

Fall 2025 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 Fall 2025 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 Talk Locations

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

- Where on Earth is the United States? A Top 10 Summary! (October 29)
- Comedy vs. the Apocalypse (October 31)
- Microplastics, Human Health and Climate Change (November 4)
- Greenland: A Journey into the Land of Ice (November 12)

UMass Boston Campus (in-person)

- Welcome to Bauhaus (September 18)
- Egon Schiele: Austrian Genius (September 25)
- Tips for Greening Your Home (October 6)
- Hitler through Cigarette Carton Photographs (October 16)
- Do You Miss Filene's Basement? (November 6)

Thayer Public Library in Braintree (in-person)

- Beyond Expectations: 25 Years Aboard the International Space Station (October 7)
- Nice & the French Riviera (October 9)

[**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*.

Welcome to the Bauhaus

Date: Thursday, September 18

Location: Room 617, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston

In this presentation, OLLI members will learn about the revolutionary art school known as the Bauhaus, which existed from 1919 to 1933. It aimed to integrate fine arts with applied arts, emphasizing functionality and mass production. The Bauhaus style is characterized by its minimalist, geometric designs, use of modern materials like steel and glass, and rejection of ornamentation.

Presenter: David Pogue is a veteran educator with over thirty years of experience. His main areas of interest are music, art, literature, history, and evolutionary psychology.

Egon Schiele: Austrian Genius

Date: Thursday, September 25

Location: Room 617, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston

In his short 28 years of life, Egon Schiele became one of the most influential visual artists of the 20th century. We will see why.

Presenter: David Pogue is a veteran educator with over thirty years of experience. His main areas of interest are music, art, literature, history, and evolutionary psychology.

The Self-Taught Plant Mom: Tips for Greening Your Home

Date: Monday, October 6

Location: Room 617, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston

Students will learn about different indoor plant types requiring different levels of care, how to acquire them less expensively, where to place them in your home, how to plant and care for them over time, how to address plant diseases and pests, and how to propagate plants. This course is more for beginners and somewhat experienced plant lovers; not for those who are more advanced.

Presenter: Laurie Stillman is retired, and since Covid, has become an avid "Plant Mom." She has nurtured and propagated over 70 plants in her home, turning it into a happier, healthier, more beautiful environment. She has studied plant behavior, care and reproduction and enjoys sharing her plants and what she has learned with others.

Beyond Expectations: 25 Years Aboard the International Space Station (ISS)

Date: Tuesday, October 7

Location: Thayer Public Library, Braintree

Launched as a symbol of international collaboration and scientific ambition, the International Space Station was expected to orbit until 2015. A decade beyond that, it's still going strong—and still stirring debate. With 280 astronauts from 23 nations and thousands of experiments completed, the ISS remains a unique, \$3 billion-a-year platform for innovation. But what have we really gained from this orbiting laboratory? In this talk, we'll explore the surprising scientific breakthroughs, global partnerships, and future plans that keep the ISS relevant—and ask the big question: Has it truly been worth the investment?

Presenter: Since retiring from UMass Boston, **Pat Monteith** reignited her passion for space exploration. As a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador since 2016, she's delivered dozens of dynamic programs—many with OLLI—sharing the wonders of NASA missions and space science with audiences of all ages in an engaging and accessible way.

Nice & the French Riviera:

Medieval Villages, Contemporary Art, and Breathtaking Coastlines

Date: Thursday, October 9

Location: Thayer Public Library, Braintree

The Riviera stretches along France's southeast Mediterranean coast and rambles into the mountainous Alps. The region got its nickname from vacationing Brits, but to the French it is known for the dazzling azure blue color of the sea - La Côte d'Azur. This sunny sliver of land has been occupied for over three thousand years by different rulers, who left their mark on the landscape, architecture, lifestyle and food. The unique play of light in the region has attracted a legion of artists from Matisse to Picasso for over a century. Barry Pell, the lecturer, lived in Nice for one month and explored and photographed the region's historic palaces, magnificent seafront, and cliff-hanging villages.

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 Africa, and South America. He currently lectures on international culture at schools, universities, libraries, community centers, and residential communities in the Boston area.

Hitler through Cigarette Carton Photographs

Date: Thursday, October 16

Location: Room 617, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston

In 1936, the publisher Cigaretten/Bilderdienst Altona/Bahrenfeld published a book of photographs of Adolf Hitler that were available to Germans with their purchase of cartons

of cigarettes. These photographs were collected by Germans and often traded in the same way as baseball cards were collected by Americans. The book also contained essays about Hitler by the major figures in the Nazi movement such as Hermann Goring and Joseph Goebbels. What is strange about this publication and these Hitler cards is that Adolf Hitler did not smoke and that German scientists had discovered the link between smoking and cancer at least twenty years ahead of other scientists. Since these cards and cigarette sales were a source of significant government revenue these results were not made public nor reflected in government policies.

Presenter: Paul Bookbinder has a BA in History from Queens College in New York City, an MA in History from Northeastern University in History and a Ph.d. in the History of Ideas from Brandeis University. He taught for five decades at UMass Boston concentrating on Weimar and Nazi Germany and 20th Century Europe. He was also a speaker nationally for the Facing History and Ourselves organization concentrating on the Holocaust.

Where on Earth is the United States? A Top 10 Summary!

Date: Wednesday, October 29 | **11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.**

Location: Online via Zoom

How does the U.S. compare in meeting the challenges that exist in 2025? We will examine some 24 topics including: GDP, wages, taxes, trade balance, NATO funding, environment, energy, education, healthcare, climate change, immigration, safety, prosperity, happiness, "Best" Nations, et al.. We will use the "Top 10" format which provides a quick "snap-shot" of the U.S. rank relative to other nations. Our sources are international surveys by highly credible and impartial world-wide organizations. This is the 4th Bi-Annual Edition for the program and includes three discussion breaks. A complete pdf copy will be supplied in advance.

Presenter: Doug Stowell is a consumer and political polling veteran in both U.S. and EU markets. His career includes Market Research Director for the Xerox Corp., U.S. Clients Director for the U.K. firm NOP, Ltd. in London and Sr. Polling Executive - Wirthlin Worldwide in Washington, D.C.. He launched Market Resource Associates, in 2008 and conducts opinion research on global issues today. He is a member of the Furman University Osher Life-Long-Learning Group in Greenville, SC and conducts ZOOM programs for more than 80 organizations world-wide.

Comedy vs. the Apocalypse

Date: Friday, October 31 | **1:00-2:30 p.m.**

Location: Online via Zoom

Nowadays everyone's inbox is filled with memes, cartoons and jokes about political, economic and environmental disasters. And even though each joke is another reminder of

a horrible situation, we laugh. Why? Because we have to; laughter is critical in terrible times because it reminds us we can still feel joy, and that the purpose of life is to do more than just survive. Join David Misch, Mel Brooks, Samuel Beckett, Sarah Silverman and Charlie Chaplin to see how comedy laughs at tragedy – from the Black Death to 9/11; how it's happening now; and how humor can help get us to tomorrow.

Presenter: David Misch is a former comedian, screenwriter (“Mork and Mindy,” “Saturday Night Live,” “The Muppets Take Manhattan”), author (“Funny: The Book”), teacher (USC, UCLA), and lecturer at Yale, Columbia, Oxford, the Smithsonian, American Film Institute, University of Sydney, American Film Institute, and lifelong learning programs around the country. More at davidmisch.com.

Microplastics, Human Health and Climate Change: What Everyone Needs to Know

Date: Tuesday, November 4

Location: Online via Zoom

The plastic crisis is part of a polycrisis that we are facing. Plastic production plays a significant role in our warming planet, and we now know that microplastics are in every organ that has been looked at. We are starting to understand the worrisome health effects. Come learn what the scientists are reporting, and join in a discussion of what can be done, both at the individual level and at the policy level.

Presenter: Bridget Lee is an ER physician working with P-SNAP.org, a new non-profit teaching the world about microplastics and harms to human health our planet, and what we can do about it.

Do You Miss Filene's Basement?

Date: Thursday, November 6

Location: McCormack Building, Floor 3, Room 617

Did you spend your lunch hour shopping in the Basement? Maybe you bought your wedding gown at the “Running of the Brides.” Tom Menino was a regular customer. Barney Frank called Filene’s Basement “a true democratic institution” where working people rubbed shoulders with local and national celebrities for over 100 years. We’ll watch a documentary film, “Voices from the Basement”, featuring stories from Basement employees and loyal customers. Come and share stories about your own Filene's Basement bargains! Unfortunately, this film does not provide subtitles.

Presenter: Julie Kinchla enjoyed studying film while a student at UMass Boston in the 1970's. 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” and “Boston in the Movies.”

Greenland: A Journey into the Land of Ice

Date: Wednesday, November 12

Location: Online via Zoom

Greenland is the world's largest island and least densely populated place on earth. With about eighty percent of the land covered by ice, the population is limited to a handful of habitable places along the coast. Traveling by boat, plane and helicopter (there are no roads) in this Danish colony, the lecturer photographed the stunning beauty of the ice floes, glaciers and icebergs. In this program, he will discuss the island's history and culture, how global warming is changing the landscape and impacting the lives of its people who depend on fishing and hunting for their survival, and the recent focus on Greenland for its valuable natural resources.

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 Africa, and South America. He currently lectures on international culture at schools, universities, libraries, community centers, and residential communities in the Boston area.

Fall 2025 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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