

OLLI Members Organize Yearlong Northeast Indigenous Peoples Initiative

Mahkeenac, Pontoosuc, Mahaiwe, Naumkeag, Wahconah – to most of us these are names on plaques and direction signs in the Berkshires. Some concerts and museum lectures now begin with an acknowledgement that the land where we are sitting once belonged to Indigenous peoples whose history most of us barely know. Art installations recapture features of the civilizations that once prevailed in the region we now call home. And periodically, the calendar reminds us of this history as we debate the use of the name “Indigenous Peoples Day” and learn about the Wampanoag view of Thanksgiving or the Abenaki Nation’s vital role in the region.

But there is a lot more to know and understand about the tribes who were the original inhabitants of these lands and their descendants who live here and elsewhere.

To help fill that knowledge void, OLLI at BCC is offering a variety of programs in 2022 focusing on the culture and history of the Indigenous peoples of our immediate region and the Northeast. Organized by OLLI’s soon-to-be-renamed University Day Committee, this multi-part initiative, entitled **“We Are Still Here: Indigenous Peoples of the Northeast,”** features three OLLI courses, art exhibits, music and dance performances, guided reading groups, walking tours, and online lectures.

Under Katherine Kidd’s chairmanship, the University Day Committee includes OLLI volunteers Ellen Croibier, Brian Harrison, Michael Wilcox, Barbara Grill and Kit Dobbelle. The University Day program has grown far beyond its original name and concept. Five years ago, OLLI at BCC first offered the one-day program. Since then, OLLI’s University Days have examined changing the culture of aging, the history of women’s suffrage, criminal justice reform, 1968 fifty years later, and more. OLLI University Days have been held at Berkshire Community College, Bard College at Simon’s Rock, and other locations.

Shortly before the women’s suffrage University Day, COVID hit and the program had to be re-thought and re-formatted. It was reborn as a very successful online OLLI course, drawing over 600 people from around the country– the largest ever OLLI at BCC course, including participants from 18 states. (It can be seen for free on OLLI’s YouTube channel, along with many other programs.)

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Kimberly in Red #33 by Nayana LaFond from her Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls/People Project

Congressman Jamie Raskin will be 2022 Mona Sherman Memorial Lecturer

U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, Chairman of the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, will be this year’s speaker at the annual Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture. Raskin’s remarks will be delivered live Saturday, May 28, at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

Tickets to the 5 p.m. event are free but must be reserved in advance. Registration will open in late April with active OLLI at BCC members and Mahaiwe members receiving priority registration. Online streaming is planned as well.



A Maryland Democrat, Raskin serves on the House Judiciary Committee. Late last year, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, appointed him to head the Congressional investigation into the bloody attack by thousands of supporters of former President Donald

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Looking Forward

While I'm writing this on the eve of the new year, I know that you won't be reading it until sometime in February. By that time, we'll all be well into our exciting winter semester of classes. So, what else can we OLLI members look forward to in 2022?

First and foremost, we'll continue to offer five semesters of stimulating classes and individual speakers in some mix of in-person, remote and hybrid formats. As always, much thanks go to our lecturers, curriculum committee and distinguished speakers committee members, staff and technical volunteers. They all give so generously of their time, talents and knowledge.

Our University Day committee is working away on its Indigenous Peoples Project. As you know, University "Day" continues to morph into a series of courses, lectures and other events. The Indigenous Peoples Project began with a winter semester course entitled "Indigenous Peoples of the Northeast: Arrival to the Present" presented by frequent OLLI lecturer Michael Forbes Wilcox, and will continue into the fall with additional courses, book groups, poetry readings, individual lectures, walking tours, art exhibits and more.

The current OLLI three-year strategic plan will expire on June 30th. A working group led by board Vice President Gordon Josephson has begun the process of formulating our next plan to take effect on July 1st. That process will entail gathering input via surveys and interviews from OLLI members, lecturers, and staff, our educational and cultural partners, and other not-for-profit entities here in the Berkshires. We look forward to your participation as we plan for the years that will take us through Berkshire OLLI's thirtieth anniversary.

One thing I know we all look forward to is a time when COVID is no longer such a strong determining factor in our lives. With more segments of the population eligible for vaccination and effective treatments becoming available, let's hope that 2022 will be the year that we finally turn the corner.

I would be remiss if I ended this without thanking Chris Guidette who is stepping down as editor of the *OLLI Update*. Over the last five years, Chris and his team of outstanding writers have taken our newsletter to new heights. You'll all be delighted to learn that Chris intends to contribute a piece now and then, and will also continue to co-chair of our Arts Curriculum Committee and to lead our foreign language films shared interest group. Chris, thank you so much!

Stay well everyone.

— Barbara Lane



Barbara Lane

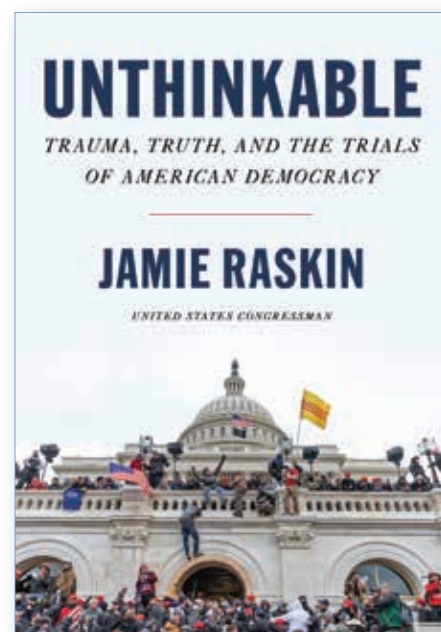
(Congressman Raskin 2022 speaker

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Trump. The fatal assault was an effort to overturn the certification of President Joseph Biden's election.

Raskin represents Maryland's 8th Congressional district. Before his election to Congress, Raskin was a three-term Maryland state senator and served as Majority Whip.

Raskin is also the author of several books including, the recent *New York Times* bestseller, *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth, and the Trials of American Democracy* (Harper, 2022). The book is a searing memoir of the forty-five days at the start of 2021 that permanently changed his life—and his family's—as he confronted the painful loss of his son to suicide, lived through the violent insurrection in our nation's Capitol, and led the effort to impeach President Trump for inciting political violence.



Raskin was a professor of constitutional law at American University's Washington College of Law for more than 25 years. Beside *Unthinkable*, his other books are the *Washington Post* best-seller *Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus the American People* and the highly-acclaimed *We the Students: Supreme Court Cases for and About America's Students*.

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What's In A Half-Life?

Raskin's latest book, *Unthinkable* has been widely praised. The *New York Times* said "*Unthinkable* is a celebration of citizen activists, public servants, survivors, family and hard-won, against-all-odds optimism." Television commentator Rachel Maddow called the book "Astonishing . . . searing and original, (and) at times a very surprising account of the attack on January 6 and the impeachment that followed."

For the past 12 years OLLI's Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture series has brought renowned authors and speakers to the Berkshires. Tickets are free and open to all but OLLI welcomes donations to help the series continue. The series is co-sponsored by Berkshire Gas and the Mahaiwe.

OLLI is two thirds of the way toward establishing an endowment to fund the series in perpetuity. OLLI seeks your help to continue to add to civic conversations and engagement in the Berkshires by donating to the Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture endowment. Every donor who contributes \$50 or more will receive a free hardcover copy of *Unthinkable*. Donations may be made online at: berkshireolli.org/donate or by check to The BCC Foundation/ Sherman Endowment and mailed to BCC Foundation, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.



*The late Mona Sherman,
a former president of OLLI
at BCC.*

In the newspaper business some believe the effective half-life of a city editor is five years. After half a decade of planning each daily edition, assigning stories, editing copy, writing headlines and deciding what's interesting, important, amusing, balanced and objective, you can lose your edge.

I found that to be true after five years as city editor of a New Jersey newspaper and I'm afraid it's also true for the editor of *OLLI Update*.

It has been a pleasure to work with wonderful, dedicated, talented and fun-loving volunteers. But it's time for a new editor with a fresh perspective. So, this will be my last edition, but I will always be available to write a piece or two for my favorite newsletter.

Putting out each edition of *OLLI Update* takes hard work from many people. They do it because they enjoy writing and are proud of being part of our publication. But they don't really get a great deal of recognition. So a few words of appreciation are in order for assistant editors who deserve special mention.

PETER BLUHM, past OLLI president, has been a stalwart of the team, providing intelligent, analytical, well-written pieces on the workings of our organization. He preceded me as editor of our publication when it was known simply as the OLLI Newsletter. **SANDI RUBIN**, another OLLI past president and one-time editor of the newsletter, has been another stalwart staffer throughout my tenure, writing articles and editing copy. Nothing escapes her eagle eye.

JOANNA FRIBUSH is a veteran staffer for whom no assignment was too big or too small. Her writing is timely and accurate and she often came up with her own compelling story ideas. **MAL WASSERMAN** is one of the hardest working writers here. Her eagerness to plunge into stories and look for angles that make them interesting infuses her writing with her own infectious enthusiasm.

MARY KROMHOLM is *OLLI Update's* newest writer making her debut in this edition. Her experience as a newspaper writer and editor is vast. **KATHY ZDEB** is another first-rate writer, accurate and thoughtful who has contributed many great stories to *Update*. She helped develop the style manual giving our publication polish.

Every edition of *OLLI Update* owes its eye-catching look to our professional designer, **JANE McWHORTER**. She created our distinctive four-color look, and if you've watched closely, you may have noticed every issue's color scheme reflects the season of the year in which it is published. **BOB DESROSIERS**, who is in charge of most OLLI technology, is invaluable in making sure each edition is digitally available to all.

We owe a great deal of thanks to our president, **BARBARA LANE**, for her advice and unwavering support. Thank you also to OLLI Executive Director, **MEGAN WHILDEN** and her staff, especially Administrative Aide **ANDY OTTOSON**, for ensuring smooth operations.

Others, too numerous to mention in this space deserve thanks. You'll see their names in our annual recognition page of volunteers.

And thank you fellow OLLI members for your interest and the many worthwhile activities and ideas.

OLLI Update would be at a loss for words without you.

— Chris Guidette



Chris Guidette

OLLI Is Preparing A New Strategic Plan

OLLI Vice President Gordon Josephson is heading up a new effort to update OLLI's Strategic Plan. He has formed a steering committee consisting of OLLI President Barbara Lane, Board Members Mal Wasserman, Bob Braddick, Steve Tobin, and Will Singleton, Executive Director Megan Whilden, and OLLI members Howard Shapiro, Katherine Kidd and Harriet Wetstone. The new plan will apply to fiscal years 2022 through 2025.



Maureen McLaughlin leading a SOAR exercise at OLLI's volunteer leadership academy.

It is still early days, but the steering committee has made some initial decisions. The committee reviewed the existing OLLI strategic plan which was adopted in 2019 with enormous assistance from Howard Shapiro and Carl Shuster. The committee found the existing plan structure to be satisfactory, and decided to retain it. As with the current plan, for every listed activity, there will be listed metrics for progress as well as the responsible OLLI groups or officers.

In addition, OLLI has collaborated with Maureen McLaughlin, who is leading Berkshire Community College's current strategic planning process, to hold SOAR exercises with several OLLI leadership groups. SOAR is an acronym for Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results.

The steering committee's next step is to gather information from constituent groups about what OLLI should be aspiring to and what should change. OLLI members may be invited to participate (or may volunteer) in focus group discussions, and sometime this winter the committee will conduct an OLLI-wide survey on selected issues.

Finally, the steering committee will conduct outside interviews with key cultural, educational and business leaders throughout the Berkshires. As an OLLI member, if you have ideas about how the organization might evolve, the committee will welcome your thoughts and comments over the next few months.

After the steering committee completes its information gathering, it will draft a new strategic plan and propose it to the OLLI board. Josephson said he expects the new plan to be presented in late spring or summer of 2022 to OLLI members.

— Peter Bluhm

(Indigenous Peoples
continued from page 1)

OLLI at BCC's previous courses on Indigenous art and history were very well received. This led the University Day Committee to think about a larger framework for the study of the Indigenous peoples in the northeast, according to Kidd. Most people associate Indigenous peoples with the Great Plains, the Pacific Northwest, or the Southwest. The Indigenous peoples of the northeast are less well known.

Planning for a program of this size and complexity began a year in advance and it is partially supported by individual donations and grants from local cultural councils. A major feature of this program is the central role of Indigenous scholars, artists, and authors as presenters and program planners. Jesse Bruchac, a member of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation, is the lead consultant.



Jesse Bruchac

Here is an overview of the program as currently planned:

The program begins with Michael Wilcox's winter 2022 course on the history of Indigenous peoples of the northeast. In the spring, Kidd will teach a course on Massachusetts' own Henry Dawes who served in the House and the Senate in the late 19th century. The author of the Dawes' Act of 1887, this "friend of the Indian people"—with good intentions—was actually responsible for the massive dispossession of Indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands,

opening them up to widespread land speculation, and the breakup of many tribal communities. The third course, planned for the Summer One semester, will be 'Honoring Our Mohican Heritage: Native Peoples, Plants, Pollinators.'

At least two art exhibits featuring northeast Indigenous artists will be held in September. Nayana LaFond's series of portraits of missing and murdered Indigenous women will be on display at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield. A series of guided reading groups focusing on Indigenous poetry, children's books, history books, and books on ecology will be conducted by Indigenous scholars.

Six lectures by mostly Indigenous scholars will address a wide range of topics. Professor N. Bruce Duthu of Dartmouth, an enrolled member of the United Houma Nation and a leading expert on legal issues related to the Indigenous peoples in the United States, is among the speakers. These lectures will be offered online for free to all.

Historic walking tours will be held in coordination with the Berkshire Historic Society, the Bidwell House, Hancock Shaker Village, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. Live performances and more terrific programming are also in the works.

This extraordinary initiative will be the largest ever undertaken by OLLI at BCC. It will be an important landmark on our growth and evolution as a major educational and cultural force in the Berkshires. OLLI recognizes the vital importance of the many cultures and heritages that make up our unique Berkshire County environment, said Kidd.

This OLLI program with its focus on Indigenous peoples has an interesting connection to OLLI Executive Director Megan Whilden. Her late father, Stephen Whilden, was an attorney for the Seminole Tribe in Florida and helped them win a federal court case in 1979 that reaffirmed tribal sovereignty, allowing gaming on Indigenous land. This case is considered a historic breakthrough for tribal rights.

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming programs in this exciting initiative. — **Mal Wasserman**

Meet Rae Langsdale, OLLI's New Administrative Aide

The lively, welcoming voice you hear when calling OLLI is that of Rae Langsdale, our OLLI administrative aide. A native of Pennsylvania, Langsdale came to the Berkshires with her family in the late seventies. Her educational background and community volunteer work verify her self-proclaimed statement, "I've always been a lifelong learner."

She graduated from the Administrative Assistant program at the Mildred Elly Business School in 1999 and from Berkshire Community College with an Associate in Science degree in Computer Information Systems/Networking in 2016.

Langsdale's technical skills were well suited to her first OLLI part-time job from September 11, 2019 (an infamous date she remembers) to January 2020. Rae left this job, but was asked to return after the pandemic started, first as part-time, and then in June 2021, as our full-time aide.

Langsdale was introduced to OLLI by her husband Robert Bieniek, who shares her interest in all the cultural treasures Berkshire County has to offer. They live in Dalton with her son and two cats. Before joining OLLI Langsdale's varied career included working at the Berkshire Atheneum, Berkshire United Way, Berkshire Museum and 17 years bartending at The Elbow Room in Pittsfield.

As a volunteer, she serves on the boards of National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) Berkshire County and a small nonprofit that specializes in cooperatives called Roots & Dreams and Mustard Seeds. She also volunteers for Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, Berkshire United Way, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

OLLI is a perfect fit for Langsdale's background and interest in people and learning. She says, "I love working for OLLI, as well as being a member of OLLI. Megan (Executive Director Megan Whilden) and Andy (Administrative Assistant Andy Ottoson) are wonderful to work with. We are a small staff, very supportive of each other."

So, whether you need help posting a Power Point on Zoom for a lecture, or need a link to a recorded class you might have missed, Rae Langsdale is always happy to help! You can reach her at **413-236-2190** or **olli@berkshirecc.edu**. — **Joanna Fribush**



OLLI's Shared Interest Groups Are "Hidden Gems" Where "People Get to Know People"

Monica Sinclair and Bruce Cohen are the co-coordinators for OLLI's shared interest groups, or SIGs. Both are Berkshire residents. Sinclair has been eight years in Lenox, while Cohen has been escaping to Stockbridge since 1976 and only within the last five years has become a full-time resident.

Sinclair became involved with OLLI by looking for something like the shared interest groups. She founded and runs OLLI's French Conversations group. When she realized help was needed coordinating them, she stepped up. SIGs are peer groups organized by OLLI volunteers around a shared interest or activity, and are free and exclusively for OLLI at BCC members.

Sinclair emphasizes her ideas with a raise of an eyebrow and hand gestures and speaks deliberately, choosing her words carefully as she discusses the program and her own groups. Cohen joined OLLI because he was looking for, and found, older people interested in learning.

He said he has "made lots of friends" through OLLI.

These two vital, vibrant, and most energetic OLLI volunteers create a formidable team to manage and guide the different and varied SIG offerings. Words fly fast and furiously as Cohen describes



OLLI shared interest group coordinators Monica Sinclair and Bruce Cohen

his particular interests and his groups that include cycling, skiing and "sort of" whodunit books. He joined the Murder, Mystery and Mayhem group and now he runs their meetings.

According to Cohen, SIGs "allow people to get to know people," since the format differs from that of a class presentation. Not only does everyone listen, there is interaction, too. "The SIGs are OLLI's hidden gems," he said.

Sinclair especially likes SIGs because "you can tailor a SIG to meet an interest." She said SIGs provide an "infinitely flexible format for a group of people of common interests that appeals to OLLI

members." Often, a SIG will evolve from a class. If someone decided "I don't want this class to be just six weeks long," Sinclair said it's possible to create a SIG, and she cited the poetry class as one example that led to the formation of two SIGS: one for reading poetry, and one for writing it. "There are no limitations," she said.

During the pandemic most SIGs shifted to online meetings and continued to grow. Some prefer face-to-face, he said, "but we've done as well as any in transition through the pandemic." "Zoom meetings are incredibly convenient," said Sinclair. People are busy and it's so easy to just join on Zoom without worrying about the travel time," she said.

Sinclair sees OLLI members as very knowledgeable and were "able to transition to virtual" programming easily. Cohen also considers OLLI members to be a "well educated group."

According to Sinclair, a number of new SIGs are coming. The newest book club, Gotta Reads, keeps growing as "word of mouth" spreads the enthusiasm. Genealogy is also new, as is Listening to Chamber Music, and Painting, which is for experienced artists who share what they are working on and look for comments from their peers. Other new SIGs in the works are Chess, Memoir Writing, Cross Country Skiing and Paper Crafts.

Lisa Swigart of Dalton, a newer OLLI member, was encouraged to form a



One of OLLI's newest shared interest groups focuses on cross country skiing.

Genealogy group after teaching an OLLI class on researching family history. She decided to go ahead with the group to keep in touch with class members as well as “anyone else who was interested in their family history research.” Their first meeting was online in November with 16 attendees.

Swigart has also participated in Contemporary Gender Roles and other SIGs. “OLLI has taken me out of a comfort zone and helped me to try things I may not have thought to try before. For example, I have never been a reader of mystery books before and that group is a good one for helping to learn about the best authors.”

Malvina Wasserman, a member of OLLI’s Board of Directors, has been an OLLI participant for seven years and has taken over 30 courses. She participates in two shared interest groups, the Genealogy group and the monthly Gender Roles group. “I think SIGs are

wonderful. Some have been very successful. They depend on a committed leader, and they’ve done very well with COVID restrictions.”

Wasserman added that the two SIGs she participates in now “do very well online.” But she is looking forward to going back to in person sessions.

Wasserman considers the SIGs an interesting concept. “If you’re interested in a topic, let’s say French literature, it used to be you’d hope for a class.” Now you can suggest that as a SIG group. “I think the SIG concept is great.”

According to Sinclair, the SIGs are less structured and not as “intense as structured classes,” which adds to their appeal.



PHOTO BY SUSAN GELLER

Attendees at a pre-pandemic French Conversations SIG event.

She said, “we adapt well, partly out of necessity, and ability.”

The membership of OLLI is in excess of 1,400 and Sinclair estimates between 300 and 400 members participate in SIGs.

Those interested in learning more about SIGs or joining one should visit BerkshireOLLI.org. — **Mary Kronholm**



The Foreign Films shared interest group will be screening Ingmar Bergman’s Shame, on March 3, and Satyajit Ray’s debut film Pather Panchali on April 6. Screenings are free and exclusively for OLLI at BCC members

History and Evolution Come Alive with Stacy Wallach

Stacy Wallach, an OLLI favorite, is once again teaching an OLLI history course this winter, and that's good news to his many followers and new members. The range of his history knowledge is impressive. His fans, and all OLLI members for that matter, can count on his lectures being stimulating, witty, and thoroughly engrossing.

In a recent interview, Wallach discussed his life, professional work, and perspective on teaching. He said he credits his 8th grade history teacher, a Mr. Chase at Leominster Junior High in his native Leominster, Mass., with making history come alive, and today, almost 65 years later, he still has the same fascination.

A graduate of Swarthmore College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Wallach clerked for Judge Milton Pollack of the US District Court in New York City. He then joined a New York law firm, specializing in business law. Twenty years later, he became a senior executive of a New York commercial real estate firm.

With his wife Jennifer, Wallach raised two children in Chappaqua, New York. Wallach retired in 2006 and moved to the Berkshires. For many years after his retirement, he taught real estate law courses at the Elizabeth Haub School of Law of Pace University in White Plains, New York. He retired from Pace last year.

Wallach acknowledges that law, not history, was his only career choice, although both fields intersected for him. "There has been, and still are, great legal historians. I am not one of them. I became a lawyer because, as a kid, I had a big mouth, a small body, and fainted at the sight of blood. Since I also could not draw a straight line or do math, what other profession was open to me? Law was the inevitable fallback," Wallach said.

Wallach has a long history with OLLI. "I was very fortunate to have been invited by Art Sherman (a founding member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) in 2007/2008 to teach courses in American history for OLLI, and he has been a beloved mentor and supporter ever since."

Wallach has praise for the OLLI teaching experience. "OLLI students are great—well educated, well read, upbeat, and well positioned to keep me on my toes. They are a lot of fun to debate American history with. Sometimes, I literally find myself working one or two chapters ahead of them." He also has very kind words for OLLI's staff both past – Barbara Hochberg, former OLLI Executive Director, and the current executive director, Megan Whilden. He said Bob Desrosiers, who heads OLLI's audio-video department, has been a great help with the technical production of his history courses. He also credits Andy Ottoson OLLI's administrative assistant, with providing crucial help in using Zoom internet technology.

Two courses Wallach taught at OLLI are among his favorites. "The 2017 course about Richard Nixon stands out. Here is an endlessly fascinating man who wanted to do good, had the capacity to be great and yet couldn't stop himself from being bad and doing great evil," he said.

"I taught "World War II Turning Point/May 1940" by John Lukacs on how close Great Britain came to surrendering to Germany and why she didn't. I loved it because I never knew about that and because it was the shortest history book I ever read—short but intense."

Other particularly memorable and popular courses Wallach has taught over the past three years include a multi-part course on the American Revolution.

For OLLI's winter session, Wallach brings his historical perspective to the complex topic of the evolution of the species. He acknowledges he is not a scientist but his goal is to acquaint his listeners with both the science and the paleoanthropology of evolution.

However, he is also covering the big picture—the personalities, the key

discoveries and distinctions, and the ins and outs of the politics of evolution theory. Wallach said OLLI is planning a future course on the science of evolution taught by a scientist: "and when it does, believe me I will be signing up for it."

Wallach said he has strong feelings about those he calls "rejectionists" to evolution theory, and the fact that in some circles, teaching evolution is controversial. "Rejectionists," he said, "include many smart and otherwise well-educated and well-intentioned folks. This is their choice."

He does feel, however, for some of these people the religious basis of these views, "especially a literal interpretation of Scripture, does not belong in secular educational institutions. There are many religious schools and colleges which accommodate these views," he notes, adding "creationism does not belong in our public schools." Wallach said many



Stacy Wallach, left, was recently interviewed by fellow OLLI member and instructor Jeff Mann on the Hello OLLI TV show, which can be viewed on OLLI's YouTube channel.

great scientists who are people of faith do not confuse their faith with science. He concludes: "There's nothing inconsistent in trusting science and trusting your own personal faith in a divine Presence—just don't confuse the one with the other."

In his spare time, Wallach is a runner—with three marathons to his credit—tennis player and hiker. He enjoys other popular outdoor sports including biking, kayaking, and skiing.

He said he also enjoys the *New York Times* crossword puzzle which "keeps me humble."

— Mal Wasserman

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The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College depends on the generosity of our donors to ensure we can continue to offer inspiring lifelong learning programs that are affordable and accessible for all. We are grateful to the donors listed below, as well as our

instructors, volunteers, and members, who together contribute to the vibrancy and connectedness of our community. Thank you!

The list below covers the time period of 3/1/21 through 1/31/22. If there are any inadvertent omissions or corrections, please contact us immediately at 413-236-2192.

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Malvina Wasserman
Donald & Melinda Weber
Stephen Weisberg
Judeth Wesley
Megan Whilden
Michael Wilcox
Mark Willner
Randall & Mara Winn
Frances & Joel Wolk
Robert & Karen Youdelman
Charlotte Zmyslo
Marlene & Martin Zuckerman

Friend (up to \$99)

Anonymous
Daniel Brand
Grace Breckenridge
Sally Brooke
Agnes Cartier
Alice Caton
Jeanette Chague
Roxanne Ferry
Dale Fink & Betty Zimmerberg
Max & Linda Freedman
Faye Girsh
Karen & Hank Gold
Joel & Judie Grossman
Clyde Haberman
Karen Harbour
Brian Harrison
Ghetta Hirsch
Janice Jones-Thomson & Dewitt Thomson

Beverly Jorgensen
Maurice & Judith Joseph
Elizabeth Kasevich
Judy Keshner
David & Ann Krawet
Judith Levin
Rita Levy
Barbara S. Litchfield
Patricia MacKenzie
Louise Maron
Sandra Mathews
Lee McClelland
Pat McKenna
Erin McNamara
Alan Melgaard
Leslie Morris *in memory of Joel F. Morris*
Donna J. Murrill
Brandon & Sandra Pantorno
Lee Parks
Charles Popper
Susan Quinlan
Marian Raser
David & Donna Rempell
Anne Roland & Morris Bennett
Julia Rosenblum
Joseph & Colleen R. Rossi
Dr. Carole Siegel
Patricia Socha
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The Honorable Francis X. Spina
Laurie B. Sturma
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Rita Yohalem

Interested in supporting lifelong learning for everyone in Berkshire County and beyond? Donations are always welcomed online at berkshireOLLI.org/donate or by check made out to **BCC Foundation/OLLI, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201**. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

OLLI's Spring Semester at a Glance

OLLI offers a variety of inspiring in-person, online and hybrid classes this spring from **March 18 through May 2**. Below is a summary. You can find more extensive descriptions beginning on page 12 or online.

Fees are \$50 for one, \$95 for two or three, or \$125 for as many as you wish within a semester. OLLI at BCC membership is required to register. OLLI offers convenient, safe and secure online registration at BerkshireOLLI.org. You can also register by calling us at **413-236-2190** with a credit card (we accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover). If you prefer to pay by check, you may call us with your course registration

and then mail your payment to: OLLI at BCC, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield MA 01201.

Courses are only available to members of OLLI at Berkshire Community College. If you are not yet a member, you may join online or over the phone for \$60 for a 12-month membership. Scholarship options are also available—to apply, please contact our Executive Director, Megan Whilden, at mwhilden@berkshirecc.edu.

Note that in-person classes will be moved online wherever possible if warranted by safety concerns.

MONDAYS

M102: What is the Mindset of the Collage Maker? | Barbara Turner Hart
11:30 am – 1:00 pm | Online via Zoom
4 Sessions: 3/21, 3/28, 4/4 & 4/11 • **LIMITED REGISTRATION: 25**

M103: Today's Headlines | Len Tabs
12:30– 2:00 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/25 & 5/2 (no class 4/18)

M104: Breaking the Common Pot: Dispossession of Land, Community and Culture | Katherine Kidd
2:30 – 4:00 pm | Online or In-person at Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield MA
6 Sessions: 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/25 & 5/2 (no class 4/18)

M105: The Elements of Writing Memoir: How and Why to Share Your Story | Kasey Rogers
7:30 – 9:00 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/25 & 5/2 (no class 4/18) • **LIMITED REGISTRATION: 15**



Collage by Karen Arp-Sandel

TUESDAYS

T101: Berkshires Performing Arts Previews | Naomi Spatz and Barbara Waldinger
11:30 am – 1:00 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19 & 4/26

T102: The Good Nazi? Albert Speer: Hitler's Architect | Richard Matturo
2:00 – 4:00 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19 & 4/26



Albert Speer

WEDNESDAYS

W101: Toward a Philosophy of Nonviolence | Barry L. Gan
9:30 – 11:00 am | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 & 4/27 • **LIMITED REGISTRATION: 35**

W102: The Theatres are Open Again!
The New World of Restoration Comedy | Mary M. Rogers
11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 & 4/27 • **LIMITED REGISTRATION: 25**

W103: John Singer Sargent and His Subjects: Portraits and Lives | Ann Berman, Jock Brooks & Mark Wilson
1:30 – 3:00 pm | Online only or Online & In-person
3 or 5 Sessions: 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13 & 4/20
First 3 sessions online; second 2 in-person at Naumkeag in Stockbridge MA (4/13) and The Clark Art Institute in Williamstown MA (4/20) • **LIMITED REGISTRATION: 40 FOR IN-PERSON SESSIONS**



Portrait by John Singer Sargent

W104: Uncovering the Art of Quilts | Barbara Greenbaum
3:30 – 5:00 pm | Online via Zoom
4 Sessions: 3/23, 3/30, 4/6 & 4/13

W105: Innovation in the Berkshires | The Tech Impact Collaborative
3:30 – 5:00 pm | Online or In-person at the Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC)
6 Sessions: 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 & 4/27



Mary Walter's Big Sky Barn

THURSDAYS

R101: Birding in the Berkshires | Ed Neumuth
10:00 – 11:30 am, 4/21 | In-person at Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield MA
8:00 – 9:30 am, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26 | In-person at field locations TBA

• **LIMITED REGISTRATION: 12**

R102: Staging and Choreography for Musical Theatre | George Pinney
11:00 am – 12:30 pm | In-person at the Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield MA
5 Sessions: 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14 & 4/21

R103: Women Composers of Classical Music | Kenneth Stark
1:30 – 3:00 pm | In-person at the Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield MA
6 Sessions: 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21 & 4/28

R104: An Introduction to Six Great Operas, Part 2 | Christine Casey
4:00 – 5:30 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21 & 4/28



Piliated woodpecker

FRIDAYS

F101: A Primer for Poetry | Don Barkin
11:00 am – 12:30 pm | In-person at the Stockbridge Library, Stockbridge MA
6 Sessions: 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 4/29 (no class 4/15) • **LIMITED REGISTRATION: 15**

F102: Great Decisions | John Dickson
11:00 am – 12:30 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 5/6 (no class 4/15 and 4/29)

F103: Science Conversations | Hank Gold
1:00 – 2:30 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 4/29 (no class 4/15)

F104: Aeschylus 2.1 | Steven Somkin
1:30 – 3:00 pm | In-person at the Stockbridge Library, Stockbridge MA
6 Sessions: 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 4/29 (no class 4/15)
• **LIMITED REGISTRATION: 15**

F105: Exploring Disruption: A Supply Chain Focus on Trends and Technologies Effecting Transportation and the Rest of our Lives | Robert James
3:00 - 4:30 pm | Online via Zoom
6 Sessions: 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 4/29 (no class 4/15)



Spring 2022 Courses: March 18 - May 2

OLLI at BCC courses have no tests and no grades: just learning for the love of learning! The only requirement is to join OLLI at BCC if you have not yet. To register for classes and or join OLLI, visit berkshireolli.org or call 413.236.2190. Both online and in-person courses are offered this spring.

MONDAYS

M102: What is the Mindset of the Collage Maker?

Online, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
3/21, 3/28, 4/4 & 4/11

LIMITED REGISTRATION: 25

Collages communicate through fragmentation, demanding that the viewer do the work of interpreting and finding meaning in different influences. Join us for a four week course with three local artists—Karen Arp-Sandel, Marney Schorr, and Dr. Nick Holliday—who will share their collage making process: how they conceptualize collage making, their influences, approaches, the materials they use and how this art form calls upon them personally. Moderated by **Barbara Turner Hart**.

M103: Today's Headlines

Online, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/25 & 5/2
(no class 4/18)



Today's Headlines is a moderated discussion course that provides an opportunity to voice your opinions on national and international issues. Serving as a guide and provocateur, the moderator will introduce selected topics drawn from a variety of newspapers and the Internet. Lively discussion is the centerpiece of this course. Moderated by **Lenny Tabs**.

M104: Breaking the Common Pot: Dispossession of Land, Community and Culture

Hybrid: Both online and at Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, Mass.
2:30 – 4:00 pm
3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/25 & 5/2
(no class 4/18)



U.S. Senator Henry Dawes, a long-time resident of the Berkshires, was the author of the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887. Dawes saw himself, and was seen by others, as a friend of Native Americans. Yet this Act resulted in one of the most extensive land dispossessions of Native Americans in US history. In this class we will examine issues of land ownership and Indigenous dispossession, how Dawes and others thought they were benefiting Native Americans, subsequent federal policies that claimed Native land, and how Native American communities have resisted these policies. The course will end with current work being done by Native Americans, and others, to restore historic lands to Native American communities. Taught by **Katherine Kidd**.

M105: The Elements of Writing Memoir: How and Why to Share Your Story

Online, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/25 & 5/2
(no class 4/18)

LIMITED REGISTRATION: 15



One of the most remarkable ways to learn about ourselves is to write about our experiences and how they've shaped our outlook on life. Whether the events are happy or sad, telling our truths can also expand our understanding of one another. In this course, you will learn how to create and outline the events you wish to detail, how to use elements of fiction when writing non-fiction, and what makes memoirs unique to a reader and what to do beyond your first draft. Taught by **Kasey Rogers**.

TUESDAYS

T101: Berkshire Performing Arts Previews

Online, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19 & 4/26



What awaits us on the summer stages in 2022? Artistic directors, who creatively set up productions on outdoor stages, in spacious tents, or around museum pools

the summer of 2021, are busy at work on the 2022 season. Change is coming as two artistic directors, at Barrington Stage and Williamstown, are leaving or have left. Join us online for a close-up of the 2022 season from ten local artistic directors, plus a critics panel. Moderated by **Naomi Spatz** and **Barbara Waldinger**.

March 22: Berkshire Critics Panel

March 29: Berkshire Theatre Group & Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

April 5: WAM Theatre & Shakespeare & Company

April 12: Berkshire Opera Festival & Bridge Street Theatre

April 19: Williamstown Theatre Festival & Great Barrington Public Theatre

April 26: Chester Theatre Company & Barrington Stage Company

T102: *The Good Nazi? Albert Speer: Hitler's Architect*

Online, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19 & 4/26

Educated as an architect, Speer had no interest in politics until he attended a Hitler rally when he was 25. After joining the Nazi Party, his skills brought him into the Führer's inner circle, where he fulfilled Hitler's megalomaniac dreams by designing some of the most colossal structures ever conceived. With war he became Armaments Minister, and after Germany's surrender was arrested and tried at Nuremberg. The only Nazi who seemed penitent, he accepted responsibility for all the crimes of the regime. Some applaud his stance and call him "the good Nazi." Others contend it was a clever ploy to avoid the noose. In this course, we will consider Speer's life and the inner conflict that drove him to both confess and conceal his own guilt. Over the six weeks we will also view the four-hour 1982 film, *Inside the Third Reich*, based on his memoirs. Taught by **Richard Maturro**.

WEDNESDAYS

W101: *Toward a Philosophy of Nonviolence*

Online, 9:30 – 11:00 am

3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 & 4/27

LIMITED REGISTRATION: 35



"Toward a Philosophy of Nonviolence" will explore nonviolence through attempting to understand the nature of violence, various misconceptions about violence, and the various approaches that writers and activists have taken toward nonviolence. We will examine five possible myths about violence, and we will also examine a spectrum of approaches to nonviolence, all in attempt to understand the nature of nonviolence. Taught by **Barry L. Gan**, author of *Violence and Nonviolence: An Introduction*.

W102: *'The Theatres are Open Again!' The World of Restoration Comedy*

Online, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 & 4/27

LIMITED REGISTRATION: 25



In 1642 civil war erupted in England between King Charles I and Parliament, resulting in the overthrow of the English monarchy. The puritanical government which followed banned most kinds of entertainment, especially professional theatrical performances. In 1660 the

monarchy was restored, Charles II returned from exile in France to claim his throne, and the playhouses in London, closed for 18 years, reopened to audiences primed for pleasure. Into this milieu Restoration Comedy was born. In this course we will examine five of the finest comedies of Restoration theatre with an eye to how they work theatrically, how they comment on the social mores of their day, how they reflect the changing roles of and attitudes towards women, and how they still resonate today. Taught by **Mary Rogers**.

W103: *John Singer Sargent and His Subjects: Portraits and Lives*

Online Only (3 sessions) or online and in-Person (5 sessions)

1:30 – 3:00 pm

3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13 & 4/20

LIMITED REGISTRATION FOR IN-PERSON SESSIONS: 40



John Singer Sargent is best known for the oil portraits he created for his vast network of friends, patrons, and connections on both sides of the Atlantic. We will look at his work and learn about the lives of those he portrayed. Subjects will include his teacher, Carolus-Duran, whose portrait hangs at the Clark Art Institute (pictured above), and Joseph and Caroline Choate, whose charcoal portraits are displayed at their former home, Naumkeag. While concerned with Sargent's place in art history, this course will also focus on his life story and the social milieu of which he was part.

Two in-person sessions will be held at

the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown and at Naumkeag in Stockbridge, both in Berkshire County, and three online. Students may also choose to participate in only the three online sessions. Taught by **Ann Berman, Jock Brooks** and **Mark Wilson**.

W104: Uncovering the Art of Quilts

Online, 3:30 – 5:00 pm
3/23, 3/30, 4/6 & 4/13



Join museum curators and expert quilters for a lively exploration of the history of quilts, curating museum exhibits, quilts as an art form, the creative process, quilting philosophy and techniques, and much more. Guest speakers include Jennifer Swope, Associate Curator of Textiles and Fashion Arts at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, Pamela Weeks, curator of the New England Quilt Museum, and contemporary quilters Mary Walter and Jeanne Marklin, whose quilt, *Tree Wounds*, is pictured above. Moderated by **Barbara Greenbaum**.

W105: Innovation in the Berkshires

Hybrid: online or in-person at the
Berkshire Innovation Center, Pittsfield
MA

3:30 – 5:00 pm
3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 & 4/27

The Berkshires of western Massachusetts have been a center of technological innovation since the 19th century. Berkshire-based firms are among the global and national leaders in new technologies in clean energy, the life sciences, security and defense, and the creative arts. In this class, leaders in innovative firms in each of these sectors will share insights

into their businesses. This course was developed by the **Technology Impact Collaborative**, a partnership between the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College, 1Berkshire, and the Berkshire Innovation Center.

THURSDAYS

R101: Birding in the Berkshires

In-person at Berkshire Community
College, Pittsfield, MA and field
locations TBA

Session One: 10:00 – 11:30 am
Sessions Two – Six: 8:00 – 9:30 am
Note late start: 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12,
5/19, 5/26

LIMITED REGISTRATION: 12

Have you always wanted to learn about birding but never found the time? Here is your opportunity. The course is designed for beginning and intermediate level birders. In the first classroom session, we'll discuss birds and their identification, songs, habitat preferences, and the use of optics in birding. In the following field trip sessions, we'll practice birding techniques and bird song identification. This involves moderate walking. If it rains, the class will be held indoors. Taught by **Ed Neumuth**.

R102: Staging and Choreography for Musical Theatre

In person at the Berkshire Museum,
Pittsfield, MA

11:00 am – 12:30 pm
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14 & 4/21



From the initial kernel of inspiration to opening night, this course will focus on the work of the musical theatre director/choreographer, including how they approach a musical, the many sets of given circumstances (talent, skill set

levels, budget, venue, targeted audience, etc.) and how all these conditions inspire and challenge staging and choreography. Specific video examples will be presented to reveal the multitude of techniques, methodologies, and means to excite both left and right brains to create a polished musical theatre work. Taught by **George Pinney**.

R103: Women Composers of Classical Music

In-person at the Berkshire Museum,
Pittsfield, MA

1:30 – 3:00 pm
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21 & 4/28

Other than Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann, are you familiar with or have you heard of classical music by women composers? Can you name more than a few women composers? After the next 6 weeks you will be able to do so and even answer Jeopardy questions on the topic. We will explore the biographies and music of these great women who crafted classical music beginning in the 11th century (yes, the 11th century!) up to the present. Taught by **Ken Stark**.

R104: Introduction to Six Great Operas, Part 2

Online, 4:00- 5:30 pm
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21 & 4/28



Christine Casey returns to lead an in-depth exploration of six more great operas. Each session will delve into one complete opera with a brief biography of the composer and librettist and a slideshow highlighting significant scenes, as well as audio excerpts of the significant and memorable arias taken from recordings. The course will

present Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*), Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, Massenet's *Manon* and Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

FRIDAYS

F101: A Primer for Poetry

In-person at the Stockbridge Library, Stockbridge MA

11:00 am – 12:30 pm 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 4/29 (no class 4/15)

LIMITED REGISTRATION: 15

This class is for people who want to read poetry with more confidence and pleasure. We will read poems by great poets such as Robert Frost, John Keats, and Emily Dickinson and also excellent contemporary poets. We'll study the way poets use traditional forms such as the sonnet and villanelle to harness their passions. Students will also have the chance to write their own poems and, if they like, to read them in class. Taught by **Don Barkin**.

F102: Great Decisions

Online, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 5/6 (no class 4/15 and 4/29)

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Each week, we will explore the 2022 Great Decisions curriculum that allows for in-depth examination and discussion of current international challenges through the lens of our national interests. Topics for spring 2022 are: **Climate Change, Russia and the U.S., The Quad Alliance** (Australia, India, Japan and the U.S.), **Drug Policy in Latin America, Outer Space, and Biden's Agenda**. Taught by **John Dickson**.

F103: Science Conversations

Online, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 4/29 (no class 4/15)

Join us for a lively moderated discussion of the latest in science news and research, as appears in the Tuesday "Science Times" section of *The New York Times*, plus other magazines and journals. The moderator will encourage a vigorous give-and-take. Student suggestions for discussion topics and additional readings are welcomed. Moderated by **Dr. Hank Gold**.

F104: Aeschylus 2.1

In-person at the Stockbridge Library, Stockbridge MA

1:30 – 3:00 pm

3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 4/29 (no class 4/15)

LIMITED REGISTRATION: 15



After an introduction exploring the mythic and metaphysical world of ancient Greece, we will read selections from *Seven Against Thebes*, *The Suppliant Maidens* and the three plays that constitute the Oresteia (*Agamemnon*, *The Libation Bearers*, and *The Eumenides*). In addition, there will be a discussion of the physical aspects of Greek theatre and theatrical conventions. Taught by **Steven Somkin**.

F105: Exploring Disruption: A Supply Chain Focus on Trends and Technologies Effecting Transportation and the Rest of our Lives

Online, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/22 & 4/29 (no class 4/15)



Philosophers remind us that "the old order changes and yields place to the new." In our digital age this is profoundly, disruptively true. This class will explore six disruptive technologies and the factors driving their emergence, including transportation focused products —electric/hybrid vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and drones and bots—as well as 3D printing, block chain transfers and the internet of things. Taught by **Robert James**.

OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College, offers exceptional educational, cultural and volunteer opportunities designed especially by and for people fifty years and better, but open to all. To register for classes and or join OLLI, visit berkshireolli.org or call **413.236.2190**. We are proud to have won the 2020 and 2021 Best of the Berkshires award for best online learning experiences!





AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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Pittsfield, MA 01201
413.236.2190
BerkshireOLLI.org

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The background of the lower half of the page is a dense field of small, light purple flowers with yellow centers, likely Phloxes, set against a dark green background of foliage. The flowers are in sharp focus, creating a vibrant and textured backdrop for the text.

OLLI SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Live on Zoom
RSVP at berkshireolli.org

Tuesday, **March 1**, at 3:00pm EST

Enjoy sneak peeks at our spring classes, both online and in-person,
and hear from our terrific instructors.

Free and Open to All!

Support lifelong learning in the Berkshires!
Find OLLI on Facebook | Twitter | YouTube