

Fall 2024



Lifelong Learning
COLLABORATIVE

MONDAY MORNINGS

Monday mornings
Zoom Videoconference
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
10 weeks
Sep 9-Nov 11
Fee: \$55
Class size limit: 20

Open Studio Art on Zoom Coordinator: Kathy Webster

NOTE: An Open Studio painting class is offered in-person at Temple Beth-El on Tuesday mornings.

Are you an artist who enjoys learning from others and wants to keep improving this fall? Please join us for a casual meeting of artists who will independently pursue the paper/canvas medium of their choice using acrylics, oils, watercolor, pastel or by drawing. There will be no instruction, just camaraderie and informal sharing by all.

Format: Members will work independently and will submit a photo of their work weekly for Zoom sharing and critique. The class may decide to focus on a painting subject or style each week. This is a Zoom video conferencing class (see box below for more information).

Resources/Expenses: No expenses required other than supplies you want to use.

Coordinator: Kathy Webster has been a Plein Air painter since joining LLC and started Open Studio to continue painting through the rest of the year. Kathy has coordinated many LLC courses.

MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Monday afternoons
Bob Sandy's Home on the East Side
1:00-3:00 PM
10 weeks
Sep 30-Nov 25 (No class Sep 16 or Sep 23)
Fee: \$55
Class size limit: 25

The Economics of Home Solar Panels and Storage Batteries Coordinator: Robert Sandy

MANDATORY WAIVER: Since LLC does not maintain insurance for off-site courses held outside of the Temple, participants must sign a mandatory waiver to participate. Look for the waiver link in your registration confirmation email.

Is installing a home solar system cost effective? How does it affect a home's value? Does installing solar even make sense for a retiree? I researched these questions before having solar installed last January. Classes will be held at my house so that participants can see what solar looks like. My benefits include selling excess electricity to Rhode Island Energy (RIE); RIE paying me to draw from my batteries during peak demand; charging my two electric vehicles (EVs); a 30% federal income tax refund. Each homeowner's

situation is different. Although I benefitted from a south-facing roof with no shade, I needed a new roof to last the 30-year life of the panels. I calculated my internal rate of return (IRR)—the most accurate way to assess an investment—and moved forward.

Format: The course will begin with background lectures by me on the basics of solar and the IRR. Members of the class who already have home solar systems and/or expertise in solar panels or battery technology can also make presentations on technical topics. The remaining class sessions will be presentations on potential solar installations for participant's homes, based on free quotes from solar companies. We will calculate IRR for each home based on the figures from the quotes and assumptions about future electricity prices and then determine whether solar would be cost-effective for each participant's home.

Resources/Expenses: None anticipated.

Coordinator: Robert Sandy has coordinated Jewish Style Breads and Rolls, Battery Electric Vehicles, and Concerts and Conversations.

We're pleased to offer Zoom courses and in-person courses this semester. COVID vaccination is a mandatory requirement for attending in-person classes. By the act of registering for an in-person class you will be attesting to being vaccinated. Masks are optional in the Temple and classrooms. We'll keep current with trends and regulations and may change as needed. Zoom is easy and free to class members. If you have not used Zoom, [click here for a helpful introduction video](#).



Cover photography, "Great Blue," was taken by Tom Colby in last fall's A Photographic Journey course. Since becoming a member of LLC last year, Tom has taken five classes, including Winter Waterfowl of Rhode Island Up Close, where he captured this great blue heron. Tom's other hobbies include astronomy, electronics, and computer programming.

We are an independent, not-for-profit collaborative lifelong learning organization in Rhode Island, offering a program of affordable courses that cover a wide gamut of interests; trips and cultural events; as well as the opportunity to volunteer, serve on committees, coordinate a course and otherwise help shape the future of lifelong learning in our area.

Our annual membership is low (\$40 yearly). You must be a member to participate in classes.

Many of our classes fill on the first day of registration. To avoid disappointment, we suggest that you register early at lifelonglearningcollaborative.org.

This is LLC.

Come learn with us!

PHOTO AND VIDEO PERMISSION: LLC's Marketing Committee will occasionally seek to gather images and comments of members for use in promotional materials. **By registering for an LLC class, you give permission for your image and/or comments to appear in photographs and videos taken during the class, to be used by LLC in any medium, including online and in print.** Read our entire updated registration policy on page 14.

MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Monday afternoons

Zoom Videoconference

1:00-3:00 PM

12 meetings year-round, last Monday of each month

Sep 30, 2024-Aug 25, 2025

Fee: \$60

Class size limit: 20

The Historical Novel Book Club 2024-2025

Coordinators: Dennis Flavin, Bob Martin

Join us as we once again circle the globe with an international collection of novelists and characters. Our historical novels date from the 16th to the 20th century and take us to Sudan, Tasmania, Malaysia, along with other more familiar places.

Format: Each meeting will be a group discussion of that month's novel. Presentations will not be required. Each meeting will begin with one participant's brief observations about the novel as well as questions meant to stimulate discussion. [Click here to view the course syllabus](#). This is a Zoom video conferencing class (see box on page 2 for more information).

Resources/Expenses: Expenses for Club members each month will be modest. Most readings will be available from public libraries, or inexpensively from Amazon or other sources. No other expenses will be required.

Coordinators: Dennis Flavin and Bob Martin are experienced LLC coordinators; each having coordinated many previous courses.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

Tuesday mornings

Zoom Videoconference

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 12

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 16

Alexander von Humboldt and the Study of Nature

Coordinators: Chuck Nickles, Sidney Okashige

Humboldt. Does that name sound familiar? Well, there's the Humboldt Current off Ecuador, the Humboldt penguin, mountain peaks, rivers, streets (even in Providence), parks, bridges and schools with that name. In his time, Humboldt was known for his studies of nature and the environment. He spent most of his life exploring South America, kept journals as he traveled, and collected thousands of samples of plants, insects and animals. But, unlike the specialist modern scientists of today, Humboldt viewed nature holistically, recognizing in his journals and books the inter-connectivity of all living things. He was the first

person to hypothesize that human activity could affect climate. He influenced Darwin, John Muir, Thoreau, Wordsworth, and others. We'll examine the life of Alexander von Humboldt through his adventures and discoveries, and maybe answer the question of why he has been largely forgotten.

Format: Class members will read the biography of Humboldt, watch an interesting YouTube documentary about him, and read selections from his books. Participants will make presentations or lead discussions on particular aspects of Humboldt's life, adventures, travels and/or discoveries. This is a Zoom video conferencing class (see box on page 2 for more information).

Resources/Expenses: *The Invention of Nature, Alexander von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wolf is available (used) online for \$3.00 and up in paperback.

Coordinators: Chuck Nickles is a retired physics lecturer who has facilitated several LLC courses. He's also worked in precision measurement systems, energy conservation and alternative energy. Over the last ten years, Sidney Okashige has enjoyed co-coordinating more than a dozen LLC courses and treasures the wonderful friendships she has made taking and coordinating courses. One of her favorite courses has been knitting, which she has taken repeatedly for many years.

Registration opens Monday, July 22 @ 9 AM.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

Tuesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 12

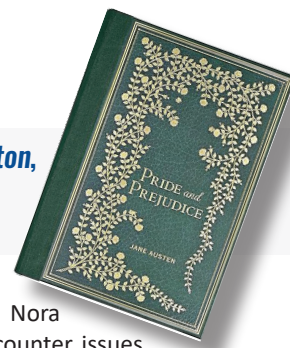
Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 16

The Marriage Plot: Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Julia Quinn's *Bridgerton*, and Themes of Family, Romance, and Intrigue in Regency England

Coordinators: Susan Dillon, Nancy Nicholson

We are all familiar with the marriage plot: Girl meets boy, girl loses boy, complications ensue, and, inevitably, there is a happy ending. Think Shakespeare's comedies, Nora Ephron's screenplays... and Jane Austen's novels. In Austen's novels, we also encounter issues of class, money, gender roles, and social conventions, as well as elegant prose and scathing satire. Julia Quinn's *Bridgerton* novels and TV series are only the latest of many descendants of Austen. These are again "marriage plots" in a Regency setting, but here, we also encounter a faster pace, a mysterious Mrs. Whistledown, and some steamy scenes.



Format: We will read Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Julia Quinn's *The Duke and I*, the basis for Season 1 of *Bridgerton*, which we will also view. Participants will be asked to give 20–30-minute presentations or to bring significant passages from the novels to class for discussion. The coordinators will provide a list of topics, but participants may also suggest their own relevant topics.

Resources/Expenses: *Pride and Prejudice*, paperback from \$1.68 used and up; *The Duke and I*, in paperback from \$6.23 used and up; a Netflix subscription, \$6.99/month.

Coordinators: Susan Dillon taught English in Rhode Island high schools for more than thirty years and has been enthralled by Jane Austen since she was a teenager. Nancy Nicholson is thrilled to co-coordinate a class featuring one of her favorite authors and is fascinated to discover there was a real Mrs. Whistledown. Both Susan and Nancy are first-time LLC coordinators.

Tuesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 12

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 10

Open Studio Art at the Temple

Coordinator: Susan Van Horne

NOTE: The art room at Temple Beth-El is up a flight of stairs with no elevator. An Open Studio painting class is offered on Zoom on Monday AM.

Are you an artist who enjoys learning from others and wants to keep improving this fall? Please join us for a casual meeting of artists who will pursue the paper/canvas medium of their choice using acrylics, oils, watercolor, pastel or by drawing. There will be no instruction, just camaraderie and informal sharing by all.

Format: Members will join together in the art space at Temple Beth El each week, bringing their own painting supplies and working independently on their own work. The session will end with all sharing their work followed by a gentle critique.

Resources/Expenses: No expenses required other than supplies you want to use.

Coordinator: Susan Van Horne has been a plein air and studio painter since joining LLC over six years ago. Susan has coordinated previous LLC courses.

Tuesday mornings

Zoom Videoconference

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 19 (No class Oct 15)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Absurd Comedies

Coordinators: John Brezack, Judith Nudelman

Everyone needs a laugh, especially during these tense times and during a presidential election year. If you are a fan of Mel Brooks' iconic movies or love the off-beat vibe of the Coen Brothers, or maybe prefer the outright zaniness and anarchy of the Marx Brothers, then you will want to participate in this class. Each week we will screen one of our selections from some of the craziest, thought-provoking, hilarious, and just plain funny movies of the past 50 years. These are some of our favorite films that poke fun at the normal conventions of society and stop and make you look through a slightly bent prism at our world. Movies include *Groundhog Day*, *The Big Lebowski*, *Doctor Strangelove*, *Duck Soup*, *The Producers*, and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

Format: Each week we will watch the scheduled film at home and discuss it in class. Two class members will collaborate on presenting one movie, each leading the discussion for one segment. Shortly after registration, class members will request their desired film. Questions may be sent out ahead of time to help the class focus on particular aspects of the movie or an alternate class exercise may be offered. A formal slide presentation is not required. This is a Zoom video conferencing class (see box on page 2 for more information).

Resources/Expenses: Films are available on Amazon Prime, Netflix, Kanopy and other streaming services. A small fee may be charged by these platforms. The local libraries also carry some of our films.

Coordinators: John Brezack retired two years ago after 37 years of running a medical products manufacturing company in Massachusetts. He loves comedy and funny movies of all types and is well-acquainted with the history of American comedies. Judith Nudelman is an almost-retired family practice physician. She also shares a love for quirky comedies and humorists.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

Tuesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 12

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Palestine: From the Ottoman Empire to the Founding of the State of Israel

Coordinators: Kevin Culley, Dennis Flavin, Marilyn Kaplan

We are currently living through yet another spectacle of war in a section of the Middle East long referred to as Palestine. While most of us are familiar with the current dispute and the players on each side, we have not had the opportunity to take the long view – from pre-Biblical times to the present with a cast of characters that includes Canaanites, Babylonians, Israelites, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Crusaders, Ottomans and Arabs – not to mention the French, the British, and the Americans. We will follow the gradual transformation of the region and its people over this long history.

Format: Class members will give presentations and lead discussion on topics related to a portion of Palestine's history.

Resources/Expenses: *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* by Gudrun Kramer is available from Amazon and other online booksellers, new and used, from \$27 and up.

Coordinators: Kevin Culley is a retired fire officer from New York who has coordinated courses related to the American Constitution. Dennis Flavin, a retired publishing and information services executive, and Marilyn Kaplan, a retired university administrator, have both coordinated and co-coordinated many LLC courses.

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS

Tuesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El & the field

1:00-3:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 12

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Cell Phone Photography Club

Coordinators: Ellen Fingeret, Margaret Lawrence, Linda Shamoon

The Cellphone Photography Club welcomes new and continuing members! If your cell phone has become your favorite camera come join with other LLC'ers as we experiment with, and enjoy, cell phone photography and photo editing. Going on photo shoots together, sharing our photos with a congenial group, learning from each other, and learning about genres of photography, such as street, landscape, and architecture are all creative, instructive, social, and fun. Our tools are our cell phones (Apple or Android) and any editing app. Perhaps you have tried the editing app that comes with your phone, and would you like to learn more? This is your opportunity.

Format: 1) Three photo shoots, locales TBD on day #1, may involve car ride; 2) Three photo sharing sessions at Beth-El; 3) Three presentations or guest lectures at Beth-El. Everyone is expected to help with club tasks: Choosing photo shoot locales, creating photo slideshows, emailing notices; help with presentations. Day #1 is organizational.

Resources/Expenses: No text. Participants share links to online materials that enhance our photo and editing skills, but familiarity with an editing app is necessary.

Coordinators: Ellen Fingeret, Margaret Lawrence, and Linda Shamoon started cell phone photography in LLC's iPhonography class. They are now enthusiastic cell phone photographers and photo editors.

Tuesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00-3:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 12

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 18

Unquiet Women – Significant Voices in Classical Music

Coordinator: Ronald Pearl

Women have always been an important part of the musical landscape, but it is only recently that their contributions to the world of classical music has begun to be adequately acknowledged. In this course we will learn who some of these women are, with a focus on those who spurred significant changes. While these will mainly be composers, we will also learn about some performers who have, and are now, breaking new ground.

Format: Each class will begin with a discussion of the previous week's listening. This will be followed by two presentations. Participants will choose a composer or performer, and present their bio and accomplishments, along with the challenges they face(d). After the presentations there will be an opportunity to hear and discuss music created by the women of that week's focus. Each week links will be sent to allow further exploration of their music. No musical background is needed for the class.

Resources/Expenses: The only requirements are curiosity and Internet access.

Coordinator: Ronald Pearl is a retired music professor and has coordinated three other courses for LLC.

Class calendar available online at www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org.

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS

Tuesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00-3:00 PM

9 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 5

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

Lights, Camera, Action: Unforgettable Fashion on the Silver Screen!

Coordinators: Kip Brott, Celene Healey, Laura Tucker

Who created the unforgettable world of fashion in films? From early on, we'll find a celebrated bevy of studio designers and a hit parade of glamorous stars. Edith Head, Adrian, Orry-Kelly, Jean Louis, Irene Sharaff, Jean Harlow, Marlene Dietrich, Lana Turner, Elizabeth Taylor! The list goes on! A powerful combination indeed—together they made glorious history with their stunning costumes on the silver screen. An elite cadre of famous

names from the world of haute couture also made a distinctive contribution. But there's more to film fashion than Hollywood's Golden Era, rich as it was. Stylish costumes never disappeared from later motion pictures—up to the contemporary era—including some beautifully crafted films with fashion as their central theme. Plus we've witnessed the rise of exquisitely curated exhibitions devoted to film fashion in museums throughout the world—due recognition at last! So, all aboard for a cinematic joyride through fashion history—we're goin' to the movies!

Format: Class members will give a presentation on a topic they select from a prepared list. We'll also watch a movie with a dazzling array of sophisticated costumes: *Auntie Mame* starring Rosalind Russell in an Oscar-nominated performance.

Resources/Expenses: Online reading material and YouTube videos will be assigned for review before each class session. No additional expenses.

Coordinators: Kip Brott, Celene Healy, and Laura Tucker are longtime members of LLC. They've taken or coordinated many LLC classes and served on various LLC committees. They're looking forward to offering this course for you—lights, camera, action!



TUESDAY LATE AFTERNOONS

Tuesday late afternoons

Temple Beth-El

3:15-5:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 10-Nov 12

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 35

Scrabble Social Group

Coordinators: Sandy Pankiw, Tracey Zeckhausen

Do you have fond memories of playing Scrabble in your past? Now is your chance to get back in the game! Join us for a fun time and meet new friends! All levels are welcome.

Format: LLC provides game boards and Scrabble dictionaries. Players draw a colored stick to determine where to sit. This allows us to get to know each other better. You don't need to attend every week, but you do need to register and RSVP each week to participate. Please plan to arrive about 3:00 p.m. to help us get set up so we can begin play by 3:15. Tracey and Sandy will be on hand for rules clarification and other questions. Those who wish will gather afterwards at a nearby restaurant for dinner and conversation.

Resources/Expenses: We have Scrabble dictionaries on hand for your reference. All other supplies provided. There are no expenses.

Coordinators: Sandy Pankiw loves Scrabble and joined the group to meet new people when she moved to the Providence area. Tracey Zeckhausen has loved the game of Scrabble since she was old enough to spell. She has been coordinating the group for the past several sessions.



Two Monkeys by Brueghel

by Wislawa Szymborska (translated from the Polish by Magnus Kryski)

I keep dreaming of my graduation exam:
in a window sit two chained monkeys,
beyond the window floats the sky,
and the sea splashes.

I am taking an exam on the history of mankind:
I stammer and flounder.

One monkey, eyes fixed upon me, listens ironically,
the other seems to be dozing--
and when silence follows a question,
he prompts me
with a soft jingling of the chain.

An example of "ekphrastic writing" (see *Close Encounters with Words and Images*, page 12)

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

Wednesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 11-Nov 13

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 14

Reading Plays Aloud: Molière and Admirers

Coordinator: Wendy Salkind

NOTE: Because this is a collaborative and participatory class, where readings will be assigned for some classes, attendance is critical. If you know ahead of time that you will miss two or more classes, it would be best to take the course another time.

Molière, the 18th century French playwright, was a master at writing farce and satire. Filled with witty language and outrageous physical comedy, his plays ridiculed the aristocracy, the bourgeoisie, and attacked the hypocrisy of the French church and justice system. We'll read aloud

two Molière plays in hilarious rhymed verse translations by Richard Wilbur. Those readings will be followed by a play of the 19th century English satirist Oscar Wilde. Then we'll read two contemporary comedies, one by the Italian political theatre creator Dario Fo, and one by the award winner, Tina Howe. Each of these playwrights was influenced by Molière's brilliant dramatic style.

Format: Each class will be spent reading aloud half a play and discussing scenes. No class presentations will be required. Outside of class, participants will be expected to read the play and assigned articles or reviews of past theatre productions. Class discussions will focus on the play's style, action, characterization, language, and contemporary parallels to each play.

Resources/Expenses: The plays will need to be purchased individually, and can be found used from BetterWorldBooks.com, Alibris.com, Abebooks.com and Thriftbooks.com. The total cost of the five plays should be about \$30. Each of the plays is also available from a local branch of the public library.

Coordinator: Wendy Salkind is a retired university professor of Theatre and an actor. This will be her fourth time coordinating a Reading Plays Aloud course.



Molière, 1622-1673

Wednesday mornings

Zoom Videoconference

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

6 weeks

Sep 11-Oct 23 (No class Oct 9)

Fee: \$35

Class size limit: 12

Battling Opera Divas and Divos

Coordinator: Pamela McClain

Have fun with opera by focusing on one aria at a time, listening for the distinctive qualities an individual singer brings to their performance. We'll cover all of the voice types, dip into duets and ensembles and what productions we like in videos. The magic of opera is available to everyone no matter your experience.

Format: Participants choose an opera and one of its arias, including finding two to four videos of several singers to share with the class. Feel free to team up with another class member. You will provide a brief

description of the opera and a summary of the text of the aria you've chosen. In class, we'll listen to or view the performances you've chosen and then vote on which we like best. Soon after course registration, participants can lock in their choice of the opera and the voice type they wish to present. Choose either something you love like crazy or try something that stretches your comfort level. Don't hesitate to delve into the old or contemporary if you can find at least two examples of the arias. This is a Zoom video conferencing class (see box on page 2 for more information).

Resources/Expenses: The coordinator will provide plenty of assistance for your presentation, including technology. YouTube will be your most useful resource. No expenses.

Coordinator: Pamela McClain is a retired vocal coach and church musician with a passion for opera, and particularly, the Santa Fe Opera. A new resident of Rhode Island, she is looking for opera buddies.

Wednesday morning

Zoom Videoconference

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

1 meeting

Oct 2

Fee: Free

Class size limit: 12

Helping Kids Succeed in Providence Public Schools

Coordinators: Janice Golden, Norma Rossi Mead

Do you enjoy helping kids learn? Here's a two-hour Zoom program (see box on page 2 for more information) to help you decide if you would like to join other Lifelong Learning Collaborative members in helping students at Veazie Street School improve their reading or math skills. The session will describe the process of working with learning coaches and teachers at the school, including an explanation of what is involved in meeting with small groups of students in grades 2 through 5, to help them build skills. You will gain insights into paying attention to different learning styles and the importance of social/emotional learning. There is a concise and clear instruction booklet for everyone who completes the program and guidance on completing the necessary forms to take part as a tutor at the school.

Coordinators: Janice Golden is an experienced lifelong educator who worked with children through adults in her career. Janice founded and led a preschool program for 40 years. She has also tutored adults and designed curriculum for children. Norma Rossi Mead has served as a volunteer tutor and facilitator/trainer for adult learners and is the founder of the LLC tutoring program at the Veazie Street School.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

Wednesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 25-Dec 11 (No class Oct 2 or Nov 27)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Read, Listen, Be Inspired, Write

Coordinators: Bill Carpenter, Kate O’Kula

Have you ever had the experience of reading a book of poetry and finding your imagination in alignment with the poet’s? Poetry can be contagious, it can infuse the reader with another consciousness, another perspective, even another voice. This course will invite participants to explore the styles of selected poets to refresh one’s own writing.

Format: Each week a facilitator or member of the class will present poems by a contemporary poet and comment on elements of their style. We’ll consider rhyme, meter, simile, metaphor, alliteration, assonance, structure, form, tone, etc. We will use the time between classes to compose our own poetry,

drawing from that inspiration. The goal is not to mimic but to immerse ourselves in the words of another and use those words to inspire our writing. Starting with the second class, participants will present their poems during the first hour. In the second hour, class members will present the work of a new poet from a list of contemporary writers for next week’s writing exercise.

Resources/Expenses: No expected expenses. The poetry can likely be printed off the Internet. We will strive to forward poems by email before class.

Coordinators: Bill Carpenter has published two collections of poetry, *Templates* and *Imperfect Mirrors/Indelible Myths*. Two animated versions of his poems were selected for the REELpoetry Film Festival in 2021 and 2022. Kate O’Kula is published in several anthologies, has co-led workshops at the Adult Corrections Institution and has paired her poetry with works of art exhibited in Rhode Island galleries.

Wednesday mornings

Regency Plaza Apartments

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 11-Nov 13

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 10

Fact or Fiction: A Writing Workshop

Coordinator: Sheila K Lawrence

MANDATORY WAIVER: Since LLC does not maintain insurance for off-site courses held outside of the Temple, participants must sign a mandatory waiver to participate. Look for the waiver link in your registration confirmation email.

Imagine a safe space among like-minded people, where you can express yourself without fear or judgement. In this 10-week class, we will explore memoir, fiction and nonfiction – in other words, whatever your passion, we’ve got you covered.

Format: We will spark our creativity with writing prompts and challenges in class and for homework. While presentations are not required, we will be encouraged to read our works in class for comments and gentle critiques.

Resources/Expenses: None. Suggested reading includes Strunk and White’s *The Elements of Style*, *On Writing Well* by William Zinser and *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamont, all available online for about \$10.00 total, used, in paperback or available from your local library.

Coordinator: Sheila K Lawrence has been leading classes in writing, photography and theater arts for several years. A former journalist, her passion for writing has led her to dip her pen in the world of fiction. She is currently working on a novel.

Wednesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

6 weeks

Sep 11-Oct 16

Fee: \$35

Class size limit: 12

Power of the Creative Arts to Nourish Body, Mind, and Spirit

Coordinator: Kate Austin

You are invited to explore how physical movement, visual journaling, sound, and storytelling can support and enhance individual and collective wisdom and promote joy. In this class, we will use the creative arts to discover ways to heal the body, calm the mind, and enliven the spirit. Authentic self-expression will be allowed to have a safe outlet during this supportive class time. Artists have always known what science is discovering: that creating a visual image and exploring movement can produce physical and emotional benefits for the creator and those who view it. You don’t need to be an artist or even believe you have any “talent” to tap into the healing power of the arts, or to take this class!

Format: The coordinator will guide the class in exploring movement, visual journaling, storytelling, and other techniques. Participants will explore the languages of the arts individually, in pairs, and in the large group. No presentations are required.

Resources/Expenses: Reading materials will be distributed in class. Each participant should purchase a 12x18” art drawing notebook with blank pages. (You can buy such a notebook at Blick Art Materials, 200 Wickenden Street, Providence for \$11.11.)

Coordinator: Kate Austin was a faculty member in the Creative Arts in Learning Graduate Program at Lesley University for 38 years and a faculty member of the Expressive Arts Institute at Salve Regina University.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

Wednesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00-3:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 11-Nov 20 (No class Oct 2)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Picturing the Dutch Golden Age

Coordinator: Mary Ball Howkins

Join us in looking through Dutch 17th Century images to the culture behind them. Economic success paralleled a cultural flowering in painting during the era. Social life was relatively egalitarian. Urbanization was built on decentralized power, and Dutch Calvinism placed limits on corruption and displays of wealth. Learn how a painter's gender could mold a scene of civic pride or morality. Discover how men and women appeared, acquired goods and structured their spaces.

Format: Each week there will be two presentations. Participants are urged to make a short presentation using images they select to show on the screen. Discussion is highly encouraged.

Resources/Expenses: Important: Access to a computer and the Internet is essential as is familiarity with PowerPoint. The coordinator may suggest reading material and online resources. No expenses anticipated.

Coordinator: Mary Ball Howkins, an Art Historian, has led many LLC courses on the visual arts, short stories, and fiction writing.

Wednesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00-3:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 11-Nov 13

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 10

LLC Knits

Coordinator: Doris Briggs

Join LLC knits for fall knitting now that the weather will be cooling off. It's a perfect time to start holiday knitting projects. Join us for a tutorial for an Emotional Support Chicken or pick a project that interests you. Time will be provided to discuss all projects; the only requirement is you know basic knitting.

Format: Together we will work on our projects one stitch at a time. Classmates will work on their projects at home, and we will meet weekly for a sit and knit.

Resources/Expenses: Expenses will vary based on the cost of materials and supplies.

Coordinator: Doris Briggs is a happily retired Registered Nurse who has been knitting for many years. Her interests include knitting samples for a yarn shop, spinning fiber, weaving, and other endeavors. Doris has coordinated all of our previous knitting classes.

Wednesday afternoons

Zoom Videoconference

1:00-3:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 11-Nov 13

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 16

Hot Topics

Coordinators: Hugh Campbell, George Champlin, Lee Golden

Do you enjoy talking with others about news of the day, hearing what they think is important, and why? If so, you'll enjoy Hot Topics. We expect probing and exciting sessions that look at current items in the news. Members of the class take turns selecting a hot topic of the week – one that will stir discussion – and presenting key material to the class. The person presenting the topic gets things rolling with a few questions to stimulate discussion. Don't be surprised if at times the discussions become intense and controversial. Class members should plan to read the *Providence Journal* and either *The New York Times* or *The Wall Street Journal* – or both – along with other news sources they might want to look into. Any

medium will do, paper or electronic, if the topics are timely, and *hot*. Some of the topics presented last session were: Recent bank failures, Artificial Intelligence/ChatGPT, Ethics and the Supreme Court and Politics of the U.S. debt limit.

Format: Each week one member of the group will choose one article on a current hot topic. After briefly presenting it to the group, they will pose the questions and lead the discussion. The coordinators will act as moderators of the session and help ensure that all viewpoints are heard. This is a Zoom video conferencing class (see box on page 2 for more information).

Resources/Expenses: Participants will need access to Internet and will share articles drawn from newspapers, journals, magazines, and/or news releases with the group by email. No expenses are anticipated.

Coordinators: Hugh Campbell, George Champlin and Lee Golden have successfully coordinated this very popular course many times in the past.



We understand that some LLC members may have difficulties with mobility and may use wheelchairs, walkers, or canes. Some members may have difficulty with hearing or vision. Those members should notify the coordinator and arrive early for the first class to discuss what priority seating accommodations can be made.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

Wednesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00-3:00 PM

2 weeks

Sep 11 & Sept 18

Fee: \$15

Class size limit: 20

Create And Publish Your Autobiography The Easy Way – A Short 2-Session Course

Coordinator: Allan Klepper

This brief course may be just the approach for those who have thought to write an autobiography for their grandchildren so they are able to know details about Granddad or Nana. If you have a computer and printer, witness the simplicity of creating this special limited-edition document the easy way. I did it for my Grand kids following the January 6th intrusion on our US Capital when I emailed them its impact on me. Then realized they really knew little about my life and what has molded me into the person I am.

Format: Participants will see the process by which I was moved to create this document as well receiving brief copies as potential guides to their efforts. It took approximately two and a half months to complete, thus participants will not be required to start their efforts, only to be given the simple steps to follow.

Resources/Expenses: The Coordinator's written and self-published autobiography will be available for review and reference. Use of the Internet will be mentioned as it is a tremendous source of pictures that add authenticity to the document. No expenses are anticipated.

Coordinator: Allan Klepper is a long-time LLC member and has coordinated many courses over the years.

THURSDAY MORNINGS

Thursday mornings

Zoom Videoconference

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 12-Nov 14

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Finding Humor in Being Human

Coordinators: Sam Grabelle, Norma Rossi Mead, Eugene Mihaly

NOTE: This is an updated version of a course that was offered in Winter 2024. It will feature all new material, and both new and returning students are welcome!

Have you ever found yourself refreshed after an unexpected laugh? This class is all about our sharing our insights into what we find funny and why we can experience humor and joy in this complicated and difficult time. This class should feature lots of laughs for all of us. Laughter increases intake of oxygen-rich air and improves circulation so it's good for our health and our enjoyment of life!

Format: Each of you will have the opportunity to select a topic that resonates with you and find the video or example that best amuses you—a delightful assignment as you then share it with your classmates who will provide equally amusing materials for all to share. Note that presentations can be any mixture of personal stories, jokes, images, stand-up comedy, or film/TV clips. Personal stories are especially welcome as those often elicit the biggest BELLY LAUGHS! This is a Zoom video conferencing class (see box on page 2 for more information).

Resources/Expenses: There are no anticipated expenses. Participants will be encouraged to find resources online or in libraries to help understand what makes us laugh. Sam Grabelle will work with participants to help class members find online content, and create and share presentations.

Coordinators: Eugene Mihaly and Norma Rossi Mead have led a number of serious-minded programs for LLC. These trying times have inspired them to try something new—an emphasis on humor. Sam Grabelle, who was the tech expert in the first Laughter course, has joined Gene and Norma as a co-coordinator for this second offering.

Thursday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 12-Nov 21 (No class Oct 3)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 30

Theater Conversations

Coordinators: Kathy Webster, Mike Webster

Join our popular Theater Conversations course as we attend plays, discuss them, learn from each other, and enjoy visitors from the productions! We will feature *POTUS, Or Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying To Keep Him Alive* by Selina Fillinger and *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson Apt. 2B* by Kate Hamill at Trinity Repertory Company; *The Effect* by Lucy Prebble and Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* at the Gamm; *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Schreck at the Wilbury Theatre Group; a play at the Burbage Theatre Company and at the Brown/Trinity MFA Program to be announced later.

Format: Participants will attend a performance of each play. Each class member is expected to present material or lead a short, lively class discussion on aspects of a play, including production features, themes, the playwright's background and intent as well as the director's interpretation. Actors or other members of the theater companies will join the class on several occasions to enrich our understanding of the plays and the production process.

Resources/Expenses: Total expenses of about \$175 for most dates, including special group rates.

Coordinators: Kathy and Mike Webster are active supporters of our local theater companies and have coordinated this course for many years.

THURSDAY MORNINGS

Thursday mornings

Temple Beth-El & Zoom

Videoconference Hybrid Class

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 12-Dec 5 (No class Oct 3, Oct 17, or Nov 28 – All on Zoom Oct 24)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 21 (14 TBE & 7 Zoom)

“Ah yes, I remember it well!” Or Not! Our Brains, Our Memory, and Brain Health

Coordinators: Bob Kemp, Linda Shamoon, Karen Stein

Is dementia inevitable as we age? Did that first kiss really happen the way we remember it? Do our brains stop developing at age 25? Neuroplasticity? What’s that about? Aging – is it a disease? If so, could it be cured? We will turn to brain science, developmental psychology, neurobiology, as well as philosophy to learn the latest thinking about the human brain, memory, and brain health. We aim to increase our understanding of the development and inner workings of our brains across our lifetimes, with an emphasis on memory, how memories are made, and why they are usually wrong. We’ll also check out other brain functions and dysfunctions, challenge ourselves to develop brain-healthy habits, and decide if we want to live forever.

Format: Presentations and discussion. Participants will pick a topic from an extensive list of suggestions to give a presentation with discussion. The coordinators will provide suggestions and help. This is a hybrid

class held in-person and on Zoom video conferencing (see box on page 2 for more information).

Resources/Expenses: No required expenses. Books, movies, podcasts etc will be strongly recommended and they might involve an expense, but will not be required.

Coordinators: Bob Kemp, a retired attorney, co-coordinated Huckleberry Finn, Frankenstein, and several other LLC courses. Linda Shamoon, a retired URI professor, taught courses on writing in electronic environments, and is chair of LLC’s Technology Committee. Karen Stein was a professor of American Literature and of Women’s Studies at URI. Bob, Linda and Karen co-coordinated the popular course on AI (Artificial Intelligence): The End of Humanity or the Beginning of a Better Future?

Thursday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 12-Nov 21 (No class Oct 3)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Dark Humor, Social Satire and Science Fiction: Short Stories by George Saunders and Kurt Vonnegut

Coordinators: Patricia Becker, Stuart Einhorn

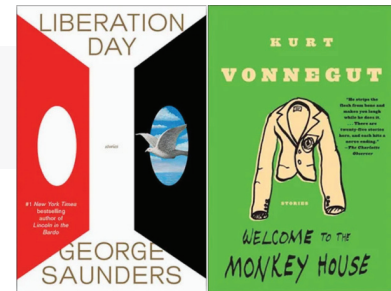
Join us as we experience two visions of American life: one from the 1950-60’s and one from today. Kurt Vonnegut has long been considered one of our most insightful and sharp-witted commentators of American life. From his first short stories in the early 1950’s until his death in 2007, he has been a darkly witty and sometimes troubling commentator of our times. These stories range

from the ordinary to chillingly dystopic visions of what our life could be in 2081 and beyond. George Saunders newest collection of stories reinforces why he is still one of America’s most impressive and imaginative writers. Saunders’ stories can be somewhat surreal, appalling or even shocking but somehow always darkly fun. No matter where and when the setting, the present or the future, his stories are always slyly relevant to life today.

Format: Each week there will be two presentations, one story by each author, followed by discussions based on these selections and the comparative visions of the authors.

Resources/Expenses: *Liberation Day* by George Saunders and *Welcome to the Monkey House* by Kurt Vonnegut are both available on Alibris.com and Amazon. Prices range from new at \$14.59 to \$2.27 for used copies. Alibris, supporting independent bookstores, tends to be less costly.

Coordinators: Patricia Becker has coordinated a number of contemporary short story classes. Stuart Einhorn has coordinated short story courses on Magical Realism, Haruki Murakami/George Saunders.



Come learn with us! In-person or at home.

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

Thursday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00-3:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 12-Nov 21 (No class Oct 3)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Women in Comedy

Coordinators: Cheryl Campbell, Margaret Lawrence

Can women be funny? From vaudeville to late night TV, women have been answering that question with an emphatic “Yes!”. They practiced their comic craft in nightclubs, on stage, radio, TV and, more recently, via social media and streaming services. No longer expected to be attractive singers and dancers, women’s comedy has evolved to reflect our changing society and women’s place within it. In turn, women’s humor has changed the industry. In this course we will study the careers of funny ladies and the men who helped them on their way.

Format: Each participant will lead a one-hour discussion of a female comic or group of comics chosen from the syllabus. We will laugh together as we watch video interviews or clips showcasing each woman’s humor.

Resources/Expenses: There is no textbook. Information can be found on the Internet and through the library. The coordinators can help locate and show video clips.

Coordinators: Both Cheryl Campbell and Margaret Lawrence have led LLC courses and have a lifetime of experience laughing.



Thursday afternoons

Temple Beth-El & 1 local museum

1:00-3:00 PM

6 weeks

Oct 17-Nov 21

Fee: \$35

Class size limit: 15

Close Encounters with Words and Images: Exploring Poems Inspired By Famous Paintings

Coordinators: Maggie Miles, Nick Miles

Have you ever stood in front of a painting and tried to imagine the story the artist is depicting? Writing inspired by visual art dates to Homer’s description of the Shield of Achilles in *The Iliad*. W. H. Auden, John Keats and Anne Sexton are among many poets who have penned poems about artwork—or what is known as “ekphrastic writing” from the Greek meaning a verbal description of a work of art. In this six-week course, we will study well-known paintings and the poems they have inspired. We will also visit the Providence Art Club or the RISD Museum for inspiration for our own writing, whether it be a short narrative or a free-verse poem. No experience in art history or creative writing is required!

Format: On the first day, the coordinators will present several examples of paintings and the poems they inspired. Then, either on your own or with a partner, you will lead a brief discussion of a well-known painting and its corresponding poem.

Resources/Expenses: You will have access to a comprehensive website with images of paintings and corresponding poems. No research is required other than a brief bio of the artist and poet. Tech help is available.

Coordinators: Maggie Miles and Nick Miles have coordinated a number of LLC courses.

Thursday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00-3:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 12-Nov 21 (No class Oct 3)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

Writing a Memoir

Coordinators: Diana Grady, Lorraine Kaul, Ruth Mills

Have you always wanted to write your life’s story but never seem to get started? This class is devoted to encouraging you to take those steps. You will have an opportunity to share your stories with your fellow writers. Classmates will provide encouragement and suggestions. Writing a memoir provides a way to save your family stories for those who will someday be grateful that you did. Sharing these stories can help us connect with others who have similar experiences. Finally, memoir writing may have a therapeutic effect as you revisit painful or complicated events from your past.

Format: Members are expected to participate in writing and sharing approximately 1,200 words about every other week. Optional writing prompts will be available to those who want them.

Resources/Expenses: None.

Coordinators: Diana Grady taught English Language Arts for 40 years in the Swansea School System and Writing Enhancement in the Gomes Elementary School in New Bedford. She is the editor of LLC’s *The Lark*. Lorraine Kaul has been the owner of a consultation company and has authored several wellness articles and a poetry book. Ruth Mills has taught English at the high school level. Diana, Lorraine and Ruth have all participated in the Memoir class many times as a Coordinator, Co-coordinator or class member.

FRIDAY MORNINGS

Friday mornings

Zoom Videoconference

10:00-11:00 AM (Note 1 hr length)

8 weeks

Sep 20-Nov 15 (No class Oct 4)

Fee: \$95

Class size limit: 18

Get Fit at Home

Instructor: Adam Stone / Coordinator: Sam Shamoan

NOTE: This is a repeat of a popular course that has been offered many semesters. Participation in this class is at your own risk. Registrants will receive a waiver to sign upon registration.

Are you still sitting around since the Coronavirus lockdown, or do you just need some motivation? Join us in a personalized exercise course to help you get back on your feet with increased stamina, strength, agility, flexibility, and overall health.

Format: Our instructor, Adam Stone, will lead you through effective, safe, and functional exercises and offer individual feedback to ensure you employ proper techniques that are appropriate for Seniors. **NOTE:** The coordinator will record each Zoom session (see box on page 2 for more information) and email a link to each class member. This is for your own use only and not to be distributed anywhere. You will only see the instructor, not yourself or any class member. The purpose is so you can practice the moves on your own time and pace.

Resources/Expenses: You will need a set of exercise bands, dumbbells and one or more knee bands, all available locally or from Amazon.

Instructor: Adam Stone is the owner of STONEFIT, an independent Rhode Island based personal training company.

Coordinator: Sam Shamoan, an accomplished LLC coordinator, has been Adam's student for several years and is delighted with the results.

Friday mornings

Temple Beth-El & Zoom

Videoconference Hybrid Class

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

9 weeks

Sep 13-Nov 15 (No class Oct 4)

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 21 (14 TBE & 7 Zoom)

It's About Time: The Anthropology of Time

Coordinator: Donna Kerner

Why do we feel 'disoriented' when we change the clocks in the fall or spring or when we travel some distance and experience 'jet lag'? How do concepts such as 'arrive on time,' 'wasting time' or accomplishing something in a 'timely manner' reveal the way our culture associates time with certain moral values? How does our experience of time change as we grow older? Is there really 'no time like the present'? Join us in a journey of discovery as we explore how cultures have constructed and experienced time through the ages from the first prehistoric records of time reckoning to pre-literate experiences of time/space to the use of time-keeping objects to signify state power and extend empires. We will explore topics such as how time is related to location, to faith, to labor/markets, and to war.

Format: This highly interactive and collaborative class will use David Rooney's *About Time: The History of Civilization in Twelve Clocks* (W.W. Norton, 2021) as a point of departure, but readings, films, and other materials will be contributed by class members as they facilitate weekly class discussions. This is a hybrid class held in-person and on Zoom (see box on page 2).

Resources/Expenses: Rooney's book is available online used in paperback for \$5.57 and up.

Coordinator: Donna Kerner is a cultural anthropologist who has lived much of her life in East Africa and the South Pacific conducting field research. Her research interests include Gender and Famines; Education and Class Mobility; Material Culture and Memory; and Entrepreneurship/Micro Finance. She is Professor Emerita at Wheaton College where she taught for 33 years and held the William Isaac Cole Endowed Chair.

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

Friday afternoons

Zoom Videoconference

1:00-3:00 PM

10 weeks

Sep 13-Dec 6 (No class Oct 4, Oct 11, or Nov 29)

Fee: \$55

Class size limit: 20

The History and Culture of Ancient Persia

Coordinator: Robert Martin

Based on what we know of 21st century Iran, you might never guess the grand and ancient history of Persia. The kings of Persia's Achaemenid Dynasty, dating to around 550 BCE, created one of the largest and most influential empires in history, rivaling China, Egypt and Rome. Falsely depicted as barbarians by Greek and Roman writers, the Persians established a culturally sophisticated and well-governed nation that helped shape the modern world. Our text, *Persians: The Age of the Great Kings*, by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones offers a thorough rebuttal of the traditional Western image of Persia. [Click here to view the course syllabus.](#)

Format: Class members will give presentations and lead discussions on topics that they will select from a list prepared by the coordinator. Presentations will be strongly encouraged but not required. This is a Zoom video conferencing class (see box on page 2 for more information).

Resources/Expenses: *Persians: The Age of the Great Kings* by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones is available for \$12 and up from online booksellers. Other readings will be articles downloadable from the Web at no expense.

Coordinator: Bob Martin has coordinated many LLC courses, such as The Epic of Gilgamesh and the Culture That Created It, and Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age.



UPDATED REGISTRATION POLICY – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

RECORDING POLICY. LLC does not permit recording of classes due to the resulting inhibition of free and comfortable exchange of ideas and opinions. Any exceptions must be approved by the LLC President.

PHOTO AND VIDEO PERMISSION. As LLC expands its efforts to attract new members, the Marketing Committee will occasionally seek to gather images and comments of members for use in promotional materials. By registering for an LLC class, you give permission for your image and/or comments to appear in photographs and videos taken during the class, to be used by LLC in any medium, including online and in print. Any photos/videos of in-person or Zoom classes will be made only with advance permission of the course coordinator(s), and videos will be short excerpts only.

REGISTRATION PAYMENT. Registration is accepted online (Visa/MasterCard) through our secure payment portal. Many of our classes fill on the first day of registration. To avoid disappointment, we suggest that you register early.

ENROLLMENT LIMITS. Lifelong Learning Collaborative (LLC) classes are filled on a “first come/first served” basis up to the enrollment limit. Enrollment limits will include coordinators. No exceptions will be made to the enrollment limits.

CLASS WAITING LISTS. A waiting list will be formed after a class fills up. Members will not have to pay the registration fee to be put on the waiting list. If a space becomes available, members on the waiting list will be contacted in order via email giving them the option to register. If the member has in the meantime elected to register for a second choice of class, they may transfer out of that class into the waitlisted class.

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATIONS. Confirmation of registration will be sent by email. If you do not receive confirmation immediately after registering, contact us at info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org. We are not responsible for registration errors or registrations that did not submit.

CLASS CANCELLATION. LLC reserves the right to cancel classes with fewer than ten participants. The decision will be made jointly by the coordinator and the Curriculum Committee chair. Those registered in cancelled classes will be given the opportunity to sign up for other classes or to receive a full refund.

WITHDRAWALS FROM A CLASS. If a registrant withdraws from a class for any reason, a refund, minus a \$10 administrative fee, will be issued up to one week before the start date of the class. No refunds will be issued after that time unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances. **REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING** (email info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org). Refund requests made through the Coordinator(s) will not be honored.

COURSE FEES FOR COORDINATORS. Coordinators do not register or pay for the courses they coordinate. They must, however, be paid members of LLC.

GUEST POLICY. Guests are welcome in LLC classes one time only, with the advance approval of the Coordinator(s). There are no auditors.

SEATING ACCOMMODATIONS. We understand that some LLC members may have difficulties with mobility and may use wheelchairs, walkers, or canes, or have difficulty with hearing or vision. Those members should notify the coordinator and arrive early for the first class to discuss what priority seating accommodations can be made.



Lifelong Learning
COLLABORATIVE

PO Box 2772
Attleboro, MA 02703
401.270.2556 Voice Mail
www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org
info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org

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