the US and still is in other countries. Such ads perme-

ate our television, as though doctors won’t prescribe what’s best without such prompting. Some experts advise waiting to take a new drug until it’s five years old, because they think FDA approval of new drugs is too easy. David Healy’s book, *Pharmageddon*, current and well-written, addresses development and marketing of new drugs, universal health care, ghostwritten medical journal articles, and drugs for diabetes, infections, heart disease, and mental illness.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*E. James Lieberman, MD, a retired psychiatrist, has published books and articles on his profession, its history, and controversies. He is Clinical Professor Emeritus, GWU School of Medicine.*

### 241: Conscious Eldering

*Charlotte Jones-Carroll*

*Eight Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

How might one become a wise and giving elder rather than an old person marking time? The “conscious eldering” movement aims to shift the paradigm for aging today to one in which elders are respected and recognized contributing members of their communities. This requires intentional inner work, reviewing one’s life, healing the past and strengthening relationships, capturing what we learned from hard experiences, deepening our spiritual connection, and developing the skill to share the wisdom we harvest with family and community. The SGL will draw on the work of Erik Erikson, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Angeles Arrien, Ron Pevny, and others, integrating these with participants’ experiences and timely articles. (Repeat with some new material)

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Charlotte Jones-Carroll retired from a career in international development and became involved in non-profit governance. She discovered the conscious aging movement after offering an OLLI course on spirituality and aging, and has delved intensively into related courses and conferences. She is the Unitarian chaplain at AU.*

## 250: Cutting Edge TED Talks

*Diane Swan*

*Eight Thursday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to “Ideas Worth Spreading.” Since 1984, conferences have featured speakers who address a variety of topics. The Cutting Edge study group features recent talks that focus on current advances and new outlooks by speakers from various backgrounds and disciplines. Emphasis will be on discussion that takes advantage of the wealth of knowledge and perspectives that OLLI members bring to a range of topics. Each class member will assume responsibility for preparing background and discussion points for one speaker. We will view and discuss several TED talks each week. (Repeat with new material)

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Diane Swan taught English, worked as a Defense Department analyst, and developed training courses for various Federal agencies.*

## 256: A Good Death

*Carol Hausman*

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Since we all have to die, let’s discuss how to do it well. The study group will include practical and emotional aspects of preparing to have a dignified death. Topics will include unfinished business, how to talk to loved ones, forgiveness, writing an ethical will, decisions about when to stop treatment, suicide, what we can learn from illness and death, and the impact of a good death on those we leave behind. There will be some short readings and some writing in and out of class. Please read *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande before the start of class. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Carol Hausman is a clinical psychologist and gerontologist. She has been on the faculties of the Georgetown University School of Medicine, the Washington School of Psychiatry, and other institutions. In addition to this course, she has taught Aging and Literature, and Ethical Wills, at OLLI.*

## 258: Writing and Sharing Your Family History

*Roberta Benor*

*Eight Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist**

**Congregation**

What are the stories of your family history? You can add substance to the limbs of your family tree by recording and preserving your unique history. This course will cover the 5 W’s of recording your life story and then will show you how to create a lasting document. You can share vignettes of your history in class, and you will learn ways to bond with your grandchildren and plan a family reunion. During each class, you will have the opportunity to write parts of your life story by answering questions that deal with your chronology and philosophy. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Roberta Benor records life stories through “Let Us Remember.” She lectures widely on parenting, senior housing, and intergenerational activities.*

## 260: Thinking Outside the Box — in Science and Business

*Howard Eisner*

*Eight Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist**

**Congregation**

An exploration of ways to “think outside the box,” with special examples from science, engineering, and business. Nine specific areas are defined that suggest different approaches to “thinking outside the box.” These include: (1) Broaden and Generalize, (2) Crossover, (3) Question Conventional Wisdom, (4) Back of the Envelope, (5) Expanding the Dimensions, (6) Obversity, (7) Remove Constraints, (8) Thinking with Pictures, and (9) The Systems Approach. Discussion among members is encouraged. A scorecard is provided to facilitate self-exploration. New ideas are also encouraged for how to think outside the box so as to expand successful approaches.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Howard Eisner taught systems engineering at The George Washington University. He also worked in industry as a researcher, executive, and president of*

two systems and software engineering companies. He has written six books on topics related to engineering, business, and management. He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE, and a Fellow of INCOSE and the New York Academy of Sciences. He is now (retired) professor emeritus from GWU.

### **265: Baseball Stories: Fiction and Fact**

**Benjamin Boley**

*Eight Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

The group will read and discuss in the top half of each session a well-known short story dealing in fiction with some aspect of the national pastime, including works by Lardner, Runyon, Thurber, and Wodehouse. In the bottom of each session, the group will consider and explore actual events having some connection with that week's story. For example, we'll read James Thurber's tale about a dwarf who got to play for a major league club and then reflect upon Bill Veeck's hiring of a dwarf to play for the Cleveland Indians. We'll use one book: *Baseball's Best Short Stories — Expanded Edition*, edited by Paul D. Staudohar (2012).

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Ben Boley has guided two baseball study groups at OLLI. So, facing an 0-2 count, he promises to try hard to avoid the awful misfortune that brought no joy to Mudville in 1888.*

### **272: Mental Disorders: Selected Legal and Policy Issues**

**Margaret Farrell**

*Eight Thursday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**October 01**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This study group will explore cultural and historical understandings of mental difference and how people with mental disorders (cognitive and behavioral) have been treated medically and legally. Criminal law issues such the insanity defense will be drawn from the case of would-be Reagan assassin John Hinckley, Jr.,

the developmental diagnosis of Adam Lanza, shooter in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, and competence to stand trial in the case of Gabby Giffords' shooter. Finally, we will study civil commitment and guardianship proceedings, anti-discrimination under the American with Disabilities Act, and insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Margaret Farrell is an attorney who practiced in Washington for 30 years. She has also taught as an adjunct professor at American University and Georgetown University Law Schools. For 15 years she served as a court appointed Special Master in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia. She was also a litigation attorney at the Mental Health Law Project, now the Bazelon Center.*

### **290: Learning More About Life in Metro DC**

**Marianne Sponis**

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

Learn about other aspects of life in metropolitan Washington, DC — art, entertainment, non-profit, business, public service, etc. in our vibrant and growing locality. A different speaker will be featured each week, sharing some history, information, and interesting particulars of a topic, adding to knowledge of the area in which we live. Class discussions will add depth to what we know of the city and surrounding neighborhoods. A potential trip to an intriguing place will depend on class interest and availability of resources. (Repeat with some new material)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Marianne Sponis has been an active member of OLLI since retirement several years ago. She most recently worked at Marriott International Lodging as Director of International Training, traveling to Marriott Hotels around the world to facilitate management training in diverse cultural climates. Her curiosity and enjoyment of the city has influenced her decision to lead this class.*

## **292: Having Fun and Living Healthier in Retirement**

**Brad Bickford**

*Eight Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Study group members will explore and learn ways to live longer and have happier lives. The class will focus each week through lecture, discussion, and participation, on the importance of balance in one's life. Humor, improvisation, and story telling exercises will be used to experience happier feelings. We will discuss the mind/body connection, and class members will learn the importance of achieving a social, physical, mental, and spiritual balance.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Brad Bickford is a retired licensed clinical therapist who has studied improv and stand-up comedy, tap dance, pottery, and painting. He bikes, plays badminton, and plays the hammer dulcimer. He has taught classes in healthy living and fly fishing and enjoys organic gardening and carpentry.*

## **297: World Health Organization Age-Friendly City Aspirant: Washington, DC**

**Gail Kohn**

**Nick Kushner**

*Ten Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

The Age-Friendly DC Initiative is part of an international effort started by the World Health Organization (WHO) to respond to two significant demographics trends: urbanization and population aging. As of 2007, over half of the world's population lived in cities, and by 2030, that population will rise to about three out of every five people in the world. At the same time, improvements in public health have led to more people living longer lives. The proportion of people aged 60 and over will likely double from 11 percent of the world's population in 2006 to 22 percent by 2050. To help cities prepare for the convergence of these two trends, the WHO developed the Global Age-Friendly Cities project. Study group leaders will explain what DC heard listening to residents and how its Age-

Friendly DC Strategic Plan intends to address these issues of concern.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Gail Kohn is a nationally recognized leader in aging services. Until she joined the DC government, Kohn was founding director of Capitol Hill Village and the founding CEO of Collington, a continuing care retirement community located in Mitchellville, Maryland.*

*Nick Kushner has a background in urban planning and public affairs, working previously as a research assistant at the American Planning Association studying the incorporation of public health into comprehensive plans. Nick graduated with an MA in Urban and Regional Planning and an MA in Public and International Affairs from Virginia Tech. He has a BA in Political Science from the University of Minnesota.*

## **300 Economics**

### **310: Emerging Africa and America's Stakes in Its Development**

**Gurushri Swamy**

*Eight Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Africa grew rapidly in the last decade, although declining commodity prices and the Ebola crisis have slowed recent growth. Poverty has declined and health indicators have improved. A growing middle class is providing markets for American goods and investment in the fast growing and modernizing countries. Many countries have moved to democratic forms of government, although, unfortunately, some remain conflicted. Multilateral aid continues to be important; in addition, US administrations have instituted several programs: PEPFAR for AIDS relief, Power Africa, and others. The study group will discuss current developmental, political, and humanitarian issues in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Gurushri Swamy, PhD, is an economist, was educated at the Delhi School of Economics, and did research at the Economic Growth Center of Yale University before joining the World Bank. She has worked on sub-Saharan Africa for ten years, and has taught graduate students at the Elliot School of GW University.*

### **338: Following Economic Policy**

**Van Ooms**

*Nine Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**October 06**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

This study group will discuss US macroeconomic policy as it evolves during late 2015. Topics will include the economic outlook and persistent high long-term unemployment; fiscal and monetary policy; financial instability at home and abroad; proposals to reduce US budget deficits and debt; long-term growth and living standards; and poverty, inequality, and economic opportunity. The text will be Greg Ip's, *The Little Book of Economics: How the Economy Works in the Real World* (2013; Revised and Updated). Topical weekly readings, taken principally from the economic and financial press, and government and "think tank" reports, will be distributed by email. Internet and email access is required of all participants. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Van Doorn Ooms (PhD, Yale) taught economics at Yale and Swarthmore, held senior economics staff positions in the House, Senate, and OMB, and directed the research program at the Committee for Economic Development.*

### **345: The Price of Inequality**

**Lewis Cohen**

*Ten Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

The impact of a generation of widening economic inequality on our national politics, priorities, and social fabric has been profound. Income inequality promises to be among the top issues in the 2016 election campaign. Nobel Prize Winning Economist Joseph Stiglitz and political scientist Jacob Hacker have each put forward a provocative analysis both diagnosing this development from different angles and proposing a series of policy solutions in their latest books: *The Price of Inequality* and *Winner-Take-All Politics*. This course will draw on these books as a platform to ana-

lyze and discuss economic inequality and its implications. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Lewis Cohen earned degrees from Columbia College, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), and Harvard University (Kennedy School). He was a Peace Corps volunteer, Foreign Service officer, Trade Negotiator with the Office of the US Trade Representative, and continues to work as an international trade consultant for a large DC law firm.*

### **350: Financial Planning and Investment Management in Retirement**

**John Peterson**

*Eight Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

This study group explores the financial planning and investment management needs of retirees. A case study facilitates the discussion of topics including managing investments to make your money last, minimizing income taxes, understanding reverse mortgages, planning for long term healthcare needs, and organizing an estate for family and charitable goals. The application of planning strategies to today's investment markets, tax code, and financial regulatory environment is emphasized. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*John D. Peterson is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP™) practitioner with over 20 years of experience advising retirees on managing their financial wealth.*

### **351: Tax Policy**

**Martin Silfen**

*Ten Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. said, "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society." True enough. But how much of that tax burden should you bear? In this study group we will discuss various approaches to allocating the tax burden among citizens. We will learn about overarching principles that help shape a viable tax system. We will consider our existing tax systems and explore suggestions for improvement. Throughout

the course, we will evaluate (and grade) different tax proposals, including those of the presidential candidates. All participants are encouraged and expected to express their opinions.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Martin Silfen was a practicing tax lawyer for 21 years, specializing in retirement planning and estate planning, and a wealth planner with a wealth management firm for 14 years. He is the author of The Retirement Plan Distribution Book (The National Underwriter Co. 1999), and The Retirement Plan Distribution Advisor (The National Underwriter Co. 2002).*

### **356: When Will They Ever Learn?**

**Barbara Opper**

*Ten Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

In one century, the US has suffered three debilitating financial crises: in 1907, 1929, and 2007-8. This study group looks at the commonality of the underlying causes of all three, primarily as determined by the three official commissions established to identify these causes in order to explain them to the public. We will discuss these and the remedies that ensued after each. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Barbara Negri Opper is a financial economist with experience in the life insurance industry, as an economist covering the banking system, capital markets, and non-bank financial institutions at the Federal Reserve Board, and conducting the World Bank's own financial policy and risk management. She now advises governments on their sovereign debt risk management.*

### **370: Climate Change**

**Ronald Ridker**

*Ten Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

This study group offers a survey of the science, economics, and political issues involved in global warming. Examples of topics to be covered include the findings of the latest 5-year report by the Intergov-

ernmental Panel on Climate Change, economic and social issues involved in proposed policies to limit emissions of greenhouse gases, burden-sharing within and between countries, and efforts to develop an international agreement to replace the now-defunct Kyoto Protocol, which will reach a climax at a global conference in Paris in late 2015. About half the sessions will involve presentations by experts. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Ronald Ridker, a PhD economist, wrote two of the earliest books on related topics, directed a program on population, resources, and the environment at Resources for the Future (an economic think-tank in DC), and worked in the Operation Evaluation Department of the World Bank for many years. He will serve as facilitator and coordinator of the presentations by experts and practitioners.*

### **381: Economic Policy Issues: Conservative and Progressive Views**

**John Peterson**

*Ten Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

By focusing on specific policies, such as the minimum wage, higher taxes on high income households, food stamps, the regulation of financial institutions, the mortgage tax deduction, and proposals regarding social security, the study group will discuss the reasons for the intellectual differences between conservatives and progressives on economic issues. Discussion will clarify the concepts important for the study of economic policies, such as: rent-seeking, regulatory capture, moral hazard, marginal incentives, market-based policies, and values of traditional institutions. The instructor will make a 20-minute presentation to set up each topic, and the rest of the class will be discussion. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*John Peterson was an economist with the Congressional Budget Office for 24 years before retiring in 2010. He has a PhD in economics from American University.*

## 400 Biology, Physics, Chemistry & Math

### 415: Science and Public Policy

*Arthur Katz*

*Eight Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 29**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist**

**Congregation**

Personalized medicine, nanotechnology, climate change, synthetic biology, neuroscience, energy technologies, cybersecurity, and the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons are topics that epitomize the intersection of science and public policy. They are emblematic of the critical role science plays in almost every aspect of our world and the opportunities and challenges it poses for society. We will examine these topics and others, providing a balance between an understanding of the underlying science in some detail, and an examination of the challenges posed at a personal and public policy level. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Arthur Katz earned a PhD (chemistry), an MS (meteorology), and worked almost 40 years in the US Department of Energy and predecessor agencies dealing with advanced nuclear reactors, planning and international collaboration in fusion energy, and fundamental biological research including the Human Genome Project.*

### 425: Stem Cells

*Antonio Cafoncelli*

*Ten Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

What are stem cells? Where do they come from and how many types of stem cells are there? We will learn the biology and the new molecular biology research of stem cells, a field which has been growing exponentially in the last decade. Can stem cell therapy help to ameliorate or cure dreadful neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease? Can stem cell therapy help to cure cardiovascular diseases or chronic diseases, such as Diabetes Mellitus? Emphasis will be placed on learning about the truth and real scientific achievements of stem cell research, ethical

considerations and strict regulation on therapy, based on evidence-based medicine as clinical trials develop. Most of the study group will be covered by reading the book *Stem Cells: An Insider's Guide* by Paul Knoepfler. The book will be supplemented with handouts describing the epigenetic modifications, which are fundamental in the regulation and differentiation process of stem cells. The course is very basic and a background in biology may help, but is not necessary. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Antonio Cafoncelli is a retired thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon. He was a clinical associate professor of surgery at West Virginia University.*

### 466: Einstein's Greatest Challenge

*Ed Goldin*

*Ten Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

The mention of Einstein invokes the relativity of time and space. But Einstein actually spent most of his life creating the basis for the quantum theory of atoms. Ultimately, he rejected the theory's indeterminate, probabilistic nature. This is the story of Einstein's struggle with the quantum theory and a "god" that "does not play dice with the universe." Throughout this experience, we will witness, in a non-mathematical manner, how Einstein shed light on the universe by exploring the atom. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Ed Goldin holds a PhD in physics from Polytechnic University at New York University and a degree in Fine Arts from Cooper Union. He has taught university physics for 35 years, authored the book, Waves and Photons: An Introduction to Quantum Optics and engages in the arts. He was invited to contribute to the Einstein Centennial Conference held in Jerusalem.*

### 471: Old and New Math

*Jacques Read*

*Ten Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Towards the end of the 18th century, mathematics as practiced by mathematicians changed character, passing from the old subjects taught in American high

schools to what has been described as the “new math.” In ten weeks, this group will touch lovingly on number theory, geometry, algebra, trigonometry, calculus, vectors, harmonics, eigen functions, symmetry, symbolic logic, and topology, aiming for a basic understanding of underlying principles. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Jacques Read* taught at the University of California and Fairleigh Dickenson University, and performed research at Oak Ridge and Livermore National Laboratories. He has previously led OLLI study groups in chemistry, computer science, and mathematics.

#### **475: The Stories Behind the Vaccines**

*Philip Brunell*

*Eight Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Some of the issues we will discuss include the history of protests against vaccines, the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, individual rights and public health, and autism and vaccines. Is the influenza vaccine worthwhile? We will judge the ethics of research retrospectively, evaluate vaccines for seniors, and anti-cancer vaccines. Readings provided by SGL for \$5.00. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Philip Brunell, MD, has been on both sides of the needle. He has been a volunteer and also a conductor of vaccine trials. He has worked both at CDC and NIH. He was chair of the Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases and a member of CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. He has been a professor at NYU, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and UCLA. He has many research publications and textbook chapters.*

#### **480: Understanding the Weather**

*Paul Brown*

*Ten Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

Weather ranks high on the list of conversation topics, but very few people understand how and why it oc-

curs. The SGL will lead a wide-ranging discussion of the elements that underlie the weather — heat, wind, and water — and then show how these fundamentals interact to produce the major types of “bad” weather: frontal storms, Nor’easters, thunderstorms, supercells, derechos, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Time permitting, you will also be led through the atmospheric light show — sky, rainbows, sundogs, halos, auroras, etc., learn how to interpret weather maps and forecast the weather, and finally, discuss everyone’s favorite topic — the climate.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Paul Brown, AB, Harvard, MD, Johns Hopkins.*

*Internist, career neuroscientist at NIH, retired 2004.*

*Began mini-career as instructor in meteorology:*

*Montgomery College, Berea College, OLLI (Johns Hopkins), Oasis, and lectures in the DC area.*

#### **492: Human and Animal Minds and The Gap Between**

*Albert Taran*

*Ten Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

Do animals have minds? What are the characteristics of human minds, and how different are they from animal minds? In this study group, we will focus on topics in the evolution of intelligence in humans, and the emergence of human minds. We will read and discuss *The Gap: The Science of What Separates Us from Other Animals*, by Thomas Suddendorf, as the primary reading material, with supplementary material (handouts) to provide more detail on select topics. Each session will combine lecture and discussion.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Although Al Taran never trained or worked in the sciences, he has had a lifelong interest in them. He studied Philosophy in college, started on a PhD with a focus on the Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic, and earned a living in Information Technology.*

## 500 Visual Arts & Music

### 508: Drawing and Watercolor Painting

*Sarah Whitener*

Ten Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)

September 22

Temple Baptist Church

Drawing and watercolor painting take you into a world of line, shape, and color. The more you practice them, the more your personal language will emerge. In this class we will look at slides and work toward our own forms of personal expression. After a few classes focused on the fundamentals of drawing, we will spend most of the semester on watercolor, though participants are always free to use their own choice of media. Materials for the first class will be supplied, but participants will need to provide their own paper, paints, and brushes, all for around \$60. Specific materials will be discussed in the first class. All levels of experience are welcome.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading

*Sarah Whitener is a lifelong amateur artist who enjoys drawing, painting, block printing, and needlework. She has a BA in Art History and an MA in Archaeology. She has illustrated a book on Native American stone pipes and a cooking manual.*

### 510: The Free Range Drawing Studio: Developing Ideas and Skills

*Anka Zaremba*

Ten Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)

September 21

Temple Baptist Church

This is a hands-on practical, 10-week course, entailing drawing both from the clothed model and set still life, using a variety of traditional tools — charcoal, conté, graphite, and quill pens. Relevant drawings by artists such as Sargent, Soyer, Degas, and Rego, among others, will be examined for additional inspiration. Experience seeing, as opposed to merely looking, and push your creative boundaries. A modest fee is payable to the group leader to cover the costs of the live model.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading

*Anka Zaremba has lived and worked in the UK, East Africa, and Asia, where she has taught art in schools*

*from kindergarten through high school, and acted as a community art programs coordinator as well as a freelance writer. She studied Literature at the School of African and Asian Studies at Sussex University, Education (arts) at Warwick, and Museum Studies at Leicester University all in the UK. In this area, she is a teaching artist at the Kreeger Museum, and has taught youth programs at the Corcoran and at the Yellow Barn in Glen Echo. She tries to draw every day.*

### 511: Looking at Architecture

*John Vorhes*

Ten Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)

September 30

Temple Baptist Church

A building is part of history and by really looking we can see details that illuminate the culture and technology of the time. When describing a house or an office building, we often use terms like “Colonial,” “Victorian,” or “Modern,” yet these don’t accurately define the style or suggest the reasons for it. This class will give you a vocabulary — a quick understanding of basic structure from load-bearing walls to steel skeleton skyscrapers. The class also invites you to explore our city and its many examples of great (and sometimes not so great) architecture. The last class includes a “Fun Final” exam to test your design recall and a talk by Roger Lewis, Professor Emeritus at the School of Architecture, University of Maryland and *Washington Post* columnist. The National Trust for Historic Preservation handbook, *What Style Is It?*, is a good reference. A digital camera, so you can share your images with classmates, would be helpful but not essential. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*John Vorhes is a retired industrial designer and former project director for USIA Exhibition services for worldwide cultural exchange programs. He has 40 years of experience in art direction, architectural design, landscape design, graphics, and television production design.*

## **515: Tracing the Development of Modern Art in the Nineteenth Century**

*Lisa Leinberger*

*Lois Steinitz*

*Eight Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This will be a survey course that follows the progression toward modern art in the 19th century. Beginning with a short mention of the Neoclassicism of J.L. David and the official French Academy of Art plus the Romantic movement of Delacroix and others, we will look to the Realism of Corot, Courbet, and Millet, leading to the challenging innovations of Manet and Daumier. The next movement we will focus on will be Impressionism: Renoir, Monet, Degas, Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot, and Sisley. Following Impressionism, we will move on to the four great Post Impressionists: van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne, and Seurat. The course will conclude with the daring innovations of Matisse and Picasso in the early 20th century.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading

*Lisa Leinberger has a background in art and has worked at the Phillips Collection. She has recently been a leader of an OLLI Short. She has a Masters Degree in Art History and has taught French.*

*Lois Steinitz has been a study group leader for numerous classes. She has an MA in art history, taught at Georgetown University Continuing Education from 1982 to 1998, and, since 1982, has been a staff lecturer with The Phillips Collection.*

## **516: Ballet's Back Story**

*Iris Lipkowitz*

*Ten Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Ballet documentaries provide the back story about dancers, choreographers and their works, and companies and the conditions under which they perform. This course will explore ballet documentaries about the various Ballets Russes companies which toured the US and how some of their choreographers/dancers/repertory were instrumental in the development of two important American companies: American Ballet Theatre (ABT) and the New York City Ballet (NYCB). This course will include several recent documentaries. No background in ballet necessary.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading

*Iris Lipkowitz is a ballet lover whose collection of playbills and souvenir programs resides at the American University Library Archives. She studied ballet for many years and has a large dance book/tape/DVD collection. She has led study groups at OLLI for more than ten years. This is a new study group (her seventh).*

## **523: Creating Art through Collage: Beginners and Advanced**

*Rose Mosner*

*Ten Wednesday Mornings (9:45 AM - 12:15 PM)*

**September 30**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Collage is the perfect medium for getting your creative juices flowing. Using a variety of materials, we will immerse ourselves in creativity, color, composition, imagery, and texture. This class is perfect for beginners and seasoned artists. Bring scissors, glue, pencils, background cardboard, old photos, fabric scraps, ribbons, textured papers, string, pieces of plastic, colored pencils, paints, markers, pens, or whatever comes to mind. This class is longer (2.5 hours) to allow for more work time. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading

*Rose Mosner taught art in NYC schools for 22 years. With budgets for supplies very low, she canvassed neighborhood stores for fabric scraps, left-over wool skeins, wallpaper sample books, and the local lumberyard for wood scraps. Thus began her love of found-object collage. Rose's work has been in many juried shows, and she recently had a solo show at the Iona Gallery. She is also one of only ten artists involved with a special program for artists over 62 sponsored by Columbia University. Last September, two of her collages were displayed at the Corcoran. Rose has been in two juried shows in the past several months, and seven of her bas-relief were accepted for a joint show with another artist at the Herndon Art Center this fall.*

**542: Billings to Bernstein and Beyond:  
"Classical" Music in America**

**John Bowen**

*Nine Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This study group provides a sampling of American music, its context, and its creators. The composers we will study include, among others, William Billings, Stephen Foster, John Philip Sousa, Amy Beach, Scott Joplin, Charles Ives, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and Joan Tower.

**Class Format:** Appreciation

**Reading:** No required reading

*Though an economist by birth, **John Bowen** has led several OLLI music appreciation courses.*

**545: American Popular Song:  
The B-list Composers: 1930-1960**

**Daniel Moskowitz**

**Donald Velsey**

*Ten Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 28**

**Temple Baptist Church**

American popular songs in the mid-20th century became the world standard not only through the output of the above-the-title composers like George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, and Richard Rodgers, but with the contributions of other talents and prolific songsmiths of somewhat lesser fame. We will turn the spotlight on such composers as Harold Arlen, Arthur Schwartz, Vernon Duke, Hoagy Carmichael, and Harry Warren, showing what was distinctive about each one's approach to the popular song. We will discuss their careers writing for Broadway, Hollywood, and Tin Pan Alley, and how the demands of each market differed and affected the songs they produced. We will watch clips of (and, as you wish, sing along to) songs that were part of our lives — such as "StarDust," "April in Paris," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Blues in the Night," and "Swingin' on a Star" — as well as more obscure but no less accomplished gems that you may delightfully discover for the first time.

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** No required reading

***Daniel B. Moskowitz** is an award-winning journalist who has previously led OLLI sessions on American popular songs and Broadway musicals.*

*Retired architect **Don Velsey** is an amateur musicologist and co-author of *Classic American Popular Song: The Second Half-Century*, published by Routledge.*

**547: Modern Themes in Prehistoric Rock Art**

**Ahmed Achrati**

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This course looks at human behavior as documented in prehistoric rock and tries to identify salient cultural features in this art in order to study their evolution through time. An introductory overview of rock art provides a background for the discussion of the following topics: human body, gender, human pathology, culinary patterns, fashion and sartorial behavior, games and entertainment, rituals, and empathy. The course is a learning experience that helps students to develop their personal vision of ancient rock art. Interdisciplinary in its approach, the course stresses the importance of aesthetic growth and creative thinking. The course's lectures and discussions use various media, including PowerPoint and films. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

***Ahmed Achrati** graduated from law school in Algeria, and received his Masters degree from the School of Law at New York University, and a PhD in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania. He has since taught various subjects in the US and abroad. Currently, he is teaching languages and anthropology at Howard Community College, Columbia, MD. He has published many articles on symbolism in rock art in leading journals.*

**548: Kenneth Clark's *Civilisation* — Part 2**

**Carol Michalowski**

*Eight Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Long considered the most important film series on Western Art, Sir Kenneth Clark's *Civilisation* still is a memorable experience. The second of a planned two-semester course, we will view the last six films and discuss art from the Enlightenment through Impressionism. This personal view by Sir Kenneth, who worked with Bernard Berenson, covers the visual arts from medieval manuscripts through painting and architecture. In the background are relevant musical interludes. Hopefully, in this course, the participants will begin to form or refine their own personal view of art.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Carol Michalowski* has a Master of Arts in History from American University. In retirement, she completed the requirements of the Western Art History Program of the Smithsonian Resident Associates.

### **577: The American Experience in Literature, Musicals, and Film, Mid-20th Century**

*Mickey Klein*

*Barry Bortnick*

*Lisa Leinberger*

*Catherine Wyler*

*Nine Thursday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**October 01**

**Temple Baptist Church**

The period 1945 to 1975 was a time of great cultural, social, and intellectual ferment in America, as well as one of great contrasts. Starting and ending with the aftermath of two wars, WWII and the Vietnam War, each with a different impact on the national mood, the period gave rise both to a numbing sense of conformity and a hunger for authenticity and individual identity, periods of great hope and idealism followed by disillusionment and a search for a “new reality.” Racial tensions, ethnic identity, intergenerational conflict, increasing dependence on technology, and the growing role of the media in everyday life were issues then and remain key issues today. And running parallel with the seriousness of these themes, there was a major flourishing of popular culture focusing, above all, on entertainment and enjoyment. This study group will explore aspects of the time, by reading and discussing the works of writers such as J.D. Salinger, Bernard Malamud, James Baldwin, Eudora Welty, and John Cheever (Mickey Klein), through viewing and exploring selections from the great outpouring of musicals — in this, the “Golden Age” of musicals — such as “South Pacific,” “West Side Story,” and “Cabaret,” (Barry Bortnick) and through looking at selections from some of the most celebrated and significant movies of the 20th century (Mickey Klein, Lisa Leinberger, and Catherine Wyler). Participants should read “Sonny’s Blues,” “Battle Royal,” and “Where is the Voice Coming From” (all in the *Oxford Book of Short Stories*, available at low-cost online) before the first class. Some stories not in the book will be provided at the first class.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Mickey Klein* majored in English at Wheaton College (MA) and did graduate work in literature and intellectual history at UC Berkeley. She taught English before specializing in transportation, environmental, and urban policy in the federal government. She has led 16 OLLI study groups on 20th and 21st century literature.

*Barry Bortnick*, composer/lyricist/book writer of musicals, performed on both coasts and in London, former Program Director, Humanities, UCLA Extension, and Founding Director of UCLA’s OLLI. He has a PhD from Harvard University, where he did research on creativity and the development of interest in the arts.

*Lisa Leinberger* has a M.A. in Art History and has been an OLLI Co-Study Group Leader. She co-hosted a TV film review show in New Mexico and has co-written articles on the influence of movies and television on urbanism.

*Catherine Wyler*, daughter of the late Academy Award winning director, William Wyler, has been a studio executive (VP, Production at Columbia Pictures), founding artistic director at the Rochester/High Falls International Film Festival, and she has held leadership positions at PBS and the National Endowment for the Arts.

### **583: Eight Great 20th Century Composers**

*Ray Squitieri*

*Eight Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

We will follow the path of 20th century concert (classical) music beginning with three transitional figures (Debussy, Mahler, Richard Strauss) before moving to three radical modernists (Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Ives), and two distinctively Russian modernists (Prokofiev, Shostakovich). Along the way we will also sample such composers as Ravel, Berg, and Copland. Special welcome is extended to those who think they don’t like 20th concert music.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Ray Squitieri*, an economist with the US Treasury, has led seven different OLLI study groups on music, art, and history.

## 588: Discussions in the Visual Arts

*Wendel Swan*

*Eight Thursday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Based upon assignments, members will suggest or submit images for discussion about historic or contemporary issues in the visual arts. Sharing their own eclectic interests and experiences, the class will then engage in wide-ranging discussions that will often probe why we like the art that we do. Is it shape, color, technique, rarity, or because of learned preferences? Topics might include art technology, pre-Columbian art, public art, or fraud. Registrants are expected to spend 1 to 2 hours each week researching outside the classroom and to participate in the discussions. A fundamental ability to navigate on the internet is important. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Wendel Swan is a recovering lawyer and business intermediary of eclectic interests who has led courses on Oriental rugs, on using computers, as well as a prior version of this course.*

## 597: Famous Artists and Their Work

*Elaine El-Khawas*

*Nine Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

A great many paintings are famous or evoke an immediate response from us. Why? What do artists do that create great art? This course should generate a lively discussion and lasting insights into the magic behind great and original works of art. We will view DVDs and other visual material to discuss art from widely different eras, from Leonardo da Vinci to Jackson Pollock, including Vermeer, van Gogh, and others. The study group leader provides a practicing artist's perspective on the choices that artists make to achieve different effects, especially with color and composition. Class members will conduct Internet searches or visit museums outside of class.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Elaine El-Khawas is a professor emerita at George Washington University, having taught graduate students in education over the last 15 years. She is also an artist, working in oil painting, who has exhibited her work and won awards in the Washington area.*

## 600 Literature & Language

### 601: The American Experience in Literature, Musicals, and Film, Mid-20th Century

*Barry Bortnick*

*Mickey Klein*

*Nine Thursday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**October 01**

**Temple Baptist Church**

See description and bio of study group 577 on page 23.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

### 603: Poetry Craftshop: A Genealogy of African American Poets

*Jenny Pierson*

*Ten Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Using the required texts, *Selected Poems of Gwendolyn Brooks*, and *Lighthouse* by Terrance Hayes, as well as supplements from Etheridge Knight, Claudia Rankin, and Natasha Trethewey, we will trace the lineage of black poets as we explore issues of racial identity, racism, and injustice. In profoundly moving language often crafted from African and African-American forms, these poems illuminate a unique cultural experience. Classes consist of weekly assigned readings, discussions of technique and voice, and the writing of poems on assignment. For serious poets wishing to deepen their craft.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

*Jenny Pierson, poet and professor of writing at George Washington University, worked as a human rights advocate, dairy farmer, editor, and caterer. She holds an MFA in creating writing from American University.*

### 604: Poetry Craftshop: A Genealogy of African American Poets

*Jenny Pierson*

*Ten Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

See 603 for description and bio.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

## **612: Cours de conversation en français**

*Jaleh Labib*

*Dix mardi après-midi (13h00 - 14h50)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Ce cours est destiné à ceux dont le français leur permet de lire, comprendre et converser facilement parmi un groupe de francophiles intéressés à approfondir leur connaissance de la langue tout en améliorant leur prononciation. Les discussions seront, en partie, basées sur des textes couvrant une multitude de sujets et thèmes: actualités, politique, littérature, art, histoire, mode de vie, et autres. Ces textes seront soumis sous forme de documents Word (compatible), joints aux courriers électroniques. Les participants doivent donc avoir accès régulièrement à leurs emails et une bonne connaissance de l'internet.

Pour évaluer le niveau du français des candidats postulant pour la première fois, ils seront interviewés au téléphone avant d'être inclus dans le système électronique de sélection.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

*Jaleh Labib a parlé français depuis son enfance et tout au long de ses 35 ans d'expérience aux entreprises françaises et organisations internationales. Elle a mené un bon nombre de cours de conversation en français à OLLI.*

## **615: Wie ist Ihr Deutsch?**

**Wollen Sie es auffrischen?**

*Hanne Caraher*

*Nine Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist**

**Congregation**

This class is for intermediate-level speakers of German. We will translate current news articles and short stories of 20th century German writers, review points of grammar, and practice conversation. 1-2 hours of homework each week. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Hanne Caraher graduated from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, with the equivalent of a master's degree in conference interpreting and translation.*

## **616: Curso Intermedio de Conversación — Hablemos en Español**

*Minerva Keller*

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist**

**Congregation**

El español — cuyo uso se acrecienta a diario — es el lenguaje oficial de 19 países. El objetivo de este curso es que cada participante adquiera fluidez y un mejor dominio del idioma participando activamente en cada sesión. La conversación girará en torno de charlas, videos, y artículos de la prensa internacional sobre eventos de actualidad, además de cuentos ó lecturas que se asignarán semanalmente en forma impresa o por medio de un correo electrónico. Después de una breve introducción, cada tema merecerá una animada conversación, la que culminará en un breve resumen escrito de los participantes, para incrementar así la capacidad de expresión, no solo hablada, sino escrita.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Minerva Keller has an MA in Language and Foreign Studies from AU. She was a Lecturer and Adjunct Professor of Spanish, French, and Translation at college-level area institutions, and is a freelance translator. She has worked for international organizations as a translator and interpreter in Chile, Switzerland, Belgium, and Washington, DC.*

## **618: Spanish and South American Culture**

*Monica Grigera*

*Eight Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This study group provides an introduction to Spanish communicative competence and cultural knowledge of South America. The eight study group sessions are designed for anyone who has no experience with Spanish and is interested in basic conversational exchanges.

The culture of South America section of the class will be taught in English.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Monica Grigera is a native Spanish speaker and an educator who has taught from kindergarten to college and from Patagonia to Pennsylvania.*

## 619: French — Back to the Basics

*Evelyne Bonhomme*

*Ten Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote, “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible.” If this statement resonates with you, this course may be for you. We will focus on basic communication skills, including pronunciation, to facilitate everyday conversation. We will learn to use basic French structures in simple sentences, and develop an expanding vocabulary relating to fun activities such as meeting people, traveling, entertainment, ordering food, obtaining basic services, and your own interests. Expect a lot of practice in and out of class as you take your first steps toward reading, and conversing about, Saint-Exupéry in French someday. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Evelyne Bonhomme is a native French speaker, currently teaching French and French for Business at Bowie State University. She has more than 20 years of experience teaching French. She is a retired lawyer with a JD from the University of Pennsylvania, an MTS from Wesley Theological Seminary, and a BA (Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude) in French Literature from Wesleyan University, Connecticut.*

## 620: Literary Biography II

*Arnold Leibowitz*

*Ten Friday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 25**

**Forest Hills**

The structure of the study group is to combine literary biography — biography of the writers — with their poetry. Each session will begin with a lecture explaining the life and key events of the group of poets we are discussing. In the second half — or the next session — we will read and discuss their poems (which will be distributed). The groupings we will discuss are as follows: (1) The Elizabethans: The Metaphysicals (John Donne, Andrew Marvell, Christopher Marlow, Shakespeare, and Walter Raleigh); (2) The Lyricists (W.S. Gilbert, E. Y. Harburgh, Stephen Sondheim,

Alan Jay Lerner, Frank Loesser, and Oscar Hammerstein); (3) The Rural Muse (William Blake, Thomas Gray, and Robert Burns); (4) Civil War Poets (Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson); (5) The Victorians (John Clare, Lord Alfred Tennyson, Robert Browning, and Edward FitzGerald); (6) The Modernists I (Phillip Larkin, Thomas Hardy, Wystan Hugh Auden, and Edna St. Vincent Millay); (7) The Modern Canon (T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Dylan Thomas, and Robert Frost); (8) World War I Poets (Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owens, Rupert Brooke, Robert Graves, Ivor Gurney, Julian Grenfell, and John McCrae); and (9) Contemporary Women (Maya Angelou, Amy Clampitt, Caroline Duffy, Mary Oliver, May Sarton, and Natasha Trethewey. There may be one or two poets too many so that will have to be adjusted as we go. Participants will be required to purchase a photocopied set of these poems at a cost of approximately \$10.00. (This is a variant of the study group I have given before but with different poets.)

**Class Format:** Lecture

**Reading:** More than 3 hrs/week

*Arnold H. Leibowitz is an attorney in Washington, DC, in practice for over 40 years. His special interests are major social and political trends.*

## 621: Closed Cases: Lawyers and Courtrooms in Mystery Fiction

*Barbara Coleman*

*Eight Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Lawyers are as popular as private eyes and police detectives in mystery fiction. And the courtroom can be a dramatic setting for murder cases. The study group begins with background on the British and American legal systems, followed by readings of four books, the first of which will be *Presumed Innocent* by Scott Turow. In addition to the books assigned by the SGL, class members will have a chance to suggest other books for discussion.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

*Barbara Coleman is a retired senior policy adviser for AARP's Public Policy Institute, with expertise in long-term care. She has also worked as a researcher for other nonprofits.*

### **631: Understanding Families Through Plays**

**Karen Gail Lewis**

*Eight Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

For this study group, participants will read four popular plays. We start with a well-known play by Arthur Miller, *The Price* (1968). The second play is a charming play about grandparents and a grandson relationship, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, by Joe DiPietro (1994). We follow this with Lillian Hellman's *Little Foxes* (shocking when written in 1939). And, we conclude with a delightful poke at families and Catholic school, *Over The Tavern* (written in 1997 but set in the 1950s), by Tom Dudzick. We will discuss each play for two weeks, focusing on relationships among family members, typical emotional issues, and gender roles that have been influenced by prior family generations. We'll see how the richness of interpretation changes given the societal dictates. We'll also see how each play might be different if written by a playwright of a different race, ethnicity, or gender. Reading each play beforehand will enrich participation. (Repeat with new material)

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Karen Gail Lewis, EdD, has been practicing family therapy for over 40 years and has authored numerous books about marriage, gender relationships, singles, and adult siblings.*

### **638: Recent Poet Laureates: Their Styles and Themes**

**Daniel Coyle**

*Nine Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

In each session of this study group, we'll examine the work of one of our recent poet laureates: Stanley Kunitz (appointed 2000); Billy Collins (2001); Louise Glück (2003); Ted Kooser (2004); Donald Hall (2006); Kay Ryan (2008); W. S. Merwin (2010); and Natasha Trethewey (2012). In week 9 we'll discuss trends and styles in contemporary poetry not represented by these poets. Reading will be light; 6-8 poems per week. Texts of the poems will be provided via the internet or handouts.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Dan Coyle has a PhD in English and American literature from UNC/Chapel Hill. Although he found a career in academic database publishing, teaching literature had been his original career goal. Retirement has its rewards.*

### **641: Henry Fielding's Tom Jones**

**Ellen Moody**

*Ten Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 28**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

When Fielding died, a cousin quipped, "It is a pity he was not immortal, he was so formed for happiness." The nature of happiness, and all the many obstacles to its pursuit, are what this big book is about. We will read it, see why in its era, it was called "immoral," how recently it was adapted into films filled with wild hilarity, sexual salaciousness, and subversive irony, and discuss its narrator as well as concerns such as where power comes from, charity, and hypocrisy and the masks of social life. The full context will be Fielding's life and varied careers. Can you imagine a world without novels? This is one of the books that established the genre.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Ellen Moody has a PhD in English literature, with one of her major areas of publication the long 18th century. She taught in colleges for over 40 years, and is an independent literary scholar.*

### **646: The Book of Exodus — Narrative in the Ancient World**

**Irwin Lebow**

*Ten Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

The writers of the Hebrew Bible were unshakable monotheists living in the polytheistic world of early to mid first millennium BCE. Their masterful narratives — the first prose to come down to us from the ancient world — record the history of ancient Israel. The Five Books of Moses that begin the Bible contain the earliest part of this history, interspersed with Israel's ancient legal codes. The book of Exodus, the second of the Five Books, describes the events of this history that have become central to the monotheistic religions: the exodus from slavery in Egypt and the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. In this study group

we will read the narrative chapters of the book, pointing out along the way its presumed historical sources and the artful literary devices used by its writers and editors. As in earlier courses the text will be *The Five Books of Moses* by Robert Alter.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Irwin Lebow, a retired telecommunications engineer with a PhD from MIT, has also been a lifelong student of the Bible. He has taught many courses for OLLI in both telecommunications and the Bible.*

### **651: Writing Down The Bones**

**Brock Hansen**

*Eight Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

This is a study group for people who enjoy writing, or think they might, but who want a stimulus to practice writing. We will use Natalie Goldberg's *Writing Down the Bones*, in which she outlines a method for writing practice. Members are encouraged to read the book before the study group begins. In each meeting we will have two or three bursts of spontaneous writing practice lasting 10-15 minutes each, triggered by a specific launch or stimulus. After each burst, members will be able to share what they have written. No one is required to share and only positive feedback is permitted. Members should come prepared with their favorite writing materials.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Brock Hansen has enjoyed writing since elementary school and is intimately familiar with the difficulties in getting started writing. He has participated in and led writing practice groups such as this one and found them to be effective and stimulating. He published Shame and Anger: The Criticism Connection in 2006 and has enjoyed leading two OLLI study groups based on that book.*

### **655: Dostoevsky and Tolstoy:**

**Belief, Doubt, and Epiphany**

**Ronald Parlato**

*Eight Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

This study group will focus on *The Grand Inquisitor* and *The Devil: Ivan's Nightmare* within the context of the

Bible and *Paradise Regained* to understand Dostoevsky's struggle with faith and religion. It will also include a study of Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, *A Confession*, and episodes from *Anna Karenina* and *War and Peace* to understand Tolstoy's nihilism and final embrace of Christianity. The authors' works will be studied as literature but also as religion and philosophy.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Ronald Parlato (Yale '64 English/French Literature), former International Development expert, has taught three OLLI courses on Shakespeare and modern theatre.*

### **662: The Sound and Stories of Faulkner's South**

**Eleanor Heginbotham**

*Eight Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**September 22**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

*The Sound and the Fury*, carefully read and savored slowly, reveals why Faulkner "stands alone, a master of tragic farce, a wild-eyed comedian, a raconteur of the highest order." It is because of the novel's acknowledged difficulties that this class will match its four books with Faulkner's short stories, offering a few hints in advance, good conversations in class, and film glimpses of the author. Entering Faulkner's fabled Yoknapatawpha, we will consider how his tales, "remind [us] of the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice," which, hoped Faulkner, "help [us] endure and prevail."

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Eleanor Heginbotham, Professor Emerita of Concordia University, St. Paul (MN), author of two books on Dickinson, and frequent OLLI group leader, has studied and taught Faulkner from Mississippi to China.*

### **669: Enjoying The New Yorker Together**

**Bob Hausman**

*Ten Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

*The New Yorker* is a sophisticated weekly magazine of reportage, commentary, criticism, essays, fiction, satire, poetry, and cartoons behind artistic and provocative covers. Its wide audience beyond New York enjoys commentaries on popular culture and Americana, short stories, book, theater and movie reviews, medicine and law, world politics and social issues, all rigorously fact-checked. For each

class hour, a class member chooses an item from one of the magazine's issues and adds something from his/her experience, knowledge or research; then the class discusses the item. Members are told which items before the weekend in advance of the class. Student subscriptions are available. (Repeat with new material)

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Bob Hausman has been a lawyer in all three branches of the federal government and in private practice. He has read The New Yorker all his adult life and has always enjoyed discussing its contents. He has led this course for several semesters.*

**671: Drama in America:  
Freedom and Free Spirits**

*Andrew White*

*Nine Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

Join Andy White, who has taught courses on drama throughout history, in exploring the development of drama in the US. From its humble beginnings in the 1700s, through the rowdy 1800s and the even rowdier 1900s, we will follow America's great dramatists as they address some of the most pressing issues presented on stage.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Andy White is a theatre artist and historian. He will shortly publish his first book, with Cambridge University Press, on Byzantine theatre and ritual.*

**681: Oedipus Trilogy by Sophocles**

*Susan Willens*

*Eight Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

All western drama rests on the firm foundation of ancient Greek tragedy. In this course, we will study the compelling stories of *Antigone*, *Oedipus the King*, and *Oedipus at Colonus* as translated and edited by Robert Fagles. Fresh as this morning and deep as memory, the plays are compelling to discuss and to act out in an eight-week course.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Susan Willens has offered classes in story, essay, and drama for several years at OLLI and looks forward to the 2015 course.*

**682: Oedipus Trilogy by Sophocles**

*Susan Willens*

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

For description and bio, see 681.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

**686: Enjoying Contemporary African-American Literature**

*Ellen Siegler*

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

We will read, discuss, and enjoy short stories, non-fiction pieces, and drama by some of the best contemporary African-American authors — favorites from past courses and new names and faces. Authors will include E.P. Jones, Walter Mosley, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. For drama, we will read sections aloud to enhance understanding and enjoyment. In an optional two-week extension of the course, we will read a novel selected by class members. (Repeat with new material)

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Ellen Siegler, an English major turned environmental lawyer, has led this course twice before. Ellen has been a member of OLLI for five years and currently serves on the curriculum committee.*

**690: Shakespeare and the London Theater of His Time**

*Osa Coffey*

*Ten Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

This class will focus on Shakespeare's work as an integral part of the London theater scene during the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I and James I. While studying three plays — *Richard II*, *Hamlet*, and *The Tempest* — we shall examine their context in terms of London playhouses, acting companies, patrons, the physical stage, actors and acting, audiences, and court performances. As actor, playwright, and co-owner of the Globe Theater, Shakespeare was a major contributor to

making London the theatrical hub of Europe during his lifetime. There will be short lectures, DVD scenes from the plays, discussions, and a field trip to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Osa Coffey, a PhD in English Literature, has 40 years' experience in teaching, research, publications, and administration. She is currently a Senior Docent at the Folger Shakespeare Library.*

### **693: Essays: Classics, Favorites, Earmarked**

**Richard Palmer**

*Ten Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

The group will read and discuss essays notable for style, importance, and historical influence. The leader will offer a tentative roster (Montaigne, Dr. Johnson, Hazlitt, Mencken, E.B. White, and others) but will hope to elicit from members in the first or second session several favorites that can evoke discussion among life-reflective, life-experienced OLLI types, since this is envisioned as an actively participative course. Some members may volunteer to "introduce" suggested essays, or share contextual info about some essays. Ability to download scanned and email-attached content will be useful, though printed-out copies will be made available for those who need them.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Richard R. Palmer is a semi-retired Washington psychiatrist with an interest in culture, who has many essays on his "earmarked" list. This is his second OLLI course.*

### **696: Fairy Tales — Not for Kids Only**

**Daniel Sachs**

*Nine Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

Beautiful princesses, daring heroes, wicked witches, and talking animals: We're all familiar with the classic fairy tales; we learned them as children. "Once upon a time . . . and they lived happily ever after." But was that all there was to it? Certainly not, as we'll find out in this course. We'll look at fairy tales and legends

from many lands and many peoples, and view them from every perspective: as a literary form, as a device for stirring religious and patriotic feelings, and as a repository of ancient archetypes that still hold us in thrall today. Maybe you have a fairy tale you'd like to write and to read to the class. Try it! (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Daniel Sachs, a graduate of Cornell University, is a retired attorney. He has guest-lectured at Yale University, and frequently presents programs to adult education groups in Montgomery County.*

## **700 History & Geography**

### **715: Jewish History and Art: A Survey course**

**Josh Berman**

*Ten Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

In his best-selling book *History of the Jews*, Paul Johnson asks, "Whence came the endurance" by which Judaism has been maintained for 4000 years from the time of the Patriarchs to the 21st century. To survey Jewish history and answer this question, this study group will follow Judaism through nine major historical periods derived from the Johnson text: 1) Patriarchs, 2) Israelites, 3) Judaism, 4) Cathedocracy, 5) Ghetto, 6) Emancipation, 7) Holocaust, 8) Zion, and 9) America until 1945. We will review the key events of each historic period (from the concise Scheindlin text), discuss their possible meaning (from the complex, provocative Johnson text), and to better bring these periods to life, will view a videotape of Jewish art and architecture (from *History of Jewish Art and Architecture* by Ori Soltes, prior Art Director of the B'nai B'rith National Jewish Museum) and read personal reminiscences. This overview of a vast swath of history is intended for Jews who wish to have a firmer understanding of their heritage and non-Jews interested in the Jewish story. The SGL is not a professional historian, and it is expected that each participant will enlarge the discussions by actively engaging in them. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Jonathan (Josh) Berman, MD, PhD, is a Jewish-American with a lifelong interest in his heritage.*

## **721: The Bloody Breakup of Pakistan**

**Robert Coe**

*Ten Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Temple Baptist Church**

We'll examine the policies of five governments (US, Pakistan, India, USSR, and China) and the events leading up to, and resulting in, Pakistan's loss of its eastern territory in 1971. Major developments include the dissent by the US Consulate in Dhaka against the US policy of favoring Pakistan; the massive atrocities committed against Bengalis (both Hindus and Muslims) by the military government of Yahya Khan in Islamabad; the motives and actions taken by Indira Gandhi's government in Delhi; the White House's support of Pakistan as Nixon and Kissinger carried out their secret opening to China, and the marginal role of the US State Department; the interactions of the five nations as war approached; India's rapid military victory in East Pakistan; and the establishment of the new nation of Bangladesh. Book: Gary Bass, *The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger, and a Forgotten Genocide*.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Bob Coe has an MA in History from Columbia and an MAT from Wesleyan. He has taught mostly history courses at OLLI since 2005.*

## **723: The Evolution of Civilization in Meso-America**

**Larry Heilman**

*Ten Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 28**

**Temple Baptist Church**

The course will examine two major and magnificent cultural developments in Meso-America: the ancient Maya and 20th century Mexican muralists. Each cultural development will be put in its historical context. The Maya section will focus exclusively on the pre-Colombian era for which there will be 7 sessions. The following subjects will be explored: What is civilization? What is Meso-America? How did the Maya get to Meso-America? The influences on Maya civilization — the Olmec, Monte Alban, and Teotihuacan. The development of the Maya will be examined at Tikal, Calakmul, Copan, Palenque, Bonampak, Yaxchilan, Uxmal, Labna, Kabah, Sayil, Coba, Chichen Itza, Mayapan, and Tulum. The work of the 20th century Mexican muralists, including Diego Rivera and José

Clemente Orozco, will be viewed and discussed in terms of their contributions to understanding the development of Mexico and the US.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Larry Heilman has a PhD in history. He has taught Latin American History at various universities and undertaken archeological fieldwork in Mexico, Spain, Florida, and California. Currently, he is a Research Associate in the Anthropology Department at the Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian where his research is focused on the impact of US foreign assistance on Bolivia from 1939 to 2013.*

## **724: James Madison, Founding Father and Political Philosopher**

**Markley Roberts**

*Eight Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 21**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

We will read and discuss James Madison as a “founding father” of the US Constitution and of the US. We will examine his political philosophy in his life and writings, including *The Federalist Papers*. Our readings and discussion will focus on Kevin Gutzman's biography, *James Madison and the Making of America*, on some of his Federalist essays, and on Robert Dahl's book, *A Preface to Democratic Theory*, which deals with Madison's fear of majority rule tyranny. Lots of reading, lots of discussion.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

*Markley Roberts, an economics PhD, has given a variety of OLLI courses, including Making the U.S. Constitution. He promotes discussion.*

## **730: The Life and Times of Winston Churchill**

**Stanley Newman**

*Ten Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This study group will examine the life and times of Winston Churchill (1874-1965). Born at the time of the great British Empire under Queen Victoria, Churchill lived to see its dissolution. He played a major role in British and world events after becoming an MP at the age of twenty six. He was a major actor in World War I and, for many, the savior of England in World War II. We will discuss his political, family, literary, and artistic life. We will hear some of his memorable speeches. The

study group will look at Churchill, not only from the point of view of admirers, but also from his critics. The study group participants will be asked to volunteer to make short presentations on selected topics. The book *Churchill An Unruly Life* by Norman Rose (Paperback) can be borrowed from the SGL by the first eleven participants. The hardback book, in larger print than the paperback is titled *Churchill: The Unruly Giant*, which is out of print but may be found online. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Stan Newman graduated from Trinity College and Columbia Law School. He received a Political Science Association Fellowship to study at the London School of Economics. He is a former Adjunct Professor at Catholic and American Universities. This will be Stan's third semester leading this study group.*

### **763: American Civil War: The Economics of the Civil War**

**Chris Bradley**

*Eleven Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

We will study the American Civil War, its economics, and the how and why of cotton as a catalyst of this war. Other topics will be the role of the global Industrial Revolution in effecting American social, political, and economic conditions pre- and post-war. In the 11th week, the course will include a bus trip to a local battlefield led by Ed Bearss, Chief Historian, Emeritus, of the National Park Service.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Chris Bradley has led this study group for 17 years. He is a native Washingtonian and Civil War Historian.*

### **769: The Decline of Violence**

**Bruce Forrest**

**Leslie Forrest**

*Nine Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Harvard psychology professor Steven Pinker contends, in *The Better Angels of Our Nature* (2011), that violence

in all forms has diminished over the past 10,000 years and that today we are living in an era of unprecedented peace and humane progress. Is he right? If so, why did this happen? Will it continue? Our group will explore these questions, using Pinker's fascinating book to frame our discussions.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

*Prior to his retirement from the Dept. of Justice, Bruce Forrest represented the US in civil cases involving social and economic policies.*

*Leslie Forrest, also a retired lawyer, was with the Small Business Administration where she specialized in programs advancing minority-owned small enterprises.*

### **771: Argentina's Dirty War**

**Linda Orenstein**

*Ten Monday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 21**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

From 1976 to 1983, the Dirty War, as it has been called, was waged against the opponents of Argentina's military dictatorship. Anyone thought to be a political or ideological threat to the military junta was eliminated. Argentina is still coping with the effects of this period of its history. We will explore and discuss the causes of this abusive regime and study its principal characters and institutions. A variety of sources will be studied to create a picture of the regime and its brutal policies. We will extend our investigation to the 1982 invasion of the Falkland Islands/Islands Malvinas and the conflict with the United Kingdom. The restoration of democracy and accounting for the disappeared will receive our attention as well as recent echoes of the Dirty War.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Linda Pollack Orenstein has taught the Spanish language, and the literature and art of Spain and Latin America to students of all ages, ranging from pre-kindergarten to adults. She taught in the Montgomery County Public School system for 20 years at the high school level. She is currently engaged in the study of abstract art.*

## **777: Assessing Critical Political and Military Decisions and Events — 1914-2015**

**Kenneth Coffey**

*Ten Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Focusing on the flow of history over the last 100 years, the group will address the reasons, alternatives, and outcomes for epic-changing decisions and events. From the beginning of World War I through the inter-war years, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, to the current fight against ISIS in the Middle East, the emphasis will be on understanding what happened, why it happened, and what could have happened. Class sessions will include both background lectures and follow-up class discussions. Internet articles for background reading, as well as a list of book references, will be provided.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*In more than 30 years of federal service, including four years in the Marine Corps and five years of teaching assignments, **Ken Coffey** worked for 10 different agencies in both the legislative and executive branches. The majority of his work focused on the assessment and implementation of manpower policy changes. Last semester, Ken taught an earlier version of this study group.*

## **785: The Legacy of ‘The Great War’ — Too Soon to Tell?**

**Richard Palmer**

*Ten Thursday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 24**

**Temple Baptist Church**

After a nod to the pre-1914 order; the last decisive year of the war; and the conditions by 1919, the course will look at major transformations wrought upon the world by WWI, the “inter-war” period, and World War II, including “permanent” changes, to the present day. For successive intervals the perspective will be on “what these folks thought they were doing,” as an evolving process with an uncertain outcome. Using online (Wikipedia, newspaper archives, etc.) or book resources, and especially the suggestions or innovations of study group members, this is envisioned as an actively participative rather than a passive “history class.” Individual participants may opt to become “topic experts” for the class, and we may detour into social, ideological, cultural, and demographic areas, if

consensus shows interest. Participants will need access to internet to do reading/viewing, and should expect email contact for sharing information.

**Class Format:** Reading and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

***Richard R. Palmer** is a semi-retired Washington psychiatrist with an interest in history. Previously, he led “The First Year of ‘The Great War’” at OLLI.*

## **790: Way Up South: History of School Segregation in Maryland**

**Ralph Buglass**

*Nine Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

This study group will look at the struggles of African-Americans in pursuing educational opportunities following the Civil War until the end of legally sanctioned school segregation in the middle of the 20th century in Maryland, a “northern-southern” state. Montgomery County will be used as the primary case study while noting that public education practices vis-a-vis African-Americans varied widely in the state; regional and national comparisons will also be made. Illustrated lectures will leave plenty of time for discussion based on selected readings. The study group will include a field trip to a historic Prince George’s school for black children.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

***Ralph Buglass** is a volunteer docent at a historic one-room schoolhouse in upper Montgomery County, which has sparked an interest in the history of public education and especially school segregation. A lifelong history buff, he has a BA in American history from Cornell and an MA in journalism from AU.*

## **793: Year Zero: A History of 1945**

**Helen Schwartz**

*Eight Tuesday Afternoons (1:30 PM - 3:20 PM)*

**October 06**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Many books have been written about how World War II was waged and won and lost. Baruma’s book, *Year Zero: A History of 1945*, surveys how those who lost, were occupied, or won, survived and recovered from the war. Baruma gives fascinating overviews, illustrat-

ed by incidents from Japan and China to Germany and England. I invite all of us to explore, challenge, or add to the book's insights with our own experiences, those told us by relatives, or by "representing" a country such as Greece or the Philippines. Class members may choose to add to discussion by sharing pictures, letters, presentations, or memoirs about Year Zero, to understand the villainy and valiance of those who brought about Year One.

**Class Format:** Discussion

**Reading:** 1-2 hrs/week

*Helen Schwartz, emerita professor of English, has taught since 1964 at the University of Washington, Oakland University (Michigan), and Indiana University, and has given courses at Bilkent University (Ankara, Turkey) and Chungdu University of Science and Technology (China). She now studies French, writes murder mysteries, and supports the international traffic in ideas.*

### **795: Imperial Russia**

**Sandra Levenbook**

*Eight Tuesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 22**

**Temple Baptist Church**

This study group will provide a survey of Russian history from its complex beginning to the tragic events of World War I. Geography, topography, strong personalities, and dramatic events contributed to the formation of Imperial Russia. We will analyze and discuss the fascinating transition of this country from a small principality to a world power, which continues to have a strong impact in world affairs. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*Sandra Levenbook has an MA from the University of Maryland in Middle Eastern studies, and an undergraduate degree in English and Literature from the University of Florence, Italy. Before becoming an instructor at OLLI, she taught history in various countries throughout the world.*

## **800 Philosophy & Religion**

### **803: Metaphysics: The Nature of Reality**

**Irmgard Scherer**

*Eight Wednesday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 30**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

Metaphysics studies reality at its most fundamental level and looks at how the mind can take hold of it. In this study group we will examine some of the great metaphysicians in the history of ideas who tried to grasp "Being-as-such," not only physical-sensible reality but also non-physical or supersensible entities that lie underneath the surface of material reality. The starting point for such questions and setting the stage for Western science, are the "pre-Socratic thinkers" in ancient Greece who asked, What is the source of all things? That led to the problem of "the One and the Many." These twin issues became springboards for subsequent investigations of reality. We will look at some of them, such as Democritus' atomism with its amazingly modern insights about imperceptible entities; Plato's and Aristotle's grand two-tiered views of reality; and God's existence in Aquinas and Anselm. As certainty about what is real becomes ever more elusive, and boundaries between realism and anti-realism are blurred, modern thought grapples with whether it is even possible to do science without recourse to metaphysics. The instructor will provide recommended readings.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2 hrs/week

*Irmgard Scherer, a US citizen born in Germany, is Associate Professor of Philosophy Emerita at Loyola University, Maryland, where she taught core courses and honors ethics courses, as well as courses in her specialty, Kant and 18th century aesthetic theory, and topics in the history of ideas and science. She has published on Kant and related issues.*

### **826: The Message of the Holy Quran**

**Mazen Ayoubi**

*Eight Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

The study group provides an introduction to Islam's Holy Book: The Holy Quran. The group will cover a literary, historical, and religious introduction, related

chapters, “Suras,” and verses, “Ayahs.” Topics covered include circumstances of revelation, written compilation “Revelation Writers,” core belief, major themes, and connections with the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Book: *The Message of the Quran*, translated and explained by Muhammad Asad. Books will be available for purchase from the SGL on the first day of the study group. A field trip to Washington Islamic Center is planned. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 1 hr/week

*Mazen Ayoubi, AIA, has a master's in Architecture and Urban Design from Washington University, St. Louis, MO; BS in Architecture, Damascus University (Arabic Language curriculum). He attended Arabic and Quran classes in Damascus institutes. He was a Georgetown University Arabic instructor, and has lectured and taught Islamic studies at various community and academic institutions.*

### **860: A Progressive and Rationalist View of the Road to Spiritual Maturity**

**Margaret Placentra Johnston**

*Eight Monday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**October 12**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

Our program will be balanced between didactic lessons and group discussion, depending on group preference. We will consider a progressive view of spiritual development as described by five theorists, all of whose work contribute to the overall message that: 1) A unitive worldview (as opposed to divisiveness) is the highest level in spiritual maturity. 2) Greater truth is found in a metaphorical (as opposed to a literal) understanding of religious content. 3) Spiritual development theory and globalization are leading us to the recognition of all religions as localized expressions of a common human search for connection with something greater than ourselves.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Margaret Placentra Johnston writes to promote spiritual development. Her book, Faith Beyond Belief: Stories of Good People Who Left Their Church Behind, is the Gold Winner of the 2013 Nautilus Book Award in religion/spirituality.*

### **862: Understanding Hinduism**

**D.C. Rao**

*Ten Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Greek Orthodox Church**

What if everything you thought you knew about Hinduism turned out to be wrong? Is Hinduism mostly about the caste system? Is Hinduism polytheistic? Do Hindus worship idols? Who were the Aryans? Do Hindus have a Holy Book? What is Yoga? Why would anyone worship cows? Isn't Karma a fatalistic belief in destiny? Aren't the goals of Hinduism selfish? Isn't Hinduism an ethnic religion? Get answers to these questions and raise more questions of your own in lively discussions with an experienced practitioner who speaks your language. Learn what Hinduism is really about. Understand the fundamentals of its philosophy and practices, which make Hinduism more than a “belief system.” Gain insights on how Hinduism differs from other religions.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** Less than 1 hr/week

*D.C. Rao, PhD, a former executive at the World Bank, has studied and taught Hinduism for over 20 years. He is a Trustee at the Chinmaya Mission, Washington, DC, and is actively associated with the Himalayan Institute of Yoga at Honesdale, PA. He is a former President of the Inter Faith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, where he has contributed to work on Strengthening Teaching About Religion for several years. He has degrees from the University of Mumbai, India, Cambridge University, UK, and a PhD in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.*

### **865: Isaiah Berlin: The Power of Ideas**

**David Palmeter**

*Ten Wednesday Afternoons (1:00 PM - 2:50 PM)*

**September 30**

**Temple Baptist Church**

Philosopher and intellectual historian Isaiah Berlin argued that “Great movements began with ideas in peoples’ heads.” Our thought is organized by a “constellation of absolute presuppositions” that reflect the world in which we live. Berlin wrote penetratingly of the folly of attempting to impose the structure of physical scienc-

es on human affairs, of assuming that rationality always would, or should, prevail over cultural and emotional factors, of believing that our values — whether individual or collective — do not conflict. Sometimes conflicts cannot be resolved, and we simply must choose. We will read a selection of Berlin's penetrating essays on these and other topics, including nationalism and romanticism, the "Counter-Enlightenment," and the conflict between the sciences and the humanities. The essays include "Two Concepts of Liberty," which contributed significantly to the revival of political philosophy in the English-speaking world in the mid-20th century.

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** 2-3 hrs/week

*David Palmeter, a retired lawyer, has led study groups in philosophy, literature, and history since 2008.*

**875: Cultivating Compassion:  
Discovering What Compassion Really Is**

**Mark Rovner**

**Sheila Maher**

*Eight Thursday Mornings (10:00 AM - 11:50 AM)*

**September 24**

**River Road Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation**

This study group explores what compassion is, why it might be beneficial to us and to the world around us, the possibility of training in a more wholesome way of being, and how we can go about that training. The course allows students to gain knowledge and awareness by looking into different aspects of compassion from their own point of view and experience, from a modern scientific point of view, as well as from the Buddhist perspective; deepen and internalize their knowledge and understanding; familiarize themselves with the experience of compassion; and establish the habit of compassion in daily life. (Repeat)

**Class Format:** Lecture and Discussion

**Reading:** No required reading

*Mark Rovner has been a meditation leader and instructor for nearly 20 years, having led courses on meditation, compassion, and the path of Tibetan Buddhism. He serves on the Board of Directors of Rigpa Fellowship, an international network of Buddhist study and practice centers. He is also a former chairman of the Board of the International Campaign for Tibet.*

*Sheila Maher has been a practicing Buddhist for 15 years and has presented classes in the Buddhist tradition for the last eight years. She is an experienced facilitator and has a MA in Human Development Psychology and an MBA.*