

Stay Curious. Stay Connected.



Fall: Sept. 29-Nov. 21, 2025
Ringling College Continuing Studies



Moving Forward with Resilience and Gratitude

Dear OLLI Community,

As we prepare to begin the Fall 2025 semester, I find myself reflecting on the many accomplishments we achieved together over the past year, a year filled with community spirit and resilience.

The 2024–2025 academic year featured many highlights, starting with the Fall semester, which was impacted by three major weather events. Although we had to close our doors for several days, we successfully recorded more than **1,000 registrations**. We are thankful to the staff and the volunteers who came to the office to answer phones and to assist members. We are also grateful to our dedicated instructors who remained committed to completing their courses and collaborated with the staff to reschedule their classes.

Despite those challenges, OLLI made history during the Winter 2025 semester with a record-breaking **2,042 registrations** (the highest of any winter term). By the semester's end, total attendance reached an all-time high of 7,173. This level of participation underscores just how vital and vibrant our community is. The impact extends beyond our classrooms as well. John Dangaran, Bistro Operations Manager at Sarasota Art Museum, said 60% of Bistro guests during the semester were OLLI members. Your presence not only enriches our community but also significantly contributes to the campus experience. I want to thank our instructors who took attendance; it matters and helps us tell the OLLI story.

During the Spring term, many of our members return to their other homes; however, we took in more than **838 registrations** for our 40 classes and programs.

The OLLI Summer Adventures once again proved to be a hit, attracting both members and around 93 non-members from Sarasota and Manatee counties. Total registrations reached **1,147** for our exciting programs that included Artificial Intelligence, a guided tour of Save Our Seabirds, and lessons on how to fly a drone. This year, members of the Advisory Committee accompanied me to OLLI conferences. In April, we went to the National Conference in Chantilly, VA, and in July, we traveled to Atlanta, for the Southern Regional Conference. These gatherings affirm what we know: lifelong learning enriches lives — intellectually, cognitively, socially, and physically. In sessions led by experts in geriatrics, gerontology, neuroscience, and public policy, we heard firsthand how OLLIs continue to be models of excellence for lifelong learning.

The OLLI Advisory Committee also began work on updating our strategic plan. Two committee members, our liaison from the Office of Advancement, and I met regularly throughout the spring to craft a strategy focused on seven key priorities:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Grow membership | 5. Increase volunteerism |
| 2. Increase revenue stream | 6. Expand instructor pool |
| 3. Expand OLLI programming | 7. Develop an Advisory Committee |
| 4. Broaden our appeal to a younger and more diverse demographic | succession plan |

Volunteers are the lifeblood of OLLI. We appreciate everyone who gives their time, talent, and energy to make OLLI the place where people love to learn, connect, and thrive.

As you browse the catalog, I encourage you to: sign up for your favorite classes and then register for a class outside of your favorite area of interest; contact me if you know someone who might want to teach for OLLI; make a donation (in any amount) to OLLI. Every contribution supports our mission and helps ensure that we continue to flourish.

Every one of you is part of OLLI's success story.
Thank you for being part of this amazing community.

Best,

Phyllis C. Brown, Ed.D.
Director, OLLI at Ringling College

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Chair, Membership Committee

Colleen Lundwall
Chair, Curriculum Committee

Patricia "Tobie" van der Vorm
Chair, Instructor
Recruitment Committee

Marion Richter

Jack Sukin

Bev Harms
(Emeritus)

Sam Samelson
(Emeritus)

2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Fall Term: Monday, Sept. 29-Friday, Nov. 21, 2025
No classes: Oct. 2; Nov. 27, and Nov. 28

Winter Term: Monday, Jan. 12-Friday, March 6, 2026
No classes: Jan. 19

Spring Term: Monday, March 16-Friday, May 8, 2026
No classes: May 25

Summer Term: Monday, May 18-Friday, July 10, 2026
No classes: May 25, June 19, and July 3

Photography by Lori Sax

Cover Models: David Collins, Marni Hayden, Susan Haas, and Anthony Brooks

About OLLI at Ringling College

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Ringling College is a program of Ringling College of Art and Design. OLLI at Ringling College operates year-round and is supported through memberships, student registrations, and private contributions. OLLI courses are non-credit and primarily based on a liberal arts curriculum. Tuition varies depending on course length. There are no grades and no tests. Courses are offered purely for the joy of learning.

Mission

The mission of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Ringling College is to enrich the lives of mature adults in Sarasota and Manatee counties. We provide affordable and outstanding educational programs and social interaction that covers a broad spectrum of topics that are rich in intellectual stimulation, interactive in scope, and worthy of academic consideration.

Learning Environment

Above all else, our ultimate goal is to provide a stimulating and thoughtful learning experience.

We are committed to creating an intellectually nurturing environment that encourages a collegial exchange of ideas and concepts and enables us to broaden our perspectives and hone our opinions. Sometimes we agree with others' viewpoints; sometimes we question them and feel the need to present an alternative view. This honest give and take of scholastic discourse, tempered with mutual respect and an open mind, makes for a rare and memorable learning experience.

Student Code of Conduct

We all play a role in maintaining this balance of civility and academic freedom. Here's how you can do your part.

- **Allow** others to have their say.
- **Respect** the rights of others to express their views.
- **Listen** quietly while the instructor or other students are speaking.
- **Refrain** from quarrelsome interruptions to an instructor's presentation.
- **Ensure** cell phones are switched off or muted during the class.
- **Comply** with OLLI staff and instructor requests.

Instructor Responsibility

If a student disrupts a class, the instructor has a responsibility to ask the student to refrain from class disruptions. If the disruptive behavior persists, the instructor has a responsibility to ask the student to leave class.

The definition of disruptive behavior includes not complying with the Student Code of Conduct. It may also include any behaviors or actions considered threatening, abusive, or inconsiderate of other students.

A student may return to class only if they refrain from disruptive behavior. If the student refuses to comply, security will be called and the student will be escorted from the classroom.

The director and the assistant director of OLLI at Ringling College must be notified if an incident occurs where a student is asked to leave the classroom.

Membership

A Gold (\$85) or Silver (\$25) Membership is required to register for a multi-session course. You do not need a membership to register for lectures, workshops, programs, or presentations. Membership in OLLI is not transferable. Spouses or partners must have their own individual memberships. Gold and Silver memberships are non-refundable.

Payment Options

OLLI accepts **credit cards** and **checks** for all program registrations. We do not accept cash for any program transaction.

Registration Options

Online: Visit www.rcad.augusoft.net and browse courses. If you have more than one address, remember to use the address that is associated with the credit card you are using.

Mail or in Person: Fill out the mail-in form. Enclose it with your check or credit card information. You can also drop off your form in Room 105 (Fran Mann Reception Area) on the Ringling College Museum Campus.

Phone: 941-309-5111

Cancellations

If a class is canceled due to under-enrollment, students will receive a full refund.

Students will also receive a full refund if an instructor cancels a class prior to the first scheduled session.

Once a class has started, and the instructor cancels a class for medical or personal reasons, students will receive a prorated refund based on the number of classes held prior to cancellation. Students are expected to pay for course sessions they attend.

Course Refunds

If a student drops a course **before the first scheduled session**, the student will receive a full refund.

If a student drops a course **after the first scheduled session**, the student will receive a refund minus a 25 percent administrative fee.

If a student drops a course **after the second scheduled session**, the student forfeits their entire tuition.

There are no refunds for lectures, workshops, or special programs.

Guest Policy

Guests are welcome to visit two classes per semester on a space available basis. They must register prior to attending each class by calling the office 941-309-5111. When classes are closed (all seats filled), guests cannot be accommodated. A guest cannot "bump" a registered student from any class.

Building Evacuation Procedures

Upon receipt of an evacuation order, all employees and students shall exit via the nearest unaffected exit. They shall proceed quickly and quietly to the designated evacuation relocation point for the area they were in at the time of the evacuation order. If class is in session, it is the responsibility of the instructor to direct their students from their classroom to the appropriate egress route and relocation point.



Contact/Mail Information

OLLI at Ringling College
1001 S. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34236-9117

Office hours: 8 am to 4 pm • Monday-Friday

Phone: 941-309-5111

Email: OLLI@ringling.edu

Website: www.OLLIatRinglingCollege.org

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

Volunteer

Volunteers are essential to the success of OLLI. We need volunteers to make the OLLI experience the best it can be. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, make friends, and stay active. As an OLLI volunteer, you can spread the message about lifelong learning, its importance, and what it means to you. When you contribute your time and talent to OLLI, the rewards are mutually beneficial.



How You Can Make A Difference:

- **Committee Assignments:** Serve on a committee such as curriculum, membership retention, or membership recruitment.
- **Community Outreach:** Talk to members and prospective members at monthly events at Sarasota Art Museum including, Free Admission Sunday or Jazz Thursday, or during our outreaches at the Sarasota Farmers Market.
- **Greeter:** Welcome and direct new and returning students to their classrooms.
- **Office Assistants:** Answer questions from members and guests in person or by phone and assist the staff with projects.
- **Special Events:** Contribute to the success of our special events by sharing information, helping people find their way, and answering questions.

Volunteering Myths

I don't want to volunteer every day or every week. I'm retired.

Fact: You can decide how often you want to volunteer. Volunteering at OLLI is definitely not like work!

I don't have a lot of time to commit to volunteering.

Fact: You can give back to OLLI in as little as 30 minutes on a day and time of your choosing.

I might get an assignment that I don't like.

Fact: You get to choose your assignment from our project lists. We welcome new ideas, and you can suggest a volunteer project that suits your skills and interests.

I like the idea of volunteering, but what if I'm not good at it?

Fact: We want volunteers who like helping others and who want to support OLLI and its mission.

Volunteer Voices

I want to contribute to the community. I consider that as a duty, in retirement to pay back and enrich my life.

~ Jose Garnham

When I volunteer, I look forward to meeting my co-volunteers who are there for the same reason; and enjoying our time together often making a new friend.

~ Ann Pitcock

I meet members who become friends!

~ Jack Sukin

I get the opportunity to "spread the word" about an integral and rewarding organization right here in our Sarasota community.

~ Angela Carruba



For more information about OLLI and volunteering visit:

www.olliringlingcollege.org/volunteer

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Membership



An OLLI membership makes it possible for a community of intellectually curious individuals to come together and share ideas and experiences in a welcoming environment. Your membership and tuition also support our goals, initiatives, and mission to provide quality lifelong learning to adults aged 50 and older in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Members can take classes from 15 different topic areas, all for the joy of learning.

Become a Member:

Membership Levels

- **Gold:** \$85* annual per person
- **Silver:** \$25 annual per person

* \$37.50 is tax-deductible

Member Benefits for Both Levels

- Free parking
- 10% discount at Bistro
- Volunteer opportunities
- Monthly e-newsletter
- Participation in a Shared Interest Group (SIG)

Exclusive Gold Member Benefits

- Early class registration
- 10% discount on classes and workshops
- Three free lectures a year (a \$45 value)

Three Ways to Become A Member or to Renew

- **By phone:** 941-309-5111
- **In-person:** Stop by Room 105 (Mann Reception Area) on the Ringling College Museum Campus at Sarasota Art Museum
- **Online:** www.rcad.augusoft.net

Membership FAQ's

How long is a membership?

Memberships are good for 365 days from the date of purchase.

Can I purchase a family or couple membership? OLLI only offers individual memberships.

Do I need a membership to register for a class? Yes. A membership at the Gold or Silver level is required to register for any multi-session classes (e.g. classes that meet 2 or more sessions)

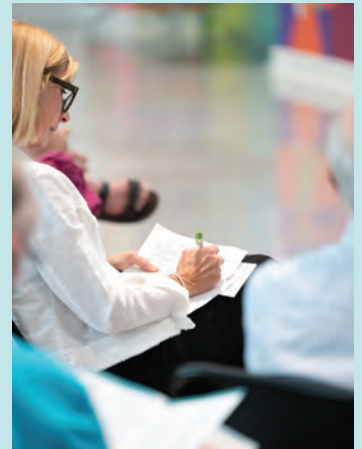
Can I upgrade or downgrade my membership? You can upgrade from Silver, by purchasing a Gold membership for the full fee. You cannot downgrade your membership.

If I change my mind, can I get a refund on my membership? Once you use your OLLI membership to register for any fee-based program, you cannot receive a refund.

Can I purchase a membership as a gift? Yes. An OLLI membership is always a smart gift idea.

Course Topic Areas

- Art Appreciation
- Arts and Entertainment
- Culture and Travel
- Current Events and Global Affairs
- Economics and Finance
- Health and Lifestyles
- History
- Languages
- Literature
- Music Appreciation
- Philosophy and Religion
- Psychology
- Science
- Technology
- Writing



For more information about OLLI and membership visit:

www.olliringlingcollege.org/member-options-and-benefit/

Registration Form

Student Information (Please Print Clearly)

Name (as it appears on credit card) _____ ☐ I am a new student
 Billing Address _____ City/State/ZIP _____
 Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Return Completed Forms To

OLLI at Ringling College
 1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Photo Policy

By registering for courses, I acknowledge that my photo may be taken while at the OLLI at Ringling College and utilized for purposes of promoting the OLLI. If I do not want my photo utilized, I will step aside when photos are being taken.

Course Information

8-Session Courses	Quantity: _____ x \$95 = \$ _____
6 & 7-Session Courses	Quantity: _____ x \$90 = \$ _____
5-Session Courses	Quantity: _____ x \$85 = \$ _____
4-Session Courses	Quantity: _____ x \$70 = \$ _____
3-Session Courses	Quantity: _____ x \$60 = \$ _____
2-Session Courses	Quantity: _____ x \$45 = \$ _____
1-Session Courses	Quantity: _____ x \$15 = \$ _____
Half-Day Workshop	Quantity: _____ x \$55 = \$ _____

Gold Membership Discount (-10%) = \$ _____

Top Upper Portion Total = \$ _____

Programs (No Refunds)

CONNECTIONS: Documentary Film Series

<i>Mission: Joy — Finding Happiness in Troubled Times</i> • Tuesday, Oct. 7 • 2:30-4:30 pm	Quantity: ____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Cirque du Soleil: Without a Net</i> • Tuesday, Nov. 11 • 2:30-4:30 pm	Quantity: ____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15 (fees are per film)</i>	
<i>Another One By Tenn: Auto Da Fe</i> • Friday, Nov. 7 • 2:30-4 pm	Quantity: ____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold and Silver Members and General Admission: \$20</i>	

Lecture (No Refunds)

The State of the Florida Dream: 2025 with Dr. Gary Mormino • Wednesday, Oct. 8 • 2:30-3:30 pm	Quantity: ____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: Free (Pre-registration required) • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15</i>	

Subtotal = \$ _____

Gold Member Benefits

- Early Registration
- 10% Tuition Discount
- Free Lectures

Gold Membership Annual Fee: \$85 = \$ _____

Silver Membership Annual Fee: \$25 = \$ _____

Tax-Deductible Donation = \$ _____

Final Total = \$ _____

Method of Payment

☐ Check (enclosed) ☐ Credit Card (Full credit card number required. Registration system does not retain card number.)

Visa/MC/Discover/AMEX # _____ CVV Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Registration opens 8 am on Sept. 9 for Gold Members.

Registration opens 8 am on Sept. 16 for Silver Members and the General Public.

Please indicate your choice of course(s) from the list below, then complete all information on the registration form.

The number in parenthesis indicates the number of sessions.

Monday

10-11:20 am

- ___ Healing in the Shade: The Art and Therapy of Florida Gardening (2) HL179
- ___ Introductory French 1 (8) LA122
- ___ The Classical Education Movement: A Cautionary Tale (5) HS235
- ___ The Music and Legacy of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young (6) MA198

12-1:20 pm

- ___ Intermediate French 1 (8) LA123

2-3:20 pm

- ___ Situational / Topical French (8) LA119
- ___ This Was Their Lives (5) HS106
- ___ Unveiling the Power of Modern Film Scores (6) MA199 [\(online\)](#)

Tuesday

11 am-12:20 pm

- ___ The Artistic Role of the Audience (5) AP188
- ___ World War I (6) HS236
- ___ They Changed Their Names (8) MA201 [\(online\)](#)
- ___ Thoreau's Wisdom for Today: Spiritual Insights for a Changing World (6) PL131
- ___ The World's Great Literature (6) LI140
- ___ World in Transition (2) CV127

2-3:20 pm

- ___ OLLI Mystery Book Club (4) LI135
- ___ Tchaikovsky's Seven Symphonies Analyzed and Ranked (7) MA200
- ___ The U.S. Manned Space Program (2) HS237
- ___ From Conflict to Collaboration: Navigating Difficult Conversations (Individuals) (3) HL180
- ___ Writing Your Story: Two Pages at a Time (6) WR118
- ___ OLLI Fall Book Club (3) LI159

Wednesday

10-11 am

- ___ Strategies for a Healthy Home (1) HL181

10-11:20 am

- ___ The Second British Invasion in the '80s (4) MA202

10-11:30 am

- ___ Short Story Collective (6) LI160

12-1:20 pm

- ___ Classical Music Virtuosos (6) MA203 [\(online\)](#)

2-3:20 pm

- ___ Science Wednesdays (4) SI101
- ___ From Conflict to Collaboration: Navigating Difficult Conversations (Couples) (3) HL182

2-3:30 pm

- ___ Sing From the Heart: A Vocal Performance Class For Those Who Love to Sing (5) AE205

Thursday

9-10:20 am

___ Opportunities for Volatile Markets (3) EC128

11 am-12:20 pm

___ Mysticism and Kabbalah for Inner Peace (2) PL132

___ The Dark Ages Illuminated (6) HS180

___ *The New Yorker* Magazine: Conversations
(7) LI146

___ The American Presidency — Road to the Civil War
(4) HS239

___ The Biology of Cancer (4) HL184

2-3:20 pm

___ Shifting Stress Into Strength and Serenity
(2) HL183

___ Writing Your Short Story (6) WR130 [\(online\)](#)

___ The Byzantine Empire (6) HS238

2-3:30 pm

___ Improv: Brain Games (1) AE206 Oct. 9

___ Improv: Brain Games (1) AE206 Oct. 23

___ Improv: Scenes (1) AE202 Oct. 30

___ Improv: Scenes (1) AE202 Nov. 13

Friday

9:30 am-12:30 am

___ How to Start a Daily Meditation Practice
(1) HL175

10 am-1 pm

___ 1970s Films, Part 6 (7) AE140

___ Ploys for Dominance: Recognizing and
Disarming Manipulation (1) PY163

___ The Exuberance of Fauvism: The Parisian
Avant-Garde, 1904-1910 (1) AP189

___ The Expressionist Movement in Germany
and France (1) AP190

11 am-12:20 pm

___ World in Transition (2) CV127

11:30 am-1 pm

___ Unlocking the Secrets of Social Security:
What You Need to Know Before You Claim
(1) EC129

1-2 pm

___ Threats to American Democracy (1) CV163

1-2:30 pm

___ The Louisiana Purchase and the
Lewis & Clark Expedition (1) HS241

2-3:20 pm

___ How Virtual Reality (VR) is Changing the World:
A Hands-on Experience (1) TC148

___ Eight Battles That Changed the Course of
U.S. History (8) HS240

Art Appreciation

New: The Artistic Role of the Audience**Course #AP188****Danielle La Senna****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

5 Sessions: Sept. 30-Oct. 28

Gold Member: \$76.50

Silver Member and General Admission: \$85

"Art often does not yield up its secrets to the casual look... the art in art must be looked for." ~ David Perkins

As audience members, we rarely consider our role in the artistic process; we appreciate works of art, but we are not participants. Yet what does it mean to appreciate a work of art? In this class, we learn the skills of aesthetic engagement — including careful observation, inquiry, perspective-taking, and reflection — and discuss the role of the audience member and the artist-viewer dynamic. Using examples from multiple art forms, students learn to approach unfamiliar works with confidence and gain a deeper appreciation for more well-known works. This class is participatory in nature and involves discussion and activities.

New: The Exuberance of Fauvism: The Parisian Avant-Garde, 1904-1910**Course #AP189****Marie-Agnès Sourieau****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 10 am-1 pm

1 Session: Nov. 14

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

Fauvism was the first avant-garde movement of the 20th century. Although it was the shortest lived, the Fauvists' radical experiments were profound and long-lasting. The term "Les Fauves" (the Wild Beasts), coined by a well-known art critic, was meant to be an insult. The delighted 'scandalous' artists, first led by Matisse and Derain, and soon joined by de Vlaminck, Braque, Dufy, Chamy, and others defined their style as an explosion of pure colors chosen for their expressive value. The Fauvists' egalitarian ideals guided their focus towards ordinary subjects, nightlife, sex workers, and performers as well as still lives. This audacious movement spread beyond borders, especially influencing German Expressionism.

New: The Expressionist Movement in Germany and France**Course #AP190****Marie-Agnès Sourieau****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 10 am-1 pm

1 Session: Nov. 21

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

Although the Expressionist movement, which began in 1905 in Dresden and 1911 in Munich, is considered to have arisen out of a German aesthetic, it was actually as much a result of German artists' exposure to the artistic movements founded in Paris, naming post-impressionism, Fauvism, and Cubism. The movement evolved thanks to cultural exchanges between Germany and France through exhibitions, travel by artists, dealers, and museum directors, and the proliferation of art periodicals. In turn, German Expressionists inspired artists living and working in Paris, especially those gathered in the loose community referred to as the "School of Paris." The course is a follow-up to the preceding one, "The Exuberance of Fauvism."



Portrait of Madame Matisse, (The green line)
Henri Matisse, 1905

Arts and Entertainment

New: Sing From the Heart: A Vocal Performance Class For Those Who Love to Sing

Course #AE205

Margie Gibson

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 2-3:30 pm (*Note: Extended Time*)

5 Sessions: Oct. 22-Nov. 19

Gold Member: \$76.50

Silver Member and General Admission: \$85

This is a fun, nurturing, and interactive class where singers of all levels are welcome. You will learn song form, how to interpret and express lyrics, stage and performance techniques, and how to communicate effectively with musicians. There will be group sings and solo work for those who are willing. The final class will culminate with a group performance for friends and guests. We invite you to rekindle your love of singing while connecting with others through music. Join us and "Sing it like you say it: A song is a monologue that happens to have notes!"

Class highlights include:

- **Week 1:** Vocal warm-ups; group sings to familiar songs such as Blue Skies.
- **Week 2:** Vocal warm-ups; group sings and solos; learn song form.
- **Week 3:** Learn how to: communicate with musicians; set your tempo; cue musicians; know and call your key; rehearse songs for final class.
- **Week 4:** Vocal warm-ups; rehearse and fine-tune performance.
- **Week 5:** Vocal warm-ups; class performance.

Improv: Brain Games

Course #AE206

Jeffrey Sherman and Colleen Sherman

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursday: 2-3:30 pm (*Note: Extended Time*)

1 Session: Oct. 9

OR

Thursday: 2-3:30 pm (*Note: Extended Time*)

1 Session: Oct. 23

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

The world of improv is filled with fun, challenges, and discovery. One part of improv is games. This class will immerse you in improv games, teaching you how to play them, and how they can be useful in everyday life as well. We'll explore a variety of games including Zip-Zap-Zop, Left-Hand Larry, Continuous Story, Monologue Hotspot, and others. Here's a chance to give yourself (and your brain) a fun workout. This 90-minute workshop is designed to be participatory (but you can watch and learn) and may require limited physical activity (standing, holding up an arm).

Note: Each class is a standalone session. You can take both classes or one class. Different games will be played on both days.

Current Events and Global Issues

Improv: Scenes**Course #AE202****Jeffrey Sherman and Colleen Sherman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursday: 2-3:30 pm (*Note: Extended Time*)
 1 Session: Oct. 30

OR

Thursday: 2-3:30 pm (*Note: Extended Time*)
 1 Session: Nov. 13

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Improvisation is based on creativity, collaboration, and spontaneity. In this class, we will learn how to create worlds, scenarios, and circumstances that can lead to fun scenes played out by the participants. Scene work in improv differs from improv games as there are fewer structures, and more opportunities for play. Ever wanted to be a coal miner on Mars? A schoolmarm in the Old West with a class filled with trained seals? Who knows what worlds we can create. This 90-minute workshop is designed to be participatory (but you can watch and learn as well), and may require limited physical activity (standing, walking around, and pretending to hold things).

Note: Each class is a standalone session. You can take one or both classes. The Improv: Brain Games workshop is not a prerequisite for Improv: Scenes.

New: 1970s Films, Part 6**Course #AE140****Jeff Ryder****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Fridays: 10 am-1 pm
 7 Sessions: Oct. 10-Nov. 21

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

The 1970s was one of the most influential decades for film. Continuing the previous courses on films of the 1970s, we will be viewing and discussing such titles as *Apocalypse Now*, *Breaking Away*, and *Heaven Can Wait*. The course format begins with a brief introduction of each film by the instructor, followed by the screening. After the screening, there will be a brief break, and then the instructor will provide background information on the making of the film, and facilitate class discussion.

World in Transition**Course #CV127****Peter Mermin****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 2 Sessions: Nov. 11-Nov. 18

OR

Fridays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 2 Sessions: Nov. 14-Nov. 21

Gold Member: \$40.50

Silver Member: \$45

We will be discussing various topics relating to the current world situation. Optional materials for the course will be emailed to participants two weeks before our first class. The class will be conducted seminar-style, with full class participation. We will consider books, articles, movies, and personal experiences which may help us illuminate what is going on in today's world. Let's all learn from each other.

Note: The same class is being offered on two different days.

New: Threats to American Democracy**Course #CV163****Jeffrey Orenstein and Virginia Orenstein****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 1-2 pm
 1 Session: Oct. 17

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

This session offers an analysis of threats to democracy in the United States. It will include a brief historical overview and a detailed examination of the major threats to American democracy and how they have evolved. We will also discuss possible solutions to address these issues.

Economics and Finance

New: Opportunities for Volatile Markets**Course #EC128****Bobby Latessa****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 9-10:20 am

3 Sessions: Oct. 9-Oct. 23

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

This three-part series is designed to help investors better understand and navigate today's unpredictable market environment. Each session focuses on a specific area: foundational market knowledge, opportunities in traditional public markets, and the growing role of alternative investments. Whether you are new to investing or looking to sharpen your perspective, this series will provide clear, actionable guidance to help you make more informed financial decisions in volatile times.

**New: Unlocking the Secrets of Social Security: What You Need to Know Before You Claim****Course #EC129****Lucretia Ryan****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 11:30 am-1 pm

1 Session: Nov. 14

Gold and Silver Members

and General Admission: \$12

This class is for anyone who hasn't yet started collecting Social Security and wants to make a smart, informed choice about when and how to claim benefits. Social Security is not one-size-fits-all. Everyone's situation is different, and if you understand the rules, you can decide what's truly best for you. Social Security is complicated, and the new Social Security Fairness Act of 2025 could change the rules even more. We'll explain everything in plain, easy-to-understand language and walk through real-life case studies so you can see how different decisions play out. You will learn how key factors such as your age, marital status, work history, and long-term goals affect your benefits—and how to avoid common and costly mistakes. We'll cover:

- How spousal and survivor benefits work
- What the new law could mean for your Social Security
- The pros and cons of different claiming strategies

Health and Lifestyles

New: Healing in the Shade: The Art and Therapy of Florida Gardening**Course #HL179****Tenille Dixon Pawlus****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 10-11:20 am
 2 Sessions: Sept. 29-Oct. 6
 Gold Member: \$40.50
 Silver Member: \$45

Discover how to create lush, thriving gardens in Florida's shady spaces while embracing the therapeutic benefits of gardening. This class combines practical tips for selecting shade-loving plants and designing low-light landscapes with insights into how gardening can reduce stress, boost mood, and promote overall well-being. Whether you're looking to transform a shady yard or cultivate a deeper connection with nature, this class will inspire and equip you to grow with purpose.

New: From Conflict to Collaboration: Navigating Difficult Conversations (Individuals)**Course #HL180****Gail Sussman-Miller****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 3 Sessions: Oct. 14-Oct. 28
 Gold Member: \$54
 Silver Member: \$60

Living in uncertain times, we face rapid change and polarization, often sparking challenging interactions with family, friends, neighbors, or colleagues. This may stem from circumstances, differing personalities, or perspectives. This interactive class offers practical tools and mindsets to reduce conflict and improve communication results. Learn how you can identify and shift your beliefs, assumptions, and actions, positively influencing how others respond. Move from fear-driven, protective behavior to positive and compassionate communication, creating clear, non-manipulative requests and boundaries. Learn how to avoid being triggered and how to de-escalate heated conversations, leading to stronger relationships and enhanced collaboration.

New: Strategies for a Healthy Home**Course #HL181****Casey McCabe****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesday: 10-11 am
 1 Session: Oct. 22
 Gold Member: Free (pre-registration required).
 Silver Member and General Admission: \$12

A healthy home leads to a healthier you. This course will explore the different elements that make up the indoor environmental quality of your home and how they can affect your health, happiness, and well-being. You will learn simple ways to improve your indoor home system, including how to increase energy and water efficiency, improve air quality, manage mold and pests, and more. Registered students will receive an Energy and Water Conservation Kit with devices that can save them up to \$150 annually.

New: From Conflict to Collaboration: Navigating Difficult Conversations (Couples)**Course #HL182****Gail Sussman-Miller****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 3 Sessions: Nov. 5-Nov. 19
 Gold Member: \$54
 Silver Member: \$60

Living in uncertain times, we face rapid change and polarization, often sparking challenging interactions with family, friends, neighbors, etc. This may stem from circumstances, differing personalities, or perspectives. This class offers practical tools and mindsets to reduce conflict and improve communication for you and your partner or friend. Learn to identify and shift your beliefs, assumptions, and actions, positively influencing how others respond. Move from fear-driven, protective behavior to positive and compassionate communication, creating clear, non-manipulative requests and boundaries. Learn how to avoid being triggered and how to de-escalate heated conversations, leading to stronger relationships and enhanced collaboration.

Health and Lifestyles (cont.)

New: Shifting Stress Into Strength and Serenity**Course #HL183****Gail Sussman-Miller****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm
 2 Sessions: Oct. 9-Oct. 16
 Gold Member: \$40.50
 Silver Member: \$45

Life's transitions after 50 — such as retirement, health changes, aging, divorce, and loss — can stir up stress and uncertainty. This course explores how your thoughts create a domino effect that shapes how you experience change. You'll learn practical approaches to shift limiting thought patterns and cultivate more supportive perspectives. Discover ways to reduce stress, build resilience, deepen your inner calm, and respond to change with greater awareness. Learn how to uncover hidden power and strength through choices you might not realize you have. Explore fresh pathways to move through change with ease and a renewed sense of possibility.

New: The Biology of Cancer**Course #HL184****Thomas Weisman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 4 Sessions: Oct. 30-Nov. 20
 Gold Member: \$63
 Silver Member: \$70

All cancers are the result of a normal cell that changes into a cancer cell and then propagates uncontrollably. In this class, we will discuss what makes “a good cell break bad” in an understandable way. You don't have to be a science major to understand this course. Using examples from everyday life, you will learn what can go wrong and the built-in defenses we have. Then we describe how the cancer treatments developed over the last 80 years are related to the processes that caused the original transformation to cancer and the subsequent effects of those processes.

How to Start a Daily Meditation Practice**Course #HL175****Gary Halperin****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 9:30 am-12:30 pm
 1 Session: Oct. 3
 Gold Member: \$49
 Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

This session is designed for complete beginners to meditation, anyone seeking a simple way to relax and de-stress, and those who have struggled to maintain consistency with other meditation styles. You will learn a 15-minute daily meditation practice and techniques to overcome common meditation obstacles. You will learn the benefits that have made meditation a cornerstone habit for countless individuals. Additionally, you will learn how to incorporate meditation practices into your daily activities.



History

New: The Classical Education Movement: A Cautionary Tale

Course #HS235

Mike Weddle

Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 10-11:20 am

5 Sessions: Oct. 20-Nov. 17

Gold Member: \$76.50

Silver Member: \$85

The U.S. is experiencing a surge in interest in K-14 “classical” schools and “classical” curricula are popular among homeschoolers. This pedagogy rejects progressive education models of the previous century and embraces methods that proponents date to the Middle Ages. It is marketed as a method producing critical thinkers and virtuous citizens. In this five-session course, we will examine this pedagogy, its European history from Charlemagne to Mussolini, its Eurocentric curriculum of “Great Books” of the Western Canon, and criticism from within the discipline that it is sometimes used as a Trojan horse to introduce ideas of white supremacy into American education.

New: This Was Their Lives

Course #HS106

Vickie Oldham, Teresa Carson, Nancy Cusack,
Jeffrey Sherman, and Bonnie Garvey Spadafora
Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 2-3:20 pm

5 Sessions: Sept. 29-Oct. 27

Gold Member: \$76.50

Silver Member: \$85

Here's a fact: OLLI students love history — all kinds of history. The concept for the “This Was Their Lives” course was created by the late **Ron Cohen**, a student and history buff. These glimpses into the lives of both famous and lesser-known historical figures, who left their marks on communities, society, and in some cases the world, reflect Ron's belief in the importance of discovery, lifelong learning, and engagement. For fall 2025, we present the stories of a Sarasota pioneer, a writer, a TV icon, a movie star, and a chef. Enjoy!

Sept. 29: Leonard Reid a Sarasota Pioneer with Vickie Oldham

Discover the remarkable life and legacy of Leonard Reid, one of the earliest African-American settlers in Sarasota. Reid was connected to some of the most prominent figures in the city's history, including John Hamilton Gillespie, Sarasota's first mayor, and land developer Owen Burns.

His one-story Frame Vernacular home stands as a lasting example of the architectural style commonly found in Sarasota's African-American neighborhoods. Join us for an engaging session as we learn about Reid's role in the founding of Overtown, Sarasota's first Black community, and highlight his humanitarian accomplishments.

Oct. 6: Emily Dickinson with Teresa Carson

Despite the fact that Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) published only 10 poems and one letter in her lifetime, she is regarded as one of the most important, most beloved, and most visionary American poets. Approximately 1,789 lyric poems and 1,304 letters of hers are extant and yet Emily herself remains, to a large degree, an enigma to us. Books, plays, movies, television series, and popular culture often present myths and legends about her life and loves as facts. Unfortunately, those myths and legends do a disservice to her genius by simplifying her complexity. We will appreciate her complexity by examining facets of it through a mix of straight biography, letters, and poems.

Oct. 13: A '60s Radical Creative: Mr. Rogers with Nancy Cusack

Notes on creativity from the life of Fred Rogers, professional musician, Florida snowbird, and TV icon. As a sickly, bullied child, one might not have foreseen “Fat Freddy” becoming a highly unconventional, totally uncool, and a fearlessly controversial media powerhouse. Clues to his radical nature were however evident early in his life at Rollins College in Winter Park. Join us to learn more.

Oct. 20: Charlie Chaplin with Jeffrey Sherman

Few people in the movie industry can be credited with so many innovations, so much trailblazing, so much entertainment, and so much controversy, yet Charlie Chaplin was all those things — and more. Best known for his iconic “Little Tramp” character, Chaplin brought comedy and pathos to the screen in the first quarter of the 20th century in ways never imagined. A true pioneer, Chaplin's influences are still felt in contemporary filmmaking. This lecture will celebrate the life and accomplishments of this legendary comedian.

Oct. 27: Julia Child with Bonnie Garvey Spadafora

Julia Child was a pioneering chef, author, and television personality who brought French cuisine to the American public. Her 1961 successful debut cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, and her television program, “The French Chef,” which premiered in 1963, made her a national star. Her energy, enthusiasm, and non-flappable attitude as she demonstrated recipes endeared her to many ... but did you know in addition to being a chef, Julia was a spy? Let's find out more about Julia's known and unknown past.

History (cont.)

New: World War I**Course #HS236****Alan Grindal****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

6 Sessions: Sept. 30-Nov. 4

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

World War I shattered decades of peace as well as prosperity in Europe and quickly set the world on a course of violence. This tragic conflict led to 10 million senseless deaths and an unstable peace. Far-reaching consequences include the initiation of another far deadlier World War II decades later. This class will explore the course of the war as well as its impact on the combatants and the home front. We will also examine the causes of the conflict and its continued legacy.

New: The U.S. Manned Space Program**Course #HS237****Bob Busch****Ringling College Museum Campus**

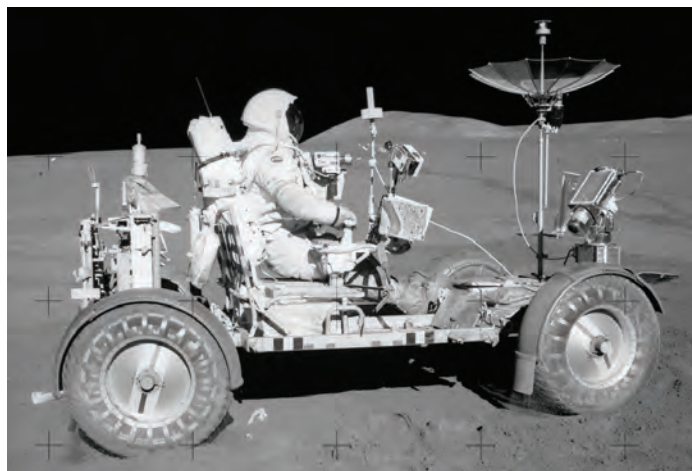
Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

2 Sessions: Oct. 14-Oct. 21

Gold Member: \$40.50

Silver Member: \$45

Where were you when the first astronauts set foot on the Moon? What do you remember about the Challenger explosion? This class offers a historical look at the U.S. manned space program. We cover the key program successes, the heroes, and the tragedies. Join us for this overview of manned space flight and look into the future.

**The Dark Ages Illuminated****Course #HS180****Beverly Jennings****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

6 Sessions: Oct. 9-Nov. 13

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

When the Roman Empire collapsed in 476 AD, western Europe was plunged into a "dark age." In this class we will discuss what happened, barbarian invasions, decline in literacy, the worst year to be alive, the rise of Christianity, knights and castles, and much more. We will also try to answer the question: Did the Roman Empire really collapse, or did society become the medieval world?

New: The Byzantine Empire**Course #HS238****Chris Angermann****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm

6 Sessions: Oct. 9-Nov. 13

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

The Byzantine Empire lasted more than 1,100 years, defending Christianity against Muslim attacks and the Visigoths' conquest of Rome. Although a religious state, it was surprisingly ecumenical, welcoming traders of many nationalities and faiths. Its impact on history has been far-reaching. Emperor Justinian instituted an influential law code. The Orthodox Church's missionaries invented the Cyrillic alphabet. After the fall of Constantinople in 1453, teachers and scholars fled with books that helped usher in the Renaissance. In this historical overview, we will explore mosaics and icons, palace intrigues and pageantry, religious strife and zealotry, military victories and defeats, Viking encounters, and the impact of the Crusades. And you will never use the words "iconoclast" and "Byzantine" in quite the same way.

Left image: "50th Anniversary of the First Use of the Lunar Roving Vehicle - July 31, 1971" by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0.

New: The American Presidency — Road to the Civil War

Course #HS239

Jeff Newman

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
4 Sessions: Oct. 30-Nov. 20

Gold Member: \$63
Silver Member: \$70

Some historians claim the Civil War was born in the Mexican-American War, steeped in the 525,000 square miles of new lands acquired for America's expansion. The five presidents living in that contentious era, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan, may have been our nation's last hope to avoid what some saw as inevitable doom. The course will look at these leaders' lives, first ladies, policies, accomplishments, and failures to see where it all eventually went wrong.

New: Eight Battles That Changed the Course of U.S. History

Course #HS240

Michael Gibson

Ringling College Museum Campus

Fridays: 2-3:20 pm
8 Sessions: Oct. 3-Nov. 21

Gold Member: \$85.50
Silver Member: \$95

From the 1777 Battle of Saratoga during the Revolutionary War to the fighting at Tora Bora during the 2001 Afghan Campaign, several critical conflicts have directly affected American history. This class will examine eight of those battles (one each week), reviewing the details but concentrating more on the leaders involved and the decisions they made. This approach to American history should help provide us with some unique insights into our legacy.

New: The Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis & Clark Expedition

Course #HS241

Michael Sherrow

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 1-2:30 pm (Note: Extended Time)
1 Session: Oct. 17

Gold Member: \$12
Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

The Louisiana Purchase was a major milestone in the expansion and westward development of the United States. It doubled the size of the U.S. and opened it up to the vast resources which contributed to its material growth. How did the French acquire this vast part of North America, and what were the circumstances that led them to agree to the sale? What was President Jefferson's role in this transaction and how did he overcome congressional objections to both? Who were Lewis and Clark and what was the purpose of their expedition through an uncharted, sometimes dangerous environment inhabited by indigenous peoples with customs and practices strange to the explorers. We will "explore" these issues and more.



Map of the Louisiana Purchase - 1803

Languages

Introductory French 1**Course #LA122****Dianne Tisman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 10-11:20 am
 8 Sessions: Sept. 29-Nov. 17
 Gold Member: \$85.50
 Silver Member: \$95

This is a course for participants who have never studied French or have not spoken French for a very long time. This introductory course provides participants with a foundation in the four basic skills of language learning: speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- provide essential information about themselves
- relate information about other people in their immediate world (family and friends)
- talk about the time, days, dates, the weather, and schedules
- identify everyday objects and items
- discuss likes and dislikes
- discuss basic everyday activities

Written work between classes (provided by the teacher) is optional, but recommended. Grammatical concepts and cultural information are included and discussed.

Intermediate French**Course #LA123****Dianne Tisman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 12-1:20 pm
 8 Sessions: Sept. 29-Nov. 17
 Gold Member: \$85.50
 Silver Member: \$95

This course is for advanced beginners, early intermediates, or those who have completed Introductory French 3 at OLLI. The course begins with a review of present-day activities allowing participants to discuss their daily routine. We then get into relating past experiences.

By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- relate elements that comprise daily routines
- share experiences (vacations or job experiences) in the recent and distant past.
- make reservations at hotels and restaurants
- resolve problems that may occur in a French-speaking country (loss of a possession, getting lost, feeling ill)

Grammatical concepts and cultural information are introduced to further situational objectives. Written work between classes (provided by the teacher) is optional but recommended.



Literature

Situational / Topical French**Course #LA119****Dianne Tisman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 2-3:20 pm
 8 Sessions: Sept. 29-Nov. 17
 Gold Member: \$85.50
 Silver Member: \$95

Designed for intermediates who have a command of present-day French, simple past activities, or who have completed the OLLI Situational French courses. This course emphasizes role-playing approaches allowing participants to experience a particular context with a situational objective. Classes will include discussions that relate to these situational activities through excerpts from articles, films, events, music, literature, or relevant material.

Topics include:

- how to conduct financial transactions in a bank
- how to rent or buy property in France
- how to partake in an interview
- how to compliment or criticize
- social situations

Grammatical concepts and cultural information are introduced to further situational/topical objectives. Written work between classes (provided by the teacher) is optional but recommended.

New: OLLI Mystery Book Club**Course #LI135****Joe Cucci and Terri Davis****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 4 Sessions: Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28 and Nov. 11
(Note: Class meets every other week.)
 Gold Member: \$63
 Silver Member: \$70

The OLLI Mystery Book Club is a casual discussion group. The hope is to introduce you to new authors and series. You'll read four books with one book being discussed for 80 minutes every other week. The moderator will select the first book; the other three will be selected by the class from a menu that will include books from three different categories. The moderator will provide some cursory background information and then will steer the discussion which is driven by the Book Club members. The first book to read is *Vengeance* by Stuart M. Kaminsky.

New: OLLI Fall Book Club**Course #LI159****Carol Ellis****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 3 Sessions: Oct. 21, Nov. 4, and Nov. 18
(Note: Class meets every other week.)
 Gold Member: \$54
 Silver Member: \$60

The OLLI Fall Book Club will feature three sessions. The instructor will select the first book, a novel, while the group will choose the next two from a curated list. This club engages in thoughtful discussions about the books, making it a great opportunity for anyone seeking a meaningful book club experience and looking to expand their reading repertoire. The first book for the class will be *The Listeners*, by Maggie Stiefvater. We invite you to join us!

Literature (cont.)

The World's Great Literature**Course #LI140****Michael Vlasisavljevic****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 6 Sessions: Oct. 14-Nov. 18

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

We build on the tradition of the Great Books by exploring classic and contemporary texts of world literature. Our selections cover a wide range — fiction and non-fiction, plays and poetry — but all lead, both in reading and conversation, to a stimulating expansion of our worldview. Each week, our discussion will be led by a volunteer from the class. About two weeks before the first session, a syllabus with specific readings will be emailed to class registrants.

As Marilynne Robinson said in *The Givenness of Things*, "Open a book and a voice speaks. A world, more or less alien or welcoming, emerges to enrich a reader's store of hypotheses about how life is to be understood." Welcome to The World's Great Literature.

Short Story Collective**Course # LI160****Debbie Mackler and Tom Miller****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 10-11:30 am (Note: Extended time.)
 6 Sessions: Oct. 1-Nov. 5

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

"When you read a short story, you come out a little more aware and a little more in love with the world around you..."
 - George Saunders

"Short stories are tiny windows into other worlds, and other minds, and other dreams. They're journeys you can make to the far side of the universe and still be back in time for dinner." - Neil Gaiman

We read two short stories each week before class and ask you to come prepared to discuss these stories in a seminar setting. Each week we have different presenters who share their selected stories with the class. Please join us for an exciting and dynamic literary experience.

The New Yorker Magazine: Conversations**Course #LI146****Alan Freedman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 7 Sessions: Oct. 9-Nov. 20

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

For nearly a century, *The New Yorker* has been a treasured source of essays, fiction, cartoons, satire, poetry, criticism, and reportage, and its writers occupy a unique place in the pantheon of erudition and wit. In this class, we'll enjoy the magazine even more by sharing our knowledge and opinions on weekly selections from "Shouts & Murmurs," "The Talk of the Town," a work of fiction or non-fiction, a movie review, or cartoons. Prior to each week's meeting, you'll receive an email naming items from the prior week's issue to be discussed; a subscription (either in print or online) is necessary. A stimulating conversation is certain!



Music Appreciation

New: The Music and Legacy of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young**Course #MA198****John Scibak****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 10-11:20 am
 6 Sessions: Oct. 13-Nov. 17
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young (CSNY) was a folk-rock supergroup that left an indelible mark on the music industry in the late '60s and early '70s. While all four members were musical pioneers in their respective bands before coming together, Woodstock established CSNY as a supergroup. Between 1969 and 1974, CSNY was the most successful, influential, and politically active rock band in America. Using their music as our roadmap, this course will review how the group came together, their flawless harmonies and musical innovations, and how their music reflected the politics and counterculture of the time. Finally, we'll see how drug and alcohol abuse, creative tensions, and bickering over women threatened to tear them apart.

New: Unveiling the Power of Modern Film Scores**Course #MA199****Emanuel Abramovits****Online / Zoom**

Mondays: 2-3:20 pm
 6 Sessions: Oct. 13-Nov. 17
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

More than ever, music is a fundamental component of a film's emotional force. In this course, we'll explore what's behind the best film scores of today. Anecdotes and audiovisuals will introduce us to veterans, including John Williams (*Star Wars*), Thomas Newman (*American Beauty*), Hans Zimmer (*Interstellar*), Rachel Portman (*Emma*), and the leading composers of a fantastic new generation, like Jonny Greenwood (*The Power of the Dog*), and Daniel Blumberg (*The Brutalist*). With regards to those who have won the recent Oscars, we'll offer insights into what makes these scores resonate with audiences and Academy voters.

New: Tchaikovsky's Seven Symphonies Analyzed and Ranked**Course #MA200****Albert H. Cohen****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 7 Sessions: Sept. 30-Nov. 11
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

Tchaikovsky wrote six numbered symphonies, plus an un-numbered one called *Manfred*. Of these seven, three (4, 5, and 6) are well-known, while the other four are heard only rarely. Each is a major work, spanning 40 minutes or more, and each has many moments of drama and excitement. In this course, we will deconstruct each work and play them in reverse order of "greatness," with the poorest first and the best saved for last.



*Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, oil on canvas
 by Nikolai Kuznetsov, 1893*

Music Appreciation (cont.)

New: They Changed Their Names**Course #MA201****Tony Moon****Online / Zoom**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 8 Sessions: Sept. 30-Nov. 18
 Gold Member: \$85.50
 Silver Member: \$95

This fascinating course will discover who they were, and how without them, American popular music would have never been the same. You will be startled to find how many Italians were responsible for songs that have shaped all genres of rock and pop. Each week we'll find out the identities of those who have been responsible for most of the musical fabric of our lives. Come enjoy these mysteries as we take this interesting nostalgic journey.

New: The Second British Invasion in the '80s**Course #MA202****Tony Moon****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 10-11:20 am
 4 Sessions: Oct. 22-Nov. 12
 Gold Member: \$63
 Silver Member: \$70

The British artists that followed The Beatles to America in the mid-1960s were all over the radio and sold millions of records. So many including — The Animals, The Hollies, The Rolling Stones, Freddy and the Dreamers — the list goes on and on. However, in the '80s with disco, punk, and urban cowboy behind us, came a new wave of Brits that wouldn't be denied. Culture Club, A Flock of Seagulls, and Duran Duran were just a few of the MTV-friendly artists that began to dominate U.S. radio. Join us as we re-live their hits and their stories and figure out the reason for their overwhelming popularity.

New: Classical Music Virtuosos**Course #MA203****Emanuel Abramovits****Online / Zoom**

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm
 6 Sessions: Oct. 8-Nov. 12
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

We will use anecdotes, stories, humor, and audiovisuals to explore the works and the legacy of influential performers who gave technical brilliance, richness of tone, and showmanship another meaning on the piano, violin, cello, and other instruments. We will discuss performers whose impressive ability, charisma, and distinctive sound have impressed audiences in the last 150 years, like Arthur Rubinstein, Jascha Heifetz, Vladimir Horowitz, Yuja Wang, Itzhak Perlman, Ara Malikian, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Lang Lang, Mischa Maisky, and future talents, like Alma Deutscher.

*Jascha Heifetz*

Philosophy and Religion

**New: Thoreau's Wisdom for Today:
Spiritual Insights for a Changing World****Course #PL131****Dent Davis****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesday: 11 am-12:20 pm
 6 Sessions: Oct. 14-Nov. 18
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

For generations, Henry David Thoreau has inspired readers with his call to "live deliberately." But beyond the quotes and cabin stories lies a profound spiritual vision — one that speaks powerfully to the challenges of life today. In this course, we'll explore how Thoreau's reflections on nature, simplicity, and conscience offer guidance for those seeking meaning and purpose in a complex world. Together, we'll examine Thoreau's vision of a meaningful life, his sense of nature and spirituality, and how he dealt with aging and injustice. This course is a conversation — bring your curiosity, your experience, and your questions and join us!

**New: Mysticism and Kabbalah for
Inner Peace****Course #PL132****Rabbi Sigal Brier****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 2 Sessions: Oct. 9-Oct. 16
 Gold Member: \$40.50
 Silver Member: \$45

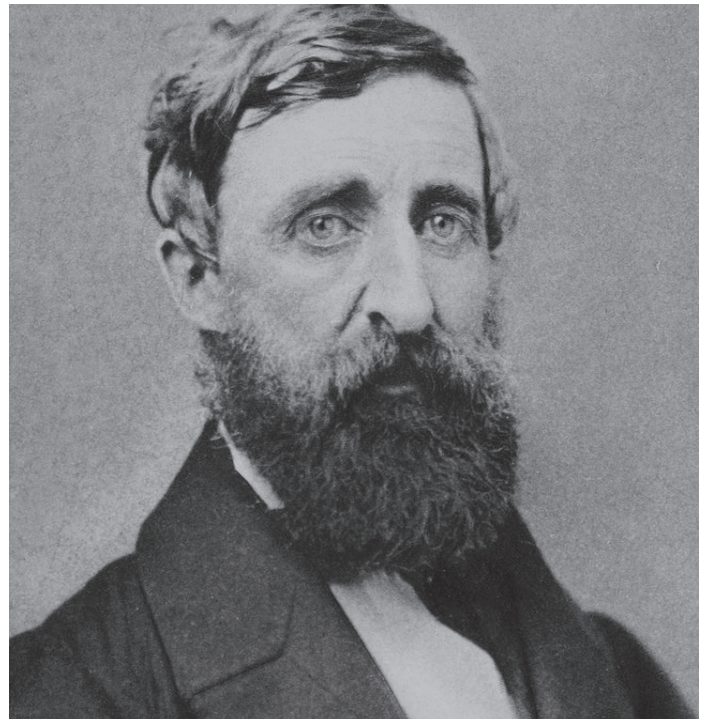
Mysticism offers us maps of consciousness to help steer our lives with more ease and peace. Kabbalah, in Hebrew, means "to receive." The mystic path is one of mindful mysticism to our luminous and connected heart, where we can grow our receptivity. With that growing awareness, we can release reactivity and strife. Rabbi Sigal will clearly explain complex concepts and share inspirations from Kabbalah and mysticism. She will skillfully guide the class in mystical meditations and contemplations. People from all religions, spiritual, and non-religious backgrounds are welcome.

Psychology

**Ploys for Dominance: Recognizing
and Disarming Manipulation****Course #PY163****John Maerz****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 10 am-1 pm
 1 Session: Nov. 7
 Gold Member: \$49
 Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

Do you feel manipulated? Do you feel like you're being conned but can't quite put your finger on how? Does it seem like others have a way of getting under your skin — making you feel that you should be doing what they think is best? Some manipulators are even members of our family. Sometimes they even make us doubt our own capability. You're not alone. These perceptions signal our susceptibility. Manipulators have ways of making us feel that we owe them; know less than them; or that they have the only solution. You have the ability to recognize their ploys, and in this workshop, you'll learn how to disarm them. Join us.

*Henry David Thoreau*

Science

Science Wednesdays

Course #SI101

**John Bruno, Wendy Gabel, Bill Copeland,
and Kenneth Bechis**

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm

4 Sessions: Oct. 29-Nov. 19

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

The objective of science is to gain an understanding of nature. This enables us to develop tools that apply Nature's Laws to improve our daily lives. Science Wednesdays is a series of lectures dealing with a broad range of sciences, including physics, biology, health, and medicine.

Oct. 29: The Brain's Mediation of Cognitive Control in Health and Disease with John Bruno

Cognitive control is a set of mental operations (attention, working memory, and cognitive flexibility) that optimize a person's decision making. Impairments in cognitive control contribute to symptoms following aging and several psychiatric disorders (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Schizophrenia). This session will identify critical distributed neural networks in humans and in animal models as targets for better understanding the etiology of these symptoms and the search for more efficacious treatments.

Nov. 5: Vaccines: How They Work and How They Are Made with Wendy Gabel

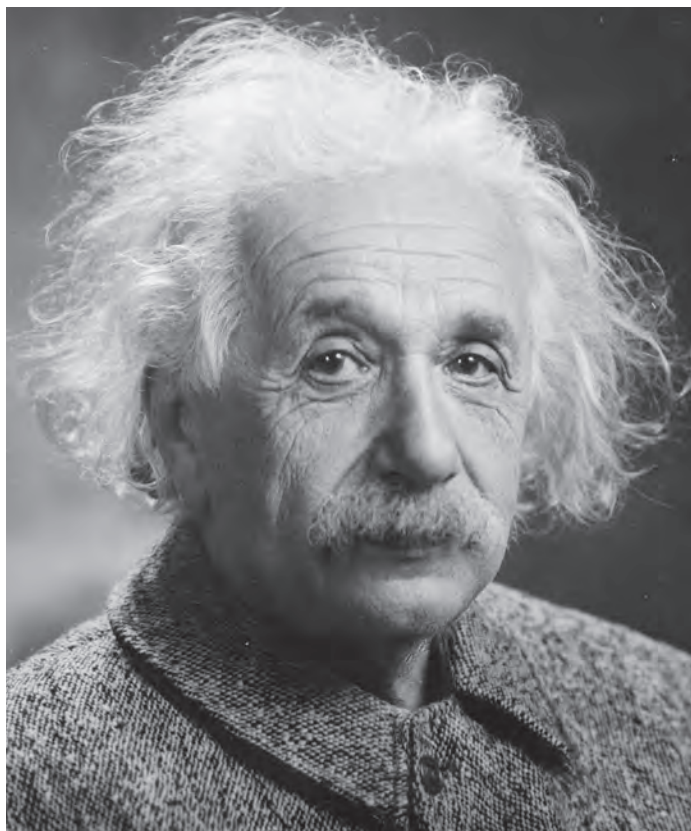
We are all familiar with vaccines — from the ones we got during our childhood to the flu vaccine we are encouraged to get every year. But how do they work? And what are the recent advancements and discoveries? In this session, we will explore the immune response to infection, the history of vaccines, the common flu vaccine, and the newest biotechnology approaches to discovering and making new vaccines.

Nov. 12: Spacetime and Gravity with Bill Copeland

Stepwise advancements by several scientists led Einstein to develop the 1905 Special Theory of Relativity. Two crucial concepts were coordinate independence and the equivalence principle. In 1907, beginning with a simple thought experiment involving an observer in free fall, Einstein embarked on what would be an eight-year search for a relativistic theory of gravity. In November of 1915, the Einstein field equations formed the core of the General Theory of Relativity.

Nov. 19: Bogus Astronomy with Kenneth P. Bechis

Is it true that "In space no one can hear you scream?" Do Hollywood movies accurately portray spaceship battles, laser cannons, and explosions? Are space aliens invading Earth really ill-advised? How well do Earthbound media and the general population understand astronomical concepts? Did Stanley Kubrick help NASA fake the moon landings? And does it matter that our Sun travels yearly through 14 constellations, not just the 12 familiar zones? Let's explore these and more in bogus astronomy!



Albert Einstein

Technology

New: How Virtual Reality (VR) is Changing the World: A Hands-on Experience**Course #TC148****Justin Gast****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 2-3:20 pm

1 Session: Oct. 3

Gold and Silver Members
and General Admission: \$12

Have you ever seen people with those fancy headsets strapped to their face, and then they start laughing, or waving their arms around? They aren't drunk, they are probably using a Virtual Reality (VR) headset. The technology has come a long way from its very humble origins in 1960, and now there is an entire industry working to discover its full potential. These devices are revolutionizing how we communicate, train for jobs, and spend our leisure time. Join us for a whirlwind tour of this exciting technology's history and where it has found itself today. This session includes an opportunity to use a VR headset and try an immersive experience which may include limited physical activity (standing or holding up arms.)



One Ocean Science 2025 Congress in Nice (Day 2/4): Partial view of the "La Baleine" stands. These include the Ifremer stand, which showcases the hidden treasures of the deep using 3D viewing glasses.

Writing

Writing Your Story: Two Pages at a Time**Course #WR118****Mary Ziegler****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

6 Sessions: Oct. 14-Nov. 18

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

Have you wanted to write about your life, but wondered where to begin? This course will inspire you to get started, two pages at a time. Your story is valuable, whether you are writing for yourself or leaving a legacy for loved ones. We will use Guided Autobiography (GAB), a proven process researched and developed by the Birren Center in California that helps unlock forgotten memories. This is a great way to find new meaning and put life events into perspective. Participants write two pages on a common theme each week and experience new insights by sharing stories in a small supportive group of interested others. No previous writing experience is necessary.

New: Writing Your Short Story**Course #WR130****Richard Klin****Online / Zoom**

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm

6 Sessions: Oct. 9-Nov. 13

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

Everyone has a story in them — whether you've written a lot, a little, or never. This class will enable you to tap into a wide array of sources — a memory, a person, an incident, an intriguing theme — and wind up with a completed short story. You'll construct your story via a step-by-step process in an encouraging, open atmosphere with lots of class participation and friendly input. Writing an effective story needs structure, but this class will be less concerned with rigid rules. The idea is to let your expressiveness flow.

Note: Limited seating.

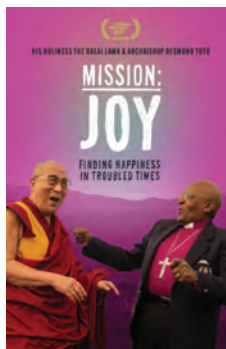
CONNECTIONS documentary film series will start its 10th year this fall. **CONNECTIONS** is an opportunity for OLLI students and guests to connect with many of today's pressing issues via the penetrating perspectives of contemporary documentary films. As the name implies, the themes for the films will showcase the **CONNECTIONS** humans have with one another, with our environment (including technology) and with other species that share our planet.

For our two fall films, **CONNECTIONS** will showcase two remarkable stories. The first is about the unlikely friendship of two very special holy men who are each social justice champions; the second film chronicles the post-COVID recovery of one of Cirque du Soleil's most popular shows. Following both films, we'll discuss their content and impact, as well as raise questions for further exploration.



Julie Cotton, a long-term OLLI member and instructor, is the coordinator and host of this series. Julie has a doctorate in Human Development and is a former organizational consultant and executive coach. She is an aficionado of documentary films and a skilled facilitator of group conversations.

CONNECTIONS is made possible, in part, with generous support from the **Harms Family Endowment**



Mission: Joy — Finding Happiness in Troubled Times (2021)

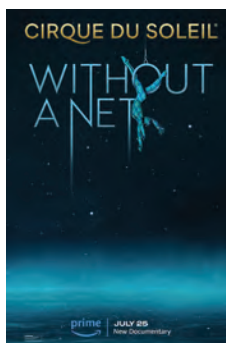
Films #FS140

1 hour 25 minutes

Tuesday, Oct. 7 • 2:30-4:30 pm
Ringling College Museum Campus

Gold Member: \$12; Silver Member
and General Admission: \$15

Four Academy Award winners came together to make a once-in-a-generation film with a just-in-time message. In what turned out to be their last time together, we trace the epic life stories of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, both Nobel Peace Prize winners, as they faced oppression, exile, death threats, cancer, and more — still unbowed and still laughing. Their life stories remind us that our shared humanity is bigger than our differences, that joy is an inside job, that joy and pain are inseparable, and that deep connection is one of the secrets to joy.



Cirque du Soleil: Without a Net (2024)

Films #FS141

1 hour 35 minutes

Tuesday, Nov. 11 • 2:30-4:30 pm
Ringling College Museum Campus

Gold Member: \$12; Silver Member
and General Admission: \$15

Cirque du Soleil is renowned for its innovative blend of circus arts, theatrical storytelling, and captivating visuals. *Without a Net* chronicles a critical period in their history: the remounting of "O," its popular Las Vegas show a year after the pandemic shutdown when almost all of the staff was laid off. With unprecedented access, the film provides an in-depth look at the preparations for the show's return, including the artists' training, backstage operations, and the team's emotional journey as they work to meet their high standards. It also showcases the dedication and resilience of the performers as they navigate the challenges of returning to the stage.

History Lecture in Honor of Charlie A. Stryker

January 14, 1940 - March 1, 2025

Charlie A. Stryker was a longtime volunteer in lifelong learning organizations serving on the Pierian Spring Academy and OLLI at Ringling College lifelong learning boards for over 10 years. After a 30-year corporate career with Xerox and Apple Computer, Charlie earned his master of arts in history from the University of South Florida (USF). He spent 15 years teaching American history at Hillsborough Community College and USF Sarasota-Manatee. Dr. Gary Mormino was Charlie's USF professor who greatly influenced his teaching career.



Dr. Gary Mormino presents: *The State of the Florida Dream: 2025*

Wednesday, Oct. 8 • 2:30-3:30 pm
Ringling College Museum Campus

Gold Member: Free

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

The idea of the Florida Dream is as ancient as Ponce de León's quest for the Fountain of Youth and as modern as Florida politicians reminding voters how lucky we are to live in the Sunshine State.

The modern Florida dream dates to the 1920s, when the state was beginning to attract large numbers of Midwesterners, migrants, and vacationers from the Northeast. Still, as late as 1940, Florida was the least populated state in the south, smaller than South Carolina or Arkansas. The Sunshine State numbered fewer than 2 million inhabitants. By contrast, New York numbered 13.5 million.

In 2025, Florida's population is nearly 24 million, while New York's population is 20 million. What happened? The easy answers are the Florida dream, February, and taxes. Are we confident about the Florida Dream and the State of Florida in 2025? We will discuss this and other topics of civic concern.



Gary R. Mormino is a native of Wood River, IL. He received his doctorate in history from the University of North Carolina. After writing books about "The Hill" (an Italian community in St. Louis, MO) and Ybor City (an immigrant community in Tampa), Mormino turned his attention to Florida. In 2006, he wrote *Land of*

Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida. A book that was turned into an Emmy-winning documentary, *The Florida Dream* (2007).

Mormino taught history at the University of South Florida (Tampa) from 1977 to 2001, when he and professor Raymond Arsenault created the Florida Studies Program at the University of South Florida (St. Petersburg).

Mormino's latest books include *Dreams in the New Century*, a study of Florida during the first decade of the 21st century. His work has received myriad awards, including the Tebeau Award for the outstanding book in Florida history in 2006 and 2012. He has also written hundreds of articles that appeared in the *Tampa Tribune*, the *St. Petersburg Times*, and the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Another One By Tenn

Produced by NoName Repertory in partnership with OLLI at Ringling College

Auto Da Fe

Tennessee Williams' SHOCKING one-act play!

A psychological study of the self-destructive effects of paranoia and intolerance. Topical and disturbing. It follows the uncanny descent of a family into madness.

Directed by Leah Gindes

Featuring:

Deloria Berks as **Mme. Duvenet** and William Ashburn as **Eloi**

Technical Direction by Alex Gindes

Special Guest performance by Marie Carstens (dance)

Friday, Nov. 7, 2025 • 2:30-4 pm

OLLI at Ringling College • Sarasota Art Museum • 1001 S. Tamiami Trail

Creative Team



Leah Gindes (Director/Producer)

is thrilled to integrate her dual passions for psychological exploration and theatrical expression in interpreting the work of Mr. Tennessee Williams. Leah is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice and trained at William

Alanson White Institute in New York City. She has produced and directed downtown theatre in New York City and last spring staged readings from *The Glass Menagerie* with the NoName Repertory and OLLI at Ringling College.



Deloria Berks (Mme. Duvenet)

started her artistic journey under the tutelage of William Esper at Rutgers University who awarded her the Levin Scholarship for Artistic Achievement. Deloria brought characters like "Josie" in *A Moon for the Misbegotten*

and "Inez" in *No Exit* to life on stage in New York City. Deloria has spent the last 15 years as a licensed psychotherapist. Last spring, she played Amanda Wingfield in produced stage readings from *The Glass Menagerie* with NoName Repertory and OLLI at Ringling College.



Marie Carstens (Dancer) is delighted to celebrate her 16th year with Dances by Isadora/New York City. Marie is a life-long student of movement and, whether as dancer, therapist, or teacher, she firmly believes that dance is a celebration of life. Marie maintains

a performance career while working as dance/movement therapist, and teacher. She co-creates and performs modern dance with Erin Jennings and the Putnam County Dance Project.



Alex Gindes (Technical Director)

describes himself as an avid biker and hiker and, in his spare time, builds furniture. He has a doctorate in clinical psychology and is in full-time private practice. In the spring term, Alex tech-directed the staged reading of

The Glass Menagerie and is very excited to once again be associated with the brilliant and talented members of NoName Repertory and OLLI at Ringling College.



William Ashburn (Eloi) is honored

to be making his debut with the NoName Repertory and OLLI at Ringling College. William's past performances include "Mister/Officer" in *Pass Over* (Sarasota Players), "Joe" in *The Shadowbox* (SCF Theatre),

and "Adam Webster" in *The Psychic* (Anna Maria Island Players). He is finishing his bachelor's degree in Theatre at the University of South Florida and is eager to continue to push the boundaries of storytelling in front of a live audience.

**There will be a discussion and an audience talk-back
with the cast and directors. Reception to follow.**

**Tickets: \$20 OLLI Members and General Admission
Advanced registration required • 941-309-5111**



SPEAKING of an Adventure

We are pleased to announce that our OLLI Summer Adventure 2025 was a success. From book club apps to water lilies, the feedback that we received was overwhelmingly positive. Thanks to everyone who participated! Here are a few samples of student feedback.

“Topic was fascinating. Instructor included interesting anecdotes and was very personable.”

*Why James Longstreet Matters:
A Paragon of Unity with Bill Simpson*

“The instructor was very engaging and the material was not familiar to me before the class.”

*Create Your Beautiful and
Weather Resilient Landscape
with Tenille Dixon Pawlus*

“Great resources provided for people who love to read. Engaging style. Very knowledgeable.”

*Digital Bookworm: Mastering
Reading Apps with Barb Feldman*

“Roxanne is an absolute gem! She leads class discussions in such a positive way, encourages questions and she is so knowledgeable about the subject she is teaching.”

*Pursuit of Happiness: Insights From
the Sages to Support Us As We Age
with Roxanne Baker*

“I really enjoyed the instructor's down to earth style and ability to make incredibly challenging material more understandable. Appreciated the analogies and examples. Enjoyed the stimulating subject matter and discussion.”

*What Makes a Good Cell Break
Bad: The Biology of Cancer
with Tom Weissman*

“Very practical. Instructor presented a template for approaching procrastination that is understandable. I will be using this very often.”

*Procrastination to Progress:
Take Action on Your Goals
with Gail Sussman Miller*

“AI, to me, is scary, confusing and fascinating all at once. Tom helped clarify to some extent a very challenging topic.”

*What is AI and What Will It Do
to Humans with Tom Vartanian*

“Entertaining with presentation of interesting information (both current and historical).”

*The French Connection: The Last
Time I Saw Paris with Sandy Moulin*

“The author and facilitators read compelling book segments that led to stimulating discussions.”

*Book Discussion: Relocate Adjust
Repeat: An International Life with
Mahesh S. Patel, Debbie Mackler,
and Tom Miller*



“The topic was topical and Mike's deep knowledge and relaxed presentation style was engaging.”

Classical Education and the Western Canon with Mike Weddle

“I have long wished to take a class here. I found the instructor excellent and the format encouraged class participation.”

Crimson: A Color, a Bug, a Monopoly with Nancy Cusack

“I actually enjoyed doing the puzzles. This class gave me an entirely new approach.”

Introduction to Crossword Puzzles with Barbara Feldman

“The movie was worth watching and the instructor's knowledge of the story behind its creation made it all the more interesting.”

Breakfast at Tiffany's with Jeff Ryder

“Fun, engaging and applicable not only for performers but anyone who likes to be quick on their feet.”

Improv Scenes with Jeffrey Sherman and Colleen Sherman

“The instructor has a relaxed presentation style and sense of humor. He made a great amount of information understandable and relatable.”

The Battle of Midway with Mike Gibson

“The information provided by the instructor, who was extremely knowledgeable and well informed about his subject, was thorough and enlightening.”

The Turpentine Industry in Sarasota with Dr. Josh Goodman

“Amazing performer and so very knowledgeable! Interesting beyond my expectations! Loved it!!!”

The Roots of Black Music in America with Karlus Trapp

“The documentary films chosen for this course were wonderful and especially moving. Lynda led thoughtful and engaging discussions of the films following their viewing.”

Lessons Learned from Children: Mad Hot Ballroom with Lynda Rizzio

“Organized, knowledgeable speaker, well delivered and good audiovisuals.”

Executive Orders and Presidential Power with John Scibak

“This was a superb and very comprehensive look at more than thirty highly-regarded artists who created a visual arts community in Sarasota... Andrew Ford grew up with many of the artists and shared fascinating stories of what made each of them unique.”

The Artist Colony and History with Andrew Ford

“Good resource information with clear explanations of why the sites are trustworthy.”

Searching "Dr. Google" Getting Information You Can Trust with Cheryl Brandi

“I didn't know much about Myles Horton. The instructor did a great job of sharing his importance and relevance. Most enjoyable.”

Myles Horton's Enduring Legacy: Educator and Activist with Mary Ziegler

“Instructor was very helpful regarding resources that will help individuals stay at home longer.”

Stay Home, Stay Independent with Elena Vizvary

“The speaker was engaging, friendly, and organized. The topic was very interesting.”

How Memory Works with Alan Grindal

“The instructor did not try to promote medical cannabis and he approached the subject in a data-driven, scientific way.”

Medical Cannabis with Dr. Jeff Mara

“It was both enlightening and fun. Lecturer was so well informed!”

Can Your Read your Dog's Mind? with Wendy Lyons Sunshine

“It was both enlightening and fun. Lecturer was so well informed!”

Can Your Read your Dog's Mind? with Wendy Lyons Sunshine

“The speaker used wonderful photos plus great music and songs by the performers about whom she was lecturing.”

The King and Queen of Jazz: Louis Armstrong and Ellan Fitzgerald with Marilyn Carminio

“Beautifully presented topic with much new and fascinating material. Inspired to read more and look forward to any future courses by this excellent instructor.”

Pioneering Women: The Bluestockings with Bonnie Garvey Spadafora

“Instructor always has a unique spin on art subjects, making art and artists lectures very engaging. Also wonderful slides with her lectures.”

Claude Monet's Obsession with Nymphéas (Water Lilies) with Marie-Agnès Sourieau

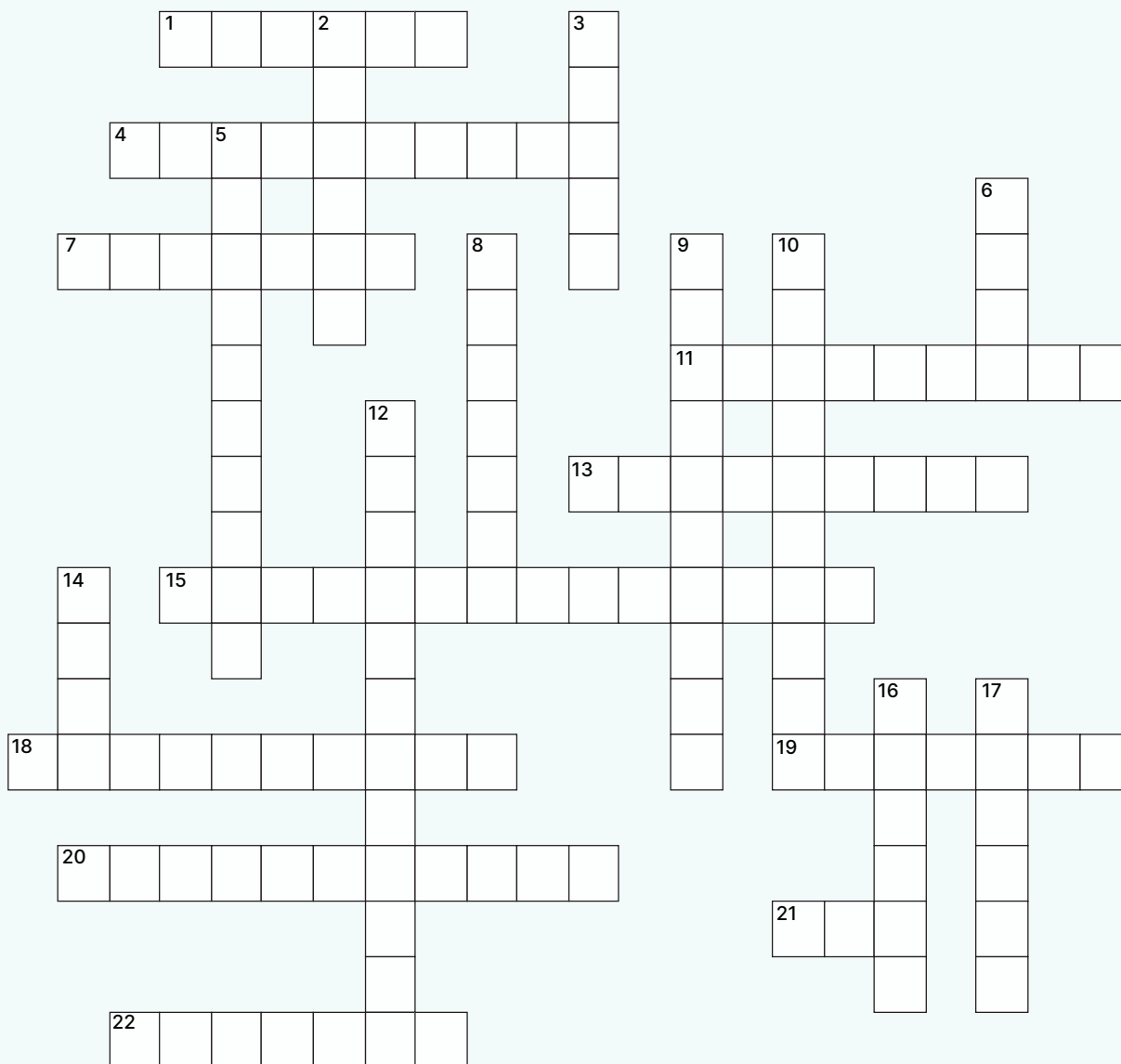


Falling for OLLI

We're excited to introduce something new for the upcoming academic year: our crossword puzzle.

Most of the clues are inside the catalog. Click on each square to enter a letter.

If you prefer to work with pen and paper, we will have printed copies of the puzzle and the answers available at the OLLI office in Room 105.



Across

1. No tests or
4. Needed
7. In the past
11. Belonging to
13. *Auto Da Fe*
15. Crossword puzzler
18. Summer

19. Seen and Heard
20. Series de film
21. Appreciation
22. By pen

Answers on page 44.

Down

2. Thanks to our
3. To your ears
5. By the books
6. Lifelong Learning
8. Wednesdays
9. Where you might find a VR class

10. Two types
12. Done quarterly
14. Four letter words starts with G
16. To your
17. Six letter word starts with S

Making a Gift

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Ringling College enriches the lives of adults in Sarasota and Manatee counties by providing affordable and outstanding educational programs and social interactions that cover a broad spectrum of topics rich in intellectual stimulation, often interactive in scope, and worthy of academic consideration.

A gift to OLLI will expand meaningful and inspiring classes, timely topics, speaker series, travel courses, and lectures that broaden diverse offerings and inspire dialogue among our learning community.



Thank You to Our Donors

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College is grateful to have generous, consistent donors. It is their extra financial support that allows us to offer an affordable and outstanding program. Donations are always appreciated. The following honor roll of donors represent gifts given between June 1, 2024-May 31, 2025.

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Millie Finkel
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Gilbert Bosse, Jr.
Darrell T. Cascio
Tamara Tazzia
Egon and Urte Tuerpe
Lynette Velez
James B. Gray
Elizabeth L. Wakeman
Gisela Weinland
Mary Russell and Parba Tandon
Jo Schmidt

A special thank you to our Gold Members for their generous support through their membership this year. If we inadvertently overlooked your name, please accept our apologies and contact us to make the correction.

OLLI instructors possess a wide range of background, interests, and experiences. The biographies are small snapshots showcasing the lives and careers of these valued team members.

Emanuel Abramovits is a mechanical engineer with a Master of Business Administration. Emanuel has been a concert promoter, directly involved in many events by international artists, like Itzhak Perlman, ASIA, Journey, Kenny G, and many more. He has also staged award-winning original orchestral events. Emanuel served as the Cultural Director at Union Israelita De Caracas releasing books, organizing concerts, and art exhibits. He has been consistently teaching online and in person across the U.S. **(pp. 25, 26)**

Chris Angermann is a graduate of Yale University (CT) and the Yale School of Drama. He has been a university teacher (University North Carolina), professional theater director and acting teacher, and, most recently, a writer, journalist, and book producer for self-published authors — with over 100 titles to his credit. A former president of the Florida Authors and Publishers Association, he lectures on “The Future of Books,” “How to Write a Memoir,” and “Narrative Techniques.” **(p. 20)**

Kenneth P. Bechis retired from Northrop Grumman as Chief Scientist in the Space Operations/Environmental Solutions Division and as a Distinguished Technical Fellow in the Intelligence Systems Sector. He holds a bachelor's in astronomy from Harvard College (MA), a master of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a doctorate in astrophysics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is a former NASA Payload Specialist Astronaut. **(p. 28)**

Rabbi Sigal Brier is a spiritual mentor and scholar. She is the Rabbi at Kol HaNeshama congregation in Sarasota and on the faculty at the premier Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. She has two master of art degrees — one in Jewish studies and the other in organizational psychology. She has training in art, yoga, meditation, and dance. Using a multidisciplinary disciplinary approach, she facilitates experiences of transformation for individuals and groups. Rabbi Sigal has presented at TEDx, and was featured on CBS Sunday Morning News and National Public Radio (NPR). RabbiSigal.org **(p. 27)**

John Bruno is an Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Ohio State University. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Pittsburgh and a doctorate in behavioral neuroscience from Johns Hopkins University (MD). He has authored 200 peer-reviewed articles and edited three books. He served as president of the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society and was chairperson of the Department of Psychology at Ohio State. **(p. 28)**

Bob Busch holds a master's degree in Soviet Studies and Russian language. He was assigned as a diplomat in Moscow, Russia during the later Cold War era. His duty required extensive travel throughout the former USSR to places rarely visited by foreigners. His travels gave him a unique perspective on the Russian people. Bob had a following assignment to Berlin as a liaison officer to the Soviet military in East Germany until the fall of the Berlin Wall. **(p. 20)**

Teresa Carson holds a Master of Fine Arts in poetry and a Master of Fine Arts in theatre, both from Sarah Lawrence College (NY). She is the author of four collections of poetry: *Elegy for a Floater* (CavanKerry Press, 2008); *My Crooked House* (CavanKerry Press, 2014); *The Congress of Human Oddities* (Deerbrook Editions, 2015); and *Visit to an Extinct City* (Deerbrook Editions, 2021). She is the co-founder of Art in Common Places. **(p. 19)**

Albert H. Cohen has worked as a classical music critic for more than 42 years (20 for a Gannett newspaper in New Jersey). In Florida, he is music critic for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* and *Pro-Opera* magazine and former music critic for the *Orlando Sentinel* and the *Tampa Bay Times*. Albert was also managing director of the Music Critics Association of North America for 13 years. **(p. 25)**

Bill Copeland has an electrical engineering degree from Auburn University. He flew C-130 aircraft in the Navy and then flew for American Airlines for 25 years. He has had many engineering jobs through the years, culminating as Senior Systems Engineering Manager at TASC providing technical support to the FAA headquartered in Washington, D.C. In retirement, Bill presents science topics to the Science and Technology Clubs. **(p. 28)**

Joe Cucci is a former Army officer and retired Procter & Gamble sales manager. He enjoys mystery books, so he created the OLLI Mystery Book Club. (p. 23)

Nancy Cusack is a visual artist formally trained in psychology and studio art. Nancy is Professor Emerita at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) in Boston. She has a passion for the arts and cultures of Latin America and has established studio art programs in Oaxaca and Puebla, Mexico. She continues engaging in distinctive programs, throughout Mexico, Costa Rica, and Cuba and maintains a professional practice in drawing and printmaking at her downtown Sarasota studio. (p. 19)

Dent Davis, a retired Presbyterian pastor, graduated from Vanderbilt University Divinity School (TN) and has doctorates from Columbia Theological Seminary (GA) and the University of Tennessee. He has served as faculty at Columbia Theological Seminary, teaching spiritual growth, as President of Scott Peck's Foundation for Community Encouragement, and as a business consultant. (p. 27)

Terri Davis is a former Navy cryptologist who retired from law enforcement. She enjoys reading mysteries and will lead the first two class sessions of the OLLI Mystery Book Club. (p. 23)

Carol Ellis started in the OLLI Book Club as a participant when classes were held on Zoom at the start of the pandemic and has been the in-person leader for the past two years. She is an avid reader and compulsive learner. By background, she is a retired physician who practiced both outpatient and hospital medicine and taught medical students and residents internal medicine. (p. 23)

Alan Freedman has a journalism degree from Boston University. Prior to retiring, he was public affairs director at a New York-based electric utility, responsible for government relations and corporate communications. Previously, he had been a financial writer and editor, and an advertising account executive at a major book publisher. Since moving to Sarasota, Alan has been an OLLI instructor for over a decade, focusing on technology and media topics. (p. 24)

Wendy Gabel holds a bachelor of science in medical technology from George Washington University (D.C.). Wendy started her career in laboratory medicine, working in hospital laboratories and research. She later moved into the biotech industry and has more than 25 years of experience, including vice president leadership roles at Biogen in the neurology business. Wendy also led Biogen's oncology business and co-promotion with Genentech. (p. 28)

Justin Gast believes every day is an opportunity. Justin is a game developer, entrepreneur, and instructor of virtual reality at Ringling College of Art and Design. For Justin, every day is a chance to use tomorrow's technology for a more beautiful future and make today better than yesterday. His guilty pleasures include listening intently to a good story and sharing his own with others. (p. 29)

Margie Gibson is a singer, songwriter, and recording artist who resides in Venice after working in the entertainment industry for several years in Los Angeles and Chicago. Her CDs include *Say it With Music* (an Irving Berlin tribute), *All We Need to Know*, and others. You can find her music on iTunes. Margie coaches beginners and professionals to "Sing from the Heart." www.gibsongirlmusic.com. (p. 14)

Michael Gibson worked as a China analyst for the U.S. government (CIA and Department of Defense) for over 30 years. He was an adjunct professor of Chinese history at American and George Washington Universities (D.C.) Michael has a doctorate in Modern East Asian history and has lived and served in multiple East Asian locales. He is the principal author of "China: U.S. Policy Since 1945" (Congressional Quarterly, 1980), as well as numerous other articles. (p. 21)

Alan Grindal is a neurologist, a consultant at the Memory Disorder Clinic at Sarasota Memorial Hospital, and is on the clinical faculty of Florida State University Medical School. He has taught numerous courses at OLLI at Ringling College on brain science and history. (p. 20)

Gary Halperin is a Professional-level Certified Yoga and Meditation Teacher who has been teaching for over 30 years. Through his books and workshops, he has taught thousands of people his relaxation meditation technique. He is the author of *Feel Better Now: Meditation for Stress Reduction and Relaxation* and *Meditate, Relax, Repeat: Start a Daily Meditation Practice*. www.MeditateRelaxRepeat.com (p. 18)

Beverly Jennings has a master's degree in history and taught at a Kansas City College for 15 years. Beverly's field is the ancient and medieval world. One of Beverly's favorite quotes about history is: "The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there." (p. 20)

Richard Klin is the author of the novel *Petroleum Transfer Engineer* (Underground Voices) and many others. His writing has appeared in *The Millions*, *The Atlantic*, *the Brooklyn Rail*, *Cultural Daily*, *Whimperbang*, and other publications. Richard is based in New York's Hudson Valley and Nashville. (p. 29)

Danielle La Senna received her bachelor's degree in music (voice) from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in 1998, and a master's in education (arts in education) from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2007. She is currently Director of Development for the Jazz Club of Sarasota. Danielle was previously Executive Director of the Choral Artists of Sarasota 2024-2025, Director of Arts Education at the Sarasota Art Museum 2022-2024, Director of Juilliard Extension 2008-2019. Her essay, "Adults, Appreciation and Participatory Arts Education," was published in 2010. (p. 13)

Bobby Latessa, CIMA®, is a financial advisor with The Milestone Financial Group at Morgan Stanley. A Harvard graduate, he focuses on thoughtful, solution-based wealth management and personalized client service. Originally from Bradenton, Bobby was a two-time state wrestling champion at Manatee High School. He brings discipline, humility, and dedication to his work and has been helping clients pursue their financial goals as a trusted advisor since 2012. (p. 16)

John Maerz is a motivational analyst with 57 years' experience in psychology and metaphysics as an author, advisor, and instructor. John worked as a counselor and case manager with teen substance abuse, child protection services, and is a seasoned personal coach with diverse experience in human potential. He integrates personality influences, shadow work, nutritional needs, creative expression, and personal desires while uncovering his clients' innate abilities and potential. (p. 27)

Debbie Mackler is a registered nurse/case manager. Her love of literature, especially short stories, offered a distraction from the career stresses of health care. She has facilitated many book clubs and led multiple reading programs in North Carolina. She is grateful for her twin, Donna, who, as a library supervisor, influenced and encouraged her to love books. Debbie is passionate about continuing that legacy with and for other enthusiasts. (p. 24)

Casey McCabe is the Energy Program Specialist for the Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension & Sustainability Department. Casey's responsibilities include promoting energy efficiency, grant program support, growing the Energy Coach volunteer program, raising awareness for energy equity, and maintaining collaborative relationships with community partners. Casey has a master's degree in biology from the University of Massachusetts (Boston) and a strong background in community building and informal science education. (p. 17)

Peter Mermin has a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Antioch College (OH), a master's in psychology from the New School for Social Research (NY), and a doctorate in psychology from Union Institute (OH). Peter taught at Southampton College and Suffolk Community College on Long Island for 34 years. He actively promotes humanistic and spiritual values. (p. 15)

Tom Miller is a retired business owner, educator, and consultant. He worked in the menswear industry for more than 40 years in New York state. Since becoming part of OLLI, Tom has rediscovered his love of literature and particularly the short-story form. Tom and his wife are year-round residents of Sarasota. (p. 24)

Tony Moon has spent over 10 years teaching adult learning reflecting his 50 years in the music business. As a successful artist, producer, award-winning songwriter, and music publisher, he brings much experience and knowledge into all his classes. Moving to Nashville from Los Angeles, Tony became guitarist and conductor for superstar Brenda Lee. Tony currently administers an entertainment company and does music research for the Westcoast Black Theater Troupe. (p. 26)

Jeff Newman holds a master's degree in history and taught high school history for a number of years. He also served as the principal of Attleboro Comprehensive High School, one of the larger high schools in Massachusetts. Jeff spent nearly a decade in the Rhode Island State House as a top aide to both the Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor. (p. 21)

Vickie Oldham was born and reared in Sarasota. Vickie is an alumna of the University of Florida and Florida State University's film conservatory where she received her Master of Fine Arts degree. She is a former broadcast journalist, television host, and higher education marketing administrator. As president and CEO of the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition, she led fundraising efforts to renovate and open the Leonard Reid House, an arts, cultural, and history center. (p. 19)

Jeffrey Orenstein has a doctorate in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a retired political science professor. He is the author of several public policy books. (p. 15)

Virginia Orenstein has a bachelor's degree in accounting, is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA, inactive), and is a retired chief financial officer of two multinational corporations. (p. 15)

Tenille Dixon Pawlus is a plant collector, butterfly chaser, lover of flora and fauna, and has a passion for helping others create their own green oasis. She's also a garden consultant, a certified landscape designer from Emory University (GA), a container gardener, teacher, and plant seller in Sarasota with a registered Florida nursery license, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Certified Professional, GI-BMP Certified, and FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional. (p. 17)

Lucretia Ryan is the founder of FinancialFreedomforWomen.org. She is a financial writer, educator, and philanthropist. After graduating from Cornell University and spending her career at IBM, Lucretia is now helping women gain financial independence. She writes articles that simplify complex saving and investment decisions to help individuals make financial decisions that are in their best interest. (p. 16)

Jeff Ryder is a two-time Emmy Award-winning writer for his work on "Guiding Light." Jeff was also vice president of daytime programming, director of mini-series, and director of casting at NBC. He recently retired after 20 years as a professor and associate dean at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia (PA). (p. 15)

John Scibak has a doctorate in experimental psychology and has held academic positions at Indiana University, University of Massachusetts, and Westfield State University (MA). Despite having never taken a political science course, John ran mid-career for elective office and served 16 years in the Massachusetts legislature prior to retiring in Sarasota. (p. 25)

Colleen Sherman is a certified information systems security professional (CISSP), having served in the United States Marine Corps and in the private sector, working extensively in cybersecurity and related fields. (pp. 14, 15)

Jeff Sherman is a graduate of the improv training program at Florida Studio Theater in Sarasota. He and his wife, Colleen, have performed at numerous improv and comedy festivals around Florida, and regularly host and perform at The Commodore comedy club in Ybor City. (pp. 14, 15, and 19)

Michael Sherrow was born and raised in New York City and lived there his entire life before coming to Sarasota. Michael is a student of the history of the city. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Baruch School at the City University of New York and a juris doctorate from St. John's University (NY). Michael is a retired member of the New York Bar. (p. 21)

Marie-Agnès Sourieau is professor emerita at Fairfield University (CT). She is a specialist in 19th and 20th century French and Francophone literature and culture. She has published extensively and is presently an assistant editor of The French Review. (p. 13)

Bonnie Garvey Spadafora graduated from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, PA and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's in public health from the University of South Florida. She spent 15 years at Sarasota Memorial Hospital as a charge nurse in neuroscience and rehabilitation and as a clinical instructor. Before retirement, she was on the nursing faculty at Manatee Community College (now State College of Florida). (p. 19)

Gail Sussman-Miller is a women's personal leadership coach, who empowers women to discover and leverage hidden strengths, confidently express their true desires, and live an authentic life of freedom. Known for her rare intuitive insights and candid, loving guidance, Gail helps people master mindset shifts leading to a life filled with joy and purpose. Her practical wisdom makes thriving and fulfilling your soul's desires truly possible. www.inspiredchoice.com (pp. 17, 18)

Dianne Tisman has been a French teacher for 27 years. Dianne currently teaches and tutors online and in person. In addition to teaching, she served as World Language Department Chair for 10 years. Dianne lived in France for seven years and worked as Directrice Pédagogique for Language Power France where she taught all levels of English to business and professional people. (pp. 22, 23)

Michael Vlaisavljevich is a retired public finance consultant who worked with leaders of U.S. states and developing countries for 45 years. He developed a love of literature as a college student majoring in Russian studies and a deep appreciation of diverse cultures by traveling around the world. Michael leads the OLLI course on The World's Great Literature—a window through which we explore the full range of human experience. **(p. 24)**

Mike Weddle has a medical degree from the University of Miami and a doctorate in engineering from the University of Michigan. He completed his medical residency at the George Washington and Georgetown University Hospitals in Washington, D.C. Mike is a board member of the Manatee ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History). He is a previous NAACP Branch Education Chair (Maryland) and has taught many adult education college-level courses. **(p. 19)**

Thomas Weisman practiced primary care internal medicine for 22 years in Cleveland and led two large group practices as well as a Physician-Hospital Organization. He then worked 10 years with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield where his roles included Medical Director for Anthem in Ohio and Chief Medical Officer for American Imaging Management. Tom has a bachelor's degree from Yale University; a master of science in Health Science Education, a master of science in Systems and Control Engineering, and a medical degree all from Case Western Reserve University (OH), and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts. **(p. 18)**

Mary Ziegler has a passion for adult learning and change across the lifespan. She is a retired professor from the University of Tennessee. Her doctorate from Columbia University is in adult and continuing education and her master's degree from the University of South Florida is in counseling. She is a certified instructor for Guided Autobiography from the Birren Center for Autobiographical Studies at the University of Southern California. **(p. 29)**

Puzzle Answers

Across

1. No tests or **(grades)**
4. Needed **(volunteers)**
7. In the past **(history)**
11. Belonging to **(community)**
13. *Auto Da Fe* **(Tennessee)**
15. Crossword puzzler **(cruciverbalist)**
18. Summer **(adventures)**
19. Seen and Heard **(preview)**
20. Series de film **(connections)**
21. Appreciation **(art)**
22. By pen **(writing)**

Down

2. Thanks to our **(donors)**
3. To your ears **(music)**
5. By the books **(literature)**
6. Lifelong Learning **(OLLI)**
8. Wednesdays **(science)**
9. Where you might find a VR class **(technology)**
10. Two types **(membership)**
12. Done quarterly **(registration)**
14. Four letter words starts with G **(gold)**
16. To your **(health)**
17. Six letter word starts with S **(silver)**

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