

Lifelong Learning



INSTITUTE FOR  
LEARNING IN  
RETIREMENT

of Greater New Haven

[www.ilrn.org](http://www.ilrn.org)

# Course Catalog

Spring 2025



## *In this issue*

- 50 Exciting Classes
- Bios of our SGLs
- Updated information from ILR
- Registration information
- Zoom information



Top: Audience listens to a lecture on slavery and Yale at the JCC in Woodbridge.  
Below, an SGL walks with ILR students at Lake Wintergreen, Hamden

## Ready to register?

Ready to sign up for classes?

Here are some tips to help:

- Registration and instructions are online at [www.ilrn.org](http://www.ilrn.org).
- You must be a member of ILR. If you're not sure of your membership status, check our website, [www.ilrn.org](http://www.ilrn.org)
- Registration starts March 3 and classes fill very quickly
- If you're having a problem, see the website or call ILR at (203) 747-9675.

### Venues

#### **ACES, Hamden**

205 Skiff St. Hamden  
(203) 234-1344

Take the east driveway all the way to the back of facility. Follow the signs.

#### **Annis Fusaris' Home**

Address to be included in confirmation letter  
Hamden  
(203) 288-6093

#### **B'nai Jacob**

75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge  
(203) 389-2111

#### **Daniel Sullivan Educ Ctr**

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church  
48 South New Road, Hamden  
(203) 248-0141

Brick building behind and to the south of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 2819 Whitney Ave., Hamden.

#### **Jewish Community Ctr**

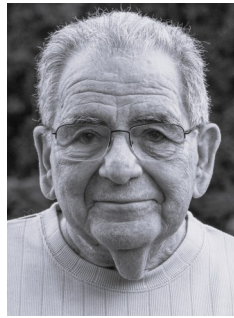
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge  
(203) 387-2424

We use different rooms at the JCC. A class liaison will tell you which room to go to.

#### **Congregation Or Shalom**

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

## Quench curiosity with an ILR class



By **NICK MAIORINO**  
ILR President

While aging may be challenging at times, if we are lucky, we all experience it. Of course, we change physically. This is a given fact of growing older and there is usually little we can do about it. What we can do something about is keeping our spirit and curiosity active and to expanding our knowledge.

There is a common misconception that older adults can't learn new things. You have heard the expression, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." I beg to differ! Yes, some "tricks" will be harder to learn because of physical changes but even those tricks and the obstacles to learn them, can teach us something new. We all know that some changes in thinking may occur as we age. It may take us longer to find words and recall names. Multitasking may be more challenging as may be our ability to maintain our attention. But none of that really prevents us from learning. And it certainly does not diminish our curiosity.

In fact, we often find that we

can learn new things at a deeper level of understanding because we're able to relate them to a lifetime of accumulated knowledge and experiences. We also have learned what really provokes our curiosity and we actively seek opportunities to satisfy this.

ILR can give us the opportunity to satisfy our diverse curiosities. A brief look at this catalogue can illustrate this point. Because we have some wonderful SGLs with teaching experience in literature, we always offer various courses to explore these. Maybe you always loved Melville's *Moby Dick* or are curious about those childhood fairy tales that were read to you. AI is a fascinating yet frightening topic in today's world. We are offering a couple of courses to explore this. If food is your passion, look at the course that explores the good and bad of GMOs or the one on healthy vegetarian cooking. We always offer courses in art and music as well as both in person and virtual tours. The list goes on. While we can't satisfy every curiosity in one semester, we certainly try to cover as many as possible. And, if there is a topic you have explored in depth, offer to share it with an ILR course, next semester. We are all teachers!

Enjoy this exciting Spring Semester.

## Spring 2025 Classes at a Glance

Class No.	Name	Page	Subject
<b>Monday</b>			
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25-02	Emerson's Essays	5	Literature
25-03	Medicinal Value of Chicken Soup	5	Health & Welfare
25-04	Louise Altson: Painting the Rich & Famous	5	Art History
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<b>Tuesday</b>			
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25-12	America's Amazing Criminal Justice Journey	7	History
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25-15	German Conversation	8	Languages
25-16	J.M.W. Turner at the Yale Center for British Art	8	Art History
<b>Wednesday</b>			
25-17	Creative Writing for Beginners	8	Creative Writing
25-18	The Administrative Coordination of the Holocaust	9	History
25-19	<i>The Odyssey of Homer</i>	9	Literature
25-20	Getting Your House in Order	9	Health & Welfare
25-21	Reimagining the Past: Recent American Fiction	9	Literature
25-22	How to Laugh in Yiddish (Part 2)	9	Culture
25-23	The Food We Eat: GMO Fact & Fiction	10	Nature & Science
25-24	I Thought My Bid Was Forcing!	10	Games
25-25	Minerals at the Peabody Museum	10	Nature & Science
25-26	A Tour of the Beineck Rare Book Library	10	Culture
25-27	More than Moby Dick	11	Literature
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Class #	Name	Page	Subject
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25-29	Rediscovering Fairy Tales	11	Literature
25-30	Trust & Deception in the Age of Artificial Intelligence	12	Personal Enrichment
25-31	Music of the Americas	12	Music
25-32	The Humanity of James Baldwin's Work	12	Culture
25-33	Charles Dickens: Novelist & Social Conscience	12	History
25-34	The Art of Trader Joe's	12	Art History
25-35	A Journey Through Rock 'n' Roll	13	Music
25-36	Rusty French: Intermediate Level	13	Languages
25-37	Delicious & Easy Vegetarian Dishes	13	Food Adventures
25-38	Music and the Brain - Part 2	13	Music
25-39	Becoming Acquainted with the Wizard of Oz	14	Literature
25-40	J.M.W. Turner at the Yale Center for British Art	14	Art History
<b>Friday</b>			
25-41	William Faulkner's Go Down, Moses	15	Literature
25-42	Introduction to Bridge	15	Games
25-43	Climate Justice & Community Organizing	15	Nature & Science
25-44	Yoga Basics	16	Health & Welfare
25-45	Navigating Common Ortho Injuries	16	Health & Welfare
25-46	The Oldest Hatred: A History of Anti-Semitism	16	History
25-47	Flying with TWA	16	Culture
25-48	Knitting/Crocheting Circle	17	Arts & Crafts
<b>Saturday</b>			
25-49	Neuroscience & Ethics of AI	17	Nature & Science

## Monday Classes

**S25-01**

**The Last Lap: Reading Great Poems about Being Old, the End of This Life, and Visions of the Afterlife.**

**SGL: Don Barkin**

**Sessions: 6 Class size: 15**

**Dates: Monday, Mar 10, 17, 24, 31, Apr 7, 14**

**Time: 11a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

We will read some great poems about being old, the end of this life, and visions of the afterlife, such as: "An Old Man's Winter Night" by Robert Frost; "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night" by Dylan Thomas; "The Wild Iris" by Louise Glück; "That Time of Year Thou May'st in Me Behold" by Shakespeare; "I Died for Beauty" by Emily Dickinson; Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality" ode; and William Blake's "Eternity" ("He who binds to himself a joy/Does the winged life destroy/He who kisses the joy as it flies/Lives in eternity's sunrise."). Also, Walt Whitman's giddy lines from Song of Myself: "Has any one supposed it lucky to be born? / I hasten to inform him or her it is just as lucky to die, and I know it."

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**S25-02**

**Emerson's Essays**

**SGL: Phillip Beard**

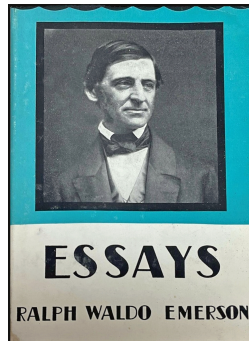
**Sessions: 6 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Monday, Mar 24, 31; Apr 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Location: ACES Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$20**



Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1888) was the major American essayist of the 19th Century and an enduring influence on American literature and philosophy. He enacted and encouraged an American art that was spiritually and formally independent of many prior models, especially in the Old World. We will read six of his essays, including "Self Reliance," "The Divinity School Address," and "Experience." To highlight Emerson's uncanny anticipation of later artists, we will pair each essay with a poem or two. Poets will include Whitman, Dickinson and Stevens. Texts will be provided electronically.

**S25-03**

**The Medicinal Value of Chicken Soup**

**SGL: Howard Taubin**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Monday, Apr 7**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$10**

The ingredients of chicken soup contributes to its medicinal value. Scientific papers will be discussed in lay terms suggesting that chicken soup is truly medicine. Further, personal history will be presented, suggesting the efficacy of chicken soup as medicine, during serious illness.

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**S25-04**

**Louise Altson: Painting the Rich and Famous**

**SGL: John Altson**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 20**

**Dates: Monday, Apr 7**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$10**

Louise Altson (1910 - 2010) was a talented portrait painter who amassed an extraordinary collection of works. While no official count of her works has been established, a rough estimate could total 700 portraits within a 40-year span. Her clients included some of the most prominent families in the United States including Mr. and Mrs. William Guggenheim, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Grace, Mr. and Mrs. O. deGray Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene du Pont III, President George H.W. and Barbara Bush, the Squibb family, the Combemale/Woolworth family, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Fulton, Sen. and Mrs. Lloyd Bentzen, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Firestone, Mr. and Mrs. James Maytag, Phoebe Snow and The Lafayette Society. A video showing many of her works will be shown.

**S25-05**

**Mad Men and Proud Boys**

**SGL: Rachel Ranis**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 35**

**Dates: Monday, May 5, 19**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: B'nai Jacob - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$15**

We will explore the historical changes in the American male role with special attention to the impact of economic, political, social and cultural factors. We will focus upon the challenges and responses to the concepts of the self-made man, the superior sex, and the provider by the vicissitudes of the marketplace, industrialization, and the women's movement.

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**S25-06**

**Playing Bridge**

**SGL: Harold Miller**

**Sessions: 3 Class size: 20**

**Dates: Monday, May 5, 12, 19**

**Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

Problems involved in playing bridge including bidding, defense, and play of the hand for advanced beginners. Should have playing experience.

### **Tuesday Classes**

**S25-07**

**Ancient Athenian Citizenship in Practice and Theory**

**SGL: Thornton Lockwood**

**Sessions: 4 Class size: 20**

**Dates: Tuesday, Mar 11, 25, Apr 8, 22**

**Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$20**

From approximately 600 BCE to 400 BCE, Athens developed institutions and ideas about citizenship that in some ways were profoundly egalitarian, such as subsidizing participation for the poor. Other ideas, however, were profoundly exclusive. For instance, citizen-women were excluded from most forms of civic participation and citizenship was limited to those with dual Athenian parents. This course will first look at Athenian citizenship "in practice" through a reading of Aristotle's Constitution of Athens, which is a short history of Athens during this period. After we have a better sense of actual Athenian citizenship, we will look at how Aristotle defines citizenship "in theory," in his work on political science, entitled The Politics.

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**S25-08**

**Peabody Museum of Natural History – A Guided Exploration of Life on Earth Exemplified**

**SGL: Kate Walton**

**Sessions: 3 Class size: 12**

**Dates: Tuesday, Mar 11, 18, 25**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Location: Peabody Museum of Natural History**

**Course Fee: \$20**

The course will consist of three 90-minute tours of the newly re-envisioned Peabody Museum at Yale. The course will expand the learner's sense of the enormity of time during which life has been evolving on Planet Earth, its breathtaking diversity and how humans can conform their behavior to reflect principles of nature that are ultimately sustainable.

## **Take a great class...on the house!**

With 50 classes listed in this catalog, it can be tough to pick out exactly which ones you want. It's like being a kid in a candy store, isn't it? How about a freebie to help you get started?

Check out the two classes *S25-16* and *S25-40*, both entitled JMW Turner at the Yale Center for British Art. The classes are the same, held on different days. Sign up for only one. Or look into *S25-32*, The Humanity of James Baldwin's Work.

The Turner classes talk about British artist Joseph Mallord William Turner and his art. It also includes a tour of the museum's works by the artist. The other class discusses the writings of James Baldwin. They are free classes, although you must register.

The First Session will focus on the beginning of life in the oceans through the age of dinosaurs and into the early realm of mammals and primates. The Second Session begins as humans emerge 300,000 years ago and became habitat- and creature-change agents. We'll look at displays of historical scientific instruments and the discoveries by early humans. The Third Session will explore exquisite American habitat dioramas crafted by America's finest three-dimensional scientific illustrators. We'll also study the gem and mineral collection, considered among the best in the world.

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### **S25-09**

#### **Current U.S. and World Events**

**SGL: Mito Mardin**

**Sessions: 4 Class size: 50**

**Dates: Tuesday, Mar 18, 25, Apr 1, 8**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

Review of the Trump 2.0 administration's start as well as global geopolitical developments (early elections in major EU countries, Ukraine, Middle East)

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### **S25-10**

#### **10 Best Presidents....?**

**SGL: Lewis House**

**Sessions: 4 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Tuesday, Mar 25, Apr 1, 8, 15**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

Politics in our world is currently turbulent for many people. It is said that history repeats itself, good or bad, unless it is studied and changes occur. Let's review the United States' 10 best presidents, what decisions they made, what world-shaking events happened during their tenure and what we can learn from these 10 men. Discussions wanted!

### **S25-11**

#### **Short Hikes in the New Haven Area**

**SGL: Leo Cristofar**

**Sessions: 4 Class size: 20**

**Dates: Tuesday, Apr 1, 8, 15, 22**

**Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Various - To be announced prior to class.**

**Course Fee: \$20**

Short hikes of two to four miles over varied terrain are planned. Hiking boots or



sneakers with a good tread are recommended. You may also want to bring a hiking stick. You may be walking over tree roots, stones and puddles. This is not a nature walk. Hike

locations will be sent to registrants. Make-up date, if needed, will be April 28.

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### **S25-12**

#### **America's Amazing 5-Decade Criminal Justice Journey**

**SGL: Mike Lawlor**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Tuesday, Apr 8, 15**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: B'nai Jacob - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$15**

This class will explore my personal experiences since the 1970s inside the American criminal justice system as a policy maker, a prosecutor, a sheriff and as a prisoner. How did the United States become the world's leading nation measured by both rate of incarceration and violent crime? Did the war on drugs work? Does the "Department of Corrections" deserve its name? We will revisit the 1988 "Willie Horton Ad"; compare German prisons to Connecticut prisons; discuss whether crime victims have "rights"; discuss why there are so few criminal trials in recent years and consider the future of policing in our state and nation.

**S25-13**

**Canasta for Beginners**

**SGL: Marie Musco**

**Sessions: 6 Class size: 10**

**Dates: Tuesday, Apr 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

Canasta is a four-person game using two decks of cards plus jokers. You will learn the game as it was created for Canasta Junction. It's fun and challenging. Sign up with a group of friends or meet new friends with whom to continue your new game.

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**S25-14**

**Inside the World of Antique Painting Auctions**

**SGL: Gene Shannon**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 40**

**Dates: Tuesday, Apr 29**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$10**

A revealing look at the collection, the mechanics of appraising and negotiating estimates with clients, possible restoration and/or reframing. Learn how we establish authenticity, provenance and guarantees. View the 1000 pieces of the puzzle from the first phone call to the finished 200-lot catalog. Viewers are invited to ask questions at any time during the talk. Photos of a wide variety of paintings will be shown.

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**S25-15**

**German Conversation**

**SGL: Mito Mardin**

**Sessions: 4 Class size: 10**

**Dates: Tuesday, May 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Zoom**

**Course Fee: \$20**

*This Zoom course will be recorded.*

Utilizing the German language's typical quirks, we'll work on easy everyday samples of conversation. Prior exposure to German is required.

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**S25-16**

**J.M.W. Turner at the Yale Center British Art - Tuesday Tour**

**SGL: Serena Guerrette**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 20**

**Dates: Tuesday, Jun 3, 10**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Location: Yale Center for British Art, 1080 Chapel Street, New Haven**

**Course Fee: Free**

2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Mallord William Turner, the widely admired and possibly the most influential British artist. The remarkable exhibition will showcase the Yale Center for British Art's rich holdings of Turner's works. This is a two-session course.

Session One - Serena Guerrette, docent at the YCBA, will take you through the paintings section of the exhibition using the close-looking approach to enhance observation.

Session Two - James Vanderberg, educator, will present an in-depth view of the outstanding works on paper from the YCBA's collection that will be on view in the exhibition.

**Wednesday Classes**

**S25-17**

**Creative Writing for Beginners**

**SGL: Nini Munro-Chmura**

**Sessions: 8 Class size: 6**

**Dates: Wednesday, Mar 12, 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

Become creative with the genre you love. It's not too late to tap into your right brain to write creatively. Write a memoir, a story that needs to be told, something whimsical or a poem. Learn how to paint images with your written words. See how metaphors and images can help your writing come alive. Discover how to make your words flow.



**S25-18**

**The Wannsee Conference, Jan. 20, 1942: The Administrative Coordination of the Holocaust**  
SGL: Hans-Christian Jasch  
Sessions: 1 Class size: 35  
Dates: Wednesday, Mar 12  
Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Zoom  
Course Fee: \$10

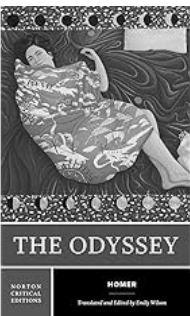
*This Zoom course will be recorded.*  
This class will examine the history leading up to the Wannsee Conference and its consequences for the organization of the Holocaust. This will help to better understand the administrative mechanism used by the Nazi administration to implement a complex and multi-faceted process of mass murder. It also examines Hitler’s role: Was he driving events or do we look at a process of cumulative radicalization culminating in mass murder?

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**S25-19**

**The *Odyssey* of Homer**  
SGL: Jim Rhodes  
Sessions: 8 Class size: 25  
Dates: Wednesday, Mar 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7  
Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden  
Course Fee: \$20

What does the *Odyssey* offer a modern reader? Like the *Iliad*, it is about determining what one's life is worth and about connecting one's life to an



understanding of what is demanded by one's family, friends, and community. It asks what is a home? What does it mean to be a man or a woman? It teaches Odysseus and the audience the difference between sex and what marriage entails, as well as what union with a woman involves. It rocks! Text: *Odyssey*, Norton edition, translated by Emily Wilson, in an extraordinary contemporary voice.

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**S25-20**

**Getting Your House in Order**  
SGL: Becca Allen  
Sessions: 1 Class size: 20  
Dates: Wednesday, Mar 19  
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge  
Course Fee: \$10

Are you ready to explore your end-of-life planning and to ease the burden on your loved ones? Join us to better understand how to navigate the essential aspects of End-of-Life Planning (EOLP) using the comforting metaphor of "Getting Your House in Order."

\*\*\*

**S25-21**

**Reimagining the Past: Recent American Fiction**  
SGL: Hedda Kopf  
Sessions: 3 Class size: 26  
Dates: Wednesday, Mar 19, Apr 16, May 7  
Time: 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge  
Course Fee: \$20

*North Woods*, Daniel Mason; *James*, Percival Everett; *This Other Eden*, Paul Harding. These



books invite us to reconsider what we know and think about America’s cultural and racial history. These three powerful novels enchant us with their

lyrical prose and challenge us with their incisive depictions of the American “myths” we live by.

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**S25-22**

**How to Laugh in Yiddish (Part 2!)**  
SGL: Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus  
Sessions: 1 Class size: 100  
Dates: Wednesday, Apr 2  
Time: 11 a.m. to Noon  
Location: Congregation Or Shalom  
Course Fee: \$10

A recent study of American Jewish identity found that 42 percent of American Jews consider "having a good sense of humor" to be "an essential part of what it means to be Jewish". In this hour-long session, Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus will take us on a journey through the world of Yiddish humor as exemplified by dozens of classic Yiddish jokes. Prepare to laugh, learn, and gain a deeper understanding of the underlying messages within one of Jewish culture's most cherished facets. NOTE: Knowledge of Yiddish is not necessary to understand the humor. All will be translated!

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### **S25-23**

#### **The Food We Eat: The Fact and the Fiction of Genetically Modified Organisms**

**SGL: Nils Pilotte**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 50**

**Dates: Wednesday, Apr 9**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Location: ACES Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$10**

Many of the foods that we eat are genetically modified, or contain genetically modified ingredients. While such modifications are important for improving crop yields and crop survival, many people are concerned about consuming genetically modified organisms (GMOs). In this lecture, we will explore what it means to be a GMO, and we will examine the benefits that GMOs provide. We will also dive into the concerns that exist with GMO production and consumption, and attempt to determine whether these concerns are founded, or fictional.

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### **S25-24**

#### **I Thought My Bid was Forcing!**

**SGL: Rita Brieger**

**Sessions: 3 Class size: 16**

**Dates: Wednesday, Apr 23, 30, May 7**

**Time: 10 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Jewish Community Center -  
Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

Some bids force to game, others are force for one round and some bids can be passed. How do I know? You must have basic bridge knowledge to take this course. *Class is taught at an advanced beginners/intermediate level.*

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### **S25-25**

#### **Minerals at the Peabody Museum and the Founding of Mineral Science**

**SGL: Daniel May**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 18**

**Dates: Wednesday, Apr 23, (Lecture)**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, Apr 27 (Tour)**

**Lecture Location: Woodbridge Town Library**

**Tour Location: Peabody Museum, New Haven**

**Course Fee: \$15**

The mineral exhibits at Yale's Peabody Museum are among the finest in the United States. The origins of the collection date back 200 years and pre-date the founding of the museum itself. In addition, the Yale faculty who helped build the collection in the 19th Century – especially Benjamin Silliman, his son-in-law James Dana,



and Silliman's grandson Edward Dana – effectively founded the science of mineralogy. A version of James Dana's 1848 textbook is now in its 23rd edition and there is not a geologist,

mineralogist, or crystallographer working today who does not use this foundational work. This two-session course will examine the nature and utility of minerals, the origins of mineral science at Yale, and highlights of current Peabody exhibits. The first session will be a weekday lecture. The second will be a Sunday afternoon tour of the mineral galleries at the Peabody.

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### **S25-26**

#### **A Tour of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library**

**SGL: Natalie Semmel**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 50**

**Dates: Wednesday, Apr 30**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Location: Yale's Beinecke Library**  
**Course Fee: \$10**

The Beinecke is Yale's architecturally unique library with a vast collection of rare books and manuscripts. We will have the opportunity to view the exhibition hall, the six-story glass-enclosed tower of books, and the "windows" made of translucent marble.

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**S25-27**

**More than Moby Dick**

**SGL: Harriet Bergmann**

**Sessions: 4 Class size: 50**

**Dates: Wednesday, May 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Time: 10 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Zoom**

**Course Fee: \$20**

*This Zoom course will be recorded.*

We will read Herman Melville's short works, including *Billy Budd*, *Bartleby the Scrivener* and others.

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**S25-50**

**Mah Jongg for the Beginner and Refresher**

**SGL: Karen Fenichel**

**Sessions: 6 Class size: 12**

**Dates: Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 16**

**Time: 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

What is American Mah Jongg? It is a game played with tiles in a set and a card. We play in groups of four, but you can play with three. It's more fun with four.



Come and learn to play and bring a friend. Learn the basics of the game while making some new friends. No card needed to learn. Six ses-

sions will make you comfortable playing on your own with friends.

## Thursday Classes

**S25-28**

**Haven String Quartet - Open Rehearsal for Chamber Series Concert: Music in Motion**

**SGL: Lygia Davenport**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 70**

**Dates: Thursday, Mar 13**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Music Haven, 315 Peck St., Bldng 5, 2nd Fl**

**Course Fee: \$10**

Come experience a behind-the-scenes open rehearsal for Music Haven's Haven String Quartet & Resident Pianist Jacob Wang's March Chamber

Series concert, Music in Motion. The concert features a diverse and powerful program that spans centuries, including Haydn's playful and exciting Rider Quartet, Gideon Klein's haunting piano Sonata No. 1, written during his time in a

concentration camp, and Steve Reich's Different Trains, a reflection on the composer's travels as a child across the country against the backdrop of World War II.

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**S25-29**

**Rediscovering Fairy Tales**

**SGL: Joel Feimer**

**Sessions: 7 Class size: 25**

**Dates: Thursday, Mar 13, 20, 27, Apr 3, 10, 24, May 1**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Location: Zoom**

**Course Fee: \$20**

*This Zoom course will be recorded.*

This will be a journey of rediscovery deep into the dark forest of fairy tales. We will be accompanied by Little Red Riding Hood and her Wolf and perhaps Snow White and her Dwarfs. We may meet a witch, a wandering prince or two (maybe enchanted!), or a fairy in disguise. Charles Perrault and Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm will be our guides.

During our journey, we will discover many things, including the lasting importance and sources of enchantment in fairy tales.

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### **S25-30**

#### **Trust and Deception in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**

**SGL: Frances Grodzinsky**

**Sessions: 3 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Thursday, Mar 20, 27, Apr 3**

**Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Location: Zoom**

**Course Fee: \$20**

*This Zoom class will NOT be recorded.*

In this course, we will examine how technology, and more specifically, Artificial Intelligence has changed our concept of trust and deception. Are we less trusting and more skeptical when we are looking at our apps? What do we trust? How has AI changed our narratives? Do we actually trust artifacts themselves, or are we trusting the companies that stand behind them? Are we fooled by scam texts and emails, deepfakes and pleas for help? It will be very interactive and flexible, building off of your interests.

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### **S25-31**

#### **Music of the Americas**

**SGL: Perry So**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 25**

**Dates: Thursday, Mar 27**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: ACES Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$10**



A journey through the concert music of the the Western Hemisphere and its impact on concert music in the United States. Our discussion will be in the context of our programming philosophy at the New Haven Symphony Orchestra.

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### **S25-32**

#### **The Humanity of James Baldwin's work**

**SGL: IfeMichelle Gardin**

**Sessions: 5 Class size: 25**

**Dates: Thursday, Mar 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24**

**Time: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Location: Mitchell Library, 37 Harrison St., New Haven**

**Course Fee: Free**

Born on Aug. 2, 1924, James Baldwin produced an extensive body of work which includes essays, speeches, plays, poetry, short stories, and novels. In those works, he fearlessly tackles racial and social issues and offers profound insights into the Black American experience in the 20th Century. In this course, we will review, discuss and critique several of Baldwin's essays and short stories and examine what those works have to say about the life of Black Americans.

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### **S25-33**

#### **Charles Dickens: The Great Novelist and Social Conscience of the Victorian Age**

**SGL: Dr. Marc Blosveren**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 20**

**Dates: Thursday, Apr 3, 10**

**Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$15**

Dickens, one of the most prolific and beloved writers of the early to middle Victorian period, will be discussed through five of his most famous works: *Oliver Twist* [1838]; *Nicholas Nickleby* [1839]; *A Christmas Carol* [1843]; *David Copperfield* [1850]; and *Great Expectations* [1861]. The course will focus on the nature of some of his most famous and great literary characters, the nature of the social mores of the times, and the tremendous historical importance of the Industrial Revolution. A brief discussion of Mark Twain's novel, *The Gilded Age* [1870], will illustrate the American parallel to Dickens' works. Thus, the course will be both a literary and historical endeavor.

\*\*\*

### **S25-34**

#### **The Art of Trader Joe's**

**SGL: Julie Averbach**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 60**

**Dates: Thursday, Apr 10**

**Time: 11 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: ACES Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$10**



Trader Joe's is a treasure trove of art. Hidden in plain sight, artwork animates everything from the eye-catching product packaging to

handmade murals and signs. After visiting 150+ Trader Joe's stores nationwide, Julie Averbach uncovers the secret and surprising stories behind Trader Joe's art, inspiring us to appreciate the grocery store as an art gallery. In this lively lecture, Averbach presents discoveries from her award-winning Yale Art History thesis and new book *The Art of Trader Joe's*.

\*\*\*

### **S25-35**

#### **A Journey through Rock 'n' Roll of Our Generation**

**SGL: Harvey Heyman**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Thursday, Apr 17, 24**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$15**

This two-session course will be a journey through the vibrant history of rock 'n' roll from the 1950s to the early 1970s. It will present many filmed performances, tracking the music form's growth and evolution together with insights into its origins and iconic performers' backgrounds. The sessions should offer an entertaining look back at the often-joyful and culturally impactful music that defined our generation.

\*\*\*

### **S25-36**

#### **Rusty French: Intermediate Level**

**SGL: Gabriella Brand**

**Sessions: 8 Class size: 12**

**Dates: Thursday, Apr 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Jun 5**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Location: ACES Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$20**

This course is for people who may have studied French in the past, in high school or college, but who have forgotten much of it. They can make basic sentences and ask basic questions or maybe a bit more. Emphasis will be on learning and relearning the cornerstones of the language, verbs, grammatical patterns, idioms and acquiring vocabulary.

### **S25-37**

#### **Delicious & Easy Vegetarian Dishes**

**SGL: Lois Procopion**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Thursday, May 1**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Location: Zoom**

**Course Fee: \$10**

*This Zoom course will be recorded.*

You will be taught the techniques and processes used to create delicious, stylish and sustainable plant-based vegetarian food. She will share new recipes with easy-to-follow step-by-step directions, and run you through her techniques to minimize waste and cook with leftovers. This course will teach you the ancient knowledge that diet and health are intrinsically linked and how to put vegetables at the center of your table, and cook in a way which is both good for you and good for the planet.

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### **S25-38**

#### **Music and the Brain - Part 2**

**SGL: Nicholas Maiorino**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 30**

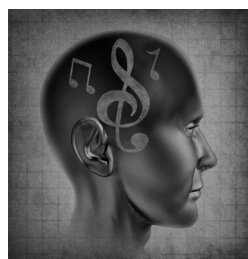
**Dates: Thursday, May 8, 15**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$15**

In 1697, William Congreve penned the expression: "Music Hath Charm to Soothe the Savage Breast" to describe how music influences one's feelings. More meaningful today, neuroscience has learned much



more about how the brain responds to this powerful stimulus, thus linking science and culture. Science has shown that there are no less than 10 brain areas that are stimulated when listening to music. This course will explore how this phenomenon influences not only the listener's brain, but also mood, memory, emotions, well-being, and even personality. Starting with a brief overview of the brain's anatomy, these influences will be described. Finally, participants will listen and

## Here's an easy way to volunteer with ILR

Would you like an easy way to help ILR? Become a class liaison. What is a class liaison?

The liaison is an ILR student who has agreed to take attendance at a class in which they've enrolled. This person is also a contact person for the study group leader, offering the SGL assistance as needed.

The liaison arrives 30 minutes before the start of class to welcome the SGL and verify that the classroom and technology are setup as requested. He or she welcomes class members and at the conclusion of the class, the liaison sends the attendance form to the Curriculum Committee. The liaison may be responsible for setting up ILR signs at the entrance of some venues.

It is light duty and an easy way to contribute to the operations of ILR. No training is needed.

Please say "yes" when a member of the Volunteer Committee reaches out to you. The Volunteer Committee provides detailed instructions and assistance and maintains contact with you throughout the process.

respond to musical pieces representing selected musical genres to see first-hand how the response to these affects their individual behaviors.

**S25-39**

**Becoming Acquainted with the Wizard of Oz**

**SGL: Joel Feimer**

**Sessions: 6 Class size: 25**

**Dates: Thursday, May 8, 15, 22, 29, Jun 5, 12**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Location: Zoom**

**Course Fee: \$20**

*This Zoom course will NOT be recorded.*

The year is 1900, just 100 years shy of the millennium and the United States is on the cusp of the brave new world of the 20th Century. Horses, oxen, and bicycles are about to cede place to the

automobile ... but wait... L.

Frank Baum is about to request his audience to reflect upon the power of nature and magic at the threshold of this new era.

Dorothy, the iconic maiden of the Midwest and her faithful companion, Toto, is about to be transported from the plains of Kansas to the Emerald City of Oz by a

cosmic event not unlike those that have become more and more frequent in our new century. Baum's prescient inaugural novel to the Oz series will transport us to a vision of utopia worthy of Saint Thomas More, where mindlessness can claim a



brain, heartlessness can achieve empathy, and cowardice can claim courage, transforming protagonists and providing hope for future harmony. Let's follow the Yellow Brick Road and see where it leads.

\*\*\*

**S25-40**

**J.M.W. Turner at the Yale Center for British Art - Thursday Tour**

**SGL: James Vanderberg**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 20**

**Dates: Thursday, Jun 5, 12**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Center for British Art, 1080 Chapel St., New Haven**

**Course Fee: Free**

2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Mallord William Turner, the widely admired and possibly the most influential British artist. The remarkable exhibition will showcase the Yale Center for British Art's rich holdings of Turner's work. This is a two-session course:

Session One - Serena Guerrette, docent at the YCBA, will take you through the paintings section of the exhibition using the close-looking approach to enhance observation.

Session Two - James Vanderberg, educator, will present an in-depth view of the outstanding works on paper from the YCBA's collection that will be on view in the exhibition.

## Friday Classes

**S25-41**

**William Faulkner's Go Down, Moses--A Failed Paradise**

**SGL: Len Engel**

**Sessions: 8 Class size: 20**

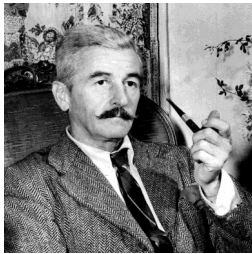
**Dates: Friday, Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9**

**Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$20**

Whenever William Faulkner's fiction is discussed, the novels *The Sound & the Fury* and *Absalom, Absalom* invariably come up. They are certainly great novels, but he wrote other great novels also. One of



them is *Go Down, Moses*, which challenges readers with its structure and complexity. Composed of seven seemingly unrelated stories and set in Faulkner's fictional Yoknapatawpha County in northern Mississippi, the book

focuses on the McCaslin family and plantation, portraying them in a dynamic, mythical, generational, and historical context. Faulkner dramatizes race relation issues relating not only to slaves, but to Native Americans as well, beginning well before the Emancipation Proclamation, through Reconstruction, and into the Jim Crow era. Close reading and analysis will reveal the stories' interconnectedness, and will guide readers through the abrupt time shifts, multiple narrators, and interior monologues.

Handouts, including maps and genealogies, will help the challenge of this book and hopefully make it one of the great reading experiences of our lives. We will use the Vintage edition--from Random House.

**S25-42**

**Introduction to Bridge**

**SGL: Carol Boynton**

**Sessions: 4 Class size: 8**

**Dates: Friday, Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 4**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Woodbridge Town Library - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

If you would like to learn to play bridge, we will discuss the terminology and basic concepts of bridge. This will lead to the initial bidding process and play of the hand.

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**S25-43**

**Climate Justice and Community Organizing a Framework For Restoration**

**SGL: Justin Farmer**

**Sessions: 2 Class size: 40**

**Dates: Friday, Mar 28, Apr 4**

**Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Location: ACES Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$15**

Six Lakes is a 102.5-acre parcel in Hamden. The property features mature forests, hiking paths, and six beautiful ponds. Also known as the Olin Powder Farm,

**Six Lakes**  
Park Coalition

the Six Lakes property is owned by the Olin Corporation. Olin and its

predecessor, Winchester Arms, used the site for gunpowder storage and munitions testing. A 1986 consent decree from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ordered Olin to clean up industrial pollution on the property, a job that

## ILR announces new cancellation policy

Effective with the 2025 Spring Semester, ILR has changed its cancellation policy. To be eligible for a tuition refund, you must inform us that you will be unable to attend a class at least 48 hours before the class begins.

was only partially completed. Learn about the efforts of Six Lakes Park Coalition to turn this polluted land into a public park and how it fits in with the broader fight for environmental justice, preservation, and community organizing.

\*\*\*

#### **S25-44**

#### **Yoga Basics-Relax and Renew through Somatic Exploration**

**SGL: Alan Franzi, M.S., C-IAYT**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Friday, Apr 4**

**Time: 11 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$10**

My approach integrates alignment-based yoga with innovative postural and movement therapies that address physical discomfort, pain and stress by resolving the underlying causes and limitations. Come and try a class with me and see if, together, we can begin to make a change in your life.

\*\*\*

#### **S25-45**

#### **Navigating Common Orthopedic Injuries: Healthy bones for a healthy life**

**SGL: Gwyneth Maloy**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 30**

**Dates: Friday, May 2**

**Time: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

**Location: Daniel Sullivan Ed Center - Hamden**

**Course Fee: \$10**

Orthopedic conditions, such as joint pain, stiffness, and mobility problems, are among the most common



reasons people visit the doctor. However, since many of these symptoms progress slowly over time, it can be difficult to recognize when and where to seek help! This

course is designed to teach students about the causes of common orthopedic conditions, screening

recommendations, and available treatment options. We will cover some basic biology and musculoskeletal anatomy, as well as more practical tips, like how to avoid falls in older age. Additional topics include osteoporosis and aging-related fractures, osteoarthritis and joint replacement, rotator cuff injuries, and back pain. This course is designed as an hour-long lecture, with time reserved for questions at the end.

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#### **S25-46**

#### **The Oldest Hatred: A History of Anti-Semitism**

**SGL: Patricia Behre**

**Sessions: 3 Class size: 50**

**Dates: Friday, May 2, 9, 16**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Location: Jewish Community Center - Woodbridge**

**Course Fee: \$20**

This three-session course will survey the long and complicated history of antisemitism from its earliest expressions in Europe to its modern manifestations. More than 10 centuries of Jewish-Christian interaction in Europe, the position of the Roman Catholic Church and of various governments as well as popular attitudes toward Jews will be considered in the light of events and developments.

\*\*\*

#### **S25-47**

#### **Flying with TWA**

**SGL: Susan Birnbaum and Marcia Jamron**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 100**

**Dates: Friday, May 9**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Location: Zoom**

**Course Fee: \$18**

*This Zoom course will be recorded.* Let's go! I am going to take you on a journey to a building cited in Time Magazine's 2019 edition of its "World's Greatest Places", The TWA Hotel. The original architect was Eero Saarinen, and his design was extraordinary and was considered an architectural gem in 1962. Now, in 2025, the revamped building is a dazzling example of modernist design. We'll describe the 512 rooms, the Jean-Georges Vongerichten restaurant, the unique cocktail lounge in a converted Lockheed Constellation



airplane. We will see the wonderful museum there devoted to aviation history. We will have a walk back in time, providing memories of air travel past, to our present day!

\*\*\*

#### S25-48

**Knitting/Crocheting Circle: Beginners Welcome**

**SGL: Annis Fusaris**

**Sessions: 5 Class size: 8**

**Dates: Friday, May 16, 23, 30, Jun 6, 13**

**Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Location: Annis Fusaris' Home**

**Course Fee: \$20**



Knitting and crocheting are not only rewarding, but relieve stress and have proven health benefits. The motions and increased concentration necessary for the activity lower the

heart rate, reduce stress hormones and induce a meditative state. Come, practice skills and have some laughs.

## Saturday Classes

#### S25-49

**The Neuroscience and Ethics of AI**

**SGL: Sharif Kronemer**

**Sessions: 1 Class size: 100**

**Dates: Saturday, Apr 26**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Location: Zoom**

**Course Fee: \$10**

*This Zoom course will be recorded.*

Artificial intelligence (AI) has made a transformative entry into our daily lives, revolutionizing everything from online searches to message drafting. In neuroscience, AI is emerging as a powerful tool to study the brain, unlocking new ways to understand its complexity. At the same time, AI raises profound questions, such as whether it could one day, if it hasn't already, achieve the ability to experience feelings and sensations, and to have some cognitive abilities. We'll also examine the ethical dilemmas that might arise. This introductory course explores the relationship between AI and modern neuroscience research, delving into its applications, pressing concerns, and the ethical challenges that accompany this technological leap in understanding the nervous system.

## Why am I on a Waitlist?

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

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

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

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

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

# Who's Who at ILR

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

All of them started as members attending classes. You, too, can be part of the team of volunteers that makes ILR the exciting organization that it is. Just reach out and tell us what you'd like to do or ask where we can use help.

Meet the leadership team at ILR:

## Officers and Board of Directors

Nick Maiorino, President

Susan Vallillo, Executive Vice President

Rita Esposito, Secretary

Karen Fenichel, Treasurer

David Phelps, VP-Curriculum

Marcia Jamron, VP-Trips

Joel Feimer, Ex-Officio President

Susan Vallillo, Registrar

## Members of the Board of Directors

Eva Arnott

Jane Cerilli

Holly Chepow

Sue Cohen

Pat Donohue

Annis Fusaris

Judith Hickey

Deborah Kasowitz

Jean Maatta

Pat Maiorino

Mito Mardin

Debbie McKeever

John Schneider

Pat Sirulnick

## Committee Chairs

Communications:

Doug Fenichel (973) 769-0688

Curriculum:

David Phelps (203) 731-0750

Finance:

Karen Fenichel (973) 713-5165

Membership & Registration:

Susan Vallillo (203) 747-9675

Nominating:

Sue Cohen (203) 464-7411

Social Events:

Gayle Logan (203) 2323

Strategic Planning:

Robin Lewis (203) 876-8137

Technology:

Susan Vallillo (203) 747-9675

Volunteers:

Rita Esposito (203) 687-8966

Pat Maiorino (203) 795-3956

Email: [volunteers@ilrnh.org](mailto:volunteers@ilrnh.org)

We'd like to thank the many people who volunteer to help out. Volunteers work on committees, show up to promote ILR at fairs and festivals, help us clean up after a class or do whatever committee work they are asked to do. They are what makes ILR work. You can join us. Call the committee chair of your choice or contact the Volunteers Committee, as listed above.

## Biographies

**Becca Allen** is a licensed clinical social worker and end-of-life guide. She helps individuals and their families navigate their end of life with thoughtful planning, compassion and support. Allen's particular focus is on completing advanced directives and getting a person's affairs in order. She has more than 25 years of experience in leadership positions in the fields of behavioral health, homelessness, and philanthropy.

**John Altson** has been involved in "high tech" since 1961. From 1965 to 1967, he managed the team that wrote the software that flew the SR-71 spy plane missions.

**Julie Averbach** recently graduated from Yale University with a double major in art history and psychology. Her interests encompass areas as diverse as Indian graphic novels, activist poster art, and the decorative arts of the Belle Époque. Averbach leads *smARTEE*, a virtual-arts enrichment platform that promotes museum access and emotional well-being. To date, she has led virtual art museum tours for more than 4,000 people from more than 21 countries.

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

**Phillip L. Beard** has taught modernist literature in universities for more than 20 years, including a Fulbright year in Germany and an abroad program in Vienna. He has published articles on 20<sup>th</sup> Century literature and philosophy, and is currently an editor for the Bulletin of the George Santayana Society.

**Patricia Behre**, Ph.D, is an associate professor of history at Fairfield University. She is serving as chair of the History Department. A specialist in early modern French history and especially Jewish-Christian relations, she is the author of *One King, One Law, Three Faiths: Religion and the Rise of Absolutism in Seventeenth Century Metz*.

**Harriet Bergmann**, Ph.D. After retiring as professor of English at the U.S. Naval Academy in 2002, Dr. Bergmann moved to New Haven. Since then, she has taught creative writing at Yale and works as a professional editor. She also

conducts memoir writing groups at HomeHaven, a part of the Village-to-Village network. She is currently at work on a book about 19<sup>th</sup> Century women's education in Boston.

**Susan Birnbaum** is the leader of SusanSez NYC Walkabouts. She is a native New Yorker obsessed with its history and food. Since 2002, Birnbaum has been a licensed NYC Sightseeing Guide. She has a bachelor's degree in history from Hunter College reflects her lifelong interest in history. She is a member of The Bronx, Brooklyn and New York Historical Societies. In 2010, Birnbaum was the recipient of The Bronx Tourism Award from The Bronx Tourism Council for her unparalleled commitment to sharing the rich history of The Bronx.

**Dr. Marc J. Blossveren** holds chemistry and psychology degrees, and a doctorate in science administration. He has done extensive work in curriculum review and development. He retired as the science supervisor for the New Haven Board of Education. Dr. Blossveren was an OSHA health and safety consultant. He was an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University and Western Connecticut State University.

**Carol Boynton** received a Bachelor of Arts from Albertus Magnus College. After retiring, she enrolled in bridge lessons which have led to many enjoyable years of playing bridge. She hopes to help others to develop an interest in playing this game which involves memory, skill and perseverance.

**Gabriella Brand** is a bilingual educator, writer and public speaker. She has more than 30 years of experience as a teacher of French language and literature. In addition, she served as an intern at the United Nations during her university years. She was a program director at an Alliance Francaise. She holds a diploma from the Universite de Neuchatel, Switzerland and a master's in French pedagogy from Middlebury College, VT.

**Rita Brieger** has been teaching bridge in the New Haven area for 35 years. She is a bridge life master, which is the highest ranking you can achieve in bridge and is also an accredited American Contract Bridge League teacher.

**Leo Cristofar** has led hikes in and around Connecticut for more than 25 years.

**Lygia Davenport**, development director at Music Haven, will host this wonderful opportunity to learn about Music Haven and its professional string quartet. Young musicians at Music Haven study with and are mentored by our resident musicians from first, second, or third grade until they graduate from high school. At the heart of our model is the relationship between teacher and student, and the relationships between the young musicians, themselves.

Through music, they build community, develop resilience and self-confidence, and experience collective struggle and success. With the resident musicians at the heart of a rich and ever-expanding variety of educational programming, workshop offerings, and performances throughout the region, each of our students and his or her family is part of a vibrant community of musicians. The Haven String Quartet embodies a different way to be a professional string quartet – one that is grounded in the Music Haven community. The Haven String Quartet (HSQ) members divide their time between the rigorous performance calendar of the string quartet and the demands of a full teaching schedule.

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

**Justin Farmer** is a community organizer, environmentalist, and served as a member of the Hamden City Council for six years. Farmer has organized a host of issues locally and at the state level ranging from the abolition of prison gerrymandering, right to counsel, and reproductive justice. Currently he is the lead organizer of the Six Lakes Park Coalition, which is working to clean up a 102.5-acre brownfield in Southern Hamden. He also hosts a radio segment on New Haven Independents WNH 103.5 Just-In-Time Conversations.

**Joel N. Feimer** taught undergraduate and graduate level English literature and composition at Mercy College in New York from 1967 to 2010. He earned his doctorate in comparative literature from the City University of New York in 1983. He has published several essays on topics in medieval and modern literature and co-edited a text for composition with his former colleague at Mercy College, Howard Canaan. He began teaching for ILR in the spring of 2015 and is the immediate past president.

**Karen Fenichel** has taught Mah Jongg at several venues including synagogues and adult education programs. She has played for more than 10 years. It's a good way to meet people and make friends. She's a retired dentist.

**Alan Franzi**, MS, C-IAYT, PAS, has more than 25 years of experience as a yoga and movement therapy practitioner. His specialized individual therapeutic work centers on posture alignment therapy and movement re-patterning to address the root causes of musculoskeletal pain, imbalances and other movement challenges.

**Annis Fusaris**, a retired registered nurse, learned to knit with her right hand at the age of 5. She learned under duress because she is left handed. In the 1960's, she learned how to crochet when crafts were a popular hobby. She enjoys passing on the knowledge to the younger generation.

**IfeMichelle Gardin** is executive director of Kultural-lyLIT, a literary arts organization founded in 2019 to enhance awareness of the arts of the African diaspora, especially the literary arts. Kultural-lyLIT produces the annual LITFest, which in 2024 commemorated the literary legacy of iconic American author James Baldwin and DiasporaCON, a conference focused on opportunities in the comic book and graphic novel industry. Gardin serves on the New Haven Cultural Affairs Commission, the Board of Directors for Collective Consciousness Theater and The Greater New Haven African American Historical Society. She is a group facilitator for the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven's Neighborhood Leadership Program and Launch Consultants CT.

**Frances S. Grodzinsky**, Ph.D., is professor emerita of computer science and information technology at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield and past co-director of the Hersher Institute of Ethics.

**Serena Guerrette** has been a docent and a member of the Docent Council at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art for more than 40 years. She reached the position of president of the council. Currently, she serves as a docent at the Yale Center for British Art. Guerrette retired from the YCBA's Research and Education Department in 2013.

**Harvey Heyman** received a bachelor's degree from Brown University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. He retired in 2022 as IT director and business planner for a hospital-owned chain of physical therapy clinics. Harvey is a passionate consumer of current political and social events and feels we are at a pivotal point in the health of American democracy.

**Lewis House** is a graduate of New York University and a professor emeritus of Southern Connecticut State University. He is the published author of several books and

many articles. He is a consultant to the Educational Testing Service and a veteran of the U.S. military.

**Marcia Jamron** has been fascinated by travel since her early childhood. College, followed by family duties, has not dulled the anticipation of new places to see and learn about. She applies this urge to look for new and different places to the ILR trips and Zoom trips she plans and conducts.

**Hans-Christian Jasch** is a lawyer and legal historian who earned his juris doctor with an award-winning study of the state-secretary of the Reich's ministry of interior, Wilhelm Stuckart, and his role in Nazi-Jewish policy leading to the Holocaust. From 2014 to 2020, Jasch was the executive director of the House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial. He now works as a German federal civil servant on matters of public security and continues to publish in the field of Holocaust research and aftermath studies.

**Hedda Kopf** taught literature and gender studies at Quinnipiac University for more than three decades. She continues to develop and lead book discussions at ILR, several public libraries and other institutions in Connecticut. She volunteers as a reading mentor in a New Haven school and is the author of *Understanding Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources and Historical Documents*.

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

**Mike Lawlor** is a nationally recognized expert on criminal justice reform which was a major focus of his 24 years as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives and as former Gov. Daniel P. Malloy's criminal justice advisor. Lawlor authored the 1999 Red Flag law, the first state in the country to pass this law and now considered a national model for preventing mass shootings. As a member of Malloy's administration, Lawlor developed and implemented initiatives including juvenile justice, bail, and drug policy reforms; post Sandy Hook gun control legislation, and repeal of the death penalty, as well as initiatives that addressed racial disparities in the criminal justice system and mass incarceration. He is currently acting associate dean of the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences at the University of New Haven.

**Thornton Lockwood** is a professor of philosophy at Quinnipiac University with a joint appointment in environmental studies). His research focuses on ancient Greek and Roman ethical and political thought. He has published and co-edited volumes *Aristotle's Politics: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and *Aristote Politique VII: La constitution « selon nos vœux »*. His research on Aeschylus, Herodotus, Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero has been published in numerous peer-reviewed research journals. He is currently at work on two overlapping projects: He has written several pieces on the moral status of non-human animals in Aristotle's ethical and political works, which he plans to develop into a monograph tentatively titled *Animals in the City by Nature: Aristotle's Environmental Philosophy*. He is also finishing up a book-length manuscript entitled *Aristotle on Justice: The Virtues of Citizenship* (currently under contract at Cambridge University Press).

**Nick Maiorino**, a member of ILR for nine years, is a lifelong learner with more than 60 years of teaching experience. He holds a Bachelor of Science in education; a master's in statistics, measurement and evaluation; 6<sup>th</sup>-Year certificate in administration and supervision; and advanced degrees in the sciences. While his focus is science, he has offered courses in his other interests such as history, music and current events. He is president of ILR.

**Gwyneth Maloy** and Phil Ratnasamy are medical students at the Yale School of Medicine. Both have a strong interest in musculoskeletal health and education, and hope to pursue careers in orthopaedic surgery after graduation next year. They will be joined by Dr. Erin Stockwell, an orthopaedic trauma surgeon and assistant professor in the department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at Yale.

**Mithat "Mito" Mardin**, Ph.D., was born in Istanbul and is a graduate of the German High School there. He received his doctorate in organic chemistry, physics and microbiology from the University of Göttingen. He worked at Bayer Pharmaceuticals for 33 years in various positions starting as laboratory head and retiring as vice president. He has worked in Europe, Asia and the United States. He served as president of the Japan Society of Fairfield County and continues to sit on its board. He was ILR president for three terms and he has followed his passion for political science. He enjoys being a study group leader and sharing his knowledge of the European Union, U.S. economy, Islam, and current world affairs in general.

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

**Harold Miller**, bridge life master, is a retired certified public accountant and native of New Haven. He teaches the basics of bridge for beginners.

**Nini Munro-Chmura** has a master's in guidance and counseling, and a 6<sup>th</sup> Year in counseling. She was an original Head Start teacher in New Haven, and a high school guidance counselor. She has led flora and fauna walks for Audubon, Sierra, and Appalachian Mt. Clubs.

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

**Nils Pilotte** is an assistant professor of biology at Quinnipiac University in Hamden. Dr. Pilotte is a molecular biologist who studies the genetics and DNA structure of disease-causing parasites. He is interested in understanding the mechanisms of inheritance in parasitic organisms and how these inheritance patterns contribute to pathogenicity

**Lois Procopion** was born in New Britain. She received her B.S. from Central Connecticut State University. She retired as a project manager at Aetna Healthcare in 2014. For the past 48 years, Lois has been an active justice of the peace. She has been a gourmet cook for more than 50 years and has won first prize in various local baking competitions.

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

**Jim Rhodes** graduated from Holy Cross College as a philosophy major and earned his doctorate from Fordham University specializing in medieval literature and the

works of James Joyce. He taught for many years in the English Department at Southern Connecticut State University and is the author of the book *Poetry Does Theology: Chaucer, Grosseteste, and the Pearl Poet*.

**Natalie Semmel** is a senior at Yale University majoring in film and media studies. At Yale, her studies focus primarily on amateur small-gauge film. She has worked at the Beinecke Library since September 2022 in social media and is part of the undergraduate tour guide team.

**Gene Shannon**, along with his wife, Mary Anne, founded Shannon Fine Arts, Inc. in 1979. The gallery specialized in American paintings from 1840 to 1950, focusing on The Hudson River School, American Impressionism, and American Modernism, among other styles. In 1997, Gene and Mary Anne, together with their daughter, Sandra Germain, expanded their vision by establishing Shannon's Fine Art Auctioneers in Milford. The company quickly gained international recognition, supported by their beautifully designed color-printed and online catalogs. Consignments have arrived from across the United States and Europe. Since its inception, Shannon's has achieved nearly \$200 million in sales, solidifying its reputation as a leader in the art auction world.

**Perry So** is the music director designate of New Haven Symphony, artistic director and chief conductor of Orquesta Sinfonica de Navarra (Navarre Symphony Orchestra).

**Howard L. Taubin**, M.D., is a graduate of University of Virginia Medical School. He did his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in gastroenterology at Yale University School of Medicine.

**James Vanderberg** is the educator for high school, university and community engagement at the Yale Center for British Art. He graduated with a master's degree in fine arts from CUNY Hunter College in 2008. Vanderberg has taught university and high school studio art and art history for more than a decade at Fordham University, Nassau Community College, the Art Students League of New York, and Saint John's Preparatory School. His work is collected nationally, and recent paintings and drawings are available at Gallerie Gris in Hudson, N.Y. In 2019, Vanderberg moved to rural Connecticut and left classroom teaching after the pandemic. This new landscape and connection to a historical collection of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century art, as well as the resources of a university museum, have influenced his work in surprising ways. When he is not painting and drawing, he creates an ongoing autobiographical comic called Lunch.

Rabbi **Alvin Wainhaus**, son of Holocaust survivors, was raised in an Orthodox environment in Brooklyn. A graduate of Brooklyn College with a degree in philosophy, he earned a Master of Education degree from New York University and was ordained in Tel Aviv in 1972. Rabbi Wainhaus served congregations in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and in Manhattan prior to becoming the spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom in Orange in 1981. He has immersed himself in the Jewish and secular life of the community and is highly regarded as a spiritual leader, educator, and lecturer on a wide range of religious and secular issues. His involvement in interfaith activities throughout Greater New Haven has earned him the respect and admiration of Jews and non-Jews alike.

**Kate Johns Walton** majored in anthropology and

obtained teaching certification while attending Goddard College. She earned a Master's Degree in museum education from George Washington University with field work done at the Smithsonian. As a graduate intern, she was appointed museum teacher by the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. She developed and managed the "You and Your World" program at Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale and worked full time as a docent in the School Services Division there. Kate lived and worked extensively in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and taught high school biology and English in Kenya while working with Richard Leakey to create museums that helped local populations preserve important natural materials from their ancestral environments.

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

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

### **Closed Caption feature for Zoom classes**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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## Here's how to turn your expertise into an ILR class

Everyone's an expert!

Often said with a sad, shaking of the head, the fact is it's true! Almost everyone is an expert in something...including you.

Your "expertise" may have been earned by years of academic pursuits or just by the School of Hard Knocks, but if it's something you'd like to share with others, you can be a study group leader.

Or maybe you know someone who has the expertise to teach a class. You've attended a class or some other type of training session or just talked with the person. It doesn't have to be a friend, just someone who has impressed you with their knowledge and



their presentation.

Whether it's you or someone you know or you've heard, contact the Curriculum Committee. Tell them your idea and about the person (or team of people) you think should pre-

sent the class.

If it's you, members of the committee will coach you in developing the class for ILR audiences and, if you'd like, coach you in how best to present.

If it's someone you've seen, ILR will help you contact that person or will run with your idea and contact the speaker.

Every class in this catalog was created by a person with a passion for the subject. That person either put together and is presenting the class or found someone who shared their passion.

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