



INSTITUTE FOR
LEARNING IN
RETIREMENT

of Greater New Haven

Lifelong Learning | **SPRING 2026**

COURSE CATALOG

Registration begins
March 2nd, 9am
Classes start March 16

Ready to register?

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

- Registration and instructions are online at www.ilrnh.org.
- You must be a member of ILR. If you're not sure of your membership status, check our website, www.ilrnh.org
- Information in the printed catalog is subject to change. Please check your email and the online registration site for updated information.
- You may register for up to 4 classes during the first week. Additional classes may be registered for after that period. This approach should allow more members to enroll in popular classes.
- Registered seats in a given class are not transferable to someone else.
- Registration starts March 2 at 9am and classes fill very quickly
- If you're having a problem, see the website or call ILR at **(203) 747-9675**



Waitlist Info:

Why am I on a Waitlist?

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

ILR uses waitlists when:

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

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

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

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

Cancellation Policy

ILR cancellation policy

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

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

2025 Fall Classes at a Glance

Instructor	Course Title	Genre of Course	Class type	Page
	Monday			
Don Barkin	S26-01 Poems that Pack a Punch	Literature	In-Person	3
John Thomas	S26-02 The Kalamazoo Women	Culture	In-Person	3
Lois Procopion	S26-03 Easy Pasta Dishes	Food Adventures	Zoom	3
Jerry Dunklee	S26-04 The First Amendment and You	Current Events	In-Person	3
Nancy Abbey	S26-05 Notable Contemporary Fiction	Literature	In-Person	3
Lois Procopion	S26-06 Using Myers-Briggs in Everyday Life	Personal Enrichm	In-Person	3
Daniel May	S26-07 Geopolitics, with an emphasis on the 'Geo'	Nature & Science	In-Person	4
Harold Miller	S26-08 Bridge for advanced beginners	Games	In-Person	4
Rachel Ranis	S26-09 Meritocracy; FAIR OR PHONEY	Current Events	In-Person	4
Harvey Heyman	S26-10 Battle for the 2026 Midterms	Current Events	In-Person	4
	Tuesday			
Mithat "Mito" Mardin	S26-11 Current US and International Events	Current Events	In-Person	4
Marie Musco	S26-12 Canasta for beginners	Games	In-Person	4
Randall Beach	S26-13 Writing about Connecticut characters	Creative Writing	In-Person	4
Phillip Beard	S26-14 Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Blithedale Romance	Literature	In-Person	5
Susan Campbell	S26-15 Do We Need a New Fairness Doctrine?	Culture/Current Events/History	In-Person	5
Leo Cristofar	S26-16 Short Hikes in the Greater New Haven Area	Health & Welfare/Nature & Science	In-Person	5
Ann M. Altman	S26-17 Investigating, discovering and memorializing the history of my Czech Jewish family	History	In-Person	5
Irene Sommers	S26-18 Stealing Beauty: The World's Greatest Art Heists	Art History	In-Person	5
Gabriella Brand	S26-19 Written Language: alphabets, abjads, and syllabaries	Culture	In-Person	6
Margaret Novicki	S26-20 An insiders point of view of the UNITED NATIONS	Current Events	In-Person	6
	Wednesday			
Karen Fenichel	S26-21 Mah Jongg for beginners and refresh	Games	In-Person	6
Alvin Wainhaus	S26-22 Third Annual How to Laugh in Yiddish	Religion	In-Person	6
Ron Heiferman	S26-23 America at War 1941-1945	History	In-Person	6
Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe	S26-24 Pompeii: A City Frozen In Time	Art History	Zoom	7
Eric Dunsker	S26-25 Dungeons & Dragons: Its History and How It is Played	Games	In-Person	7
James Rhodes	S26-26 Two by Joseph Conrad	Literature	In-Person	7
Cheryl Cape	S26-27 Maps and Politics: From Propaganda to Gerrymandering	Technology/Current Events/ Nature & Science	Zoom	7

2025 Fall Classes at a Glance...Continued

Instructor	Course Title	Genre of Course	Class Type	Page
Thursday				
Frances Grodzinsky	S26-28 Artificial Intelligence: Where we are headed?	Technology	Zoom	7
Joel Feimer	S26-29 Irish Drama: A Continuation	Literature	Zoom	8
Gabriella Brand	S26-30 French Conversation: High Intermediate to advanced	Languages	In-Person	8
Byron Nakamura	S26-31 Rome & Early Christianity	History	In-Person	8
Kate Walton	S26-32 LUCA - Last Universal Common Ancestor - processes that drive transformation	Nature & Science	In-Person	8
Loretto Leary	S26-33 Irish American Collective Memories of the Irish Famine	History	Zoom	8
Harvey Heyman	S26-34 A Journey through Rock 'n Roll of Our Generation	Music	In-Person	8
Marc Bosveren	S26-35 The Famous Algonquin Round Table Wits	History/ Literature	In-Person	9
Joel Feimer	S26-36 Athens to New England: Aeschylus and O'Neill	Literature	Zoom	9
Susan-Marcia Birnbaum-Jamron	S26-37 REPEAT! BY POPULAR DEMAND! We are going to the J.P.Morgan Library again!	Culture	In-Person	9
Friday				
Carol Boynton	S26-38 Introduction to Bridge	Games	In-Person	9
Miles Wilson-Toliver	S26-39 Choir	Music	In-Person	9
Len Engel	S26-40 Is the Old West still part of our lives?	Literature	In-Person	10
Michael Stein	S26-41 Art101A Caves to Pyramids: The Dawn of Human Artistic Expression	Art History	In-Person	10
Nicholas Maiorino	S26-42 The Story of "The Star-Spangled Banner"	History	In-Person	10
Mithat "Mito" Mardin	S26-43 German Conversation	Languages	Zoom	10
James Romano	S26-44 Oedipus Rex	Literature	In-Person	10
Nils Pilotte	S26-45 Vaccines - Unraveling fact from fiction	Nature & Science	In-Person	11
Patricia O'Leary-Treat	S26-46 Arts of Memory in Classical and Medieval Cultures	History	In-Person	11
Saturday				
Sharif Kronemer	S26-47 The feeling of seeing: The brain mechanisms of visual sensations in cortical blindness	Nature & Science	Zoom	11

Notes / Classes I want to take

Monday Classes

S26-01 Poems that Pack a Punch

SGL: Don Barkin

Sessions: 6

Dates: Monday, Mar 16, Mar 23, Mar 30, Apr 6, Apr 13, Apr 20

Time: 11:00 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 15

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Lyrics to learn while waiting in line and later say to yourself walking alone through stands of birch and pine until you hear the poem talking.

Reading includes shorter poems by poets of different periods, such as Yeats, Wordsworth, Dickinson, Frost, Millay, Bishop, Shakespeare, and others. No memorizing is required, but reciting will be welcomed, as poems are different when spoken from different throats.

S26-02 The Kalamazoo Women

SGL: John Thomas

Sessions: 1

Dates: Monday, Mar 23

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 45

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

The Kalamazoo Gals - A story of extraordinary women and the Gibson guitars manufactured during World War II.

There will be a short film created and directed by Professor Thomas. The film has been shown nationally and internationally and has won several awards.

S26-03 Easy Pasta Dishes

SGL: Lois Procopion

Sessions: 1

Dates: Monday, Mar 30

Time: 1:00 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$10



This Zoom course will be recorded. We will be preparing quick and easy pasta dishes with few ingredients taking no longer than 30 minutes or less to prepare.

S26-04 The First Amendment and You

SGL: Jerry Dunklee

Sessions: 3

Dates: Monday, Apr 6, Apr 13, Apr 20

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

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

S26-05 Notable Contemporary Fiction

SGL: Nancy Abbey

Sessions: 3

Dates: Monday, Apr 13, May 11, Jun 8

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 15

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

4/13 - River Sing Me Home by Eleanor Shearer - an enslaved Caribbean mother searching for her stolen children

5/11 - A Guardian and a Thief by Megha Majumdar - a meditation on survival and morality in the face of climate catastrophe

6/08 - This Other Eden by Paul Harding - celebrates the hopes, dreams and resilience of those deemed not fit in a world brutally intolerant of difference

S26-06 Using Myers-Briggs in Everyday Life

SGL: Lois Procopion

Sessions: 2

Dates: Monday, Apr 13, Apr 20

Time: 1:00 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

Using Myers-Briggs (MBTI) in everyday life involves leveraging self-awareness for personal growth and understanding communication styles for better relationships, but it's crucial to see it as a helpful guide, not a rigid label, appreciating individual differences while recognizing strengths and stress triggers. It helps shift blame to understanding, improves problem-solving by considering other perspectives, and provides frameworks for navigating family, friends, and work by appreciating different preferences. Katharine Cook Briggs and her daughter Isabel Briggs Myers, created the popular Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), a personality assessment based on Carl Jung's theories, to help people understand themselves and others better. All registrants will be given the indicator to take prior to class and Lois will compile the results for each registrant.

S26-07 Geopolitics, with an emphasis on the 'Geo'

SGL: Daniel May

Sessions: 2

Dates: Monday, Apr 27, May 4

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

Geopolitics examines how physical geography (i.e. natural resources, climate, hydrology, etc.) influences political and international relations. It is an area of political science that was formalized a century ago as scholars began to scrutinize empire-building throughout human history. This course will focus on natural resources for energy production and manufacturing that are unevenly distributed around the world due to their geological origins. The sessions also will address how geological discoveries and exploration in the last two hundred years fostered the industrial revolution, international trade and globalization, and ongoing struggles for control of or access to economically critical resources. Examples of modern-day 'resource imperialism' (e.g. Ukraine, Greenland, Venezuela, the middle East and North Africa, South China Sea ...) will be evaluated from a geological perspective.

S26-08 Bridge for advanced beginners

SGL: Harold Miller

Sessions: 3

Dates: Monday, Apr 27, May 4, May 11

Time: 2:00 P - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Review of declarer play and defense.

S26-09 Meritocracy; FAIR OR PHONEY

SGL: Rachel Ranis

Sessions: 2

Dates: Monday, May 4, May 18

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: B'nai Jacob - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

We will explore the advantages and disadvantages of a society that rewards individuals on the basis of their abilities and achievements rather than inherited family membership. Are the concepts of equality, opportunity and upward mobility well served? The research of Daniel Markovits and Michael Sandels will be considered.

S26-10 Battle for the 2026 Midterms

SGL: Harvey Heyman

Sessions: 1

Dates: Monday, May 11

Time: 10:30 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 70

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

In ordinary times, a fair and free midterm election mostly favors the party out of power after which life goes on more or less as usual. However these are no ordinary times. The current federal executive branch understand that a loss could lead to a "lawful reckoning" they could not tolerate.

This course examines the range of strategies and tactics the federal government may use/are using to ensure favorable outcomes or disrupt the process entirely. It will also identify strategies available to or already proceeding by a lawful opposition. Videos of experts in the field will be shown and there will be discussion following.

Tuesday Classes

S26-11 Current US and International Events

SGL: Mithat "Mito" Mardin

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, Mar 17, Mar 24, Mar 31,

Friday May 8

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 90

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Review of the current US economic indicators and geopolitical developments in the Middle East, Ukraine and the Western Hemisphere

S26-12 Canasta for beginners

SGL: Marie Musco

Sessions: 6

Dates: Tuesday, Mar 17, Mar 24, Mar 31, Apr 7, Apr 14, Apr 21

Time: 1:30 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 10

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Canasta is a four person card game. You will learn the game as it was developed for Canasta Junction. It's fun and challenging. Meet new friends with whom to continue to play your new game.

S26-13 Writing about Connecticut characters

SGL: Randall Beach

Sessions: 1

Dates: Tuesday, Mar 24

Time: 5:00 P - 6:00 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

This will be a single class on how I discovered, interviewed and wrote about interesting people for my New Haven Register column. I will include tips on how to make such subjects interesting to readers.

S26-14 Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Blithedale Romance

SGL: Phillip Beard

Sessions: 6

Dates: Tuesday, Mar 31, Apr 7, Apr 14, Apr 21, Apr 28, May 5

Time: 1:00 P - 2:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel *The Blithedale Romance* (1852) is based on his recent experience at the New England commune called Brook Farm, and he transforms this history into a witty and skeptical account (in turn) of the commune's good intentions, exotic blossoms, and wild weeds. The novel is fascinating as history, psychology, and interpersonal drama. The least symbolic and most realistic of his works, the novel has what John Updike terms a "revolutionary engagement with current concerns," especially with transcendentalism, both in its literal (socialist), and in its fantastic (spiritualist) variants. The narrator of the novel is a slightly satirized version of Hawthorne himself, in his detachment, pessimism, and eye for discerning latent motives and complicating factors in others and in himself.

S26-15 Do We Need a New Fairness Doctrine?

SGL: Susan Campbell

Sessions: 2

Dates: Tuesday, Apr 7, Apr 14

Time: 10:30 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 40

Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden

Course Fee: \$15

Beginning in 1949, broadcasters felt an obligation — and were bound by FCC rules — to provide equal time to opposing political beliefs regarding issues of public interest. When legislators tried to codify the doctrine in the '80s, their efforts were vetoed by Pres. Ronald Reagan, who — as did many conservatives at the time and now — felt the doctrine infringed on free speech. After the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, people again began asking about some kind of regulation similar to the Fairness Doctrine — though the internet,

where much of the planning for that attack occurred, remains highly unregulated. Now we have Fox News delivering information to conservatives, and MSNBC delivering information to progressives in a perfect News in a Bubble situation. Is it possible to regulate content without infringing on free speech?

S26-16 Short Hikes in the Greater New Haven Area

SGL: Leo Cristofar

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, Apr 14, Apr 21, May 5, May 12

Time: 9:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: To Be Announced

Course Fee: \$20

Short hikes of 2 to 4 miles over varied terrain are planned. Hiking boots or sneakers with a good tread are recommended, and you may want to bring a walking stick. You may be walking over tree roots, stones, and puddles. This is not a nature walk. Hike locations will be sent to registrants. Make-up Date is May 19.

S26-17 Investigating, discovering and memorializing the history of my Czech Jewish family

SGL: Ann M. Altman

Sessions: 3

Dates: Tuesday, Apr 14, Apr 21, Apr 28

Time: 10:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

The goal of my lectures is to share the results of my research into the 20th century history of my Czech family and the methods that yielded fruit during this research. I will talk about my mother's family - an affluent and sophisticated family in a small town 90 km from Vienna - and about the lives and sad fates of many family members. The history of my father's family is also fascinating - his father knew Trotsky in Vienna and he, himself, was a first cousin of the so-called Norwegian Anne Frank. The story of his escape to England is remarkable. Finally, I shall discuss how I am memorializing the members of my family who perished in the Holocaust so that they will be remembered in the towns in which they lived and by the world at large. These lectures are more about life than death but death looms large, of course.

S26-18 Stealing Beauty: The World's Greatest Art Heists

SGL: Irene Sommers

Sessions: 2

Dates: Tuesday, Apr 14, Apr 21

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 40

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

This series of four lectures (two in spring 2026; two in fall 2026) will discuss some of the world's most infamous art thefts including the rampages of Napoleon and Hitler throughout Europe and Africa, the buying and keeping of looted art by world-famous museums, as well as the "blood antiquities" stolen by ISIS in exchange for guns and ammunition. Not only will the thefts be discussed, but also the reasons why these particular works were so coveted. Examples include: The Ghent Altarpiece (stolen seven times), the heart-wrenching Dying Gaul, the Bayeux Tapestry (Hitler and Napoleon wanted this 230-foot embroidered piece of linen cloth to justify invading England), the Byzantine bronze horses of St. Mark's cathedral, and Klimt's dazzling The Woman in Gold. We will also reassess the Mona Lisa whose reason for fame was being stolen, and ironically, was stolen for all the wrong reasons.

S26-19 Written Language: alphabets, abjads, and syllabaries

SGL: Gabriella Brand

Sessions: 4

Dates: Tuesday, May 5, May 12, May 19, May 26

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

Where did writing symbols come from? Those A's and T's that make up this English sentence? Or the curlicues and lines found in Devanagari or Korean? This course will examine the fascinating world of scripts and their origins, touching upon the history and nature of language itself. Come with questions and curiosity.

S26-20 An insiders point of view of the UNITED NATIONS

SGL: Margaret Novicki

Sessions: 2

Dates: Tuesday, May 19, Thursday May 28

Time: 11:00 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 70

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

This course will provide an overview of the work of the United Nations from an insider view. Its priority areas- maintenance of peace and security, protection of human rights, delivery of humanitarian aid, and promotion of sustainable development-will be examined, as well as the challenges faced by the UN in fulfilling its mandates in 2026. The experience of working for the world's largest multilateral organization, both at the New York Headquarters and in the field will be discussed. The SECOND session will take an in depth look at the UN's peace and security structure, focusing on UN peacekeeping

in conflict zones. The challenges of bringing peace to two conflict-torn nations-Sierra Leone and Liberia-will be analyzed, as well as the innovative initiatives developed to communicate to and engage a largely illiterate population, including the combatants, in support of the peace process.

Wednesday Classes

S26-21 Mah Jongg for beginners and refresh

SGL: Karen Fenichel

Sessions: 5

Dates: Wednesday, Mar 18, Mar 25, Apr 1, Tuesday Apr 7, Apr 15

Time: 2:30P - 4:30 P

Maximum # of students: 12

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

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

S26-22 Third Annual How to Laugh in Yiddish

SGL: Alvin Wainhaus

Sessions: 1

Dates: Wednesday, Mar 25

Time: 11:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Congregation Or Shalom

Course Fee: \$10

A recent study of Jews found that 42% of American Jews consider having a good sense of humor to be an essential part of what it means to be Jewish. In this hour-long session, Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus will take us on a journey through the world of Yiddish humor as exemplified by dozens of classic Yiddish jokes. Prepare to laugh, learn, and gain a deeper understanding of the underlying spirit of one of Jewish cultures most beloved aspects. NOTE: Knowledge of Yiddish is not necessary to understand the humor. All jokes will be translated. And they are all NEW; none were told at last year's event.

S26-23 America at War 1941-1945

SGL: Ron Heiferman

Sessions: 4

Dates: Wednesday, Apr 1, Apr 15, Apr 22, Apr 29

Time: 10:30 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

WW 2 has often been called a just war and those who fought in it “the greatest generation.” The entire country was mobilized, from children to the elderly, to support the war and make the USA the arsenal for democracy. This course will explore the impact of the war on the domestic front in the USA and how it profoundly changed our country.

S26-24 Pompeii: A City Frozen In Time

SGL: Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe

Sessions: 1

Dates: Wednesday, Apr 15

Time: 11:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

In the year 79 CE, a brutal volcano erupted on the coast of Italy which destroyed several neighboring cities. Mt. Vesuvius' fiery eruption inadvertently created time capsules of these affluent areas, the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, allowing future archaeologists to learn first-hand about daily lives. Travel back in time and experience the eruption's 48-hour timeline, and spot differences among the coastal cities and the volcano's catastrophic effects on them.

S26-25 Dungeons & Dragons: Its History and How It is Played

SGL: Eric Dunsker

Sessions: 3

Dates: Wednesday, Apr 22, Apr 29, May 6

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

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

S26-26 Two by Joseph Conrad

SGL: James Rhodes

Sessions: 6

Dates: Wednesday, Apr 29, May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27, Jun 3

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

HEART OF DARKNESS and LORD JIM are two powerful and riveting narratives of the quest for self knowledge, during which the protagonists and the reader journey to the innermost reaches of the human mind to confront fundamental moral and ethical questions of what it means to be a rational or civilized human being. The texts used will both be Signet Classics. Heart of Darkness and Secret Sharer (in one volume) and Lord Jim.

S26-27 Maps and Politics: From Propaganda to

Gerrymandering

SGL: Cheryl Cape

Sessions: 2

Dates: Wednesday, May 20, May 27

Time: 1:30 P - 3:00 P

Maximum # of students: 75

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$15



This Zoom course will be recorded.

With the advent of the digital age, the creation of detailed maps has escaped from the domain of trained cartographers to basically anyone that has a computer or smart device. During this two-session course, we will examine the elements of map creation and the decisions that must be made when representing Earth at variable scales. Unfortunately, these visual representations can also be manipulated to deceive and misinform, as shown by propaganda maps created during times of conflict. Maps can also be used to control and influence social issues and norms, so we will examine racial redlining maps from the mid 20th century, along with the current issue of gerrymandering of voting districts to influence vote outcomes. Both sessions will include interactive demonstrations of mapping software.

Thursday Classes

S26-28 Artificial Intelligence: Where we are headed?

SGL: Frances Grodzinsky

Sessions: 3

Dates: Thursday, Mar 19, Mar 26, Apr 9

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



Artificial Intelligence has changed the landscape of technology. It poses challenges that are both technical and social. Generative algorithms, robots and machine learning now underlie the most common applications. AI invades our lives whether we want it to or not. It impacts our privacy, daily use of our devices, education and creativity. There is very little nowadays that does not have AI behind it. What exactly is happening? How far and fast is it going, and who is responsible for its successes and

failures? What is the collateral damage? We will discuss these questions and more. Students should have taken my Introduction to AI or at least be familiar with AI terminology.

S26-29 Irish Drama: A Continuation

SGL: Joel Feimer

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursday, Mar 19, Mar 26, Apr 9, Apr 16, Apr 23, Apr 30

Time: 1:30 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

This course builds on the materials and concepts of "The Origins of Modern Irish Drama," but taking this class does not require having taken "Origins." Using three iconic Irish plays from the middle to late twentieth century, we will experience the growth and variety of Irish drama from O'Casey's contemporaneous 1924 tragedy, "Juno and the Paycock," to the historical vision of an Ireland past, Brian Friel's "Translations" (1981), to Conor McPherson's exploration of a more modern Ireland, "The Weir" (1999). Through examining these plays, we will attempt to appreciate the scope and depth of twentieth century Irish drama.

S26-30 French Conversation: High Intermediate to advanced

SGL: Gabriella Brand

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursday, Mar 19, Mar 26, Apr 9, Apr 16, Apr 23, Apr 30

Time: 1:30 P - 3:00 P

Maximum # of students: 12

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$20

An opportunity to use your hard-earned skills in the French language. Discuss, share, debate, improvise, laugh, and enjoy the camaraderie of other francophiles. Participants will review tricky grammar, acquire new vocabulary, and learn current expressions in a supportive and stimulating environment.

S26-31 Rome & Early Christianity

SGL: Byron Nakamura

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, Mar 26

Time: 11:00 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

This course covers the development of early Christianity in the context of the Roman Empire from the first to the third centuries CE.

S26-32 LUCA: Last Universal Common Ancestor - processes that drive transformation

SGL: Kate Walton

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, Mar 26

Time: 2:00 P - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 16

Location: Yale Peabody Museum

Course Fee: \$10

At Peabody Museum, a special tour will focus on the mechanisms and processes of Evolution, the creator of the diversity of life on Earth, and how catastrophic geological and cosmic events reset the course of life on our planet.

S26-33 Irish American Collective Memories of the Irish Famine

SGL: Loretto Leary

Sessions: 3

Dates: Thursday, Mar 26, Apr 9, Apr 16

Time: 6:30 P - 8:00 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

Loretto Horrigan Leary teaches about how Irish Americans have remembered the Great Famine and how those memories still shape their identity today. The class dives into the significance of port of entry records like ship lists and mortality schedules, immigrant letters, the Irish Folklore Collection, and banking records from New York and Providence, RI. It also looks at film, poetry, and song as ways of expressing Irish-American culture and identity, the rise of Irish Famine monuments in the mid-1990s and beyond, and the creation of an International Irish Famine Commemoration Day.

S26-34 A Journey through Rock 'n Roll of Our Generation

SGL: Harvey Heyman

Sessions: 3

Dates: Thursday, Apr 9, Apr 16, Apr 23

Time: 10:30 A - 12:30 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

(This course is a full repeat of an earlier ILR course primarily intended for those unable to previously attend.) This 3 session course will be a journey through the vibrant history of rock 'n roll from the 1950s to the early 1970s. It will present many

filmed performances of the time tracking the music form's growth and evolution together with insights into its origins and performer backgrounds. It will be an entertaining look back at the often-joyful and culturally impactful music form that defined our generation.

S26-35 The Famous Algonquin Round Table Wits

SGL: Marc Blossveren

Sessions: 3

Dates: Thursday, Apr 30, May 7, May 14

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Located in the heart of the NYC Theater District is the elegant & famous Algonquin Hotel. While there have been a number of decorative changes over the years of its existence one constant remains: The semicircular niche containing the original large "Round Table" in the main dining room. It was at that table [1919-1929 and a 2nd collaboration 1930-1943] that a group of 8-10 of the most intellectual individuals met daily for lunch and repartee. They represented the Arts, Playwrights/the Theater, Movies, the discourse of Politics and Social issues, Writers of many genres, various Literary entities, Critics, etc. The lively discussions were whimsical, witty, pithy, pungent (but never hateful!) and topical. Despite their personal differences the discourse was always friendly! They remain to this day a part of American History. Join us as we discuss these wonderful, witty personages!

S26-36 Athens to New England: Aeschylus and O'Neill

SGL: Joel Feimer

Sessions: 6

Dates: Thursday, May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28, Jun 4, Jun 11

Time: 1:30 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 30

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded. Much of art, especially playwriting, is antecedent and revisioning. When Aeschylus composed his "Oresteia," he looked to Homer and the narratives of Troy. Eugene O'Neill tapped into the tragedy of Agamemnon, Clytemnestra, Electra and Orestes when he composed "Mourning Becomes Electra," revisioning his time and setting to New England after the United States Civil War. Aeschylus' trilogy expresses the political and moral outlooks of fifth century Athens, while O'Neill's post-Civil War New England is shaped by the social forces and dramatic traditions of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This course will examine the relationships between these two masterpieces of the drama.

S26-37 REPEAT! BY POPULAR DEMAND! We are going to the J.P.Morgan Library again!

SGL: Susan-Marcia Birnbaum-Jamron

Sessions: 1

Dates: Thursday, May 14

Time: 9:30 A - 4:00 P

Maximum # of students: 10

Location: NYC Tour

Course Fee: \$43

Those who were unable to attend last Fall's tour of the J.P.Morgan Library have another opportunity to see this extraordinary facility. Rare books, manuscripts, history of J.P. himself, along with Belle D'Costa Greene, and Jack Morgan and many other treasures will be seen and discussed. SPACE IS AGAIN LIMITED! Fee does not include the train ride cost, the lunch cost, and any personal choices in New York City. Lunch will be in the Library Cafe. There will be some walking (about 6 blocks from Grand Central Terminal to the Museum on Madison Ave. plus Museum touring). Further questions? Call Marcia at 203-795-4444

Friday Classes

S26-38 Introduction to Bridge

SGL: Carol Boynton

Sessions: 3

Dates: Friday, Mar 20, Mar 27, Apr 10

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 8

Location: Congregation Or Shalom

Course Fee: \$20

Terminology and basic concepts of bridge beginning with evaluation of the hand and leading to the initial bidding process and play of the hand.

S26-39 Choir

SGL: Miles Wilson-Toliver

Sessions: 1

Dates: Friday, Mar 27

Time: 4:00 P - 5:00 P

Maximum # of students: 25

Location: Music Haven

Course Fee: \$10

This is a music course that teaches the basics of choral singing like singing together, harmonizing, core competencies of music curricula like reading notes, and rhythms, blending voices and ear training. Students will develop an understanding of what it means to sing in a group and basic music reading skills, as well as classical and commercial vocal technique.

S26-40 Is the Old West Still Part of Our Lives?

SGL: Len Engel

Sessions: 6

Dates: Friday, Apr 10, Apr 17, Apr 24, May 1, May 8, May 15

Time: 10:00 A - 11:30 A

Maximum # of students: 20

Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center

Course Fee: \$20

Tom Lyon in his book *The Literary West* describes two Wests: 1) "mostly a mental place, a projection. Wild and open...everything the over-civilized East... is not. It's a ticket to freedom." This West is a myth featuring familiar images, a rider on horseback wearing a "wide-brimmed hat," riding through acres of grass or empty prairie land--alone, self sufficient. Sometimes Indians appear reminding us of what came before. The 2nd West is "ordinary ground, less densely populated [than that of the East] more fragile...more easily abused and taking longer to recover. This West [is] where people live and have effects on the landscape." Sometimes these effects have tragic outcomes. The literature we will read is composed of both these Wests--the mythic and the actual, discussing stories featuring both, sometimes within the same story--these are known as revisionist Westerns.

S26-41 Art101A Caves to Pyramids: The Dawn of Human Artistic Expression

SGL: Michael Stein

Sessions: 3

Dates: Friday, Apr 10, Apr 17, Apr 24

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 40

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$20

Journey through humanity's first 25,000 years of art-making, from the earliest cave paintings to the architectural wonders of ancient Egypt. We'll explore why Paleolithic humans felt compelled to leave their mark on cave walls, how the agricultural revolution transformed artistic production in Mesopotamia, and what inspired the Egyptians to create monuments designed to outlast everything (mission accomplished). Trace the evolution from handprints in Lascaux to the Great Pyramid of Giza, examining how art reflected emerging concepts of religion, power, and daily life. We'll decode ancient symbols, analyze architectural innovations, and marvel at how our ancestors achieved the seemingly impossible with Bronze Age technology and questionable workplace safety standards.

S26-42 The Story of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

SGL: Nicholas Maiorino

Sessions: 2

Dates: Friday, Apr 10, Apr 17

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$15

If you have ever been to a U.S. sporting event, you know the routine. People stand, some place right hands over their hearts, men take their hats off etc. Then, six of the most recognizable musical notes in American culture are played, and the crowd belts out the first five words: "O Say Can You See...". In this year of the celebration of our 250th anniversary, the history of how our National Anthem came to be, carries even more significance. This course will take you through the controversy of "The Flag", to the battlefield, to the writing of the poem and then its transition to those first five words.

S26-43 German Conversation

SGL: Mithat "Mito" Mardin

Sessions: 4

Dates: Friday, Apr 10, Apr 17, Apr 24, May 1

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 10

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$20



This Zoom course will be recorded.

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

S26-44 Oedipus Rex

SGL: James Romano

Sessions: 1

Dates: Friday, Apr 10

Time: 2:00 P - 3:30 P

Maximum # of students: 40

Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge

Course Fee: \$10

Oedipus Rex, written by the Greek playwright Sophocles in 429 BC, is generally considered one of the world's greatest plays. It combines the elements of a murder mystery, political thriller, and psychological whodunit. *Oedipus's* transgressions of patricide and incest are secondary to the drama of a man undone by hubris—by his own rage, ego, and intelligence. Jim Romano will present an analysis of the play, with observations on theater, tragedy, Freud, and what the play teaches us about character and responsibility.

S26-45 Vaccines - Unraveling Fact from Fiction

SGL: Nils Pilotte

Sessions: 1

Dates: Friday, May 15

Time: 10:00 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 50

Location: ACES Hamden

Course Fee: \$10

Vaccines represent one of medicine's greatest achievements, preventing countless deaths and decreasing morbidity in nearly all corners of the world. However, despite these successes, concerns remain about the safety and necessity of vaccines. In this course, we will examine vaccine technology, vaccine efficacy, and vaccine safety, hoping to separate fact from fiction.

S26-46 Arts of Memory in Classical and Medieval Cultures

SGL: Patricia O'Leary-Treat

Sessions: 3

Dates: Friday, May 22, May 29, Jun 5

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 35

Location: Woodbridge Town Library

Course Fee: \$20

In our current days' reliance on cell phones and AI, it is enlightening to learn of the importance to ancient Greeks and Romans of the Art of Memory. In medieval scholasticism, the art and craft of memory gained new importance because they were seen as spiritual aids to virtues, Prudence and Ethics in particular. In three

sessions, this course will explore "the eye of the mind" and what came to be known as "artificial memory." Recommended reading includes Frances Yates' *The Art of Memory*, Mary Carruthers' *The Book of Memory*, and *The Medieval Craft of Memory*, edited by Mary Carruthers and Jan Ziolkowski. Jonathan Spence's *The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci* is also noteworthy.

Saturday Classes

S26-47 The Feeling of Seeing: The Brain Mechanisms of Visual Sensations in Cortical Blindness

SGL: Sharif Kronemer

Sessions: 1

Dates: Saturday, May 16

Time: 10:30 A - 12:00 P

Maximum # of students: 100

Location: Zoom Only

Course Fee: \$10



This Zoom course will be recorded.

Damage to visual processing areas of the brain (e.g., the primary visual cortex) can cause blindness. Some people with cortical blindness retain residual or degraded vision. This course discusses research on a rare case of cortical blindness – a person with visual cortex damage following a stroke – who experienced a "feeling" or "sensation" of seeing images presented in his blind field. Using several neuroimaging methods, this research highlights the brain mechanisms underlying the "feeling of seeing." These findings have important implications for understanding the neural mechanisms of conscious vision and secondary visual pathways in the brain, and points to potential opportunities for sight rehabilitation in cortical blindness.

ZOOM INFORMATION



zoom

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

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

Closed Caption feature for Zoom classes

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

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

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

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

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

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

Venues

ACES, Hamden

205 Skiff St.
Hamden, CT 06517
(203) 234-1344
Take the east driveway all the way to the back of facility. Follow the signs.

B'nai Jacob

75 Rimmon Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 389-2111

Congregation Or Shalom

205 Old Grassy Hill Road
Orange, CT 06477
(203) 799-2341

Daniel Sullivan Educ. Ctr.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
48 South New Road
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 248-0141
Brick building behind and to the south of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 2819 Whitney Ave., Hamden.

Jewish Community Ctr.

360 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 387-2424
We use different rooms at the JCC.
A class liaison will tell you which room to go to.

Music Haven

315 Peck Street
Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor
New Haven, CT 06513
203-745-9030

Woodbridge Town Library

10 Newton Rd,
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 389-3433

Yale Peabody Museum

170 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06520
(203) 432 8987

For complete driving directions, scan QR Code or go to our website:
www.ilrnh.org
About - Driving Directions



Board Listing:

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

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

Meet the leadership team at ILR:

Officers and Board of Directors

Nick Maiorino, President
Susan Vallillo, Executive Vice President
Rita Esposito, Secretary
Tema Leviter, Treasurer
David Phelps, VP-Curriculum
Marcia Jamron, VP-Trips
Joel Feimer, Ex-Officio President
Susan Vallillo, Registrar

Members of the Board of Directors

Holly Chepow	Sue Cohen
Pat Donohue	Annis Fusaris
Deborah Kasowitz	Jean Maatta
Pat Maiorino	Mito Mardin
Debbie McKeever	John Schneider



Study Group Leaders (SGL) Biographies

Nancy Abbey

S26-05 Notable Contemporary Fiction

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

Ann M. Altman

S26-17 Investigating, discovering and memorializing the history of my Czech Jewish family

Ann M. Altman was born in Bristol UK. She studied Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge and received her doctorate in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale in 1974. After a career in research, she became a scientific writer and editor, working predominantly for the Japanese. She served for six years on Hamden's Legislative Council and, later, was a member and twice-elected chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission. She has lectured in Mongolia on public participation in democratic processes and more recently, in Czechia, about her family history.

Don Barkin

S26-01 Poems that Pack a Punch

Don Barkin received his BA from Harvard College and his MA. in English literature from Cambridge U. He has taught undergraduate seminars in poetry and prose writing at Yale for several years, and at Wesleyan's Graduate Liberal Studies Program. He has published three books of poems that have also appeared in national magazines, and is a former schoolteacher and newspaper reporter

Randall Beach

S26-13 Writing about Connecticut characters

Randall Beach is a former columnist, reporter and rock music reviewer for the New Haven Register. Later he wrote columns for Connecticut magazine. He co-wrote with Brian Phelps "The Legendary Toad's Place: Stories From New Haven's Famed Music Venue." Globe-Pequot Press also published "Connecticut Characters: Profiles of Rascals and Renegades," a collection of Beach's favorite Register columns. He writes essays on Substack and is working on a memoir about his experiences at the New Haven Register.

Phillip Beard

S26-14 Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Blithedale Romance

Phillip L Beard has an M.A. from the University of

Virginia and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and has taught at Auburn University, and in its abroad program in Vienna, Austria, and has also taught American Literature as a Fulbright Scholar at Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany. He has published articles on American literature and philosophy and is a senior editor of the George Santayana Society.

Susan Birnbaum/Marcia Jamron

S26-37 We are going to the J.P.Morgan Library again!

Marcia Janrom is the tour arranger and Susan Birnbaum is the New York licensed NYC Sightseeing Guide.

Susan Birnbaum is a member of the Bronx, Brooklyn, and New York Historical Societies and has won Tourism Council awards for unparalleled commitment to sharing rich area histories.

Marc Blosveren

S26-35 The Famous Algonquin Round Table Wits

Dr. Marc J. Blosveren holds Chemistry and Psychology degrees, and a Doctorate in Science Administration. He has done extensive work in Curriculum Review and Development, was the Science Supervisor (retired) for the New Haven Board of Education and was an OSHA Health & Safety Consultant. He was an Adjunct Professor at Quinnipiac University and Western Connecticut State University.

Carol Boynton

S26-38 Introduction to Bridge

Carol received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Albertus Magnus College. Since retiring from a position in the Law & Psychiatry Division at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, she has spent many enjoyable hours playing bridge, and she hopes to encourage others to develop an interest in playing the game of bridge which involves memory, skill and perseverance.

Gabriella Brand

S26-19 Written Language: alphabets, abjads, and syllabaries

S26-30 French Conversation: High Intermediate to advanced

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

Susan Campbell**S26-15 Do We Need a New Fairness Doctrine?**

Susan Campbell is an award-winning journalist who has written for Hearst newspapers, The Hartford Courant, Philadelphia Inquirer, Ms. Magazine, Salon, and The Guardian, among others. Her work was part of the Courant's 1999 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news. She is a professor of practice in journalism at University of New Haven, where she also serves as faculty advisor to the campus newspaper, The Charger Bulletin, and the campus long-form journalism website, Horseshoe Magazine. She is the author of three books, and a contributing writer of four.

Cheryl Cape**S26-27 Maps and Politics: From Propaganda to Gerrymandering**

Cheryl Cape is a geoscientist with over 30 years of experience with mapping and the use of Geographic Information Systems (maps on computers). She has enjoyed creating maps for environmental and natural resource studies, along with digital humanities projects, and for the past decade has taught students and college faculty how to create their own maps and digital exhibits.

Leo Cristofar**S26-16 Short Hikes in the Greater New Haven Area**

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

Jerry Dunklee**S26-04 The First Amendment and You**

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

Eric Dunsker**S26-25 Dungeons & Dragons: Its History and How It is Played**

Eric Dunsker has been a Dungeons & Dragons roleplaying game enthusiast since 1978 and has watched the game change as the business and our culture have evolved. He has run games following D&D 1st edition and played in games run with 1st, 3rd and 5th edition (20214) rules.

Len Engel**S26-40 Is the Old West still part of our lives?**

Leonard Engel, Professor Emeritus of English at Quinnipiac University, served as Chair of the English Dept for 18 years; in 1989, he was selected "Outstanding Faculty of the Year"; in 2013, he received Quinnipiac's "Excellence in Teaching Award." He has edited seven collections of essays beginning with The Big Empty: Essays on the Land as Narrative in 1994 and concluding with The Films of Clint Eastwood: Critical Perspectives in 2018. He has written many articles on American literature and film, from Poe and Melville to the present; most recently--"Charles Portis and True Grit," (Summer 2021), and "Thoreau, Whitman, and Abbey: Down the River and on the Open Road," (Fall 2021) both published in Journal of the West.

Joel Feimer**S26-29 Irish Drama: A Continuation****S26-36 Athens to New England: Aeschylus and O'Neill**

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

Karen Fenichel**S26-21 Mah Jongg for beginners and refresh**

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

Frances Grodzinsky**S26-28 Artificial Intelligence: Where we are headed?**

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

Ron Heiferman**S26-23 America at War 1941-1945**

Ron Heiferman is Prof. Emeritus of History at Quinnipiac and currently teaches at Yale and Quinnipiac U. He was educated at Yale and received his Ph.D. from New York University. He is an Assoc. Fellow of Yale's Berkeley College and is VP of CT Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has authored/co-authored books including Flying Tigers, The Rise and Fall of Imperial Japan and The Cairo Conference of

1943. He has been a Yale-Lilly Fellow, a Yale-Mellon Fellow and the recipient of five National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships.

Harvey Heyman

S26-10 *Battle for the 2026 Midterms*

S26-34 *A Journey through Rock 'n Roll of Our Generation*

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

Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe

S26-24 *Pompeii: A City Frozen In Time*

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

Marcia Jamron

S26-37 *We are going to the J.P.Morgan Library again!*

Marcia Janrom is the tour arranger and Susan Birnbaum is the New York licensed NYC Sightseeing Guide. Marcia Jamron has been fascinated by travel since early childhood. College, followed by family duties, have not dulled the anticipation of a new place to see and learn all about. She applies this urge to look for new and different places to the ILR bus and zoom trips she plans and conducts.

Sharif Kronemer

S26-47 *The feeling of seeing: The brain mechanisms of visual sensations in cortical blindness*

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

Loretto Leary

S26-33 *Irish American Collective Memories of the Irish Famine*

Loretto Horrigan Leary is a historian and cultural educator specializing in Irish American collective memory of the Irish Famine (An Gorta Mór). She is the Educational and Cultural Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum of Fairfield and Co-Chair of

the Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission. Her work focuses on how famine memory is preserved, contested, and reimagined through burial sites, monuments, art, museums, and diaspora activism along the Eastern Seaboard. Drawing on memory studies, public history, and material culture, Leary explores how communities remember trauma across generations and how commemoration shapes identity, belonging, and historical responsibility in Ireland and the United States.

Nicholas Maiorino

S26-42 *The Story of "The Star-Spangled Banner"*

Nick Maiorino, a member of ILR for 14 years, is a life-long learner with more than 60 years of teaching experience. He holds Master Degrees in Science, Education, Statistics, and an advanced degree in Administration. While his main background is Science, his interests are eclectic and he has taught courses in many different subjects such as History, Music, and Current Events. He currently serves as President of ILR and is a member of several ILR committees.

Mithat "Mito" Mardin

S26-11 *Current US and International Events*

S26-43 *German Conversation*

Mithat "Mito" Mardin PhD was born in Istanbul, Turkey and is a graduate of the German High School there. He received a PhD in Organic Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology from the University of Göttingen. He worked at Bayer Pharmaceuticals for 33 years in various positions starting as laboratory head and retiring as VP. He has worked on three continents: Europe, Japan/ Asia Pacific, and the US. He has served as president of the Japan Society of Fairfield County from 2012 to 2020 and as ILR president for three terms and he has followed his passion for political science. He enjoys being a study group leader and sharing his knowledge of the European Union, US economy, Islam, and current world affairs in general.

Daniel May

S26-07 *Geopolitics, with an emphasis on the 'Geo'*

Dan May is an emeritus professor of geology at the University of New Haven. He is an alum of Stanford and UC Santa Barbara; served on the faculty at Victoria University in New Zealand; in Ohio at Bowling Green State University and the University of Findlay; and since 2013 at New Haven. His geological roles focused on regional mapping, mineral resource exploration, natural hazard assessments, and ultimately environmental remediation and risk management. He enjoyed conducting or directing field projects in more than a dozen states as well as New Zealand and other South Pacific islands. Dan was a senior university

administrator in the latter half of his career and served as the chief academic officer for both Findlay and New Haven.

Harold Miller

S26-08 Bridge for advanced beginners

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

Marie Musco

S26-12 Canasta for beginners

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

Byron Nakamura

S26-31 Rome & Early Christianity

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

Margaret Novicki

S26-20 An insiders point of view of the UNITED NATIONS

I worked for the United Nations for 22 years, 10 of which were in field offices in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and South Africa. My last post before retirement was Director of Strategic Communications at UN Headquarters in New York. My prior posts included: Director of the UN Information Centres in Ghana and South Africa and Spokesperson and Chief of Public Information for the UN peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone and Liberia. I received a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.

Patricia O'Leary-Treat

S26-46 Arts of Memory in Classical and Medieval Cultures

Trish O'Leary, a longtime ILR member and former president, received her M.A. from the University of Chicago and completed PhD. coursework in medieval literature at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1972. Though she never completed a dissertation, she never lost interest in medieval culture. Her fascination with remembrance was rekindled when she and the late Mary Weigand co-led ILR courses on the art and science of memory. Trish leads a memoir-writing group at the Orange Community Center.

Nils Pilotte

S26-45 Vaccines - Unraveling fact from fiction

Nils Pilotte, is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. Dr. Pilotte is a molecular biologist who studies the genetics and DNA structure of disease causing parasites. He is interested in understanding the mechanisms of inheritance in parasitic organisms and how these inheritance patterns contribute to pathogenicity.

Lois Procopion

S26-03 Easy Pasta Dishes

S26-06 Using Myers-Briggs in Everyday Life

Lois Procopion was born in New Britain, Connecticut. She received her BS Degree from CCSU. She retired as a Project Manager at Aetna Healthcare in 2014. For the past 48 years, Lois has been an active Justice of the Peace. She has been a gourmet cook for over 50 years and has won first prize in various local baking competitions. As a Project Manager and Change Agent at Aetna Healthcare, Lois was certified as a Myers-Briggs Consultant. She needed that designation to drive change within the organization. She would like to share her knowledge on the topic with ILR registrants for this class.

Rachel Ranis

S26-09 Meritocracy; FAIR OR PHONEY

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

James Rhodes

S26-26 Two by Joseph Conrad

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

James Romano

S26-44 Oedipus Rex

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

educational roots and lectures on Homer, classical poetry and drama.

Irene Sommers

S26-18 Stealing Beauty: The World's Greatest Art Heists

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

Michael Stein

S26-41 Art101A Caves to Pyramids: The Dawn of Human Artistic Expression

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

John Thomas

S26-02 The Kalamazoo Women

John Thomas is a professor in the School of Law, at Quinnipiac University where he teaches Health Law, Intellectual Property and International Law. He is also known as a musician, writer and scholar with extensive publications in a variety of different topics, gun violence, bioethics and WWII guitars. A photo of the Kalamazoo Women in front of the Gibson Factory inspired his interest.

Alvin Wainhaus

S26-22 Third Annual How to Laugh in Yiddish

Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, son of Holocaust survivors, was raised in an Orthodox environment in Brooklyn, New York. A graduate of Brooklyn College with a degree in philosophy, he earned a Master of Education degree from NYU and was ordained in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1972. Rabbi Wainhaus served congregations in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and in Manhattan prior to becoming the spiritual leader of

Congregation Or Shalom in Orange in 1981. Rabbi Wainhaus has immersed himself in the Jewish and secular life of the community and is highly regarded as a spiritual leader, educator, and lecturer on a wide range of religious and secular issues. His involvement in interfaith activities throughout Greater New Haven has earned him the respect and admiration of Jews and non-Jews alike.

Kate Walton

S26-32 LUCA - Last Universal Common Ancestor - processes that drive transformation

Kate Johns Walton majored in Anthropology and obtained teaching certification while attending Goddard College. She obtained her Master's Degree in Museum Education from George Washington University with field work done at the Smithsonian. As a graduate intern she was appointed Museum Teacher by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Museum of Comparative Zoology and the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. She later developed and managed "You and Your World" Summer Program at Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale and worked full time as a professional docent in the School Services Division there. Kate has lived and worked extensively in Africa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and teaching high school biology and English in Kenya while working with Richard Leakey to create school museums that helped local populations collect and preserve important natural materials from their own ancestral environments.

Miles Wilson-Toliver

S26-39 Choir

I am a voice teacher, choral director, arts administrator and educator with 10 years of experience building and implementing programs for children and adults. I am passionate about creating safe spaces that cultivate creativity and belonging. Music and the arts are the tools I use to create community.



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