Wintersession 2027



Lifelong Learning
COLLABORATIVE

MONDAY MORNINGS

Monday mornings
Zoom Videoconference
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 11-Mar 1 (Note late start date)
Fee: $73 includes $28 (20% discount) FPA's Briefing Book
Class size limit: 23

Great Decisions

Coordinators: Dennis Flavin, David Hansen

If you want to dig into and better understand the issues that challenge today's world, many with serious implications for the United States, this course is for you! Great Decisions is a national civic education program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association. This year's class covers eight issues: American Foreign Policy and the Future of Multilateralism; American Options in the Middle East; The Future of Germany in Europe and the Atlantic World; U.S.-China: The Case for Engagement; Brazil and the Global South: Confronting a New America; AI and American Choices; Energy Security: Challenges for American Foreign Policy; and Organized Crime in the Americas.

Format: Expect a lively, highly collaborative exchange of presentations, opinions, and perspectives. The *2027 Great Decisions Briefing Book*, which provides a wealth of expert perspectives, background information, current data, and policy options, serves as a jumping off point for each discussion led by class members. Presentations are encouraged.

Resources/Expenses: Participants will need access to the Internet and will share articles and information drawn from newspapers, journals, books, magazines, and/or news releases with the group by email. Purchase of the briefing book is part of the program fee.

Coordinators: Dennis Flavin and Dave Hansen have coordinated many similar courses in the past and love nothing better than a good juicy discussion.

Monday mornings
Zoom Videoconference
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 4-Feb 22
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 20

Open Studio Art (Zoom)

Coordinator: Chuck Nickles

NOTE: An Open Studio Art class is offered at the Shriners Center on Tuesday AM.

Are you an artist who enjoys learning from others and wants to keep improving this winter? 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.

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

Coordinator: Chuck Nickles has taken many painting classes since joining LLC, and has also coordinated a number of LLC courses in the sciences.



Cover photograph, "Sunset in Bristol," was taken by LLC member Richard Robillard in our Cell Phone Photography Club (Wintersession 2025). A newer member of LLC, Dick and his wife Cheryl moved to Bristol three years ago from North Central Massachusetts. They were looking for an adult education experience and LLC fit the bill perfectly. Dick has taken several classes to learn about the local history and found the Cell Phone Photography Club was a perfect fit for his longtime love of photography. He looks forward to taking more courses in the future.

If you would like to enroll in a course but know you will miss more than two classes, please consider waiting until another session.

Please read entire Registration Policy on page 11.

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.

Classes fill up early — do not delay!

This is LLC.

Come learn with us!

MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Monday afternoons
Shriners Center
1:00-3:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 4-Feb 22
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 16

Zweig and the Zeitgeist: The Short Works of a Master Storyteller

Coordinators: Sandy Levis, Bob Lev

Stefan Zweig (1881-1942) is having a moment. After languishing in obscurity for generations, the once-popular and widely translated Austrian-Jewish author is now back in print, hailed by contemporary scholars as a master of psychological insight and an essential voice in diaspora literature. His stories, set in the cultural milieu of the doomed Habsburg Empire, explore the pressure of societal mores and conscience against individual desires, frequently featuring characters in the grip of obsession. Come learn what the buzz is all about!

Format: Each participant will be asked to prepare questions and lead a discussion on his or her selected story. There will be two presentations per week.

Resources/Expenses: *The Collected Stories of Stefan Zweig*, translated from German by Anthea Bell, Pushkin Press Classics. Available from Amazon for $18.97.

Coordinators: Sandy Levis is the former literary editor of *Pittsburgh Quarterly* and a member of the National Book Critics Circle. She previously coordinated last spring's group reading of Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*. Bob Lev is a retired pathologist who has enjoyed a wide variety of courses at LLC during the past 10 years.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

Tuesday mornings
Zoom Videoconference
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
6 weeks
Jan 5-Feb 23 (No class Jan 19 or Feb 9)
Fee: $35
Class size limit: 15

Writing a Memoir (Zoom)

Coordinators: Diana Grady, Ruth Mills

NOTE: Another session of Writing a Memoir is offered in-person at the Shriners Center on Thursday PM. Please note that this class will be very similar to the in-person class. People who have mobility concerns, or who have moved away, or who are stuck on the waitlist for the Thursday class may want to try this option.

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 up to 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 has participated in the Memoir Class for many semesters. She is the editor of *The Lark* and is a veteran class coordinator at LLC. She was recently elected to be LLC's Vice President. Ruth Mills has taught English at the high school level. She has co-coordinated the Memoir class and several other courses for many semesters. She currently serves as the Secretary for LLC's Executive Board.



Writing a Memoir post-class lunch, Spring 2026

Registration opens Monday, November 30, 2026 @ 9 AM.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

Tuesday mornings
Shriners Center
10:15 AM-12:15 PM (Note late start and end times)
8 weeks
Jan 5-Feb 23
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 22

Scrabble Social Group
Coordinators: Tracey Zeckhausen, John Mignault

Do you have fond memories of playing Scrabble in your past? Now is the chance to get back in the game. Are you someone who has always loved the game but doesn't have people to play with regularly? With this group, you'll be guaranteed two games per week with different people each week. All levels are welcome.

Format: LLC provides boards and Scrabble dictionaries. Players draw a colored stick to determine where to sit. This allows us to get to know each other and ensures you won't be playing with the same people each week. You don't need to attend every week, but you do need to RSVP to the weekly email, so we know whether to expect you for play, or lunch, or both. Please plan to arrive before 10:10 to help set up so that we can begin play at 10:15. The coordinators and other past players will be on hand for rules clarification and other questions. Those who wish may gather afterwards at a nearby restaurant for lunch and conversation. We have a list of restaurants featuring a variety of cuisines that we cycle through.

Resources/Expenses: There are no expenses.

Coordinators: Tracey Zeckhausen is a retired public relations/communications professional who has loved the game of Scrabble since a young age. She enjoys many different word games, leads a pickleball league in Pawtucket, is a coordinator of her Meetup group, and is active in her church. She has coordinated the group for the past several years. John Mignault joined LLC's Scrabble group after a long hiatus from the game and finds it an ideal setting for keeping his mind sharp while meeting great people and having fun.

Tuesday mornings
Shriners Center
10:00 AM-12:30 PM (Note additional 1/2 hour)
8 weeks
Jan 5-Feb 23
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 14

Open Studio Art (In-person)
Coordinator: Susan Van Horne

NOTE: An Open Studio Art class is also offered on Zoom on Monday AM.

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

Format: Members will join together at the Shriners Center each week, bringing their own painting supplies and working independently on their own work. The session will end with everyone sharing their work and participating in a gentle critique.

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

Coordinator: Susan Van Horne has been a plein air and studio art painter since joining LLC almost ten years ago, and has coordinated a variety of LLC art courses. Art has been her passion since she retired from her nursing career.

Registration PreCheck Week Tips & Links

Online Course Catalog | Member Log In | Recover Your Username/Password | New Members Start Here

Look for our registration email on Monday, November 30 @ 8:45 AM with direct links to register.

If you are not already on our mailing list, click to sign up.

- If you would like to enroll in a course but know you will miss more than two classes, please consider waiting until another session. Please read our entire registration policy on page 11.
- Registration confirmation will be sent by email. If you do not receive confirmation immediately after registering, please contact us. We are not responsible for registration errors or registrations that did not submit.
- Please register carefully! Each semester there are withdrawals due to confusion about Zoom and in-person classes. Class locations are clearly indicated.
- DO YOU KNOW YOUR LOG IN? Classes fill up quickly. Don't get shut out of a class because of log in issues. Click **Member Log In** to make sure your log in works.
- FORGOT YOUR USERNAME/PASSWORD? Click **Recover Your Username/Password**. Note the username that appears on the screen before you reset the password. Log ins are case sensitive.
- NEW TO LLC? You must be a member of LLC to register for classes. Click **New Members Start Here** to create your member account and pay dues ($40 yearly). Note your username and password and keep it handy for future course registrations.

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS

Tuesday afternoons
Shriners Center
1:00-3:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 5-Feb 23
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 22

Introduction to Mah Jongg (For Beginners only)

Coordinators: Pat Nickles, Laura Tucker

NOTE: This is a repeat of the course that was offered in the Fall of 2026, and is for beginners only. The Mah Jongg Club is offered on Wednesday PM.

Ready to learn a game that is equal parts strategy, luck, and dramatically whispering, "Wait… may I call that?" In this beginner-friendly Mah Jongg course, you'll get comfortable with the tiles, learn how to read the card without blinking in panic, and finally understand what on earth the Charleston is. We'll cover the basics of setup, gameplay, and etiquette, with plenty of practice and zero judgment if you accidentally fall in love with the Jokers. With clear instruction, guided practice, and a welcoming atmosphere, this course takes the mystery out of the game and helps you build the skills you'll need to join any Mah Jongg game.

Format: Week one will be learning and practice exercises. By the second hour of week two, you'll be playing the game. Each week will start with some hints and tips for the first 10 minutes. During the last few weeks, we'll introduce fun variations and set-ups for playing with three or even two players. Optional homework will be to practice on free Mah Jongg websites.

Resources/Expenses: $15 to purchase the 2026 National Mah Jongg League card directly from the NML (nationalmahjonggleague.org).

Coordinators: Pat Nickles is a member of the Culture Committee and has coordinated a variety of courses at LLC. Laura Tucker learned MJ nine years ago at LLC and continues to love the game. (Thank you, LLC!) She is a member of the LLC Curriculum Committee and the Tech Team.

Tuesday afternoons
Shriners Center
1:00-3:00 PM
4 weeks
Jan 5-Feb 16 (No class Jan 12, Jan 26, or Feb 9)
Fee: $25
Class size limit: 20

Cell Phone Photography Club

Coordinators: Ellen Fingeret, Margaret Lawrence

The Cell Phone Photo 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. Improving our use of our phone cameras; trying new genres of photography, such as street, landscape, and low-light photography; learning from each other; and sharing our photos with a congenial group 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 like to learn more. This is your opportunity.

Format: Themes suitable for winter will be provided in the class calendar. Club members are expected to help with emailing photos and notices, and with assembling photo slideshows. During the meetings we will share unedited and edited versions of our photos and discuss the techniques that we have used to create the finished version. These discussions will form the basis for further instruction. There are no pre-set field trips.

Resources/Expenses: There is no text. Participants may share links to online materials that enhance our photo and editing skills. No expenses.

Coordinators: Both Ellen and Margaret are enthusiastic cell phone photographers and photo editors.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

Wednesday mornings
Shriners Center
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 6-Feb 24
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 18

American Quilts and the Stories They Tell

Coordinators: Lucia Watson, Carol Fay

Quilts have developed from a utilitarian necessity to a powerful canvas for storytelling, social commentary, historical documentation, and artistic expression. In this course, we'll explore American quilts from the Colonial period to today's vibrant quilt scene. Topics will include 17th and 18th century quilts; the Industrial Revolution and the impact of the cotton gin, powered looms, and the sewing machine; quilts for suffrage and abolition; coded quilts for the Underground Railroad; and Gee's Bend and African American quilt traditions. Then, the quilt revival of the 1970s, modern quilts, message quilts, and the people involved in the quilt world: designers, collectors, and quilters! We'll view many wonderful and thought-provoking quilts on slides and provide links to a wide range of articles and videos.

Format: Each class member will give a 30–45-minute presentation on a topic selected from the syllabus.

Resources/Expenses: Online readings and videos will be assigned. There are no expenses.

Coordinators: Carol Fay and Lucia Watson are LLC members and active quilters, who look forward to sharing the amazing, creative world of quilts!

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

Wednesday mornings
Shriners Center & Zoom
Videoconference (Hybrid class)
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 6-Feb 24
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 23 (18 in-person & 5 Zoom)

Hot Stove League: Talking Baseball

Coordinators: Mark Guyer, Richard Brush

Why Time Begins on Opening Day, a book by the sportswriter Tom Boswell, says it all: there is nothing like baseball. It is the most boring of sports and the tensest. It has more than a century of history while it is being updated daily during the summer. And during the winter fans love to talk about it. About the past season and about the upcoming season. About the World Series just concluded and Spring Training about to begin. About past seasons, teams, players, ball parks, and controversies. In this course, class members will have an opportunity to talk about their treasured baseball memories, argue about whether the game was better in "their day," and spend a few hours sharing their love of the game with other devotees.

Format: Class members will volunteer to be responsible for one class hour and to lead a discussion of a topic of their choice. A list of suggested topics will be provided but class members will be free to identify others. The only guidance is to choose a topic that you think will lead to an interesting class discussion, maybe including a few rhubarbs.

Resources/Expenses: Reading material will be provided or will be available from libraries and bookstores.

Coordinators: Mark Guyer is a life-long Brooklyn Dodgers fan. For most of his youth, Dick Brush was a long-suffering Boston Red Sox fan, but he has been happier in the last decade (until this year).

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

Wednesday afternoons
Zoom Videoconference
1:00-3:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 6-Feb 24
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 16

Hot Topics

Coordinators: Hugh Campbell, 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 presenter 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. Any medium will do, paper or electronic, if the topics are timely, and *hot*. Some of the topics presented recently include the American presidential election, artificial intelligence, ethics and the Supreme Court, a revisit of nuclear energy, politics of the U.S. debt limit, and the current state of electric vehicles.

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. As this is primarily a discussion class, other than the article, no presentation is required.

Resources/Expenses: Participants will need access to the 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 and Lee Golden have successfully coordinated this very popular course many times in the past.

Wednesday afternoons
Private Home on the East Side
1:00-3:00 PM
9 weeks
Jan 6-Mar 3
Fee: $50
Class size limit: 21

Jewish Style Breads, Bagels, and Rolls

Coordinator: Robert Sandy

NOTE: Since LLC does not maintain insurance for courses held outside of the Shriners Center, participants must sign a waiver to participate. Look for the waiver link in your registration confirmation email.

In this course you will learn how to use traditional ingredients to hand make nine different Jewish style breads and rolls: such as challah, Kaiser rolls, bagels, rye bread, and pumpernickel. The goal: everyone will be able to make these at home. In this third offering of the course there will be new variants of pita bread and sourdough.

Format: The coordinator will demonstrate how to mix, knead, proof, shape, and bake a product. Each week every class member will mix and knead the product so that it will be ready to bake at home. Class members who made the previous week's product at home will bring samples to taste and talk for around fifteen minutes about any problems they encountered. You will also learn how to maintain a sourdough starter and use it in breads and bagels. Wear old clothes to class and bring an apron. Expect to get messy!

Resources/Expenses: We'll use some specialized ingredients, including rye, first clear, high gluten flours. Each class member will receive five pounds of each type of flour. (Note: $30 material costs will be collected at the first class.)

Coordinator: Bob Sandy's father owned a Jewish bakery in Detroit. Bob worked there through high school and college and has been baking at home ever since.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

Wednesday afternoons
Shriners Center
1:00-3:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 6-Feb 24
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 10

LLC Knits
Coordinator: Doris Briggs

Join LLC Knits for comfort knitting this winter. Interested in a challenge? Have a project in mind? Try cables, color work, mosaic knitting, socks or mittens, or a project of your choice. Time will be provided to discuss all projects. The only requirement is that you know knitting basics.

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. Class time includes review of individual projects, knitting tips and tricks, words of wisdom and encouragement. The only requirement is that you know basic knitting.

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 LLC's previous knitting classes.

Wednesday afternoons
Shriners Center
12:00-2:00 PM (Note early start time)
8 weeks
Jan 6-Feb 24
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 20

LLC's Inaugural Mah Jongg Club
Coordinators: Jill Tobak, Karen Borger, Shari Levine

NOTE: If you are interested in learning the game, Introduction to Mah Jongg is offered on Tuesday PM.

Come play Mah Jongg with us! Here is your opportunity to play Mah Jongg with fellow LLC members who share your love of the game. Our goal is to provide a fun, kind-hearted atmosphere where not-so-experienced and experienced players can thrive. We'll have tables for the two experience levels. (This is not a How to Play Mah Jongg class.)

Format: This is a Mah Jongg players club. We have room for five tables, 20 players.

Resources/Expenses: Each player must have a current (2026) National Mah Jongg League card. Every player should know the rules for Mah Jongg and be willing to play with three players should that be necessary. We will use LLC's Mah Jongg equipment for play.

Coordinators: Jill Tobak, Karen Borger, and Shari Levine love playing Mah Jongg and look forward to being with likeminded folks.

THURSDAY MORNINGS

Thursday mornings
Shriners Center
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
6 weeks
Jan 7-Feb 11
Fee: $35
Class size limit: 18

The Orchestra's Lost and Found Departments
Coordinator: Jessica Siegel

In this course we'll learn about the history and development of the lesser-known instruments of the orchestra. We will also take a musical discovery journey with humor, unusual facts, stories about composers and performers, and musical excerpts that let participants hear instruments they might otherwise overlook or which are lost in time.

Format: The course is organized around six sessions devoted to instruments and two sessions devoted to films, documentaries, or unusual musical themes. Participants select their topics, research them, and share what they've discovered. Presenters are encouraged to play recordings rather than simply talk about their instruments. A three-minute performance by an extraordinary bassoonist can be much more memorable than ten minutes of explanation! We plan on two participant presentations per instrument-focused week, with two themed viewing and discussion sessions. Click here to see the syllabus and and the suggested list of instruments "that got away," including the Serpent, Ophicleide, Arpeggione, and Heckelphone.



Resources/Expenses: None beyond access to the Internet.

Coordinator: Jessica Siegel holds a master's degree in Harp Performance from The Cleveland Institute of Music where she studied with the world-famous harpist, Alice Chalifoux. In addition to teaching the harp, she has played with various orchestras, including the San Francisco and Oakland Symphony Orchestras, and has over 25 years' experience performing at weddings and social events.

Class calendar available at lifelonglearningcollaborative.org/calendar.

THURSDAY MORNINGS

Thursday mornings
Zoom Videoconference
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 7-Feb 25
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 18

The Papacy and the Power of Art

Coordinator: Linda Guccione

The Papacy is widely considered the longest-running absolute monarchy in the world, with a lineage that traces back nearly 2,000 years to St. Peter in the 1st century CE. It has exercised spiritual, political, and cultural influence over Western history through a combination of religious leadership, temporal governance, and moral authority. Like emperors and rulers through the ages, the Popes used art and architecture to enhance their authority and showcase their power. Other incentives were to ensure their family legacies and transform Rome into the cultural capital of the Christian world. The papacy is history's most ambitious sponsor of art and architecture. During the course, we will look at some significant popes and the art and architecture that they supported and sponsored. We will also look at the Vatican Museums, how they began, why they exist, and what they contain. This is not a course on theology, though some may creep in here and there, but a look at how powerful leaders used art to further their ambitions and promote their agendas.

Format: Presentations of 20-30 minutes will be expected from all participants. Topics will be suggested in the syllabus. Presentations need not include slide shows such as PowerPoint.

Resources/Expenses: There are no expenses anticipated. Research resources will be suggested in the syllabus. Readings and videos may be assigned by the coordinator. Not required but a good overall book is *Absolute Monarchs: A History of the Papacy* by John Julius Norwich.

Coordinator: Linda Guccione has coordinated a number of popular LLC courses focusing on in-depth studies of Italian history, cities, art, music, literature, and culture.

Thursday mornings
Zoom Videoconference
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 7-Feb 25
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 15

The Road Back from Autocracy

Coordinators: Eugene Mihaly, Norma Rossi Mead, Carolyn Roberts

The United States federal government is now arguably defined as an authoritarian entity. The path back to democracy is a difficult one, but not impossible. Other nations have returned from autocracy to democracy. This course will explore the road back that has been taken by such nations as Portugal, Spain, Benin, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and others. Throughout the course, we shall explore two central questions: Are there lessons to be learned from these other nations' trajectories? And, if so, what actions could a future American administration and polity take to bend the curve back toward democracy?

Format: Participants will delve into and report on country cases studies. Cases, topics, and dates for discussion will be circulated by the coordinators in advance. If the course is full, two participants will team up for each case.

Resources/Expenses: None anticipated.

Coordinators: Eugene Mihaly trained in history and international relations and has coordinated many LLC courses in the fields of history and politics. Carolyn Roberts has been an active member of LLC for seven years and has a long history in executive leadership and policy. Norma Rossi Mead has been Director of Continuing Education for Bradley University and ran the successful LLC school tutoring program for many years.

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

Thursday afternoons
Zoom Videoconference
1:00-3:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 7-Feb 25
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 14

Collage—cut it, rip it, paste it! How to construct your own collage

Coordinator: Michael Walczak

Have you admired collages and wanted to learn how to make your own? Join us as an experienced artist leads us through the process. Cut it, rip it, paste it is the focus of this abstract collage course that brings us a number of magical and narrative images. Michael will help each class member construct collages and learn from one other.

Format: Each week, the coordinator will give a short instruction session and then the class members will construct a collage with the coordinator's general supervision. Members will work independently while on Zoom. A gentle critique will follow, as well as sharing of experiences and discoveries.

Resources/Expenses: Expenses for basic decorative and colored papers will be about $25, with perhaps more as the course goes on depending on the member's imagination and paper selected. The class will discuss some material options bought from home such as scissors, tape, glue. etc. A full materials list will be provided in class.

Coordinator: Michael Walczak studied at The Museum School Boston and the Fine Arts Work Center. He has taught at levels from grade school to university, and recently to senior citizens in Hamilton House, and is a practicing professional collage artist.

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

Thursday afternoons
Shriners Center
12:30-2:30 PM (Note early start)
8 weeks
Jan 7-Feb 25
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 15

Writing a Memoir (In-person)

Coordinators: Lisa Miles, Ruth Mills

NOTE: Another session of *Writing a Memoir* is offered on Zoom on Tuesday AM.

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: Lisa Miles has been a member of LLC for a year and has participated in the Memoir class every semester. Originally from Massachusetts, she spent 20 years in Virginia, most of those working in higher education. She's excited to be back in New England and helping to coordinate this wonderful class. Ruth Mills has taught English at the high school level. She has co-coordinated the Memoir class and several other courses for many semesters. She currently serves as the Secretary for LLC's Executive Board.

FRIDAY MORNINGS

Friday mornings
Shriners Center & Zoom
Videoconference (Hybrid class)
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
9 weeks
Jan 8-Mar 5
Fee: $50
Class size limit: 26 (16 in-person & 10 Zoom)

AI: How it Gets Made, What It Does, and Why It's So Darned Controversial

Coordinators: Art Norwalk, Tom Colby

This version of the long-running popular course, *How Things Get Made*, will take a deep dive into the biggest technology, business, and economic story of the century so far: Artificial Intelligence. We'll explore what it is and how it's created; from there, we'll examine questions about AI's lofty promises and potential perils. Will it be a boon to the economy or a job killer? What are data centers and why are they simultaneously essential to AI and widely hated? How is a Large Language Model made and what does it do? What are the present and likely future pluses and minuses of AI in manufacturing, research, medicine, product design, and marketing? How is AI used and misused in academics, media, and the arts?

Format: Each participant will cover one aspect of the AI story. Options include showing illustrative videos, telling a story with commentary (with or without slides), posing provocative questions to the group, inviting a guest speaker to class. Other forms for presentations are welcome. Coordinators are available to assist participants in developing presentations.

Resources/Expenses: Participants can find a wealth of material on AI and related topics online. There are no required reading assignments.

Coordinators: Art Norwalk is retired from a career in broadcast journalism, public relations, and marketing communications. He has taken and coordinated numerous courses in 5+ years with LLC. Tom Colby has been a member of LLC since 2023. He enjoys electronics, all things computer, and woodworking/model building. As a representative of the Tech Team, he has co-coordinated several courses.

Friday mornings
Zoom Videoconference
10:00-11:00 AM (Note 1 hour)
8 weeks
Jan 8-Feb 26
Fee: $95
Class size limit: 18

Personal Training at Home

Instructor: Adam Stone / Coordinator: Judy Nudelman

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.

Come join us in this enjoyable weekly hour exercise class led by a highly experienced personal trainer, Adam Stone. Experience personalized, carefully structured workouts. Each participant will get feedback on their form, technique, and modifications. The exercise sessions focus on strength training, flexibility, balance, and aerobic conditioning. The science is clear that resistance training has massive benefits for your health and well-being. Dr. Eric Topol, a leading voice on "super aging," emphasizes that resistance training is crucial, not just optional, for extending health span, significantly lowering mortality risk, building muscle, improving bone density, balance, and immune function. Our exceptional trainer, Adam Stone, personalizes every workout to accommodate each participant's health issues and needs. In his goal to improve our health while avoiding injury, Adam is always available for questions/modifications.

Format: This popular class is on Zoom: you only need a small space and some inexpensive equipment. The class is recorded—featuring just Adam—and distributed to the participants.

Resources/Expenses: You will need free weights, a band to place on the legs, a mat, and flexible bands with handles. Sources for purchases will be provided by the coordinator.

Coordinator: Judy Nudelman is a nearly retired family physician who has benefited greatly from the class.

FRIDAY MORNINGS

Friday mornings
Shriners Center & The Gamm
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
3 weeks
Jan 8, Jan 15 (at The Gamm), Jan 22
Fee: $20
Class size limit: 25

The English Understand Wool: Taking the Novella from Page to Stage

Coordinator: Sheila Brush



NOTE: Class meets January 8 & 22 at the Shriners Center and January 15 at The Gamm for an AM performance.

When author Ann Patchett read Helen DeWitt's novella *The English Understand Wool*, she described it as " ...the best thing ever. This is the strangest, most subversive, clever, fabulous, funny, wild, tiny, gorgeous read." Gamm Theatre Artistic Director Tony Estrella is another DeWitt fan. He decided her novella was the perfect choice to begin a new Gamm play development initiative, focused on transforming non-theatrical works into new works for the stage.

Format: In this three-week course, we'll study the novella-to-play metamorphosis. We'll first learn about Helen DeWitt and discuss her novella, then attend a morning performance of the theatrical adaptation at the Gamm. In our final class, we'll discuss the production and talk with Tony Estrella about the process of transforming a novella to a play. Class members should read the novella before the first class.

Resources/Expenses: $20 for ticket to attend Gamm morning performance; purchase of the novella *The English Understand Wool* (new on Amazon for $15.95; also available used on various sites).

Coordinator: Sheila Brush is a huge fan of Rhode Island's fertile theater community, and, like Ann Patchett and Tony Estrella, fell in love with Helen DeWitt's novella *The English Understand Wool*. She has co-coordinated a number of courses on varied topics, including this fall's *Theater Conversations*.

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

Friday afternoons
Shriners Center
1:00-3:00 PM
8 weeks
Jan 8-Feb 26
Fee: $45
Class size limit: 18

Jane Jacobs, Urban Expert and Activist, on the Principles of Ecology and Economics

Coordinators: Matt Hodge, Robert Sandy

What factors sustain a diverse and thriving ecosystem while others stagnate and fail? What inputs lead to successful and growing economies? In her book, *The Nature of Economies*, Jane Jacobs describes the common principles at work in both ecology and economics to explain what leads to long-term success. She examines the importance of diversity, innovation, feedback loops, and resource management, as well as introducing topics such as bio-mimicry, and the unexpected role of aesthetic appreciation to our survival. Jacobs was an "urbanist" but did not limit herself to fighting for more sensible and livable cities. Her study of the policies and practices that led to success or failure in urban environments informed much of her subsequent work, including inquiries into global questions of the impacts of economic, social, and ecological conditions as key factors in determining history's "winners" and "losers."

Format: We will read Jacobs' book and delve into the examples she provides to further understand the principles she proposes. No background in economics or ecology is required, as the ideas are presented plainly. Classmates will choose topics from a selected list to explore further and lead a class discussion on the ideas.

Resources/Expenses: *The Nature of Economies* (2000) by Jane Jacobs is readily available from both used and new booksellers. Any other readings will be provided as hard copies and/or links by the coordinators.

Coordinators: Matt Hodge taught history and geography in the Warwick school system for 33 years. He recently coordinated *Rhode Island's Favorite Places*. Bob Sandy has taught popular courses on *Jewish Style Bread Baking, Austo-Hungarian Pastries,* and *Electric Vehicles*. Until 2011 he was Professor of Economics at Indiana University in Indianapolis.



Lifelong Learning
COLLABORATIVE

REGISTRATION POLICY

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. 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
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