



INSTITUTE FOR
LEARNING IN
RETIREMENT

of Greater New Haven

COURSE CATALOG

Lifelong Learning | **FALL 2025**

Registration begins
September 2, 9am
Classes start Sept. 15

Ready to register?

Ready to sign up for classes? Here are some tips to help:

- Registration and instructions are online at www.ilrn.org.
- You must be a member of ILR. If you're not sure of your membership status, check our website, www.ilrn.org
- Registration starts September 2 at 9am and classes fill very quickly
- If you're having a problem, see the website or call ILR at **(203) 747-9675**



Waitlist Info:

Why am I on a Waitlist?

There are so many wonderful instructors and topics each semester, that students don't always get into the class they've requested. When that happens, students might be placed on a waitlist.

ILR uses waitlists when:

- The registrants exceed the number of students the SGL has agreed to teach so he or she can achieve his or her teaching objectives;
- The venue has limits on the capacity of its rooms due to the fire-code regulations.

Students enter the waitlist in the order of date and time of registration. Students receive notification that they are on the waitlist. If an enrolled student withdraws or the class is moved to a larger room, you'll be notified that you're admitted to the class. The Curriculum Committee may reach out to the SGL to talk about their willingness to admit a few more students from the waitlist. If the SGL is amenable to adding a few students, those on the waitlist will be admitted in the order of their place in the queue.

Please note: It is not acceptable to arrive at class assuming that there may be sufficient space due to potential absences. And please don't put an SGL or the class liaison on the spot by relying on his or her sympathy or past relationships. It is equally unfair to waitlisted students who follow the rules.

ILR does NOT offer the option of auditing classes. ILR's administrative team appreciates your adherence to these rules to ensure smooth and conflict-free learning experiences.

Cancellation Policy

ILR cancellation policy

If a member is unable to attend one or more classes that they have registered for and would like to request a refund, they must contact the Registrar in writing (email is okay) and state which class(es) they wish to cancel.

Cancellation requests must be made at least 2 days before the first class to be eligible for a refund. No refunds will be made for cancellation requests after this time, unless there is a wait-list for this class. If there is a wait list, ILR will contact those on the wait list and a refund will be made if someone is able to attend in your place.

2025 Fall Classes at a Glance

Instructor	Course Title	Genre of Course	Class type	Page
Monday				
Joyce Saltman	F25-01 Is There a Difference Between Men & Women?	Culture	In-Person	3
Nancy Abbey	F25-02 Contemporary Fiction Book Discussion	Literature	In-Person	3
Jerry Dunklee	F25-03 The First Amendment and You	Current Events	In-Person	3
John Altson	F25-04 The History of Manners	Creative Writing	In-Person	3
Rachel Ranis	F25-05 The Politics of Protest: From Tea Party to Tea Party	Current Events	In-Person	3
Becca Allen	F25-06 Getting Your House in Order	Health & Welfare	In-Person	3
Doug Fenichel	F25-07 Preparing Your Own Obituary	Personal Enrichm	In-Person	3
Irene Sommers	F25-08 The Masterpieces of Sandro Botticelli	Art History	In-Person	4
Harold Miller	F25-09 More Bridge for advanced beginners	Games	In-Person	4
Tuesday				
Leo Cristofar	F25-10 Short Hikes in the Greater New Haven Area	Health & Welfare	In-Person	4
Thornton Lockwood	F25-11 Tyranny in Ancient Greece	History	In-Person	4
James Romano	F25-12 Poetry in Our Lives	Literature	In-Person	4
Marie Musco	F25-13 Canasta for Beginners	Games	In-Person	4
Kim Harrison	F25-14 Where We Started and Where We Are Now - Democracy in America	Current Events	In-Person	5
Gabriella Brand	F25-15 Aren't You Curious about Japanese and Chinese Characters?	Languages	In-Person	5
John Thomas	F25-16 Zone of Lawlessness? Trump Administration and the Rule of Law	Current Events	In-Person	5
Kate Walton	F25-17 Peabody Museum of Natural History - Special tours focused on natural and cultural events that shape the course of life on planet earth.	Nature & Science	In-Person	5
Mithat Mardin	F25-18 Our World in Turmoil: Attempt to Make Sense of Current Events	Current Events	In-Person	5
Chris Barlow	F25-19 A Profile of the 29th CT Volunteer Colored Infantry	History	In-Person	5
Byron Nakamura	F25-20 Mystery Religions in the Roman Empire	History	In-Person	5
Wednesday				
James Rhodes	F25-21 Flaubert and Ibsen	Literature	In-Person	6
Susan Birnbaum Marcia Jamron	F25-22 JP Morgan Library Tour	Tour	In-Person	6
Ron Heiferman	F25-23 Foreign Devils, Foreign Friends, Foreign Devils: A Short History of Sino-American Relations	History	In-Person	6
Hedda Kopf	F25-24 Being the "Other" in America-Recent Literary Fiction	Literature	In-Person	6
Rita Brieger	F25-25 Thinking Bridge	Games	In-Person	6
Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe	F25-26 Cleopatra: Power, Passion, and the Last Pharaoh	Art History	Zoom	6
Daniel May	F25-27 Minerals at the Peabody Museum and the Founding of Mineral Science	Nature & Science	In-Person	7
Eric Dunsker	F25-28 Dungeons & Dragons: Its History and How It's Played	Games	In-Person	7

2025 Fall Classes at a Glance...Continued

Instructor	Course Title	Genre of Course	Class Type	Page
Thursday				
Harriet Bergmann	F25-29 Woolf and Cunningham	Literature	Zoom	7
Ellen Scalettar	F25-30 Worry Globally, Act Locally	Current Events	In-Person	7
Gabriella Brand	F25-31 Conversational French (intermediate level)	Languages	In-Person	7
Joel Feimer	F25-32 The Origins of Modern Irish Drama	Literature	Zoom	7
Harvey Heyman	F25-33 A Journey through Rock 'n Roll of our Generation	Music	In-Person	8
Frances Grodzinsky	F25-34 Introduction to AI: Technology and Human Values	Technology	Zoom	8
Karen Fenichel	F25-35 Mah Jongg for the Beginner and Refresher	Games	In-Person	8
Michael Stein	F25-36 Topics in American Art	Art History	In-Person	8
Joel Feimer	F25-37 Enchanted Dramaturgy of A Midsummer Night's Dream	Literature	Zoom	8
Harvey Heyman	F25-38 The Future Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Technology	In-Person	9
Friday				
Phillip Beard	F25-39 Ford Madox Ford: The Good Soldier	Literature	In-Person	9
Stavroula Hatzios	F25-40 Introduction to Infectious Diseases	Nature & Science	In-Person	9
Nicholas Maiorino	F25-41 The Science of Memory	Nature & Science	In-Person	9
Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus	F25-42 GENESIS SPEAKS TO US!	Religion	In-Person	9
Mithat Mardin	F25-43 German Conversation	Languages	Zoom	10
Perry So	F25-44 NHSO Presents	Music	In-Person	10
Carol Boynton	F25-45 Introduction to Bridge	Games	In-Person	10
Lois Procopion	F25-46 Vegetarian Soups and More	Food Adventures	Zoom	10
Saturday				
Sharif Kronemer	F25-47 Who's Conscious? Challenges and Approaches for Detecting Consciousness in Others	Nature & Science	Zoom	10

Notes / Classes I want to take

Monday Classes

F25-01 - Is There a Difference Between Men & Women?

SGL: Joyce Saltman

Sessions: 1

Dates: Monday, Sep 15

Time: 11:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Congregation Or Shalom

Course Fee: \$10

Loosely based on the gender work by John Gray (Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus) and others, this session will highlight the differences in interests, style, and temperaments of males and females. Much humor will be included before reaching the conclusion that women are NOT the weaker sex!

F25-02 - Contemporary Fiction Book Discussion

SGL: Nancy Abbey

Sessions: 3

Dates: Monday, Sep 29, Oct 27, Dec 1

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 15

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

Notable recent fiction will be discussed:

09/29 *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout, 10/27

March by Geraldine Brooks

12/01 *Tinkers* by Paul Harding.

F25-03 - The First Amendment and You

SGL: Jerry Dunklee

Sessions: 3

Dates: Monday, Oct 6, Oct 13, Oct 20

Time: 11:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 22

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

The First Amendment affects every American but it's often misunderstood. Its elements have been interpreted by the Supreme Court repeatedly, but not consistently. This course will focus on the historic background and the current state of the law.

F25-04 - The History of Manners

SGL: John Altson

Sessions: 1

Dates: Monday, Oct 6

Time: 1:30 P - 3:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

Have you ever wondered about the origin of manners? This presentation will walk you through

the history of manners. Yes, there may be some surprises!

F25-05 - The Politics of Protest: From Tea Party to Tea Party

SGL: Rachel Ranis

Sessions: 2

Dates: Monday, Oct 20, Nov 3

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: B'nai Jacob - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

We will explore the history of protest in America considering its strengths and weaknesses in several movements.

F25-06 - Getting Your House in Order

SGL: Becca Allen

Sessions: 1

Dates: Monday, Nov 3

Time: 10:30 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

Using the metaphor of "getting your house in order," this high-level workshop provides a robust picture of the primary aspects of end-of-life planning. From the "kitchen" (advance directives, will and trust) to the "living room" (funeral planning), we'll demystify the process and equip you with practical tips to start organizing your affairs with confidence and peace of mind.

Consider your end-of-life plan a gift to yourself and your loved ones, freeing you all from the burdens of guesswork and stress of organizing your estate while laying the "foundation" for honoring your life according to your wishes.

F25-07 - Preparing Your Own Obituary

SGL: Doug Fenichel

Sessions: 2

Dates: Monday, Nov 10, Nov 17

Time: 10:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

An obituary is a last and lasting written tribute to someone. It's not just famous people who deserve a well-written obit; everyone does. The first session will look at different types of obits and discuss how to incorporate those features into your own obit or that of someone you must honor with a written obituary. We'll also talk about how to place an obit and where else you can put it since newspaper obituary pages are largely a thing of the past. The second session will include an outline of your own

obit. Hopefully, you will not be required to use it in the foreseeable future.

F25-08 - The Masterpieces of Sandro Botticelli

SGL: Irene Sommers

Sessions: 1

Dates: Monday, Nov 10

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 40

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

The Birth of Venus and *La Primavera* are, year after year, among the most visited paintings in the Uffizi Galleries in Florence, Italy. They are also considered two of the most stunning and enigmatic paintings ever created. To understand their importance we will discuss Sandro Botticelli's relationship with the Medici's (the most powerful family and art patrons in all of Florence), the overarching influence of the Catholic church, and finally, the fierce monk, Savonarola, and his infamous *Bonfires of the Vanities*. Several other works of art by Botticelli, as well as the lesser known, but equally dazzling fresco, *The Procession of the Magi*, by Benozzo Gozzoli, will also be discussed.

F25-09 - More Bridge for Advanced Beginners

SGL: Harold Miller

Sessions: 3

Dates: Monday, Nov 10, Nov 17, Nov 24

Time: 2:00 P - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

We will cover problems involving competitive bidding and play of the hand. Participants should have playing experience.

Tuesday Classes

F25-10 - Short Hikes in the Greater New Haven Area

SGL: Leo Cristofar

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, Sep 16, Sep 30, Oct 7, Oct 14

Time: 9:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Other

Course Fee: \$20

Short hikes of two to four miles over varied terrain are planned. Hiking boots or sneakers with a good tread are recommended. You may also want to bring a hiking stick. You may be walking over tree roots stones and puddles. These are not nature walks. Hike locations will be sent to registrants. Make-up date, if needed, will be Oct. 21.

F25-11 - Tyranny in Ancient Greece

SGL: Thornton Lockwood

Sessions: 6

Dates: Tuesday, Sep 16, Sep 30, Oct 14, Oct 28,

Thursday, Nov 13, Dec 4

Time: 10:30 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

Gyges of Lydia, Periander of Corinth, Thrasylbulus of Miletus, Peisistratus of Athens, Dionysius of Sicily: such are the names of the first "tyrants" in the western tradition. "Tyranny" emerges in the ancient world in the 7th century, BC, in the form of autocrats who come to power through non-traditional means (such as regicide or support of the poor). But although some tyrants were infamous for their cruelty and suppression of their subjects, others were equally famous for their support of culture and philosophy or the construction of massive public building projects. This course will examine how ancient historians, political scientists, and philosophers--such as Herodotus, Xenophon, Plato and Aristotle--interpreted the nature of these autocrats, both for good and for ill. Our examination of ancient tyranny will also suggest comparisons and contrasts with modern autocracy.

F25-12 - Poetry in Our Lives

SGL: James Romano

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Sep 16

Time: 2:00 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

To quote the poet and literary critic Dana Gioia: "Poetry gave humanity the words to get through life." We get through life via the multiple forms of poetry including nursery rhymes, songs, rap, hip-hop, opera, even TV jingles. Poetry permeates our culture and affects our emotions through the power of stories, enchantment, the search for truth, and its oral/aural delivery. Jim Romano will talk about the essence of poetry and recite a selection of poems ranging from Shakespeare to Bob Dylan.

F25-13 - Canasta for Beginners

SGL: Marie Musco

Sessions: 6

Dates: Tuesday, Sep 30, Oct 7, Oct 14, Oct 21, Oct

28, Nov 4

Time: 1:00 P - 3:00 P

Maximum # of students: 10

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Canasta is a four-person game using two decks of

cards plus jokers.

You will learn the game as created by Canasta Junction. It's fun and challenging. Sign up with friends or meet new friends with whom you may continue to play.

F25-14 - Where We Started and Where We Are Now - Democracy in America

SGL: Kim Harrison

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Oct 7

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

The course will include a brief history of democracy in America from its founding up to current day. The majority of the course will focus on current events that impact our democracy, including the latest Supreme Court decisions

F25-15 - Aren't You Curious About Japanese and Chinese Characters?

SGL: Gabriella Brand

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, Oct 14, Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 4

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

For those who have NO understanding of either Japanese or Mandarin, this course is designed to be a general introduction to the fascinating world of characters, those symbols that we see on the side of buses or at the Dim Sum place in New York. How do they "work"? How can they be typed? Why is it faster to read characters than the Roman alphabet? How can one text with characters? Disclaimer: The instructor is not fluent in either Japanese or Mandarin, but she is totally obsessed with characters and has been studying them since 2008.

F25-16 - Zone of Lawlessness? Trump Administration and the Rule of Law

SGL: John Thomas

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Oct 14

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

Analysis of the Trump Administration in compliance or noncompliance with the Rule of Law including the Constitution, statutes, regulations, and international law.

F25-17 - Peabody Museum of Natural History - Special tours focused on natural and cultural events that shape the course of life on planet earth.

SGL: Kate Walton

Sessions: 3

Dates: Tuesday, Oct 28, Nov 18, Dec 2

Time: 2:00 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 11

Location: Yale Peabody Museum - New Haven

Course Fee: \$20

Each of three 90 minute tours will explore the impact of cosmic and tertiary events and conditions that have shaped the course of human physical and cultural evolution. Learners will expand their understanding of the invisible forces driving life on earth and how they impact our daily lives.

F25-18 - Our World in Turmoil: Attempt to Make Sense of Current Events

SGL: Mithat Mardin

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, Nov 4, Nov 11, Nov 18, Nov 25

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 55

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

We will be reviewing current domestic and geopolitical events and associated repercussions.

F25-19 - A Profile of the 29th CT Volunteer Colored Infantry

SGL: Chris Barlow

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Nov 11

Time: 1:30 P - 3:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

The 29th Infantry in CT made history. During the Civil War in 1864, it was the state's first volunteer infantry of color.

F25-20 - Mystery Religions in the Roman Empire

SGL: Byron Nakamura

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Dec 2

Time: 11:00 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

This course examines the various manifestations of mystery religions in the Roman Empire and their social and political contexts during the first three centuries of the common era (CE).

Wednesday Classes

F25-21 - Flaubert and Ibsen

SGL: James Rhodes

Sessions: 8

Dates: Wednesday, Sep 17, Oct 1, Oct 8, Oct 15, Oct 29, Nov 5, Nov 12, Nov 19

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

A close reading of *Madame Bovary* and two of Ibsen's plays featuring a trio of multifaceted and complex women in Emma Bovary, Hedda Gabler, and Nora Helmer. Translations are very important so please use the Signet Classic of *Madame Bovary* translated by Mildred Marmur and another Signet Classic, *Ibsen: Four Major Plays, Volume One, translated by Rolf Fjelde*. Start reading *Madame Bovary* for class one!

F25-22 - The Morgan Library Tour

SGL: Susan Birnbaum/Marcia Jamron

Sessions: 1

Dates: Wednesday, Oct 8

Time: 9:30 A - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 15

Location: 225 Madison Ave @ 36th St. - NY, NY

Course Fee: \$40.00

HEY! Are you as excited as I am? ILR is going to the Morgan Library on Madison Avenue in New York City! We are going to see the magnificent building and many of the treasures kept inside. We will learn about J.P.Morgan, Jack Morgan, Belle D'Costa Greene and secret-art-manuscripts....even a possible lunch in the very busy Cafe! SPACE IS VERY LIMITED! Fee DOES NOT INCLUDE transportation, food and anything else you may decide to do in NYC. (There will be some walking (about 6-8 NY blocks plus Museum touring) If you have additional questions, please contact Marcia Jamron, tour director, at 203-795-4444.

F25-23 - Foreign Devils, Foreign Friends, Foreign Devils: A Short History of Sino-American Relations

SGL: Ron Heiferman

Sessions: 1

Dates: Wednesday, Oct 15

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

Since 1949, relations between China and the U.S. have gone through four stages: Hostility (1949-1972), Rapprochement (1972-1989), Economic Engagement (1990-2010), and Hostility (2010-2025). What comes next?

F25-24 - Being the "Other" in America-Recent Literary Fiction

SGL: Hedda Kopf

Sessions: 3

Dates: Wednesday, Oct 29, Nov 19, Dec 10

Time: 2:00 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 26

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

An Iranian American poet living in the Midwest, a Vietnamese American service worker living in Connecticut, and a mixed- race writer trying to survive financially in Los Angeles, all invite us to share their worlds as they navigate the complexities and challenges of being seen as an outsider in American society.

We will be reading *Martyr!* by Kaveh Akba, *The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong, and *Colored Television* by Danzy Senna (in that order). All three novels have been highly acclaimed and are worthy of our time and attention.

F25-25 - Thinking Bridge

SGL: Rita Brieger

Sessions: 3

Dates: Wednesday, Nov 5, Nov 12, Nov 19

Time: 10:00 A -12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 16

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

How to think through a bridge hand on defense and declarer play. You have to know basic bridge to take this course. This course is taught on an advanced beginner/intermediate level.

F25-26 - Cleopatra: Power, Passion, and the Last Pharaoh

SGL: Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe

Sessions: 1

Dates: Wednesday, Nov 5

Time: 11:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Zoom

Course Fee: \$20



Uncover the real Cleopatra—brilliant strategist, political powerhouse, and the last pharaoh of Ancient Egypt. Our program explores her rise to power, alliances with Julius Caesar, family drama, and the truth behind her legendary life and tragic end. Explore both the myths and facts that surround this fascinating woman.

F25-27 - Minerals at the Peabody Museum and the Founding of Mineral Science

SGL: Daniel May

Sessions: 2

Dates: Wednesday, Nov 5, Sunday, Nov 9

Time: 1:30 P - 3:00 P

Maximum # of students: 18

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

The mineral exhibits at Yale's Peabody Museum are among the finest in the USA. The origins of the collection date back over 200 years and pre-date the founding of the museum itself. In addition, the Yale faculty who helped build the collection in the 19th century – especially Benjamin Silliman, his son-in-law James Dana, and, in turn, his son Edward Dana – founded the modern science of mineralogy. This two-session course will examine the nature and utility of minerals, the origins of mineral science at Yale, and highlight current Peabody exhibits. The first session will be a weekday lecture to be followed by a Sunday afternoon tour of the mineral galleries at the Peabody.

F25-28 - Dungeons & Dragons: Its History and How It's Played

SGL: Eric Dunsker

Sessions: 3

Dates: Wednesday, Nov 12, Nov 19, Nov 26

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) is the most popular tabletop roleplaying game out there. The class will give an overview of: 1) What D&D is, 2) The history of D&D, 3) How D&D is played. Included will be discussions of how D&D fits into the general hobby of cooperative storytelling and tabletop roleplaying. If there is interest, we may include an introductory fantasy roleplaying session.

Thursday Classes

F25-29 - Woolf and Cunningham

SGL: Harriet Bergmann

Sessions: 5

Dates: Thursday, Sep 18, Sep 25, Oct 1, Oct 9, Oct 16

Time: 10:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 25

Location: Zoom

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

Virginia Woolf's classic novel *Mrs. Dalloway* is reimagined by Michael Cunningham in his 1998 Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Hours*. In it, he

creates new contemporary characters and settings and explores Woolf's life and spirit. We'll spend two classes reading Woolf and two on Cunningham, and try to do justice to both of them. A fifth class will view the movie of "The Hours" starring Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman.

F25-30 - Worry Globally, Act Locally

SGL: Ellen Scalettar

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, Sep 18

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

This course will explore CT's governmental and political structure and the opportunities for involvement at the local level. It will present an opportunity for the exchange of ideas about how to be engaged and make a difference in the face of what can feel like the overwhelming dismantling of core elements of our democracy.

F25-31 - Conversational French (intermediate level)

SGL: Gabriella Brand

Sessions: 8

Dates: Thursday, Sep 18, Sep 25, Oct 9, Oct 16, Oct 23, Oct 30, Nov 6, Nov 13

Time: 1:30 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 12

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

This course is for those who can carry on a conversation in French without great hesitation. They make mistakes, but they speak in full sentences, using different tenses. They have sufficient vocabulary to discuss their opinions and ask questions of each other regarding a variety of topics. They want to laugh, learn, and have fun while improving their French.

F25-32 - The Origins of Modern Irish Drama

SGL: Joel Feimer

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursday, Sep 18, Sep 25, Oct 9, Oct 16, Oct 23, Oct 30

Time: 1:30 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 25

Location: Zoom

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

We will examine the origins of modern Irish Drama with two or more plays each of its inventors, Lady Augusta Gregory, William Butler Yeats, and John Millington Synge. Irish Drama is deeply rooted in the fertile soil and traditional legends of Ireland while it expresses universal human issues and concerns.

Both the heroes of old and the common people populate the dramatic landscapes of these plays. In addition, William Butler Yeats blended Irish themes with the traditional dramaturgy of Japanese Noh Drama. In the process of our reading, we will have an opportunity to appreciate the magic and poetry for which Irish Drama was and is so famous.

F25-33 - A Journey through Rock 'n Roll of our Generation

SGL: Harvey Heyman

Sessions: 3

Dates: Thursday, Oct 9, Oct 16, Oct 23

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: ACES - Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

This 3-session course will be a journey through the vibrant history of rock 'n roll from the 1950s to the early 70s. It will present many original filmed iconic performances, tracking the music form's growth and evolution, together with insights into its origins and performer backgrounds. The sessions should offer an entertaining look back at the often joyful and culturally impactful music that defined our generation.

F25-34 - Introduction to AI: Technology and Human Values

SGL: Frances Grodzinsky

Sessions: 3

Dates: Thursday, Oct 23, Oct 30, Nov 6

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Zoom

Course Fee: \$20



This is an introductory course for those who have not taken my AI courses before. Artificial Intelligence poses challenges that are both technical and social. It is changing the world with its new developments and applications such as Chat GPT, robots, facial recognition, machine learning among others. What is responsible AI? Where are the biases and how do they present themselves? How and from 'whom' do self-learning AI systems learn? What is the impact of AI on privacy? Social media? Can we create moral autonomous agents? We will explore these questions together. The course will use an Interactive discussion and lecture format.

F25-35 - Mah Jongg for the Beginner and Refresher

SGL: Karen Fenichel

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursday, Oct 30, Nov 6, Nov 13, Nov 20, Dec 4, Dec 11

Time: 1:00 P - 4:30 P

Maximum # of students: 12

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge
Course Fee: \$20

What is American Mah Jongg? It is a game played with tiles in a set and a card. We play in groups of 4. Though you can play with 3, it's more fun with 4. Come and learn to play and bring a friend. Learn the basics of the game while making some new friends. No card needed to learn. 6 sessions will get you started to know how to play on your own with friends.

F25-36 - Topics in American Art

SGL: Michael Stein

Sessions: 2

Dates: Thursday, Nov 6, Nov 13

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 40

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

First, take a scenic tour—no hiking boots needed—of the Hudson River School, the 19th-century artists who made nature look epic and patriotic. We'll start with Thomas Cole and meet others like Asher B. Durand and Frederic Edwin Church, who painted the American wilderness like it was ready for its close-up. Along the way, we'll explore Manifest Destiny, why people rarely made it into the frame, and how these sweeping views still influence art and environmentalism today.

Then, explore the life and art of Thomas Eakins, the 19th-century realist who painted like a genius and scandalized like a pro. Famous for his intense realism (and occasional overexposure), Eakins brought raw honesty to works like *The Gross Clinic*, had a thing for anatomy and photography, and taught in ways that got him fired. It's part art history, part soap opera—and all very real, just like Eakins would've wanted.

F25-37 - Enchanted Dramaturgy of A Midsummer Night's Dream

SGL: Joel Feimer

Sessions: 5

Dates: Thursday, Nov 6, Nov 13, Nov 20, Dec 4, Dec 11

Time: 1:30 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 25

Location: Zoom

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of Shakespeare's quintessential examples of the connections among mythical history, dramatic art, social order, love relationships, and cosmic harmony. Quite a mouthful! Overseen by the benevolent rulers, Oberon, King of the Fairy Realm and Theseus, Duke of Athens, the dramatic cosmos of this play truly

holds in *Hamlet's* phrase, "the mirror up to nature." During the course of the play's five acts, the realms of love, town, drama, fairy land, and true love are turned upside down and righted again. Shakespeare addresses crucial questions of relationship, storytelling, and dramaturgy as the play's inhabitants travel from city to forest and back again, where "all is mended."

F25-38 - The Future Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

SGL: Harvey Heyman

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, Nov 20

Time: 10:30 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

This class will illuminate the beliefs of key Artificial Intelligence (AI) thought leaders on AI's future impact on our political, cultural, and social lives. We will briefly review the leading AI models available today and perform a live demonstration of their already incredible power. The main portion of the class will use video excerpts of the thought leaders to describe both the enormous potential benefits of AI in fields such as medicine, education, and science, as well as the potential for great harm to humanity and human existence itself. The session will conclude with a brief class discussion.

Friday Classes

F25-39 - Ford Madox Ford: *The Good Soldier*

SGL: Phillip Beard

Sessions: 6

Dates: Friday, Sep 26, Oct 3, Oct 10, Oct 17, Oct 31, Nov 7

Time: 1:00 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: ACES - Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

Ford Madox Ford's novel *The Good Soldier* (1915) was lauded by Graham Greene as a "masterpiece" and a "study of the way memory works." Set in Europe just prior to the First World War, it is a fruitfully puzzling account of how an American couple and an English counterpart (featuring the "good soldier" of the title) befriend and deceive each other. Balanced between pathos and irony, *The Good Soldier* is a tale told by an American narrator (married to a woman from Stamford, Connecticut!) whose knowledge of himself and the events he describes is by turns incisive and clouded by strategic repressions. Is he serious? Wonderfully compact in design and with one of the best styles of the twentieth century, this novel offers at once the pleasures of detective fiction, a psychological study of love and betrayal, and biting satire.

F25-40 - Introduction to Infectious Diseases

SGL: Stavroula Hatzios

Sessions: 1

Dates: Friday, Sep 26

Time: 1:30 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

In this lecture, I will provide a broad introduction to infectious diseases from the perspective of a microbiologist. We will review foundational concepts related to infectious diseases, including what causes them, how they spread, and how they are diagnosed. Participants will also learn about the methods that scientists use to study disease-causing microbes, drawing on case studies from the scientific literature. By the end of the lecture, participants will develop a deeper understanding of infectious diseases and how to interpret data from this field.

F25-41 - The Science of Memory

SGL: Nicholas Maiorino

Sessions: 2

Dates: Friday, Oct 3, Oct 10

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

"Where did I leave my keys?" Most of us who have reached a "certain age" have experienced this. The question is why? Why don't we easily remember things as we age? Memory is an essential brain function that connects our past to our present. Course topics to be discussed will be the biology of the formation of memories, types of memories, remembering and forgetting, and the effect of aging on memory. The course will conclude with some tips to help us remember.

F25-42 - GENESIS SPEAKS TO US!

SGL: Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus

Sessions: 6

Dates: Friday, Oct 17, Oct 24, Oct 31, Nov 7, Nov 14, Nov 21

Time: 11:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

"Genesis", the opening book of the *Bible*, contains stories that have charmed children since antiquity. These stories, however, were primarily meant to address profound questions asked by adults: e.g., "What was God's purpose in creating the universe?" "Why was the human being created?" "Why is there such suffering and evil in the world?" "What makes some behaviors righteous and others immoral?" "Is there hope for humankind?" "Where can one find

true happiness?" Join us on 6 consecutive Friday mornings as we explore the stories of "Genesis" from an adult perspective. This class is the fruit of Rabbi Wainhaus' forty-four years of discussing the Bible with people of all faiths.

F25-43 - German Conversation

SGL: Mithat Mardin

Sessions: 4

Dates: Friday, Nov 14, Nov 21, Dec 5, Dec 12

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 10

Location: Zoom

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

We'll continue our conversational German classes which started several semesters ago. Newcomers are welcome; however, basic knowledge of the language is desirable. Without prior exposure to German, you may not be able to fully enjoy this study group.

F25-44 - NHSO Presents

SGL: Perry So

Sessions: 1

Dates: Friday, Oct 31

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 25

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

We don't know the exact topic of this class, however, this season's selections - the vast beauty of *The Planets*, the foot-stomping joy of *Rhapsody in Bluegrass*, the soul-stirring power of the *Montgomery Variations* and the beloved melodies of *Star Wars* - will celebrate all of the voices in our vibrant community. A myriad of possibilities to discuss! We do know that Perry So will be entertaining and informative with whatever topic he decides to present.

F25-45 - Introduction to Bridge

SGL: Carol Boynton

Sessions: 3

Dates: Friday, Nov 7, Nov 14, Nov 21

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 8

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

We will discuss the terminology and basic concepts of bridge. This will be followed by the initial bidding process and play of the hand.

F25-46 - Vegetarian Soups and More

SGL: Lois Procopion

Sessions: 1

Dates: Friday, Nov 7

Time: 1:00 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Zoom

Course Fee: \$10



This Zoom course will be recorded.

Vegetarian soups are important for their high nutrient content, potential for weight management, and positive impact on digestion and heart health. They offer a convenient way to increase your intake of vegetables which are rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber. Additionally, soups can be a hydrating and satisfying meal option, contributing to overall well-being.

Saturday Classes

F25-47 - Who's Conscious? Challenges and Approaches for Detecting Consciousness in Others

SGL: Sharif Kronemer

Sessions: 1

Dates: Saturday, Dec 6, 2025;

Time: 10:30 A, 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Zoom

Course Fee: \$10



This Zoom course will be recorded.

How can we know if other beings are conscious? From other humans, non-human animals, and artificial intelligence to patients in altered states of awareness, this course examines the cutting edge scientific approaches for inferring consciousness in others, including the use of "mind reading" neuroimaging methods. This course also explores the serious consequences of misjudging consciousness - whether overlooking conscious awareness or falsely attributing it.

ZOOM INFORMATION



Zooming with ILR? Here's some things you need to know...

A confirmation with the Zoom login links will be emailed two days before the class starts. Please make sure you have it and know where to find it on the day before the class starts. If you don't have it, send an email to: **Mito Mardin – mito.mardin@gmail.com** or call **(203) 747-9675**.

Closed Caption feature for Zoom classes

After you join a Zoom meeting, look on the lower banner of your Zoom screen for the CC icon or tap on the MORE icon. To adjust the size of the text, tap on the "up" key next to CC icon. You can move the text box around on your screen, by clicking on it, and dragging it to where you want it to go.

Members of the same household who are sharing one device (computer, tablet, or phone) only need to register and pay for one person.

If you've never used Zoom before or have a new device, please test your camera and microphone ahead of time. Click <https://zoom.us/test>. to see if you have a working camera and microphone.

To login into the class with a computer or tablet, click on the link in the confirmation letter.

To login into the class with a phone, you may need to dial **(646) 558-8656** and login by typing in the Meeting ID (Passcode from the confirmation letter) and Meeting passcode (Access Numbers from the confirmation letter.)

Recording of Zoom Classes: The class listing indicates whether a Zoom class will be recorded or not. The recording will be available to registrants for 30 days after a course ends. Directions for obtaining the recording will be provided by the Zoom host after the class is completed.

Venues

ACES, Hamden

205 Skiff St.

Hamden, CT 06517

(203) 234-1344

Take the east driveway all the way to the back of facility. Follow the signs.

B'nai Jacob

75 Rimmon Road

Woodbridge, CT 06525

(203) 389-2111

Congregation Or Shalom

205 Old Grassy Hill Road

Orange, CT 06477

(203) 799-2341

Daniel Sullivan Educ. Ctr.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

48 South New Road

Hamden, CT 06518

(203) 248-0141

Brick building behind and to the south of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 2819 Whitney Ave., Hamden.

Jewish Community Ctr.

360 Amity Road

Woodbridge, CT 06525

(203) 387-2424

We use different rooms at the JCC.

A class liaison will tell you which room to go to.

Woodbridge Town Library

10 Newton Rd,

Woodbridge, CT 06525

(203) 389-3433

Yale Peabody Museum

170 Whitney Avenue

New Haven, CT 06520

(203) 432 8987

For complete driving directions, scan QR Code or go to our website:

www.ilrn.org

About - Driving Directions



Board Listing:

Your Institute for Learning in Retirement team is 100 percent volunteer. Classes are created, set up, and taught by volunteers. Volunteers are responsible for the financial affairs of the organization, organizing the venues, planning for the future...everything.

All of them started as members attending classes. You, too, can be part of the team of volunteers that makes ILR the exciting organization that it is. Just reach out and tell us what you'd like to do or ask where we can use help. We always need volunteers who are willing to teach, take class attendance as well as those with computer skills. Contact volunteers@ilrn.org

Meet the leadership team at ILR:

Officers and Board of Directors

Nick Maiorino, President

Susan Vallillo, Executive Vice President

Rita Esposito, Secretary

Tema Leviter, Treasurer

David Phelps, VP-Curriculum

Marcia Jamron, VP-Trips

Joel Feimer, Ex-Officio President

Susan Vallillo, Registrar

Members of the Board of Directors

Holly Chepow

Sue Cohen

Pat Donohue

Annis Fusaris

Deborah Kasowitz

Jean Maatta

Pat Maiorino

Mito Mardin

Debbie McKeever

John Schneider



Study Group Leaders (SGL) Biographies

Nancy Abbey

F25-02 Contemporary Fiction Book Discussion

Nancy Abbey recently retired after 16 years as the Assistant Director of Milford Public Library. She facilitated a popular Classic Book Group for 14 of those 16 years, and continues in this role.

Becca Allen

F25-06 Getting Your House in Order

Becca is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specializing in end-of-life planning. She helps individuals, families, and groups navigate this part of life with compassion, clarity, and care. Her work supports people of all ages and health stages in making thoughtful, values-based decisions. Becca guides clients through practical steps—clarifying healthcare wishes, organizing documents, planning daily logistics, and outlining funeral preferences. She believes planning ahead eases the burden on loved ones and brings peace of mind, knowing your affairs are in order and your voice will be heard.

John Altson

F25-04 The History of Manners

John Altson has been involved in hi-tech since 1961. During the years 1965-1967 John managed the team that wrote the software that flew the SR-71 spy plane missions.

Chris Barlow

F25-19 A Profile of the 29th CT Volunteer Colored Infantry

Chris Barlow is a community advocate and historical researcher whose work honors the legacy of Black Civil War veterans. As a Co-Founder of the Berlin Equity Action Team and Director of Diversity Programming at the Berlin Historical Society, he led the effort to add Berlin, CT, to the Connecticut Freedom Trail. His award-winning documentary, *The 29th Connecticut*, tells the powerful and heroic story of Connecticut's all-Black regiment and is the centerpiece of today's Veterans Day presentations.

Phillip Beard

F25-39 Ford Madox Ford: The Good Soldier

Phillip L Beard has an MA from the University of Virginia and a PhD from the University of Maryland and has taught at Auburn University, and in its abroad program in Vienna, Austria, and has also taught American Literature as a Fulbright Scholar at Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen,

Germany. He has published articles on American literature and philosophy and is a senior editor of the George Santayana Society. He currently teaches for the Institute for Learning in Retirement and at the Bigelow Center in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Harriet Bergmann

F25-29 Woolf and Cunningham

Harriet Bergmann, after retiring as Professor of English at the US Naval Academy in 2002, moved to New Haven. Since then she has taught creative writing at Yale and works as a professional editor. She also conducts memoir writing groups at Home Haven, a part of the Village-to-Village network. She is currently at work on a book about nineteenth-century women's education in Boston.

Susan Birnbaum

F25-22 The Morgan Library Tour

Susan Birnbaum, owner and operator of SusanSez NYC Walkabouts, is a native New Yorker obsessed with its history and food. Since 2002, Susan has been a licensed NYC Sightseeing Guide. Susan has had a lifelong interest in history (Hunter College - Bachelor's in history) and is a member of The Bronx, Brooklyn, and New York Historical Societies. In 2010, Susan was the recipient of The Bronx Tourism Award from The Bronx Tourism Council for her unparalleled commitment to sharing the rich history of The Bronx.

Carol Boynton

F25-45 Introduction to Bridge

Carol Boynton received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Albertus Magnus College. After retiring, she enrolled in bridge lessons which have led to many enjoyable years of playing bridge. She hopes to help others to develop an interest in playing this game which involves memory, skill and perseverance.

Gabriella Brand

F25-31 Conversational French (intermediate level)

F25-15 Aren't you curious about Japanese and Chinese Characters?

Gabriella Brand is a bilingual educator, writer, and public speaker. She has over thirty years' experience as a teacher of French language and literature. In addition, she served as an intern at the United Nations during her university years. She was a program director at an Alliance Francaise. She holds a diploma from the Universite de Neuchatel, Switzerland and an MA in French pedagogy from Middlebury College, Vermont.

Rita Brieger***F25-25 Thinking Bridge***

Rita Brieger has been teaching bridge in the New Haven area for 35 years. She is a Bridge Life Master, which is the highest ranking you can achieve in bridge and is also an accredited American Contract Bridge League teacher.

Leo Cristofar***F25-10 Short Hikes in the Greater New Haven Area***

Leo Cristofar has led hikes in and around Connecticut for more than twenty-five years.

Jerry Dunklee***F25-03 The First Amendment and You.***

Jerry Dunklee is a journalism professor emeritus at Southern Connecticut State University where he taught Media Law and Ethics for 35 years. He was a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, national ethics committee for 12 years, and helped write the 1996 edition of the Code of Ethics. He is a co-author of *The Power of Free Expression in America*, a textbook, and worked as a reporter and talk show host for 20 years prior to teaching. He graduated from Michigan State and holds a master's degree from Emerson College. Jerry was inducted into the CT Journalism Hall of Fame in 2010.

Eric Dunsker***F25-28 Dungeons & Dragons: Its History and How It's Played***

Eric Dunsker has been a Dungeons & Dragons roleplaying game enthusiast since 1978. He has run games following D&D 1st edition rules and played in games run with 1st and 3rd edition rules.

Joel Feimer***F25-32 The Origins of Modern Irish Drama******F25-37 Enchanted Dramaturgy of A Midsummer Night's Dream***

Joel N. Feimer, PhD, taught undergraduate and graduate level English Literature and Composition at Mercy College in New York from 1967 to 2010. He earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from the City University of New York in 1983. He has published several essays on topics in Medieval and Modern Literature and co-edited a text for composition with his former colleague at Mercy College, Howard Canaan. He began teaching for ILR in the spring of 2015 and currently serves as the Immediate Past President on its Board of Directors.

Karen Fenichel***F25-35 Mah Jongg for the Beginner and Refresher***

Karen Fenichel, DMD, has taught Mah Jongg at several venues including synagogues and adult education at high school. She has played more than 10 years. It is a good way to meet new people and make friends.

Doug Fenichel***F25-07 Preparing Your Own Obituary***

Doug Fenichel, APR, is an accredited public relations professional. He was a newspaper reporter and editor for the first 10 years of his career. Throughout his career, writing obituaries was an important task that fell to him. These ranged from writing obituaries about regular people for The New Haven Register to the sensitive treatment of a CEO's son and a young fire chief.

Frances Grodzinsky***F25-34 Introduction to AI: Technology and Human Values***

Frances S. Grodzinsky, PhD, is Professor Emerita, Computer Science and Information Technology at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield and Past Co-Director of the Hersher Institute of Ethics.

Kim Harrison***F25-14 Where We Started and Where We Are Now - Democracy in America***

Kim Harrison is a recognized leader in the government relations arena, spending the last 10 years as VP of Public Affairs for Hartford HealthCare. Previously, Ms. Harrison had her own lobbying firm advocating on behalf of a wide array of nonprofit organizations on social justice issues such as gun control, reproductive rights, same sex marriage and abolishing the death penalty in CT. Semi-retired since June of 2023, Ms. Harrison is an adjunct professor in the Political Science Department at Central Connecticut State University. She holds both a BA and MPA in Political Science.

Stavroula Hatzios***F25-40 Introduction to Infectious Diseases***

Stavroula Hatzios, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and of Chemistry in the Microbial Sciences Institute at Yale University. She received her BS in Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her PhD in Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. She completed her postdoctoral work at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Her laboratory at Yale studies proteins and metabolites that shape host-microbe interactions in gastrointestinal infections.

Ron Heiferman**F25-23 *Foreign Devils, Foreign Friends, Foreign Devils: A Short History of Sino-American Relations***

Ron Heiferman is Prof. Emeritus of History at Quinnipiac University and currently teaches at Yale and Quinnipiac. He was educated at Yale and received his PhD from New York University. He is an Assoc. Fellow of Yale's Berkeley College and is VP of CT Academy of Arts and Sciences. Ron has authored/co-authored books including *Flying Tigers*, *The Rise and Fall of Imperial Japan* and *The Cairo Conference of 1943*. He has been a Yale-Lilly Fellow, a Yale-Mellon Fellow and the recipient of five National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships.

Harvey Heyman**F25-33 *A Journey through Rock 'n Roll of our Generation*****F25-38 *The Future Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)***

Harvey Heyman retired in 2022 from a career in the business side of healthcare. He received a BA degree from Brown University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. Harvey is a passionate consumer of political, social, and cultural trends and events.

Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe**F25-26 *Cleopatra: Power, Passion, and the Last Pharaoh***

Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe is a seasoned expert in ancient history and art education with over 25 years of experience. Holding dual degrees in Egyptology and Roman Archaeology from the University of Michigan and a Master's from Harvard University in Art and Museum Education, she spent two decades working at NYC's top art museums. Marisa now offers exclusive private tours at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and dynamic enrichment programs to schools and community centers.

Marcia Jamron**F25-22 *The Morgan Library Tour***

Marcia Jamron has been fascinated by travel since early childhood. College, followed by family duties, have not dulled the anticipation of a new place to see and learn all about. She applies this urge to look for new and different places to go for the ILR bus and zoom trips she plans and conducts.

Hedda Kopf**F25-24 *Being the "Other" in America Recent Literary Fiction***

Hedda Kopf taught literature and gender studies at Quinnipiac University for more than three decades. She continues to develop and lead book discussions

at ILR as well as at several public libraries and other institutions in Connecticut. Hedda volunteers as a reading mentor in a New Haven public school and is the author of *Understanding Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources and Historical Documents*.

Sharif Kronemer**F25-47 *Who's Conscious? Challenges and Approaches for Detecting Consciousness in Others***

Sharif Kronemer, PhD, graduated as a PhD in neuroscience from Yale University where he studied the neural mechanisms of visual perception. He is now a postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Health where he is using neuroimaging and machine learning to explore the complexities of human cognition and perception.

Thornton Lockwood**F25-11 *Tyranny in Ancient Greece***

Thornton Lockwood is Professor of Philosophy at Quinnipiac University (with a joint appointment in Environmental Studies). His research focuses on ancient Greek and Roman ethical and political thought, and he has published the co-edited volumes *Aristotle's Politics: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and *Aristote Politique VII: La constitution « selon nos vœux »*. He is currently at work on two overlapping projects: *The moral status of non-human animals in Aristotle's ethical and political works*, and *Aristotle on Justice: The Virtues of Citizenship*.

Nicholas Maiorino**F25-41 *The Science of Memory***

Nick Maiorino, a member of ILR for 9 years, is a life-long learner with more than 60 years of teaching experience. He holds a BS degree in Education; MS degree in Statistics, Measurement and Evaluation; 6th Year Certificate in Administration and Supervision; and advanced degrees in the sciences. While his main focus is science, he has offered courses in his many other interests such as history, music, and current events. He currently serves as President of the ILR Board of Directors and a member of the Curriculum Committee.

Mithat Mardin**F25-18 *Our World in Turmoil: Attempt to Make Sense of Current Events*****F25-43 *German Conversation***

Mithat "Mito" Mardin, PhD, was born in Istanbul, Turkey and holds a PhD in Organic Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology from the University of Göttingen. At Bayer Pharmaceuticals for 33

years, he retired as a VP. He has worked on three continents and served as president of the Japan Society of Fairfield County from 2012 to 2020. An ILR president for 3 terms, has a passion for political science. He enjoys being an SGL and sharing his knowledge of the European Union, US economy, Islam, and current world affairs in general.

Daniel May

F25-27 Minerals at the Peabody Museum and the Founding of Mineral Science

Dan May is an emeritus professor of geology at the University of New Haven. His geological activities focused on regional mapping, mineral resource exploration, hazards assessment, and environmental remediation and risk management. He enjoyed conducting or directing field projects in more than a dozen US states as well as New Zealand and other South Pacific islands.

Harold Miller

F25-09 More Bridge for Advanced Beginners

Harold Miller, Bridge Life Master, is a retired CPA and native of New Haven and teaches the basics of bridge for beginners.

Marie Musco

F25-13 Canasta for Beginners

Marie Musco is a retired nurse and has been a resident of Orange for 45 years. She enjoys teaching the game to friends and family.

Byron Nakamura

F25-20 Mystery Religions in the Roman Empire

Byron Nakamura, PhD, is a professor of History at Southern Connecticut State University, where he has taught courses on ancient Greece and Rome since 2004. He has written on subjects such as Roman imperialism, ancient religion, military history, and has a keen interest in Roman numismatics (coinage).

Lois Procopion

F25-46 Vegetarian Soups and More

Lois Procopion was born in New Britain, Connecticut. She received her BS Degree from CCSU. She retired as a Project Manager at Aetna Healthcare in 2014. For the past 48 years, Lois has been an active Justice of the Peace. She has been a gourmet cook for over 50 years and has won first prize in various local baking competitions.

Rachel Ranis

F25-05 The Politics of Protest: From Tea Party to Tea Party

Rachel Ranis has sociology degrees from Brandeis and Yale universities. Her research on social welfare issues, aging and vocational education has taken her to Pakistan, Mexico, Columbia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. She taught at the University of Bridgeport, the University of Maryland, Howard University and is retired from Quinnipiac University.

James Rhodes

F25-21 Flaubert and Ibsen

Jim Rhodes, PhD, graduated from Holy Cross College as a philosophy major and earned his PhD from Fordham University specializing in Medieval Literature and the works of James Joyce. He taught for many years in the English Department at Southern Connecticut State University and is the author of the book *Poetry Does Theology: Chaucer, Grosseteste, and the Pearl Poet*.

James Romano

F25-12 Poetry in Our Lives

Jim Romano earned a PhD in Classical Studies from the University of Michigan. He taught Classics for several years at Michigan and at Lehman College (CUNY). He subsequently entered the nonprofit world as an executive in two major health-related foundations. In retirement, he has gone back to his educational roots and lectures on Homer, classical poetry and drama.

Joyce Saltman

F25-01 Is There a Difference Between Men & Women?

Joyce M. Saltman, EdD, is known as the Guru Of Laughter by one of America's foremost Insurance Companies. She is a Professor Emeritus of Special Education at SCSU, directed a summer Institute on Healing, Education, Laughter and Play (H.E.L.P.) and lectured in the US and internationally on Laughter, Rx for Survival, Dealing with Difficult People, Sex and Aging, and Learning Styles. Two of her books - *Sing A Celebration* and *I'm Changing the Locks and Cementing the Windows - What To Do When Your Kid Leaves Home* have been published.

Ellen Scalettar

F25-30 Worry Globally, Act Locally

Ellen Scalettar, a native New Yorker, moved to Woodbridge in 1990, bewildered by life in a small town in a small state. In a matter of months, she became involved in Town politics, and within two years was elected to the CT General Assembly. Ellen went on to serve as CT Assistant State

Treasurer for Community Affairs; Director of Policy; Research & Legislation for the CT Senate Democrats; and First Selectman of the Town of Woodbridge. Ellen Scalettar is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the City College of New York and holds a JD Degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Perry So

F25-44 NHSO Presents

Music Director Designate of New Haven Symphony, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of Orquesta Sinfonica de Navarra (Navarre Symphony Orchestra), Spain.

Irene Sommers

F25-08 The Masterpieces of Sandro Botticelli

Professor Sommers holds an MA in Art History (Wesleyan University) and has taught art history for over 15 years. Prior to her academic career, she was Manager, Public Policy, Bayer Pharmaceuticals and Administrative Editor, NY Times Magazine Group. She has led several student tours to museums around the world, specializing in France and Italy. Professor Sommers is also in the process of writing a book on the issue of who owns the world's art. Is it the art work's nation of origin or the more easily accessible world-class museums who currently hold the majority of the world's great masterpieces?

Michael Stein

F25-36 Topics in American Art

Michael Stein, PhD, fell in love with the art, architecture (and food) of the capital of France on his first trip to Paris in 1965. During more than 30 subsequent visits he photographed the monuments, churches, museums (and pastries) of Paris to supplement his lectures. For more than five decades, Professor Stein taught both studio art and art history at Kent State University, the Cleveland Institute of Art, Wilkes University, and Housatonic Community College.

John Thomas

F25-16 Zone of Lawlessness? Trump Administration and the Rule of Law

John Thomas is a professor at Quinnipiac Law School, a freelance writer, musician, filmmaker, and cyclist. He holds a BA and JD from the University of Arizona and an LLM and MPH from Yale University. John teaches international law and health law. John's 200+ publications address topics from gun violence to health policy to autism to music and musical instruments and have appeared in law reviews, medical journals, major newspapers, and music publications.

Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus

F25-42 GENESIS SPEAKS TO US!

Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, son of Holocaust survivors, was raised in an Orthodox environment in Brooklyn, NY. A graduate of Brooklyn College with a philosophy degree a Master of Education from NYU, he was ordained in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1972. Rabbi Wainhaus served congregations in Canada and the US prior to becoming the spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom in Orange (1981). Rabbi Wainhaus is highly regarded as a spiritual leader, educator, and lecturer on a wide range of religious and secular issues and has earned the respect and admiration of Jews and non-Jews alike.

Kate Walton

F25-17 Peabody Museum of Natural History - Special tours focused on natural and cultural events that shape the course of life on planet earth.

Kate Johns Walton, Anthropology major (Goddard College) and Master's Degree in Museum Education (George Washington University), did field work at the Smithsonian. Appointed a Museum Teacher at Harvard University while a graduate intern, she developed and managed "You and Your World" Summer Program at Yale Peabody Museum where she was a full time professional docent. Kate has lived and worked extensively in Africa working with Richard Leakey to create school museums.



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