



## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC Berkeley — Winter Courses

*Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.*

### The Genius of Bach

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – noon, Jan. 22 – Feb. 26

Cover major aspects of Bach's instrumental and vocal music. Discuss the principles of historically informed performance practice in relation to modern and period instrument performances. Discover his musical influences as we work our way through the cantatas and Passions, instrumental music, and final masterpieces — B Minor Mass, Goldberg Variations, and the Art of the Fugue.

**Stephen Schultz** plays solo and principal flute with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Musica Angelica. He is a teaching professor in music history and flute at Carnegie Mellon University and director of the Carnegie Mellon Baroque Ensemble.

### Building a Great Memoir

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – noon, Jan. 22 – Feb. 26

Uncover potent moments from your past through the basic elements of memoir: sensory detail, scene versus summary, dialogue, time shifts, tension, and voice. Read great memoirists to get started. Do in-class exercises and work with peers. Hand in weekly pages for instructor feedback. Leave the class with a body of writing.

**Louise Nayer** M.F.A. has been a professor of English and creative writing for over 30 years. Her book *Burned: A Memoir* won the 2011 Wisconsin Library Association Award and was an Oprah Magazine "Good Read." Her newest book is *Poised for Retirement: From Anxiety to Zen*. She is a member of the San Francisco Writers' Grotto.

### Lafayette Info Session

Thursday, Jan. 10

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Free lecture by Richard Walker:  
"California Water Wars  
in the Age of Climate Change"

### Our Brains: Molecules to Memory Pt. 2

Tuesdays, 1 – 3 p.m., Jan. 22 – Feb. 26

Learn about neuronal networks and how they are organized in the human brain. Each lecture will begin with an introduction to a basic neuroscience topic, followed by a discussion of related clinical concepts. We will also cover the use of modern technologies, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), that reveal both functioning of the normal brain and changes due to disease or injury. There is no prerequisite.

**Peter Ralston** received his M.D. from UCSF and his clinical training in New York. He has held faculty positions at Stanford, the University of Wisconsin, and UCSF, where he ran an NIH-supported research lab.

### The Silver Age of Russian Culture

Thursdays, 10 a.m. – noon, Jan. 24 – Feb. 28

Russian culture at the turn of the 20th century was a dynamic period of experimentation and discoveries in the visual, literary, and performing arts. Explore such brilliant artistic talents as the poetry of Blok, Akhmatova, and Mayakovsky; the music of Stravinsky and Scriabin; Diaghilev's "Ballets Russes;" and the paintings of Bakst, Roerich, and Malevich. We will also discuss how the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 impacted the arts and the lives of writers, musicians, and artists.

Elena Sheygal-Placzek is a retired professor of the Volgograd University in Russia and has a Ph.D. in linguistic anthropology. She has taught courses in cross-cultural communication to Russian and American students and is the author of the *English-Russian Dictionary of US Life and Culture*. She served as a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley in 2006.

### Country Music

Thursdays, 1 – 3 p.m., Jan. 24 – Feb. 28

Focusing on Nashville, California, and Texas, this course will take us on a regional, chronological, and musical journey through the eras and places that have made country music a huge part of 20th-century American culture. The final class will feature an overview of the country song and an in-depth musical analysis of why country music is so emotional.

**Pete Elman** has performed, composed, arranged, produced, and taught all genres of popular music since 1962. He is a freelance writer, taught school for 15 years, and published an acclaimed book of song-poems. He has taught several popular classes on 20th-century music with OLLI.

Register online at [olli.berkeley.edu/courses](http://olli.berkeley.edu/courses) or call 510.642.9934