

Stay Curious. Stay Connected.



Spring: March 16-May 8, 2026
Ringling College Continuing Studies



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Ringling College

OLLI TALKS

For tickets,
scan the
QR code or call
941-893-2864.



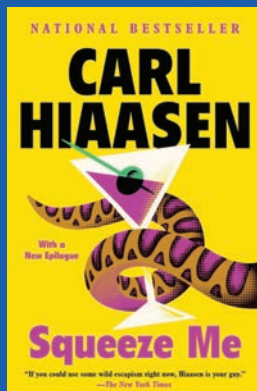
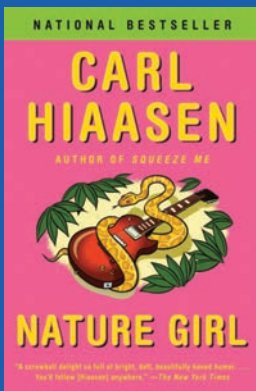
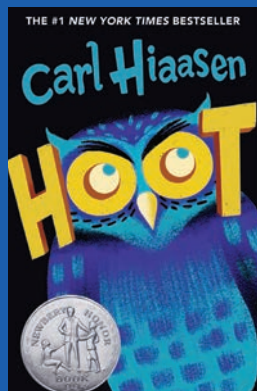
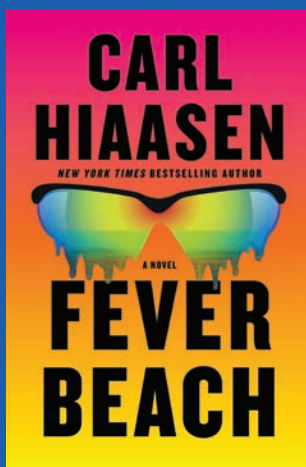
An Afternoon with Carl Hiaasen – Can You Make This Stuff Up?

Friday, March 27, 2026

DOORS OPEN: 3:30 pm EVENT TIME: 4-5 pm



Photography: Elena Seibert



OLLI at Ringling College is proud to announce that New York Times bestselling author Carl Hiaasen will be the keynote speaker for the launch of OLLI TALKS, an annual fundraiser. This series will feature well-known authors, educators, and experts from a variety of fields.

Join us for this exciting new tradition and celebrate the joy of great storytelling.

Carl Hiaasen was born and raised in Florida. He has published 11 national bestsellers, including *Strip Tease*, *Stormy Weather*, *Lucky You*, *Sick Puppy*, *Basket Case*, *Skinny Dip*, *Nature Girl*, *Star Island*, *Bad Monkey*, *Razor Girl*, and *Squeeze Me*.

TICKETS:

\$100 OLLI Members
\$125 General Admission

LOCATION:

Thomas McGuire Hall on the
Ringling College Museum
Campus at Sarasota Art Museum
1001 S. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34236

CONTACT:

OLLIatRinglingCollege.org
941-893-2864

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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
Chair, Newsletter Committee

Jack Sukin

Bev Harms
(Emeritus)

Sam Samelson
(Emeritus)

2026 Academic Calendar

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. **Cover models from left:** June Carson, Tenille Dixon Pawlus, Marilyn Pinsky, and Kent Noel

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 = \$ _____

CONNECTIONS: Documentary Film Series (No Refunds)

<i>Come See Me in the Good Light</i> • Tuesday, March 24 • 2:30-4:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Love + War</i> • Tuesday, Apr. 14 • 2:30-4:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15 (fees are per film)</i>	

Presentations (No Refunds)

A Brief History of the Civil Rights Movement in Sarasota: Judge Charles E. Williams Friday, Apr. 24 • 2-3:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15 (fees are per person)</i>	
A History of Silver with Andrew Ford • Thursday, May 7 • 2-3:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: \$12 • Silver Member and General Admission: \$15 (fees are per person)</i>	

Lecture (No Refunds)

Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light • Monday, Apr. 13 • 2-3:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: Free (pre-registration required) • Silver Member and General Admission: \$12 (fees are per person) (Online/Zoom)</i>	

Programs (No Refunds)

The Other Italy: A Journey Through Italy's Hidden Treasures • Tuesday, March 17 • 2-3:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>Gold Member: Free (pre-registration required) • Silver Member and General Admission: \$12 (fees are per person)</i>	
Asolo Repertory: Koski Production Center Tour • Wednesday, Apr. 29 • 2-2:30 pm	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
<i>OLLI Gold and Silver Members: Free (pre-registration required); Limited availability.</i>	
In Conversation: Peter Rothstein, Director of the Asolo Repertory Theatre	Quantity: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
Wednesday, Apr. 29 • 2:30-3:30 pm	
<i>Gold and Silver Members only: \$12 (fees are 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 Feb. 24 for Gold Members.

Registration opens 8 am on March 3 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 (8) WR131

10-11:20 am

____ Pollinator Paradise: Designing Gardens That Attract Butterflies and Bees (1) HL194

____ Florida-Friendly Gardening 101: Beautiful Landscapes Made Easy (1) HL195

____ OLLI Bestseller Book Club (3) LI171

10 am-1 pm

____ More Billy Wilder Films (5) AE223

12-1:20 pm

____ Alexander the Great (3) HS250

12-1:30 pm

____ The Medicare Decision That is Best for You (1) EC132

2-3:20 pm

____ Borscht Belt Comedy: A History (4) AE217

____ This Was Their Lives (5) HS243

____ Jazz Appreciation (6) MA181

Tuesdays

9-10:20 am

____ Biblical Moses: The Art of Creating a Folkloric Hero (8) LI172 (Online)

____ Opportunities for Volatile Markets (3) EC128

11 am-12:20 pm

____ The Art of Listening: Exploring Song Lyrics (5) AE210

____ World in Transition (4) CV108

____ Financial Wellness: Foundations, Life Transitions, and Fraud Prevention (3) EC133

____ Aging Ain't for Weaklings: The Science of Living Better for Longer (3) HL196

____ World's Great Literature (8) LI145

____ On the Road with Brenda Lee (6) MA210 (Online)

____ Your Destiny is in Your Closet (4) PY171

____ Write It Out® with Ronni (8) WR132 (Online)

Tuesdays (cont.)

2-3:20 pm

____ Turn Complaints into Requests: Get Your Needs Met (3) HL197

____ Tame Self-Sabotage: Meet Your Board of Directors (3) HL198

____ America Defiant: Why Did America Revolt When Others Didn't? (1) HS253

____ OLLI Spring Book Club (4) LI164

____ OLLI Mystery Book Club (4) LI135

____ Bach's Greatest Hits, Part 1 (8) MA211

____ Wandering and Wondering: Walking as a Spiritual Journey (3) PL135

Wednesdays

10-11:30 am

____ Mah Jongg for Intermediate Players-Get Supervised Play (5) AE218

12-1:20 pm

____ Current Controversies Before the Courts (6) CV168

____ The Oedipus Cycle: To See or Not to See (8) PY173

12-1:30 pm

____ Short Story Collective (6) LI168

1-2:30 pm

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

2-3:20 pm

____ Introduction to Improv (4) AE130

____ The Fifth Amendment (2) CV169

____ Henrik Ibsen and Peer Gynt: To Know or Not to Know "The Self" (8) PY174

____ Science Wednesdays (4) SI108

____ The Power of Perfume: A Journey Through History, Culture, and Creation (4) SE116

Thursdays

9-10:20 am

_____ Italian for Travelers (8) LA102

11 am-12 pm

_____ Beyond the Shore: Cruise Travel Tips (1) TV115

11 am-12:20 pm

_____ Learn “Mindful Meditation” and Reach Beyond Mindfulness (2) HL150

_____ Quanah Parker: The Last of the Great Chiefs (3) HS251

_____ Basic Italian, Part 1 (8) LA115

_____ *The New Yorker* Magazine: Conversations (7) LI125

_____ Writing Your Tale (6) WR135

11 am-1 pm

_____ Use Your Brain for a Change (3) PY172

2-3:20 pm

_____ TrivialiTEA® Trivia with a Twist (4) AE219

_____ The Essential Laurel & Hardy (3) AE220

_____ The Role of Islam in a Divided America (3) CV170

Fridays

9:30 am-12:30 pm

_____ How to Start a Daily Meditation Practice (1) HL146

_____ Labyrinths as a Meditative Tool (1) HL199

10-11:20 am

_____ How to Successfully Self-Publish Your Book (3) WR125

10 am-1 pm

_____ Spirituality and Your Identity (1) PL112

1-2:20 pm

_____ The Gilded Age-1865-1910 (2) HS252

1-2:30 pm

_____ Modern American Canasta Strategy (1) AE222

_____ Inequality and Democracy (1) CV171

2-3:20 pm

_____ Great Decisions — Global Affairs

Discussion Group (8) CV164

Arts and Entertainment

New: More Billy Wilder Films**Course #AE223****Jeff Ryder****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 10 am-1 pm (**Note:** *Extended Time*)
 5 Sessions: March 16-Apr. 13

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

Billy Wilder was one of the most prolific writer-directors in film history. In this course, we will begin with the first film he directed, *The Major and the Minor*, starring Ginger Rogers and Ray Milland, and follow up with such classics as *The Lost Weekend*, *Stalag 17*, *Foreign Correspondent*, and *The Fortune Cookie*. 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: Borscht Belt Comedy: A History**Course #AE217****Jeffrey Sherman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 2-3:20 pm
 4 Sessions: Apr. 6-Apr. 27

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

The Borscht Belt. The term conjures up images of hotels buried in the Catskills with buffet lunches, crowded swimming pools, and dinner theater stocked with the greatest stand-up comedians of the time: Henny Youngman, Mort Sahl, Rodney Dangerfield, Myron Cohen, Jackie Vernon, Totie Fields, and more. Many of our favorite comedy stars broke into the field on the stages of Grossinger's, Kutsher's and others, including Jerry Seinfeld, Robert Klein, David Brenner, and many more. This four-week class will take a deep dive into the history of Borscht Belt comedy. Come have a laugh or 10!

The Art of Listening: Exploring Song Lyrics**Course #AE210****Robert Litwak****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 5 Sessions: March 17-Apr. 14

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

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 an interactive course designed specifically for music lovers who enjoy meaningful discussions. In this highly participatory course, you'll have the unique opportunity to bring your favorite songs to the class via YouTube. Whether your musical tastes lean towards the poetry of singer-songwriters, the anthems of rock bands, or the vivid narratives of musical theater, this is your stage to share these meaningful songs. Enroll in this course and let your favorite songs inspire and connect you with a vibrant community of music lovers.

New: Mah Jongg For Intermediate Players — Get Supervised Play**Course #AE218****Michelle Chaplin Partlow****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 10-11:30 am (**Note:** *Extended Time*)
 5 Sessions: March 18-Apr. 15

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

Now that you know the basics, and have played for one year or more, join a class that teaches you the strategies of the game, including — how to choose a hand. Prerequisites are knowing how to build walls, deal, do the Charleston, understanding pick, rack, and discard. Science shows Mah Jongg is beneficial for those with memory issues and helps improve concentration. Here is your opportunity to get individualized supervision. **Note:** Students must purchase the 2026 National Mah Jongg League Card online at <https://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/store>. The 2025 cards will be provided.

Arts and Entertainment (cont.)

New: Introduction to Improv**Course #AE130****Jeffrey Sherman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 4 Sessions: Apr. 15-May 6
 Gold Member: \$63
 Silver Member: \$70

This four-week class will teach you the basics of improvisation. We will learn the building blocks of scene building, collaboration, imagination, and play. Improv is designed to allow you to create worlds in which you can let the moment carry you away (wherever), free your imagination, and support your creativity. You will laugh, you will "hmmm," and you will create. Come play!

New: TrivialiTEA® Trivia with a Twist**Course #AE219****Pam Formato****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm
 4 Sessions: March 19-Apr. 9
 Gold Member: \$63
 Silver Member: \$70

This interactive course offers a fresh take on the popular game. Rather than relying on random and obscure facts, TrivialiTEA® questions are category-based and the answers in those categories are found in our idioms and expressions, movies, books, sports, etc. For example, a Food question poses, "To praise or flatter someone to make them more receptive is?" To *Butter* them up. This focused approach makes the game thought-provoking and amusing while encouraging interaction and conversation among players. Classes will be divided into tables of four or five participants. In this four-week class the categories are:

- Week 1:** Food
- Week 2:** Money
- Week 3:** Clothing
- Week 4:** Surprise

Come and take the challenge! There will be iced tea and light bites.

New: The Essential Laurel & Hardy**Course #AE220****Jeffrey Sherman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm
 3 Sessions: Apr. 23-May 7
 Gold Member: \$54
 Silver Member: \$60

Laurel & Hardy are among the most beloved comedians of all time. This three-week class will examine their roots in vaudeville and silent films, and trace their success through the era of the "talkies" into their feature films. Their enduring comedic legacy cannot be overstated, and this class will show (or remind) you why.

New: Modern American Canasta Strategy**Course #AE222****Donna Miller-Small****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 1-2:30 pm (**Note: Extended Time**)
 1 Session: March 20
 Gold Member: \$12
 Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Are you ready to take your Canasta skills to the next level? Whether you're new to the game or looking to refine your tactics, this one-hour session is perfect for you. In addition to creative graphics and an interactive question and answer session, you will deepen your understanding and gain confidence to excel at the table. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from an expert and enhance your gameplay. Join Donna Miller-Small, co-author of *Modern American Canasta: The Complete Guide*, for an engaging presentation focused on essential strategies for Modern American Canasta.

Culture and Travel

**New: Beyond the Shore:
Cruise Travel Tips****Course #TV115****Barb Bullock****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursday: 11 am-12 pm

1 Session: Apr. 23

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

This interactive course will show you how to explore more for less! We'll uncover insider tricks for skipping pricey cruise excursions in favor of affordable (and often better) adventures—from finding trusted local guides to designing your own DIY-day ashore. Along the way, you'll pick up invaluable resources, and budget-savvy tips that make every trip smoother and more rewarding. With real-world examples and plenty of practical takeaways, you'll walk away ready to travel smarter, stretch your dollars, and create unforgettable memories.



Current Events and Global Issues

World in Transition**Course #CV108****Peter Mermin****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

4 Sessions: March 17-Apr. 7

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

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: Current Controversies Before
the Courts****Course #CV168****Hollis Weisman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm

6 Sessions: March 18-Apr. 22

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

This course examines some of the major constitutional issues currently confronting the courts. Each week will focus on a different topic, including **1.** the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms; **2.** abortion and the right to choose; **3.** immigration and birthright citizenship and the 14th Amendment; **4.** impeachment; and **5.** the First Amendment's protections of free speech and a free press. The final session will be shaped by class members, with the topic selected through group discussion and interest.

Current Events and Global Issues (cont.)

New: The Fifth Amendment**Course #CV169****Jeffrey Sherman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm
 2 Sessions: Apr. 1 and Apr. 8
 Gold Member: \$40.50
 Silver Member: \$45

The Fifth Amendment is part of the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. We hear frequent references to it in the news, but what does it really say, and what does it really mean, and how does it really work? This class will examine the Fifth Amendment, its origins and its social impact.

New: The Role of Islam in a Divided America**Course #CV170****Robert Gary****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 2-3:20 pm
 3 Sessions: March 26-Apr. 9
 Gold Member: \$54
 Silver Member: \$60

This course will present the truth about Islam from an Islamic perspective and explore the deep reasons behind the fear of Islam by many Westerners. The course will hopefully stimulate a productive and respectful dialogue about the role of the three Abrahamic religions in a time of political upheaval and conflict. Content for the course is based on the book *I Am the Other — Debating the Role of Islam in a Divided America* co-authored by Imam Azhar Subedar, a well-known Islamic scholar, and Robert Gary. **Note:** Students are not required to purchase the book to attend this class.

New: Great Decisions — Global Affairs Discussion Group**Course #CV164****Michael Gibson****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Fridays: 2-3:20 pm
 8 Sessions: March 20-May 8
 Gold Member: \$85.50
 Silver Member: \$95

The purpose of this course is to discuss and learn about 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:

- Eight topics will be discussed over the course of eight weeks.
- Prior to a particular day's meeting, participants would read a section of the FPA-produced Great Decisions Briefing Book on the topic of the day.
- At the outset of each class, participants would watch a 20–25-minute DVD lecture on the day's topic.
- During the remainder of the class, participants 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.

New: Inequality and Democracy**Course #CV171****Jeffrey Orenstein****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 1-2:30 pm
 1 Session: Apr. 10
 Gold Member: \$12
 Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

This lecture will examine economic, political, and health inequality in the United States and evaluate their impact on democracy.

Economics and Finance

New: The Medicare Decision That is Best for You**Course #EC132****Lucretia Ryan****Ringling College Museum Campus**Monday: 12-1:30 pm (**Note: Extended Time**)

1 Session: March 16

Gold and Silver Members
and General Admission: \$12

One of the biggest decisions that retirees will have to make is choosing a Medicare Plan that is in their best interest. The decisions you make at age 65 — or when helping a loved one — can affect your healthcare costs, doctor access, and coverage for the rest of your life.

In this session, you'll learn:

- Why making the right Medicare decision is critical.
- The key steps to ensure your decision benefits you, not the insurance companies.
- How to choose a plan that lets you see top doctors and hospitals without prior authorization.
- Real-world case studies that reveal how Medicare actually works — and how to avoid costly pitfalls.

Who should attend this session?

- Anyone approaching Medicare eligibility or who is already enrolled.
- Anyone helping a parent, spouse, or relative navigate Medicare.
- Anyone who wants to avoid costly Medicare mistakes that could last a lifetime.

Note: Lucretia Ryan does not sell any Medicare products. She shares personal experiences and can discuss what is going on with Original Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage.

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

Tuesdays: 9-10:20 am

3 Sessions: March 31-Apr. 14

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

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

New: Financial Wellness: Foundations, Life Transitions, and Fraud Prevention**Course #EC133****Yulia Kuzenko****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

3 Sessions: March 17; March 31 and Apr. 7

(Note: There is no class on March 24)

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

This three-part seminar series provides a practical refresher on essential financial topics. First, we will revisit key investing principles, market trends, and behavioral finance concepts to help you stay informed and confident in today's environment. The second session will focus on financial preparedness for women and caregivers—covering major life transitions, managing responsibilities, and strategies for long-term planning. The final session will teach you how to recognize and avoid common financial scams, with actionable tips to safeguard your identity and assets. Each session is designed to reinforce what you know, provide timely updates, and offer clarity for today while giving peace of mind about the legacy you want to create.

Economics and Finance (cont.)

Unlocking the Secrets of Social Security: What You Need to Know Before You Claim

Course #EC129

Lucretia Ryan

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesday: 12-1:30 pm (**Note: Extended Time**)

1 Session: March 18

Gold and Silver Members
and General Admission: \$12

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

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

Whether you're single, married, divorced, or widowed, this session will give you the confidence and clarity you need to make the best Social Security decision for you.



Gardening

New: Pollinator Paradise: Designing Gardens That Attract Butterflies and Bees

Course #HL194

Tenille Dixon Pawlus

Ringling College Museum Campus

Monday: 10-11:20 am

1 Session: March 16

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

Learn how to transform your yard into a vibrant haven for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. This class covers the best plants, simple design tips, and easy ways to create a colorful, low-maintenance garden that supports wildlife year-round.

New: Florida-Friendly Gardening 101: Beautiful Landscapes Made Easy

Course #HL195

Tenille Dixon Pawlus

Ringling College Museum Campus

Monday: 10-11:20 am

1 Session: March 23

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

Gardening in Florida can feel overwhelming, but with the right approach, you can create a landscape that's both stunning and sustainable. In this beginner-friendly class, you'll learn the core principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, including how to choose the right plants for sun and shade, reduce maintenance, save water, and attract pollinators. You will walk away with practical tips, plant recommendations, and simple design ideas to transform your yard into a thriving Florida-friendly garden.

Health and Lifestyles

New: Aging Ain't for Weaklings: The Science of Living Better for Longer

Course #HL196

Wendy LeBolt

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

3 Sessions: March 17-March 31

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Some in science say that we can slow or even reverse the process of human aging. Is this true? Hype? Some of both? In this course, we'll look at how the human body changes as it ages, evaluate popular claims about "anti-aging" practices, and then consider what's worth adopting so we can live a longer and healthier life.

New: Turn Complaints into Requests: Get Your Needs Met

Course #HL197

Gail Sussman-Miller

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

3 Sessions: March 24-Apr. 7

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Do you struggle to get your needs met? Many people hint, nag, or stay silent instead of asking directly for help — often building resentment. In this interactive workshop, you'll uncover hidden assumptions and limiting beliefs that hold you back. You'll learn how to shift from powerless blaming to powerfully expressing your needs, turning complaints into clear, clean requests with family, friends, and even service providers. Discover practical techniques to move from people-pleasing to prioritizing your needs more often. Gain skills and practice tools that increase your chance of being heard and getting what you want.

New: Tame Self-Sabotage: Meet Your Board of Directors

Course #HL198

Gail Sussman-Miller

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

3 Sessions: Apr. 14-Apr. 28

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Do you ever feel like your mind is in a tug-of-war between good intentions and self-doubt? You start a new habit or project, then overthink and stall. Imagine your thoughts as a board of directors — some voices ruled by fear, judging, and sabotaging your next move, while others, guided by love, inspire you to act. In this course, you'll explore how these voices shape your reality and learn practical ways to shift from fear to love, quiet mental debates, and bring your board of directors to order — so you can make clearer decisions and take action with greater confidence.

New: Learn "Mendful Meditation" and Reach Beyond Mindfulness

Course #HL150

Rabbi Sigal Brier

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

2 Sessions: Apr. 16 and Apr. 23

Gold Member: \$40.50

Silver Member: \$45

There are many kinds of meditation techniques. While Mindfulness is a foundation to living with awareness, "Mendful" meditation trains us to see and live in our interconnected world. Rabbi Sigal will teach new meditation methods to free the mind, heart, habitual self-loathing, resentment, and pain. She is the founder of Mendful—Live Connected. Join her in this class to find new ways to peace, and joy. All are welcome. No meditation experience is necessary.

Health and Lifestyles (cont.)

How to Start a Daily Meditation Practice**Course #HL146****Gary Halperin****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

1 Session: Apr. 3

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member: \$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.

Labyrinths as a Meditative Tool**Course #HL199****Gail Condrick****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

1 Session: Apr. 17

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member: \$55

The labyrinth is a walking meditative tool in use since 4000 BCE to center the mind and calm the spirit. As you enter into a labyrinth, you release your fears and blocks, find clarity when you reach your center, and receive new ideas and insights. These same meditative benefits can be applied to focus on any issue you are facing — whether you need to be more relaxed, creative, or to make a decision. Experience the transformative power of the labyrinth in this workshop and learn a new approach to merge mindfulness with daily life. Participants will receive a paper labyrinth for class guided exercises and as a keepsake.

History

New: Alexander the Great**Course #HS250****Beverly Jennings****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 12-1:20 pm

3 Sessions: March 16-March 30

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Some individuals change history. Alexander the Great was one such person. He is one of a handful of leaders for whom the term “Great” has stuck. In less than 40 years, the backwater kingdom of Macedonia came to dominate ancient Greece. Alexander attacked the greatest superpower of the age (ancient Persia) and conquered an empire by the time he was 30. In this class we will follow Alexander as he is tutored by Aristotle at his father’s court, watch as he and his father conquer mainland Greece, and then turn his sights to Egypt, the Middle-East, Asia Minor, and all the way to India.



*Alexander the Great Mosaic (detail),
House of the Faun, Pompeii, 120–100 BC*

New: This Was Their Lives

Course #HS243

Wendy LeBolt, Tenille Dixon Pawlus, Kenneth P. Bechis,
Robert Litwak, and John Scibak
Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 2-3:20 pm
5 Sessions: March 16-Apr. 13
Gold Member: \$76.50
Silver Member: \$85

March 16: Marie Curie with Wendy LeBolt

Scientists the world over owe a great debt of gratitude to Marie Curie, whose groundbreaking work earned her Nobel Prizes in both physics and chemistry. Together, we'll follow this turn-of-the-century scientist's remarkable journey which began in hardship and battled through gender prejudice to finally arrive at peerless achievement. Her legacy resounds, inspires and teaches us still.

March 23: Beatrix Farrand: Her Life and Work with Tenille Dixon Pawlus

Beatrix Farrand was one of America's first and most influential female landscape architects, known for blending horticultural artistry with naturalistic design. A founding member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Farrand designed over 200 gardens for estates, universities, and public spaces, including Princeton and Yale. Her work combined formal structure with native plants, creating timeless, elegant landscapes. In this session, we'll trace the life and legacy of a visionary woman who helped shape the American landscape with intellect, artistry, and enduring grace.

March 30: Richard Feynman — Giant of American Science with Kenneth P. Bechis

Professor Richard Feynman — the late brilliant CalTech theoretical physicist, Manhattan Project contributor and prankster, Nobel Prize Winner (for unifying electromagnetism and quantum mechanics), voted posthumously by his peers the 7th greatest physicist of all time — was at heart a thoroughly human fun-loving guy with eccentricities, foibles, humor, humility, and an unquenchable curiosity. He loved to play bongo drums, attend Carnival in Brazil, perform in CalTech plays, and as a member of the commission investigating the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disaster demonstrated on national TV its cause: the solid rocket motor O-rings lacked resilience to cold temperatures. Come learn about the human side of a giant of American science.

Apr. 6: The Songs and Stories of John Prine with Robert Litwak

Explore the remarkable life and legacy of John Prine, the beloved singer-songwriter whose witty, poignant compositions made him a folk music icon. From his working-class Chicago roots to Grammy-winning acclaim, we'll examine Prine's enduring influence through his unforgettable songs, celebrated collaborations, and the compassionate and empathetic storytelling that earned him comparison to Mark Twain.

Apr. 13 Victoria Woodhull: The Scandalous, Presidential Candidate Who Could Not Vote with John Scibak

The first woman to run for president and the first female stock broker on Wall Street, Victoria Woodhull was a woman ahead of her time, as seen by her accomplishments in finance, journalism, and politics. Though controversial and criticized by many in her time, she was a trailblazer who paved the way for future generations by working to secure equal rights for women.



Victoria Woodhull, Bradley & Rulofson, 1874

History (cont.)

New: America Defiant: Why Did America Revolt When Others Didn't?**Course #HS253****Brian J. Morra****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesday: 2-3:20 pm

1 Session: March 17

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

In this session, we will explore the factors that made America unique amongst Britain's colonies and discuss why America revolted against Britain while other colonies (Australia, New Zealand, Canada) didn't.

New: Quanah Parker: The Last of the Great Chiefs**Course #HS251****Jeff Newman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

3 Sessions: March 19-Apr. 2

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

In the last half of the 19th century, the Comanche people stood as the fiercest of Native American Tribes, and Quanah Parker served as their fiercest warrior chief. Today, Quanah is remembered as one of the truly great leaders in both the Native American world and the world of white society. No man rose to such heights in two completely different cultures. His fascinating story gives insight into those two 19th-century worlds, and helps us understand what defines a leader in making war and in making peace.

The Gilded Age – 1865-1910**Course #HS252****Michael Sherrow****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Fridays: 1-2:20 pm

2 Sessions: Apr. 24-May 1

Gold Member: \$40.50

Silver Member: \$45

The Gilded Age was an era of unimaginable opulence and wealth for a few, much private and public corruption, and crushing poverty for many struggling to survive. Mark Twain coined the term because he saw the serious social and economic problems of the era as being masked by a thin gilding of extraordinary affluence. It was a fascinating and exciting period of our history, filled with heroes, bosses, and colorful personalities. It was a time of workers vs. employees, old money vs. new, and nativists vs. immigrants as millions were flocking to seek America's promise of a better life. The course examines the amazing people and events that made this era a historical turning point for what our nation would aspire to become.



Fifth Avenue and the Vanderbilt Mansions seen from St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York 1890

Languages

New: Italian for Travelers**Course #LA102****Marcella Trotta-Monitto****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 9-10:20 am

8 Sessions: March 19-May 7

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

When traveling to Italy, you'll undoubtedly find yourself in need of communicating with the residents, whether booking a car rental, hotel room or restaurant reservation, etc. These are dialogues that are essential to making your travel experience pleasurable and memorable. Being able to communicate your needs in Italian, is what will keep you going back to the land of delightful people, extraordinary cuisine, and a rich history. This course is intended for students who plan on traveling to Italy and want to learn to communicate basic needs. Such as:

- Common travel phrases in order to navigate in a variety of travel settings
- Learn essential language to book or confirm a reservation
- Asking for and understanding directions

**New: Basic Italian, Part 1****Course #LA115****Marcella Trotta-Monitto****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

8 Sessions: March 19-May 7

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

This beginners' course is intended for anyone with little to no prior knowledge of the Italian language. The objective of this course is to provide students with basic grammar concepts in order to develop skills needed for reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the Italian language. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Use the Italian alphabet as the building block of a phonetic language system
- Apply the Italian phonemic sound system for pronunciation
- Introduce oneself and others
- Learn and apply common greetings and salutations
- Understand the two forms: formal vs. informal
- Get to know numbers, dates, days, months, as they are used in everyday speech

Literature

New: OLLI Bestseller Book Club**Course #LI171****Barb Bullock****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 10-11:20 am

3 Sessions: March 23, April 13, and May 4

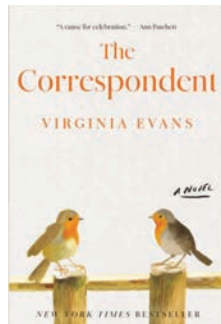
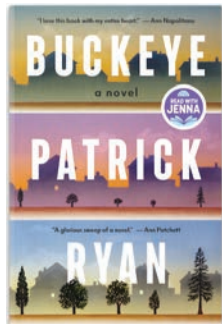
(Note: Class meets every three weeks)

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Love staying on top of the literary world? The OLLI Bestseller Book Club focuses on today's most talked-about, award-winning, and bestselling contemporary fiction — from the *New York Times* to Reese, Jenna, Oprah, and beyond. Sessions are held every three weeks to discuss a curated selection of standout novels chosen by the instructor. At the first session, participants will also vote on a bonus fourth book for the final discussion. Expect lively, thoughtful conversations around the books everyone is reading right now. Our reading list includes:

- **March 23:** *Culpability* by Bruce Holsinger
- **Apr. 13:** *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan
- **May 4:** *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans

**New: Biblical Moses: The Art of Creating a Folkloric Hero****Course #LI172****Craig Miller****Online / Zoom**

Tuesdays: 9-10:20 am

8 Sessions: March 17-May 5

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

Although no evidence exists for a biblical Moses, the Hebrew Scriptures developed a folkloric personality that permeates Jewish, early Christian, and contemporary thought. In this class, students will immerse in this variable persona to explore a cultural icon shaped — at times — in unexpected and innovative ways, by many hands over many centuries. Bring a Bible (a translation, not a summary version), your perspectives, and a respect for the views of others. **Pre-reading:** Highly recommended as a baseline are the biblical books of Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Note: Before the first class, students will be invited to watch the silent version of Cecil B. DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* (1923). The instructor will provide the information for the screening. Students will watch the film individually for a group discussion in the online class.



A scene from *The Ten Commandments*,
Cecil B. DeMille Foundation

World's Great Literature

Course #LI145

Michael Vlasisavljevich

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
8 Sessions: March 17-May 5
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 Spring Book Club

Course #LI164

Carol Ellis

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm
4 Sessions: March 17, March 31, Apr. 14, and Apr. 28
(Note: Class meets every other week)
Gold Member: \$63
Silver Member: \$70

The OLLI Spring 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 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 spring will be *The Elements* by John Boyne.

New: OLLI Mystery Book Club

Course #LI135

Joe Cucci

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm
4 Sessions: March 24, Apr. 7, Apr. 21, and May 5
(Note: Class meets every other week)
Gold Member: \$63
Silver Member: \$70

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

New: Short Story Collective

Course #LI168

Debbie Mackler and Thomas Miller

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 12-1:30 pm
(Note: Extended class time)
6 Sessions: March 18-Apr. 22
Gold Member: \$81
Silver Member: \$90

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

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

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

Literature (cont.)

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

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

7 Sessions: March 19-May 7

(Note: There is no class on Apr. 16)

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

For nearly a century, *The New Yorker* has been a treasured source of essays, fiction, cartoons, satire, poetry, criticism, and reportage, and its writers occupy a unique place in the pantheon of erudition and wit. In this class, we'll enjoy the magazine even more by sharing our knowledge and opinions on weekly selections from "Shouts & Murmurs," "The Talk of the Town," a work of fiction or non-fiction, a movie review, or cartoons.

Prior to each week's meeting, you'll receive an email naming items from the prior week's issue to be discussed; accordingly, either a print or digital subscription to the magazine is required. A stimulating conversation is certain!



Music Appreciation

Jazz Appreciation**Course #MA181****Charley Rich****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Mondays: 2-3:20 pm

6 Sessions: March 16-Apr. 20

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

This course looks at the history of Jazz music, its evolution, who practiced the art, and the audience that appreciated it from its inception (at the beginning of the 20th century) to the present day. Jazz started out as a fringe art that was considered beneath the tastes of "high society" and those who appreciated "culture" (as opposed to folk and primitive art). It wasn't considered to be "serious" music. However, over time this changed, and it has developed into what many believe to be America's primary contribution to world culture. Using Powerpoint and musical content, this course will delve into the evolution of Jazz and provide samples of the music and artists who led to its mainstream adoption.

New: On the Road with Brenda Lee**Course #MA210****Tony Moon****Online / Zoom**

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

6 Sessions: March 17-Apr. 21

Gold Member: \$81

Silver Member: \$90

Remember Brenda Lee? Her story is a most unusual tale of rags to riches. The instructor was Lee's guitarist and conductor and will provide insight into the fascinating cast of characters and situations that made it possible for her to become the first female teen superstar. We will cover her beginnings from the Georgia red clay to the glitter of the Las Vegas stage. From her first Number 1 hit "I'm Sorry" in 1960, at age 15, to "Rockin Around the Christmas Tree" a Number 1 Christmas hit in 2023 at age 79. Join us for an interesting and nostalgic trip on the road with Brenda Lee — with great songs, videos, and stories. This will be more than your usual bio.

Philosophy and Religion

New: Bach's Greatest Hits, Part 1**Course #MA211****Albert Cohen****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

8 Sessions: March 17-May 5

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

There is a reason J.S. Bach is considered by many musicians and composers to be the greatest composer. In this class, we will listen to a wide variety of his works: concertos, cantatas, pieces for solo piano, violin, and cello. We will discuss and try to understand what makes the music so special.



Portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach,
Elias Gottlob Haussmann, 1748

**New: Wandering and Wondering:
Walking as a Spiritual Journey****Course #PL135****Dent Davis****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Tuesdays: 2-3:20 pm

3 Sessions: March 17-March 31

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

For centuries walking has been viewed as an important spiritual and practical activity, common to virtually all religious and spiritual traditions. During this course we will reflect on the spiritual significance of walking — from pilgrimages to urban strolls and lakeside interludes — drawing inspiration from figures like Jean-Jacques Rousseau, William and Dorothy Wordsworth, Henry David Thoreau, Virginia Woolf, John Muir, and Thich Nhat Hanh. We'll learn about the history of walking, engage in personal reflection and conversation, walk a bit, and maybe even write about the experience. We'll learn about the importance of environment as sacred space, and see how movement connects us to ourselves, our special places, and our own unique experience of spirit.

Spirituality and Your Identity**Course #PL112****Alan Fisher****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Friday: 10 am-1 pm

1 Session: March 20

Gold Member: \$49

Silver Member and General Admission: \$55

This is a course to assist you in remembering who you really are. We will discuss spirituality and what it means to you. We are "human beings" not just "human doings." We will discuss the BEing aspect of each person. We will discuss how attitude and your vibration affects your environment and atmosphere. This is a participatory course, so we will have various written and verbal exercises, meditation, improvisation, imagination, and perhaps a video. Warning, this course could change your life.

Psychology

Your Destiny is in Your Closet

Course #PY171

Gail Condrick

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm

4 Sessions: March 24-Apr. 14

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

Do you dress as a leader, artist, environmentalist, athlete, or all of them combined? Do you love your style or are you ready for a change? This class will teach you how to create a wardrobe that is in alignment with who you are in your “now” body and life. You will also learn the psychology of dressing and the messages your choices send, how to decode your closet, and analyze what you hold on to and why it’s hard to let go. The goal is to create a personal unique boutique in your closet — a place where everything fits, flatters, and enhances your lifestyle while having fun with others on the journey.



New: The Oedipus Cycle: To See or Not to See

Course #PY173

David Eisner

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 12-1:20 pm

8 Sessions: March 18-May 6

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

Visualize this: when Sophocles wrote his Oedipus plays 2,500 years ago, all the electronic foundations upon which contemporary life depends did not exist. Yet Sophocles delves so deeply into the fundamental psychological and emotional structure of being human that his dramas feel contemporary, transcending any one culture or era. What do the heroes and heroines of Sophocles see, and what do their tragic flaws prevent them from seeing? How may exploring such questions shed light on what we each can see and not see in our individual and collective conscious/unconscious lives? This course is a self-knowledge enriching, dynamic integration of seminar and interactive dramatic reading.

Note: For full engagement in the experience of this class, it is essential that **each student bring to class** a personal copy of *The Oedipus Cycle*, translated by Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald. Other translations will be out of sync with the poetic and vibrant Fitzgerald and Fitts translation.

**New: Henrik Ibsen and Peer Gynt:
To Know or Not to Know “The Self”**
*Soul vs. Troll — A Journey Into
Psychospiritual Wholeness*

Course #PY174

David Eisner

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm

8 Sessions: March 18-May 6

Gold Member: \$85.50

Silver Member: \$95

Delving into sacred and profane dimensions of love and aggression, employing his spacious, dramatic imagination, Henrik Ibsen, in his play *Peer Gynt*, enchants (or catapults!) readers into a mythopoetic world teeming in both treacherous and redemptive adventures. In our interactive reading and seminar style discussions, we will look at contemporary and practical applications of Ibsen's use of symbolism, universal or collective psychological structures, and what we as individuals know, and do not know — throughout Ibsen's panoramic journey into the soul. We will read interactively from Rolf Fjelde's translation of *Peer Gynt*, published by University of Minnesota press.

Note: For full engagement in the experience of this class, it is essential that **each student bring to class** a personal copy of Rolf Fjelde's translation. Other translations will be out of sync with Fjelde's psychologically insightful rendering of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* saga.

Use Your Brain for a Change

Course #PY172

Diane Alexander

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 11 am-1 pm

(Note: Extended Time)

3 Sessions: Apr. 16-Apr. 30

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Science is telling us daily about the mind-blowing power of the brain. But Science is not telling us how to apply that knowledge so we can actually enhance the quality of our lives. By combining the latest information in the fields of neuro-plasticity, epigenetics, and psycho-neuro-immunology into easy-to-understand information, you will be armed with the knowledge and practical action steps you need to make your desired changes.



Science

New: Science Wednesdays**Course #SI108****John McFetridge, Ryan Gandy, Kenneth P. Bechis,
and Frank Sulzman****Ringling College Museum Campus**

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm

4 Sessions: March 18-Apr. 8

Gold Member: \$63

Silver Member: \$70

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

March 18: AI in Medical Research with John McFetridge

Researchers are developing new drugs to treat diseases thanks, in part, to AI, which allows them to fast-track drug development. We will zoom in on Alpha-Fold from Google DeepMind. It is revolutionizing this process by greatly extending our knowledge of proteins, the building blocks of life.

March 25: Environmental Conditions and Challenges of Sarasota Bay and its Urbanized Watershed with Ryan Gandy

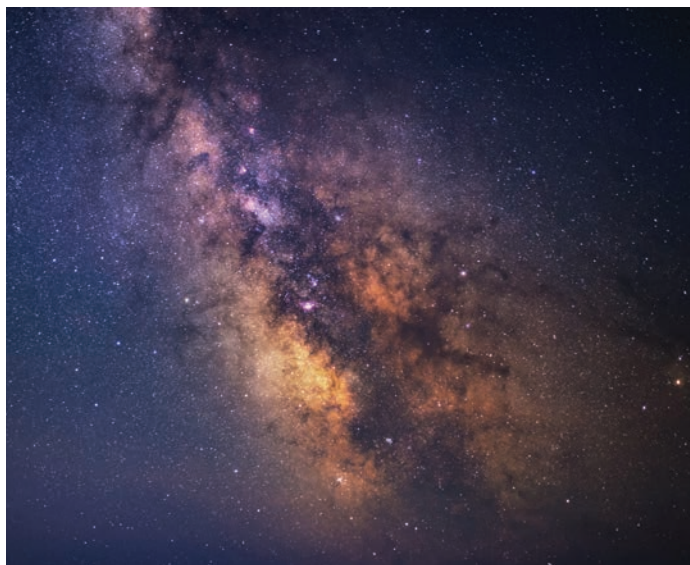
Sarasota Bay faces significant ecological challenges due to its highly urbanized watershed and over 100 miles of hardened, mostly privately owned shoreline. The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) monitors ecosystem health via an Ecosystem Health Report Card, providing early warnings of water quality decline. These urban conditions complicate large-scale restoration, highlighting the need for innovative, collaborative approaches to sustain ecosystem services in a developed coastal environment.

Apr. 1: Exciting Destinations in the Milky Way Galaxy for Adventure Travelers with Kenneth P. Bechis

Are you ready for an out-of-this-world adventure? Come along as we'll leave the Earth far behind, along with the burdensome constraints of space travel times, radiation, and extreme environments, to visit actual places in our Galaxy. We'll climb Mars' supervolcano Olympus Mons, watch the mega-geysers on Europa and Enceladus, ski the nitrogen glaciers on Pluto, follow the dizzying orbital dance of Trappist-1's seven planets, attend star births in the Orion Nebula, marvel as our Milky Way's giant central black hole swallows stars and nebulae, and much more. Get your boarding passes now!

Apr. 8: How SpaceX Has Changed Commercial Space with Frank Sulzman

In 2002, Elon Musk created SpaceX with buy-out money he got from PayPal, which he co-founded. Since that time, SpaceX has changed spaceflight, both for the government and commercial space. Falcon rockets, Dragon Spacecraft, and Starlink are all operational and profitable. At the same time, Starship is being developed to implement Musk's vision for Mars. This talk will not cover Elon Musk's biography, his politics, or his other companies, such as Tesla.



Writing

Writers' Workshop

Course #WR131

Ellen Brosnahan

Ringling College Museum Campus

Mondays: 9 am-12 pm (*Note: Extended Time*)
 8 Sessions: March 16-May 4

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

The Writers' Workshop provides an interactive setting for writers to share their work and receive feedback from one another. In this workshop, members read 5-10 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.

Write It Out® with Ronni

Course #WR132

Ronni Miller

Online / Zoom

Tuesdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 8 Sessions: March 17-May 5

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

Experience the Write It Out® 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.

New: Writing Your Tale

Course #WR135

Chris Angermann

Ringling College Museum Campus

Thursdays: 11 am-12:20 pm
 6 Sessions: March 19-Apr. 23

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

Whether you're a seasoned storyteller, a first-timer, or a novice, a writer of fiction, biography, how-to books, plays, memoirs, or someone with a story in mind, this course is for you. Depending on your interest and expertise, we will focus on a variety of topics: from getting started to literary forms and genres; from writing techniques to tackling different drafts; from writing as rewriting, à la Stephen King or "steering the craft," à la Ursula K. Le Guin; and how to deal with writer's block – when your imaginary friends refuse to talk to you. We will do hands-on writing each week and discuss any aspect of your work you wish to share.



Writing (cont.)

How to Successfully Self-Publish Your Book

Course #WR125

Debra Englander

Ringling College Museum Campus

Fridays: 10-11:20 am

3 Sessions: March 20-Apr. 3

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

The publishing landscape has changed dramatically over the past decade or so. Self-publishing is no longer frowned upon. Anyone can self-publish books and get distribution online and in stores. The challenge is understanding that your book must look professional, as if it came from a traditional publisher. That means assembling a team to help with editing, cover design, interior design, uploading files to Amazon and/or Ingram and of course promotion and publicity, including choosing the right categories for Amazon and using social media to spread the word about your book.



The Power of Perfume: A Journey Through History, Culture, and Creation

Course #SE116

Sue Phillips

Ringling College Museum Campus

Wednesdays: 2-3:20 pm

4 Sessions: March 18-Apr. 8*

Gold Member: \$54

Silver Member: \$60

Fragrance has played a powerful role in human history — shaping ritual, culture, fashion, memory, and personal identity for thousands of years. In this four-week immersive course, internationally recognized fragrance expert, author, and educator Sue Phillips explores the fascinating world of perfume from ancient civilizations to today's modern creations.

Drawing on over 40 years in the global fragrance industry, including crafting iconic fragrances for Tiffany & Co., Burberry, Avon, and A-list celebrities, Sue brings history to life through engaging lectures, storytelling, and guided olfactory experiences. Participants will discover how perfume has mirrored major social, economic, and political movements, and how changing consumer values—from post-war optimism to today's emphasis on individuality and wellness—have influenced fragrance trends.

The course also explores the science of scent and why smell is our most powerful sense, deeply connected to memory and emotion. Students will learn the language of perfumery, fragrance families, and what personal scent preferences can reveal about identity and emotional intelligence.

March 18: Origins of Scent — Perfume Through the Centuries

A journey from ancient Egyptian rituals and early aromatic materials through the rise of French perfumery, the leather industry, and iconic fragrances of the 20th century to today's modern designer and celebrity scents.

March 25: Scent and Society — How Culture, Economics and Politics Shape Fragrance Trends

Explore how world events and cultural shifts influence fragrance preferences, including personalization, confidence, emotional well-being, and the impact of Millennials and Gen Z on today's fragrance landscape.



Apr. 1: The Language of Perfume — Fragrance Families, Memory and Emotion

Learn how scent triggers memory and emotion, why certain ingredients evoke romance and sensuality, the difference between perfume and cologne, and the profound impact of losing one's sense of smell.

***Apr. 8 The Power of Perfume Workshop — Create Your Own Signature Scent**

An interactive workshop where participants take Sue's Scent Personality Quiz, explore fragrance construction, experience rare essences, and create a personalized fragrance to take home. Ideal for men and women. Sue is offering a special price for OLLI participants.

**This is an optional session. Materials needed for the Perfume Workshop are \$75 (regularly \$145) and should be paid directly to the instructor.*



Come See Me in the Good Light (2025)

#FS144

1 hour 40 minutes

Tuesday, March 24

2:30-4:30 pm

Ringling College
Museum Campus

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and

General Admission: \$15

This film is a beautiful and exceptionally moving love story. As a globally celebrated poet and activist, Andrea Gibson was known for unyielding frankness and vulnerability. In 2021, while living with partner and fellow poet Megan Falley, Gibson's life was sent into a tailspin by a devastating diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Yet the couple find their love deepening in the face of uncertainty, as well as a newfound appreciation for the preciousness of life. With unflinching candor and humor, this film is a deeply moving portrait of love and loss.



Love + War (2025)

#FS145

1 hour 36 minutes

Tuesday, Apr. 14

2:30-4:30 pm

Ringling College
Museum Campus

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and

General Admission: \$15

Pulitzer Prize-winning Lynsey Addario, has risked her life to capture the stark realities of war — from the Middle East and Afghanistan to Ukraine. *Love + War* chronicles her ascent into the male-dominated world of conflict photography. Behind the camera, Addario is torn between her unwavering commitment to the essential work of journalism and the powerful, competing demands of motherhood, grappling with what it truly means to follow your calling when it threatens everything you love.

Films are screened at the Ringling College Museum Campus. Julie Cotton, the series creator and moderator, facilitates conversations and discussion after the screenings.



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

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The Other Italy: A Journey Through Italy's Hidden Treasures

Course #SE115

Robert M. Gaglio

Ringling College Museum Campus

Tuesday: March 17

1 Session: 2-3:30 pm

Gold Member: Free (pre-registration required)

Silver Member and General Admission: \$12

Since meeting his family in Sicily in 2012, Robert has set out to explore not just the Italy everyone knows, but the Italy few travelers ever see—a journey he later chronicled in his memoir, *Freedom to Wander*. Join Robert as he takes you off the beaten path, from the soaring peaks of the Dolomites and the Marmolada Glacier in Trentino-Alto Adige, to the rich culinary traditions of Le Marche, to wandering among ancient wonders in Sicily. Along the way, you'll uncover breathtaking landscapes, unforgettable flavors, and the deep cultural roots that make Italy endlessly fascinating. To make this class even more memorable, Chef Robert will demonstrate how to prepare biscotti, a favorite Italian treat.



Robert M. Gaglio is an Italian chef, tour specialist, and educator. He founded Italian Culinary Tours in 2014. He is passionate about providing unique, authentic Italian tours that offer guests a deep cultural experience and a sense of what it's like to live like an Italian in all its richness. He splits his time between Italy and Florida.

Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light

Lecture #LC126

Irv Lubliner

Online / Zoom

Monday, April 13

1 Session: 2-3:30 pm

Gold Member: Free (pre-registration required)

Silver Member and General Admission: \$12

Before she died in 1974, Felicia Bornstein Lubliner wrote about her internment in ghettos and concentration camps (Auschwitz and Gross-Rosen) in Nazi-occupied Poland. Her son, Irv, who published and contributed the foreword and afterword to her book, will share excerpts from *Only Hope: A Survivor's Stories of the Holocaust*, shedding light on his mother's fortitude and indomitable spirit. You will learn about the Holocaust through the eyes of a survivor, as well as how the instructor, the child of two survivors, was impacted by his parents' experiences.



Irv Lubliner teaches math, music, and literature classes for the OLLI program at Southern Oregon University, where he has also served on the Council of Directors. An emeritus professor specializing in mathematics education, he taught for 40 years and led seminars for math teachers in 39 states. In 2019, he created Felabra Press and published his mother's writing about her experiences during the Holocaust, the book that will serve as the theme for this presentation.

In Conversation: Peter Rothstein, Director of the Asolo Repertory Theatre

Presentation #SE121

Peter Rothstein

Koski Center, 1009 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, 34243

Wednesday, Apr. 29

2:30-3:30 pm

Gold and Silver Members only: \$12 per person

Registration for the Rothstein session opens
Tuesday, Feb. 24 for Gold and Silver Members only.

Peter Rothstein has been the Producing Artistic Director of the Asolo Repertory Theater since 2023. In this moderated conversation, he will explain the role of an artistic director and the creative and strategic decisions behind the workings of the Asolo. Drawing on his experience directing numerous musical productions, Peter will share personal insights and behind-the-scenes stories. Don't miss this conversation.



Peter Rothstein is the Producing Artistic Director for Asolo Repertory Theatre, where he directed *Twelve Angry Men: A New Musical*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Ragtime*. For 25 years, he served as the Founding Artistic Director of Theater Latté Da, a

Minneapolis-based company dedicated to new and adventurous music-theater. Other directing credits include the Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre Company, Ten Thousand Things, and Seattle's 5th Avenue, as well as the Minnesota Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and Chicago Opera Theater. He is the creator of *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*, which premiered in a live broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio and has since been broadcast around the globe.

He holds degrees in Music and Theater from St. John's University (N.Y.) and a Master in Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Asolo Rep: Koski Production Center Tour

Program #SE120

Koski Center, 1009 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, 34243

Wednesday, Apr. 29

2-2:30 pm

Free to OLLI Gold and Silver Members only.
Limited space (pre-registration required).

Registration for the tour opens Tuesday, Feb. 24 for
Gold and Silver Members. *One registration per member.*

Behind every production is an exceptional team stringing the details together. The Robert & Beverly Koski Center is the home to many of Asolo Repertory Theatre's spaces for rehearsals, costuming, carpentry, set building, and community engagement. Join us for a look at the scenes behind the show.

Note: Members may register for one or both events.

Registration will open for Gold and Silver members on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

There is **no fee** for the Koski Production Center Tour. Space is limited.

There is **a fee for the** Conversation with Peter Rothstein. Members must pre-register for one or both events.



Note: There will be no on-site registration or walk up admittance for either event.

A Brief History of the Civil Rights Movement in Sarasota

Presentation #SE118

Judge Charles E. Williams

Ringling College Museum Campus

Friday, Apr. 24

2-3:30 pm

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Although not as well-known historically as other cities and towns during the modern Civil Rights Movement, Sarasota had its own version of what occurred in Selma, Birmingham, and other iconic civil rights battlegrounds. Taken in the context of the three landmark civil rights cases that defined citizenship for African-Americans in this country, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Dred Scott*, and *Brown v. Board of Education*, this session will examine the impact these cases had on the African-American people who lived in Sarasota County during these turbulent times and its continuing impact today.



Judge Charles E. Williams

is Circuit Court Judge in the 12th Judicial Circuit of Florida. He is an alumnus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., and earned his law degree from the University of Florida. He was awarded the Community Service Award from the Manatee County Bar

Association, as well as the Manatee and Sarasota County NAACP Public Service Awards. He is also the recipient of the Sarasota County Branch NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award. He received the C.L. McKaig Award, presented by the Sarasota County Bar Association in recognition and appreciation of his tireless dedication to promoting the ideals of equality, justice, and professionalism.

When he is not involved in his judicial duties, Judge Williams writes, directs, and produces documentary films. His film *Through the Tunnel* won Best Historical Documentary at the DocMiami International Film Festival.

Honorable Judge Charles E. Williams, Photography by Barbara Banks

A History of Silver

Presentation #SE119

Andrew Ford

Ringling College Museum Campus

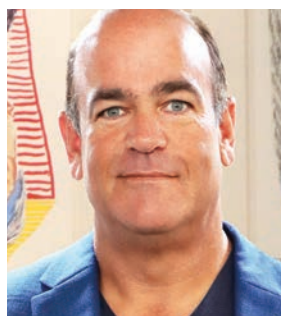
Thursday, May 7

2-3:30 pm

Gold Member: \$12

Silver Member and General Admission: \$15

Explore the principal styles and stylistic influences of American, European, and Asian silver. Andrew will provide a historic overview of when the world's thirst for silver bullion grew to epidemic proportions from the late 16th century to the latest fashion amongst today's master silversmiths. Learn about silver hallmarks and how to distinguish between early masterpieces and later reproductions. This session will feature an exceptional collection of over 100 objects ranging over six centuries of sterling silver accoutrements from Andrew's personal silver collection. This session will culminate in addressing the conservation and soaring precious metals markets, as well as how to navigate buying and selling in today's ever-changing valuations.



Andrew Ford has always had a passion for collecting and selling. His father was a respected, well-known appraiser and collector in the New England area, and Andrew has followed in his father's footsteps here in the Sarasota area. He is the owner and operator of Ford

Art and Antiques, Sarasota Estate Auction, and Sarasota Trading Company. The desire to continually learn more about each piece of furniture, art, or antique that he encounters is important to Andrew. He loves to share this acquired knowledge with his customers so that they too can enjoy learning more about their future purchase.

NoName Repertory presents *Auto Da Fe*: Tennessee Williams' one-act play

November 7, 2025 / Directors: Leah Gindes and Alex Gindes;
Actors: Deloria Berks as Mme. Duvenet and William Ashburn as Eloi;
Guest dance performance by Maria Carstens





An Evening of Broadway Cabaret featuring Valerie diLorenzo and pianist, Nathaniel Beliveau

January 9, 2026





Listening to Women 2026 Reception

January 15, 2026



The secret to our success — our members, instructors, and volunteers! We're all connected.



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.



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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.

Diane Alexander holds graduate degrees in psychology, business, and cognitive neuroscience. She turned her knowledge and passion into a highly successful international organization (The MindWorks, Inc.). The *London Times* declared, "The MindWorks' programs are the best of their kind in the world." Her second career has been as a graduate school professor in the field of business neuroscience. She was named "Professor of the Year," by the student body. (p. 29)

Chris Angermann is a graduate of Yale University (CT) and the Yale School of Drama. He has been a university teacher (University North Carolina), professional theater director and acting teacher, and, most recently, a writer, journalist, and book producer for self-published authors — with over 100 titles to his credit. A former president of the Florida Authors and Publishers Association, he lectures on "The Future of Books," "How to Write a Memoir," and "Narrative Techniques." (p. 31)

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. (pp. 21, 30)

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. 19)

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. 31)

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. 15, 24)

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. 27)

Gail Condrick is an author, teacher, 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," "Art of Observation," and "Release Your Inner Archetype" series. (p. 20)

Joe Cucci is a former Army officer and retired Procter & Gamble sales manager. He enjoys mystery books, so he created the OLLI Mystery Book Club. (p. 25)

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

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. (pp. 28, 29)

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. (p. 25)

Debra W. Englander is a seasoned publishing professional with many years of experience in the publishing industry. She has worked as a magazine reporter, freelance writer, and in-house editor at several New York publishers. She currently works as an author coach and is a consulting editor for a Nashville-based publisher. Debra has written the "Savvy Self-Publisher" column for *Poets & Writers Magazine* and has conducted seminars at various writing conferences. (p. 32)

Alan Fisher has worked as a disc-jockey, salesman, lawyer, and Small Claims Court Judge, but that's not who he is. He has been on his spiritual path since 1979 with numerous classes and retreats on the "Art of Living." He is familiar with most new-age and spiritual teachers, but mostly resonates with Eckhart Tolle. Alan is first and foremost a human BEing. (p. 27)

Pam Formato is a former advertising and promotional marketing professional from New York who has also designed games for national advertisers and the public. She is currently turning one of her games into an App. (p. 14)

Alan Freedman has a journalism degree from Boston University. Prior to retiring, he was public affairs director at a New York-based electric utility, responsible for government relations and corporate communications. Previously, he had been a financial writer and editor, and an advertising account executive at a major book publisher. Since moving to Sarasota, Alan has been an OLLI instructor for over a decade, focusing on technology and media topics. (p. 26)

Ryan Gandy is the Executive Director of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. With over 15 years at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and a background in marine biology and fisheries science, he brings deep expertise in restoration, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement. A Sarasota County resident for 21 years, Ryan is committed to advancing science-based strategies to protect and restore Sarasota Bay's coastal ecosystems. (p. 30)

Robert Gary was appointed by the U.S. District Court to represent all incarcerated Muslims in the Northern District of Ohio. He had press credentials and was reporting from the World Trade Center immediately after the attack. He has traveled to Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and beyond, meeting with Muslim clerics. (p. 16)

Michael Gibson worked as a China analyst for the U.S. government (CIA and Department of Defense) for over 30 years. He was an adjunct professor of Chinese history at American and George Washington Universities (D.C.) Michael has a doctorate in Modern East Asian history and has lived and served in multiple East Asian locales. He is the principal author of "China: U.S. Policy Since 1945" (Congressional Quarterly, 1980), as well as numerous other articles. (p. 16)

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. 20)

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

Yulia Kuzenko is a Senior Portfolio Advisor, CRPC®, AAMS® with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Sarasota. She partners with business owners, executives, and women professionals on longterm financial strategies, with expertise in concentrated stock positions. Yulia volunteers reading to kindergarteners through Rockin' Readers and with Impact100 SRQ, a women-led nonprofit granting funds to area charities. She also enjoys gardening, art, and life on her acreage with her husband and pets. (p. 17)

Bobby Latessa, CIMA®, is a financial advisor with The Milestone Financial Group at Morgan Stanley. A Harvard graduate, he focuses on thoughtful, solution-based wealth management and personalized client service. Originally from Bradenton, Bobby was a two-time state wrestling champion at Manatee High School. He brings discipline, humility, and dedication to his work and has been helping clients pursue their financial goals as a trusted advisor since 2012. (p. 17)

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). (pp. 19, 21)

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. (pp. 13, 21)

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. 25)

John McFetridge is a retired software developer and entrepreneur who has been in technology for 45 years. He was founder and first president of Simware, a Canadian software company. He later helped develop and market CorelDraw, one of the most successful Canadian software products ever. John is still coding even during his retirement. (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. 15)

Craig Miller holds a doctorate in Theology, specializing in biblical/classical languages and a bachelor's degree with a concentration in Ancient Near Eastern/Eastern Mediterranean Studies. He has taught for over 40 years at nearly all levels of academia, including over 30 years for Adult and Community Education and OLLI programs. Teaching is his passion; his mantra is that any subject can be made accessible and enjoyable through student-centered teaching. He is a 30-year CIA careerist. (p. 24)

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)

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. 19)

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. 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. 31)

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. 25)

Marcella Trotta-Monitto has a bachelor's degree in Applied Linguistics (TESOL) and Italian Literature from Queens College, (CUNY). She has a master's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from New York University. She studied the Italian language, literature, and history in Bologna, at L'universita di Bologna, Italy. Marcella is trained and certified in teaching adults and children, and has extensive experience with both. She currently teaches Italian, part-time at another institution. (p. 23)

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. 26)

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. (p. 22)

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. 22)

Jeffrey Orenstein has a doctorate in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a retired political science professor. He is the author of several public policy books. (p. 16)

Michelle Chaplin Partlow has taught Mah Jongg for 10 years in Continuing Education programs and privately. She receives outstanding reviews and has been lauded for being 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. 13)

Tenille Dixon Pawlus is a plant collector, butterfly chaser, lover of flora and fauna, and has a passion for helping others create their own green oasis. She's also a garden consultant, a certified landscape designer from Emory University (GA), a container gardener, teacher, and plant seller in Sarasota with a registered Florida nursery license, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Certified Professional, GI-BMP Certified, and FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional. (p. 18)

Charley Rich retired from Gartner as Research Director in the IT Operations Management group guiding users and providers of APM and AIOps solutions. He has almost 40 years of IT experience as a Product Management Executive. He received the General Manager's Award at IBM and the President's Award at Tivoli. In 2025, Charley became a board member of the Jazz Club of Sarasota. Charley is a lifelong musician, whose music can be heard at: youtube.com/user/charleyrich. (p. 26)

Lucretia Ryan is the founder of FinancialFreedomforWomen.org. She is a financial writer, educator, and philanthropist. After graduating from Cornell University and spending her career at IBM, Lucretia is now helping women gain financial independence. She writes articles that simplify complex saving and investment decisions to help individuals make financial decisions that are in their best interest. (pp. 17, 18)

Jeff Ryder is a two-time Emmy Award-winning writer for his work on "Guiding Light." Jeff was also vice president of daytime programming, director of mini-series, and director of casting at NBC. He recently retired after 20 years as a professor and associate dean at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia (PA). (p. 13)

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. 21)

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. 13, 14, 16)

Michael Sherrow was born and raised in New York City and lived there his entire life before coming to Sarasota. Michael is a student of the history of the city. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Baruch School at the City University of New York and a juris doctorate from St. John's University (NY). Michael is a retired member of the New York Bar. (p. 22)

Frank Sulzman is a former NASA scientist who was involved in Mars missions for many years. After serving as an investigator on several space flight experiments, he joined NASA Headquarters in Washington as a member of the senior executive service to manage the biomedical research program, and later served as the radiation program executive at the Johnson Space Center in Houston (TX). (p. 30)

Hollis Weisman has 45 years of experience as a federal and state prosecutor and handled thousands of trials, hearings, and briefs. For 12 years, she was an adjunct professor at George Washington University in the Forensics Sciences master's program, teaching criminal procedure, evidence and moot court/trial practice. She also regularly conducted continuing education and refresher courses on criminal procedure for law enforcement officers. Hollis holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a juris doctorate from New York University. (p. 15)

Michael Vlasisavljevich 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. 25)

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