

Spring 2026 OLLI Talk Presentations

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted)

Instructions. This document contains the list of OLLI Talk presentations scheduled for the Spring 2026 semester. If you are not registering for OLLI Talks using [OLLI's online registration system](#), please email (ollireg@gmail.com) or call (617.287.7312) the OLLI office with your OLLI Talk choices. When emailing or leaving a voicemail, please include the title of the OLLI Talk, the date of the presentation, and the location where you will be viewing the presentation. For your convenience, the last page of this document contains a list of OLLI Talk Titles and Dates if you want to keep track of your choices on a single page.

OLLI Talk Fees. For Full and OLLI Carte members, there is no additional cost to register for and attend OLLI Talks. For General members, the fee for each OLLI Talk is \$15. If you register online, you may call the OLLI office to pay with a credit card, or you can return the last page with a check made payable to *OLLI at UMass Boston*.

Summary of OLLI Talks by Location

Zoom (online – link and details will be sent out the day before the presentation)

- #31titleswomeninhistory – Inspiration, Education, Celebration (March 11, 4:00)
- Colonial Paintings and Stories (March 31)
- Florence and the Hill Towns of Tuscany (April 14)
- Everybody's Got a Story! (April 22)
- Building Livable Communities (May 4)
- Eric Liddell: 1924 Olympic Champion (May 12)
- AI's Impact on Creativity (May 13, 2:00)
- August Strindberg: Psychosis and Creativity (May 19)

UMass Boston Campus (in-person)

- The Barnes Foundation: Hidden Gem of Philadelphia (April 16)
- George Martin: The Fifth Beatle (April 28)

Thayer Public Library, Braintree (in-person)

- Decluttering for You and for our Environment (March 26)
- Music and Memory (April 9)
- A Rehab Professional's Journey Through a Total Knee Replacement (April 23)
- Alaska: The Last Frontier (April 30)

Hingham Public Library (in-person)

- #31titleswomeninhistory – Inspiration, Education, Celebration (March 23, 4:00)
- Travels on the Hippie Trail (May 20)

[OLLI Talk Presentation Descriptions](#). The following information was correct at the time of producing this document. Any changes to the status or date/time of a presentation will be announced in the weekly OLLI newsletter, *Connections*.

#31titleswomeninhistory – Inspiration, Education, Celebration

Date: Wednesday, March 11

Location: Online via Zoom | **4:00–5:00 p.m.**

Join award-winning historical fiction author, Janis Robinson Daly, as she shares a curated list of thirty-one titles of historical fiction to celebrate Women’s History Month. Each book spotlights women in history whose achievements languished in the shadows until authors discovered their stories and wrote them, imagining the women’s emotional responses as they strode forward with dreams in their minds and hopes in their hearts. Come share which novels you’ve read on the list of thirty-one and discover others to add to your To Be Read list. Learn more at www.janisrdaly.com. **Presenter:** Inspired by the discovery that an ancestor founded the Woman’s Medical College of PA in 1850, **Janis Robinson Daly** wrote her first best-selling novel, *The Unlocked Path*, which celebrates pioneering women doctors at the turn of the 20th Century. Its sequel, *The Path Beneath Her Feet*, honors the work of the American Women’s Hospitals in rural America during the 1930s. Her third book with Black Rose, *Under Two Flags*, is scheduled for a March 2026 release. Daly graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from Wheaton College, at the time, a women’s college. At Wheaton, she developed a fond appreciation of the supportive relationships established between students and a heightened awareness of female-centric issues.

#31titleswomeninhistory – Inspiration, Education, Celebration

Date: Monday, March 23 | **4:00–5:15 p.m.**

Location: Whiton Room, Hingham Public Library

Join award-winning historical fiction author, Janis Robinson Daly, as she shares a curated list of thirty-one titles of historical fiction to celebrate Women’s History Month. Each book spotlights women in history whose achievements languished in the shadows until authors discovered their stories and wrote them, imagining the women’s emotional responses as they strode forward with dreams in their minds and hopes in their hearts. Come share which novels you’ve read on the list of thirty-one and discover others to add to your To Be Read list. Includes a Bingo-styled game with prizes, book signing, and more. Learn more at www.janisrdaly.com. **Presenter:** **Janis Robinson Daly**, see bio above.

Decluttering for You and for our Environment

Date: Thursday, March 26

Location: Logan Auditorium, Thayer Public Library in Braintree

This class will provide motivation for the decluttering process, along with specific examples of how to begin and how to get things organized in your home. Ideas that will also benefit

our environment as we declutter will be included. **Presenter:** My graduate work is in education from Boston University. I have presented classes on Decluttering for over 15 years - for OLLI programs, senior centers in the area and most recently at the Linden Ponds Community. **Patricia DelVal, PhD** is a retired teacher, counselor, school principal, and special education director who works as an educational consultant. Her graduate work is in education from Boston University. She has presented classes on decluttering for over 15 years - for OLLI programs, senior centers in the area and most recently at the Linden Ponds Community. Her personal interests include habits of healthy living and organization of home and stuff. Dr. DelVal works as a life coach and motivational speaker.

Colonial Paintings and Stories

Date: Tuesday, March 31

Location: Online via Zoom

This talk examines the remarkable “Company paintings” produced by European artists for East India Company officials and local merchants in the 18th and 19th centuries. More than picturesque scenes, these works reveal the politics of “The Raj”, the policies shaping trade and governance, and the complex relationships between colonizers and local communities. Participants will explore how paintings documented everyday life— Love & Loss, professions, and domestic lifestyles—while also reflecting cultural hierarchies and social dynamics. Together, we will consider how art became a powerful lens into colonial India’s contested identities and enduring legacies. **Presenter: 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.

Music and Memory: The Accidental Creation of a 92-year-old Social Media Sensation

Date: Thursday, April 9

Location: Logan Auditorium, Thayer Public Library in Braintree

Dr. Randi Lebar will present an informational, entertaining and inspirational talk about the wild ride she has taken with her mother, pianist Elaine Lebar (born in 1928) who went viral on TikTok in 2020 while living in a memory care unit in Buzzards Bay. Specifically focusing on the magic and power of music in dementia, the talk features many videos of Elaine, and also includes lessons Randi learned along the way about finding meaning and joy in their relationship, in spite of her mother’s mental decline. The presentation is sure to entertain a wide audience, and it will be especially educational and hopeful for those dealing with a loved one in any stage of cognitive decline. **Presenter: Randi Lebar** is a retired orthopaedic surgeon living in Sagamore, MA, where she pursues her passions of crafting, knitting and all forms of dance. She cared for her mother, a classical pianist with Alzheimer's disease, for seven years, learning valuable lessons about dementia, music and the value of connection.

Florence and the Hill Towns of Tuscany

Date: Tuesday, April 14

Location: Online via Zoom

With its ancient stone cathedrals and lavish palaces, sun-drenched hillsides covered with grape vineyards and olive trees, and museums showcasing the paintings and sculptures of Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Raphael, Italy's province of Tuscany is often at the top of Italian tourist destinations. Barry Pell spent a month based in Florence, Tuscany's capital city and the birthplace of the Renaissance. In this program, he will take you on a tour along the narrow cobbled streets of Florence and some of the most beautiful towns perched high in the Tuscan hills. **Presenter: Barry Pell** is a world traveler and photojournalist. He has traveled widely over five decades, visiting and documenting landscapes and cultures in 170 countries on all continents. Mr. Pell has also lived and traveled in China, eastern Europe, North Arica, and South America. He currently lectures on international cultures at schools, universities, libraries and community groups in the Boston area.

The Barnes Foundation: Hidden Gem of Philadelphia

Date: Thursday, April 16

Location: Room 612, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston Campus

Albert Barnes was a visionary art collector who started his own foundation to share his collection with the average person. Today his vision has been realized on the Parkway in Philadelphia. You will be introduced to this marvelous collection and the man who has shared them. **Presenter: David Pogue** is a veteran educator who has been teaching at various levels for over thirty years. He enjoys teaching about the intersections of Art, Music and History.

Everybody's Got a Story!

Date: Wednesday, April 22

Location: Online via Zoom

Have you ever listened to the Moth radio hour or watched Stories from the Stage on PBS and thought "I would love to do that?" Even if you don't have these specific goals, live storytelling is a creative and fun activity that can be done anywhere and is growing in popularity. Oral tradition, passing information via spoken tales, chants, and songs, existed long before recorded history, serving as the primary method for social bonding and education. Modern live storytelling, like the [The Moth](#), is a continuation of this ancient, essential human practice of sharing experiences orally. In this workshop, you will learn the elements of effective storytelling, watch and assess video clips of Moth storytellers and do quick improv games with storytelling topics provided by the instructor. You will also learn the elements of doing live storytelling on stage. **Presenter: Deborah Federico** has been

telling stories at the Moth Story Slams, the Hull Players and other local venues for over five years and has taken numerous storytelling, acting and improv classes at the Boston, Brookline and Cambridge Centers for Adult Education. She was a featured storyteller in the Cambridge Center's 2024 fundraising gala, "Stories of Inspiration." In addition, Deborah has presented thousands of workshops and webinars in her career as a career coach.

Talking the Talk and Walking the Walk:

A Rehab Professional's Journey Through a Total Knee Replacement

Date: Thursday, April 23

Location: Logan Auditorium, Thayer Public Library in Braintree

As an Occupational Therapist, Marguerite was familiar with Total Knee Replacement surgery and rehab. This past June, she had her own knee replaced and through this presentation, will share information about the surgery, the pre- and post-operative experiences, and helpful hints to those who may be or know someone considering having a Total Knee Replacement. **Presenter: Marguerite Magri** is a retired Occupational Therapist (OT) and Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) who practiced for 44 years. Since retiring, she has enjoyed both local and overseas travel. Marguerite has presented other OLLI Talks that explored anatomy and common conditions of the hand, elbow, and shoulder. She has also shared details about her travels to Australia as well as the lighthouses of Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island.

George Martin: The Fifth Beatle

Date: Tuesday, April 28

Location: Room 612, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston Campus

George Martin started his career producing comedy albums by the likes of the Goons (Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, et al.). How did he end up producing and performing on such classics as "Revolver", Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, and "Abbey Road"? We will find out. **Presenter: David Pogue** is a veteran educator who has been teaching at various levels for over thirty years. He enjoys teaching about the intersections of Art, Music and History.

Alaska: The Last Frontier

Date: Thursday, April 30

Location: Logan Auditorium, Thayer Public Library in Braintree

Alaska was considered a waste of money when it was purchased from Russia after the Civil War for about three cents an acre. But in the subsequent decades, its natural resources (including salmon and oil) were recognized, together with its immense beauty, as a national treasure. In this program, Barry Pell will take you on a journey across the Alaskan landscape of cedar and spruce forests, snow white mountains, and blue-green glaciers that is home to a menagerie of birds and animals. The state is also the ancestral home of indigenous

tribes, particularly the Tlingit, whose craftsmanship in woodcarving is expressed in richly decorated clan houses and symbolic totem poles. **Presenter: Barry Pell** is a world traveler and photojournalist. He has traveled widely over five decades, visiting and documenting landscapes and cultures in 170 countries on all continents. Mr. Pell has also lived and traveled in China, eastern Europe, North Arica, and South America. He currently lectures on international cultures at schools, universities, libraries and community groups in the Boston area.

Building Livable Communities

Date: Monday, May 4

Location: Online via Zoom

The AARP Livable Communities initiative helps communities become great places to live, work, and age by promoting accessibility, inclusion, and sustainability. The Building Livable Communities presentation provides practical strategies and real-world examples of how cities and towns nationwide and locally are enhancing livability through innovative programs and policies. Participants will gain insights into AARP programs like the Age-Friendly Network, Community Challenge Grants, and impactful projects that support aging in place and community engagement. Whether you're a local leader, advocate, or resident, this session will equip you with valuable tools to create a more livable environment for all.

Presenters: Theresa Chaklos has been an AARP Massachusetts Speakers Bureau volunteer since September 2020. She has JD degree from Regent University School of Law and B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University. Since retiring, her purpose has been to empower others to live their best life by providing information, connection and resources. **Antron Watson** is the Age-Friendly Director for AARP Massachusetts. He champions collaborative efforts to enhance community livability and has worked with 100+ municipalities across the state to create environments conducive to aging gracefully. Antron advocates for inclusive spaces and holistic planning, which fosters the power of collaboration and attentive listening to enhance communities that enrich the lives of all people.

Eric Liddell: 1924 Olympic Champion

Date: Tuesday, May 12

Location: Onine via Zoom

This presentation will take a look at the life of Eric Liddell (of Scotland), who was a fascinating figure in both history and sports. As an athlete, he was a world-class rugby player as well as an Olympic track & field sprint champion (gold medalist in 1924). In 1925, he served as a missionary to China and was imprisoned in an internment camp during World War II. Come learn about this Lidell who is an extremely inspirational individual both then and now. **Presenter: Stephen Devaney** is a retired vice president/quantitative analyst (30+ years) in the financial management industry. He obtained valuable research and

analysis skills along the way and loves to keep researching: a topic, an issue, an event, a trend, or a predictive analytic item. Stephen has taught and presented both multi-week courses and single session presentations for OLLI.

AI's Impact on Creativity

Date: Wednesday, May 13 | **2:00– 3:00p.m.**

Location: Online via Zoom

Through artists at the vanguard of using technology in their art practice, we will explore how we got from the very first simple chatbots to today's powerful tools like ChatGPT. Examine how AI chatbots and images are trained, why they can sound so "human," and how they sometimes reflect our own biases and information bubbles. You'll see surprising examples of AI in art museums, art auction houses, and participatory online communities. Together, we'll ask a big question: as AI learns from us, how is it also quietly changing the way we think, see the world, and express humans' deepest feelings through creativity? **Presenter:**

Hugh Leeman is an artist and lecturer. He guest lectures regularly at Johns Hopkins University and Duke University. Leeman's lectures focus on the historical power of art to influence beliefs and behaviors and the future of images' ability to re-engineer contemporary social constructs. His first social art project was a five-year collaboration with unhoused individuals. More recently, he used his art and community activism to co-found aetatribes.org. Currently, he is developing an oral history project in Spanish within Spanish-speaking communities, using artificial intelligence, storytelling, and narrative art-making to preserve cultural memory and foster human connection. Leeman has exhibited his artwork and projects at the de Young Museum, the Museum of Mexico City, the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington, and the Masur Museum of Art. He is the managing editor of the contemporary art journal *Roborant Review*.

August Strindberg: Psychosis and Creativity

Date: Tuesday, May 19

Location: Online via Zoom

Persecutory delusions are increasingly normalized, due to our politics and AI chatbots. About 5% of Americans experience hallucination at least once. Psychosis is isolating and frightening, but it can also be a resource for creativity. This lecture will consider the work of playwright August Strindberg. Strindberg's mid-career psychotic break revolutionized his theatrical imagination, leading to work that transcended his early realistic style. In addition to discussions of famous plays like "Miss Julie" and "The Ghost Sonata," the lecture will cover Strindberg's memoirs, including his "Occult Diaries," published in English for the first time last year. **Presenter: Josh Platt** is a dramaturg and collaborative theater artist in the Boston area. He has a Master of Arts in Theatre Education from Emerson College and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Yale University.

Travels on the Hippie Trail

Date: Wednesday, May 20

Location: Whiton Room, Hingham Public Library

In 1973, OLLI member Jeffrey Calish embarked on a journey with two roommates that started in Greece and then went to Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos and Hong Kong. It took about 5 months and they stayed in hostels - never in hotels. Come enjoy this presentation as Jeff recounts a number of interesting things that happened along the way. **Presenter: Jeffrey Calish** is a current OLLI member who resides in Dorchester. He has created and led presentations for OLLI on his travels to Guatemala as well as the history of the former synagogues of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. Many may also remember Jeff's role as tour guide for his OLLI walking tours of Ashmont and Dorchester/Lower Mills. This presentation explores Jeff's first trip to circumnavigate the planet.

Spring 2026 OLLI Talk Presentations – Titles and Dates

Below is a list of all the OLLI Talks in this document. As members have done in the past, they can print this last page, check off what they wish to register for, and send back to the OLLI office. Our mailing address is: OLLI UMass Boston, 3rd Floor McCormack Hall, 100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125. Please make sure to indicate the correct location if there is more than one listed. **OLLI Talk fee reminder:** Full and OLLI Carte members do not need to pay extra to register and attend OLLI Talks. For General members, there is a fee of \$15 per OLLI Talk that needs to be paid at the time of registration.

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