

Fall 2026 Program Catalog

In-Person + Online

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UMass Boston

PROVIDING LIFE-ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS



**GERONTOLOGY INSTITUTE
DONNA M AND ROBERT J MANNING COLLEGE
OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES**



Keep Learning. Keep Growing. Keep Having Fun!

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UMass Boston invites you to explore the more than 70 courses and other programs being offered during the fall 2026 semester. OLLI at UMass Boston is a member-based community of adults (ages 50 and better) who truly enjoy learning simply for the love of it, regardless of their educational backgrounds. With no homework or tests, OLLI students' curiosities are satisfied by engaging in our non-credit courses, special lectures, social events, theatre outings, and field trips in the United States and abroad. *We hope to see you this fall at one of our courses, or enjoying a theatre performance, or even heading out on a learning excursion with your fellow OLLI members.*

What's Included in the OLLI Fall 2026 Catalog

At the time of printing, the information included in the fall catalog was current and accurate. Any updates to the listed information (changes, additions, cancellations, etc.) will be announced in OLLI's weekly newsletter, *Connections*, and online entries of courses and programs will be corrected to reflect the new information.

OLLI courses are typically 5-6 weeks long and meet once a week for 90 minutes. Courses explore a wide range of topics and are offered both in-person and online via Zoom. Class sessions are offered Monday-Saturday with varying times throughout the day, including some evening courses.

OLLI Talks are one-time lectures, presentations, or workshops typically held over the noon hour.

Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) are created around a common interest and like to meet outside the normal OLLI class environment to discuss and enjoy this mutual interest. Each group is different depending on

its focus, and all provide interesting lifelong learning opportunities as well as fun social experiences.

Theatre Outings. OLLI members enjoy discounted tickets to select theatre performances in the Boston area. The Theatre Committee works with various production companies to select shows and dates for OLLI to attend as a group.

Travel. Members enjoy fun and educational day trips as well as overnight travel (both domestic and international). Volunteers put together trip itineraries and promote them to OLLI members at discounted prices.

Important Fall 2026 Dates to Keep in Mind

Wednesday, July 1 – Course Request Process Begins

Friday, August 14 – Priority Registration Deadline (course requests due!)

August 15–23 – Course Lottery Allocation Period (course requests/registration paused)

Monday, August 24 – Final Fall 2026 Course Schedules Released

Monday, August 24 – Course registration re-opens on a first-come, first-served basis

Reminder: OLLI at UMass Boston uses a priority/lottery system to determine final course registrations. Full, OLLI Carte, and Trial Semester members must submit their course requests before the Priority Registration Deadline of August 14 to be included in the lottery allocation process. Please list your course choices in order of priority (highest priority = 1, and so on) on the Course Request Form or when using OLLI's online registration system (www.campusce.net/umb/category/category.aspx).

Questions?

Call: 617.287.7312 or email ollireg@gmail.com

Mail to: OLLI Office, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393

Visit our website: <https://www.umb.edu/olli>

Request courses online: <https://www.campusce.net/umb/category/category.aspx>

Learning at OLLI

OLLI at UMass Boston continues to provide in-person and online programming for its members. We are ever so grateful for the time and effort our facilitators, presenters, and tour guides dedicate to researching, creating, and offering their knowledge, passions, and expertise to OLLI students.

Learning Etiquette and Conduct

OLLI encourages rich dialogue and the exchange of ideas, opinions, and information in its courses and programs. This is at the heart of lifelong learning as older adults bring with them individual personal and professional experiences. OLLI and its facilitators/presenters wish to build a learning atmosphere (whether that is in-person or online) that is welcoming and accepting of differences. Members grow by actively listening to one another with respect and dignity. It is the expectation that members help one another in this endeavor, allowing various voices to be heard. We appreciate your cooperation in helping create this inclusive community.

Zoom

OLLI at UMass Boston uses Zoom as the main platform to deliver course and program content online. A personal Zoom account is not required to participate in OLLI courses and programs. ***We highly encourage Zoom participants to turn on their cameras as it is more inviting for both the facilitator/presenter and the OLLI students.*** OLLI does not publicly promote Zoom details for meetings or courses; they are intended strictly for OLLI members. Members can learn more about Zoom by visiting its website: www.zoom.us.

In-Person Locations and Directions

Approximately 50% of OLLI fall courses will be offered in-person at the UMass Boston Campus, Hingham Public Library, or Thayer Public Library in Braintree.

UMass Boston Campus

McCormack Hall, 3rd Floor, Room 003
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393

Hingham Public Library

Whiton Room
66 Leavitt Street, Hingham, MA 02043

Thayer Public Library

Logan Auditorium
798 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184












Detailed information on directions and parking can be found on OLLI's contact/locations webpage: www.umb.edu/olli/contact. For those attending programs at the UMass Boston campus, OLLI has arranged for discounted parking of \$9/day. Members planning to be on campus for more than five days during the spring semester can purchase a \$45 semester parking plan available through the OLLI Office. This plan allows for unlimited single use parking passes to be used for OLLI courses and programs being held on campus during the spring semester.

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 = In-Person (see course description for exact location)  = Online

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 = In-Person (see course description for exact location)  = Online

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Off-Site Courses

The below in-person courses are offered at Braintree or Hingham. For in-person courses on the UMass Boston Campus, please go to the Monday (pg 5), Tuesday (pg 9), or Thursday (pg 15) course listings.

"Ask not what....." Persuasion Performance and Power of Political Speeches (Braintree)	6
Art for Wellbeing: Creativity, Reflection, and Connection in Retirement (Braintree)	16
Chair Yoga for Everyone (Hingham)	17
Conflict Resolution Through Effective Communication (Braintree)	19
Discovering Documentaries (Braintree)	20
Everybody Has a Story! (Braintree)	10
Exploring Longevity (Braintree)	21
I'll Have Mine "Hard-boiled" (Hingham)	8
Introduction to Traditional Yang Style Tai Chi (Braintree)	5
Matters of Conscience: Selected Films of Fred Zinnemann (Braintree)	12
Religion and the Constitution (Braintree)	12
Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention (Braintree)	5
Through Mona's Eyes: Art, Story, & Seeing Museums in Paris (Braintree)	10

Fall 2026 Courses by Day of the Week

Note: All course information is correct at the time of printing. Any changes to course details will be announced in the OLLI newsletter and reflected in the online information about the course. On the following pages, course descriptions and facilitator bios are listed by day of the week. **OLLI is offering both in-person and online courses this semester. Please note the location as you consider and submit your course requests.**

Please note that the views and opinions expressed are strictly those of the facilitators, presenters, and their guest speakers and may not reflect the philosophical perspective of UMass Boston or OLLI leadership.

Monday

Introduction to Traditional Yang Style Tai Chi

Students will acquire a comprehensive understanding of Yang-style Tai Chi, the most widely practiced and popular style of Tai Chi, commonly referred to as “meditation in motion.” The Yang postures are characterized by their relaxed, expansive, simple, precise, centrally aligned, and harmoniously combined nature, incorporating both hard and soft elements. These postures can be positioned at high, middle, or low stances, accommodating individual preferences. This flexibility renders the Yang form suitable for health preservation and enhancement, thereby augmenting strength, balance, and overall fitness. Each class commences with warm-up exercises designed to promote softness, relaxation, and looseness. We will delve into fundamental principles and concepts, fostering body awareness, balance, and meditation.

Facilitator: John “Jack” Walsh, a retired U.S. official, honed his skills in the Yang style Tai Chi hand and sword forms under Master Liang Yin Zhao at Murray Hill Chinese School in New Jersey from 2003 to 2018. Post-retirement, he immersed himself in the study of Traditional Yang Tai Chi under Master Huan Zhang, a former OLLI instructor, and Sifu David Watts. Additionally, he delved into Sun style Tai Chi and obtained Instructor Certifications for Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention from Dr. Paul Lam. Since April 2024, Jack has been teaching Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention for Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Mass General Brigham, at the Boston Public Library. In May 2025, Master Zhang bestowed upon him an Instructor Certification for Traditional Yang Tai Chi, and in March 2026, he received a Lineage in the Tong Hua Men system. Currently, Jack serves as an assistant instructor at Tong Hua Men School of Kung Fu and Tai Chi Chuan in Cambridge. Furthermore, he maintains his teaching position at OLLI.

Dates: 13 Mondays, 9/14–12/21 (no class on 9/21 and 10/12)

Time: 12:15–1:15 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Exercise

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Developed by Dr. Paul Lam and the Tai Chi for Health Institute, this comprehensive program, based on the Sun style of Tai Chi, provides an in-depth understanding of its distinctive characteristics. This evidence-based program serves as an effective exercise regimen promoting holistic well-being, with customizable exertion levels suitable for individuals of varying abilities, including young seniors. It incorporates unique gentle qigong practices and a higher stance, making the learning process engaging and enjoyable. Published medical studies have demonstrated that this program offers numerous health benefits, including arthritis symptom relief, reduced pain, improved balance, fall risk reduction, flexibility, strength, cardiovascular fitness, immune system support, and tranquility. Arthritis foundations and the CDC recommend these evidence-based exercises. Each class commences with gentle warm-up exercises to foster softness, relaxation, and looseness, followed by the learning of fundamental Tai Chi postures, principles, and concepts.

Facilitator: John “Jack” Walsh, see bio above.

Dates: 13 Mondays, 9/14–12/21 (no class on 9/21 and 10/12)

Time: 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Exercise

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Art in Knitting

This class welcomes a mix of new and experienced knitters. To accommodate new knitters, the class will offer two sessions of basic information and how to’s. Experienced knitters will be provided with patterns, or they can bring their own, in order to get started on their projects. All participants will also be introduced to Ravelry, a free knitters website. In the third session there will be a discussion on colors and how to use different stitches and yarn to create original garments. According to what is new in knitting, the trend is to use a palette of colors (the bigger the contrast, the better!) and using a combination of stitches, yarn types, and geometrical pictures in the overall design. The rest of the course will be used to troubleshoot and to discuss different techniques.

Facilitator: Samia Awad is from Bolivia where in addition to regular scholastic classes, she learned how to embroider, knit, and sew. With her mother's guidance, Samia learned some of the knitting techniques and with additional classes and YouTube, mastered many knitting styles. She enjoys passing on her knowledge to other OLLI students and also leads the Knitting Shared Interest Group that meets once a month on campus.

Dates: 6 Mondays, 9/28–11/9 (no class on 10/12)

Time: 10:00–12:00 noon

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

"Ask not what...." Persuasion Performance and Power of Political Speeches

Drawing on speeches from the past 100 years, this course focuses on how political speeches persuade, inspire, divide, and shape history. Participants will analyze famous and lesser-known speeches from campaigns, debates, concessions, policy addresses as well as from other political events. Using video clips, transcripts, guided analysis, and discussions, we will explore how content, delivery, audience connection, timing, and historical context influence a speech's effectiveness and lasting impact. Together, we will examine why some political speeches inspire nations, shape history, or define a political era—while others fail, backfire, or disappear entirely.

Facilitator: Myrna Finn, professor emerita at Salem State University, taught courses in all aspects of oral communication. With her motto "you're never too old to learn something new," she is a lifelong learner always looking to expand her horizons, understand complex ideas, integrate the new with the old and have fun in the process.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 9/28–11/2 (no class on 10/12)

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Gender Troublemakers: The Cultural Contributions of America's Transgender Community

Despite facing decades of hatred and discrimination, Transgender people have built a rich, resilient culture and artistic tradition in America. This class is for anyone at any knowledge level on trans issues who wants to learn more about that culture and history. We will start with a practical guide on trans history, terminology, theory, and navigating real-world conversations. Then, we will look at and discuss excerpts from the landmark works of Trans Art. By the end of this class, you will have a better understanding of the Trans perspective and of the ways Trans people have impacted your own life.

Facilitator: Claire Arp is an Economics graduate student at UMass Boston, where she has conducted research into the economic disparities faced by Trans Americans. As a Trans woman herself, she advocates for increased recognition of the cultural contributions of her community. In her free time, she writes epic fantasy stories.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 9/28–11/2 (no class on 10/12)

Time: 10:00–11:30 p.m.

Locations: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Beginner Conversational Japanese for Travel & Daily Life

Planning a trip to Japan or simply curious about the language? It's never too late to start learning Japanese. This class is designed for absolute beginners and lifelong learners. You will learn greetings, essential vocabulary and useful phrases for travel-related conversations. Each lesson also introduces Japanese culture through customs, etiquette, and seasonal traditions. Through fun, engaging activities, you will build confidence in speaking in a relaxed, supportive environment. By the end of the course, you will be able to communicate in simple Japanese and deepen your understanding of Japanese culture.

Facilitator: Yoko Lafferty is a passionate Japanese instructor and cultural ambassador connecting the U.S. and Japan. She helps adult learners build real-life communication skills in a fun, supportive, and relaxed environment. A travel enthusiast and graduate student at UMass Boston in Applied Linguistics, she makes learning engaging, practical, and enjoyable.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 9/28–11/2 (no class on 10/12)

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Activities

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Music After Bach

The Baroque era in music ended with the death of Bach. We will learn the revolution in music which took place with the emergence of Bach's sons, Haydn, Mozart and the young firebrand Beethoven.

Facilitator: David Pogue is a veteran facilitator, with over 30 years of experience. He concentrates on art, music, history and science.

Dates: 8 Mondays, 9/28–11/23 (no class on 10/12)

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion/Activities

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

The Future of the Constitution

Using excerpts from Jill Lepore's new book *We the People* as a guide, we will explore the uncertain future of the Constitution and the equality, freedom, rights, security and order it has come to promise for all. What happened to that promise? What exactly is the "originalism" that has been cited in a generation of decisions by the Roberts Court? Does the Constitution need to be amended? What are the competing visions of the future of the Constitution? Can any of these visions repair the fraying of the promise the Constitution has come to represent?

Facilitator: Joshua Frank provides Adult Education in Racial Equity and American History. He worked as an educator for twenty-eight years in Massachusetts public schools. He completed his undergraduate education at UMass/Amherst and Master's degrees from UMass/Boston and the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 9/28–11/2 (no class on 10/12)

Time: 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Getting Unstuck: Small Shifts, New Possibilities

Have you ever felt stuck in old routines, habits, or ways of thinking? The good news is that lasting change often begins with small steps. In this uplifting class, we'll explore why we get stuck, how our thoughts shape our experience, and simple ways to create positive change. We'll discuss resilience, neuroplasticity, reinvention, and the power of opening ourselves to new possibilities at any age. Join us for reflection, discussion, and practical tools to help you move forward with greater hope, confidence, and curiosity.

Facilitator: Katherine Robinson majored in psychology and anthropology at the University of Vermont. She also did graduate training in mental health counseling and is certified by the McLean Meditation Institute (AZ) and Yoga Body. She recently became a certified Brain Longevity Therapist through the Alzheimer's Research & Prevention Foundation. Her passions are teaching meditation, breathwork and energy techniques to calm the body & grow new neurons in the brain. She loves to explore the healing vibrations of sound and motivate and inspire others to be the best that they can be.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 9/28–11/2 (no class on 10/12)

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion/Activities

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Vaccines: How to Make Your Immune System Work for You

Vaccines and sanitation are the medical advances which have saved the most lives throughout human history, but there have been skeptics of the former since at least the 14th century. In this course we will explore how vaccines work, what the differences between vaccines are, why some vaccines work better than others, and how we test the efficacy and safety of vaccines. We will also consider how we can continue to build new and better vaccines as we move into the future.

Facilitator: Michael Allara is a current PhD student at UMass Boston and a former BPS science teacher who currently studies immunology in flies. He has guest lectured on antibody formation and vaccination in immunology courses here at UMass Boston and has previously had the privilege of teaching OLLI courses about biological sex and genetically modified organisms.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 9/28–11/2 (no class on 10/12)

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Through the Artist's Eyes

Artists let us see the world through their eyes, transporting us through time and space. Throughout history, art has been used to record our daily lives, share our connections with people and our environment, and to visualize what we cannot see—such as the spiritual realm. Session topics will include: Andrew Wyeth's expressive watercolors of the people and places that surrounded him in rural Pennsylvania and Maine in the special exhibition *Spectacular Freedom: Andrew Wyeth and the Modern American Watercolor*; how medieval Koreans envisioned the world beyond death in the special exhibition *Ten Kings of Hell: The Afterlife in Medieval Korea*; as well as various examples across the museum's exhibitions and permanent collections.

Facilitator: Arielle Levine of the Cleveland Art Museum teaches students all around the world during video conferences in the museum's Distance Learning Program. She has a degree in art history from Case Western Reserve University and has been with the museum's education department for over 15 years.

Dates: 6 Mondays, 10/19–11/23

Time: 1:30–2:45 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

I'll Have Mine "Hard-boiled"

We'll review what has been called the first American detective story - Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon* '30 which introduced Sam Spade in the '41 movie. This image of the "hard-boiled" private investigator is pitted against a band of criminals and his woman of the moment. Under John Huston's direction this film (nominated for 3 Academy Awards) has been noted as the beginning of the film noir genre.

Facilitator: Caroline Chiccarelli's family stories about cinema have inspired her to share her love of film appreciation with life-long learners, their memories, and perspectives. She enjoys reviewing the Hollywood experience through a variety of genres.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 10/19–11/16

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Hingham Public Library

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Dr. Zhivago: The Poet and the Revolution

What happens to a middle-class family in a period of social upheaval? Russian author Boris Pasternak's novel *Dr. Zhivago* follows the title character, a physician and poet, through the Russian Revolution and its aftermath. Painting a sweeping picture of the revolution and its human costs, this remarkable book addresses the emotional, moral, and philosophical questions of the revolutionary era. How does revolution ripen and spread in a society? How do different individuals perceive and react to revolutionary change? How does an artist portray revolution? How does Pasternak's artistic vision resonate with us today?

Facilitator: Patricia Suhrcke received her PhD in Russian Literature from the University of Chicago. She previously taught Russian literature in translation in Chicago and Atlanta. She has been facilitating course for OLLI since 2016 and enjoys using her experience leading public dialogues for Cambridge Forum to discuss the great Russian novels with interested readers.

Dates: 6 Mondays, 11/2–12/7

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

A New Look at the Gospels

Biblical Scholarship opens myriad perspectives on the four Gospels in the Christian Testament. The material in this course will enable us to more fully understand the ancient Gospel texts. We will focus on the ancient Jewish, Roman and Hellenistic context of the Gospels and the Early Christian Communities from which they emerged. We will concentrate on Mark, the oldest of

the Gospels. During each class session, we will read aloud from Mark for about 20 minutes. There will be lecture, question and answer, and discussion during each class.

Facilitator: Sharon Bilodeau taught academic courses on the Bible to High School students for 40 years. She has degrees in Theology and Education from Boston College. Sharon is a resident of Dorchester who is delighted to bike over to UMass to teach at OLLI. She is also a literacy coach at the Holmes Innovation School and a member of the BVocal Chorus.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 11/9–12/7

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Reconsidering A People's History of the United States in the Age of Trump

In this course, we revisit Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*, published in 1980, from the perspective of 2026. How does *A People's History*, which brings to life voices left out of most accounts of our history, help us make sense of the last decade, in which Donald Trump has dominated our political and cultural life as a nation? We will read and discuss selected chapters from *A People's History* to place Trump's rise in a coherent narrative arc that more traditional histories miss. We will also evaluate Zinn's prescription for healing what ails us, activism. Required text: *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn.

Facilitator: Joshua Frank, see bio on page 7.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 11/9–12/7

Time: 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

The Invisible Helpers: Meet Your Spirit Guides

Have you ever felt guided by a dream, a coincidence, an animal symbol, or a deep inner knowing you couldn't quite explain? In this reflective and experiential class, we will explore the idea of spirit guides and invisible helpers through meditation, symbolism, intuition, synchronicity, and guided imagery. Together, we'll explore how guidance may appear through nature, dreams, signs, emotions, and meaningful moments in everyday life. This class includes slides, videos, guided experiences, journaling, and group discussion designed to encourage curiosity, imagination, and deeper connection to your own inner wisdom. Whether viewed spiritually, symbolically, or intuitively, this class offers a gentle and open-minded space for exploration and reflection.

Facilitator: Katherine Robinson, see bio on page 7.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 11/9–12/7

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion/Activities

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

S Psychological Trauma and Posttraumatic Growth

This course covers the topic of psychological trauma and how it affects people, from some trauma-related disorders to the ways in which it helps people grow. It first covers the different types of trauma and the ways that it can manifest, including its classic definitions to contemporary understandings. Then, the course will cover some trauma-related psychological disorders and the best ways that people with trauma histories can be supported in mental health care. The course then considers how people can make meaning, find hope, and flourish after experiencing trauma.

Facilitator: Nicholas Pierorazio, M.A., is a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. candidate at the University of Massachusetts Boston. His work focuses on trauma, its impacts, and psychotherapy process and outcome. He brings a scientist-practitioner-activist perspective and has significant clinical, teaching, and research experience, with international awards recognizing his contributions.

Dates: 5 Mondays, 11/9–12/7

Time: 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Salon: A Meeting of the Minds

The Salon provides an opportunity to discuss perspectives, exchange ideas, critique concepts and share perceptions and thoughts with others in a convivial, respectful environment. Each class session will focus on a different topic. Writings, videos, and/or audio clips on the topic will be presented in class and serve as a springboard for dialogue and group interactions.

Facilitator: Myrna Finn, see bio on page 6.

Dates: 3 Mondays, 11/30–12/14

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Tuesday

The Great Gatsby: A Book Group

What makes *The Great Gatsby* so compelling? Published in 1925 and written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* is a treasure chest of characters, observations, and wonder. What does it say about the American Dream? Romantic love? The past? Wealth? Class? Most of all, how does Fitzgerald's stunning language affect us? We will read a portion of the book each week. *Please do not read ahead!*

Facilitator: Margarita Bonifaz began her lifelong relationship with books as a child when she discovered the treasures that could be found in a library. From that moment, she always has books nearby... in piles. After a teaching fellowship at Smith College, Margarita taught for 33 years. She believes in the power of books to transport, motivate, and comfort us. Margarita is delighted to lead her third book discussion at OLLI.

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 9/15–10/13

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Understanding and Acting on Climate Change

What can one do about climate change? A lot! This series of six 90-minute meetings is designed for people interested in learning more about climate change and climate justice, becoming more effective in communicating with others about it, and taking action to mitigate its impact on our planet and ourselves. We start with the problems, basic science, and equity issues involved, but spend most of our time understanding the wide range of available climate change solutions and how you can get involved, both individually and working with others. *Course Note:* *This course is similar to the “Can We Stop Climate Change” course offered in previous semesters, but it is continually updated with new material. If you attended previously you're welcome to repeat!*

Facilitator: Tom Rawson is a retired middle school science teacher and UMass Boston graduate. He works with a team to lead “Understanding and Acting On Climate Change” courses, and works on climate change education and advocacy with Third Act and others. Tom spends his free time doing carpentry, bicycle riding, and hiking.

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 9/15–10/13

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Through Mona's Eyes: Art, Story, & Seeing Museums in Paris

An engaging course that explores 30 artworks featured in *Mona's Eyes*, blending literature, art history, storytelling, and the cultural legacy of the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, and Beaubourg (the Centre Pompidou). Participants will examine how art shapes the novel's meaning and discover how masterpieces can be read as both image and story.

Facilitator: Michelle Mona Thompson's lifelong passion for books began as a child librarian in her own home. Over the years, she has authored devotionals and children's stories while creating spaces like the RISE Museum to celebrate women and storytelling. This course blends her love for literature, memory, and empowering others to tell their stories.

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 9/15–10/13

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

All That Glitters: A History of American Money from the 1770s to the 1970s

American politicians, policymakers, and the public battled each other for two centuries on how to supply, regulate, or even conceptually understand money, as the country progressed from an experimental, pre-industrial republic to a world superpower. This lecture series will explore early currency and banking crises, cultural attitudes about credit, the gold standard versus free silver, auto and home loans and the rise of personal finance, and the post-WWII transition to a new global and domestic role for the US dollar. The course contextualizes these debates with theory, scholarship, political and cultural history, and comparisons to the present.

Facilitator: Bill Humphrey is a master's degree student in the UMass Boston History Department's Public History track program and formerly the host of a long-running podcast on American industrial and labor history. He was also previously a three-term City Councilor in Newton, MA.

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 9/15–10/13

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Everybody Has a Story!

Have you ever gone to a Moth event and thought, "I would love to do that!" Then this is the class for you! Even if that isn't your goal, this is still a fun and creative class. Students will learn the techniques of effective

storytelling. Students will do activities in class to spark their creativity. Video clips of storytellers will be viewed and critiqued by students. Students will get to share their stories with fellow classmates to get their opinions. Finally, there will be a showcase in the last class where students can present their favorite story.

Facilitator: Deborah Federico has been doing live storytelling for the Moth Story Slam and other venues for over five years and absolutely loves it! She has taken numerous storytelling classes at the Cambridge Center for Adult Ed and performed at their fundraising event. She has also presented thousands of career workshops.

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 9/15–10/13

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Lecture/Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Keys to Drawing: Trust Your Eyes

Great news! There is no such thing as talent. Talent is actually skill developed by combining techniques and practice. If you're a beginner, you're only 60 drawings away from being good and 100 drawings away from being an expert. This introductory course is great fun because students will discover a new way of looking at shape, texture, source of light, and dimension as they uncover the optical illusions, the magic of drawing. Age or ability is not part of this learning process. How do I know this? Just watch kids stretched out at the kitchen table armed with a couple of #2 pencils, paper, and no one to disturb their concentration. You, my friends, will witness the birth of creative genius. Talent or thoughts of talent is never a consideration. Joy and enthusiasm and shared curiosity regarding each other's masterpiece is what matters. Keys to drawing: Trust Your Eyes will rekindle the embers that have been smoldering for all these years. Are you ready to light the fire and regenerate the artist within? I know you are!

Facilitator: Gerard Leary lives in Winthrop. He has taught several drawing and creative writing courses at OLLI. He teaches colored pencil drawing at the Winthrop Library and on WCAT Winthrop cable. He also offers a course titled "Drawing with Gerard" on YouTube. Gerard taught himself to draw when he was 60 years old.

Dates: 8 Tuesdays, 9/22–11/17 (no class on 11/3)

Time: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Hands-on-Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

The Intersection of Art and Science in the Nineteenth Century

The nineteenth century saw great strides in science such as the discoveries of Alexander von Humboldt and Charles Darwin. Artists such as Frederic Edwin Church, Charles Willson Peale, and others were greatly influenced by these new discoveries. We will learn about them.

Facilitator: David Pogue, see bio on page 6.

Dates: 8 Tuesdays, 9/22–11/17 (no class on 11/3)

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Great Trials That Changed History: A Judge's Perspective

Some trials do not end simply with their verdict. They have a power that echoes throughout history. They have shaped and transformed the social, political and legal landscape. These trials deserve the description “Great” because they serve as enduring lessons for us all on such issues as social justice, race, abuse of power, and injustice. We will examine the Boston Massacre trials, the criminal minds in the Leopold and Loeb murders, the haunting Lindbergh baby kidnapping tragedy, the Lincoln assassination conspirators’ trial, and the Lizzie Borden case.

Facilitator: The Honorable Dennis J. Curran was an associate justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, appointed to the seat by former governor Mitt Romney in 2006. He has taught the practice of Political Science and Law at Tufts University and Roger Williams University of Law. He was born and raised in Boston. He graduated from Boston Latin School and received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and his law degree from the University of Virginia. Curran’s lifelong passion has been history. He has been elected a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society and is a member of the Board of Advisors of the nationally-respected Lincoln Forum.

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 9/22–10/20

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Francois Truffaut: The True in the Trite

This film appreciation course offers a brief but in-depth ZOOM dive into four movies by America's favorite French director. Each week participants will view one Truffaut movie at home to prepare for discussion and detailed analysis of that film in class. Note: This course is not a repeat of Bernie’s previous film courses.

Requirements: (1) Participants commit to 1 weekly online movie-viewing at home: on TV, pc, or tablet/laptop. (2) Must have Access to the Criterion Channel, Amazon Prime and Kanopy video streaming service (via Boston Public Library or another library e-card). Most films are free, some rentals (less than \$20).

Facilitator: Bernard F. Swain, PhD is Boston-area native and began studying film at the Cinémathèque française in Paris at age 20 and spent the next 50+ years (in Cambridge, Washington, DC, Chicago, Boston, and back to Paris again) pursuing his passion to really see the beauty only cinema offers.

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 9/29-10/27

Time: 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Creative Movement with Abilities Dance Boston

This course is meant to be a movement class generated to the folks in the room. While we might take adapted ballet techniques, we're not rigid on meeting certain techniques. Instead, we focus on the physical/social/emotional wellness of the students in the virtual room. We believe that movement can be generated anywhere (like our homes or wherever you're calling from) while building community in virtual space (to show we can still build connection in virtual formats). This course is designed to get us in tune and connected to our bodies, develop a deeper sense of physicality, and enjoy joyful movement. Creative Movement will be a safe and inviting space to try new things and explore new forms of dance. *Course Note: Since this course seeks to accommodate all participants, it is essential that students make it possible for the instructor to provide feedback. It is useful for participants to leave their Zoom camera on so the instructor can most effectively guide and encourage participants.*

Facilitator: Abilities Dance Boston teaches a Creative Movement class with various teachers that are all trained in our adaptive ballet techniques, as well as other genres they bring to the space. Their teachers have brought movement to students of all ages and have taught at various Boston Housing Authority sites, Epoch sites, and more.

Dates: 6 Tuesdays, 10/20–12/1 (no class on 11/3)

Time: 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Exercise

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Religion and the Constitution

This course will address the treatment of religion and religious beliefs under the First Amendment. We will first examine the evolution of the “separation of church and state” doctrine under the Establishment Clause, and explore the increasing tolerance for religious expressions in public life under recent decisions of the Supreme Court. We will also examine how the Roberts Court’s embrace of religious rights under the Free Exercise Clause, the Freedom of Speech Clause, and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in recent years is redefining the traditional separation between government and religious organizations. Finally, we will touch on the current Christian Nationalist movement, the policies of Trump 2.0, and their impact on the resurgence of Christianity in public life.

Facilitator: John S. Ross, III (Jack) earned an A.B. (history) degree from Yale University, a J.D. degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, and an LL.M. (taxation) degree from New York University School of Law. He practiced law for 20 years in Washington, D.C., and served as Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law. Jack has taught numerous courses on constitutional law and other topics in the Worcester Institute for Senior Education at Assumption University, and also facilitates the WISE Supreme Court Special Interest Group.

Dates: 6 Tuesdays, 10/20–12/1 (no class on 11/3)

Time: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Subject Matter Poetry

Often one runs out of ideas for new poems. This course is designed to help you find new source material to create new poems. By focusing on a topic, such as the Boston Molasses Flood for example, or paintings at the Museum of Fine Arts, you will do research and then write poems based on this research. By the end of the course, the goal is to have about 5–6 poems that could be the steppingstone to a chapbook, book or longer length collection. We will also dabble our toes into poetical forms, such as sonnets or a villanelles which can help you learn to develop and flex your creative muscle. And write new poems!

Facilitator: Barbara Matteau has a MFA in Creative Writing and write both poetry and short stories. She has a particular interest in poetry that focuses on themes and research. Barbara is also marketing her collection of short stories that predominantly focus on the city of Salem, MA.

Dates: 6 Tuesdays, 10/20–12/1 (no class on 11/3)

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Matters of Conscience: Selected Films of Fred Zinnemann

Fred Zinnemann was a young Austrian filmmaker when he came to Hollywood in 1929. After working as a cameraman, he began making films on his own within a few years. Although he made a wide variety of films, he was particularly gifted in featuring characters who face difficult, even impossible choices, particularly in wartime. We will view a variety of these films, including Vanessa Redgrave and Jane Fonda in *Julia*, which features Meryl Streep’s first film appearance, the great Paul Scofield in his Oscar winning role in *A Man for All Seasons*, and one of the best American westerns, *High Noon* with Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly.

Facilitator: Julie Kinchla enjoyed studying film while a student at UMass Boston in the 1970s. The experience sparked a lifelong love of movies and further attendance at many additional film classes. Julie is a retired librarian with many years of experience developing and presenting programs for the public. Previous classes for OLLI include "American Film Noir," "Boston in the Movies," and "Mel Brooks: Renaissance Man."

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 10/20–11/24 (no class on 11/3)

Time: 1:00–3:30 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Lecture/Discussion/Viewing

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Creative Drama Workshop: Acting for Art

Creative drama is an educational art form that incorporates theatre techniques and pedagogy, such as improvisation and role-play, drawing on participants’ experiences. It is structured through hands-on interactive activities. This course aims to introduce four branches of art in a fun and engaging manner. In the first week, we will get to know one another through icebreaker activities and build a positive group dynamic. Throughout the course, we will share our stories and learn the basics each week of (1) visual arts, (2) literary arts, (3) dance, and (4) musical theater. Anyone interested in exploring these art forms in an enjoyable way is welcome to join this weekly 90-minute workshop series. This course fosters a sense of belonging within a learning community, literacy across the four art branches, and reflection on personal experiences through art.

Facilitator: Kivanc Erdogan, PhD is a doctoral candidate at UMass Boston and serves as a teaching fellow. His research concentrates on culturally responsive early intervention for children with disabilities. He has authored articles and book chapters on inclusive creative drama. Additionally, he teaches art instruction strategies within the Early Childhood Education program.

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, 10/20–11/24 (no class on 11/3)

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Advancing with Watercolor

In this 8-week course, we will continue to explore the wonderful medium of watercolor painting! Through warm-up exercises designed to refine your value studies, we will focus on composition planning before you start painting. This will help ensure you start with a successful design... and painting! Each class, we will work with a photograph that needs some compositional editing. By practicing thumbnail sketching and quick small value studies, we will pre-plan for larger and more successful colorful paintings. This course assumes that you have had some watercolor painting and drawing practice. You are encouraged to paint from your own reference photographs or set up a still life in front of you from which to paint. This course is taught entirely online through the Zoom platform.

Facilitator: Kate Nordstrom is an artist and teacher based in Barrington, Rhode Island. Her true love of art started when she was a young child. Subjects of interest in her own work continue to be landscape and architecture, the ruggedness of the New England coastline, and the concepts of light and space. She is thrilled to be teaching at OLLI.

Dates: 8 Wednesdays, 9/16–11/4

Time: 9:30–11:00 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Contemporary Economic Policy Issues

Economics plays a central role in the functioning of every aspect of society. This course addresses a set of prominent policy issues where economics is at their core. We will explore their origins as policy matters, the underlying data and evidence, and what policy levers are available to deal with them. Lectures will be standalone, taught by a subject matter expert – all of whom have a Ph.D. in Economics. Potential topics include Climate Change, Healthcare Economics, Social Security, and many more. The topics presented will be determined by what is most topical at the time of the course. No reading is required prior to the lectures.

Facilitator: Geoffrey Woglom is Professor of Economics, emeritus, at Amherst College, where he taught for over 40 years. During his career he has been an economic consultant for the IMF, the Federal Reserve Board and Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He received his PhD in economics from Yale University. Note: this course will be facilitated by different economic specialists each week.

Dates: 6 Wednesdays, 9/16–10/21

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Surviving the Black Plague: What It Took to Survive History's Most Destructive Pandemic

The Black Plague, also known as the Bubonic Plague or Black Death, brought an apocalyptic sickness to Europe, never experienced, that those who lived it believed death itself had touched down on Earth. For our course, we will be diving into what it took to survive and what life was like for the survivors. Touching upon themes of medicine and politics, deciding whether surviving was based on random pure luck or something more. We will also be discussing the community and mental consequences, how were the survivors able to move forward and rebuild.

Facilitator: Mia O'Donnell loves the creepy crawlies of history. As a history graduate student at UMass Boston, she has done work for professional and personal research on Folklore and stories. From cryptids to ghosts, Mia explores how fiction reveals the truth about communities and their social dynamics.

Dates: 5 Wednesdays, 9/16–10/14

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Why Should Exercise Be Boring? Let's Dance!

Join the ultimate dance-fitness party that beats a boring exercise workout any day! Zumba® Gold is part of the popular Zumba® dance-based fitness program, and is specifically designed for active older adults. The class includes the same wide variety of Latin and Other International rhythms, but without any high-impact moves. It's not a dance class, though, so there are no right or wrong moves. Stand... sit in a chair... alternate between the two. Just let the music move you! Wear workout clothes and sneakers, and be sure to hydrate.

Facilitator: Mary Ellen Reardon is a certified Group Exercise Instructor and has taught Zumba® Gold classes in the Greater Boston area for over 15 years. Her motto is "No matter if we do it the right way or the wrong way, dance brings us joy! So Let's Dance!"

Dates: 5 Wednesdays, 9/16–10/14

Time: 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Exercise

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Writing for Reflection: A Practical Journaling Course

Everyone has a story, and journaling can be a powerful way to make sense of your thoughts and experiences. We will explore different approaches, from structured prompts to more open-ended reflection. You don't need to be a "good writer" or have a current journaling practice. Each session will include time to write and optional opportunities to share. This course is ideal for anyone looking to better understand themselves or someone who is curious about what journaling is all about!

Facilitator: Megan Steele is a therapist and owner of Steele Counseling and Wellness. She is also a PhD candidate in Counseling Psychology at Lesley University. She is passionate about creating spaces where people can reflect, feel understood, and grow using practical tools to manage stress and build self-awareness.

Dates: 5 Wednesdays, 9/16–10/14

Time: 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Shakespeare: *Julius Caesar and Twelfth Night*

Rediscover Shakespeare as we take a deep dive into *Julius Caesar* and *Twelfth Night*. For each play, outside of class, participants will be expected to read the play and view a selected film version. The texts we will use are the Folger Shakespeare Library editions (under \$10 apiece and/or available for free download from the Folger Shakespeare Library). However, any editions of the plays are acceptable. Both required films are available for rent, but they may be viewed for free on Zoom (courtesy of the OLLI office). In class we will discuss the plays in the contexts of Shakespeare's life and times as well as the historical periods of the plays, with reference to major critical research. Our goal is a rich appreciation of Shakespeare's work.

Facilitator: Evelyn Ryan is an experienced teacher who facilitated OLLI's "The Best of English Poetry" for eight years. She began this Shakespeare series in 2024. Evelyn has regularly attended productions of Shakespeare's plays since she first saw *Macbeth* in junior high school. Since then, she has also read Shakespeare's works, and studied related reviews, criticism, and biographies, as well as histories of the Elizabethan age.

Dates: 6 Wednesdays, 9/30–11/4 (films at 4pm on 10/7 & 10/28)

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

§ Inherited Inequalities: Society, Economy, and the Global Persistence of Caste Discrimination

Amidst enormous social upheaval after the murder of George Floyd in 2020, Isabel Wilkerson published her book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. In it, Wilkerson drew connections between racism in America and the caste system of India (as well as the ideology of Nazi Germany). Is the caste system the same as racial discrimination? Is there a caste system in the U.S.? What can the experiences of millions of marginalized caste people in India and the U.S. teach us about inequality, identity, and justice? In this course we will discuss these questions guided both by Wilkerson's book as well as the experiences of instructor Mahesh Admankar, a member both of an oppressed caste in India as well as a person of color in the United States. *Course Note:* This class was taught in Fall 2025 and has been updated with new material and content. *Purchasing and reading Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents is not required for this course. Readings will be provided by the instructor.*

Facilitator: Mahesh Admankar is a PhD Candidate in Public Policy in year 5 at UMass Boston. He was born in a village in India and his research interest is in social exclusion.

Dates: 5 Wednesdays, 10/14–11/18 (no class on 11/11)

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Watercolor Painting

This class is for anyone interested in learning the wonderful medium of watercolor painting! At the beginning of each class, the instructor will present a specific technique or concept. Topics of exploration include value studies, color theory, still life, composition, and landscape painting. Students will have the choice of painting from reference photos (provided by the instructor) or from their own photographs or still life set-ups. Students with prior experience will have opportunities for additional challenges. Some prior experience is helpful, but students new to watercolor are always welcome. This course is taught entirely online through the Zoom platform.

Facilitator: Kate Nordstrom, see bio on page 13.

Dates: 6 Thursdays, 9/10–10/15

Time: 9:30–11:00 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

A Poetry Workshop: Resistance Poetry

This workshop will examine American Resistance Poetry--poems meant to pay tribute to those who resisted as well as being meant to empower, mobilize, and inspire others to resist. Participants can use these poems as models and inspiration to write their own resistance poems, which can then be shared, discussed, and revised during the workshop. Most of the workshop sessions will be devoted to the discussion of the participants' poems. The writing of poems, as Mary Oliver tells us, will need to be done at the solitude of the writer's desk. *Course Note: This course was offered in Spring 2026, but will feature different poets and poems for inspiration.*

Facilitator: Bill Valentine has facilitated and participated in writing workshops at OLLI as well as at Manhattanville College, the 92nd Street Y, Breadloaf, and the Frost Place. He's published poems in *Poetry Porch* and *Watermark*, the UMB literary journal.

Dates: 6 Thursdays, 9/10–10/15

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Workshop

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

History and Consequences of the Vietnam War

This course will expose the origins of the "American" Vietnam War. We will start with the presence of the French in the 1850s and travel through the years, up to and including our involvement in the fighting. Many commonly held concepts and beliefs will be shattered by the information presented. The role that our leaders, both military and political, played will be examined and critiqued. After taking this course, you will likely learn many previously untold truths about the events that happened so many years ago. *Course Note: This course has been offered in the past. While the content will be similar, the discussion resulting from questions is always different.*

Facilitator: Michael Cunningham is a combat Vietnam veteran who has studied the history of Vietnam for many years. He has visited Vietnam on numerous occasions and has conducted countless interviews. Mike's interest is to find the answers to WHY, to prevent any further fiascoes.

Dates: 6 Thursdays, 9/10–10/15

Time: 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Memoir Workshop: Telling Your Own Story

Everyone has a story to tell! This workshop is designed to give you the space to write about your life, share your legacy. Whether you want to capture your family history for your grandchildren or write about an event that occurred in your life, all stories are valid and welcome. Memoir writing can be healing and magical. When a story persists in your consciousness, it is demanding to be told. You are the best person to tell it. You're the expert – you lived it. No writing experience is needed. This is a safe zone where you won't be judged for the content of the story or the writing! You'll hear where your writing resonates with us, your audience. What to expect? In each session, we will read a brief memoir piece, write for about 20 minutes from a prompt or whatever pops into your head, and finally, read our stories aloud. No one is obligated to share their work, but it's a good way to quiet your inner critic.

Facilitator: Tiana Gorham has been teaching writing for over 35 years. She earned a BA and an MA from UMB and won a national short story competition during her time there. Currently, she facilitates several memoir workshops and writing groups in the Boston Metrowest area. Currently she is working on a memoir about growing up as an immigrant in Boston. She is very excited for the opportunity to hear your stories.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 9/10–10/15 (no class on 9/17)

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Survival French for Travelers (Or for Fun)

Are you going to France or to a French-speaking country? If so, you need to be able to communicate at least at a minimum to show that you are making an effort toward the culture of the host country. The people there will greatly appreciate (even if they answer in English) and may even be friendlier. In this class you will learn French basic vocabulary and phrases in a conversational setting. The course will integrate the Mango Languages computer program to practice and reinforce your new skills at home.

Facilitator: H el ene Olken is a native of France. She graduated in French and psychology from UMass and holds a master’s degree in ESL. H el ene taught in Milton in the Grade 2 French Immersion Program for 25 years.

Dates: 7 Thursdays, 9/17–10/29

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Discussion/Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

§ Africa Beyond the Headlines: Stories of Change, Challenge, and Resilience

When Africa appears in the news, it often looks the same: famine, conflict, poverty, corruption, crisis. But that picture is radically incomplete. Africa is also home to some of the world’s fastest-growing cities, most dynamic youth populations, boldest democratic experiments, and most innovative responses to climate change. This five-week course invites OLLI members to look again, more carefully, more curiously, and more honestly. Each session takes a different lens: economics, politics, climate, culture, and diaspora, examining both the real challenges and the stories that rarely make the front page. Drawing on current research and firsthand knowledge of the region, we will move from stereotype to complexity, from headlines to human reality.

Facilitator: Nnaemeka Phil Eke-Okocha is a PhD candidate at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Project Lead of the Local Pathways Fellowship at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). He is also Co-Founder of Nova Praxis, an initiative dedicated to empowering youth leadership in sustainability, peacebuilding, education, and climate justice.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 9/17–10/15

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

§ Art for Wellbeing: Creativity, Reflection, and Connection in Retirement

Retirement can open new space for creativity, reflection, and connection. In this five-session course, participants will create one artwork in each class while exploring themes such as music, memory, nature, relationships, and personal growth. Inspired by artists whose works are in Boston-area museum collections, the course offers a relaxed, welcoming space for creative expression. No prior art experience is needed. The emphasis is not on technical skill, but on enjoyment, self-expression, and meaningful conversation.

Facilitator: Hongchen Gao is a visual artist, educator, and doctoral student in education at UMass Boston. She has experience teaching art to older adults and young children in China. Her teaching emphasizes creativity, reflection, and meaningful connection in a warm and welcoming learning environment.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 9/17–10/15

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

§ What, Why and How of Conspiracy Theories

Conspiracy theories often emerge during times of uncertainty, or fear when people seek simple explanations for complex problems. While some conspiracies proved to be true, most conspiracy theories rely on weak evidence, selective reasoning, or misinformation spread through media and social networks. Studying conspiracy theories is important because they influence politics, public health, and social trust. For example, conspiracy beliefs about vaccines or elections can shape public behavior and create divisions within societies. This course, therefore, explores what conspiracy theories are, why they deserve critical study, and how they can be identified and evaluated.

Facilitator: With a background in Journalism, OLLI Scholar Leena Maqsood observes that individuals are often eager to engage in conspiratorial thinking. She therefore highlights the importance of identifying patterns and connections to understand how conspiracy theories shape society and influence public opinion. Leena is a PhD candidate in the Global Governance and Human Security program here at UMass Boston.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 9/17–10/15

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

S South Asian History Through Arts, Film, and Media

Do you want to learn about the history of South Asia—a region rich in diversity, culture, art, and political history? This four-day introductory course explores South Asian societies through film, media, and visual arts. Students will examine how history, identity, religion, gender, migration, and social change are represented across the region. Students will gain a deeper understanding of South Asian cultures and histories while sharing their own perspectives in an interactive learning environment.

Facilitator: Kohinur Khyum Tithila is a journalist and Ph.D. student from Bangladesh at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, researching forced marriage in South Asian Culture. She is a Fulbright scholar and has been teaching OLLI courses for two years. Her works focus on feminism, social justice, media, and gender equality.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 9/17–10/15

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

S Women and Work: Barriers, Progress, and the Future

This course explores why women's participation in the workforce continues to differ across industries, income levels, and stages of life. We will discuss major barriers women face, including childcare costs, workplace expectations, gender norms, and the motherhood penalty. The course will also examine strategies that support women's career advancement, policies that reduce inequality, and how technology and changing work environments may shape the future of women's employment. Through real-world examples, research findings, and discussion, participants will gain a deeper understanding of women's economic experiences and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Facilitator: Afia Akbar is a second-year PhD student in Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her interest in the motherhood penalty developed during her master's studies in Economics at Ohio University, where she focused on labor economics and gender inequality in the workforce. Currently, her research examines how childbirth affects women's careers and how public policies—such as childcare support and family leave—can better support mothers to remain and succeed in the labor force. Her broader research interests include labor policy, women's labor force participation, and economic development.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 9/17–10/15

Time: 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

The Philadelphia Story

We will learn about the history of our nation's first capital. We will encounter great Philadelphians such as Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Alexander Calder, Albert Barnes, and Charles Willson Peale. This course will be similar to the Cultural History of Boston class from last semester.

Facilitator: David Pogue, see bio on page 6.

Dates: 8 Thursdays, 9/24–11/12

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Chair Yoga for Everyone

Chair yoga is so popular now....for many reasons. One is because people can get the benefits without getting on the floor and most everyone can do it. It increases circulation, keeps the joints lubricated, promotes relaxation, helps with better breathing, works on balance and increases strength. Come reap the benefits of this practice. You can do it!

Facilitator: Elaine Kerrigan became a yoga teacher at 50 years old and has been teaching it ever since in yoga studios, health clubs, and senior centers. Elaine has taught yoga on the mat and now in a chair...which is great for people who prefer not to get on the floor. Elaine hopes that you will join her and reap the benefits.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 9/24–10/29 (no class on 10/22)

Time: 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Hingham Public Library

Format: Exercise

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

The 2026 Midterm Election: Power, Institutions, and the Trump Presidency

This six-week seminar examines the 2026 U.S. midterm elections through the lens of presidential power, institutional dynamics, and democratic norms. Using the presidency of Donald Trump as a central case study, the course provides a structured, non-partisan space to explore current events, historical precedent, and competing interpretations of American political life. This course will rely in part on OLLI students actively participating by bringing a weekly question or topic based on a news article or other media they have encountered. Zoom breakout rooms will be used for small group discussions. Understanding a pivotal election through history, institutions, and informed dialogue is our aim.

Facilitator: Marcela Maldonado brings nearly 20 years of experience teaching history and politics at the secondary level. Her curriculum development and instruction have spanned a wide range of subjects, including U.S. History, Political Philosophy, Politics and Ethics, the Modern Middle East, Latin American History, and Comparative Religions. Marcela will provide historical context and guiding frameworks while facilitating balanced discussion. The goal is to create a space where participants can engage thoughtfully with complex and often emotional topics, grounded in evidence and mutual respect.

Dates: 6 Thursdays, 10/8–11/12

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Peter Paul Rubens: The Great Flemish and Italian Renaissance Tradition (early 17th century)

Sir Peter Paul Rubens was a Flemish artist and diplomat. He is considered the most influential artist of the Flemish Baroque tradition. Rubens's highly charged compositions focused on works associated with classical antiquity (encompassed the culture of ancient Greece & Rome) and Christian history. Due to the enormity of his work, we will focus on his mature period after he returned to Antwerp in 1609, following his stay in Italy. Early on he served as a diplomat to the Archdukes Albert and Isabella, and negotiating a peace treaty between England and Spain. This period also included notable paintings such as "The Elevation of the Cross" and huge commissions like the Medici Cycle. Surprisingly, there came a sea change in his style due to his reencounter with the works of Titian in Madrid in 1628. After retiring in the 1630s, he no longer worked on commission but rather for his own pleasure. He focused on landscapes and the life of peasants and portraits, characterized by a more relaxed, intimate technique.

Facilitator: Lucinda Gorry has facilitated many OLLI courses, including several on Dutch artists. During OLLI's Fall 2025 semester, she developed a course on Hans Memling and the Italian Renaissance. She has also researched and created lectures and courses on 19th-century Boston women artists, James McNeill Whistler, Édouard Manet, Berthe Morisot, Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, and many others.

Dates: 6 Thursdays, 10/15–11/19

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Observational Drawing with Colored Pencil

This class is for anyone interested in learning how to draw from life and from reference photos using both pencil and colored pencil. Students will learn some color theory in order to understand layering techniques with their colored pencils. This course will focus on observational drawing in order to capture form and space using simple still life objects for inspiration. Additionally, students may choose to draw from their own reference photos or still life, particularly if they have had prior drawing experience. All levels are welcome. This course is taught entirely online through the Zoom platform.

Facilitator: Kate Nordstrom, see bio on page 13.

Dates: 7 Thursdays, 10/22–12/10 (no class on 11/26)

Time: 9:30–11:00 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

***The Silent Traveller in Boston:* A Book Group**

Chiang Yee wrote and illustrated this charming book in 1959. Chiang Yee has a vibrant, whimsical, humorous voice which transcends time. For those of us who love the area it is all here: the Boston Common, Beacon Hill, Fenway, Charles River, Salem, Rockport, the Cape and Islands, to name a few. Yee included 16 full color paintings, 60 black and white drawings, and 20 of his poems. What better way to celebrate our 250th than to toast Boston, its surrounding neighborhoods and towns, its history and people, than to share this unique book together? We will read and discuss a portion of the book each week. *Please do not read ahead.* You can find the 1959 version in a library or purchase a copy from Amazon or eBay for about \$8-12. You can also find it on Internet Archive which allows you to read for free online: https://archive.org/details/silenttravelleri0000chia_u2e8/mode/2up Long out of print, it was recently republished in 2017 in paperback.

Facilitator: Margarita Bonifaz, see bio on page 9.

Dates: 6 Thursdays, 10/22–12/10 (no class on 10/29 & 11/26)

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Considerations in Autism Spectrum Disorders: Current Perspectives

This five week course provides an introduction to all aspects of current knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorders: from its history to current information and perspectives, including interventions, schooling and behavior management.

Facilitator: Dr. Susan Gurry has been working in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders since 1975. She retired from the Cambridge Public Schools in 2018 and was the Program Director for Severe Special Needs at Lesley University Division of Graduate Programs for 20+ years. She has been interested in ASD since 1975 and currently Life Coaches adults on the spectrum and consults to families.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 10/22–11/19

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Conflict Resolution Through Effective Communication

Conflict Resolution Through Effective Communication explores how communication shapes conflict and how everyday disagreements can become opportunities for growth. Through interactive discussions, role plays, self-assessment exercises, and practical activities, participants will improve active listening, constructive feedback, and communication skills; acquire better self-awareness; and learn strategies for managing difficult conversations. The course does not have any prerequisites, just curiosity and openness for experience sharing and learning.

Facilitator: Maka Petriashvili is PhD candidate in the Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance Department at UMass Boston. She is also enrolled in an MA in Conflict Resolution and conducts conflict resolution trainings in the format of the Beacon-to-Beacon project at UMass, Boston. Maka has 15 years of teaching and training experience, and her classes emphasize curiosity, clarity, and critical thinking.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 10/22–11/19

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Lecture/Discussion/Activities

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Writing for Clarity: Making Sense of Your Life on the Page

This course uses simple, guided writing exercises to help you make sense of your experiences and articulate what matters most. Through short prompts, discussion, and optional reading, we'll explore how writing can bring clarity, insight, and perspective to everyday life. No prior writing experience is required.

Facilitator: Stacy Thompson is a writer and educator with an MFA in creative writing and 15+ years of experience helping others develop their voice and communication skills. She is the author of a forthcoming memoir exploring identity, grief, and midlife reinvention.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 10/22–11/19

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Hands-on-Activities

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Cherry Trees and Bathtubs: The History of Presidential Myths

Many of the most powerful and enduring stories about historical presidents are more myth than fact. That includes famous legends like George Washington chopping down a cherry tree and William Howard Taft getting stuck in a bathtub, as well as lesser-known stories like John Quincy Adams's pet alligator and Andrew Jackson's battle against the Bell Witch of Tennessee. In this course, we will explore the real stories behind these myths—where they came from, how they spread, and why they hold such a special place in the public consciousness.

Facilitator: Howard Dorre writes and cohosts the history podcast *Plodding Through the Presidents* exploring myths and lesser-known stories about the early American founders and their families. His work has appeared in *Smithsonian Magazine*. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, two children, and two bunnies.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 10/22–11/19

Time: 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Small Things, Big Impact

The objects we use every day - glass windows, paper, electric light, hold stories that have shaped the way we live. This course uncovers the surprising journeys behind familiar materials and inventions, revealing how they transformed homes, cities, and daily routines. Each session explores a different object, connecting its history to the world we know today. Along the way, participants are invited to reflect on their own experiences and memories tied to these everyday items. Together, we will rediscover the ordinary and see how small things have made a lasting impact.

Facilitator: Subashree Kubersampath is an MBA candidate at UMass Boston with a background in civil engineering and sustainable design. She has worked at Saint-Gobain and enjoys exploring how everyday materials, spaces, and ideas shape the way we live, making complex topics accessible and engaging.

Dates: 5 Thursdays, 10/22–11/19

Time: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

Location: IN-PERSON at UMass Boston Campus

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Put AI to Work for a Project of Your Choice

Are you ready to put AI to work as your project assistant? If you are curious to learn more about what ChatGPT and other AI tools can really do, there's no substitute for personal experience. With long-time AI user Scott Guthery as your guide, this course will be a hands-on AI workshop for people who want to accomplish a specific objective. No AI experience is required. All you need to bring to the first meeting is a description of what you want to work on during the four-week workshop. This can be planning a vacation, learning about your neighborhood, writing a children's book, starting a business, or anything else that your smart, tireless assistant can help you with. From week to week, you will practice writing ChatGPT prompts that produce the most helpful results, discuss your results with other participants, and explore some of the advanced features that AI has to offer.

Facilitator: Scott Guthery was granted one of the first AI patents and has used AI both professionally and recreationally. Professionally, he recently used AI to transcribe over 2,000 handwritten US patents and the 26-volume borrowed registers of the Boston Athenaeum. Recreationally, he built chatbots on top of one of his recent books and Annie Haven Thwing's 125,000 index cards of Boston inhabitants.

Dates: 4 Thursdays, 10/29–11/19

Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Hands-on Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Friday

Branching Out: The Genres of American Roots Music

This class is presented as a continuation of and supplement to the popular Great Artists in American Roots Music series and is appropriate for both new and returning students. From the popular press to concert promotional materials to Grammy Awards categories, terms like “roots,” “Americana,” “folk,” “traditional,” and “bluegrass” are often thrown around with little distinction or context, yet these words carry specific meanings, histories, and legacies. In this course, we will study the genres of American roots music both as commercial categories and culturally specific musical practices. We'll begin by examining how these terms have been used and applied to specific genres at different points in their development. As the course progresses, we'll move beyond identifying what makes each genre unique to uncover the many ways they connect.

Facilitator: Taylor Ackley is a scholar, composer, and performer of American Roots music. He holds a master's degree and PhD in Composition, and master's degree in Ethnomusicology from Stony Brook University. After four years as Assistant Professor of Music at Brandeis, he is now Program Director at North Valley Music School in Northwestern Montana and works as an independent scholar and performing artist. As a singer and multi-instrumentalist, Taylor performs and lectures around the US. He released four albums of original compositions and arrangements of traditional repertoire. His writing has been published by the MIT Press, Equinox Publishing and *Popular Music History*.

Dates: 10 Fridays, 9/18–11/20

Time: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Discovering Documentaries

This is a viewing and discussion program. We will watch the documentary together in class and then share our thoughts about the film. Did we grow as we discover the value and/or purpose of what we watched. We can critique the quality of the film; indicate our enjoyment of or our displeasure with it; say if we learned anything new; tell if you were surprised at anything. A full list of the documentaries will be provided at the first class.

Facilitators: Howard Muise has been an OLLI member since 2018 and is in his second term as an Advisory Committee member. He has co-facilitated the Documentaries course for the past four semesters with Lee Colello. Lee has retired from the course, but Howard will continue facilitating it in the same manner as in previous semesters.

Dates: 6 Fridays, 9/18–10/23

Time: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Viewing/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Writing Workshop: Spin Songs into Stories, Sonnets, or Snippets

What secrets and stories are hidden in song lyrics? What about songs which call back sharp memories? Songs offer gifts of comfort, inspiration, and amusement. In this writing workshop we will study a variety of song lyrics and use their lines and images as a starting point for creative writing. Give yourself the gift of time to consider lyrics as a path into your own writing. Through writing prompts and writing sessions, your imagination will be invited to the page. Participants will be encouraged to share their work and offer positive comments to others. Prior creative writing experience is not necessary. Please come ready to write, please keep camera on during sharing and prompts to encourage our special community.

Facilitator: Margarita Bonifaz was published at age 7 in *The Phoenix*, with her poem "Fairy Toast." She started her 33-year teaching career with a teaching fellowship at Smith College. For years, Margarita took writing workshops with Pat Schneider, the magical creator of Amherst Writers and Artists. Margarita has a novel in the drawer and stories on her desktop. She believes everyone has stories in them: in our post it notes, in old letters, in conversations; we just need to listen and write. She is delighted to be teaching at OLLI.

Dates: 5 Fridays, 9/18–10/16

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Discussion/Hands-on-Activity

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Great Conversations: Questions of Character

A recent issue of the Hedgehog Review (tagline: Critical Reflections on Contemporary Culture) explores the meaning of character and the causes and consequences of its apparent decline in today's world. Drawing on the works of thinkers as diverse as Aristotle, Nietzsche, Emily Dickinson and Samuel Beckett, the readings explore our current moral climate and speculate on its future trajectory, providing us with food for thought and some new perspectives. We will read from the Spring 2024 issue of the *Hedgehog Review*, titled "Missing Character," available for \$14 from <https://hedgehogreview.com/order>.

Facilitator: Linda Seale loves exploring new ideas with friends and colleagues and feels that Great Conversations is a perfect vehicle for doing so. She loves the wide ranging discussions prompted by the readings and the mutual respect that develops among the participants, who continue to enjoy this course, which has been an OLLI tradition for more than 20 years.

Dates: 6 Fridays, 10/2–11/6

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Exploring Longevity

In this 11th Exploring Longevity series, we will continue to explore human posture, an evolutionary miracle that enabled our species to evolve from quadrupedalism to bipedalism. We will explore how the S-shaped spine and upright posture have distinguished humans from other primates during our prolonged history of evolution. We will also examine how human posture, embedded in our social, cultural, and technological evolution, has played a critical role in our longevity and quality of independent living. This course has been enriched by the shared wisdom and insights from our participants' lived experiences.

Facilitator: OLLI Scholar Hua Chen is a fourth-year PhD student at The College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Focusing on human posture, his goal is to become a geriatric educator and researcher. Hua enjoys exploring the science and art of longevity together with OLLI course participants.

Dates: 3 Fridays, 12/4–12/18

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: IN-PERSON at Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Saturday

Attention Must Be Paid: A Look at Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and *All My Sons*

"A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man."
—Linda, *Death of a Salesman*

Aristotle's *Poetics* suggests that tragedy is most powerful when it depicts a person of stature falling from prosperity into suffering—think Othello, Hamlet, or Oedipus. Arthur Miller's modern drama challenges this inherited model, turning instead to the tragedy of the ordinary man: a failing door-to-door salesman who dreams of being well-liked while struggling to like himself. In this course, we'll read Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and *All My Sons*, asking what tragedy looks like when its hero is not a king, prince, or general, but a father, husband, worker, and dreamer. Prior to the first class, please obtain copies of both plays and read Act I of *Death of a Salesman*.

Facilitator: Michele Harris received a BA in English from Allegheny College and an MFA in poetry from UMass Boston. She is the author of the poetry collection *Blackdamp* (David Robert Books, 2019), a recipient of the 2011 David A. Kennedy prize, and a finalist for the 2018 New Millennium Award. Her writing has appeared in *Cicada*, *New Millennium Writings*, *The Tishman Review*, *Anderbo*, *The Prose-Poem Project*, *Dirtflask*, *Escarp*, *The Columbia College Literary Review*, *Stirring*, and elsewhere. She has been a facilitator with OLLI since 2009.

Dates: 6 Saturdays, 9/19–10/31 (no class on 10/10)

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

S Colonial Rule and Partition in India

In this class, OLLI students will be presented with different paintings, documents, and photographs during the colonial rule in India. Through lecture and discussions, we will use these items to understand how and why that rule led to Indian partition which created three major countries.

Facilitator: Hasib Mahmud, an emerging voice in art history and historical fiction, studied Medieval Art History at CUNY. His research spans different continents, exploring Mughal histories, and colonial legacies. Of Bengali heritage, he now writes a novel on Partition, foregrounding overlooked women's voices and resisting fixed narratives of history. He has presented before on Company Painting.

Dates: 5 Saturdays, 9/19–10/17

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Global Political Conflicts: Origins, Dynamics, and Pathways to Peace

This five-week course explores the underlying causes, evolving dynamics, and possible resolutions of major global political conflicts in the modern era. Through interdisciplinary perspectives drawn from political science, history, sociology, and international relations, the course examines how power, ideology, identity, and resource competition shape conflicts across regions. Participants will engage with classical theories of conflict and peace, study contemporary case studies, and discuss realistic pathways toward sustainable resolution and global cooperation.

Facilitator: Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Uddin Arif is a political scientist and interdisciplinary scholar whose teaching and research span International and Environmental Politics, Conflict and Peace Studies, Governance and Public Policy, and Humanities. Dr. Iqbal's work focuses on bridging global divides through dialogue, sustainability, and inclusive perspectives that connect ideas across cultures, religions, political systems, and disciplines.

Dates: 5 Saturdays, 9/19–10/24 (no class on 10/10)

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

When Art Tells History: A Window into Haitian and American History through Select Artworks

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence, this class builds on students' interest in art and history to explore important moments of Haitian history that intersect with American history. A curated selection of artworks (by Haitian and non-Haitian artists) will be featured for active discussions. At least one class will be hybrid, with students attending either online or onsite at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, to discuss a Haitian painting. Classes are expected to be engaging and interactive, and students can also submit artworks relevant to the topic for interpretation. No formal background in art or Haitian history is required.

Facilitator: Charlot Lucien is the founder of the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts (HAAM). He has edited two art books, *Migrating Colors* (2018) and *Who We Art: Haitian Art in New England* (2026). He co-chaired a Boston Creates art committee for the City of Boston in 2016. He currently consults for the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA Boston) about including Haitian art in its programming.

Dates: 5 Saturdays, 10/24–11/21

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

S Exploring Longevity

In this 11th Exploring Longevity series, we will continue to explore human posture, an evolutionary miracle that enabled our species to evolve from quadrupedalism to bipedalism. We will explore how the S-shaped spine and upright posture have distinguished humans from other primates during our prolonged history of evolution. We will also examine how human posture, embedded in our social, cultural, and technological evolution, has played a critical role in our longevity and quality of independent living. This course has been enriched by the shared wisdom and insights from our participants' lived experiences.

Facilitator: Hua Chen, see bio on page 21.

Dates: 3 Saturdays, 12/5–12/19

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: ONLINE via Zoom

Format: Lecture/Discussion

Price: \$45 for OLLI Carte Members

Fall 2026 OLLI Talk Presentations

Below are a few selections from the fall line-up of OLLI Talk presentations usually held in-between the morning and afternoon classes mostly starting at noon. Specific dates and locations (whether ONLINE or IN-PERSON) will be announced approximately three weeks prior to each event. The detailed descriptions of the content and the presenters will also be available at that time. Members will be notified, and they can sign up at that time. ***Please do not put any of these OLLI Talk presentations on your Course Request Form.*** Additional presentations will be announced later.

At-Home: Habits for Your Best Health

by Patricia DeVal

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Ocean Exploration

by Stephen Devaney

Plastic, Climate Change, and Human Health

by Bridget Lee

Is This a Stroke!? Learn to Be FAST

by Marguerite Magri

The Secret Life of Jokes

by David Misch

Anatomy of a Smishing Attack: Real World Examples and Takeaways

by Alison Murray

The Ancient Silk Road: Journey Across Central Asia

by Barry Pell

The Orkney Islands: The People and Culture of Scotland's North

by Barry Pell

The Beautiful Brain: The Nervous System Under the Microscope

by Timothy Wheelock

The Six Pillars of Brain Health: Maintaining and Improving It as We Age

by Jeff Zornitsky

Upcoming Overnight Travel Opportunities

All participants in OLLI's overnight travel programs must be OLLI members at the time of travel. Future overnight trips not published in the catalog will be announced in OLLI's newsletter, *Connections*.

Historic Philadelphia and Valley Forge

Join us as we celebrate America's 250th birthday and "travel through time" on a journey that will take us to Pennsylvania and the historic sights of Philadelphia and Valley Forge where it all began. Enjoy deluxe accommodation, delicious meals, informative sightseeing, historical attractions, and more! Besides a sightseeing tour of the "City of Brotherly Love" with a local guide, OLLI members will also enjoy tours of Valley Forge National Historical Park, Eastern State Penitentiary, and the National Constitution Center. Deluxe accommodation for four evenings will be at The Residence Inn Center City Philadelphia. The trip will also include breakfast at our hotel each morning, plus 3 dinners: Moshulu's a fine dining restaurant located on Philadelphia's waterfront, the Historic Mendenhall Inn, and at Positano Coast (indicate entree selections on your registration form). For questions or more information, please contact OLLI member and trip leader John Capuano at 617-913-3828.

Travel Dates: October 18-22, 2026

Cost: \$1,500.00 per person (double occupancy); single supplement: \$495.00. This travel opportunity is provided by Yankee Line Tours and features coach bus travel.



Allure of the Adriatic: Italy, Slovenia, & Croatia

Start the New Year with a Trip to the Adriatic! Travel with OLLI and Overseas Adventure Travel and explore nine cities and attractions in Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy. Discover the timeless beauty of the Adriatic on this Allure of the Adriatic tour, a captivating journey along one of Europe's most enchanting coastlines. From medieval walled cities and sun-drenched islands to crystal-clear waters and dramatic seaside landscapes, this experience blends rich history, vibrant culture, and relaxed coastal charm. Wander cobblestone streets, savor fresh local cuisine, and immerse yourself in the stories of civilizations that have shaped this remarkable region. For questions or more information, please contact OLLI member and trip leader Pat Flynn at 617.312.5190. Ready to reserve your spot? Please call 1-800-955-1925 and mention this code (G6-23625) for the OLLI trip.

Travel Dates: December 31, 2026-January 16, 2027

Cost: \$5,645 (includes international airfare from Boston)



Tunisia: From the Mediterranean to the Sahara

From the blue waters of the Mediterranean to the sweeping dunes of the Sahara, this trip offers a richly layered journey through ancient history and everyday life in North Africa. Travelers explore remarkably preserved Roman ruins, wander colorful souks, visit traditional Berber villages, and experience the dramatic beauty of desert oases and vast sand seas. Meaningful cultural moments—such as home-hosted visits, a “Day in the Life” experience, and open discussions with local people—provide genuine insight into Tunisian culture beyond the landmarks. Led by expert local guides and paced for discovery, this small-group adventure blends iconic highlights with deep, people-to-people connections. This is a smaller capacity trip with 16 travelers only. For questions or more information, please contact OLLI member and trip leader Elaine Kerrigan at 781.985.4222. Ready to reserve your spot?

Please call 1-800-353-6262 and mention this code (G7-29866) for the OLLI trip.

Travel Dates: May 11-26, 2027

Cost: \$4,645 (includes international airfare from Boston)



OLLI Takes Cleveland

OLLI is off to Cleveland for a 3-night adventure that includes admission to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Botanical Gardens, and an evening riverboat dinner cruise. A main highlight will be going to the Cleveland Museum of Art and meeting Arielle Levine in person! Arielle has been the face of the museum for many OLLI members over the years with her variety of long-distance education programs focusing on the museum's exhibits and holdings. "Painting the French Riviera" will be the special exhibit on display during OLLI's visit. OLLI has partnered with Cara Group Travel out of Quincy to design this travel opportunity. The itinerary does include free time in which you can enjoy Cleveland on your own. The group will be staying in the theatre district. For questions or more information, please contact OLLI member and trip leader Deborah Baron at 508.728.8024.

Travel Dates: June 15-18, 2027

Cost: \$1,780 (double) or \$2,263 (single). Note: prices do not include airfare; group airfare will be available in July.



Ireland in Depth

Ireland in Depth invites travelers to engage deeply with Ireland's history, literature, and cultural traditions through a thoughtfully designed, immersive journey. The base tour explores historic towns, rural landscapes, and significant cultural sites, offering rich context through guided experiences and meaningful local encounters. Travelers are encouraged to examine Ireland's past and present—from ancient heritage to modern identity—while enjoying time for reflection, discussion, and independent discovery. Designed for curious minds, the program balances scholarly insight with authentic experiences that bring Ireland's story vividly to life. For questions or more information, please contact OLLI member and trip leader Elaine Condon at 617-470-5612. Ready to reserve your spot? Please call 1-800-597-2452 and mention this code (G7-28779) for the OLLI trip.

Travel Dates: October 2-16, 2027

Cost: \$5,645 (includes international airfare from Boston)



OLLI's Shared Interest Groups (SIGs)

Independent, self-directed **Shared Interest Groups (SIGs)** provide members with enriching activities outside OLLI courses and talks. Members form groups based upon shared and mutual interest and decide where and when they will meet and how the group will function. Most SIGs meet once a month, although they may meet more or less often if members wish. The OLLI office provides meeting space at UMass or a Zoom link to meet online, although a group may decide to meet at a location outside the UMass Boston campus.

If you think you are interested in joining one of these groups or have ideas about starting a new group, contact the OLLI office by email (ollireg@gmail.com) or phone 617.287.7312. A SIG leader will contact you with information about future meetings. SIGs are open to any current OLLI member.

Book Group (full)

OLLI's Book Group connects members who love to read and share their impressions of selected books. Meetings take place monthly on the second Thursday of each month, except July and August. They are held online via Zoom from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. A mix of fiction and nonfiction titles are selected by group members, and the member who suggests the book becomes the discussion leader.

Culinary Adventures

The Culinary Adventures Group connects OLLI members with a shared interest or curiosity about food and all things culinary. Each month, a member of the 4-person steering committee takes responsibility for planning and coordinating an adventure on a culinary-related topic. The week of the month and day vary, and events generally last about 2 1/2 hours.

Genealogy Gems

Genealogy Gems are for those OLLI members who have an interest or hobby in genealogy. Group members

will share and gain knowledge from each other on researching family history including using DNA to solve brick walls. Group members will exchange and identify tips, resources and other ideas on genealogical approaches, as well as share the results of their efforts!

French Conversations Through Cinema

Did you once study French? Would you like to improve your ability to understand and speak it now? The French Conversations through Cinema SIG represents a cooperative learning experience to help members become more confident in their French speaking and comprehending abilities. This is achieved through general discussion of current events, personal interests and hobbies, travel, and other happenings. Each weekly meeting also consists of watching portions of a French film with English subtitles. The current group members come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences using French. This SIG meets every Monday from 10:00 a.m.–12 noon.

Knitting

The Knitting SIG brings together people interested in knitting, crocheting, or needlepoint art. We work as we talk, take time to share our current projects, get advice and tips from one another, and often times, enjoy a good laugh! The Knitting SIG currently meets monthly on Wednesday mornings (10 a.m.–12 noon) in-person on the UMass Boston campus.

International Book Chat

The Intergenerational Book Chat is open to all OLLI members and to any current graduate and undergraduate student at UMass Boston. The group currently meets online via Zoom once a month late on Monday afternoons to discuss a book selected by group members. The discussion is often co-led between an OLLI member and a UMass Boston student. In addition to a discussion about the book contents, participants appreciate hearing varied points of view and value building relationships across generations.

Photography

The Photography SIG aims to bring OLLI members together who have an interest in taking and sharing pictures. Whether you use a smart phone, a digital camera, or some other photographic device, you are welcome to participate in the group's monthly meetings. One monthly meeting will be in-person gatherings to practice taking photos around a specified theme and/or location; the next monthly meeting will be held online (2nd Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m.) to share those photos from the previous month's assignment. Group members will help decide the monthly themes and meet-up locations.

Stonewall at OLLI

Stonewall at OLLI is a community of older LGBTQ learners at UMass Boston's OLLI. They are committed to providing a safe, friendly and welcoming place for people of all sexual orientations and gender identifications and expressions. Our monthly meetings offer our members a spirit of camaraderie within OLLI as well as share suggestions for activities outside of OLLI. Currently the group meets monthly online via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday from 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Walking Group

The goal of the Walking Group is to promote a healthy lifestyle through walking as well as to provide a chance for socialization with other OLLI members. The group takes advantage of the area's natural resources. The walks usually take about 90 minutes, and the group can accommodate walkers of various abilities, both tortoises and hares! Most walking locations tend to be accessible by public transportation or have parking nearby. Members are encouraged to carpool when possible.

Writing Group (full)

This group, the outgrowth of an OLLI Memoir Writing Class offered more than 10 years ago, meets on Zoom every Wednesday, year-round, from 1– 3:00 p.m.. Members write on any topic they choose. Many of the writers work on memoirs; others write fiction or poetry. We try to find time for each member to read aloud and for the group to offer comments and suggestions. Some of the SIG members have published books. Others have had submissions accepted by UMass Boston's literary journal and by various online magazines.

Let's Go to the Theatre

OLLI at UMass Boston is excited to offer the following theatre performances for fall and early winter at very low discounted prices. All tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Limit two per member. OLLI members are encouraged to use the ticket order form found on [OLLI's website](#) when order tickets. *Note: At the time of printing, not all fall dates had not been confirmed by the theatres. Updated theatre schedules will be announced through OLLI's newsletter as well as the ticket order form.*

Purpose



Winner of the 2025 Pulitzer Prize and a smash hit on Broadway, *Purpose* is the explosive and wildly entertaining new play from Tony winner Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, diving headlong into the life of a prominent and influential political dynasty.

Encircled by civil rights leaders, pastors, and congressmen for decades, the Jasper family is a foundational pillar of Black American society. That is, until their youngest son returns home with an unexpected dinner guest, and their carefully curated existence begins to fracture. Don't miss this searing and hilarious exploration of faith, class, ambition, and heritage — what the *Washington Post* called “a feast of jaw-dropping tea and riveting food for thought.”

Date: TBA

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Covenant



Johnny “Honeycomb” James comes back home famous, changed, and impossible to explain. The voice is real, but the rumors are loud. In a town that remembers everything and forgives nothing, his return cracks open old stories and new

accusations. Soon no one can agree on what's true, only on what feels true enough to believe. *Covenant* is a Southern Gothic thriller about myth-making, moral panic, and the stories people choose when the truth is too inconvenient.

Date: Saturday, October 3

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

To Kill a Mockingbird



Harper Lee's enduring classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* is adapted anew as Aaron Sorkin, the brilliant and beautifully idealistic creator of *The West Wing* and *A Few Good Men*, returns to writing for the stage. When upstanding lawyer Atticus Finch seeks

justice for a wrongfully accused man, he is tested by the limits of his virtue and the uneasy work of forgiveness in a world ruptured in two. Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel has resonated powerfully for over six decades. What does it mean to revisit this beloved classic today with fresh eyes—to consider how far we've come, and how far we still need to go? Artistic Director Loretta Greco creates the first regional production of Sorkin's soaring adaptation, especially for Boston.

Date: TBA

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Let's Go to the Theatre

Adia & Clora Snatch Joy



Our celebrated Ufot Family Cycle concludes its epic, citywide, two-and-a-half-year, nine-play journey where it began—here at The Huntington—with Mfoniso Udofia’s rousing folk opera *Adia & Clora Snatch Joy*. In the marshes of South Carolina,

Clora Abernathy opens her front door to a stranger from Massachusetts—Adiaha Ufot—and something unnamed stirs within them. Both are dutiful daughters who’ve devoted their lives to their parents – but as the sparks fly, a life-changing question takes shape: What might happen if they dare to be good to themselves? To wholly experience desire, pleasure, and joy as grown-ass women—for the very first time. Soaringly composed for a cappella voices by Michael Ellis Ingram, *Adia & Clora Snatch Joy* breaks new ground while bringing the Ufot Family Cycle to a joyous, musical finale. Awoye Timpo, who brilliantly directed *The Grove*, returns to helm this landmark production that you can enjoy whether it’s the first play you are seeing in the Ufot Family Cycle or your ninth.

Date: TBA

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

A Streetcar Named Desire



“Real? Who wants real?... I want magic!” The sweltering heat of a New Orleans summer sets the tone for the simmering tensions that crackle and spark between the unforgettable characters of Tennessee Williams’ Pulitzer Prize-winning play, set to

André Previn’s luminous score. Magnetic but self-deluded Blanche DuBois leaves her Mississippi hometown and seeks shelter with her sister Stella and her husband Stanley. Clinging to a romanticized image of the past, she quickly finds herself at odds with the domineering Stanley, whose brutal realism clashes ruthlessly with her worldview. Cruelty, desire, illusion, and fear of change are on raw display as the resulting events send everyone involved careening toward destruction.

Date: Sunday, November 8

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Mexodus



Photo Credit: Curtis Brown

“A dazzling showcase not just for what music can be, but also for the ecstasy of making it.”

The New York Times (Critic’s Pick). A story reclaimed. A legacy looped. You know the story of the Underground Railroad that ran north—but what about the one that ran south, across the Rio Grande

into Mexico? This hip-hop musical follows a freedom seeker and an unlikely ally as they forge a bond that transcends borders. With live-looped music as layered as our country’s past, this Helen Hayes Award-winning production reveals a hidden chapter of American history.

Date: Wednesday, December 30

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Teach for OLLI!

The OLLI Curriculum Committee is always looking for new course facilitators, OLLI Talk presenters, or walking tour guides! If you (or someone you know) would enjoy sharing their knowledge and experience with our members through an OLLI program, please email the OLLI office. **Deadlines for Program Proposals:** early May for the fall catalog; early November for the spring catalog.

OLLI offers a future-facilitator workshop prior to each of these deadlines, to help members develop their ideas and transform them into actual proposals (workshop details and dates are announced in the OLLI newsletters). Prior to the beginning of each term, an orientation session is offered to all new (as well as returning) facilitators to help them become better acquainted with our lifelong learning community and to understand and share best practices for facilitating and presenting in OLLI classrooms. Questions? Please email our program proposal account: proposalolli@gmail.com.

Financial Assistance for Membership Fees

While OLLI at UMass Boston strives to keep its annual fees affordable for members, we recognize that there are those that may need financial support to join. The purpose of the Harry Gloss Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships (full or partial) to individuals who cannot afford to pay the annual OLLI membership fee. It was named in memory of the late Harry Gloss, who was a founding member of UMass Boston's lifelong learning program and was involved as a course facilitator and advisory council member. Please email (ollireg@gmail.com) or call (617.287.7312) the OLLI office to inquire about the scholarship form and process. Financial contributions to this scholarship fund can be accepted at any time and are tax deductible. Please send a separate check made out to "Friends of OLLI" with your registration and/or course request forms if you care to donate at this time. Thank you for your generosity!

OLLI Membership Categories

- **Full/Inclusive Membership.** This category allows you to take courses, OLLI Talks and Walking Tours at no additional charge. You can take as many courses as you can get into: OLLI operates on an allocation/priority system for its courses (not a first-come, first-serve basis). The full membership category allows you to also enjoy all the other benefits of being an OLLI member such as access to our travel and day trip programs, theatre outings, social events, and many more. Some of these will have additional costs associated with them.
- **OLLI Carte Membership.** This category is designed for folks who may only wish to take 1–3 courses a year. For this category, you pay for each course (\$45/course) that you get into. There are no extra fees associated with registering and attending OLLI Talks or Walking Tours; those are already included in the membership pricing. As an OLLI Carte member, you also have access to the other programs such as travel, theatre, etc. mentioned above.
- **General Membership.** This general membership would allow folks to participate in many of the social-educational components that OLLI offers such as theatre, day trips, travel, Shared Interest Groups, special events, and summer programs. This membership level would not be eligible to take OLLI courses.
- **Trial Semester.** This is our introductory membership category and allows a person to have a full OLLI experience for one semester (fall or spring). At the end of the trial semester, the person would be able to apply the fee towards a full-year membership. A person can only join once as a trial member.

OLLI at UMass Boston Membership Categories, Fees, and Benefits
Effective July 1, 2026

Membership Fees, Programs, and Benefits	MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY			
	Full/Unlimited	OLLI Carte	General	Trial Semester
Annual Individual Membership Fee*	\$285	\$120	\$70	\$150
Annual Household Membership Fee^	\$525	\$225	\$130	N/A
Unlimited Courses (no additional fees)	✓	N/A	N/A	✓
Additional Per Course Fee	N/A	\$45	N/A	N/A
OLLI Talks/Walking Tours	✓	✓	✓	✓
Summer Programs	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Winter Term	✓	\$45 term pass	\$45 term pass	N/A
Theatre Outings (group pricing)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Day Trips & Excursions (group rates)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Domestic/International Travel (group rates)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Osher Online National Courses	\$45/course	\$45/course	\$45/course	\$45/course
Shared Interest Groups (SIGs)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weekly Newsletter, <i>Connections</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mango Languages	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
University Library Access	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
UMass Student ID (one-time fee)	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
UMass Email Address	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
UMass Parking Discount	✓	✓	✓	✓
UMass Parking Plan (per term)	\$45	\$45	N/A	\$45

Table 1: OLLI Membership Categories and Programs

✓ = Benefit/Program is included in a specific membership category.

N/A = Benefit/Program is NOT included in a specific membership category.

* = Financial support available for individuals needing assistance covering the membership fee.

^ = A household membership is designed for two individuals living at the same address.

OLLI AT UMASS BOSTON MEMBERSHIP FORM FALL 2026

Last Name _____ Preferred First Name _____
Please note any changes to any of the contact information since you last renewed your membership. If no changes, you can leave blank.

Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____
 Primary Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____
 Email _____
 Emergency Contact _____ Phone (_____) _____

MEMBER PROFILE

We **require** your responses to the following questions, which will be used for statistical purposes only. This information will help us to better serve our members.

<p>How did you hear about OLLI? _____</p> <p>Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> No response</p> <p>Year of Birth _____ (required)</p> <p>College Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>UMass Boston Alumnus/a <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Do you consider yourself to be retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Current/Former Occupation _____</p>	<p>Would you be interested in facilitating a course? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>What topic(s)? _____</p> <p>Are you a new member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
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OLLI MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS AND PRICING

Note: Individual and Household Memberships are valid for one year and expire June 30, 2027. Trial Semester Membership is valid for fall semester only and will expire on December 31, 2026.

Please select the membership level at which you will be joining or renewing.

<p>Individual Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full/Unlimited – \$285</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OLLI Carte – \$120</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General – \$70</p>	<p>Household Memberships (two individuals at same household)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full/Unlimited – \$525</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OLLI Carte – \$225</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General – \$130</p>	<p>Trial Semester Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trial Semester – \$150</p> <p>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____</p>
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For Office Use Only. Date Received: _____ Payment Information: _____
 Notes: _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

AmExpress VISA MasterCard Discover

Name on Card _____
 Card Number _____
 Expiration Date _____ CVV _____
 Amount to be Charged _____
 Signature _____

Please make checks payable to “OLLI/UMass Boston” and return this form to **OLLI, McCormack Hall, 3rd Floor, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393.**

*Annual membership dues must be paid in full at the time of course registration and are non-refundable after **September 25, 2026***

**OLLI AT UMASS BOSTON
COURSE REQUEST FORM — FALL 2026**

Last Name _____ Preferred First Name _____

Please note any changes to any of the contact information since you last renewed your membership. If no changes, you can leave blank.

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Primary Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone (_____) _____

Important Information

A priority system is used to determine who will be admitted to classes that are oversubscribed. We believe it to be the most equitable method of deciding who gets into those classes. In order for you to participate in this system, you must return your request form to us by **August 14**, indicating your order of priority for each course (1st choice = most desired). After the deadline, class assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please indicate which courses you are requesting, including location. For locations, use the following abbreviations: **UMB** = UMass Boston Campus, **HPL** = Hingham Public Library, **BR** = Thayer Public Library, Braintree, or **Z** = Zoom. Please print the full course title.

(DO NOT include OLLI Talk, Walking Tours, or SIG registrations on this form!)

1st Course Choice _____ Day _____ Location _____

2nd Course Choice _____ Day _____ Location _____

3rd Course Choice _____ Day _____ Location _____

4th Course Choice _____ Day _____ Location _____

5th Course Choice _____ Day _____ Location _____

It is **IMPERATIVE** that all request forms are received in our office by **Friday, August 14** in order to be included in the lottery process. Registrations are accepted thereafter, but are subject to course availability.

For OLLI Carte members only. Your membership category allows you to add courses for an additional fee of \$45 per course. **Course Registration Fees:** _____ courses x \$45 = _____. Do **not** include this amount with your membership payment. Course fees are due a week after course confirmations are sent.

Course Confirmation

You are not registered for courses until you receive a confirmation letter by email in late August.

Questions about registration?

Call 617.287.7312 or email ollireg@gmail.com. Fax: 617.287.7076

Mail to: OLLI, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393

OLLI Course and Registration Information

Eligibility

Only current Full, OLLI Carte, and Trial Semester members are eligible to request and take courses. The General Membership category **does not** include the ability to take courses.

Facilitators

OLLI course facilitators and OLLI Talk presenters share their areas of expertise with OLLI students on a volunteer basis. A course evaluation form is provided at the end of each course, and your constructive suggestions are welcomed by our facilitators. If you would like to complete an evaluation before the end of the course, please request a form from the OLLI office.

OLLI Scholars

This symbol indicates courses that are taught by UMass Boston graduate students under the OLLI Scholar program. The OLLI Curriculum Committee reviews proposals, interviews candidates, and mentors students from various graduate programs on campus. If accepted into the program, OLLI Scholars receive a stipend after successful completion of their courses. This intergenerational experience benefits both UMass graduate students and OLLI members.

Course Fees

- \$45 per course for OLLI Carte members, or
- Free for Full and Trial Semester members.

Additional fees are sometimes required for courses that involve off-campus activities, special events, or a high amount of handout copying or instructional supplies.

Course fees are due a week after final course confirmations are released.

Course Cancellation

OLLI reserves the right to cancel a scheduled course because of low registration, non-availability of a facilitator, or any other unavoidable circumstance. Students will be notified as soon as possible.

Course Capacities

The maximum number of students registered for each course depends on the course topic (some may work best with a smaller class size) and the preference of the facilitator. If requests for a course exceed capacity, the registration priority system is used to determine who will be enrolled, based on the priorities set by each registrant.

Course Registration Process

OLLI at UMass Boston uses a priority/lottery system to determine final course registrations. Full, OLLI Carte, and Trial Semester members must submit their course requests before the **Priority Registration Deadline of August 14** to be included in the lottery allocation process.

Please list your course choices in order of priority (highest priority = 1, and so on) on the Course Request Form or when using OLLI's online registration system. How does the lottery work? If demand exceeds the number of seats for a course, the computer assigns those seats by lottery based on your priority rankings.

Course requests received after the **August 14** deadline will be assigned based on availability on a first-come, first-served basis.

Paper Registration: Please complete the Course Request Form on page 32 and mail or fax to the OLLI office.

Online Registration: All current OLLI members have an account they can use for online course requests and registrations. Visit OLLI's online registration site where instructions are posted on how to use the system. Site address: <https://www.campusce.net/umb/category/category.aspx>

Course Confirmation: Students are not registered for courses until they receive a final confirmation. Confirmations will be emailed in late August. Please pay close attention to the details of the confirmation correspondence: "registered" means a student has been confirmed to attend the class; "not registered" means the course was oversubscribed, and the course request could not be accommodated; "registered not paid" indicates a student is registered for course but needs to pay the associated course fee.

Dropping or Adding Courses: Requests to drop a course or other OLLI program are handled by the OLLI office. Please email ollireg@gmail.com or call 617.287.7312 as soon as you determine that you will not be able to attending a program for which you are confirmed. If you would like to be placed on a waitlist for a course or program that is full, please contact the OLLI office, and you will be notified if a space becomes available.



Let's Turn a Page and Get Reading Together!

OLLI Reads is an initiative that was created by OLLI's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. OLLI members, friends, and neighbors are enthusiastically invited to read one book over the summer, then gather (in person or on Zoom) to share ideas and enjoy each other's company.

The *OLLI Reads* choice for the summer of 2026 is the New York Times bestselling graphic memoir, *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, illustrated by Harmony Becker. This stirring memoir tells the story of George Takei's childhood in a Japanese detention facility in Arkansas. The story comes to us through a child's eyes, but the questions Takei wants us to consider are grown-up: What does it mean to be an American? And who gets to decide? To add to the educational excitement, we have also chosen a graphic novel which may be a first for many of us.

We invite you all to join us for *OLLI Reads 2026*! Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors. The more the merrier! As some wise reader said, "A book is not only a friend, it makes friends for you."

Community book discussion dates:

- Tuesday, August 4 in-person at the Adams Street Library in Dorchester
- Thursday, August 6 online via Zoom
- Both discussions will start at 10:30 a.m.

Related Summer Events. The following summer programs have been created to continue conversations started with George's memoir. Participants can register for these events by visiting the OLLI website:

- *Minidoka: An American Concentration Camp*. Online film viewing and discussion. Wednesday, July 8 from 4–5:30 p.m.
- Speaker Denny Kato on *Art in Captivity*. Monday, July 20, Online via Zoom from 1:30–3:00 p.m.

