

Stay Curious. Stay Connected.



*Say, Cheese: A special thanks to our winter models
Robert Dalton, Peggy Gates, Michael Weddle, and Sandra Rowland*



*So happy together: Albert Cohen, instructor,
and his wife Norma Cohen*



*Longtime OLLI member
Diane Chechik-Temple*



*They've got game and smiles: June Carson, member, Tenille Dixon Pawlus,
instructor, and Marilyn Pinsky, chair of the membership committee*

Winter: Jan. 12-March 6, 2026
Ringling College Continuing Studies



*What Makes
OLLI
Special?*

Our Instructors

Become a Member Today!

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Mark Moulin
Chair, Strategic
Planning Committee

Marilyn Pinsky
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

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

Spring Term:
Monday, March 16-Friday, May 8, 2026

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

Photography by Lori Sax.

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.OLLlatRinglingCollege.org

OLLI:

Here For You

OLLI members, instructors, and volunteers are the heart of our community. They help make OLLI at Ringling College an outstanding place for lifelong learning.

If you enjoy intellectual discussions, meeting new people, or keeping your mind active, we invite you to connect with us — for the joy of learning!

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
- Photography
- Psychology
- Science
- Technology
- Writing



Stay Curious.
Stay Connected.

Membership

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)



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 better in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Members can take classes from 15 different topic areas, all for the joy of learning.

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

Volunteering

How You Can Make a Difference



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.

- **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.

For more information about volunteering visit:

www.olliringlingcollege.org/volunteer

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>Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire</i> • Tuesday, Jan. 20 • 2:30-4:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Famous Last Words: Dr. Jane Goodall</i> • Tuesday, Feb. 17 • 2:30-4 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15 (fees are per film)</i>	

Performances (No Refunds)

An Evening of Broadway Cabaret featuring Valerie diLorenzo • Friday, Jan. 9 • 4-6 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold and Silver Members: \$30 per person • General Admission: \$35 per person</i>	
The Roots of Black Music in America, Part 2 with Karlus Trapp • Friday, Feb. 6 • 2-3:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 per person • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15 per person</i>	

Lectures (No Refunds)

Dachau First, Dachau Last, Dachau Jamais Plus • Friday, Jan. 23 • 2:30-3:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15</i>	
Pirates of the Florida Coast • Wednesday, Feb. 25 • 2-3:20 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15</i>	
Shade in the Sunshine State: Reflections of Segregation in Florida • Friday, March 6 • 2:30-3:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: Free (Pre-registration required) • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15</i>	

Presentations (No Refunds)

What Everyone Needs to Know About Sleep • Tuesday, Jan. 27 • 2:30-4 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15</i>	
Fragrance Through the Decades • Friday, Jan. 30 • 11 am-12:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: Free (Pre-registration required) • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15</i>	
Georgia: Where History and Wine Flow Together • Wednesday, Feb. 11 • 3-4:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold and Silver Members: \$30 per person • General Admission: \$35 per person</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 Nov. 24 for Gold Members.

Registration opens 8 am on Dec. 2 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.

Mondays

9 am-12 pm

____ Writers' Workshop (7) WR131

10-11:20 am

____ Roses in the Sunshine State: A Practical Workshop for Florida Gardeners (1) HL185

____ Mic Drop (7) AE207

____ Introductory French 2 (7) LA124

____ Grow Your Peace: How Gardening Nurtures the Mind and the Body (1) HL186

12-1:20 pm

____ Intermediate French 2 (7) LA125

____ You Planned for Retirement, but Did You Prepare for Aging (4) HL187

____ What Have the Romans Ever Done for Us?... (5) HS242

____ Unsung Voices and Enduring Spirit (6) PL134

1-3 pm

____ Learn to Lawn Bowl Mondays and Thursdays (4) SP104

2-3:20 pm

____ Situational / Topical French Part 2 (7) LA126

____ This Was Their Lives (5) HS243

Tuesdays (cont.)

2-3:20 pm

____ OLLI Winter Book Club (4) LI161

____ OLLI Mystery Book Club (4) LI135

____ Learn to Love Classical Music (8) MA148

____ Psychology of Self-Knowledge, Grief, Grace, and Gratitude (8) PY166

2-3:30 pm

____ The Security Series (3) EC130

____ Great Decisions — Global Affairs Discussion Group (7) CV164

Wednesdays

10-11:20 am

____ Write Away (4) WR133

____ Elections Around the World (6) CV165

____ Breaking the Habit of Being Yourself (7) PY167

____ Culture Trip 2026: A Global Exploration (8) TV114

____ An Armchair Tour of Sarasota Public Art (2) AP192

10-11:30 am

____ Short Story Collective (7) LI168

____ Mah Jongg for Everyone — Beginners Course (8) AE181

12-1:20 pm

____ Miscarriage of Justice: Wrongful Convictions (6) CV152

____ Selected Works of Vladimir Nabokov (8) LI169

____ Forgotten Operas (8) MA207

____ Georgia O'Keeffe's Artistic Journey (8) AP191

____ Music and the Holocaust: Tragedy, Hope, and Legacy (4) MA209 (online)

____ Ballet: Beyond the Curtain (3) AE208

2-3:20 pm

____ The First Amendment (4) CV166

____ Jazz Kaleidoscope: New Artists and Fresh Elements (6) MA208

____ Introduction to the U.S. Civil War (3) HS245

____ Dealing With Difficult People (4) PY168

____ Procrastination to Progress: Take Action to Achieve Your Goals (3) HL190

Tuesdays

9-10:20 am

____ The Search for an American Sound (6) MA206 (online)

____ Design Your Own Age-Appropriate Exercise Program (5) HL188

11 am-12:20 pm

____ The Great American Songbook (4) MA204

____ A Guided Tour Through the Universe (5) SI123

____ World in Transition (6) CV108

____ Sunshine and Moonlight — These Songs Lit Up the Charts! (6) MA205

____ World's Great Literature (8) LI145

____ Psychology of the American Experience... (8) PY165

____ Write it Out® With Ronni (8) WR132 (online)

____ Aging as a Spiritual Journey (6) PL133

____ Korea: Friend and Foe (2) HS244

11 am-12:30 pm

____ On the Road to Health in 90 Days (1) HL189

Thursdays

9-10:20 am

___ Oriental Rugs and the Stories They Tell (4) AP193

11 am-12:20 pm

___ Improve Your Financial Know-How! (3) EC131
 ___ Learn to Play Modern American Canasta (6) AE209
 ___ Introduction to Biotech Drugs: From Insulin to Gene Therapy (6) HL191
 ___ Power Couples of the 19th Century (6) HS246
 ___ The *New Yorker Magazine*: Conversations (8) LI125
 ___ A Crazy World: Maps Can Help Understand It (8) CV167
 ___ Write Like a Dancer (4) WR124
 ___ Mysticism and Kabbalah for Inner Peace (2) PL132

2-3:20 pm

___ OLLI Movie Club (8) AE144
 ___ The Art of Listening: Exploring Song Lyrics (8) AE210
 ___ History Thursdays (5) HS172

2-3:30 pm

___ Listening to Women (6) CV119

Fridays

Classes

10 am-1 pm

___ The Best Billy Wilder Films (8) AE211

2-3:20 pm

___ History of Modern Japan (8) HS248

Single Sessions

10-11 am

___ The Man Who Shot J. P. Morgan (1) HS249

10:30 am-12 pm

___ Release Your Inner Creative and Visionary in 2026 (1) HL193

11 am-12 pm

___ *Anything Goes!* (1) AE215
 ___ Comparing Russia's Modern Wars (1) HS247

11 am-12:30 pm

___ Getting the Most from your Apple Watch... (1) TC149 - [Jan. 30](#)

Fridays

1-2 pm

___ Demystifying Colds, Flu, and COVID (1) HL192
 ___ Forgotten Cartoons of the 1930s: Not Just Mickey (1) AE213
 ___ The Essential Monty Python (1) AE214
 ___ Digital Bookworm: Mastering Reading Apps and Clubs (1) LI170

1-2:30 pm

___ The Beatles and British Invasion Bands of the 1960s (1) AE212
 ___ Getting the Most from your Apple Watch... (1) TC149 - [Jan. 23](#)

1:30-2:50 pm

___ Who Should Win vs. Who Will Win: The 2025 Oscar Race (1) AE216

Workshops (3 Hours)

9:30 am-12:30 pm

___ Portraits, Still Life, and Landscapes with your iPhone (1) PH402
 ___ Bogus Astronomy Workshop (1) SI139
 ___ How to Start a Daily Meditation Practice (1) HL146
 ___ Decode Your Life Purpose (1) PY169

10 am-1 pm

___ Holistic Health: The Humor and Laughter Connection (1) HL143
 ___ Keep Going Strong: Motivation and Meaning (1) PY170

12:45-3:45 pm

___ From Paintings to Poems — A Poetry Reading and a Writing Workshop (1) WR134

Art Appreciation

New: Georgia O'Keeffe's Artistic Journey**Course #AP191****Marie-Agnès Sourieau****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm
 8 Sessions: Jan. 14-March 4
 Gold Member: \$85.50
 Silver Member: \$95

Georgia O'Keeffe, one of the greatest artists of the 20th century, is at the forefront of American Modernism and yet, unclassifiable. Her images display a powerful sense of style, an inherent connection to the natural world, and a commitment to sensory beauty. In the '20s and '30s, O'Keeffe alternated between abstraction and representation, and became Alfred Stieglitz's muse; in the '40s, she was hailed as the first color-field painter, inspiring Mark Rothko and Barnett Newman; by the '60s, secluded in the desert in New Mexico, she synthesized abstraction and realism to emphasize the primary forms of the landscapes and objects of her environment. The course will follow O'Keeffe in her creative journey.



From the Lake, Georgia O'Keeffe, 1924

New: An Armchair Tour of Sarasota Public Art**Course #AP192****Judy Levine, Stephenie Frasher, and Nanette Crist****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 10-11:20 am
 2 Sessions: Feb. 4 and Feb. 11
 Gold Member: \$40.50
 Silver Member: \$45

Sarasota's reputation as a cultural hub goes far beyond its theaters and museums. In this engaging "armchair" tour, you'll explore the vibrant public art found throughout the Rosemary District, City Hall area, and the Florida Studio Theatre (Cocoanut Avenue) corridor — all from the comfort of your seat. Join presenters Judy Levine, Stephenie Frasher, and Nanette Crist as they share the stories behind the sculptures, murals, and installations that color our city. Along the way, you'll learn fun facts about the artists and the artwork featured on past walking tours.

New: Oriental Rugs and the Stories They Tell**Course #AP193****Eileen Hampshire****Art to Walk On at 16 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota**

Thursdays: 9-10:20 am
 4 Sessions: Jan. 15-Feb. 5
 Gold Member: \$63
 Silver Member: \$70

Oriental rugs come with stories all their own. This class will take you on a fabulous journey through the world of Oriental rugs where you will learn how they are made, who made them, their symbolism, and their history. Students will come away with a new-found appreciation for this ancient form of art. **Note:** Classes will be held at Art to Walk On located at 16 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota. Student may choose to use the Palm Avenue Parking Garage.

Arts and Entertainment

New: Mic Drop**Course #AE207****Will Luera****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 10-11:20 am

7 Sessions: Jan. 12-March 2

(Note: There is no class on Monday, Jan. 19)

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

Everyone has great stories to tell, but not everyone knows how to captivate a crowd. Mic Drop will help you uncover, shape, and share your most engaging stories through a playful approach rooted in spontaneity, humor, and authenticity. You'll learn to identify key moments, build compelling narratives, and use comedic timing to keep your audience on the edge of their seats. Whether you're speaking at an event, pitching ideas at work, or just sharing anecdotes with friends, you'll leave this class ready to deliver your next story with confidence and style — creating moments that resonate, inspire, and earn that ultimate storytelling compliment: the mic drop.

**Mah Jongg for Everyone —
Beginners Course****Course #AE181****Michelle Chaplin****Ringling College Museum Campus**Wednesdays: 10-11:30 am **(Note: Extended class time)**

8 Sessions: Jan. 14-March 4

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

This is a game played with tiles as you experience the thrill of ancient China. Mah Jongg is a game of skill, strategy, and a degree of chance. It is a social game that involves fun and conversation. This course is hands-on and includes handouts. Science says Mah Jongg is beneficial for memory difficulties, positively affects your mood, and improves concentration. Come learn and have fun. **Note: Students must purchase the 2025 National Mah Jongg League Card by the second class. The cards are \$14 for small and \$15 for a large. You can purchase the cards online at <https://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/store>**

New: Ballet: Beyond the Curtain**Course #AE208****Jean Volpe****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm

3 Sessions: Feb. 11-Feb. 25

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Go beyond the stage and into the rarely seen world of ballet dancers. The instructor, a former professional ballet dancer, will discuss the origins of ballet in opera, its evolving traditions, and its present-day realities. The instructor will share her personal experiences and interview a current ballet dancer to compare and contrast the dance world of then and now. This course will offer a unique perspective on the working lives of ballet dancers. Join us!

Learn to Play Modern American Canasta**Course #AE209****Donna Miller-Small****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

6 Sessions: Jan. 15-Feb. 19

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

Do you want to learn the basics of Canasta? Here's your chance. Canasta is a fun, social, and partnership card game that is gaining in popularity. In this six-session class, students will receive step-by-step instructions to help build their skills. This class is for beginners and requires no previous knowledge. Students will receive instructional documents that cover basic rules and strategies; however, it is recommended that students purchase the book *Modern American Canasta: The Complete Guide* by Donna Miller-Small and Dara Collins. The book will be available from the instructor for \$26. **Note: The book is not a requirement for participating in and enjoying the class.**

New: OLLI Movie Club

Course #AE144

Joe Cucci

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm
8 Sessions: Jan. 15-March 5
Gold Member: \$85.50
Silver Member: \$95

The OLLI Movie Club is a casual discussion group. It is not a lecture series. It's like your neighborhood book club. It meets weekly. Homework is "go see a movie" that's assigned. Meet to discuss it with other folks who love films. The moderator will pick movies currently playing in theaters, as well as those showing on Netflix and Amazon Prime. This is the period when the best movies are getting buzz prior to the Oscars. The moderator will provide cursory background information about the films and then guide the discussion, which is primarily driven by the members of the movie club.

The Art of Listening: Exploring Song Lyrics

Course #AE210

Robert Litwak

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm
8 Sessions: Jan. 15-March 5
Gold Member: \$85.50
Silver Member: \$95

Our favorite songs shine like jewels in the treasure chests of our memories. Unlock the power of music and discover the profound stories hidden within the lyrics of your favorite songs. Join us for The Art of Listening: Exploring Song Lyrics, a dynamic and highly participatory course designed for music lovers who enjoy meaningful discussions. In this course, you'll have the unique opportunity to bring your favorite songs to life by presenting them to the class via YouTube. Whether your musical tastes lean towards the poetry and poignant tales of singer-songwriters, the anthems of rock bands, or the vivid narratives of musical theater, this is your stage to share the melodies that move you.

New: The Best Billy Wilder Films

Course #AE211

Jeff Ryder

Ringling College Museum Campus

Fridays: 10 am-1 pm
8 Sessions: Jan. 16-March 6
Gold Member: \$85.50
Silver Member: \$95

Billy Wilder was one of the best writer-directors in film history, having won numerous awards for both writing and directing. His films ran the gamut from film noir of *Double Indemnity* to the gender-bending farce of *Some Like It Hot*. In this course, we will view and discuss some of his most notable films, including those mentioned as well as *Sunset Boulevard* and *The Apartment*. Students will view the movie in the auditorium, where the instructor will provide a brief introduction. After a break, the class will move to a classroom, where the instructor will provide information about the making of the film and lead a discussion.

New: The Beatles and British Invasion Bands of the 1960s

Course #AE212

David Howcroft

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 1-2:30 pm
1 Session: Jan. 23
Gold Member: \$12
Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

In this session, we will take a nostalgic look back at the British Invasion Bands of the 1960s — a musical phenomenon where bands including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Yardbirds, and others gained immense popularity in the United States. We will explore the factors that contributed to the cultural shift of society and examine the enduring legacies and impacts of these iconic groups. The format will primarily be lecture, accompanied by audiovisual aids such as photos and music videos.

Arts and Entertainment (cont.)

**New: Forgotten Cartoons of the 1930s:
Not Just Mickey****Course #AE213****Jeffrey Sherman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 1-2 pm

1 Session: Jan. 30

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

While Mickey Mouse and friends dominated the cartoon and animation world in the 1930s and beyond, there existed a whole world of other animated characters that time has largely forgotten. Betty Boop, Krazy Kat, Koko the Clown, and many others provided countless hours of joy and laughter. This class will reintroduce you to many of the stars of animated movies. Get ready for some hilarious moments!

New: The Essential Monty Python**Course #AE214****Jeffrey Sherman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 1-2 pm

1 Session: Feb. 13

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Monty Python's Flying Circus, the classic British comedy show from the 1970s, brought us innumerable legendary characters, skits, and catchphrases. This class will focus on highlights from the TV show that have stood the test of time.

**New: Anything Goes!****Course #AE215****Sandra Moulin****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 11 am-12 pm

1 Session: March 6

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Anything Goes! That's not just the title of Cole Porter's musical. It's also the flavor of Sandra Moulin's performance of her one-woman show. Sandra will play the role of Cole Porter's wife, Linda Lee Thomas, narrating their story and performing piano and vocal renditions of some of Porter's famous melodies. The music is uplifting, the story riveting, and the energy contagious. This one is not to be missed.

**New: Who Should Win vs. Who Will Win:
The 2025 Oscar Race****Course #AE216****Roxanne Baker and Jeff Ryder****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 1:30-2:50 pm

1 Session: March 6

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Remember Siskel and Ebert? Join our film instructors, Roxanne Baker and Jeff Ryder, as they discuss and defend their choices for the Academy Awards. The duo will showcase the top nominations in key categories, including Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress, Supporting Actor, Supporting Actress, and a few other categories. They will also pose the questions, "Who Should Win?" vs. "Who Will Win?" an Oscar. Through the years, many have debated these questions because rarely are they the same answers. Each instructor will give you their answers to both questions. See if you agree with their insights and enjoy watching the two cinephiles look into their crystal balls to predict their winners!

Culture and Travel

New: Culture Trip 2026: A Global Exploration

Course #TV114

Garry Grossman

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 10-11:20 am
8 Sessions: Jan. 14-March 4
Gold Member: \$85.50
Silver Member: \$95

Join us to be challenged and inspired as each week we explore a new article by a contemporary travel writer. The best travel writing is not about sightseeing. It is a lens into humanity. Consider these stories: **Myth vs. reality:** The Indian Himalayan folk love story of Rajula-Malushahi comes down through the ages. **On being a transplanted minority:** How a Thai woman's massage in Cape Town, South Africa, brings her connectedness and longing. **The unexpected reveal:** An exploration of literary tourism in writer Willa Cather's Nebraska. **How to travel to complicated places:** A Journey to Lebanon. If you thrive on intelligent and informative discussions that offer you both the opportunity to be heard, to evaluate, and expand your own views, this course is for you.

Current Events and Global Issues

World in Transition

Course #CV108

Peter Mermin

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
6 Sessions: Jan. 13-Feb. 17
Gold Member: \$81
Silver Member: \$90

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.

New: Great Decisions — Global Affairs Discussion Group

Course #CV164

Kent Noel

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:30 pm (**Note:** Extended class time)
7 Sessions: Jan. 20-March 3
Gold Member: \$81
Silver Member: \$90

The purpose of this course is to learn and discuss the critical global issues affecting our society. Our discussion will be based on materials provided by the Great Decisions program developed by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). Course structure is as follows:

- Topics will be discussed over the course of seven weeks.
- Prior to the class meeting, students would read a section of the Great Decisions Briefing Book on the topic of the day.
- At the outset of each class, students would watch a 20–25-minute DVD lecture on the day's topic.
- During the remainder of the class, students would discuss the day's topic, based on resources and their own understanding of current events.

We hope you can join us for these important discussions.

Note: Once you have registered for the course, you must pre-order the 2026 edition of *Great Decisions* (\$35). Please visit the website at <https://fpa.org/bookstore/> or call the bookstore at (800) 477-5836. The *Great Decisions* book is a requirement for this course. The registration fee does not include the cost of the book. Be sure to purchase the 2026 edition.

Current Events and Global Issues (cont.)

New: Elections Around the World**Course #CV165****Richard Vengroff****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 10-11:20 am
 6 Sessions: Jan. 14-Feb. 18

Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

This course focuses on understanding how elections and voting systems are organized and function in various democratic countries. We will explore different types of elections, including plurality, majority, proportional, and hybrid systems. Countries, such as France, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Israel, and others, will be examined. In addition, we will consider the processes involved in holding elections and how voters select their representatives.

Miscarriage of Justice: Wrongful Convictions**Course #CV152****Rick Steinmann****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm
 6 Sessions: Jan. 14-Feb. 18

Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

This course will address “factually innocent” persons who are nonetheless convicted and incarcerated for a crime they did not commit. We will discuss common contributing factors such as mistaken eyewitness identifications, false confessions, forensic science problem areas, incentivized informants, ineffective defense counsel, and prosecutorial and police misconduct. Potential remedies to reduce wrongful convictions will be considered, as well as the issues that confront those who are exonerated relative to their re-entering society.

New: The First Amendment**Course #CV166****Jeffrey Sherman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 4 Sessions: Jan. 14-Feb. 4

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

The First Amendment guarantees us certain freedoms, like freedom of speech and freedom of the press. We hear and read about the First Amendment all the time, but what do those guarantees really say or mean? How are those guarantees treated in the real, everyday world? This course will explore how the First Amendment really works, dispel some myths about it, and offer ways to critically look at First Amendment issues of the day.

A Crazy World: Maps Can Help Understand It**Course #CV167****Richard Gelpke****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 8 Sessions: Jan. 15-March 5

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

Maps are all around us. They are on the GPS on our dashboard, in newspapers, on our smartphones, our Tablets, on cable and network TV, and on our watches. But do we know the history of maps? Do we know how they have been used and/or misused in the past? This course sets out to survey the landscape of maps. We will learn how they influence our view of the world and how they can affect us directly. Some of the topics for which maps are essential to understanding include gerrymandering, transportation, borders, major conflicts, religious issues, and great treks. This course will also include fun aspects of maps and cartoons. We will focus on Florida and provide the AAA map of the state.

Economics and Finance

New: Improve Your Financial Know-How! Learn About the Terms and Concepts That Drive Everyday Financial Decisions

Course #EC131

Roz Goldberg

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 11 am–12:20 pm

3 Sessions: Jan. 15–Jan. 29

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Want to make sound financial decisions? Of course you do! Then you need to know the underlying “language” of finance — the financial concepts and terminology that are essential for making thoughtful financial decisions, i.e., how the value of money discounts over time; whether using “puts” or “calls” is a good strategy for you; the difference between your “marginal tax rate” and your “effective tax rate.” These are but a few of the concepts we will discuss in this class. We will also cover the elements of investing, basic investment strategies, and estate planning. It doesn’t matter if you know a little, very little, or nothing about this subject, we will start at the beginning and work up. The class will be interactive and fun, so please be prepared to participate. Bring your desire to learn, your questions, and a pen or pencil.

Health and Lifestyles

New: Roses in the Sunshine State: A Practical Workshop for Florida Gardeners

Course #HL185

Tenille Dixon Pawlus

Ringling College Museum Campus

Monday: 10–11:20 am

1 Session: Jan. 12

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member: \$15

Discover the secrets to growing healthy, thriving roses in Florida’s challenging climate. Tailored specifically for Florida gardeners who love roses but are frustrated by the results. Learn which rose varieties perform best in our climate, how to plant and prune for success, and sustainable practices for managing pests and diseases.

New: Grow Your Peace: How Gardening Nurtures the Mind and the Body

Course #HL186

Tenille Dixon Pawlus

Ringling College Museum Campus

Monday: 10–11:20 am

1 Session: Jan. 26

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member: \$15

Step into the garden and discover how tending to plants can help you tend to yourself. Inspiring and practical, this session explores the powerful connection between gardening and personal well-being. It’s also designed for anyone seeking more balance, clarity, and joy in their life. This course combines a blend of horticultural insight with mental health awareness to show how even simple gardening practices can reduce stress, boost mood, and promote physical vitality.

New: You Planned for Retirement, but Did You Prepare for Aging?

Course #HL187

Wendy Rickenbach Barclay

Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 12–1:20 pm

4 Sessions: Jan. 26–Feb. 16

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

This course is designed to help you prepare for the future you envision. It will cover a range of scenarios, including aging in place, senior living communities, home care, and the financial planning needed for each of these pathways. We will explore common misconceptions such as: planning is only for the old and sick; my family will be there for me; insurance will cover my needs; aging in place is always the best option; or moving to assisted living means losing independence. We will also examine how potential health changes, such as dementia or other physical disabilities, could impact your decisions. At the end of this course, you will have the tools to help you set goals and create a clearer plan for your future.

Health and Lifestyles (cont.)

New: Design Your Own Age-Appropriate Exercise Program: Safely, Scientifically, and Sustainably**Course #HL188****Wendy LeBolt****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 9-10:20 am

5 Sessions: Jan. 27-Feb. 24

Gold Member: \$76.50

Silver Member: \$85

Age is no excuse, but it is an excellent reminder that we can't — and probably shouldn't — do what we used to do. No problem! In this class, the instructor will help us explore what exercise means to a "senior-ish" body and teach us how to design our own safe, personalized exercise program. Over the five weeks, we'll get the ball rolling: finding out what works best for us, what hinders us, what motivates us, and what gets in our way. Basically, personal training OLLI style.

New: On the Road to Health in 90 Days**Course #HL189****Mirabai Holland****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesday: 11 am-12:30 pm

1 Session: Jan. 20

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member: \$15

Would you like to take charge of your health and learn to replace unhealthy habits with new ones that will serve you better? This interactive session is designed to empower you to balance your life and improve your health. We will discuss the importance of knowing whether you have metabolic syndrome, the lifestyle changes you can make that will actually last, and how to set long-term goals and break them into short-term steps to achieve better health. You will leave this class with a personalized action plan to develop a healthier lifestyle.

Procrastination to Progress: Take Action to Achieve Your Goals**Course #HL190****Gail Sussman-Miller****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm

3 Sessions: Feb. 11-Feb. 25

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Tired of putting things off? Do you avoid important projects, difficult conversations, or self-care? This interactive three-part series helps you move through procrastination by addressing common root causes such as lack of motivation, fear, overwhelm, and perfectionism. Through written exercises, insightful discussions, and personalized guidance, you'll gain clarity on your desires and improve your inner dialogue — the first domino to shift emotions, choices, actions, and results. You'll take concrete steps on a real-life project, before, during, and between classes. Learn powerful tools to transform intentions into action, build confidence, and create lasting change. Boost decisiveness and move from stuck to started! **Note:** *This course expands on the Summer 2025 session and includes interactive discussion and pre-work exercises.*

New: Introduction to Biotech Drugs: From Insulin to Gene Therapy**Course #HL191****Wendy Gabel****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

6 Sessions: Jan. 15-Feb. 19

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

This course will explore biotechnology in drug development. The instructor will explain the basic principles of biology that enabled the discovery and manufacturing of some of the earliest biotech drugs, like insulin, and will discuss the basic biology of the immune system that allows drugs like Keytruda to be developed and work against cancer. The course features six lectures: diabetes and insulin; autoimmune diseases; vaccines; gene therapy for genetic diseases; regulatory pathway for drug approval; and cancer. **Note:** *This class was taught in 2025. The course information is largely the same but has been updated for 2026.*

New: Demystifying Colds, Flu, and COVID

Course #HL192

Carol Ellis

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 1-2 pm

1 Session: Jan. 16

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member: \$15

Feeling overwhelmed by symptoms and unsure about the best course of action? Recent Department of Health changes have made managing common illnesses even more complex. This presentation, by a primary care physician, cuts through the confusion. Learn when to consult a doctor or urgent care, the most effective over-the-counter medications, and strategies to minimize your risk of serious or prolonged illness. Get practical solutions to feel better faster and navigate common illnesses with confidence.

New: Release Your Inner Creative and Visionary in 2026

Course #HL193

Gail Condrick

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 10:30 am-12 pm

1 Session: Jan. 16

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member: \$15

This session will put you in touch with the inner you that is needed in the world. Discover more about the personality attributes, gifts, and challenges of creatives and visionaries. Learn how to remove creative blocks, bring your visions to form, and energize your passion to create. Please bring your journal, enthusiasm, an open mind, and prepare to be amazed at your own evolved gifts.

New: Holistic Health: The Humor and Laughter Connection

Course #HL143

Cheryl Brandi

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 10 am-1 pm

1 Session: Jan. 23

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

Humor is a magnet that connects humans, and laughter serves as a universal language. In recent years, humor has gained acceptance in the medical community as a healing tool and a coping mechanism for stress reduction. Humor and laughter have well-researched health benefits, and in today's stressful world, most of us could probably use more humor and laughter. But, just what is humor? In this workshop, we will define humor, explore the psychological, biological, and social benefits of humor and its "offspring," laughter; discuss types of humor, share pearls for getting more humor and laughter into our lives; and experience the therapeutic value of humor through interactive exercises designed to lift our spirits. **Note:** This class was taught in 2024. The course information is largely the same but has been updated for 2026.

How to Start a Daily Meditation Practice

Course #HL146

Ringling College Museum Campus

Gary Halperin

Friday: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

1 Session: Feb. 6

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

This workshop is designed for complete beginners to meditation, those who have struggled to maintain consistency with other meditation styles, and anyone seeking a simple way to relax and de-stress. 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: What Have the Romans Ever Done for Us? The Romans in Britain**Course #HS242****Beverly Jennings****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 12-1:20 pm

5 Sessions: Jan. 26-Feb. 23

Gold Member: \$76.50

Silver Member: \$85

Ancient Rome had a massive influence on our culture today. Their empire stretched from Britain to the Middle East. In this class, we will concentrate on the Romans in Britain. Rome ruled Britain for nearly 400 years. Who was there when the Romans arrived? Why did Rome want to invade Britain? What was it like to live in Britain under the influence of Roman culture? Why did Emperor Hadrian build a wall across the country? We will get the answers to these questions and discover what it was like to live as a Romano Britain.



Camille Claudel, *La Fortune, The Wave*, 1900, Bronze

New: This Was Their Lives**Course #HS243****Carol Ellis, Marie-Agnès Sourieau, Michael Weddle,****Bob Busch, and Tenille Dixon Pawlus****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 2-3:20 pm

5 Sessions: Jan. 26-Feb. 23

Gold Member: \$76.50

Silver Member: \$85

This term, we present another diverse lineup of history makers. From the father of modern vaccines to the mother of the Everglades, you will find each person's story compelling and worthy of discovery. Enjoy!

Jan. 26: Maurice R. Hilleman: The Unsung Hero of Childhood with Carol Ellis

Maurice R. Hilleman's work has touched the lives of nearly every child in the developed world but his name is unknown. Many consider him the "father of modern vaccines." He was born in 1919 during the flu epidemic on a farm in Montana, an eighth child, whose mother died in childbirth. Maurice attended Montana State University and was awarded a doctorate in virology from the University of Chicago. His career flourished at Merck Pharmaceutical Company where he spearheaded the development of vaccines such as the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), hepatitis A and B, pneumovax and flu, making once fatal illnesses a distant memory and saving hundreds of thousands of lives. His story exemplifies the American journey of opportunity, genius and scientific support for innovation, providing valuable lessons for today.

Feb. 2: The Tragic Life of Camille Claudel, a Genius Sculptor with Marie-Agnès Sourieau

Camille Claudel (1864-1943) faced unimaginable challenges from her early artistic passion to the complex relationships and societal obstacles she faced during her entire life. Collaborator and muse of the sculptor Auguste Rodin, sister of the poet, writer, and diplomat Paul Claudel, her career was meteoric, cut short by a forced psychiatric internment. She died virtually anonymous. Half a century later, a book and then a film brought her out of oblivion for the general public, who discovered her sculptures, both realistic and expressionist, akin to Art Nouveau through their skillful use of curves and meanders.

**Feb. 9: The Life and Times of Anténor Firmin
with Michael Weddle**

Anténor Firmin is one of the most fascinating and intellectual figures of the 19th century, although not well known because he was a Haitian Black man. Diplomat, politician, natural scientist, and classical linguist, he was a member of the Paris Anthropological Society founded by Paul Broca. Being a diplomat, he understood Broca's split with Darwin as an attempt to put a wedge between religion and science. He wrote *The Equality of the Human Race*, a response to Aryan "master race" mythology. It is considered a foundational book in anthropology, though not translated into English until the 21st century because of Firmin's race. When fellow diplomat Frederick Douglass tried to negotiate an American move into Haiti as an act of friendship, it was Firmin who showed Douglass it was a colonial land grab, convincing the famous American to resign his post.

**Feb. 16: Eleanor Roosevelt: First Lady and American
History Maker with Bob Busch**

Eleanor Roosevelt was a significant figure in American history as First Lady, humanitarian, and advocate for civil and human rights. Serving as First Lady from 1933 to 1945, she redefined the role by actively engaging in politics, writing a daily newspaper column, and championing the rights of women, minorities, and the poor. After FDR's death, she continued her public service as a delegate to the United Nations. Here she played a key role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Her legacy is one of compassion, courage, and a lifelong commitment to justice and equality.

**Feb. 23: Mother of the Everglades: Marjory Stoneman
Douglas with Tenille Dixon Pawlus**

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a fierce environmentalist, journalist, and author best known for her tireless advocacy to protect the Florida Everglades. In a time when few recognized the ecological importance of wetlands, Douglas used her voice and pen to shift public perception, especially through her groundbreaking book *The Everglades: River of Grass* (1947). Her legacy is one of resilience, activism, and deep reverence for nature — for Florida's natural heritage well into her 100s. In this session, we'll explore the life of a woman who proved that one voice can lead a movement.

New: Korea: Friend and Foe

Course #HS244

Bob Busch

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

2 Sessions: Feb. 10 and Feb. 17

Gold Member: \$40.50

Silver Member: \$45

What do you know about Korea — what you watched on the M*A*S*H TV series from the '70s? But there is much more history to learn. Modern Korea is an enigma split into two countries. The South is a thriving and affluent democracy. The U.S. has close ties with this Asian ally. The North is a belligerent hermit kingdom with nuclear weapons. The North also represents a distinct threat to stability on the Pacific Rim. This two-session course offers more facts than fiction.

New: Introduction to the U.S. Civil War

Course #HS245

William Simpson

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm

3 Sessions: Feb. 4-Feb. 18

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

This course provides an overview of the U.S. Civil War from its core causes and key triggers to critical theater operations and battlefield strategies. The course concludes with an examination of Reconstruction policies and Lost Cause consequences. Special attention will be paid to the constitutional roots of American slavery, the political fight over the expansion of slavery into the territories, and the legislative compromises that slowed the onset of war from the 1820s to 1861. Key leaders such as Lincoln, Davis, Lee, and Grant will serve as central organizing figures for understanding the war. This three-session course will provide essential background information while capturing the war's trajectory and timeline. **Note:** A syllabus will be provided, along with five to 10 pages of reading materials at the second and third sessions.

History

Power Couples of the 19th Century

Course #HS246

Jeff Newman

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

6 Sessions: Jan. 15-Feb. 19

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

The course examines two sets of power couples of the mid-19th century. The first was a married couple — an illegitimate son from an affair and the daughter of a famous U.S. politician. Together they became the most influential and powerful political players in America. The second couple were two ill-educated sisters from a poor midwestern family. Together they reached heights never before achieved by women in the field of Wall Street finance, journalism, and a run for the presidency. They became a key driving force behind the national suffrage and Women's Rights Movement. Along the way, they challenged America's financial, social, political, and sexual values in the name of equality. Their agenda still divides America today.

New: History Thursdays

Course #HS172

Beverly Jennings, Alan Grindal, Brian J. Morra,

Michael Gibson, and John Scibak

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm

5 Sessions: Jan. 15-Feb. 12

Gold Member: \$76.50

Silver Member: \$85

Jan. 15: The First Roman Emperor — No, Not Julius Caesar with Beverly Jennings

Hail, Caesar! The Roman Republic is dead — long live the Empire! How did a 19-year-old become Caesar Augustus and rule the ancient Western world? In this session, let's have some fun and discover who he was, who helped him, who stood in his way, and who survived.

Jan. 22: The Life and Times of George Armstrong Custer with Alan Grindal

George Armstrong Custer was born in Ohio in 1839 and rose from an unruly youth to a Civil War hero. Following the war, he pursued Native American tribes across the Western frontier, culminating in the fatal 1876 defeat at Little Big Horn. Custer's tactics were often bold and reckless and symbolized the broader clash between American expansionist policy and Native American sovereignty.

Jan. 29: The 1983 Nuclear War Crisis with Brian J. Morra

In the fall of 1983, there was a nuclear war crisis rivaled in history only by the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. The instructor was a key participant in the events in 1983. This session will not only explore the remarkable history surrounding that time, but the instructor will also share stories from his personal involvement. The instructor will also relate the 1983 crisis to today's fraught geopolitics.

Feb. 5: Mao, Deng, and Xi: How Three Leaders Have Shaped Contemporary China with Michael Gibson

The Chinese say: "Mao made us proud, Deng Xiaoping made us rich, and Xi Jinping is making us strong." This class will look at the impact of these three key leaders and see how they are responsible for the creation of contemporary China and how it sets the stage for the future.

Feb. 12: Presidential Health: Balancing the "Right to Personal Privacy" and the Public's "Right to Know" with John Scibak

About one-third of all presidents have been seriously ill during their presidency and although there is no legal requirement for presidents to divulge their medical history or health status, the public has a vested interest in knowing whether presidents are healthy and fit to perform their duties. This session will explore the history of presidential illness, review examples where presidents received incompetent medical care, have been unable to perform their duties for periods of time, or overtly deceived the public as to their health.



*Augustus Caesar, Part of Contini-Volterra
Photographic Archive*

New: Comparing Russia's Modern Wars: Ukraine and Afghanistan

Course #HS247

Brian J. Morra

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 11 am-12 pm

1 Session: Jan. 16

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member: \$15

This presentation examines the similarities and differences between the Soviet War in Afghanistan and Russia's War in Ukraine. It describes the West's — especially America's — reaction to each invasion. It covers how the invasions and the counteractions to the invasions have had lasting and unintended consequences that continue to reverberate.

New: History of Modern Japan

Course #HS248

Michael Gibson

Ringling College Museum Campus

Fridays: 2-3:20 pm

8 Sessions: Jan 16-March 6

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

The history of modern Japan is a compelling narrative of transformation, resilience, and innovation. From the mid-19th century to the present, Japan's journey has been shaped by periods of reform, conflict, and economic miracle, as well as times of profound introspection and renewal. This course explores the key events, figures, and forces that have defined the trajectory of modern Japan, from the Meiji Restoration to contemporary society. This story of rapid industrialization offers important lessons for today's world.

New: The Man Who Shot J.P. Morgan: A Life of Arsenic, Anarchy, and Intrigue

Course #HS249

Mary Noé

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 10-11 am

1 Session: Feb. 6

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member: \$15

Discover the incredible true story of a German nationalist's 1915 crime spree that put a nation on edge. The instructor will reveal how Erich Muentner poisoned his wife, bombed the U.S. Capitol, and attempted to assassinate J.P. Morgan, Jr. — all while operating under a false identity. You will learn how this compelling story reflects the period's anxieties about false identities, class conflict, and the simmering tensions leading to World War I. Join us for the discovery.



Emperor Meiji by Takahashi Yuichi, Imperial Collection

Languages

Introductory French 2

Course #LA124

Dianne Tisman

Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 10-11:20 am

7 Sessions: Jan. 12-March 2

(Note: There is no class on Jan. 19)

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

This course is for participants who have completed Introductory French 1 (Fall 2025) or who are able to discuss basic topics (time, dates, and the weather) and relate basic information in the present. By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- relate experiences in specific places and objectives for going there
- discuss how we purchase food and interact with people in food and beverage-related situations
- identify professions: who does what and where
- give and take directions and instructions

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

Intermediate French 2

Course #LA125

Dianne Tisman

Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 12-1:20 pm

7 Sessions: Jan. 12-March 2

(Note: There is no class on Jan. 19)

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

Designed for advanced beginners, early intermediates, or those who have completed Intermediate French (Fall 2025). The course begins with a review of present and recent past experiences, including current and previous routines. By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- talk about expectations and future plans
- conduct conversations and exchange information on the phone or email
- make comparisons
- describe and express opinions about events, people, and places
- relate recent past, distant past, and ongoing experiences

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



Situational / Topical French, Part 2

Course #LA126

Dianne Tisman

Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 2-3:20 pm

7 Sessions: Jan. 12-March 2

(Note: There is no class on Jan. 19)

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

This course is for participants who have completed Situational / Topical French, Part 1 (Fall 2025), or who have attained a mid-to-high level of spoken French.

Topics include:

- how to make decisions about purchasing merchandise by making comparisons and asking for information
- how to exchange merchandise or resolve a problem regarding a purchase
- how to interview or be interviewed
- how to report an incident or relate / describe an event
- how to summarize: a book, a film, a trip, a performance

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

Literature

World's Great Literature

Course #LI145

Michael Vlasisavljevic

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

8 Sessions: Jan. 13-March 3

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

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.

New: OLLI Mystery Book Club

Course #LI135

Joe Cucci

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

4 Sessions: Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, and Feb. 24

(Note: Class meets every other week)

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

The OLLI Mystery Book Club is a casual discussion group designed to introduce you to new authors and series. Students will 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 brief background information and guide the discussion, which will be driven by the club members. The first book to read is *The Neon Rain* by James Lee Burke.

New: OLLI Winter Book Club

Course #LI161

Carol Ellis

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

4 Sessions: Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, and March 3

(Note: Class meets every other week)

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

The OLLI Winter Book Club is not just about reading. It is about forging connections and broadening your horizons with a diverse selection of contemporary fiction, insightful non-fiction, and memorable classics. Our book club fosters camaraderie and belonging through lively discussions and exploration of diverse literary landscapes. We meet for a total of four sessions, that are two weeks apart. The instructor selects the first book and provides a short list of choices for the subsequent meetings. The group will vote on these at the first meeting. The first book for winter will be *What We Can Know*, a novel by Ian McEwan.

Literature (cont.)

New: Short Story Collective**Course #LI168****Debbie Mackler and Thomas Miller****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 10-11:30 am (**Note: Extended class time**)
 7 Sessions: Jan. 14-Feb. 25

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.

**New: Selected Works of Vladimir Nabokov****Course #LI169****Lawrence DeMilner****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm
 8 Sessions: Jan. 14-March 4

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

The Russian-born writer was one of the major literary figures of the 20th century. His widespread fame was always connected to the publication of the scandalous novel *Lolita*. This course will discuss a few of his relatively lesser-famed but equally magnificent works — the incomparable autobiographic *Speak, Memory*, the hilarious academic novel *Invitation to a Beheading*, and the enigmatic masterpiece *Invitation to a Beheading*. There will be roughly 750 pages of reading and seminar style discussion.

The New Yorker Magazine: Conversations**Course #LI125****Alan Freedman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 8 Sessions: Jan. 15-March 5

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

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; accordingly, either a print or digital subscription to the magazine is required. A stimulating conversation is certain!

Music Appreciation

Digital Bookworm: Mastering Reading Apps and Clubs

Course #LI170

Barb Bullock

Ringling College Museum Campus

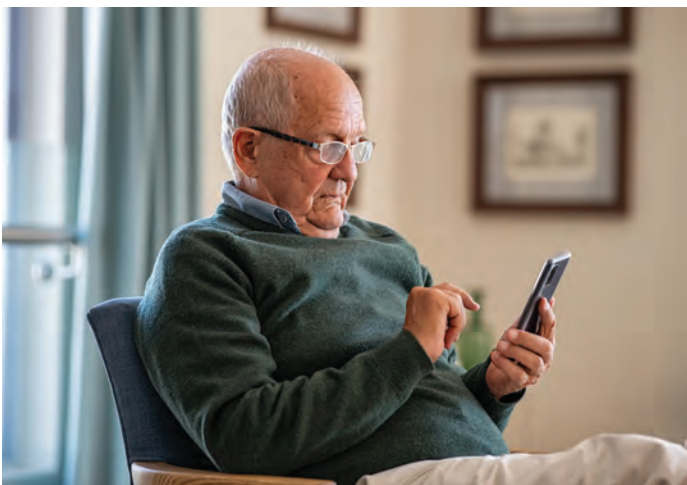
Friday: 1-2 pm

1 Session: Feb. 13

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member: \$15

Discover how digital tools are transforming reading and book clubs. Learn to use popular apps to organize your reading list, get personalized recommendations, join vibrant book communities, and live author chats. Whether you're a devoted reader or rekindling your love for literature, you'll gain skills to enhance your reading experience. Join a global movement celebrating storytelling and connect with like-minded readers. You will learn tools to navigate the evolving world of digital reading and book discussions effortlessly. This course requires a smartphone and basic social media skills, including how to download, navigate, and use apps. If you're comfortable using mobile apps, you'll navigate this course with ease. **Note:** *This class covers the same material from the Summer 2025 course.*



The Great American Songbook

Course #MA204

Harmon Greenblatt

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

4 Sessions: Jan. 13-Feb. 3

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

The Great American Songbook focuses on popular songs from the 1920s to the 1950s. The songwriters of this time wrote with a unique blend of freshness and wit. The talks will uncover the essential elements of these songs and discuss why they were popular then and why they are still popular today.

New: Sunshine and Moonlight — These Songs Lit Up the Charts!

Course #MA205

Tony Moon

Online / Zoom

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

6 Sessions: Jan. 13-Feb. 17

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

In every musical genre, these two words and their references were used in dozens of Pop music's biggest hits. This class will focus on songs whose themes were centered on one or both of these words. Whether it's "Moonlight Feels Right," or "Sunshine on My Shoulders," the discovery of the many songwriters and the hits they wrote will certainly be a nostalgic adventure.

New: Learn to Love Classical Music: A Beginner's Course

Course #MA148

Albert H. Cohen

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

8 Sessions: Jan. 13-March 3

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

What is a symphony? What is a concerto? What is a tone poem? What is Baroque Music? These are some of the questions to be addressed in this class. We will listen to famous and popular works and learn how to listen to get the most out of the music.

Music Appreciation (cont.)

The Search for an American Sound**Course #MA206****Emanuel Abramovits****Online / Zoom**

Tuesdays: 9-10:20 am
 6 Sessions: Jan. 20-Feb. 24
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

Since the 1890s, when Americans were beginning to develop their own traditions in classical music, composers have recognized the dilemma of creating the American sound. In this course, we explore how not only classical musicians, but also Broadway and Hollywood composers of diverse origins and ethnicities created a sound that has been defined as evocative of these lands and its people. Join us as we listen to and discuss the works of Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, William Grant Still, Florence Price, Alex North, Elmer Bernstein, and others, and discover how elements of jazz, folk music, and classical techniques created a uniquely American sound identity.

New: Forgotten Operas**Course #MA207****Theodore Medrek****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm
 8 Sessions: Jan. 14-March 4
 Gold Member: \$85.50
 Silver Member: \$95

Not every opera becomes a beloved part of the standard opera repertoire. For every “La Boheme” or “Rigoletto” there are countless operas that have fallen by the wayside. Some were fixtures of opera houses for decades before disappearing from the stage. Some occasionally resurface, briefly, as curiosities. Some are just, well, forgotten. In this course, we’ll examine seven such operas by Bellini, Verdi, Puccini, Boito, R. Strauss, Menotti, and Barber. We’ll talk about the reasons for their neglect and discuss which could be ripe for revival today. Whether you’re a longtime opera enthusiast or new to the genre, “Forgotten Operas” offers a fresh perspective on the art form’s evolving history. Maybe you’ll even discover a new favorite.

New: Jazz Kaleidoscope: New Artists and Fresh Elements (1980-2000)**Course #MA208****Henry Ettman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 6 Sessions: Jan. 14-Feb. 18
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

This term, we focus on fascinating facets of development in jazz from the 1980s to the new century. First, we’ll survey major styles of the period, filling in with illuminating videos and recordings by major artists of each genre. Second, we’ll journey back to the hip-hop, neo-traditional, and post-modern movements that evolved at New York’s Lincoln Center, Uptown, in Village clubs, and in other cities that profoundly influenced today’s jazz. Third, we’ll discuss the impact of jazz education on the music (special guest educator to be announced). Fourth, we’ll explore the emerging global village of jazz, with vivid examples of how artists who migrated to our country during the ‘80s and ‘90s brought new cultural flavors to the music.

Music and the Holocaust: Tragedy, Hope, and Legacy**Course #MA209****Emanuel Abramovits****Online / Zoom**

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm
 4 Sessions: Jan. 21-Feb. 11
 Gold Member: \$63
 Silver Member: \$70

Music was composed, performed, and heard in many ghettos, concentration camps, and partisan outposts of Nazi-controlled Europe. For many victims of the Holocaust, music was an important way of preserving and asserting their humanity. In this class, you will learn the role that music played in the struggle for hope in the darkest of times. With support from audiovisuals and anecdotes, we’ll hear stories about the artists who died in the Holocaust and those who survived, the fate of instruments and those that were restored, and how the musical world was affected by World War II and the Holocaust.

Philosophy and Religion

New: Unsung Voices and Enduring Spirit: Stories of Courage and Vision From the Women of the Transcendental Movement**Course #PL134****Dent Davis****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 12-1:20 pm
 6 Sessions: Jan. 26-March 2
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

When thinking about Transcendentalism, names like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau often come to mind. But behind the scenes—and sometimes boldly at the forefront—stood remarkable women whose writings, activism, and intellect helped shape one of America's most influential movements. In this course, we'll uncover the lives and legacies of women like Margaret Fuller, Lydia Jackson Emerson, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, and others who defied 18th century social norms to champion education, equality, and spiritual depth. Through stories, letters, and lively discussion, we'll rediscover how these women transformed the landscape of American thought—and how their influence still resonates today.

Aging as a Spiritual Journey**Course #PL133****Dent Davis****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 6 Sessions: Jan. 27-March 3
 Gold Member: \$81
 Silver Member: \$90

Research continually suggests that spirituality is one of the key factors in aging well. Spirituality contributes to having greater optimism, longevity, and a more meaningful life. But what is spirituality? How do you experience it? And how does it fit into the complexities of aging in today's anxious, complicated world? This class explores growing older from psychological and spiritual perspectives, including insights from researchers, poets, artists, religious leaders, and researchers. In addition, we will look at some helpful practices for the journey. Join us for a timely and important conversation about the issues, opportunities, and meaning of growing older.

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

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 2 Sessions: Feb. 5 and Feb. 12
 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.

Photography

New: Portraits, Still Life, and Landscapes with Your iPhone**Course #PH402****Ringling College Museum Campus****Alan Freedman**

Friday: 9:30 am-12:30 pm
 1 Session: Jan. 16
 Gold Member: \$49
 Silver Member: \$55

It's likely that you've used your iPhone hundreds – if not thousands – of times to take snapshots of persons, places, or things. But you and your iPhone are capable of greater things! Now it's time to step up to the next level of iPhone photography. In this hands-on class, you'll learn camera settings and techniques to create professional-level portraits, still lifes, and landscapes, opening up a whole new world of creativity and enjoyment. To achieve studio-quality photos of people and pets, as well as artistic images of objects in your garden or home, all you need to bring to this class is your fully-charged iPhone with the latest iPhone operating system (ios26) installed.

Psychology

New: Psychology of the American Experience According to Carl Sandburg

Course #PY165

David Eisner

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
8 Sessions: Jan. 13-March 3
Gold Member: \$85.50
Silver Member: \$95

Carl Sandburg was once considered the “Voice of America” in the 20th century, but what has happened to that voice in the 21st century? This course will shed light on that question. Through verbatim reading of Sandburg’s *The People, Yes*, we will dive into his relevance on two levels: global and as an individual’s soul journey. Bring a copy of *The People, Yes* or *The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg* to class, for interactive reading and discussion.

New: Psychology of Self-Knowledge, Grief, Grace, and Gratitude

Course #PY166

David Eisner

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm
8 Sessions: Jan. 13-March 3
Gold Member: \$85.50
Silver Member: \$95

There are many pathways to self-knowledge, bearing hardship and cultivating wisdom. One is to recognize the psycho-spiritual unity from which false pride and true humility diverge. This class aims to center ourselves in this dynamic unity-duality with the assistance of Fyodor Dostoevsky. We will discover how the vision he channels through *The Brothers Karamazov* activates our individual and communal awareness of the mysteries, simplicities, and complexities of our life journeys. **Note:** Please bring to class Constance Garnett’s translation of *The Brothers Karamazov* to enhance interactive reading and discussion and to avoid translation discrepancies.

Breaking the Habit of Being Yourself

Course #PY167

Michael Bommer

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 10-11:20 am
7 Sessions: Jan. 14-Feb. 25
Gold Member: \$81
Silver Member: \$90

You are not doomed by your genes and hard wired to be a certain way for the rest of your life. A new science is emerging that empowers all human beings to create the reality they choose. In *Breaking the Habit of Being Yourself*, Dr. Joe Dispenza combines the fields of quantum physics, neuroscience, brain chemistry, biology, and genetics to show what is truly possible. In this class, we will read and discuss this book and share insights. We will also do some experiential exercises and meditations. **Note:** Students are encouraged to bring their book to each class. To purchase the book, check local bookstores or online retailers.

Dealing With Difficult People

Course #PY168

Herbert Cohen and Anita Cohen

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm

4 Sessions: Feb. 11-March 4

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

This course focuses on five common types of difficult personalities and how they present themselves. We will look at the psychological dynamics behind the behavior and examine strategies for coping with troublesome personalities.

New: Decode Your Life Purpose

Course #PY169

Gail Condrick

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

1 Session: Feb. 13

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

The Decode Your Life Purpose workshop introduces an approach to analyzing and understanding your own life experiences and relationships with others. It is based on the *New York Times* bestselling book *Sacred Contracts: Awakening Your Divine Potential* by Caroline Myss. Students will be introduced to the concept of the four archetypal patterns that everyone shares and reflect on how the spiritual energies of your Inner Child (Guardian of Innocence), Victim (Guardian of Self-Esteem), Saboteur (Guardian of Choice), and Prostitute (Guardian of Faith) influence you. This theory combines psychology and mysticism to reevaluate the gifts of the people, places, and events that have shaped your life, to honor your unique journey, and bring clarity to future choices.

New: Keep Going Strong: Motivation and Meaning

Course #PY170

Mary Ziegler

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 10 am-1 pm

1 Session: Feb. 20

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

Life's chapters bring new perspectives and new possibilities. This workshop invites you to explore how your motivation and purpose have evolved and uncover what inspires you now. Through guided reflection, conversation, and practical tools, you'll have the opportunity to clarify what matters most and discover ways to set clear goals. The intention of the workshop is to spark renewed energy and fresh ideas. You'll leave with a personal plan for your next steps, whether you are starting something new, reshaping your priorities, or simply seeking deeper meaning in everyday life.



Science

A Guided Tour Through the Universe

Course #SI123

Kenneth Bechis

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
5 Sessions: Jan. 13-Feb. 10

Gold Member: \$76.50
Silver Member: \$85

This five-session course will tour: **1. Our home territory in space:** the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon; our origins and our future. **2. Our amazing solar system:** new discoveries including oceans on Jupiter's and Saturn's moons, thousands of undiscovered Plutos, Planet X, and trips to Saturn and Mars. **3. Our Milky Way galaxy:** star nurseries and graveyards, other Earths, rogue planets, black holes, pulsars, and deadly spiral arms. **4. The realm of the galaxies:** clusters, collisions, the cosmic web, and the James Webb Telescope's journey to the beginning of time. **5. The great beyond:** the expanding universe, dark matter, dark energy, parallel universes, other dimensions, and the end of everything. We'll also see what's visible in Sarasota skies tonight, vignettes of groundbreaking female astronomers, and no math!

New: Bogus Astronomy Workshop

Course #SI139

Kenneth Bechis

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 9:30 am-12:20 pm
1 Session: Jan. 23

Gold Member: \$49
Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

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 — e.g., why is it hotter in the summer than in the winter? Does it matter that our Sun travels yearly through 14 constellations, not just the 12 familiar zodiacal ones? Why does astronomy, unlike other sciences, have conspiracy theories — e.g., did Stanley Kubrick help NASA fake the Moon landings? Or, did Martians construct a giant face on their planet along with canals? Let's explore these and other topics in a discussion-based workshop with lots of videos, celestial images, and fun!



Technology

New: Getting the Most From Your Apple Watch: From Everyday Tasks to Health, Safety, and More

Course #TC149

Benu Dhamija

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday: 1-2:30 pm (**Note:** Extended class time)

1 Session: Jan. 23

This exact same class will be offered on a second date.

Friday: 11 am-12:30 pm (**Note:** Extended class time)

1 Session: Jan. 30

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Participants will learn to use the Apple Watch as an always-on digital assistant to enhance productivity, safety, and health. The session will cover practical capabilities such as alerts and reminders, making calls, sending texts, and accessing information like weather updates. We will also explore health and safety features including activity and workout tracking, heart rate monitoring, fall detection, and Emergency SOS. In addition, participants will learn how to personalize their watch to fit their lifestyle and daily routines. Instruction will include a mix of presentations, demonstrations, and hands-on practice. **Notes:** *Individual troubleshooting or issue resolution is not part of this class. There is limited seating for this class due to the hands-on instructions.*

Prerequisites and Guidelines: This class is most relevant for Apple Watch Series 9 or newer. Students should be familiar with basic iPhone usage and functions. The Watch setup and configuration is done using the iPhone and these two devices have tightly integrated features.

Writing

Writers' Workshop

Course #WR131

Ellen Brosnahan

Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 9 am-12 pm (**Note:** Extended time)

7 Sessions: Jan. 26-March 2

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

The Writers' Workshop provides an interactive setting for writers to share their work and receive feedback from one another. In this workshop, members read five to 10 pages of their finished work or work-in-progress and then have it critiqued (not criticized) by others. Constructive feedback acts as a motivating factor for further revising and editing. Writers of all experience levels are welcome. All genres are embraced. This class offers a non-threatening experience among a group of individuals who wish to improve their craft.

New: Write It Out® with Ronni

Course #WR132

Ronni Miller

Online / Zoom

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

8 Sessions: Jan. 13-March 3

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

Experience the Write It Out® (WIO) program and discover sensory exercises that stimulate feelings, memories, and experiences. Engage in hands-on exercises designed to enhance your creativity. Writing assignments will further encourage creative documentation in any genre. You will receive positive feedback from the facilitator along with techniques for improving your writing clarity. WIO welcomes both beginner and advanced writers. You'll also have the opportunity to connect with others online and make friends as you share your writing.

Writing (cont.)

New: Write Away**Course #WR133****Linda Ritt****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 10-11:20 am

4 Sessions: Jan. 14-Feb. 4

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

This course invites you to leave your inner editor at home and find the joy of writing through brief, focused episodes of writing using prompts given by the instructor. Challenge yourself to experiment with different writing styles, energize your thought processes, and discover new approaches to expression. Students may choose to share their work in a supportive setting that values confidentiality and collaboration, while engaging in thoughtful weekly discussions. We hope you can join us!

Write Like a Dancer**Course #WR124****Gail Condrick****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

4 Sessions: Jan. 29-Feb. 19

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

The Write Like a Dancer class reveals seven secrets choreographers use to create original works and how you can apply them to your writing projects. In the four weeks, you will learn to generate new ideas, find your inner writing rhythm, and connect to your creative source. You will experience this process step-by-step with in-class writing exercises and prompts to help you discover new insights and inspiration for your work. Perfect for writers of any genre, from novels to newsletters. Bring your journal and an open mind, and prepare to write as fluidly as a dancer moves! No prior writing experience is necessary.

New: From Paintings to Poems — A Poetry Reading and a Writing Workshop**Course #WR134****Joan Kantor****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 12:45-3:45 pm

1 Session: Jan. 30

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

Participants will have the opportunity to write art-inspired poems by engaging with artwork in a unique way. The instructor will first read her poetry and share the artwork that inspired it. There will be discussion about observation, interpretation, technique, form, and freedom of expression. Joan's goal is for her students to enjoy expressing themselves poetically through listening to word art and observing visual art as they may never have before. Both the reading and the workshop part of the course are student-focused and highly interactive. Students will get to choose artwork that inspires them to write. The highlight of the workshop will be voluntary readings by students.





It's not always easy to determine with the naked eye which bowl is nearest to the Jack. In these cases, players use a special measuring tape to accurately identify the closest bowl.



Left: A good shot is more likely when players observe some simple rules illustrated by this bowler: keep part of one foot on or over the mat; position yourself as near the ground as you can; take one step forward, and release the bowl close to the green's surface.

Right: As a lawn bowler, your goal is simple: to get at least one of your bowls closest to a small target ball called the "Jack." In this case, the blue-green bowl is in the winning position.

New: Learn to Lawn Bowl

Course #SP104

Jeri Spann

Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club

951 Circus Blvd., Sarasota, 34232

Mondays and Thursdays: 1-3 pm

4 Sessions: Jan. 5 and Jan. 8

Jan. 12 and Jan. 15

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

Discover the fun and strategy of lawn bowling, a game that blends skill, focus, and friendly competition. The goal of lawn bowling is to deliver at least one of your bowls very close to a small target ball called the "Jack." If your bowl ends up being closer to the Jack than any of your opponents' bowls, you earn a point.

This winter, the Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club (SLBC), one of the oldest clubs in Florida (founded in 1927), invites OLLI student to get ready to roll.

All classes will be taught by club members who will guide you through the basics: how to grip the bowls securely and deliver them to the Jack; how to protect well-positioned bowls; and how to knock opponents' bowls off the Jack. Most of these skills will be learned by playing real games coached by experienced bowlers.

Lawn bowls are beautiful to watch as they curve down the green — hopefully headed toward the Jack. So, whether you're looking for a new low-impact sport, want to make connections with fellow enthusiasts, or simply want to enjoy fresh air while playing a game, we invite you to give lawn bowling a try.

See you on the green!

Note: Class has limited space.

To learn more about the Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club visit: <https://www.sarasotalawnbowlingclub.com/>

Listening to Women 2026

Course # CV119
Ringling College
Museum Campus



Thursdays: 2-3:30 pm
6 Sessions: Jan. 22-Feb. 26

Gold Member: \$81
Silver Member and General Admission: \$90

Listening to Women is a weekly series which recognizes women whose brilliance and fortitude have reshaped industries and who are making a difference in today's communities. At each session, we will hear the personal stories of women, driven by a cause, with the passion and determination to have achieved success in a variety of fields.

The Listening to Women Team

Holly Freedman, *Founder & Team Leader*

Susan Gorin

Terry Rixse

Bev Harms

Sherry Suggs

Victoria Kasdan

Tobie van der Vorm

Judy Levine

Listening to Women is made possible, in part,
with support from our sponsors.



The Schwartzbaum Urfer Group at
Morgan Stanley



Jan. 22

"Life upon the wicked stage ain't ever what a girl supposes..."

Speakers: Carolyn Michel, Carole Kleinberg

Carolyn Michel, Sarasota Jewish Theatre's Board Chair, and Carole Kleinberg, Artistic Director, will share anecdotes, videos, and a live performance, covering their exciting journey as women and as theatre artists in a business that can be challenging, complicated, and unforgiving. They are each admired as "stars" in a world where success is hard won. As founding members of Sarasota Jewish Theatre, together they have built a professional theatre that has earned recognition, respect, and admiration.



Carole Kleinberg's combined expertise as a theater educator, director, and administrator coalesced in her vision for a theater that would celebrate Jewish literature, culture, and history while remaining universal in its appeal and respected for its excellence.



Carolyn Michel has been a leader in Sarasota's arts community for over 40 years, including her days as a member of the Asolo Rep company, her acclaimed performances on Broadway in regional theater, at Florida Studio Theatre, and the Westcoast Black Theatre

Troupe, along with her work as a fundraiser for arts organizations and her tireless efforts for Sarasota Jewish Theatre.

Jan. 29

Saving Waters, Shaping Futures: Women Working to Protect Our Rivers, Estuaries, and the Communities That Depend Upon Them

Speakers: Jennifer L. Shafer, Ph.D. and Abbey Tyrna, Ph.D.

Moderator: Christine P. Johnson

Water is the most important nutrient for survival. It's also the reason most people choose to live in Florida. In recent years, we've witnessed the tug-of-war between growth and conservation as well as the strengthening and waning of our water protections. With 1,000 people moving to Florida a day, how do we ensure we have drinkable, fishable, swimmable water, now and tomorrow? Hear from these women – scientists, leaders, and business owners – how and why they do this important work. Their discussion will also provide insights into what is being done to improve water quality and quantity, and what you can do to help.



Jennifer L. Shafer, Ph.D., co-owner and President of Shafer Consulting, serves as Co-Executive Director of the Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida — a collaborative network of 45 science-based environmental organizations along Florida's

Gulf Coast. She organizes ideas, strategies, and experiences for natural resource protection, leading strategic planning and science communication efforts. With two decades of experience in research, analysis, and stakeholder engagement, she has shaped insightful, creative strategies that advance environmental goals.



Abbey Tyrna, Ph.D., an educator and scientist, joined Suncoast Waterkeeper in 2022. In her role, she has enhanced water quality monitoring for harmful bacteria, increased the number of pollution reports submitted to environmental enforcement agencies, and advocated for

establishing strict pollution limits on Piney Point's discharge. A native of Cape Coral, Abbey earned her doctorate from Penn State and has dedicated her career to studying wetlands and protecting Florida's waters.



Christine P. Johnson, President of Big Waters Land Trust for 15 years, leads a team protecting our land and water for the benefit of people and nature. As a fifth-generation Floridian, Christine never imagined that she would work to protect the land and water she grew up

on. Previously, she worked in management and consulting with Fortune 500 companies, helped the Girl Scouts of Southwest Florida raise \$7 million for their headquarters, and raised over \$100 million for Ringling College of Art and Design.

Feb. 5

Rebels With a Cause: The Power of Resistance and Joy in the Lives of Black Women

Speaker: Dr. Janet Taylor

Interviewer: Victoria Kasdan

Through her personal stories and historical narratives, Dr. Janet Taylor will explore the themes of Black women and resistance that have been ignored, unexamined, and buried. The audience will learn about the connection between the African diaspora and a psychological mindset of resistance, autonomy, adaptation, and cultural synthesis, all contributing to a “resist” mindset for Black women today. This is fueled by an innate desire to overcome “waves of struggle,” with a radical repurposing of resistance leading to joy, strength, and transformation.



Dr. Janet Taylor is a Community Psychiatrist at Centerstone in Sarasota and is on the Board of the ACLU of Florida. She's on the frontline battling the emotional and economic impact of mental illness. She holds a medical degree from the University of Louisville,

completed her psychiatric residency at New York Medical College, and obtained a Master of Public Health from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. She is co-author of *The Courageous Classroom: Creating A Culture of Safety for Students to Learn and Thrive*. (Wiley, 2021).



Victoria Kasdan is the owner of Cruise Planners®: Travel2Nirvana, curating luxury cruises, land tours, and heritage-inspired group journeys. Beyond travel, Victoria co-founded Making An Impact, Inc., a nonprofit connecting residents to

vital community resources. A registered nurse, nonprofit co-founder, and former public health executive, she is a Florida Top 50 Influencer recognized for leadership, entrepreneurship, and creating meaningful experiences that connect people worldwide.

Feb. 12

Beyond Seeing: A Memoir with Photographs

Speaker: Alyssia Lazin

Interviewer: Virginia Shearer

Alyssia Lazin, photographer, and Virginia Shearer, Executive Director of Sarasota Art Museum, will explore Lazin's transformation of familiar subjects into sublime imagery through her unique painterly approach to photography. Lazin is known for her photographs of intimate and familiar subjects. Her projects reveal hidden worlds through careful exploration and discovery. Her most notable works include the series "Square Space," "Unfolding," and "Abstracting," capturing iconic imagery with a formalist yet painterly approach. The conversation will include Lazin's creative process, how she finds beauty in the unseen and overlooked, and the role that chance encounters and unexpected moments play in shaping her artistic vision. Attendees will gain insight into how travel and discovery inform her work, and how she bridges the gap between photography and painting.



Alyssia Lazin's passion for photography was launched with a Kodak Brownie at age 13. After university, she was a photographic model for fashion magazines in New York City, Paris, Milan, and London. She received her master's degree at Yale

University (CT) in graphic design and opened a design studio in NYC serving Fortune 500 companies and art institutions. After 25 years in design, she has dedicated herself to fine arts photography. Her work has been exhibited in the U.S., Europe, South America, and India. Alyssia splits her time between Sarasota and Lucca, Italy.



Virginia Shearer has been Executive Director of the Sarasota Art Museum (SAM) since 2021 and has 30 years of museum experience. Previously, she was Director of Education at Atlanta's High Museum of Art. Virginia's mission at SAM is to make

contemporary art relevant and inspiring for diverse audiences, providing programs for students, families, and art enthusiasts. She envisions the museum as both a cultural cornerstone for Sarasota and a nationally recognized contemporary art destination.

Feb. 19

Sarasota's Renaissance Woman

Speaker: Christine Jennings

Interviewer: Susan Burns

How did a 17-year-old bank teller from Ohio with no family money, no contacts, and no college degree start a bank in Sarasota? Christine Jennings founded Sarasota Bank in 1992 and served as its President/CEO and Chair of the Board for 11 years. Sarasota Bank was sold in 2003, and stockholders received \$62.11 for their \$10 investment. In 2004, she jumped into politics as a candidate for U.S. Congress, nearly flipping a heavily Republican district in 2006, losing by 369 votes. From 2009 to 2014, she was CEO of Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (WBTT). How did she lead WBTT from financial duress to financial stability and secure a permanent home for their performing facility? Christine will discuss her unconventional success, the obstacles she confronted, her leadership style, and why she was never afraid of failure.



Christine Jennings began her banking career as a teller at 17 and rose to become founder, president, CEO, and chair of Sarasota Bank. After its successful sale, she ran for U.S. Congress and later led Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe through a major turnaround. She now chairs Canandaigua National Trust Company of Florida and serves on the boards of Sunshine from Darkness and Senior Friendship Centers.



Susan Burns is the editor-in-chief of *Sarasota Magazine*, where she leads the publication's editorial vision with a deep commitment to community storytelling. A New College of Florida graduate, Susan joined the magazine in 1987 as a writer and editor, later founded the regional business publication *Biz941*, earned numerous journalism awards, and held leadership roles in local nonprofits.

Feb. 26

Faith in Our Private and Public Lives

Speaker: Denise Flynn, Samar Dahmash-Jarrah, Rabbi Jennifer Singer, Rev. Anita D. Williams

Interviewer: Sue Jacobson

Many Americans are wrestling with the role of faith in our private lives and in our communal life. We frequently hear it said of religions that “we are more alike than different.” But that’s not entirely true; we know that the world’s religions are quite different. We are honored to have with us four amazing women who have walked very different paths toward spirituality, and to learn how their chosen faiths—Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism—function for them in American life. Their spiritual journeys, the changing roles that their faiths play in their lives, and the impact of their choices are both fascinating and instructive. We hope this will help attendees understand our differences, which is the foundation of true mutual respect.



Denise Flynn found comfort in Buddhism after a 20-year career with the New York City Police Department. Having witnessed the World Trade Center tragedy, she sought solace and understanding of the world. Working with New York’s multi-cultural community, while a

member of the Disorder Control Unit, Denise felt the despair of those voicing anger and pain against society’s inequities, bringing her closer to Buddhist teachings and practices, with its guidance to accept all beings as they are.



Samar Dahmash-Jarrah is a Kuwait-born Palestinian-American journalist, author, and educator. As a former contributor to CNN World Report and an instructor at the University of South Florida, she is a frequent speaker on Arab-American relations,

culture, and media. Samar has authored books in English and Arabic and co-hosts a weekly radio show on WMNF 88.5 FM in Tampa.



Rabbi Jennifer Singer is the Jewish Learning & Engagement Manager at the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Rabbi Singer holds a master of art degree in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary (NY), as well as ordination as a Rabbi

and Spiritual Director from the ALEPH Alliance for Jewish Renewal. She has lived in Sarasota since 1998 and is well-known as a spiritual leader and educator.



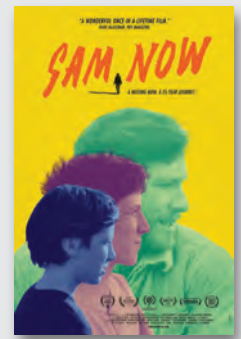
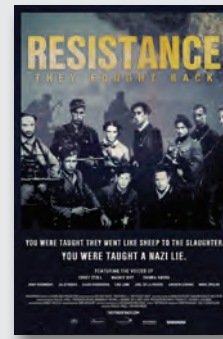
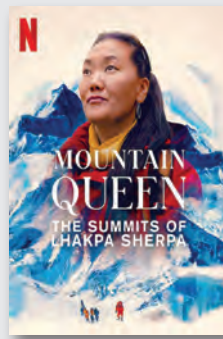
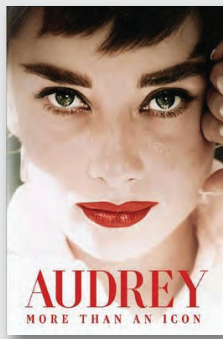
Rev. Anita D. Williams was raised in Bradenton and graduated from Argosy University with her master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her ministerial journey began in 1990 while serving as a youth director. She has been an ordained pastor in Florida since 2000 and is now

the Senior Pastor of Bethel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Sarasota. Reverend Williams empowers women in ministry while training men and women for pastorship.



Sue Jacobson is a community volunteer for projects that interest and inspire her (like this one). Currently, she “works” with the Boxser Diversity Initiative, Miracle on the Key, Conversations Across the Aisle (CATA), and Temple Beth Israel. Her perspective is informed by

years of service and leadership on the boards of directors of local and regional human service organizations. Sue practiced law for over 30 years in upstate New York and Sarasota.



Celebrating
10
Years
 of Making

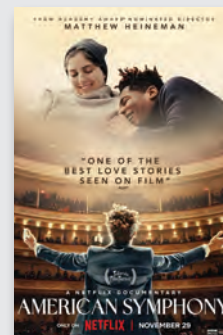
CONNECTIONS

The Documentary Film Series
 (2015-2025)



Thank You
Julie Cotton

Series Creator and Host



CONNECTIONS documentary film series began its 10th season in Fall 2025. 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.



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**



Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire (2026)

Course #FS142

87 minutes

Tuesday, Jan. 20 • 2:30-4:30 pm

Ringling College Museum Campus

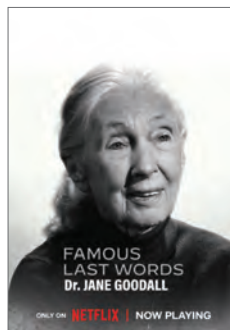
Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and

General Admission: \$15

Eighty years after his liberation from Buchenwald, this film seeks to understand the man behind Elie Wiesel's searing and widely-read memoir, *Night*. Told largely through his own words and eloquent voice, *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire* seeks to penetrate the heart of the known and unknown Elie Wiesel (1928-2016) — his passions, his conflicts, and his legacy as one of the most public survivors of the trauma of the Holocaust. With unique access to personal archives, original interviews, and employing hand-painted animation, the film illuminates Wiesel's biography as a survivor, writer, teacher, public figure, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. *Soul on Fire* is a testament to an extraordinary man who helped shape our collective memory of the darkest chapter of the 20th century.

Note: After the movie and discussion, join us for a reception honoring Julie Cotton and the CONNECTIONS series. Light refreshments will be provided.



Famous Last Words: Dr. Jane Goodall (2025)

Course #FS143

55 minutes

Tuesday, Feb. 17 • 2:30-4 pm

Ringling College Museum Campus

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and

General Admission: \$15

Netflix's documentary series *Famous Last Words* recorded intimate interviews with some of the world's cultural icons, with the understanding that they would only be aired posthumously. The series begins with the much-beloved ethologist and conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall. In this lively interview, we see Goodall's fearlessness and her deep love for humanity and the natural world. As she approached her final adventure, she viewed it with the same fearlessness, hope, humor, and joy that she approached everything else in life. We will also see snippets from her many years in Africa, living with and cataloging the intimate behaviors of wild chimpanzees. There is no question that Goodall was one of the world's greatest and most beloved champions of good.

The Roots of Black Music in America, Part 2 featuring Karlus Trapp

Course # SE111

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday, Feb. 6

2-3:30 pm

Gold Member: \$12 per person

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15 per person

Producer, songwriter, teacher, and troubadour Karlus Trapp presents his educational and entertaining program, "The Roots of Black Music in America, Part 2."

This session continues the exploration of music from the blues and jazz of the 1920s and 1940s to the rock 'n' roll of the 1950s and 1960s, and the soul music of the 1970s. Part two offers a fresh perspective through songs, stories, and the history of America's Black musical giants. Come and enjoy some of your favorite music during this nostalgic journey.

Karlus Trapp is a songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, educator, and creator of the presentation, "The Roots of Black Music." The former bass player with the New Modern English has been spreading joy through his music with his solo and band performances in and around and beyond the northeast for years as well as teaching guitar, ukulele, bass, and piano and is now doing the same in Sarasota.



An Evening of Broadway Cabaret

Featuring

A photograph of Valerie diLorenzo, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a red shirt, leaning over a black grand piano. The piano is partially visible, showing the keys and the fallboard.

Valerie diLorenzo

Accompaniment by Michelle Kasanofsky

January 9, 2026 • 4-6 pm

**Prepare for an evening of showstopping
classics and soaring melodies!**

Join Valerie diLorenzo as she whisks you away through tales of love, longing, and laughter while bringing to life some of our most beloved musical moments. Whether it's the razzle-dazzle of *Chicago*, the heartfelt memories of *Les Misérables*, or the captivating charm of *Annie*, this celebration of music promises to be an evening of joy!

Cash Bar • Light Refreshments • New Friends

To reserve your seat, call 941-309-5111.

Limited Seating. Advance registration is required.
No ticket refunds or exchanges.

TICKETS ON SALE:

MONDAY, NOV. 24

\$30 PER PERSON

for Gold and Silver Members

\$35 PER PERSON

for General Admission

LOCATION:

Thomas McGuire Hall
on the Ringling College
Museum Campus
at Sarasota Art Museum
1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota



Stay Curious. Stay Connected.

The Security Series with Thomas P. Vartanian

Course #EC130

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:30 pm

3 Sessions: Feb. 3-Feb. 17

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Feb. 3: Financial Security – Understanding Money, Banking and Cryptocurrency and How to Use Them

It gets harder each day to understand how money, markets, and technology effect us. It is even harder to understand what we should be doing to protect ourselves. Unfortunately, many spend too little time on financial literacy even though every moment of the day is filled with financial decisions, even as routine as deciding whether to use a credit card, debit card, cash, or Bitcoin. As markets get more sophisticated and derivative and tokenized securities begin to proliferate, it is critical that we stay up to date so that we can rely less on third parties and more on our own instincts. This lecture will focus on that challenge and provide some rules of the road to help you protect yourself.

Feb. 10: Online Security – Understanding Cyber Threats and How to Avoid Them

Almost every day, we read about new malware, viruses, ransomware, phishing, distributed denial-of-service (DDoS), social engineering schemes, spoofing, and zero-day exploits. And yet we have no choice but to live in cyberspace for much of what we do each day. Most of us don't understand how to protect ourselves online, what the risks are, what we should do if we are hacked, or who we call if our money disappears one day, as it did for 20,000 customers at Bank of America in 2025. The issues are complex, and the solutions aren't always convenient, but they exist, and you should know what they are. This lecture will explain the challenges and the tools you have to deal with them.

Feb. 17: Future Security – Understanding How Technology Will Impact Your Future and that of Your Children and Grandchildren

Much of what we do each day and many of the decisions we make are driven by our expectations about what the future will look like. But never before in the history of civilization has the future been so hard to predict. With new AI, Quantum Computing, Gene Editing, and similar technological advances seemingly occurring every day, understanding the future we and our children and grandchildren will have to deal with is not so easy as it once was. What the future looks like affects the financial, social, medical, insurance, and job-related decisions we have to make today. This lecture will describe the possible worlds that we, our children, and grandchildren will have to negotiate and how they may benefit or disadvantage us.



Thomas P. Vartanian is a financial services expert, futurist, and technology leader who currently is the Executive Director of the Financial Technology & Cybersecurity Center. He served in the Reagan and Carter Administrations regulating the nation's banks where he closed 1,400 failing institutions in the Savings and Loan crisis. He has drafted many of the laws and regulations that still apply today. Between 1983 and 2018, he chaired the financial institution's practices at two international law firms representing major financial companies around the world. Between 1998-2002, he chaired the Cyberspace Law Committee of the American Bar Association and its work on the laws that should apply

Fragrance Through the Decades with Sue Phillips

Course #SE110

Sue Phillips

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday, Jan. 30
11 am-12:30 pm

Gold Member: Free (*pre-registration required*)

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Join Sue Phillips for a “scentertaining” journey through the history of fragrance, beginning with an overview of the early days of fragrance with the ancient Egyptians, through the Middle Ages, and to the *raison d’être* (why) France became the capital of the fragrance world. Discover how Coco Chanel created her iconic Chanel No. 5 and explore the contributions of renowned French designers who created masterpieces such as Dior, Guerlain, Lanvin, and others. The session will also highlight 20th century “modern classics” such as Charlie, Norell, Angel, Le Labo, and explain why customization is now so popular. By the end of the journey, you will have a newfound appreciation for the wonderful and fascinating world of fragrance and also discover what your fragrance reveals about you.



Sue Phillips, founder of Scenterprises, Inc., and Sue Phillips Fragrance, is a recognized international fragrance expert, author, speaker, marketer, and Scentrepreneur.™ Sue has created fragrances for Jamie Foxx, Katie Holmes, Zendaya, Susan Sarandon,

Laurence Fishburne, as well as thousands of fragrance lovers who want to create their own signature scents. She began her fragrance journey at giant beauty companies Elizabeth Arden and Lancôme, but it was at Tiffany & Co., where Sue was hired as executive vice president and created the first Tiffany Perfume that established her reputation as a fragrance expert. Sue is a motivational speaker and has written *The Power of Perfume* www.thepowerofperfume.com. She has helped hundreds of COVID-19 anosmia sufferers regain their sense of smell. Sue has also been an adjunct professor at both the Fashion Institute of Technology and LIM colleges in New York City.

Georgia: Where History and Wine Flow Together

Course #SE113

Leo Chubinishvili

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesday, Feb. 11
3-4:30 pm

Gold Member: \$30

Silver Member and General Admission: \$35

Limited seating.

Journey to the ancient country of Georgia — a crossroads of Europe and Asia, where East meets West, and the birthplace of wine. We'll begin with an introduction to Georgia's rich history, exploring how its culture, religion, and resilience have shaped this small but fascinating nation. From there, we'll turn to one of Georgia's most celebrated legacies: wine. Archeological discoveries reveal that winemaking originated here, and its unique qvevri (clay-pot) method remains a UNESCO-recognized tradition. Learn about Georgia's indigenous grape varieties, the deep cultural rituals surrounding wine, and how modern vintners blend ancient practices with contemporary innovation.

The session concludes with a guided tasting of select Georgian wines — a sensory journey through one of the world's oldest and most soulful wine regions.

Note: Light refreshments provided.



Leo Chubinishvili is a wealth advisor whose passion lies in sharing the heritage of his birthplace — Georgia. Having moved to the United States at age 16, Leo blends his professional expertise in finance with a lifelong fascination for Georgian history, culture, and winemaking. His engaging

presentation connects story, tradition, and taste, culminating in an authentic wine-tasting experience that brings Georgia's ancient spirit to life.

Dachau First, Dachau Last, Dachau Jamais Plus

Lecture #LC216

Liz Coursen

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday, Jan. 23

2:30-3:30 pm

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

A vital part of an editor and publisher's job is research and fact-checking, so five years ago, independent historian Liz Coursen found herself researching Dachau, Nazi Germany's first and last concentration camp. To honor the memory of those who lived and died in the concentration camp, and those who fought so valiantly to liberate it, Liz will continue to lecture about Dachau in the hopes that Dachau Jamais Plus (Dachau Never Again) will become a reality.



Liz Coursen, author, editor, and publisher, grew up bouncing between Sarasota and Brunswick, ME. After attending Southside and Pine View schools in Sarasota, she graduated from Emory University in Atlanta with a degree in English literature. Ten of Liz's 14 books are about American

English punctuation and grammar, and she has lectured about American English best practices as far away as India.

What Everyone Needs to Know About Sleep

Course #SE114

Meir Kryger, M.D.

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesday, Jan. 27

2:30-4 pm

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Insufficient sleep and sleep disorders are rampant and frequently undiagnosed. Sleep is as important as exercise and diet for optimal health. Daytime sleepiness can lead to tragic accidents and errors. This lecture will review why sleep is important for cardiovascular and cognitive health. It will highlight the most common sleep disorders, including insomnia (trouble falling and/or staying asleep), sleep apnea (stopping breathing during sleep), narcolepsy, and acting out dreams, which may occur with post-traumatic stress disorder. We hope you can join us for this important session.



Meir Kryger, M.D., is a professor emeritus of medicine at Yale School of Medicine who has treated patients with sleep disorders for almost 50 years. Previously, he had been Professor of Medicine at the University of Manitoba where he was Director of the Sleep Disorders Centre at St. Boniface

Hospital Research Centre in Winnipeg, the first clinical laboratory studying patients with sleep breathing problems in Canada.

He is the chief editor of the most widely used textbook in sleep medicine, *The Principles and Practice of Sleep Medicine*, now in its seventh edition, and the *Atlas of Clinical Sleep Medicine*. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He has received numerous awards for his achievements. He still teaches an undergraduate course (Mystery of Sleep) at Yale University.

Pirates of the Florida Coast

Lecture #LC218

Robert Jacob

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesday, Feb. 25

2-3:20 pm

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Dive into the depths of pirate history! Join author and pirate expert, Robert Jacob, for a captivating presentation highlighting the Pirates of the Florida Coast. Throughout his talk, Jacob will share tales of daring adventures and reveal the fascinating origins of local pirate stories and traditions.

Guests can expect an entertaining and educational experience. Drawing from his research and writings, Jacob will lead the audience through an intriguing exploration of pirate truths, myths, and legends of Florida's past. The state's pirate history is brimming with colorful stories of plundering along the coasts and shipping lanes, from Key West to Pensacola and from Miami to Jacksonville. Travel back in time with Jacob as he delves into these accounts, separates fact from fiction, and sheds light on figures like the legendary Jean Laffite, the bloodthirsty José Gaspar, and many other pirates of Florida's Coast.



Robert Jacob's passion for history led to his induction into the International Pirate Hall of Fame. The renowned author's presentations are sought after by community organizations, museums, and *The History Channel*. In 2013, Robert retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a CWO5 and currently lives in Palm Harbor, Florida.

Shade in the Sunshine State: Reflections on Segregation in Florida

Lecture #LC217

Liz Coursen

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday, March 6

2:30-3:30 pm

Gold Member: Free to Gold Members

(pre-registration required)

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

If you're like most Americans, when someone asks you to name a "southern" state, chances are good that places like Mississippi, Georgia, or Alabama will come to mind. Join award-winning author Liz Coursen for this fast-paced, thought-provoking lecture that will show that when it came to segregation of the races, Florida was as Deep South as Deep South got. "Shade in the Sunshine State" will celebrate the progress that has been made, both here in Florida and across the country, while illustrating how much more still needs to be done.



Liz Coursen, author, editor, and publisher, grew up bouncing between Sarasota and Brunswick, ME. After attending Southside and Pine View schools in Sarasota, she graduated from Emory University in Atlanta with a degree in English literature. Ten of Liz's 14 books are about American English punctuation and grammar, and she has lectured about American English best practices as far away as India.

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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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. **(p. 30)**

Roxanne Baker is a retired English teacher from upstate New York. She became a film introduction hostess at The George Eastman Museum (NY) in 2005 and continues to moderate film discussions at Burns Court Cinema as well as author a film review blog. **(p. 16)**

Wendy Rickenbach Barclay is a senior care expert with years of experience assisting adults and families navigate the complexities of aging. Her credentials include specialized training in both dementia management and long-term care strategies. Wendy has been in the senior care arena in Sarasota and Manatee counties for over 12 years. **(p. 19)**

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. 34)**

Michael Bommer is a retired university professor teaching and conducting research in management for 40 years. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in engineering and a doctorate in business. For the past 20 years, he has been a student of yoga, meditation, Jungian psychology, and Buddhism and non-duality. **(p. 32)**

Cheryl Brandi is a Whole Health Educator™ (WHE) and adult nurse practitioner (NP) with years of experience in managing chronic diseases and providing health education. She holds a doctorate in nursing science (University of San Diego), a post-master certificate as a nurse practitioner (University of South Florida), a diploma (WHE) from the National Institute of Whole Health, and certification as a Holistic Stress Management Instructor. **(p. 21)**

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. 31)**

Ellen Brosnahan, a former middle school language arts teacher and supervisor of student teachers for Illinois State University, holds a Master's Degree in Education from Northern Illinois University. She is the author of the novel *The Second Mrs. Ringling*, as well as numerous short stories and blog posts. She frequently gives presentations on the second marriage of John Ringling. **(p. 35)**

Barb Bullock has been a passionate arts leader and expert with over 30 years of marketing, communications, fundraising, and special event management experience in both the nonprofit and private sectors. Barb relocated to Sarasota nine years ago to live in an arts-centric community. She is an avid reader and member of several book clubs and seeks out author talks. **(p. 29)**

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. **(pp. 22, 23)**

Michelle Chaplin has taught mah jongg for 10 years in Continuing Education programs and privately. She receives outstanding reviews and has been lauded for being a patient and an engaging teacher. Her course is hands-on and allows every participant to be involved. The goals of the course are to build skills and create a learning community so that students can play with others after the course. (p. 14)

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. 29)

Anita Cohen holds a doctorate degree and is a former college instructor with a broad background in communication skills, the relationship between language and culture, and the development of communicative competence in children. Anita has taught classes in developing creativity for corporations and has designed and taught courses for increasing teachers' skills to include opportunities for growth within the classroom. (p. 33)

Herbert Cohen is a psychologist and marriage and family therapist. He taught at New York University and the State University of New York (Purchase). Herbert received his doctorate in psychology from Columbia University (NY) and is the author of *Snap Out of It*, a book dealing with stress, addictions, and anxiety. (p. 33)

Gail Condrick is an author, teacher, labyrinth facilitator, and certified Caroline Myss archetypal consultant. She frequently speaks on topics of creativity, spirituality, and empowerment. For 25 years, Gail led an award-winning staff creating TV programming in Fairfax, VA. She is a University of South Florida graduate and the author of *Walking the Grove* and online classes "Your Destiny is in Your Closet," "Spirituality Nature and the Labyrinth," and the "Release Your Inner Archetype" series. (pp. 21, 31, 36)

Nanette Crist has returned to her love of art after a career as a corporate lawyer. Instead of writing contracts, she now pens an art-related blog. Sharing what she's seen and learned is half the fun. Nanette continues to write about art at www.nanettesnewlife.blogspot.com. (p. 13)

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. (pp. 15, 27)

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. 31)

Lawrence DeMilner is a retired economist who spent the bulk of his career with the International Monetary Fund. After retirement, he taught several years at the Downeast Senior College in Maine. He has degrees in Russian and economics. (p. 28)

Benu Dhamija is an instructional technology specialist with over 20 years of experience helping educators and adults integrate technology into their daily life. Recently retired, she continues to share her passion for making technology approachable and useful. (p. 35)

David Eisner is a doctor of psychoanalysis (National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis Certified Psychoanalyst). David offers interactive seminars encouraging participants to individualize and integrate the gifts of art, music, literature, cinema, and psychoanalysis into deepening perspectives on the wonders, challenges, and complexities of everyday life. (p. 32)

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 in internal medicine. (pp. 21, 22, 27)

Henry Ettman has a doctorate in social psychology. He is a 70-year veteran jazz drummer and a 22-year jazz educator. Ettman studied jazz performance with Max Roach, Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Bob Brookmeyer, and others. He has presented jazz courses at Washington University, Naples Florida Philharmonic, University of South Florida, and OLLI at Ringling College. He has conducted research for the Jazz Education Network, Jazz Audiences Initiative, consulted for jazz presenting organizations, and is former president of the Reno Nevada Jazz Society. (p. 30)

Stephenie Frasher left behind a 16-year career as a docent at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. In addition to being a docent, she presented outreach programs and conducted tours for the visually impaired. She is now a part of Sarasota Art Museum's program of Field Guides, is the Lead Docent and Gallery co-director for Arts Advocates, and is a docent for the Public Art Walking Tours. (p. 13)

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. (pp. 28, 31)

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. 20)

Richard Gelpke has a doctorate in law and policy from Northeastern University (Boston). He worked in the department of geography and earth science at the University of Massachusetts for more than 20 years. His areas of interest are historical and physical geography, environmental issues, and mapping. (p. 18)

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. (pp. 24, 25)

Roz Goldberg spent 27 years at Merrill Lynch (ML) as a financial advisor, national marketing manager, and investment banker. One of her "claims to fame" was her skill in explaining complex financial concepts and products to both brokers and investors, in person and via video. For the 10 years prior to her retirement, Roz was the Managing Director of the Private Equity Group for ML Wealth Management. (p. 19)

Harmon Greenblatt has spent his entire career teaching and working in the arts. He is co-author of *Say It with a Beautiful Song*, a book that discusses the songs of the Golden Age of American songs. He has taught courses in popular music at the University of Hartford (CT) and at the University of New Orleans. (p. 29)

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. 24)

Garry Grossman is a professor of law, an attorney, and a former software developer. His formal training in facilitating and public speaking makes him a popular and engaging teacher and discussion leader at OLLI and elsewhere. (p. 17)

Eileen Hampshire was born and educated in England and resided in Canada before moving to the U.S. Following 35 years in a second-generation Oriental rug business, she founded Art to Walk On in Montreal, Quebec in 1988. Eileen is considered an expert on antique, traditional, transitional, and modern Oriental carpet from around the world. (p. 13)

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. 21)

Mirabai Holland holds a Master of Fine Arts degree and is a Certified Health Coach and Exercise Physiologist. She is a recognized authority in the health and wellness field, specializing in preventive and rehabilitative programs. Her wellness lifestyle programs have been implemented in hospitals, fitness centers, resorts, spas, community centers, and corporations around the world. In addition, she is a health columnist for *The Longboat/Sarasota Observer*. (p. 20)

David Howcroft is a history major and self-professed rock music aficionado who lived in England for three years in the early 1960s. In the ensuing years of the British Invasion, he hosted a radio show at Georgetown University (D.C.), produced several rock concerts, and managed a record store. He also dabbled in music photo-journalism, with several of his pieces being published. David has given this workshop and a course on David Bowie to OLLIs in South Carolina. (p. 15)

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." (pp. 22, 24)

Joan Kantor is an award-winning poet who often pairs her poetry with works of art. She's been both judge and poetry mentor for The Sunken Garden Poetry Festival. Joan enjoys doing readings and workshops as well as performing in Stringing Words Together, a violin and poetry performance program. Her most recent reading was at The Sarasota Museum of Art and focused on the paintings of Vermeer. <https://joankantorpoet.com/> (p. 36)

Wendy LeBolt has a doctorate in kinesiology and is an exercise scientist and health educator. Wendy has spent most of her professional career working to keep young athletes healthy and free of injury. Most recently, she taught kinesiology at the College of William & Mary (VA) and is delighted to call it her alma mater. Wendy is the author of two books, *Fit2Finish: Keeping Your Soccer Players in the Game* (2015) and *Made to Move: Knowing and Loving God Through Your Body* (2019). (p. 20)

Will Luera is an internationally-recognized storyteller, performer, and educator who has dedicated his career to helping others discover their authentic voice. Will has over 25 years' experience in theatrical storytelling, comedy performance, and public speaking. Known for his playful teaching style, creative insights, and approachable personality, Will helps participants transform everyday moments into powerful narratives. (p. 14)

Judy Levine has photographed the art of Tibet, West Africa, Egypt, and Indonesia. She creates limited-edition jewelry and owns Phoenix Art Workshops. Judith has a bachelor's degree in art and art education and a master's degree in visual arts from Montclair State University (NJ), where she was on the art education faculty. (p. 13)

Robert Litwak received his graduate degree from Fordham University (NY). He is a licensed psychiatric social worker with over 40 years of experience as an executive, supervisor, and clinician in mental health services for a large organization in Westchester County (NY). Later in his career, Robert taught students to become licensed mental health staff. Robert recently retired and lives with his spouse and two cats. (p. 15)

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. 28)

Theodore Medrek started attending opera regularly at age 11, and went on to study piano and music theory at Sarah Lawrence College (NY). From 1990 to 2006, he was a dance, theater, and classical music critic and editor in Boston. During that time, he was appointed the first full-time staff classical music critic at the *Boston Herald* daily newspaper. (p. 30)

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. 17)

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 (p. 20)

Ronni Miller developed Write It Out®, a motivational and expressive writing program. She has facilitated workshops at hospitals, health centers, colleges, and private locations in the U.S., Bermuda, and Italy since 1992. James W. Pennebaker, Ph.D., renowned for work in expressive writing, has endorsed her program. Ronni Miller, an award-winning author, has published 12 books that include: *Cocoon to Butterfly- A Metamorphosis of Personal Growth Through Expressive Writing*, available at www.writeitout.biz (p. 35)

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. 28)

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 administrates an entertainment company and does music research for the Westcoast Black Theater Troupe. (p. 29)

Brian J. Morra is a former intelligence officer, aerospace executive, and a current author of historical fiction. His novels have won numerous awards for best military fiction and best espionage thrillers. *The Able Archers* is about the 1983 Soviet nuclear crisis that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war, while *The Righteous Arrows* is about the Soviet War in Afghanistan and the American reaction to it. (pp. 24, 25)

Sandra Moulin, a high-energy 40-plus-year veteran teacher, earned her bachelor's at the University of Michigan and her master's at Wayne State University (MI). Since retiring in 2005, Sandra has continued teaching numerous subjects for multiple lifelong learning institutions. She has been performing her one-woman show featuring romantic and contemporary composers' stories as told by their muses for eight years. Her presentations are entertaining and inspiring. (p. 16)

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. 24)

Mary Noé, with her background as a lawyer, brings a keen, forensic perspective to the evidence and motives explored in her novel *The Man Who Shot J.P. Morgan: A Life of Arsenic, Anarchy, and Intrigue*. Noé is also a professor at St. John's University (NY). She has lectured on this topic at OLLI programs across the Northeast, the South, and Texas. (p. 25)

Kent Noel started his career as an 8th grade English teacher, before earning his doctorate in instructional systems design. That eventually led him into the field of international development, which allowed him to live in a number of developing countries while working with their governments to improve education systems and the learning and health of their children and teachers. He maintains his interest in global affairs, now more than ever. (p. 17)

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. (pp. 19, 22)

Linda Ritt earned her bachelor of arts degree in English from Vanderbilt University (TN). Her advanced studies at the University of Illinois earned her a master of science degree. For two years, she was the staff and student psychologist at an International Baccalaureate School in England. When she returned to the U.S., she was an adjunct professor at Roosevelt University (IL) where her focus was on group counseling techniques. Since relocating to Sarasota, Linda has enjoyed providing writing groups to residents in her community. **(p. 36)**

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). **(pp. 15, 16)**

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. 24)**

Jeffrey 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. 16, 18)**

William "Bill" Simpson is a lifelong student of American history and politics. Bill has worked in national security, family services, poverty and mass incarceration, and nonprofit management. For the past two decades, he has led two Maryland nonprofits in executive capacities. Bill is a featured guest speaker and panelist on inner-city issues, welfare reform, prisoner re-entry, and workforce development. He has taught at OLLI on the life and times of Ulysses S. Grant. **(p. 23)**

Donna Miller-Small has taught mah jongg and canasta in libraries, adult education programs, and privately for over 15 years, all with excellent reviews from participants and program directors. With a carefully designed and well-honed curriculum, Donna provides sequenced activities that build skills and boost self-confidence. A flair for engaging presentations and supportive teaching methods add to her teacher credentials. **(p. 14)**

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*. **(pp. 13, 22)**

Jeri Spann is the Director of Bowling Education for the Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club, an organization that has graced the city's sport scene since 1927. She took up the sport in 2013, shortly after retiring from a career as a professional writer and teacher of writing. Spann is fond of saying that lawn bowling is beautiful, social, strategic, fun, and easy on aging joints! **(p. 37)**

Rick Steinmann is a retired criminal justice professor with a long-term interest in wrongful convictions. He has taught several seminars on the topic, including to undergraduates at the University of South Florida. He earned a bachelor's in sociology, a master's in criminal justice, and has a juris doctorate degree. **(p. 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. 26, 27)**

Richard Vengroff is an emeritus professor at the University of Connecticut. Richard holds a doctorate and a master's from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University (NY), and a bachelor's from Stony Brook University (NY). Richard has more than a decade of experience working with all categories of immigrants. Richard is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice as an immigration counselor. **(p. 18)**

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. 27)**

Jean Volpe studied, performed, and/or taught with The Juilliard School of Music (NY); Zurich Ballet (Switzerland); New York Theater Ballet; Metropolitan Opera Ballet Company (NY); Ballet School of New York; 92nd Street Y (NY); and the Margaret Barbieri Conservatory of the Sarasota Ballet. **(p. 14)**

Michael 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. 22)**

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. 33)**

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