

OLLI at WVU®

COURSE CATALOG

Winter 2026

**Lifelong Learning,
Lasting Friendships**

Page 2

**Winter Classes, Workshops,
Special Events, and More**

Starting on Page 4

**See the World! Travel
with OLLI in 2026**

Page 22

Registration Opens January 5

Classes Begin in January



West Virginia University®



OLLI



GERIATRIC CARE

Aging sometimes means an increased potential for illness and health issues. At WVU Medicine, our caring team of board-certified geriatricians provides high-quality care for adults aged 60 and up.

With our team approach to senior health, we'll work with you and your family or caregivers to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases and possible disability that may occur with aging.

For an appointment:
855-WVU-CARE



WVUMedicine.org/Geriatrics

WELCOME TO WINTER 2026 AT THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT WVU



As winter settles in and a new year approaches, we invite you to embrace the spirit of curiosity. Lifelong learning isn't just about gaining knowledge—it's about opening doors to new ideas, perspectives, and experiences. Each course in this catalog offers a chance to explore something new, revisit a favorite subject, or challenge yourself in a fresh way.

At OLLI, we believe curiosity keeps us vibrant and connected. Whether you're joining a discussion on

history, diving into the arts, or exploring technology, you'll find a community of learners eager to share the journey. This winter, let's celebrate the joy of discovery together.

If you're already a member, thank you for being with us this year—we look forward to seeing you in upcoming classes. If you haven't renewed your membership or are thinking about joining, we invite you to explore what OLLI offers and how it can fit into your life.

Looking for something that's not in the catalog? Tell us! Have an interest or skill others might enjoy? Consider teaching a class or facilitating a group. If cost is a concern, see page 3 for information about our financial assistance program. We hope you'll make OLLI part of your life this winter.

Thank you for being part of OLLI. Your enthusiasm and engagement help this program thrive. Here's to a season of learning, laughter, and growth.



Jascenna Haislet
Director, OLLI at WVU



DISCOVER. CONNECT. THRIVE.

OLLI ADVISORY COUNCIL 2025-26

Joyce Bower
Kerry Harbert
Kathryn Kay
Leslie Lovett, Chair
Joanna Lowley
Doretta Malone
Susan Martino
Clark McKee
Gary McKinney
Rosana Schafer
Merle Stolzenberg
Audra Hamrick, WVU School of
Public Health

EMERITUS ADVISORS

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Bev Kerr

OLLI STAFF

Jascenna Haislet, Director
Michelle Klishis, Professional
Technologist
Diane Cale, Program Assistant
Charlene Gaston, Office Volunteer

CATALOG DESIGN

Apis Creative

THE BERNARD OSHER FOUNDATION

The Bernard Osher Foundation seeks to improve quality of life through lifelong learning. Founded in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a respected businessman and community leader, the foundation funds a national network of more than 120 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, including the program at West Virginia University.

To learn more about the
Bernard Osher Foundation, visit
osherfoundation.org.

LIFELONG LEARNING, LASTING FR

OLLI at WVU®

Looking for a vibrant, welcoming community of adults 50 and older? At the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU, you'll **DISCOVER** new knowledge, **CONNECT** with new friends, and **THRIVE** through lifelong learning inside and outside the classroom.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free and discounted events
- Travel opportunities
- Shared interest groups
- “Ask a Geek” tech help
- A voice in OLLI governance
- Lifelong learning and community



STANDARD MEMBERSHIP

- Annual fee: \$30
 - Per-term enrollment fee: \$40*
- *Pay the term fee only when you register for classes.*

BROWSE WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WINTER!

- At-a-glance schedules: pages 4 – 7
- Member events and Shared Interest Groups: pages 8 – 9
- Class descriptions: pages 10 – 18
- OLLI After Hours and community events: page 19
- Travel opportunities: page 22

Join today at olliatwvu.org!

IENDSHIPS.



NEED HELP WITH COSTS?

Applications for financial assistance are confidential and easy to complete – ask at the OLLI office or visit olliatwvu.org/get-involved/scholarships.

For details about membership and term costs, payment options, how to join, and registering for classes, see Program Information, Policies, and Assistance, pages 27-28.



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CONTACT US

OSHER LIFELONG
LEARNING INSTITUTE
AT WVU

(304) 293-1793
Email: olli@hsc.wvu.edu
Online: olliatwvu.org

Mountaineer Mall (Main Office)
5000 Green Bag Road, Suite C-17
Morgantown, WV 26501

*For office visits, we recommend
calling ahead or making an
appointment as hours may
be limited.*

MORGANTOWN SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Winter registration opens January 5*. Classes start mid-January.

CLASS/INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
MONDAYS			
T'ai Chi in 30 - Intermediate (Pollard)	Jan 26 - Mar 30	10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	B
<i>The New Yorker</i> Discussion Group (Attfield, Attfield)	Jan 26 - Mar 16	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	A and Z
T'ai Chi in 30 - Introduction (Pollard)	Jan 26 - Mar 30	10:40 - 11:10 a.m.	B
Yarn Arts	Jan 5 - Mar 30	12:45 - 2:30 p.m.	A
The Future Was Then: The Changing Face of Fascist Italy (Murzenko)	Jan 26	1:00 - 2:30 pm.	Z
Mon River New Horizons Band (Schlobohm)	Jan 26 - Mar 30	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	A
More Musical Composers, Part 2 (Elkins)	Jan 26 - Feb 16	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Z
MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS			
Introduction to Spanish (Carrara)	Feb 2 - 25	12:00 - 1:00 p.m	Z
Origins: Life, the Universe, and Everything (Smosna)	Feb 2 - 25	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	B
MONDAYS/THURSDAYS			
Afternoon Walking Group	Jan 5 - Mar 30	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	OTHER
TUESDAYS			
Stress Management for Seniors Updated (Colvin)	Jan 20 and 27	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B and Z
Campus Club Morning Book Discussion (Ostrow)	Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	A and Z
Russian History (Hutchins)	Jan 27 - Feb 10	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Z
Whispers from the Past: Mysterious Deaths from History (Reddy)	Feb 3	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
The Past and Future of Mushrooms (Heyman)	Feb 10	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B and Z
Finding the Way Home: Poems ... (Nelson)	Feb 17	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B
The Internet (Klishis)	Feb 24 - Mar 10	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	B and Z
Quantum Leaps for Future Tech: The 2025 Nobel in Physics (Reddy)	Mar 4	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
Generations: A Study of Differences! (Colvin)	Jan 20 - Feb 3	12:45 - 2:45 p.m.	B and Z
What Is Addiction Anyway? (Price)	Jan 20 - Feb 10	12:45 - 2:15 p.m.	A
U.S. Federal Judiciary: Time for Reform? (Ball)	Feb 17	12:45 - 2:30 p.m.	A
Brick Lab	Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	A/B
Protecting Against Financial Fraud (FBI)	Jan 27	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	B and Z
Old Time Radios Shows Performance (Haislet)	Mar 10	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	B
Campus Club Evening Book Discussion (Attfield)	Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10	7:30 - 9:00 p.m.	Z
TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS			
Rehearsing Old Time Radio Shows (Haislet)	Feb 10 - Mar 10	3:00 - 4:45 p.m.	A
WEDNESDAYS			
Conscience Versus Convenience: JFK's <i>Profiles in Courage</i> (Hammersmith)	Jan 21 - 28	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	B and Z
The Iron Industry in Monongalia County (Venable)	Feb 11 - 25	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B and Z
Technology Security: Staying Safe (Klishis)	Mar 11	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B and Z
Learn to Play the Tin Whistle I (Strakusek)	Jan 21 - Feb 25	12:45 - 1:45 p.m.	A
A Late Lunch (Cale)	Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18	1:00 - 2:15 p.m.	OTHER



REGISTER TODAY!

See full class descriptions on pages 10-20 before registering. For the most up-to-date information on class schedules and space availability, visit our registration portal at wvusph-olli.augusoft.net.

CLASS/INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Learn to Play the Tin Whistle II (Strakusek)	Jan 21 - Feb 25	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	A
Wednesday Lecture Series	Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 4	2:30 - 3:45 p.m.	Z
The Wild & Wonderful World of Cat Shows (Mitchell)	Jan 21	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Z
Dixie: A Song, A Symbol, A Struggle (Kay)	Feb 4	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Z
Winter Trivia (Klishis, Hyde)	Feb 11	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Z
WEDNESDAYS/FRIDAYS			
Managing Chronic Conditions Through Exercise (Zapolnik)	Jan 21 - Feb 13	1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	A/B
THURSDAYS			
Walking Outdoors with Campus Club (Covey)	Jan 8 - Mar 26	9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	OTHER
Story Songs, Fun Songs (with ads)--Valentine's Special (Johnson)	Feb 12	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B and Z
Cúpla Focal: A Few Words of Irish (Fletcher)	Feb 26	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B and Z
Journey to Armenia: At the Crossroads of East and West (McKinney)	Mar 5	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Z
Story Songs, Fun Songs (with ads) March Special (Johnson)	Mar 12	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B and Z
Campus Club: Let's Do Lunch! (Rauch)	Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	OTHER
Board Games Club (Madison)	Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12	12:45 - 2:30 p.m.	A
Handcrafts: Diamond Art Designs (Elkins)	Jan 22	12:45 - 2:45 p.m.	A
The Philosophy of Socrates and Plato: ... (Aultman-Moore)	Jan 22 - Feb 19	12:45 - 2:15 p.m.	B
Jewish Poetry: Selected Poems of Yehuda Amichair (Blair)	Feb 5 - 19	12:45 - 2:15 p.m.	Z
Should I Trust My Doctor in the Era of Medical Mayhem? (Karshenas)	Feb 19	12:45 - 2:30 p.m.	B and Z
Handcrafts: Quilling and Paper Art (Elkins)	Feb 26	12:45 - 2:45 p.m.	A
Handcrafts: Water Marbling (Elkins)	Mar 26	12:45 - 2:45 p.m.	A
Life and Legacy Planning (Wood, Russell)	Jan 22 - Feb 5	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	B and Z
Drinks & Dinner (Haislet)	Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	OTHER
FRIDAYS			
Bill Mauldin's Willie and Joe (Cann)	Jan 16	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
The True Story of AlphaZero: The Great AI Experiment (Sutherland)	Jan 23	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	B and Z
Phases and Psychological Challenges of Retirement (Oughton)	Jan 30 and Feb 6	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	A
Winter Film Forum Events (Held)	Feb 20 - Mar 6	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	B
SATURDAYS			
Intermediate T'ai Chi (Pollard)	Jan 10 - Mar 28	10:00 - 10:50 a.m.	OTHER
Intro to T'ai Chi (Pollard)	Jan 10 - Mar 28	11:00 - 11:50 a.m.	OTHER
SUNDAYS			
OLLI Virtual Happy Hour	Jan 4 - Mar 29	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Z

A = Classroom A B = Classroom B CL = Computer Lab Z = Zoom

Winter term Osher Online class schedule available at
olliatwvu.org/get-involved/catalogs

KANAWHA VALLEY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Winter registration opens January 5*. Classes start mid-January.

CLASS/INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
MONDAYS			
<i>The New Yorker</i> Discussion Group (Attfield, Attfield)	Jan 26 - Mar 16	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
The Future Was Then: The Changing Face of Fascist Italy (Murzenko)	Jan 26	1:00 - 2:30 pm.	Z
More Musical Composers, Part 2 (Elkins)	Jan 26 - Feb 16	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Z
MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS			
Introduction to Spanish (Carrara)	Feb 2 - 25	12:00 - 1:00 p.m	Z
TUESDAYS			
Stress Management for Seniors Updated (Colvin)	Jan 20 and 27	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
Campus Club Morning Book Discussion (Ostrow)	Jan 20 - Mar 17	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Z
Russian History (Hutchins)	Jan 27 - Feb 10	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Z
Whispers from the Past: Mysterious Deaths from History (Reddy)	Feb 3	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
The Past and Future of Mushrooms (Heyman)	Feb 10	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
The Internet (Klishis)	Feb 24 - Mar 10	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Z
Quantum Leaps for Future Tech: The 2025 Nobel in Physics (Reddy)	Mar 4	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
Generations: A Study of Differences! (Colvin)	Jan 20 - Feb 3	12:45 - 2:45 p.m.	Z
Protecting Against Financial Fraud (FBI)	Jan 27	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Z
Campus Club Evening Book Discussion (Attfield)	Jan 13 - Mar 10	7:30 - 9:00 p.m.	Z
WEDNESDAYS			
Conscience Versus Convenience: JFK's <i>Profiles in Courage</i> (Hammersmith)	Jan 21 - 28	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Z
The Iron Industry in Monongalia County (Venable)	Feb 11 - 25	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
Technology Security: Staying Safe (Klishis)	Mar 11	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
Wednesday Lecture Series	Jan 7 - Mar 4	2:30 - 3:45 p.m.	Z
The Wild & Wonderful World of Cat Shows (Mitchell)	Jan 21	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Z
Dixie: A Song, A Symbol, A Struggle (Kay)	Feb 4	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Z
Winter Trivia (Klishis, Hyde)	Feb 11	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Z
THURSDAYS			
Story Songs, Fun Songs (with ads)--Valentine's Special (Johnson)	Feb 12	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
Cúpla Focal: A Few Words of Irish (Fletcher)	Feb 26	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
Journey to Armenia: At the Crossroads of East and West (McKinney)	Mar 5	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Z
Story Songs, Fun Songs (with ads) March Special (Johnson)	Mar 12	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
Jewish Poetry: Selected Poems of Yehuda Amichair (Blair)	Feb 5 - 19	12:45 - 2:15 p.m.	Z
Should I Trust My Doctor in the Era of Medical Mayhem? (Karshenas)	Feb 19	12:45 - 2:30 p.m.	Z
The World in the Interwar Years and End of German Democracy (Gallagher)	Feb 12 - Mar 5	1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	E
Fossils, Fossils and More Fossils (Holsclaw)	Mar 12	1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	E
Life and Legacy Planning (Wood, Russell)	Jan 22 - Feb 5	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Z



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CLASS/INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
FRIDAYS			
Bill Mauldin's Willie and Joe (Cann)	Jan 16	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
The True Story of AlphaZero: The Great AI Experiment (Sutherland)	Jan 23	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Z
SUNDAYS			
OLLI Virtual Happy Hour	Jan 4 - Mar 29	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Z
E = Edgewood Summit, 300 Baker Ln, Charleston Z = Zoom			

Winter term Osher Online class schedule available at
olliatwvu.org/get-involved/catalogs

ASK A GEEK!

Got a tech question? We're here to help. Our resident tech expert, Michelle Klishis, is ready to assist – especially with Android phones, Windows PCs, Microsoft Office, and digital privacy and security.

To get help, just email your question to olli@hsc.wvu.edu with "Geek Question" in the subject line.

Give us a few days, and Michelle will get back to you with an answer.

Thanks, Michelle, for keeping us connected and confident!

SHARED INTEREST GROUPS

Shared Interest Groups offer OLLI members the opportunity to share a common interest in a social setting. Most meet year-round, so register just once per year unless otherwise noted.

Visit olliatwvu.org/current-members/interest-groups for descriptions and sign-up info.

Payment of term fee is not required.

AFTERNOON WALKING GROUP

L2

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

July 2025 – June 2026

Time TBA

Various rail trails (Morgantown)

BRICK LAB

3rd Tuesday of the month

July 2025 – June 2026

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

Every Sunday

July 2025 – June 2026

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom

CAMPUS CLUB MORNING BOOK DISCUSSION

3rd Tuesday of the month

September 2025 – June 2026

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Morgantown A and Zoom

CAMPUS CLUB EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

2nd Tuesday of the month

September 2025 – June 2026

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Zoom

CAMPUS CLUB: LET'S DO LUNCH!

2nd Thursday of the month

January 2026 - June 2026

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Various locations (Morgantown)

Maximum enrollment: 20

A LATE LUNCH

3rd Wednesday of the month

July 2025 – June 2026

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Various locations (Morgantown)

Maximum enrollment: 15

DRINKS AND DINNER

2nd Thursday of the month

August 2025 – May 2026

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Various locations (Morgantown)

Maximum enrollment: 25

THE MON RIVER BAND

Every Monday

July 2025 – June 2026

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

CAMPUS CLUB WALKING OUTDOORS

L2

Every Thursday

July 2025 – June 2026

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Various rail trails (Morgantown)

YARN ARTS

Every Monday

July 2025 – June 2026

12:45 – 2:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

BOARD GAMES CLUB

2nd Thursday of the month

September 2025 - June 2026

12:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

MEMBER EVENTS

Member events are open to all current OLLI members!

Payment of term fee is not required.

T'AI CHI IN 30

Cecil Pollard

Mondays, January 26 - March 30

Intermediate: 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Introduction: 10:40 - 11:10 a.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

Ease into your week with this gentle, 30-minute t'ai chi session designed to awaken the body and calm the mind. Perfect for beginners or those looking for a short, focused practice, these classes emphasize slow, flowing movements to promote balance, flexibility, and relaxation.

WINTER TRIVIA

*Michelle Klishis**

Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Zoom

Join us for laughter, silliness, and the most trivial of trivialities: Winter Trivia!



OLD TIME RADIO SHOWS PERFORMANCE

Jascenna Haislet

Tuesday, March 10

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Morgantown B

After four weeks of rehearsal, OLLI members will perform a selection of old-time radio shows for fellow members and friends. Cast and titles TBA.

WINTER FILM FORUM: DURING AND AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

*James Held**

Friday, February 20: *Schindler's List*

Friday, March 6: *Judgment at Nuremberg*

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Morgantown B

Fee: \$15.00 each (for lunch)

To commemorate the Holocaust and its aftermath, we'll present two masterpieces of cinema.

Schindler's List: Oskar Schindler saved the lives of at least 1,200 Jews who worked in his factories during WWII. Steven Spielberg won Best Picture and Best Director Oscars in 1993 for the film telling this powerful story.

Judgment at Nuremberg: In 1961, Stanley Kramer directed this postwar story of the trials of the Nazi overlords, told with an all-star cast telling the horrific tales of the death camps and perpetrators of the near extermination of Europe's Jews.

These films demonstrate the power of film to bring history alive while uplifting our feelings of ultimate pain and successful defiance.

Lunch will be provided.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Winter 2026

January - March

**WINTER REGISTRATION
OPENS JANUARY 5**

Classes start mid-January

HOW TO REGISTER

- Online at wvusph-olli.augusoft.net/
- By phone at (304) 293-1793
- By mail, using the enclosed registration form. Make checks payable to the WVU Foundation.

**Advance registration is required
for class attendance.**



REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

Our online registration portal contains the most up-to-date course information and is searchable by topic, instructor, and more. Courses fill up quickly, so this online portal is your best source of information! Registration remains open throughout the term for most classes and events.

ACTIVITY LEVEL KEY

For field trips, exercise classes, and outdoor adventures. Guidance only. Conditions may change.

- L1** Participants should be able to traverse flat surfaces at a leisurely pace. Activities may include some steps, boarding a bus, and standing for short periods of time. Accessible accommodations may be available on request.
- L2** Participants should be able to traverse uneven surfaces that are not always paved. Activities may include walking steps and small inclines, boarding a bus, standing for longer periods of time, and engaging in light exercise. Accessible accommodations may be available on request.
- L3** Participants should be in good physical health, able to do all the above, and able to participate in medium-endurance exercise and adventure.

ART & ART HISTORY

BILL MAULDIN'S WILLIE AND JOE

Melora Cann*

Friday, January 16,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Zoom

ENCORE

Explore the iconic wartime cartoons of Bill Mauldin, whose characters Willie and Joe brought the gritty reality and dark humor of World War II to life for both soldiers and civilians. At just 20 years old, Mauldin joined the U.S. Army and began illustrating the everyday experiences of American GIs for his regiment's newsletter. His talent and insight earned him a position at *Stars and Stripes*, where his cartoons became a powerful voice for the infantrymen on the European front. Through the lens of Willie and Joe—his scruffy, weary, and deeply human fictional soldiers—Mauldin captured the hardships, camaraderie, and absurdities of war.

* Member of the OLLI Honor Roll. Has taught ≥10 courses and ≥60 class hours.

DIXIE: A SONG, A SYMBOL, A STRUGGLE

Trey Kay

Wednesday, February 4, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Zoom

What can one song tell us about American history, identity, and conflict? Join Peabody Award-winning journalist Trey Kay, host of the podcast *Us & Them* and producer of the Studio 360 episode “American Icons: Dixie,” for a thought-provoking exploration of the song “Dixie.” Once a minstrel tune and later a Confederate anthem, “Dixie” remains a powerful and polarizing symbol in American culture. Through audio clips, historical insight, and guided discussion, the class examines the song’s origins, its evolving meanings, and the debates it continues to spark. No musical background is needed—just a willingness to engage with a complex and important piece of our shared past.

HANDCRAFTS: DIAMOND ART DESIGNS

Joanna Lowley

Thursday, January 22, 12:45 - 2:45 p.m.
Morgantown A
Materials Fee: \$5-\$10 (payable at the door)

Joanna Lowley will guide us in making mandala coasters, bookmarks, hanging pendants, and plant pot stakes using Diamond Art gems.

HANDCRAFTS: QUILLING AND PAPER ART

Cindy O'Brien

Thursday, February 26, 12:45 - 2:45 p.m.
Morgantown A

Cindy O'Brien will teach us how to do quilling, an ancient decorative paper art.

HANDCRAFTS: WATER MARBLING

Kathi Elkins, Connie Erenrich

Thursday, March 26, 12:45 - 2:45 p.m.
Morgantown A
Materials Fee: \$5-\$10 (payable at the door)

Kathi Elkins and Connie Erenrich will guide us to do water marbling on paper and terracotta pots.

LEARN TO PLAY THE TIN WHISTLE I

Ingrid Strakusek

Wednesdays, January 21 – February 25,
12:45 - 1:45 p.m.
Morgantown A

The tin whistle has a long and illustrious history dating back hundreds of years. We will learn how to play several Irish, Appalachian, and American folk songs within a few weeks. The tin whistle is simple to learn. No musical knowledge is necessary as we will learn “Tabs” and how to read sheet music.

LEARN TO PLAY THE TIN WHISTLE II

Ingrid Strakusek

Wednesdays, January 21 – February 25,
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Morgantown A

Expand your skills with the tin whistle in this intermediate course designed for those who have completed the beginner level or have basic experience with the instrument. We will work on rhythm, using half-fingering, and ways to increase the tempo. Participants will enhance their finger placement, breath control, and learn how to add personal flair to their playing. Whether you're aiming to improve for personal enjoyment or performance, this class will help you take your tin whistle playing to the next level. We will be using the D whistle.



Enjoying the delicate art of quilling.

MORE MUSICAL COMPOSERS, PART 2

Andrea Elkins

**Mondays, January 26 – February 16,
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Zoom**

This engaging course explores the rich legacy of American musical theatre through the works of four iconic composer teams: George and Ira Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Leonard Bernstein, and John Kander and Fred Ebb. Participants will delve into the distinctive musical styles and lyrical innovations of each composer. Through listening and discussion, the class will examine how these artists shaped the evolution of the Broadway musical and left an enduring mark on American music and theatre.

REHEARSING OLD TIME RADIO SHOWS

Jascenna Haislet

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 10 – March 12,
3:00 - 4:45 p.m.
Morgantown A**

Mystery, suspense, drama, or comedy? Participants will choose an old-time radio show or two to rehearse. We will perform the show for OLLI members and friends on March 10. No experience necessary.

STORY SONGS, FUN SONGS (WITH ADS): MARCH SPECIAL

*Ed Johnson**

**Thursday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

March has several special days, including Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day, but also the Ides of March and Pi Day! Songs from all.

STORY SONGS, FUN SONGS (WITH ADS): VALENTINE'S SPECIAL

*Ed Johnson**

**Thursday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

Romance is in the air with love songs from the 1940s to the present.

FINANCIAL LITERACY & RETIREMENT PLANNING

LIFE AND LEGACY PLANNING

Tressa Wood, Emma Russell

**Thursdays, January 22 – February 5,
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Morgantown B and Zoom**

This hands-on course is designed to help individuals create a comprehensive "Life and Legacy Binder." The binder organizes essential documents and information, such as legal paperwork, financial accounts, insurance details, emergency contacts, and digital access, to ease estate settlement and provide peace of mind. Participants will leave with a personalized binder that ensures their wishes are clear and their loved ones are supported during difficult times.

PROTECTING AGAINST FINANCIAL FRAUD

Representative of the FBI

**Tuesday, January 27, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Morgantown B and Zoom**

Financial fraud targeting older adults is on the rise; and it's becoming more sophisticated. In this eye-opening and empowering session, an experienced FBI special agent will share strategies to help you recognize, avoid, and respond to scams and financial abuse. You'll learn how to safeguard your finances and support loved ones who may be

HEALTH & WELLNESS

vulnerable.

MANAGING CHRONIC CONDITIONS THROUGH EXERCISE

Katelin Zapolnik

**Wednesdays and Fridays,
January 21 – February 13, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Morgantown A/B**

This exercise class is designed for older adults who have chronic conditions like arthritis, limited mobility, diabetes, or heart disease or those that want education on how exercise can help manage these conditions as we age. Participants at all levels of activity are welcome and exercises can be tailored to each individual. Emphasis will be placed

on creating safe, low-impact exercise programs that improve strength, flexibility, and balance. Prevention education will also be included.

THE PAST AND FUTURE OF MUSHROOMS

Cory Heyman

Tuesday, February 10, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom

Beginning with an introduction to the incredible world of mushrooms, from the role of fungi historically as the first micro-cell organisms on land, we'll look to the future role of mushrooms and mushroom mycelium for solving problems such as food scarcity, construction materials, robotics, natural pesticides, and industrial clean-up. We will discuss mushroom biology and reproduction; historical interaction between people and mushrooms; the nutritional and health benefits of mushrooms; and strategies for mushroom foraging. We will also talk about the most common mushrooms for cooking, their tastes, and their health benefits.

PHASES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHALLENGES OF RETIREMENT

John Oughton

Fridays, January 30 – February 6,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown A

Retiring from work is a major life transition that can bring stress, anxiety, isolation, and depression in addition to a multitude of benefits. This class introduces a four-phase model of retirement and discusses common challenges like reduced structure and social interaction. Participants will engage in discussions and share personal experiences while learning coping strategies to manage depression and find renewed purpose during this major life transition.

SHOULD I TRUST MY DOCTOR IN THE ERA OF MEDICAL MAYHEM?

Allie Karshenas

Thursday, February 19, 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom

Let's face it: trusting your doctor these days can feel like navigating a minefield. With social media and an endless stream of online advice (somewhere between a cat video and a salad recipe), patients

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



KENTON COLVIN: FROM MANUFACTURING TO MENTORSHIP

Kenton Colvin discovered OLLI through a neighbor and quickly became an enthusiastic participant. After retiring from an 18-year career at West Virginia University in 2011, he began taking OLLI courses and transitioned to teaching in 2013. Since then, he has taught nearly 50 courses and is recognized as a member of OLLI's Honor Roll faculty for his outstanding contributions.

Kenton primarily teaches history, but especially enjoys sharing topics tied to his professional background and personal interests—particularly automobiles and railroads. His passion for these subjects stems from 26 years in manufacturing management with major corporations across several states, including a Finnish-owned company that broadened his cultural perspective.

A WVU alumnus, Kenton earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1967 and a Master's in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Ohio University in 1971. He holds certifications in Purchasing Management, Production and Inventory Control, and Integrated Resource Management.

Outside of OLLI, Kenton serves as Vice President of the Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society and is an Emeritus Elder at the Morgantown Christian Missionary Alliance, where he has taught over 50 Bible courses.

are drowning in data, often the wrong kind. From health tips to fashion hacks, the internet is packed with infotainment that can lead to poor decisions and bruised egos. Add in rising healthcare costs and a flood of misinformation and the doctor-patient relationship gets shaky fast. So, when should we trust our doctors—and when should we hit pause? Let's untangle the mess (and maybe share a laugh or two).

STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR SENIORS

Kenton Colvin*

**Tuesdays, January 20 and 27,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

UPDATED

What are stress and anxiety? How does stress affect us physically, mentally and emotionally? What causes stress in our lives and what can a person do to reduce it? It is a normal part of everyone's life. Why is it so important to manage stress. This course will deal with actual techniques that can be used and recommendations for a person's everyday life to help manage and reduce stress. This course has been updated to deal with the realities of today. Kenton will share much about the world of stress management from personal experiences and from seminars that he taught to companies as a consultant.



It was a beautiful day for a visit to the West Virginia Botanic Garden.

WHAT IS ADDICTION ANYWAY?

Burt Price

ENCORE

**Tuesdays, January 20 – February 10,
12:45 - 2:15 p.m.
Morgantown A**

This course will explore the journey into addiction, the life of an addict, the path to and the necessary tasks of recovery, and the relapse process. The harmful judgments and stigmatization of those afflicted with addiction usually stem from those under-educated about the disease of addiction. Utilizing a model of addiction and recovery developed by the presenter, participants will have the opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of this insidious illness impacting people all over the world. It is difficult to find a person who has not been affected by their own or a loved one's addiction.

HISTORY

CONSCIENCE VERSUS CONVENIENCE: JFK'S PROFILES IN COURAGE

Jack Hammersmith*

**Wednesdays, January 21 and 28, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

Writers use many adjectives to describe American politicians. Courageous is rarely one of them. Yet, in his 1956 book, *Profiles in Courage*, then-Senator John F. Kennedy celebrated eight senators for this very quality, for sacrificing popularity and often careers in choosing courage and conscience over expedience and ease. Of the eight, only three are well-known figures: John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, and Robert Taft. What were the stories behind them and the others? And why did this 1957 Pulitzer-Prize winning book become highly controversial?

THE FUTURE WAS THEN: THE CHANGING FACE OF FASCIST ITALY

Leo Murzenko

**Monday, January 26, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Zoom**

In a fascist movement inspired by art, how does the fascist government influence the artists living in its grasp? An exhibit by Poster House Museum in New York explores how Mussolini's government

created a broad-reaching culture that grew with and into the Futurist Movement to claw into advertising, propaganda, and the very heart of the nation he commanded.

GENERATIONS: A STUDY OF DIFFERENCES!

*Kenton Colvin**

**Tuesdays, January 20 – February 3, 12:45 - 2:45 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

This course will present the differences and impact on society of the past seven generations: the Greatest Generation, Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, Generation Z, and the most recent, Generation Alpha. The instructor will discuss generations based on their birth years and how their attitudes and beliefs were shaped by their times and experiences. As our society changes over time, it's interesting to recognize and appreciate the diversity of perspectives and experiences represented by different generations as they reveal how people have changed.

THE IRON INDUSTRY IN MONONGALIA COUNTY

*Wallace Venable**

**Wednesdays, February 11 - 25
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

Between 1800 and 1860, thousands of people were involved in iron making along the Cheat River and Deckers Creek, shipping hundreds of tons of iron products via the Mon River. The furnaces burned charcoal and used limestone and iron ore prepared on Cheat Mountain without powered machinery. The class will cover early Mon County history and include videos of re-enactments of iron production at the NPS Hopewell Furnace in PA. We will cover both social and technical development in village-based industries in England and the U.S.

RUSSIAN HISTORY

*Russ Hutchins**

**Tuesdays, January 27 - February 10,
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Zoom**

Examine Russian History from the 825 Viking Period to the Present under Putin. We'll explore the Age of the Tsars, the Golden Age, Peter the Great, Catherine the First, the Napoleonic Wars, WWI and

WWII, Communism, Lenin, Stalin, the Cold War, the end of Communism and modern Russia, and Vladimir Putin.

WHISPERS FROM THE PAST: MYSTERIOUS DEATHS FROM HISTORY

*Sumitra Reddy**

**Tuesday, February 3, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Zoom**

History is filled with unanswered questions and enigmatic endings. This course investigates the mysterious deaths of notable figures across centuries, beginning with the sudden demise of Alexander the Great at age 32 in 323 BCE—still debated today with theories ranging from typhoid fever to poisoning. Students will explore the unresolved circumstances surrounding the death of playwright Christopher Marlowe, the puzzling final days of American explorer Meriwether Lewis, and the haunting last moments of Edgar Allan Poe, found delirious and dressed in unfamiliar clothing. The class also examines the tragic end of Vincent van Gogh, who stumbled into an inn with a fatal gunshot wound. Through historical analysis and discussion, students will uncover the stories behind these enduring mysteries and consider how death can shape legacy.

THE WORLD IN THE INTERWAR YEARS AND END OF GERMAN DEMOCRACY

Andrew Gallagher

**Thursdays, February 12 - March 5,
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Edgewood Summit**

This four-part lecture series examines the disintegration of German democracy and the broader international crises that paved the way to global war. Topics include the collapse of the Weimar Republic, the consolidation of Nazi power by 1934, Germany's early territorial expansions achieved without direct conflict, and the often-overlooked conflicts in Asia and Europe—such as Manchuria, Ethiopia, and the Spanish Civil War—that signaled the true onset of World War II.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT



JUDY BALL: COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

Judy Ball is a self-described policy nerd. Her passion for public policy and public service ignited during childhood at her family's supper table. Then, mentors at WVU propelled her to the Maxwell School to study public administration. Education paved her road out of poverty in rural West Virginia. That led to a long career as a researcher and manager with the Federal government.

After retirement, Oregon. Without an actual plan, retirement morphed into more public service: elections to the Corvallis School Board; appointment to the Corvallis Planning Commission; advocacy for Corvallis' homeless; service with Corvallis Housing First and the League of Women Voters.

Although Judy left West Virginia, it never left her. Her professional and volunteer work has always focused on the vulnerable.

Then, she chose to return to West Virginia.

Teaching at OLLI came about unexpectedly in 2024 with a phone call extending an invitation to teach an OLLI class about the League.

"That first class was so much fun to prepare and teach, the students so engaged, the feedback so energizing, I just keep coming back for more. I take classes too, but it's the teaching I most enjoy."

LITERATURE & WRITING

FINDING THE WAY HOME: POEMS OF HOUSES, HOSTS, AND GUESTS

*Byron Nelson**

Tuesday, February 17
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B

ENCORE

Poets have long sought to define the pleasures, pains, and problems of homes and living spaces, and they have considered the mutual obligations of hosts and their guests. This class will feature new examples of poetry, prose, and a bit of music.

OTHER INTERESTS

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

Felicia Carrara

ENCORE

Mondays and Wednesdays, February 2 – 25,
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Zoom

By the end of this introductory class, participants will be able to talk about themselves and express their wants and needs in Spanish. We'll go over the basics: vocabulary you'll need to carry on a friendly conversation, important phrases, and the most commonly used verbs. The class will be participatory, with conversations and pronunciation so the language sticks. Handouts will be provided for extra practice. You will also have the opportunity to use a textbook to practice vocabulary outside of the classroom and build a stable foundation of the Spanish language.

CÚPLA FOCAL: A FEW WORDS OF IRISH

Kathryn Fletcher

Thursday, February 26, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom

If you are planning to travel to Ireland or preparing to celebrate St. Patrick's Day or wanting to honor your Irish ancestral roots or if you are just interested in other languages, take this class to learn a bit about the Irish language (known as Gaeilge in Irish). You'll learn a few facts about the language and some common words and phrases. The class will cover a few basic pronunciation and grammar rules along with information on place names in

Ireland. We will play some games to reinforce class content and a resource list for further learning will be provided.

THE WILD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF CAT SHOWS

Sherry Mitchell

Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Zoom

Have you ever wondered what it takes to show cats? Join us for a presentation by a retired professional cat show handler and learn about the exciting and interesting world of cat shows! We will talk about cat breeds, what a show judge looks for, and how to show your pet. Participant cat pictures and stories are encouraged.

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

JEWISH POETRY: SELECTED POEMS OF YEHUDA AMICHAH

Rabbi Joe Blair

Thursdays, February 5 - 19, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.
Zoom

Explore a little more of Yehuda Amichai's writings, drawn from his work as included in the collections, *Open Closed Open*, and *The Selected Poetry of Yehuda Amichai* (Block & Mitchell). We will read and discuss the works in light of Jewish and other faith traditions.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SOCRATES AND PLATO: READING THE REPUBLIC 1 & 2

J. Lloyd Aultman-Moore

Thursdays, January 22 – February 12, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.
Morgantown B

This class offers an engaging introduction to Socratic philosophy through a close reading and discussion of Plato's *The Republic*, Books 1 and 2. Participants will explore Socrates' method of inquiry and examine the central question of justice: what it is, and whether living a just life is better than living unjustly. The class is ideal for those interested in philosophy, ethics, and timeless questions about how we ought to live.

SCIENCE & NATURE

FOSSILS, FOSSILS, AND MORE FOSSILS

*Steven Holsclaw**

Thursday, March 12, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Edgewood Summit

What is it about fossils that interests so many people? Their great age? Perhaps it's the breathtaking beauty displayed by many fossils or the delicate and detailed preservation that make some fossilized organisms almost seem "alive." Fossils often left their life stories preserved in stone. This class offers an expansive look at fossils from recognizable organisms to strange unfamiliar critters that did not survive the evolutionary cut. The lineage of some fossils transcended millions of years with "living fossil" ancestors present today. Hundreds of fossil photos from 542 to 5 million years ago are featured in this presentation

ORIGINS: LIFE, THE UNIVERSE, AND EVERYTHING

*Richard Smosna**

Mondays and Wednesdays, February 2 - 25, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Morgantown B

Continue the discussion of early life on Earth. Topics will include the adaptation by fish from life in water to that on land, perhaps the most difficult transition ever experienced by animals; an examination of Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection; extinction, the ultimate fate of all life forms (99% of all species that ever existed are now extinct); and the origin of several important groups of mammals, including humans.

QUANTUM LEAPS FOR FUTURE TECH: THE 2025 NOBEL IN PHYSICS

*Sumitra Reddy**

Tuesday, March 4, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Zoom

In commemorating the centenary of quantum mechanics, the 2025 Physics Nobel prize celebrated the foundational research that transitioned quantum theory from a fascinating, counterintuitive principle to practical, applicable tools for modern quantum computing and other advanced technologies.

SOCIAL SCIENCES & CURRENT EVENTS

THE NEW YORKER DISCUSSION GROUP

Hilary Attfield, Michael Attfield**

**Mondays, January 26 – March 16,
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown A & Zoom**

Join us to discuss a range of topics from recent issues of *The New Yorker* magazine. Members of the group choose articles, fiction, and topics to be discussed each week. All viewpoints welcome! A subscription to *The New Yorker* is strongly recommended.

U.S. FEDERAL JUDICIARY: TIME FOR REFORM?

Judy Ball

**Tuesday, February 17, 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.
Morgantown A**

Our Constitution's framers designed their new government as a three-legged stool: three branches, each with specific roles (separation of powers), constrained by the others' (checks and balances). The U.S. Supreme Court represents one vital leg of the stool. Yet, by 2025, public disapproval of the Supreme Court had reached an all-time high. Proposals for reform have multiplied accordingly. Also in 2025, the U.S. League of Women Voters adopted criteria for evaluating proposals to reform the Supreme Court and other Federal courts. This class will review areas most frequently called out for reform, their sources and approach, and how the LWV has decided at last to take them on.

TECHNOLOGY

THE INTERNET

*Michelle Klishis**

**Tuesdays, February 24 – March 10, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

DSL! ISP! HDMI! BCC! EULA! MP3! MP4! 2FA! MMS! TL;DR! Confused by the internet? We'll take a step back to define these terms and more. We will cover the past and present in internet history in the first session. The next session, Using the Internet, will examine web browsers, email, and social media. We will wrap up with The Internet and You, looking at the multiple ways you may be connected without even knowing it, including your home, Smart phones, and other devices.

TECHNOLOGY SECURITY: STAYING SAFE

*Michelle Klishis**

**Wednesday, March 11, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

Staying safe online covers everything from not falling for a spam email to protecting your home internet. This session will look at some of the threats out there and things you can do to protect yourself.

THE TRUE STORY OF ALPHAZERO: THE GREAT AI EXPERIMENT

Jim Sutherland

**Friday, January 23, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

Imagine the world's brightest minds, armed with the most powerful supercomputers, designing a process for machine self-learning. They program only the basic rules of certain games, then let the AI play millions of matches against itself, initially with random moves. With each game, the AI learns, adapts, and refines its strategies, avoiding previous mistakes, attempting to approach near-perfection through iterative self-play. Welcome to the true story of AlphaZero, a groundbreaking experiment in AI, aimed to "solve" some of the world's most complex games like Chess, Go, and Shogi. This journey shows AI's incredible potential and also raises profound questions about its role in our future.

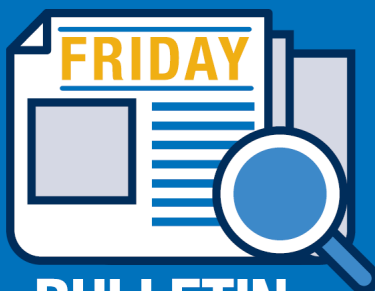
TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

JOURNEY TO ARMENIA: AT THE CROSSROADS OF EAST AND WEST

Ed McKinney

Thursday, March 5, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Zoom

Join traveler and storyteller Rev. Ed McKinney for a vivid look at Armenia, an ancient nation shaped by mountains, monasteries, and resilience. Drawing from his 2025 journal and on-site photography, McKinney explores Armenia's deep Christian roots predating Constantine, its Soviet past, and the poignant Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial. Along the way, he meets people holding fast to their cultural identity and pride—from a 16-year-old computer teacher to a grandmother who cooks unforgettable Armenian cuisine. Experience village life, art, and renewal at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.



BULLETIN
**GET THE
INSIDE
SCOOP!**

Stay up to date on the latest from OLLI at WVU, including schedule updates, added classes and events, and behind-the-scenes activities.

olliatwvu.org/contact-us

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TODAY!**

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

HILARY ATTFIELD*, a native of Scotland and retired editor, likes to stay current with world issues and events (and gardening everywhere!). She has degrees from Aberdeen (Scotland), Warwick (England), and WVU.

MICHAEL ATTFIELD* worked as an epidemiologist in occupational medicine, presenting at conferences and teaching some classes at WVU and in the Netherlands.

J. AULTMAN-MOORE holds a PhD in Philosophy from Loyola University of Chicago and taught at Waynesburg University for 29 years.

JUDY BALL - see page 16.

RABBI JOE BLAIR* has served for seven years as spiritual leader and Rabbi for Temple Israel, in Charleston WV. Previously, he served two congregations for 15 years. Before entering the pulpit, he served as Executive Director and Rabbi at the UVa and Duke University Hillel Foundations. He holds a B.A.; a M.C.S.; a J.D.; and a M.H.L., and has taught for OLLI multiple times.

MELORA CANN* has been an art educator for over 40 years. She has studied art history internationally in Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Great Britain, Germany and Mexico. She lived and taught in northern Italy for 24 years. She has been teaching art history classes for OLLI at WVU since 2017.

FELICIA CARRARA is studying International Relations at WVU. While living abroad in Central America, she learned Spanish and gained a love for learning language. She now speaks Spanish and Italian and is learning Russian. She is excited to share her love of languages in the classroom and hopefully inspire the same interest in Spanish!

KENTON COLVIN* - see page 13.

ANDREA ELKINS is a fan of musical theater, opera, tv, movies, and music.

KATHI ELKINS is retired from the WVDHHR/Health Statistics Center as an epidemiologist and years in tobacco prevention. She has recently moved back to the Morgantown area from Charleston. Previously for OLLI, she taught the history of ice (and making ice cream), a

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

series of classes on environmental issues, and share the story of your collection.

KATHY FLETCHER retired from IT support for WVU in 2024. She finished her two degrees in statistics from WVU by 1986. She taught Irish dance for the WVU Lifetime Activities Program and attended group tours to Ireland in order to dance sets with the local people in the 1990s. She then took Irish dance classes in Morgantown and lately has been studying Irish dance online with instructors around the world.

ANDREW GALLAGHER has a Masters degree in Humanities from Marshall University and a BS in Journalism from WVU. He was a longtime adjunct teacher of history at West Virginia State College, teaching courses on the Civil War and a longtime reporter for The Associated Press, UPI, and The Charleston Gazette.

JASCENNA HAISLET spent much of her career in professional and academic theatre prior to coming to OLLI. She is a devoted lifelong learner who enjoys delving into history, current events, and new experiences.

JACK HAMMERSMITH*, a product of small-town Ohio, Hammersmith joined the WVU history faculty in 1968, retired 48 years later in 2016. Since then, he has been active in OLLI with various classes in recent U.S. history (largely on the presidents) and East Asia (China and Japan, which he also taught at the university). Unable to explain crypto currency or AI, he simply welcomes all to this old-fashioned class!

JIM HELD* taught in WVU's Theater & Dance school for 35 years, retiring in 2015. The study and appreciation of films has been a lifelong interest. He claims to have learned everything at the movies, informing his reel life. At WVU he taught theater design, history and drama and world theater and drama. He designed scenery and/or directed productions almost every year. He has taught 77 classes for OLLI.

CORY HEYMAN is the owner and operator of Mighty Yough Farms in McHenry, Maryland, which produces and sells fresh mushrooms and related products (e.g., tinctures, capsules, baked goods, teas, and coffees). He sells at farmers markets and to local restaurants and stores. Cory also serves on the boards of the Deep Creek Farmers Market and the Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance.

STEVEN HOLSCLOW* is a retired Petroleum Geologist after working 42 years in the oil and gas industry. He has a bachelor's degree in Geology from The Ohio State University. He has pursued a lifelong interest in fossils, minerals and crystals and enjoys sharing that interest with like-minded individuals.

RUSS T. HUTCHINS*, ED.Sp, is currently a professor at Friends University-Topeka, teaching U.S. History, Western Civilization, Economics, Business, Philosophy, and Business Management. He is a former school administrator and teacher with a Specialist Degree in School Administration, a graduate degree in Curriculum/ Instruction, and a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education. Hutchins lectures for OLLIs on topics surrounding WWII and the mystery of Amelia Earhart's disappearance, women spies, and women aviators.

ED JOHNSON* is the creator and curator of www.mh3wv.org, a website for West Virginia Studies students and educators; he was a long time business professor and a former cast member at Walt Disney World.

ALLIE KARSHENAS has served as the Associate Vice President of Clinical Research Operations and Institutional Advancements, Associate VP of Global Engagements (GEO), and Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Systems and Compliance in the School of Pharmacy at WVU.

TREY KAY is creator of the Us & Them podcast, which is produced by West Virginia Public Broadcasting and PRX. For years, he's reported on culture war battles in America. He's produced for This American Life, The New Yorker Radio Hour, Marketplace, American RadioWorks, Morning Edition and PBS Frontline. Kay has taught at the Columbia School of Journalism, Marist College, and at the State University of New York at New Paltz. He splits his time living in New York's Hudson Valley and the Kanawha Valley of West Virginia.

MICHELLE KLISHIS*, OLLI's professional technologist, is a jack-of-all-trades and certifiable geek. Her degree in biology and work in a microbiology lab gave her absolutely no preparation for becoming a technology consultant, yet here we are.

REV. DR. ED MCKINNEY holds a B.A. from Greensboro College, Master of Divinity from Duke, and D.Min. from Hood Theological Seminary. He serves as lead pastor of Stokesdale UMC in North Carolina. A lifelong teacher and traveler, Ed journeyed to Armenia on a mission trip.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

He's married to Sarah Hanko McKinney and father to Isaac, Brigid, and Eve. He enjoys running, golf, and live music.

SHERRY MITCHELL is a life-long animal advocate, raised on a horse farm where she showed horses and dogs. When she purchased a Persian kitten at a cat show, she began a decade long hobby raising and showing cats. Mitchell works as a Planning Coordinator for the WV Dept of Agriculture, is a flower farmer and Academic Coach for an NSF grant serving STEM students in WV and Eastern Kentucky.

LEO MURZENKO is a museum educator and lecturer with over 20 years of experience on land and at sea. He loves bringing art and history to life in ways that spark curiosity, no matter the setting. Posters are a favorite of his—frozen moments where design and history meet. Exploring them opens doors to stories we didn't know we were part of.

BYRON NELSON* taught Shakespeare, English drama and British literature at WVU for 40 years until he retired in 2011. He has taught courses for OLLI on opera, Shakespeare, and Broadway musicals.

JOHN OUGHTON retired from West Virginia University in 2023. He served in various roles during his career including Associate Director of the WVU Teaching and Learning Commons, Teaching Assistant Professor with the WVU Department of Curriculum & Instruction, and Assistant Professor with the University of Toledo College of Education & Allied Professions.

CECIL POLLARD has been studying, practicing, and teaching t'ai chi for several years.

BURT PRICE retired after working as a mental health therapist for the past 30 years, most recently at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Clarksburg in a residential treatment program. He has also worked at Valley Healthcare as an outpatient therapist working with adolescents, adults, couples, and families.

SUMITRA REDDY* has been enjoying teaching classes at OLLI since 2011 on various topics including travelogs, ancient trade routes and civilizations, Magic Math and mathematicians, AI topics, and Indo-European language family among others. She retired from WVU's Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering and remains as an Adjunct faculty member.

EMMA RUSSELL is a Client Services Associate at Virtus Wealth Solutions. A WVU graduate in Finance and Economics, she brings leadership and analytical experience from SMIF and her business fraternity. Emma supports equity research and client services while pursuing her CFP® designation. She lives in Morgantown and enjoys running and community life.

RICHARD SMOSNA* is an emeritus professor at WVU who has been teaching geology since the Jurassic Period, presenting courses on environmental hazards, history of Earth, dinosaurs, human evolution, national parks, oceanography, and petroleum.

INGRID STRAKUSEK is a retired IT executive who moved to WV five years ago. As a side gig, she taught college-level IT courses for 20 years. She draws on this experience to teach others music. She is from a musical family and has played the flute since the second grade. In 2020 she joined OLLI, learning both the tin whistle and lap dulcimer. She believes learning to play a musical instrument should be fun!

JIM SUTHERLAND is a CPA and retired partner from a large accounting firm. He has been a part time college instructor. He is a chess enthusiast and has been a tournament chess player for over 50 years. Sutherland's bachelor's degree is from WVU, and he holds an MBA from Columbia University. He currently coaches two scholastic chess teams in Kanawha County and is a chess tournament director.

WALLY VENABLE* is a retired WVU professor, an amateur instrument maker and a regular contributor to the major on-line Appalachian Dulcimer forum. He is an active participant in local traditional music activities.

TRESSA WOOD is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® with Virtus Wealth Solutions, helping individuals, families, and business owners achieve financial stability. With a degree from WVU and over a decade of experience, she offers personalized, fiduciary advice. Tressa lives in Grafton, WV with her husband and son.

KATELIN ZAPOLNIK holds a degree in Exercise Physiology from WVU, where she is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Clinical Exercise Physiology. She has coached gymnastics for six years and worked in physical therapy for three years.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events are free and open to the public. Registration is required.

T'AI CHI CLASSES

Cecil Pollard

L2

Hosted by OLLI at WVU and The Shack Neighborhood House

Saturdays, July 13 – September 14
The Shack Neighborhood House
537 Blue Horizon Drive, Osage

Register at
bit.ly/3x8lyi8 or with the enclosed form

INTERMEDIATE T'AI CHI

10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

This group provides an opportunity for participants who have moved beyond the beginning level to continue practicing together. Enrollment is by permission of OLLI instructors.

INTRODUCTION TO T'AI CHI AND QIGONG

11:00 – 11:50 a.m.

This course introduces a version of Yang Style T'ai Chi, as modified and taught by Cheng Man-ch'ing. Students will learn the basic principles of T'ai Chi and how to perform the form.

SPEAKER SERIES

Facilitator: Allie Karshenas

1st Wednesday of the month
July 2025 – June 2026
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Zoom

OLLI co-hosts a monthly presentation with the WVU Committee of Retired Faculty on topics of interest to members and the broader community. Past titles include *Hunger in West Virginia*, *Adventures of a Birder*, *Fueling Innovation*, and *Swimming in the Fabric: Time, Space, Narrative, Memory, and the Gravity of Experience*.

Visit olliatwvu.org for the latest information on speakers, topics, and registration requirements.

OLLI AFTER HOURS

Busy during the weekday? Join us for classes and events evenings and weekends!

MEMBER EVENTS AND SHARED INTEREST GROUPS

See pages 10 and 11 for details

- Winter Trivia
Wednesday, July 30, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m..
- Campus Club Evening Book Discussion
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- OLLI Virtual Happy Hour
Every Sunday, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Drinks and Dinner
2nd Thursday of the month, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

CLASSES

See pages 10 and 17 for details.

- More Musical Composers, Part 2
Mondays, January 26 - February 16
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- The Wild & Wonderful World of Cat Shows
Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.



LEARN WITH OLLI MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

Expand your learning with Osher Online – a national program offered through the Osher National Resource Center and Northwestern University.

Osher Online courses are delivered via Zoom, allowing you to connect and learn with OLLI members nationwide – from the comfort of your own home.

Courses are \$50 each and require a current OLLI membership.

Learn more and explore upcoming Winter and Spring 2026 offerings at

olliatwvu.org/get-involved/osher-online-classes



Community at Your Fingertips

Stay connected wherever you are! With Nearpeer, you can chat with friends, join groups, share a laugh, ask tech questions, and keep up with the latest OLLI news – all in one safe, easy-to-use social space created just for our members.

It's a fun and secure way to discover, connect, and thrive.

Learn more at
olliatwvu.org/current-members



See the WORLD!

TRAVEL WITH OLLI IN 2026

DISCOVER PAINTED CANYONS OF THE WEST

August 2 – 10, 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado National Monument, Moab
Arches National Park,
Canyonlands National Park
Las Vegas

RESERVATION DEADLINE
February 2, 2026

FINAL PAYMENT DUE:
May 4, 2026

Learn more and book
your travel:

[gateway.gocollette.com/
link/1336283](https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1336283)



For more information, visit
the trip websites, call the
OLLI office at (304) 293-1793,
or email Jascenna Haislet at
jascenna.haislet@hsc.wvu.edu.

FALL FOLIAGE TOUR: VERMONT TO MASSACHUSETTS

September 27 - October 4, 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

Trapp Family Lodge, Ben & Jerry's factory tour, Cider
Mill, Mount Washington Cog Railway, Portland's Old
Port, Salem, Boston Freedom Trail

RESERVATION DEADLINE
March 31, 2026

FINAL PAYMENT DUE:
TBA

Learn more and book
your travel:

[groups.goaheadtours.com/
tours/fall-foliage-olli](https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/fall-foliage-olli)



FALL FOLIAGE:
co-sponsored by

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
RETIREES ASSOCIATION



LIFE IS BETTER WITH FRIENDS

And so is OLLI! Know a friend, neighbor, or relative who would love OLLI at WVU as much as you? Invite them to join our community!

Clip the panel below,
add a personal note,
and drop it in the mail.

When your friend joins
as a new member, let
us know. You'll both
be entered in our next
drawing for a **FREE**
term of OLLI classes!

Spreading the OLLI joy –
one friend at a time.

Learn more at
olliatwvu.org



JOIN ME AT OLLI!

Are you looking for something different to do? Would you like to learn something new?

OLLI at WVU offers classes for people like us. No grades. No tests. Just learning for the joy of it.

Let's take a class together! Visit olliatwvu.org or give me a call – I'd love to tell you more.





LOVE TO TEACH, HOST, OR HELP OUT? OLLI NEEDS YOU!

At OLLI at WVU, there are lots of ways to get involved beyond the classroom – and we're always looking for enthusiastic members to share their time and talents.

Stop by the office or give us a call.

We'll find just the right place for you.



olliatwvu.org/get-involved



DISCOVER. CONNECT. THRIVE.

PROGRAM INFORMATION, POLICIES, AND ASSISTANCE

ABOUT OLLI AT WVU

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at West Virginia University (OLLI at WVU) is dedicated to enriching the lives of older adults across West Virginia. An affiliate of the WVU School of Public Health, OLLI at WVU is a member-driven organization that fosters connection, curiosity, exploration, discovery, and discussion through learning and social engagement. The program offers non-credit classes, lectures, field trips, and events designed specifically for adults aged 50 and older.

Courses are developed and led by volunteers who are passionate about their subjects, eager to share their knowledge, and committed to lifelong learning. OLLI at WVU celebrates the unique experiences, talents, and wisdom of mature adults, emphasizing peer learning, active participation, and collaborative leadership.

WE VALUE:

- The shared knowledge and talents of our members and volunteers.
- The support of our members for OLLI at WVU.
- A spirit of collaboration and respect among members and with West Virginia University.
- Excellence in all aspects of the life of OLLI at WVU.
- Innovation, creativity, and curiosity to develop and maintain a vibrant, member-driven program.
- Respect for diverse people, ideas, voices, and perspectives, where all members feel valued.

- Working together to positively impact every part of OLLI at WVU.
- Partnering with people in the communities that we serve to support the mission and vision of OLLI at WVU.

WITH GRATITUDE

OLLI at WVU continues to grow thanks to the unwavering commitment and generosity of our patrons and supporters. We acknowledge and thank:

- The Bernard Osher Foundation
- West Virginia University, President's Office
- WVU Foundation
- WVU School of Public Health
- Edgewood Summit Retirement Community
- Collette Travel and Tours
- OLLI board members, committee members, and volunteers
- OLLI \$100K Club and other donors and sponsors
- Distinguished OLLI instructors
- Our members

MEMBERSHIPS AND CLASS TERMS

The OLLI at WVU membership year runs July 1 – June 30 and is divided into four terms: summer, fall, winter, and spring. Membership is open to anyone interested in participating.

We offer two flexible membership options:

- **Standard Annual Membership (\$30):** Includes access to a variety of educational and social

opportunities such as free member-only events, discounts on day trips and overnight travel, participation in shared interest groups, and a voice in OLLI governance. Benefits continue year-round, even when you're not enrolled in classes.

- **Annual Plus Membership (\$175 through August 28, 2025):** Includes all Standard benefits plus unlimited class enrollment for the entire membership year.

Members with a Standard Annual Membership may pay a \$40 term fee for unlimited class registrations in any given term. This pay-as-you-go model provides flexibility to participate in classes based on your interests and schedule. While most class costs are included, some require additional fees noted in the course description.

OLLI at WVU is committed to making lifelong learning accessible. Financial assistance is available to members for whom fees present a barrier. Confidential scholarship applications can be requested from the OLLI office or completed via the online scholarship request form.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS

To register for classes, you must be a current OLLI member and have paid your term fee. Visit wvusph-olli.augusoft.net to purchase your membership, pay fees, and find up-to-date information. You may also call the office or use the enclosed registration form.

Checks are payable to the WVU Foundation. Credit card charges will appear as WVU HSC PUBLIC

HLTH OLLI OLLI@HSC.WVU.
WV. Membership fees are non-refundable. Refunds for classes or events are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Registration opens before each term and remains open throughout, subject to availability. Early registration is encouraged, as some classes fill quickly.

TAKING CLASSES

OLLI classes are open to all current members, regardless of location.

Morgantown members are welcome to attend classes in the Kanawha Valley, and vice versa. Members from other regions may attend in-person classes when visiting. Contact the office to make arrangements.

Zoom links for online classes are emailed by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the event. Please check your inbox (including spam/junk folders) at least 30 minutes prior. If you do not receive the link, call the OLLI office – we're happy to resend it.

NEED HELP WITH ZOOM?

Interested in taking a class but unsure how to use Zoom? OLLI's professional technologist, Michelle Klishis, can guide you through everything from installing the app to joining a virtual class and using features like chat. Don't have a computer? Learn how to join by phone. Contact the OLLI office to schedule a session.

REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE MATTER

We understand plans change. Still, we ask that you register only for classes you are confident you can attend. Instructors are volunteers, and your participation helps demonstrate the value of our program to funders and policymakers. Some classes fill quickly and maintain waitlists.

If you must cancel, please notify the OLLI office so we can inform the instructor and offer your spot to someone else.

CLASS AND EVENT UPDATES

Because our catalog goes to print before all details are finalized, changes and additions happen frequently. Classes may reach capacity, be added mid-term, or shift due to instructor availability.

Stay up to date via:

- Our weekly Friday bulletin (email)
- Email notifications for class or event-specific updates
- The OLLI Class and Event Updates page: olliatwvu.wpcmsstaging.com
- Facebook and Instagram

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call or email the office.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Please help foster a respectful, inclusive learning environment by:

- Staying on topic during discussions
- Attending only classes and events for which you are registered
- Registering only for events you are likely to attend

OLLI encourages exposure to diverse ideas. Please be considerate of others' perspectives at all times.

WEATHER CLOSURES

OLLI does not hold in-person classes in Monongalia or Kanawha County when public schools are closed or operating remotely due to weather. Announcements will be posted on olliatwvu.org.

Zoom classes may still be held. For updates, visit the Class and Event Updates page, call, or email us.

CLASS DISCLAIMER

OLLI at WVU presents programs of interest for general guidance only. We do not render legal, medical, financial, or other professional advice or services. Information presented in an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU (OLLI) program is not a substitute for professional consultation. Before making any decision or taking any action based on material covered in an OLLI class or event, consult a legal, medical, financial, or other relevant professional.

All information is provided "as is," with no guarantee of completeness, accuracy, timelines, or results obtained from the use of the information, and without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, including, but not limited to, warranties of performance, merchantability, and fitness for a particular purpose. Neither the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU nor its information providers will be responsible to any program participant or anyone else for any decision made or action taken stemming from reliance on the information presented by OLLI or for any consequential, special, or similar damages, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

Individuals acknowledge and assume any and all risk associated with participation in Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU (OLLI) activities. OLLI makes no representation regarding the appropriateness of any activity for an individual. OLLI at WVU disclaims any and all liability for each individual's participation in any activities. If a course involves physical activity, participants are responsible for wearing proper attire and using proper equipment. It is highly recommended participants consult a physician before participating in physical activity.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR DONORS LIST?

At OLLI at WVU, we see the impact of your generosity every day. Many of the opportunities we offer would not be possible without donor support.

By making a gift today, you promote the future of OLLI – and help shape your legacy as a champion of lifelong learning.

CHOOSE THE WAY YOU GIVE

Whether you'd like to make a one-time donation or establish a lasting legacy, you can direct your gift to the area that matters most to you.

- **OLLI'S AREA OF GREATEST NEED**
- **CAMPUS CLUB ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**
- **OLLI PARTICIPATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
- **THE OLLI ENDOWMENT**

You can also support OLLI through a **LEGACY GIFT**, **TRIBUTE GIFT**, or an **IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER**.

EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

To learn more or donate, visit olliatwvu.org/make-a-gift, contact the WVU Foundation, or include your tax-deductible donation with your registration form. Make checks payable to the WVU Foundation.

SUPPORT OLLI EVERY TIME YOU SHOP AT KROGER

Did you know you can help fund OLLI at WVU – at no extra cost to you?

Just link your **Kroger Plus Shopper's Card** to the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**, and Kroger will donate a portion of every eligible purchase to OLLI.

It's easy to sign up!

Visit krogercommunityrewards.com and select Osher Lifelong Learning Institute/WVU Found (FG916).

Already a supporter?

Thank you!

Need help?

Stop by the OLLI office – we'll be glad to walk you through it.



DIRECTIONS

to our Morgantown office and classrooms

From either I-68 East or West, take Exit 1 and turn left at the stoplight.

Travel approximately 2 miles.

Turn right at the next stoplight onto Green Bag Road.

Turn right at the next stoplight to enter the Mountaineer Mall property.

Follow the road to the mall area and enter the first parking lot.

Use the entrance next to Anybody Gym (marked with an X on the map below) to enter the mall.

Inside, turn right at the first corridor crossway.

OUR OFFICE

The OLLI at WVU office is halfway down the main mall corridor, on the left side, with a large West Virginia University logo above the door.

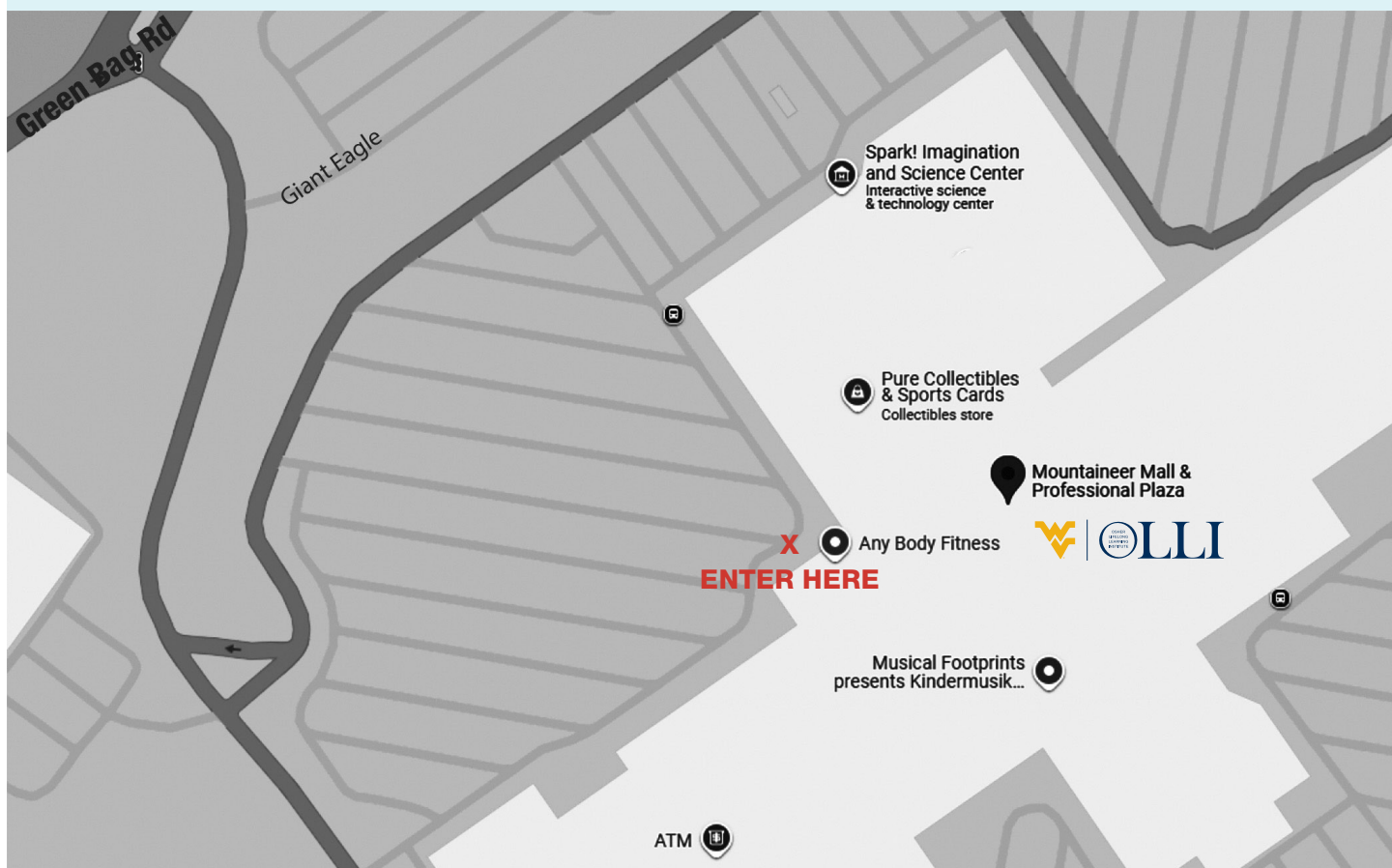
OUR CLASSROOMS

OLLI classrooms A and B are located to the left of our office.

The computer lab is located at the back of classroom B.

OUR MEMBER LOUNGE

The OLLI lounge offers members the opportunity to relax and socialize. Coffee, tea, and water are available, as well as access to a microwave. Donations help keep this service available and free.



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HarmonyAtMorgantown.com

304.241.8112

50 Harmony Dr, Morgantown, WV

HarmonyAtSouthridge.com

304.209.4370

801 Peyton Way, Charleston, WV



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
5000 Green Bag Road
PO Box 9123
Morgantown, WV 26506-9123

Join us for a Winter 2026

OLLI at WVU

MEET AND GREET!

Reconnect with friends, meet instructors,
learn what's new at OLLI – and enjoy a snack on us!

MORGANTOWN

Tuesday, January 6 • 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Mountaineer Mall, Center Court,
5000 Green Bag Road

VIRTUAL

Wednesday, January 7 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Zoom

Register today at <https://bit.ly/47MpwR9>

WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

