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WILLIAMS COLLEGE
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MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

www.BerkshireOLLI.org • 413.236.2190



Spring Course Catalog 2018

Classes in Great Barrington, Lenox, Pittsfield and Williamstown

Register online at www.BerkshireOLLI.org

OLLI • Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

◆ **WHAT IS OLLI?** OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College, is a vibrant member-led program that provides exciting educational, social and volunteer opportunities designed especially by and for people 50 years old and up. We offer over 80 programs a year, including four semesters of classes throughout Berkshire County from Williamstown to Great Barrington, a thought-provoking Distinguished Speakers Series, special events, lively shared interest groups, the Annual OLLI Art Show featuring our members' creative talents, and more. OLLI classes have no tests, no grades, and no prerequisites: just learning for the love of learning!

◆ **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING OLLI?** Becoming an OLLI member allows you to register for OLLI classes, take part in OLLI shared interest groups, receive discounted admission to OLLI special events and talks, get invited to exclusive behind-the-scenes tours free to OLLI members, show your art work in OLLI's Annual Art Show, receive discounts and occasional free or discounted ticket offers from our cultural partners (see page 12 for a list of OLLI partners) and more. The annual membership fee is \$50 per person and is good for 12 months. Needs-based scholarships are available; for more information call the OLLI Office at 413.236.2190.

◆ **WHAT ARE THE COSTS FOR COURSES AND OTHER EVENTS?** Course fees per semester are \$50 for one course, \$95 for two or three courses, and \$125 for unlimited courses. Distinguished Speakers lectures are \$10 per lecture for members. The cost for Special Events varies according to the event.

◆ **WHAT IS A FLEX PASS?** For those members who take extended trips or live away from the Berkshires part of the year, OLLI offers a convenient FLEX PASS. Pay \$50 to access up to four class sessions in the Summer semester or six classes in the Fall, Winter, and Spring semesters. Lottery and limited registration classes, as well as any course that reaches maximum capacity, are not open to Flex Pass holders.

◆ **HOW DO I REGISTER?** OLLI offers secure online registration on its website at www.BerkshireOLLI.org. You can also register by mailing in the registration form found in this catalog, or by calling **413-236-2190** to register over the phone with a credit card (we accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover). You are also welcome to drop off your registration form at the OLLI office, located in Room 233 of the Field Administration Building at Berkshire Community College, 1350 West St., Pittsfield.

CLASS LOCATIONS

BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BCC) • 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, Mass. 01201

BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SOUTH COUNTY CENTER (SCC)

343 Main Street, Great Barrington, Mass. 01230

WILLIAMS COLLEGE (WC) • Griffin Hall, 844 Main Street, Williamstown, Mass. 01267

THE CLARK ART INSTITUTE (TC) • 225 South Street, Williamstown, Mass. 01267

DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY (ML) • 1095 Main Street, Williamstown, Mass. 01267

KIMBALL FARMS (KF) • 235 Walker Street, Lenox, Mass. 01240

SPRING 2018 Class Schedule

CLASSES **Thursday 4/12 – Friday 5/25**

() = Number of sessions **LR** = Limited Registration

MONDAY		Berkshire Community College (BCC), Pittsfield		
9:00 – 10:30am	M101	<i>I'm Right, You're Wrong</i>	(5) BCC, G-10	Apr. 23 – May 21
10:45am – 12:15pm	M102	<i>Mathematical Surprises</i>	(5) BCC, G-10	Apr. 23 – May 21
1:00 – 2:30pm	M103	<i>Mahler, Wagner and Anti-Semitism</i>	(4) BCC, G-10	Apr. 30 – May 21
2:45 – 4:15pm	M104	<i>The Poetic Genius of W. B. Yeats – LR</i>	(5) BCC, G-10	Apr. 23 – May 21
TUESDAY		South County Center (SCC), Great Barrington		
9:30 – 11:00am	T101	<i>Four Renaissance Women: History and Scandal</i>	(4) SCC, S1	May 1 – May 22
11:15am – 12:45pm	T102	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: Marvels, Magic, & the Perils of Chivalry</i>	(6) SCC, S2	Apr. 17 – May 22
12:15 – 1:45pm	T103	<i>Free Will and the Self</i>	(6) SCC, S5	Apr. 17 – May 22
2:00 – 3:30pm	T104	<i>Today's Headlines</i>	(5) SCC, S5	Apr. 24 – May 22
2:00 – 3:30pm	T105	<i>What is Justice? The Oresteia of Aeschylus</i>	(4) SCC, S7	May 1 – May 22
WEDNESDAY		Williams College (WC), Clark Art Institute (TC), Milne Library (ML), Williamstown Berkshire Community College (BCC), Pittsfield		
10:30am – 12:00pm	W101	<i>Two Masters of the Brush: Winslow Homer & John Singer Sargent</i> LOTTERY	(5) TC	April 25 – May 23
10:00 – 11:30am	W102	<i>International Folk Dancing</i>	(6) BCC, Paterson Field House	Apr. 18 – May 23
1:00 – 2:30pm	W103	<i>Musings on Mortality – LR</i>	(6) ML	Apr. 18 – May 23
1:30 – 3:30pm	W104	<i>Fine Art Photography – LR</i>	(6) BCC, G-12 & on location	Apr. 18 – May 23
3:00 – 4:30pm	W105	<i>Fantasticator: The Short Stories of Jorge Luis Borges</i>	(4) WC, Griffin Hall Room 7	Apr. 18 – May 9
THURSDAY		Berkshire Community College (BCC), Pittsfield		
8:00 – 9:30am*	TH101	<i>Birding in the Berkshires</i> LOTTERY	(6) BCC, G-12 and various locations	Apr. 12 – May 17
*1st class 4/12 at 10:00 – 11:30am, Room G-12				
10:00 – 11:30am	TH102	<i>The Fight to Vote</i>	(6) BCC, G-10	Apr. 12 – May 17
12:15 – 1:45pm	TH103	<i>Reading the Quran</i>	(5) BCC, G-10	Apr. 12 – May 10
12:30 – 2:00pm	TH104	<i>Shakespeare's Unruly Plays</i>	(6) BCC, H-402	Apr. 12 – May 17
2:15 – 3:45pm	TH105	<i>Immigration: 1965 to the Present</i>	(6) BCC, H-402	Apr. 12 – May 17
4:00 – 5:30pm	TH106	<i>B is for Brahms</i>	(6) BCC, H-402	Apr. 12 – May 17
FRIDAY		Kimball Farms (KF), Lenox		
9:30 – 11:00am	F101	<i>Great Decisions</i>	(6) KF	Apr 13 – May 18
11:15am – 12:45pm	F102	<i>Berkshire Performing Arts Preview</i>	(4) KF	Apr. 27 – May 18
2:30 – 4:00pm*	F103	<i>Healthcare Today</i>	(7) KF	Apr 13 – May 25
*7th class 5/25 at 1:30 – 3:00pm				
2:00 – 4:00pm	F104	<i>Introduction to Camera Photography</i> LOTTERY	(4) KF	Apr. 27 – May 18

I'M RIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG

M101

Mondays
9:00 – 10:30am
BCC Main Campus, G-10
Pittsfield
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21
Five sessions

Of course you are right, of course I am wrong....or maybe that is simply a perception, based on intransigent beliefs. We will look at why beliefs result in deniers and why we lie to preserve our self-images, as well as to protect our beliefs against even compelling empirical data. We will explore the evidence that these cognitive phenomena are hard-wired, heritable and have evolutionary origins. Join us, the questions and discussions will be provocative and sometimes illuminating!

Suggested Reading: Haight, J. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*. New York: Vintage, 2012.

Virginia O'Leary holds both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Wayne State University. Her academic career spanned four decades. She taught at Oakland University, Boston University, Harvard, Indiana State University and Auburn University. She is a frequent OLLI instructor.

MATHEMATICAL SURPRISES

M102

Mondays
10:45am – 12:15pm
BCC Main Campus, G-10
Pittsfield
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21
Five sessions

Join us as we explore mathematical puzzles together. They are: **1)** Determining the number of flat points on a surface. **2)** Analyzing the length of the Kasparov /Deep Blue chess match. **3)** Tiling certain regions with L-shaped trominoes. **4)** Comparing high school mile records with 1600 meter records. **5)** Relating the sums of two infinite series to the sum of their averages.

Marshall Ash is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at DePaul University. Earning his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1966, he taught at DePaul University for 45 years. He continues to do collaborative mathematical research. He enjoys weekly bike rides, reading the classics and viewing movies, theater and Yankee games.

MAHLER, WAGNER AND ANTI-SEMITISM

M103

Mondays
1:00 – 2:30pm
BCC Main Campus, G-10
Pittsfield
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21
Four sessions

Discrimination and mistreatment of Jews dates back to the earliest days of Christianity and beyond, but reached new levels of social acceptability in nineteenth century Europe, spurred on by the writings and actions of respected artists and intellectuals, including the influential composer, Richard Wagner. It was into this environment that Gustav Mahler was born in 1860 in Bohemia, then part of the Austrian Empire. This four-part course, with musical examples, examines the background of anti-Semitism, the prominent role of Wagner, the impact on Mahler's life and career, and the musical and social legacy right up to the present day.

Brian Hailes has an Associate's Degree in Fine Arts (Music) from Berkshire Community College, studied classical baritone at Berkshire Music School and is working to complete his B.A. (Music) at Westfield State University. After singing and playing guitar in clubs and on radio in the UK, he served on the board of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Georgia Council for the Arts Music Panel. Brian previously worked in technology, has a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, a Diploma in Management Studies and is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering & Technology.

Mondays
2:45 – 4:15pm
BCC Main Campus, G-10
Pittsfield
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21
Five sessions

William Butler Yeats, winner of the 1923 Nobel Prize for Literature, is considered by many to be the foremost 20th-century poet writing in English—and he was Irish! As part of the Irish literary revival, he wrote about everything from fairies to politics. Also a playwright, he was co-founder of the famous Abbey Theatre in Dublin. We will read selected poems that represent the poet's unique humanism, and students will have the option of writing short pieces of their own in class. No experience required, just what Yeats called the "rag and bone shop of the heart." **LIMITED REGISTRATION – 20**

Suggested Reading: Any edition of the following Yeats poems (can be downloaded from the internet): "The Song of the Wandering Angus," "The Stolen Child," "He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven," "Easter, 1916," "Sailing to Byzantium," "An Irish Airman Foresees His Death," "Wild Swans at Coole," "Leda & the Swan," "Fiddler of Dooney," and "Lake Isle of Innisfree."

Jerri Chaplin has a B.A. in English from the University of the Pacific. A member of the Institute for Poetic Medicine, the International Alliance of Poetry Therapy, and the W.B. Yeats Society, she is a Certified Poetry Therapist and winner of the Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Association for Poetry Therapy in 2001. She was first Poet-in-Residence at Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC, in 1996, and is the author of two books of poetry.

Course Descriptions**TUESDAY****SPRING 2018****FOUR RENAISSANCE WOMEN: HISTORY AND SCANDAL****T101**

Tuesdays
9:30 – 11:00am
BCC South County Ctr, S1
Great Barrington
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22
Four sessions

Four lectures offer a tantalizing look into the lives and scandals of four of history's most remarkable Renaissance women—all of whom were tied to Mantua—one of the most important and extraordinary republics of pre-unification Italy. Few women influenced western European life as did Isabella D'Este Gonzaga, Lucrezia Borgia, Caterina Sforza and Bianca Capello.

A linguist, **Anna Zaffanella**, is a retired professor of Italian from Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute (RPI). Anna also taught French at Berkshire Country Day School in Lenox, where she was head of the language department. She earned her B.S. degree at North Adams State College.

SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT: MARVELS, MAGIC AND THE PERILS OF CHIVALRY**T102**

Tuesdays
11:15am – 12:45pm
BCC South County Ctr, S2
Great Barrington
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8,
5/15, 5/22
Six sessions

What do you do when a giant green gatecrasher dares you to cut off his head? Well, if you are Sir Gawain, the paragon of knighthood at King Arthur's court, you take the dare and do it. But when the not-so-jolly green giant picks up his head and reminds you that you must meet him in a year to let him swing his ax at your neck in return, then what? Find out as we read this engaging and sophisticated exploration of knightly behavior on trial for its life. By turns comic and moving, this poem is at the pinnacle of medieval story telling.

Suggested Reading: Any translation of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* into modern English. W.S. Merwin's 2002 acclaimed verse translation has the Middle English text on facing pages, and so does Simon Armitage's 2008 verse translation, which received glowing reviews from critics and poets (like Seamus Heaney).

Mary Rogers received an Honours A.B. in English & Philosophy at the University of Toronto, an M.A. at Seton Hall University, and another M.A. and A.B.D. in Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. After a decade teaching at Seton Hall University, she taught for many years at Monument Mountain Regional High School.

FREE WILL AND THE SELF**T103**

Tuesdays
12:15 – 1:45pm
BCC South County Ctr, S5
Great Barrington
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8,
5/15, 5/22
Six sessions

After characterizing different conceptions of free will, we turn our focus to a central one, that of self-determination or self-government (autonomy). We consider what the self that, if free, controls my actions and decisions is? Perhaps, as Buddhists say, there is no Self. We then ponder the ancient question: can my self be truly free if its nature and circumstances have been determined by heredity and environment, factors over which I had no control? Thinkers mentioned or discussed more fully are Rene Descartes, John Locke, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Pierre Laplace, William James, Harry Frankfurt, Peter van Inwagen, Derek Parfit, Daniel Dennett, Mark Siderits, Miri Albahiri, and Jenann Ismael.

Bernard Berofsky, Professor Emeritus in Philosophy at Columbia University; an Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Philosophy; author of four books, most recently *Nature's Challenge to Free Will*, and editor of two others; author of numerous articles in the areas of free will, personal autonomy, moral responsibility, determinism, and the theories of causation; recipient of a teaching award from Columbia College; performs as a stage magician (Sebastian), including at Made in the Berkshires.

TODAY'S HEADLINES**T104**

Tuesdays
2:00 – 3:30pm
BCC South County Ctr, S5
Great Barrington
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22
Five sessions

This course provides an opportunity to voice your opinions on national and international issues. Serving as a guide and provocateur, the moderator will explore selected topics drawn from a variety of newspapers and the Internet. Lively discussion is the centerpiece of this course.

Len Tabs, Moderator, M.B.A., Fairleigh Dickinson University; self-employed financial consultant; former Chief Financial Officer, Fortunoff companies; frequent OLLI moderator for "Today's Headlines;" former President of OLLI; current Treasurer of OLLI.

WHAT IS JUSTICE? THE ORESTEIA OF AESCHYLUS**T105**

Tuesdays
2:00 – 3:30pm
BCC South County Ctr, S7
Great Barrington
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22
Four sessions

Western drama began with the Greeks, and Aeschylus was its first great playwright. In the opening of four class sessions, we will discuss the origins and conventions of Ancient Greek theater. Then in the succeeding three classes we will consider the three connected plays that comprise the *Oresteia* trilogy: the *Agamemnon* (his homecoming and murder), *The Libation Bearers* (the revenge and intriguing psychology of his daughter Electra), and finally *The Eumenides* (the trial of his son Orestes, the first courtroom drama in Western literature). Most important we will try to answer the question, What is justice? There will be some opportunity for class members to read portions of the text in class.

Suggested Reading: Any good translation of the *Oresteia* trilogy: *Agamemnon*, *The Libation Bearers*, and *The Eumenides*. Dr. Somkin will be using the Richmond Lattimore translation in class.

After a long career in medicine, **Steven Somkin** returned to his two real loves, writing and the Ancient Greeks (his B.A. was in philosophy with a particular emphasis on Plato). An award-winning playwright, he has written 15 full length and a dozen shorter plays, many produced in New York City and the Berkshires, and two of which have been published. He is a co-founder and current leader of The Greek Geeks, a group devoted to Ancient Greek theater, and he is a docent in paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History.

**TWO MASTERS OF THE BRUSH: WINSLOW HOMER &
JOHN SINGER SARGENT LOTTERY**

W101

Wednesdays
10:30am-12:00pm
Clark Art Institute
Williamstown
4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23
Five sessions

Let's probe the rich collections of art housed at the Clark by two of our country's most revered and famous 19th-century artists, Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent. We'll explore up close the full range of Homer's art, from early to late, from powerful oils to masterful watercolors, from wood engravings to forceful etchings. Sargent's vision—his portraits and more personal efforts—will be less inclusive because of the nature of the Clark's holdings, but still revealing. Two of the five sessions will be held in the Print Room to study prints, watercolors, and drawings. **LIMITED REGISTRATION – 14. Selection is by lottery. See page 12 for lottery directions.**

Jock Brooks, M.A., Columbia University; retired Associate Director, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute; Educator, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Senior Examiner, American Association of Museums; frequent OLLI instructor.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

W102

Wednesdays
10:00 – 11:30am
BCC Paterson Field House
Pittsfield
4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9,
5/16, 5/23
Six sessions

Sample the wide world of folk dance. This class will introduce you to some of the beautiful, traditional dances from around the world, from Bolivia to Brittany, Greece to Japan. Students will learn simple line, circle, and mixer dances. The historical and cultural backgrounds of the communities of origin will be discussed. No experience needed, no partner required. Enjoyable, sociable exercise. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

Suggested Reading: *Keeping Together in Time: Dance and Drill in Human History*, William H. McNeill; *Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy*, Barbara Ehrenreich

Drew Herzig, teacher of international folk dance for more than 30 years.

MUSINGS ON MORALITY LR

W103

Wednesdays
1:00 – 2:30pm
Milne Library
Williamstown
4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9,
5/16, 5/23
Six sessions

We will wonder aloud about some of the themes in thanatology that affect us personally given the culture in which we find ourselves. Is dying well and a good death an oxymoron or a possibility? Is illness in the eye of the beholder? What's worse, the illness, the treatment, or being a patient? Can grief be a response to loss and a witness to life? Suicide as solution: act of despair or free will? **LIMITED REGISTRATION – 20**

Suggested Reading: *We Are So Lightly Here: A Story about Conscious Dying* by Deborah Golden Alecson.

Deborah Golden Alecson currently teaches an upper level undergraduate course that she designed in medical humanities for Excelsior College where she has taught courses in thanatology and ethics of health care. She has designed and taught a course in thanatology for the Winter Study semester at Williams College. She is the author of several books including a collection of poems entitled "Complicated Grief." She wrote a monthly column for the Berkshire Eagle called "Musings on Mortality."

Wednesdays
1:30 – 3:30pm
BCC Main Campus, G-12
Pittsfield and various
4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9,
5/16, 5/23
Six sessions

Enjoy a hands-on series of walking tours, each designed to prime your creative juices, enhance your photographic composition techniques and have you stop taking photos, and start creating photographic fine art. Our first class will answer the question, “What is Fine Art Photography” in the classroom. The next four classes will be in the field exploring and photographing various Berkshire locations, and at our final class we will display and discuss each other’s work. **LIMITED REGISTRATION – 16**

Six sessions, First session (1) BCC – Pittsfield, (2) Village of Housatonic, (3) Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield (4) The River Walk, Great Barrington, (5) Ashintully, Tyringham (6) BCC – Pittsfield. Locations subject to change.

Thaddeus B. Kubis, B.A., Visual Communications, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; editorial photographer; marketing consultant; teaches marketing and sales promotion at Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and graphic communications at New York City College of Technology; he published a photo book of a 12-day sailing trip from Barcelona to Rome.

Wednesdays
3:00 – 4:30pm
Williams College, Griffin Hall
Room 7
Williamstown
4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9
Four sessions

Borges, the Argentine fantasticator, is considered one of the prime literary innovators of the second half of the 20th century. His short stories broke new ground in fiction writing, and he exerted a profound influence on American experimentalists such as Pynchon, Barth, and Barthelme. In this class we will read a selection of Borges’s most representative stories, examining them for his recurring fantastical devices as well as his humorous use of parody. Class members are asked to bring their copies of *Labyrinths* to the first class meeting.

Suggested Reading: Borges, *Labyrinths* (New Directions).

Gene Bell-Villada is the Professor of Romance Languages at Williams. Grew up in 3 Latin American countries. Author of *Borges and His Fiction: A Guide to His Mind and Art* (1981, revised and expanded, 2000) and of *Garcia Marquez: The Man and His Work* (1990, revised and expanded, 2010; translated into Spanish and Turkish). Has also published two volumes of fiction plus a memoir, *Overseas American: Growing Up Gringo in the Tropics* (2005). His wide-ranging study, *Art for Art’s Sake and Literary Life* (1996), was a finalist for the 1997 National Book Critics Circle Award, and was translated into Serbian and Chinese.

Course Descriptions

THURSDAY

SPRING 2018

Thursdays
Session 1, 4/12
10:00 – 11:30am
BCC Main Campus, G-12
Sessions 2 through 6
8:00 – 9:30am in the field
4/19, 4/26, 5/3,
5/10, 5/17
Six sessions

Have you always wanted to learn about birding but never found the time? Here is your opportunity. **LIMITED REGISTRATION – 12. Selection is by lottery. See page 12 for lottery directions.**

SESSION 1 — 10 to 11:30am • Meet in the Room G-12, Susan B Anthony Student Center at Berkshire Community College to discuss birds and their identification, songs, habitat preferences and the use of optics in birding. Designed for beginning- and intermediate-level birders.

SESSIONS 2 THROUGH 6 — 8 to 9:30am • Meet at designated locations to practice birding techniques and bird song identification. This involves moderate walking. If it rains, the class will be held indoors from 10 to 11:30am.

Ed Neumuth, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania; private practice 1970-2005; led field trips for The Trustees of Reservations and Mass Audubon; conducts breeding-bird surveys for the Department of the Interior; past president, Hoffmann Bird Club; frequent OLLI instructor.

THE FIGHT TO VOTE

TH102

Thursdays
10:00 – 11:30am
BCC Main Campus, G-10
Pittsfield
4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3,
5/10, 5/17
Six sessions

The ongoing fight for what is considered the very basis of democracy, the universal right to vote, has been a series of battles at the heart of U.S. history since our founding. Critical victories have been exceedingly hard fought, and many aspects of highly impactful voter suppression remain deeply contentious today. A historical review of this topic will be combined with detail of current battles over voting rights and gerrymandered districts.

Suggested Reading: *The Fight to Vote*, Michael Waldman, NY: Simon and Schuster, 2016

Kit Dobbelle served in the White House and the State Department during the Carter Administration, and has been an active participant in local, state and national politics since that period.

READING THE QURAN

TH103

Thursdays
12:15-1:45pm
BCC Main Campus, G-10
Pittsfield
4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10
Five sessions

The youngest of the three scriptural monotheisms, Islam is the religion of nearly one in four humans. The Quran is the bible of Islam, and it is the responsibility of every educated person to know its contents. Using any convenient translation, we will read the text, which is about as long as the New Testament, and discuss its contents. Background will be provided, with an emphasis on the characteristics of Arabic compared with Hebrew, explaining important names and words known to us from the news.

Suggested Reading: any translation of the Quran, readily available on the internet. Participants will benefit from a familiarity with Arab history.

Rabbi Caine graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary. In 1967, he became the first text faculty member of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where he was Director of Biblical Studies for 18 years. He and his wife founded Society Hill Synagogue in Philadelphia, where they served for 33 years.

SHAKESPEARE'S UNRULY PLAYS

TH104

Thursdays
12:30 – 2:00pm
BCC Main Campus, H-402
Pittsfield
4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10,
5/17
Six sessions

Though Shakespeare's plays are generally divided into comedies, tragedies, and histories, throughout his career and especially near the end of it he created several dramas that don't neatly fall into those three categories. Variouslly dubbed "romances," "problem plays," or simply "late plays," all of them represent some of his best writing and some of his most memorable characters, not to mention a number of his finest songs ("Fear no more the heat o' th' sun.") So, for this special course let's allow our crayons to stray outside the lines as we enjoy what we might call Shakespeare's "basket of unclassifiables."

Class #1: *Troilus and Cressida*

Class #2: *Measure for Measure*

Class #3: *Coriolanus*

Class #4: *The Winter's Tale*

Class #5: *Cymbeline*

Class #6: *The Tempest*

Suggested Reading: any edition of Shakespeare. (The Pelican paperback series is excellent and inexpensive.)

Richard Matturro, a native of Rye, New York, holds a doctorate in English with a specialization in Shakespeare and Greek Mythology. After sixteen years at the *Albany Times Union*, he taught literature at the University of Albany for fourteen years. He is the author of numerous newspaper articles and six published novels.

Thursdays
2:15 – 3:45pm
BCC Main Campus, H-402
Pittsfield
4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3,
5/10, 5/17
Six sessions

In 1965 the US Congress passed an immigration reform bill that ended discrimination in immigration after nearly 100 years of increasingly discriminatory laws. In the years since, the face of immigration in the United States has changed significantly. The percentage of Europeans moving to the US declined from 74% in 1965 to 11% of the total in 2014. In this course we will consider the push and pull factors that drive immigration, the contributions immigrants make to the US, and the challenges they represent. We will also discuss policy options for immigration reform.

Suggested Reading: Tom Gjelten, *A Nation of Nations*, Simon & Schuster, 2016.

Katherine Kidd earned her Ph.D. in international relations at the University of Pennsylvania. She directed the programs in international relations at Sacred Heart and Fairfield Universities. She has worked on issues related to immigration with universities and non-profits.

Thursdays
4:00 – 5:30pm
BCC Main Campus, H-402
Pittsfield
4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3,
5/10, 5/17
Six sessions

Brahms composed for symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, organ, and voice. A virtuoso pianist and uncompromising perfectionist, he premiered many of his own works. The diligent, highly constructed nature of Brahms's works was a starting point and an inspiration for a generation of composers. Many of his compositions have become staples of the modern concert repertoire. We will explore him historically, biographically, and listen to much of his great music.

Kenneth Stark, Professional Diploma, School of Psychology, St. John's University; Board of Directors, Berkshire Bach Society; Board of Trustees, Berkshire Theatre Group; Professor, City College of New York; School Psychologist, New York City Department of Education; taught "Bach is Back" and "Beethoven: He did it All" for OLLI.

Course Descriptions

FRIDAY

SPRING 2018

Fridays
9:30 – 11:00am
Kimball Farms
Lenox
4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11,
5/18
Six sessions

OLLI will once again offer the Great Decisions discussion program on world affairs. We will examine and discuss each week one of the following six topics: the waning of Pax Americana, Russia's foreign policy, China and America: the new geopolitical equation, Media and foreign policy, U.S. global engagement and the military, and South Africa's fragile democracy.

Suggested Reading: The *Great Decisions 2018 Briefing Book* can be ordered from the Foreign Policy Association online at www.fpa.org.

John Dickson served 26 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, with assignments in Nigeria, South Africa, Peru, Mexico and Canada, as well as in Washington DC. He is a graduate in history from Princeton University, and received a master's degree in history from the University of Massachusetts, with a dual focus on historic preservation and the role of history and memory in foreign relations.

Fridays
11:15am – 12:45pm
Kimball Farms
Lenox
4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18
Four sessions

Back by popular demand, the Performing Arts Initiative will offer a preview of the 2018 performing arts scene in our area. Find out in advance what awaits on stages at some of our premier venues, as well as some award-winning “outliers” in the Berkshires. We hope to hear from artistic directors of Jacob’s Pillow Dance, The Berkshire Opera, the Berkshire Theatre Group, Barrington Stage Company, et al. Also, we are planning to round up some of our reviewers and invite them to sit again at the Critics Roundtable for a lively discussion.

Naomi Spatz, Co-founder of New York City’s Golden Squirrel Theater, producing readings and workshops; created “Teachers Night on Broadway” and “Kids Day on Broadway”; married to playwright Steven Somkin.

Nancy Vale, M.F.A., Northwestern University; taught acting at Northwestern; involved in various theater programs in the New York Metropolitan area; has appeared in local theater productions.

Fridays
2:30 – 4pm
5/25 class 1:30 – 3pm
Kimball Farms
Lenox
4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11,
5/18, 5/25
Seven sessions

APRIL 13 & 20 • Key Health Care Trends in 2018 — Gordon Josephson, MD, MPH. Including urgent care, electronic health records, phone apps, telemedicine, e-visits, screening & prevention, population health management, advanced primary care, access to care challenges & more.

APRIL 27 • Single Payer Health Care — Charles Wohl, MD, and Michael Kaplan, MD, Physicians for a National Health Program members. The current inequalities, deficiencies, and inefficiencies of our healthcare system will be discussed, along with a single-payer, Medicare-for-all program as a way of reforming the way healthcare is financed and delivered in the United States.

MAY 4 • The Affordable Care Act 2018 Update — Gordon Josephson, MD, MPH.

Including a brief overview of the original law, the status of ‘Repeal and Replace’, What’s Next? What are the “fixes”?

MAY 11 • Understanding and Navigating Today’s Medicare Environment — Gordon Josephson, MD, MPH.

Medicare explained, choosing the right program for you, notable exclusions of Medicare benefits, options for physician enrollment and payment, The Medicare Innovation Center, accountable care and the shared savings program.

MAY 18 • End-of Life Planning — Harriet Warshaw, Executive Director, The Conversation Project at The Institute of Healthcare Improvement.

“The Conversation,” planning for aging, advanced directives & powers of attorney, what we really need to do to make our end-of-life wishes clear.

MAY 25 • The Opioid Epidemic — Peter Friedmann, MD – Chief Research Officer, Baystate Health.

What is it? How did it start? Where are we now? What works and what to do about it?

Fridays
2:00 – 4:00pm
Kimball Farms
Lenox
4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18
Four sessions

Each session will examine in depth the key elements of understanding your DSLR (not recommended for smartphone ONLY users). **Session One:** The Camera – and the technology you need to understand. **Session Two:** Light – White Balance and Exposure Triangle. **Session Three:** Creative use of Aperture, Shutter Speed and Your Vision – Creative use of light and composition. **Session Four:** Output – posting, publishing and sharing. **LIMITED REGISTRATION – 12. Selection is by lottery. See page 12 for lottery directions.**

Thaddeus B. Kubis, B.A., Visual Communication/Marketing, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; editorial fine art, creative photographer and fusionographer; Smartphone and digital device camera/photography enthusiast; marketing consultant; sailor and fun person!

PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW TO BE ENTERED IN THE LOTTERY

DEADLINE FOR LOTTERY SUBMISSIONS – MARCH 30, 2018 PARTICIPANTS MUST BE WILLING TO ATTEND ALL SESSIONS

- **Please mark the appropriate box on the registration form.**
 - The individuals selected through the lottery system will be **contacted** by the OLLI Office by **Wednesday, April 4, 2018.**
 - If you are registering for a lottery course only (one course), **DO NOT SEND MONEY** until you hear whether or not you have been selected.
 - If you are registering for a lottery course and a regular course, pay for the regular course (\$50). You will pay for the lottery course if you are selected.
 - If you are registering for a lottery course and two courses, pay for the two regular courses (\$95). The lottery course will be considered your third course (free course).
 - If you **are selected** by the lottery, you will **not pay** for the lottery course.
 - If you are **not selected** by the lottery, you may **choose another** course for your free course.
- You will be notified of your status by email. If you do not have email, you will be notified by phone.

Thank You to our Community & Cultural Partners

Aston Magna Music Festival • Barrington Stage Company • Beacon Cinema
Bennington Center for the Arts • Bennington Museum • Berkshire Athenaeum
Berkshire Bach Society • Berkshire Lyric Theatre • Berkshire Museum • Berkshire Music School
Berkshire Natural Resources Council • Berkshire South Regional Community Center
Berkshire Theatre Group • Chester Theatre Company • Chesterwood • Close Encounters with Music
Frelinghuysen Morris House and Studio • Great Barrington Libraries • Hancock Shaker Village
Herman Melville's Arrowhead • Images Cinema • Jacob's Pillow Dance
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center • MASS MoCA • Multicultural BRIDGE • Norman Rockwell Museum
Oldcastle Theatre Company • Pre-Concert Lectures for the Tanglewood Season
Shakespeare & Company • Spencertown Academy Arts Center • The Clark • Tanglewood • The Mount
Triplex Cinema • Ventfort Hall Mansion and Gilded Age Museum • Whitney Center for the Arts
Williams College Museum of Art • Williamstown Theatre Festival

Upcoming 2018 OLLI Special Events & Save the Dates

Tuesday, March 13 & 20 ♦ Behind-the-scenes tour of the **Elling Eide Center**, Sarasota, Florida.

Thursday, March 22 ♦ 10 – 11:30am **OLLI Spring Open House**, The Connector, Berkshire Community College, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, Mass. Free & open to the public.

Thursday, April 12 – Friday, May 25 ♦ OLLI Spring semester of classes.

Friday, May 25 ♦ **OLLI Annual Meeting & Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture** featuring bestselling author & NBC journalist **Katy Tur** at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

Wednesday, May 30 ♦ Arts & culture in southern Vermont: the **Laumeister Arts Center & the Bennington Museum**.

Friday, June 1 ♦ Opening night at Pittsfield's historic **Wahconah Park** with the Pittsfield Suns.

Monday, June 4 – Friday, June 29 ♦ OLLI Summer semester of classes.

Monday, June 11, 18 & 25 ♦ **OLLI Volunteer Leadership Academy**.

Monday, June 11 ♦ Behind-the-scenes tour of historic **Highlawn Farm**, Lenox.

Thursday, June 21 ♦ OLLI's annual evening at **Jacob's Pillow** in Becket featuring the Royal Danish Ballet, a lecture, and a picnic supper.

Tuesday, July 10 ♦ Luxury bus daytrip to historic **Mystic Seaport** in Connecticut.

Monday, August 6 ♦ Behind-the-scenes tour of the **B & B Micro Manufacturing** tiny house factory & lunch in North Adams.

Thursday, August 23 ♦ Bustrip to **Storm King Art Center**, one of the world's leading sculpture parks, featuring over 100 permanent installations on 500 acres plus over a dozen new public art installations on the theme of climate change.

Saturday, September 1 ♦ **OLLI Annual Art Show & Silent Auction**.

Thursday, September 6 ♦ Bus trip to the new Hudson River School gallery at the **Albany Institute of History and Art**, featuring almost 90 landscapes by Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, & others.

Thursday, September 20 – Wednesday, October 31 ♦ OLLI Fall semester of classes.

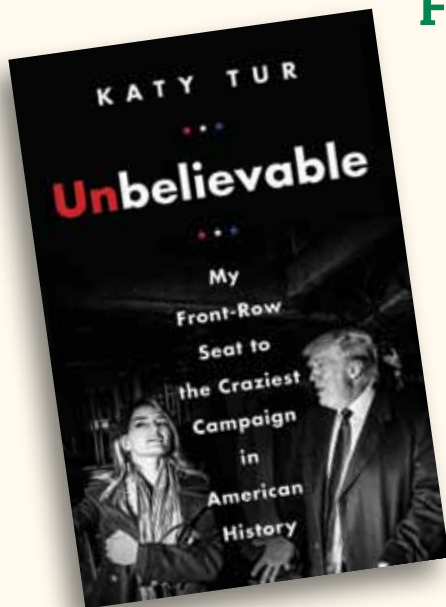
Sunday, October 14 ♦ OLLI's annual theatre brunch featuring *The Glass Menagerie* at **Barrington Stage** & a pre-theatre talk.



Like everything in life, dates and times are subject to change: please be sure to confirm them on our website, located at BerkshireOLLI.org

Announcing the tenth annual Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture

Featuring NBC Journalist Katy Tur



Author of the New York Times Bestseller
*Unbelievable: My Front-Row Seat to the
Craziest Campaign in American History*

Friday, May 25 at 6pm

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center
14 Castle Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
FREE priority registration for OLLI members!

(Lecture directly follows OLLI's Annual Meeting
at the Mahaiwe which begins at 4:30pm.)

Called “disgraceful,” “third-rate,” and “not nice” by Donald Trump, NBC News correspondent Katy Tur reported on—and took flak from—the most volatile presidential candidate in American history.

Katy Tur lived out of a suitcase for a year and a half, following Trump around the country. She visited forty states with the candidate, and made more than 3,800 live television reports. From day 1 to day 500, Tur documented Trump’s inconsistencies, fact-checked his falsities, and called him out on his lies. In return, Trump repeatedly singled Tur out. He tried to charm her, intimidate her, and shame her. At one point, he got a crowd so riled up against Tur, Secret Service agents had to walk her to her car.

Facts are stubborn. So was Tur. She was part of the first women-led politics team in the history of network news. Join us on May 25 as we hear her views on the man who became President of the United States, and the current state of national politics.

Katy Tur is a correspondent for NBC News and an anchor for MSNBC. Tur is the recipient of a 2017 Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism. She lives in New York City.

The Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture series honors the memory of one of OLLI’s extraordinary volunteer leaders and is organized and supported by her family members and friends. Past speakers have included Cokie Roberts, Mika Brzezinski, Joe Klein, Mike Barnicle, and others.



Courses are for members only. If you are not yet a member, please include \$50 for a one-year (12 months) membership in addition to course fees. If you have questions, call the OLLI Office at 413.236.2190.

Name _____ Day Phone _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ (OLLI does not share or sell your email address.)

Please add me to your second email list to receive forwarded messages about cultural and educational events from our partners.

Table of Fees: The fee structure promotes bonus courses.
 FLEX PASS \$50 • 1 course: \$50 • 2 or 3 courses: \$95 • 4 or more courses: \$125

FLEX PASSES, which allow you to attend up to 6 class sessions within a semester, cost the same as a course and count towards multiple course pricing. **Excluded are Limited Registration (LR) and LOTTERY courses and any course that reaches room capacity.**

Payment Options

Check payable to **OLLI at BCC**
 MasterCard Visa American Express Discover
 Credit Card # _____
 Security Code (located on front or back of card) _____
 Expiration Date (mm-yy) _____
 Print name as it appears on card _____
 Signature _____
 Card Billing Address _____

Payment Details

Registration for ____ courses/**FLEX PASSES** \$ _____
 Annual Membership/\$50 if not already paid \$ _____
 OLLI Scholarship Fund donation \$ _____
Your donation helps underwrite OLLI scholarships for members in need, and is fully tax-deductible.
TOTAL \$ _____

Mail the completed form to:

OLLI at BCC, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201-5786
 OR

Registration accepted by phone:

Call the OLLI Office at 413.236.2190. Scholarships also available.
 OR

Register online at BerkshireOLLI.org

You will receive confirmation by mail.

CHECK BOX NEXT TO THE COURSES YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

FLEX PASS (each counts as one course)

MONDAY

- M101 – I’m Right, You’re Wrong
- M102 – Mathematical Surprises
- M103 – Mahler, Wagner & Anti-Semitism
- M104 – Poetic Genius of Yeats **LR**

TUESDAY

- T101 – Four Renaissance Women
- T102 – *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight*
- T103 – Free Will & the Self
- T104 – Today’s Headlines
- T105 – What is Justice? *The Oresteia*

WEDNESDAY

- W101 – Two Masters of the Brush
- LOTTERY**
- W102 – International Folk Dancing
 - W103 – Musings on Mortality **LR**
 - W104 – Fine Art Photography **LR**
 - W105 – *Fantasticator: The Short Stories of Jorge Luis Borges*

THURSDAY

- TH101 – Birding in the Berkshires
- LOTTERY**
- TH102 – The Fight to Vote
 - TH103 – Reading the Quran
 - TH104 – Shakespeare’s Unruly Plays
 - TH105 – Immigration: 1965 to the Present
 - TH106 – B is for Brahms

FRIDAY

- F101 – Great Decisions
- F102 – Berkshire Performing Arts Previews
- F103 – Healthcare Today
- F104 – Introduction to Camera Photography **LOTTERY**



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1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201-5786

OLLI Spring Open House

Thursday, March 22
10-11:30am
snow date March 29

.....
Berkshire
Community College
.....
1350 West Street
Pittsfield, Mass.

**NOT AN
OLLI MEMBER YET?**

*Sign up for a new membership
at the Open House and you will
receive one free class—a \$50 value!*

*Connect with our spring instructors, enjoy refreshments and be
the first on your block to see BCC's beautiful Connector Lounge!*