

OLLI at WVU Fall 2026 Course Catalog

- Fall 2026 term: September 14 – December 19
- Registration begins August 24 at 9:00 a.m.
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This document is an accessible, text-based version of the OLLI at WVU Fall 2026 Course Catalog. It contains the same essential registration, schedule, seminar, and program information as the designed PDF catalog. Decorative images and repeated design elements have been omitted for easier navigation. For assistance, contact UDOLLI at 304-293-1793 or olli@hsc.wvu.edu

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SPEND THIS FALL WITH AT THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT WVU

As autumn arrives and brings with it a season of reflection and renewal, we invite you to make the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU your third place—a space for curiosity, connection, and community.

Traditionally, a “third place” is the welcoming spot outside of home and work where people gather, build relationships, and engage with the world. For those who are retired and no longer tied to a workplace, the third place often becomes the place—a vital source of purpose, identity, inspiration, and human connection.

At OLLI, we embrace that role. We offer more than just classes—we offer opportunities to stay engaged, meet new people, spark new interests, and keep learning for the joy of it. This fall, you’ll find a wide variety of in-person, online, and hybrid courses and activities, including a growing number scheduled after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends, for those still working or balancing full days.

Whether you’re here to explore something new, return to a longtime passion, or simply be among thoughtful, curious people, we hope you’ll see OLLI as your third place—a place where you feel welcome, valued, and inspired.

We’re glad you’re here. Let’s keep learning together.

Jascenna Haislet
Director, OLLI at WVU

OLLI Membership

Standard Membership

\$30 annual fee

\$40 per-term enrollment fee, payable only when you register for classes

Trial Membership – New this year!

\$45 one-term includes all membership benefits plus one term of course enrollment. Can be converted to a standard membership. Available only to new members.

[Join Today!](#)

Instructions for purchasing a membership and enrolling in classes online at available at <https://olliatwvu.wpcomstaging.com/archives/1248>. You can also call the OLLI office at 304-293-1793 for assistance, although we can not take credit cards over the phone.

Need Help with Costs?

[Applications for financial assistance](#) are confidential and easy to complete.

Fall Meet and Greet

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

Wednesday, August 26, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Green Bag Rd
Morgantown

Thursday, September 3, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Edgewood Summit Retirement Community
300 Baker Lane
Charleston

Fall Classes

** Instructor is a member of OLLI's Honor Roll faculty, having taught at least 10 courses and 60 hours.*

The Arts and Art History

ADVANCED TIN WHISTLE

Ingrid Strakusek*

Wednesdays, September 23 – November 11, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

Expand your skills with the tin whistle in this 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.

*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!

AN ART ARC FOR 250 AMERICA: HONORING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Melora Cann*

Wednesday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

This series will begin with some of the most well-known and most treasured art related to this period in history, much of it considered iconic, though not necessarily contemporary to the events of the American Revolution. Some of the most famous paintings about the revolution were not done during the time of the upheaval but well after the fact. The artists themselves were not as well known, but we all know *The Spirit of 1776*, *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, and *Washington at Valley Forge*.

*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.

AN ART ARC FOR 250 AMERICA: BENJAMIN WEST

*Melora Cann**

Wednesday, October 28, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

Benjamin West was an American-born painter who became one of the most influential figures in 18th century European art. Known as the “Father of American Painting,” he was the first American artist to achieve international fame. West made a career for himself back in London, but welcomed fellow American artists, many of whom he mentored, accepted into his studio, aided with finances and lodging, and guided into the wider world of European art styles. Today, American art historians consider him more “the teacher” than the artist, despite his many accomplishments with his own art.

AN ART ARC FOR 250 AMERICA: JOHN SINGLETON COPLEY

*Melora Cann**

Wednesday, November 4, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

John Singleton Copley was an American-born painter widely regarded as the supreme artist of colonial America before establishing a successful career in London. Born in Boston, he was largely self-taught, rising from humble beginnings to become the favored portraitist of New England’s merchant elite. His portraits of pre-revolutionary luminaries of the American political scene, including his famous portrait of Paul Revere, are treasured to this day. He invented his own early style, near to photo-realism, with incredible detail done with the skill of an accomplished artist, including turns using trompe-l’oeil techniques.

THE ARCTIC: PERILS AND BEAUTY

Barrie Kaufman

Tuesday, November 3, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Edgewood Summit Retirement Community, Charleston

In 2025, the instructor was on a sailing ship for two weeks with 30 writers, scientists, composers and artists in the high Arctic. She will speak about changes in climate they experienced, the reality of being 10 degrees from the North Pole, and the environmental perils of the Arctic. Through an animated presentation, she will bring participants on her journey to a region experienced by very few people and share some of the artwork that she created from her experiences.

Barrie Kaufman is a WV artist exhibiting in West Virginia and internationally. She was WV artist of the year in 2014. She has work in the permanent collections of The Taipei Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan, Press Papier, Quebec, Rutgers University, Marshall University, and The Clay Center. In 2026 she will have a retrospective at The Juliet Museum of Art and a collaboration with the WV Symphony.

BEGINNING APPALACHIAN LAP DULCIMER

*Wallace Venable**

Wednesdays, September 16 – October 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown A

The Appalachian (mountain/lap) dulcimer, like the guitar and banjo, has frets and strings but is played in a distinctive, accessible way. Its three-string (or paired-string) design supports simple one-finger melodies with drone harmonies, making it especially approachable for those with limited musical experience or modest physical challenges. Participants follow a clear, step-by-step approach to build foundational skills and playing confidence, learning about a dozen traditional tunes in the noter-drone style. By the end of the course, they will be able to enjoy informal “parlor or porch” playing by ear or from simple tablature and will be prepared to explore more advanced modern styles and ensemble participation. No prior musical training is required, and dulcimers are available to borrow upon request at registration.

*Wally Venable** has been making simple dulcimers and playing in the simple traditional style for about a decade. He has a collection of basic dulcimers which he loans to student for practice at home.

FILM FORUM: ROB REINER TRIBUTE

*James Held**

Fridays, September 18 – October 23, 12:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Morgantown B

Rob Reiner, son of Carl Reiner, was part of a creative dynasty in Hollywood that began with his role as “Meathead” in *All in the Family* and developed as a major director who produced 24 films, many honored with Oscar nominations and critical acclaim. Our tribute to the late director will present six films in chronological order to honor his memory. We’ll view and discuss *This is Spinal Tap* (1984), *Stand By Me* (1986), *The Princess Bride* (1987), *When Harry Met Sally* (1989), *Misery* (1990), and *The American President* (1996).

*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 more than 100 classes for OLLI.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF BANDS

John Hendricks

Thursdays, October 29 – November 12, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Morgantown B

Before recorded music, brass and woodwind concert ensembles were the primary source of accessible, civic entertainment. The time span of this golden age ranged from the late 19th into the early 20th century. This course will explore the reasons behind this popularity and include discussions and listening to examples of some of the most popular bands and composers of the time, including John Philip Sousa, Henry Fillmore, and Patrick Gilmore.

John Hendricks is Professor Emeritus in the WVU School of Music. He served as a college Associate Dean, director of the WVU Marching Band, Wind Symphony, and other bands, and was instructor of various music courses. He also taught bands at Rutgers University. He received his music Masters and Bachelors degrees from WVU. He continues to be active as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator.

GREAT CONCERTOS FOR STRINGED INSTRUMENTS FROM MOZART TO THE PRESENT

John Beall

Tuesdays, September 22 – November 17, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Morgantown A

This course explores some of the most beloved concertos for violin, viola, cello, and orchestra across three centuries. In eight engaging sessions, the instructor highlights favorite masterworks by composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Elgar, and more, using audio, video, and accessible commentary. Along the way, participants gain insight into musical style, history, and basic theory—an inviting journey through some of the finest works in the repertoire.

John Beall, a Texas native and a composer was Professor of Music and Composer-in-Residence at WVU from 1978 until he retired and was appointed as Professor Emeritus in 2014. Beall was named Benedum Distinguished Scholar for the Humanities and Performing Arts by WVU in 1990, has won annual awards from ASCAP, and has twice been named Composer of the Year by the WV Music Teachers Association.

AN INTRODUCTION TO QUILLING

Cindy O'Brien

Wednesday, November 11, 10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Morgantown A

Quilling is an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped, and glued together to create decorative designs. The paper shape is manipulated to create designs on their own or to decorate other objects, such as greeting cards, pictures, boxes, or to make jewelry. We will create different paper shapes then use them to make a simple design on a card. This is fine work, so bring your reading glasses and a steady hand!

Cindy O'Brien has always enjoyed playing with others and when her sister sent her materials for quilling, it gave her the opportunity to invite others to play. Simple and successful creativity makes a happy life! As Louisa May Alcott said, "Good, old-fashioned ways keep hearts sweet, heads sane, hands busy."

MIRROR, MIRROR: FAIRY TALES THROUGH FILM, TV, AND STAGE

*Andrea Elkins**

Mondays, October 12 – November 2, 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Zoom

This course examines film, television, and stage adaptations of classic fairy tales including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Snow White*. Through guided viewing and discussion, we will explore how these timeless stories have been reimagined across different media and historical moments.

Andrea Elkins is a fan of musical theater, opera, tv, movies, and music.

RANGOLEE ART

Madhuri Bapat

Thursday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown A

Materials Fee: \$5.00

This hands-on workshop introduces participants to the relaxing, creative practice of rangolee art. No prior artistic experience required. Participants will learn to create two basic rangolee designs and their expanded pattern variations by connecting dots on paper, then developing symmetry and precision through coloring with markers. The designs are further enhanced with decorative colored beans and finished with vibrant colored sand powder, bringing each piece to life. The course emphasizes an approachable, step-by-step process that allows anyone to create visually striking artwork while enjoying a calming, engaging activity.

Madhuri Bapat holds degrees in physics from Pune University, India, and an M.S. in Plasma Physics from Wright State University. She taught physics for 25 years, math for seven years, and astronomy for three years in Arizona community colleges. She has conducted independent research on rangoli and presented at conferences including NCTM and AAPT.

STORY SONGS AND FUN SONGS (WITH ADS)

*Ed Johnson**

Offered Twice

Wednesday, November 11, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Morgantown B

Monday, November 16, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Zoom

Continue the journey through the world of story songs—those memorable tunes that paint vivid pictures, tell compelling tales, and bring shared experiences to life. This episode highlights music of the American Southeast, weaving together warm-weather rhythms, regional flavors, and nostalgic narratives from folk, pop, and country traditions. Participants will enjoy a musical travelogue, a closer look at a notable singer-songwriter's career, and a few unexpected gems along the way, including familiar commercial jingles and musical ads that spark recognition and conversation. As always, the session blends engaging storytelling with catchy melodies and surprises that keep the experience lively and fun. Participation in previous sessions is not required.

*Ed Johnson** is a former cast member at Walt Disney World and long time Business professor. He is the creator and curator of MH3WV.org, a West Virginia Studies website for students, educators, and others.

STORY SONGS AND FUN SONGS (WITH ADS): WEST VIRGINIA SPECIAL

*Ed Johnson**

Offered Twice

Thursday, November 19, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Morgantown B

Monday, November 30, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Zoom

Did you know West Virginia has four official state songs (there are two or three others which probably should be) or that there may not be any song about the Mountain State that does not include the word home? We'll explore these and others with WV connections, such as Top 40 and country hits written and/or performed by West Virginians "by birth or by choice." If you've not attended any of these Story Song classes, this is one for you.

THE 30 BEST LIVING AMERICAN SONGWRITERS

*Barry Wendell**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, December 1 – 10, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown B

Explore the art of American songwriting through the lens of a unique cultural snapshot inspired by recent public opinion. Drawing on a *New York Times* magazine feature that compared critics' picks with a nationwide poll of favorite living American songwriters, this six-session course delves into "The 30 Best Living American Songwriters" as identified by the public. Each session highlights a selection of these influential artists, examining their signature styles, storytelling craftsmanship, and enduring impact across folk, pop, country, and beyond. Participants will listen closely, compare perspectives, and discover how personal taste and critical acclaim can diverge while gaining a deeper appreciation for the voices shaping contemporary American music. No prior experience is required, just a love of songs and the stories they tell.

Barry Lee Wendell has been teaching pop music history at OLLI for many years. His last class was The Pop Hits of 1970 & 71.

WHISTLES AND A BIT MORE

*Ingrid Strakusek**

Wednesdays, September 23 – November 11, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Morgantown A

Playing music with others is a very rewarding experience, and we have a lot of fun! Whistles and a Bit More is a group of regular folks who get together to play music that enriches our lives. If you can play an instrument in the key of 'D', no matter the skill level, then this group is for you! Whistles and a Bit More currently consists of tin whistle, dulcimer, guitar, violin, and rhythm players. We would like to add more instruments to our group. Join us!

Health and Wellness

BEGINNER T'AI CHI

*Cecil Pollard**

Mondays, September 14 – November 16, 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.

Morgantown Dance Studio and Zoom

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 perfect the form.

*Cecil Pollard** has been studying, practicing, and teaching t'ai chi for several years.

COMMON PEDIATRIC CONDITIONS PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW

John Lubicky

Tuesdays, September 22 – October 20, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

This course offers an accessible introduction to common pediatric orthopedic conditions affecting the spine, hips, and legs. Topics include scoliosis— its causes, progression, and treatment—along with the evolution of surgical techniques used to correct spinal curvature. Participants will also explore leg abnormalities in children, separating myths from medical reality; developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) and its early treatment; and cerebral palsy, focusing on its causes and orthopedic manifestations. No prior medical knowledge is required.

John Lubicky, MD, is Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedics and Professor of Pediatrics at WVU. He received his MD from Jefferson Medical College.

CURIOSITY DISCUSSION GROUP

John Oughton

Fridays, September 18 – November 6, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown A

Albert Einstein claimed that it is critical to never stop questioning, since curiosity has its own reason for existing. He also attributed his ground-breaking discoveries to the fact that he was passionately curious rather than having any special talents. Initially, we will explore different types of curiosity, a framework for the process of engaging with curiosity, the habits of curious people, and the benefits of adapting a curious attitude toward life. The main focus of the class, however, will be on engaging with curiosity through various activities, including having participants share an area of curiosity and leading a discussion with the class.

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.

THE JOY OF MEDITERRANEAN COOKING, PART 2

*Stanley Cohen**, *Judy Cohen**

Tuesdays and Thursdays,

September 22 – October 1, 3:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Morgantown B

This course continues its healthy focus on eating and cooking. Featured is a series of new videos from the Culinary Institute of America, introducing the cuisines and cooking techniques from dishes of Tunisia, Morocco, Greece, Turkey, France, and the Middle East. Class material and discussion further examine the cultural history of its foods, and the diet and health benefits deriving from its cuisine. Food samples and recipes based on the Med diet will be distributed at each class session. Most importantly, everyone is encouraged to share tips, tricks, and techniques from their own kitchens.

*Stan Cohen** taught a variety of psychology courses at WVU from 1972 - 2008. Since 1968, he has engaged in a variety of eating and cooking experiences. He is a lifelong advocate of a wellness lifestyle, including healthy eating. He will be assisted by his partner, *Judy Cohen**.

PAYING ATTENTION: EXPLORING MINDFULNESS

Burt Price

Tuesdays, September 22 - October 6, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Morgantown A

Increasing awareness of how our mind functions in our moment-to-moment life gives us the ability to become more present, to enjoy more out of our life, and to reduce the worry we feel almost every day. Guided by a certified Mindfulness Based-Stress Reduction (MBSR) instructor, participants will identify the source of stressors and learn the practice of letting go, of acceptance, and how one can increase the experience of peace in life. If you find you “slip into and out of” thoughts during the day, in one hour, even in one minute, you are going through what every human being experiences, if you pay attention to the activities of the mind. The mind is like a grasshopper, unable to sit still, hopping, hopping, hopping.

Burt Price previously worked in the mental health field for Valley Healthcare and the Veterans Health Association for a total of 30 years. He has specialized in the addiction’s treatment arena with adolescents, adults, couples, and families. He is a certified Mindfulness Based -Stress Reduction (MBSR) teacher and has taught these practices to Veterans for over 10 years.

STRONG FOR LIFE: STRENGTH TRAINING FOR FUNCTION AND LONGEVITY

David Martinelli, PhD, CPT, CNC

Class: Thursdays, September 17 – October 22, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. OR 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Workout Sessions:

Tuesdays, September 22 – October 27, 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

WVU Student Recreation Center

The instructor, a certified personal trainer, will introduce participants to safe, effective strength training using Campus Recreation Center equipment. Participants will learn proper technique, machine setup, resistance selection, and basic program design in a supportive environment. The course focuses on improving strength, balance, and everyday function while prioritizing safety and confidence. Sessions progress gradually and include warm-ups, flexibility, and recovery guidance. By the end, participants will feel comfortable training independently. Participants should wear comfortable work-out clothing that allows free movement and athletic shoes with good support and closed toes.

David Martinelli, CPT, CNC, is a former athlete and lifelong fitness enthusiast, specializing in strength training, body composition and lifestyle improvement. He enjoys working with clients as they pursue better health and fitness. He is a professor of engineering which help him understand of body mechanics and energy principles and keep up with the latest fitness research.

T'AI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS, PART 2

*Cecil Pollard**

Thursdays, September 17 – November 5, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Morgantown Dance Studio, Mountaineer Mall

T'ai chi for Arthritis is an evidence-based program that uses the ancient Chinese practice of t'ai chi for improving health and wellness. This fall class is part 2 of a sixteen-week course and open only to OLLI members who have taken part 1.

YOGA FOR ENJOYMENT AND HEALTH

*Eva Hnizdo**

Tuesdays, September 15 – October 20, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Morgantown Dance Studio, Mountaineer Mall

The class will be focused on developing skills that participants can use in their daily life to maintain their well-being. Coordination between breath and body movements such as balancing, stretching, strengthening, and deep breathing will be used to create the sense of well-being. We will be using chairs to support and enhance the body movements. Materials needed: yoga mat, blocks, and strap.

*Eva Hnizdo** is an experienced yoga teacher, professionally qualified in 2006. She has previously taught yoga at NIOSH, where she worked as an epidemiologist. After retirement she taught yoga classes at OLLI prior to COVID. Currently she teaches yoga at Crunch gym in Naples, FL. She creates enjoyable classes where students practice yoga to maintain spiritual and physical health.

History

AMAZING GRACE: HOW A HYMN BECAME A BRIDGE ACROSS DIVIDES

Trey Kay

Friday, October 9, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Edgewood Summit Retirement Community, Charleston

More than 250 years after it was first written, *Amazing Grace* remains one of the most recognizable and beloved songs in the world. It is sung in churches, at funerals, in moments of national tragedy, at civil rights gatherings, and around campfires. It crosses lines of race, religion, politics, nationality, and social class in a way that few songs ever have. But how did a simple 18th century hymn become such a universal expression of hope, loss, forgiveness, and redemption? In this presentation, journalist and *Us and Them* host Trey Kay explores the remarkable history of *Amazing Grace* and the surprising journey of its author, John Newton. The discussion follows the song's evolution from a little-known hymn sung in English churches to an American folk standard, a civil rights anthem, and a source of comfort during some of the nation's most difficult moments. Along the way, participants will hear stories about the song's connections to slavery, abolition, religious revival movements, Appalachian music traditions, and the struggle for racial justice in America.

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.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES OF EARLY MANKIND IN TÜRKİYE

*Russ Hutchins**

Thursdays, October 29 – November 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

The class will describe the new archeological finds in Türkiye and the Middle East with respect to early man and early civilizations. We will explore areas of Türkiye and the artifacts found at the dig

sites giving insight to the ancient peoples of the Middle East. We will discuss how the civilization expanded and influenced others in the region, leading to creation of an empire.

*Russ Hutchins** is a retired school administrator, middle school teacher, and college instructor. His fields are US History, World History, Biographies. His interest areas are Am. Revolution, Civil War, WW1, WW2, Great Depression, Cold War, Presidents, Vice Presidents, First Ladies, Inventors and Explorers. He has over 20 topics for classes for Osher programs.

BASEBALL HISTORY THROUGH THE LIVES OF SEVEN WEST VIRGINIANS

*Jay Cole**

Mondays, September 14 – October 5, 12:45 – 2:30 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

Baseball: America's pastime. Over 150 years. More than 23,000 players. About 250,000 games played. With all of that history, where do we start? This course will explore the history of American baseball through the lives of seven West Virginians who played the game, from Jesse Burkett (1890 – 1905) to JJ Wetherholt (2026 - ?). Using the lives and careers of these seven players as a lens, we will examine Major League Baseball, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the Negro Leagues, the Minor Leagues, scandals, how the game has changed, and peer into the game's future.

*Jay Cole** has taught courses for WVU OLLI on subjects ranging from Pearl S. Buck to the history of the PRT. Over the last 15 years, he has taught courses for the WVU Honors College on topics ranging from Dante's *Divine Comedy* to *Star Wars*. He authored the entry for Sam Jones in the West Virginia Encyclopedia online. He is a lifelong, long-suffering Pittsburgh Pirates fan.

THE GREAT GAME: RUSSIA VS. BRITAIN IN 19TH CENTURY CENTRAL ASIA

David Mould

Tuesday, October 27, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Zoom

For almost three-quarters of the 19th century, Britain and Russia vied for geopolitical and commercial dominance in a vast area stretching from Iran, Afghanistan, and present-day Pakistan to Tibet. The two Victorian superpowers never actually went to war; it was a contest of shifting alliances and proxy wars, in which young, brave and sometimes foolhardy British and Russian officers explored the terrain and acted as envoys and spies. In his novel *Kim*, set after the Second Anglo-Afghan War, which ended in 1881, Rudyard Kipling used the phrase "great game," which 20th century Western historians adopted to describe the shadowy contest for power.

David Mould is Professor Emeritus of Media Arts and Studies at Ohio University. His articles have appeared in *Christian Science Monitor*, *Times Higher Education*, *History Ireland*, and *History News Network*. His historical works include *Catching Stories: A Practical Guide to Oral History*, *Mission to Madagascar: The Sergeant, the King, and the Slave Trade*, and *Arthur Conolly, Victorian Spy*.

THE MAKING OF IRELAND

*Richard Smosna**

Mondays and Wednesdays, October 28 – November 18, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Morgantown B

Ireland's history dates to 7000 BC, when hunter-gatherers erected standing stones, stone circles, and megalithic tombs. Celtic kingdoms of warriors, cattle-rustlers, and pirates eventually spread across the island. Saint Patrick introduced Christianity and monasticism to Ireland, leading to the Age of Saints and Scholars. Vikings arrived to rape and pillage, followed by British invaders who confiscated the land, enslaved the people, and suppressed Catholicism until being overthrown by the War of Independence. Polarization over the war's treaty produced Civil War. During the 20th century, Ireland fashioned an economic turn-around, growing from devastating poverty to economic powerhouse.

*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.

MASSACRE ON KING STREET: PRELUDE TO REVOLUTION

*Jack Hammersmith**

Wednesday, September 23 and 30, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

As the U.S. celebrates its 250th birthday with events varying from carefully-crafted documentaries to caged fights at the White House, some moments slip by more quietly. One is the Boston Massacre, seemingly more limited in time and content five years before Jefferson put pen to parchment. Of the Massacre, many questions remain. Was it a massacre (five died)? What really happened (over 200 citizens provided first-hand testimony)? Was justice served (no one was convicted of murder)? How did John Adams survive politically when he defended the hated British soldiers? These are among the questions this two-part class will consider.

*Jack Hammersmith**, like a bad penny (when we still made them), inevitably turns up for every OLLI session. A 48-year veteran of the WVU history department, he specialized in East Asia (China and Japan) and post-Civil War US histories for both undergraduate and graduate students. It goes without saying that his OLLI classes have frequently reflected these areas as well.

PICTORIAL HISTORY OF EARLY OIL WELL DRILLING IN WV

*Steven Holsclaw**

Thursday, November 19, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Edgewood Summit Retirement Community, Charleston

West Virginia was a charter member in the early development of the oil and gas industry in America. Many tools and equipment that made historic oil well drilling more efficient were invented and manufactured by West Virginians. In 1900, the state produced over 16,000,000 barrels of crude oil. From 1906 to 1917, it was the leader of gas production in the United States. This class celebrates West Virginians' early oil industry contributions with remarkable 110+-year-old photographs captured on glass negatives. They provide an amazing time-machine look back on oil well drilling and its workers.

Steven Holsclaw 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.

PROHIBITION IN CHARLESTON, WV

Stan Bumgardner

Thursday, September 24, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Edgewood Summit Retirement Community, Charleston

The instructor, a West Virginia historian for more than 25 years, will discuss why the Mountain State became a "dry state" in 1914, six years before the nation did. The class will explore the criminal, social, and political impacts on the city of Charleston during that time, focusing on the logistical efforts to move illegal alcohol into the city and efforts by law enforcement to stop it.

Stan Bumgardner has been a historian in West Virginia for more than 35 years. He was editor of *Goldenseal* magazine for seven years and creative director for the West Virginia State Museum renovation. He is now media editor for the West Virginia Humanities Council's e-WV, the online West Virginia Encyclopedia.

WHISPERS FROM THE PAST: ENIGMATIC DEMISES

*Sumitra Reddy**

Thursday, September 24, 10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

Explore more mysterious deaths from history in part two of this series that debuted earlier this year. This time, the instructor will present the cases of Queen Cleopatra VII, Napoleon Bonaparte, authors Jane Austen, Nikolai Gogol, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Albert Camus by contrasting traditional accounts with modern forensics analyses. Participants will learn how these cases are often mired in

conspiracy theories or inaccurate historical records, such as questioning the asp bite in Cleopatra's death or addressing myths surrounding Gogol's burial.

*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.

Literature and Writing

THE POETRY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

*Byron Nelson**

Thursday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown A

How do great poets transform their flashes of insight into profound poems of self-awareness? The class will consider poets dealing with illness, depression, and grief, as well as joy and the rich appreciation of the natural world. Poems for discussion will range from poets like John Donne and Walt Whitman to Dylan Thomas.

*Byron Nelson** taught English at WV for forty years. He has taught many classes for OLLI, such as Shakespeare, opera and Broadway musicals.

Other Interests

Downsizing and Decluttering: Rightsizing Your Life

Patsieann T. Misiti

Thursday, October 22, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Edgewood Summit Retirement Community, Charleston

Overwhelmed by a lifetime of treasures? It's time to simplify your life but you don't know where or how to start? The physical and emotional obstacles of later-in-life transitions such as downsizing and moving are real. Sorting through overstuffed closets, garages and filled-to-the-brim attics can be a daunting task, especially without help. Join Patsieann Misiti, senior transition expert and professional move manager, to learn helpful tips and coping strategies. "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." (Chinese proverb) You don't have to walk the road alone.

Patsieann T. Misiti, owner of Seniors Living Well, LLC, is a 13-year member of the National Association of Senior and Specialty Move Managers. She helps older adults and their families navigate relocation and aging safely at home with compassion, integrity, and client-centered support.

HANDCRAFTS: GIFT BASKETS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

*Kathi Elkins**

Thursday, September 24, 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

Materials Fee: \$3.00 at the door

Learn how to assemble gift baskets for hostess or holiday gift-giving and explore ideas for themed baskets. Participants will learn how to select baskets and containers to hold small items (even your own homemade items) and how to tie bows. Bring your own basket, miscellaneous items, and you will leave with a beautiful gift basket to share your love and appreciation.

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

HANDCRAFTS: POLISH STAR ORNAMENTS

*Kelly Pryor, Kathi Elkins**

Thursday, October 22, 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

In time for holiday decorating, the instructor will teach us how to make Polish star ornaments (*jeżyk* in Polish), beloved and rooted in rich folk traditions. They reflect a deep agricultural history and symbolize the Star of Bethlehem. We'll use a variety of brightly colored papers and techniques to add bling to your designs, easy for any skill level.

Kelly Pryor, a graduate of WVU with a degree in Industrial Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration, worked in the IT field for 40 years. She has been a crafter since childhood and enjoys yarn arts, paper arts, sewing, reading and exercise.

Philosophy and Religion

OLD TESTAMENT CONTRADICTIONS

*Joseph Hample**

Wednesdays, October 10 – November 11, 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

Does God create man and woman simultaneously (Genesis 1:27), or man first and woman later (Genesis 2:20-23)? Is the paschal lamb to be roasted (Exodus 12:8-9) or boiled (Deuteronomy 16:7)? Is God visible (Exodus 24:10-11) or invisible (Exodus 33:20)? En route to the promised land, do the Israelites live in booths (Leviticus 23:43) or in tents (Numbers 24:5)? Is Goliath slain by David (I Samuel 17:49-51) or by Elhanan (II Samuel 21:19)? Do these discrepancies result from variant traditions, problems of translation, or paradoxical realities? In seminary I learned, “Don’t take it apart without putting it back together.” We will try to put it back together.

*Rabbi Joe Hample** was born in Buffalo, educated at Harvard, and long employed at Wells Fargo Bank in California. Ordained in 2009, he worked as a full-time prison chaplain before coming to Morgantown in 2012. After 14 years as the spiritual leader at Tree of Life Congregation on South High Street, Rabbi Joe retired this year and is savoring his leisure.

Science and Nature

HORSE HANDLING 101

Crystal Smith

Tuesday, October 6, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

JW Ruby Research Farm, Reedsville

Class fee: \$10, payable at the door

This class will discuss herd dynamics, senses, behavior, and handling horses safely from the ground. Participants will have opportunities to interact with the horses in a hands-on setting. Student members of WVU Collegiate Horsemen’s Association will assist to provide a safe, fun learning environment.

Crystal Smith is a teaching professor in the Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences within the Division of Land Grant Engagement. She was raised on a horse farm in central Pennsylvania where she showed horses to multiple national championships as a youth. At WVU, she leads the Equine Studies program, mentors students, and manages the horse unit at the JW Ruby Research Farm.

NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

John Oughton

Wednesdays, September 16 – November 4, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown B

Unlike traditional book clubs that focus primarily on fiction, this discussion group centers on nonfiction works that offer knowledge, insight, and practical inspiration. In an ongoing format, participants will begin with Dr. Rachel Barr's *How to Make Your Brain Your Best Friend: A Neuroscientist's Guide to a Healthier, Happy Life* (approximately \$20). Each week, members will read and reflect on the material, then come together to discuss key ideas, share personal takeaways, and consider how the concepts can be applied to everyday life. The group emphasizes thoughtful conversation, mutual learning, and the opportunity to translate neuroscience-based insights into meaningful personal growth.

Social Sciences, Current Events, and Political Studies

GENERATIONS: A STUDY OF DIFFERENCES!

Kenton Colvin, Jascenna Haislet*

Thursdays, October 1 - 15, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

This course explores the distinct characteristics, values, and societal influences of seven generations spanning the modern era, from the Greatest Generation to Generation Alpha. Participants will examine how each generation's attitudes and beliefs were shaped by the historical events, cultural shifts, and lived experiences of their formative years, and how those influences continue to resonate today. Through discussion and comparison, the class highlights the evolving nature of work, family, communication, and civic life, revealing both differences and common threads across generations. Emphasis is placed on understanding and appreciating the diversity of perspectives that emerge as society changes over time, fostering greater insight into how generational experiences shape who we are and how we relate to one another.

*Kenton Colvin** retired from WVU Student Life after 18 years. Previously, he spent 26 years in manufacturing management with six corporations. He has a Master's Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering and has taught engineering courses for 26 years. He is VP of Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society. He enjoys history and teaching classes at OLLI for over 14 years.

THE NEW YORKER DISCUSSION GROUP

*Michael Attfield**, *Hilary Attfield**

Mondays, September 14 – November 2, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown A and 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.

*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.

*Mike Attfield** grew up in England, got a degree in statistics, went to work in the epidemiology of coal mining lung diseases in Scotland, came over to the USA in 1977 to work on the same topic at NIOSH. He taught various classes at WVU and elsewhere, including The Netherlands. Although not Welsh, Attfield lived in Wales for three years and got to know the country, people, language, and customs a bit.

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Judy Ball

Tuesday and Thursday, November 10 and 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

We needn't be attorneys to understand the importance of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), its impact, and its loss. Nor do we need to be members of a minority group to benefit from the VRA. If we treasure the right to vote and the preservation of U.S. democracy, the VRA and its history matter. The Act fulfilled Congress' authority and obligation to enforce the 15th Amendment, which granted previously enslaved Black men the right to vote in 1870. Yet, 95 years passed between ratification of the 15th Amendment and passage of the VRA in 1965. After 195, it took only 61 years for the VRA to be whittled away. That's where we are today. It affects us all.

Judy Ball holds a BA in political science from WVU and an MPA and PhD in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. She spent more than 20 years with agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with continued public service post-retirement. She is a lifelong policy nerd and avid history fan.

TALKING 'BOUT OUR GENERATIONS

Christine Kunkle

Wednesdays, September 23 - October 14, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Morgantown B

Participants will engage in conversation with current undergraduate students from WVU. As part of their "Communication and Aging" class, these undergrads will lead guided discussions driven by interest. Please consider contributing to these important intergenerational, non-familial connections. The same workshop was presented last year BUT this will be a new group, likely smaller. The undergraduate students love these sessions, and OLLI members' insights made their coursework more trustworthy, meaningful, and relatable for them! Such fun, please join!

Christine Kunkle is a professor of Communication Studies at WVU. A fan of OLLI, she has presented and facilitated workshops about those everyday encounters that can be the most meaningful, and also the most difficult. This is what she researches: difference, dialogue, and ways to help people become more inclusive, helpful, and hopeful toward each other.

Technology

ANDROID PHONES

*Michelle Klishis**

Mondays, October 12 and 19, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

This course will cover Android OS for phones and tablets. We'll explore the basic knowledge and skills you'll need to use your device effectively and efficiently, from your GPS to installing third party apps.

*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.

THE FUTURE OF WEATHER RADAR

Alan Noll

Tuesday, November 17, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

Weather radar has advanced dramatically since World War II when operators first noticed rain echoes on their screens. This course traces that evolution from early rotating antennas to today's

phased array radar in Norman, Oklahoma. We'll explore what radar is, how it works, and why components like antennas and transmit/receive modules matter. Participants will also learn how modern AESA radar—Active Electronically Scanned Array—technology surpasses older systems, improving storm detection and public safety. No technical background is required.

Alan Noll is a retired Distinguished Fellow of Technology for MTSI's, MACOM Design Center. For over four decades he was involved in the design, development, and manufacture of RF/Microwave components and radar subassemblies. As well as presenting at engineering conferences in the United States, Europe and Asia, Mr. Noll holds six US patents and has authored/co-authored five publications.

TECHNOLOGY SECURITY: DEVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

*Michelle Klishis**

Wednesday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Morgantown B and Zoom

From our phones to our virtual personal assistants to the smart doorbells that show us who is knocking, we are constantly surveilled and often don't know it. How do we coexist with these ubiquitous technologies?

MEMBER EVENTS

Members events are open to all current OLLI members. Payment of term enrollment fee is not required.

BLACK FRIDAY HIKE!

Michelle Klishis, Michael Hyde*

Friday, November 27, 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Coopers Rock State Forest

Skip the shopping chaos and crowds and take a hike at Coopers Rock State Forest with Michelle and Michael instead. As a group, participants will choose how strenuous or easy they want the hike to be. Check your email for details on how we'll decide. If the weather is uncooperative, we'll postpone to next Black Friday. **Activity Level 2**

FALL TRIVIA

Michelle Klishis, Michael Hyde*

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Zoom

Grab a beverage and some snacks, settle into a comfy chair with your laptop, tablet, or smart phone, and test your knowledge of trivia, and the trivial, against your fellow OLLI members during our quarterly virtual game night!

PEACE CORPS - STILL THE TOUGHEST JOB YOU'LL EVER LOVE

Catherine Whitworth, David Christiansen

Tuesday, November 10, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Morgantown B & Zoom

The Peace Corps celebrates its 65th anniversary this year, marking over six decades of international friendship, community-driven development, and public service since its founding in 1961. This course explores the rich history of the agency, its evolution to meet modern global challenges, and its three core goals. Life experience, professional expertise, and a mature perspective are redefining what it means to be a modern Peace Corps volunteer. The course highlights new opportunities to serve, ideal for volunteers over age 50. Participants will chat with David Christiansen, a 67-year-old volunteer from Bruceton Mills, WV, currently serving in a university setting in Columbia.

Catherine Whitworth, MPA, retired from a public health career at the WVU Cancer Institute, brings 30 years of experience in building strategic partnerships. Catherine began her career as an educator with the Peace Corps in Guatemala. In retirement, Catherine co-leads the Morgantown Immigrant Support Coalition and serves on the board of West Virginia Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Friends.

David Christiansen, born in Philadelphia, worked as a professional comedian in 48 states, but fell in love with Bruceton Mills, WV and raised his 6 kids in the Mountain State. After comedy, he worked in corporate speaking and international software sales from his 1890 farmhouse in Bruceton. Upon retiring David joined Peace Corps and currently teaches English in the mountains of Colombia, South America; making people laugh in Spanish now.

TAKE A HIKE!

Michelle Klishis, Michael Hyde*

Friday, October 23, 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Coopers Rock State Forest

Take a hike with Michelle and Michael at Coopers Rock State Forest. As a group, participants will choose how strenuous or easy they want the hike to be. Check your email for details on how we'll

decide. If it's raining heavily on the scheduled day, the hike will be postponed one week. **Activity Level 3**

FALL FIELD TRIPS

OLLI is in the process of planning two bus trips for the fall term—including a visit to the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens for the Winter Flower and Light Show. Watch the OLLI website and Friday bulletin for announcements.

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.

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

Every Sunday

July 2026 – June 2027, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom

INTERMEDIATE T'AI CHI

Most Mondays

July 2026 - June 2027, 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

Morgantown Dance Studio and Zoom

Enrollment is by permission of OLLI instructors. Activity level 2

YARN ARTS

Every Monday

July 2026 – June 2027, 12:45 – 2:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

THE MON RIVER BAND

Every Monday

July 2026 – June 2027, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

AFTERNOON WALKING GROUP

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

July 2026 – June 2027, Time TBA

Various rail trails in Morgantown – Activity level 2

CAMPUS CLUB EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

2nd Tuesday of the month

September 2026 – June 2027

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Zoom

CAMPUS CLUB MORNING BOOK DISCUSSION

3rd Tuesday of the month

September 2026 – May 2027

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Morgantown A and Zoom

A LATE LUNCH

3rd Wednesday of the month

July 2025 – June 2026

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Various locations (Morgantown)

CAMPUS CLUB WALKING OUTDOORS

Every Thursday

July 2026 – June 2027, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Various rail trails in Morgantown – Activity level 2

BOARD GAMES & BRICK LAB

Every Thursday

July 2026 – June 2027, 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Morgantown A

CAMPUS CLUB: LET'S DO LUNCH!

2nd Thursday of the month

July – December 2025

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Various locations around Morgantown

Maximum enrollment: 20

DRINKS AND DINNER

2nd Thursday of the month

July 2026 – June 2027, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Various locations around Morgantown

Maximum enrollment: 25

COMING to our Charleston community - a monthly dinner group.

Watch for more information!

Community Events

Community events are free and open to the public. [Registration is required.](#)

T'AI CHI CLASSES

Cecil Pollard

Hosted by OLLI at WVU and The Shack Neighborhood House

Saturdays, July 2026 – June 2027

The Shack Neighborhood House

537 Blue Horizon Drive, Osage

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 2026 – June 2027

2:30 – 4:00 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.

The Irving Goodman Aging Lecture Series

20th Annual Lecture

RESIDENTS AWARE NETWORK FOR INTELLIGENT ASSISTANCE (RANIA): ENABLING YOUR HOME TO BECOME THE FRONTLINE CAREGIVER

Dr. Ramana Reddy

Thursday, September 17, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Morgantown B & Z

Advances in AI, Natural Language Understanding, sensors, wearables, and communication protocols are revolutionizing care of the elderly, as modeled in the RANIA House at WVU. Developed at the GeronTechnology Lab, the Residents Aware Network for Intelligent Assistance employs systems that enable homes to become intelligent, responsive environments to aid older adults to continue living in their own homes. These innovations support safety, independence, and dignity for older adults, and align with broader efforts—such as initiatives from organizations like AARP—to address the challenges and opportunities of an aging population.

Y. V. Ramana Reddy is a Professor of Computer Science and Director of the Smart Living Space Lab (SLS Lab) at West Virginia University. He has worked on a number of research areas with the central theme of enabling technologies for improvement of collaborative processes involving widely distributed teams. The areas of research include Artificial Intelligence, Knowledge Based Simulation, Concurrent Engineering, Medical Informatics, Telemedicine, Distance Learning, and technologies to enable Smart Living Spaces for People of All Abilities, which is his current focus.

HISTORY ALIVE! ABIGAIL ADAMS

Joann Peterson

Wednesday, December 9, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.

Morgantown B

A witness to and active participant in our nation's birth, Abigail Adams is well known for her advocacy of women's rights, especially in education, and her opposition to slavery. A valued

confidant and advisor to her husband John Adams, the nation's second president, Abigail cautioned him that the Founding Fathers should "remember the ladies" in the new laws they would write for our young country. Together, they were the first inhabitants of the White House.

JoAnn Peterson has turned her love for acting and history into performing first person portrayals, which she calls "Amazing Women of History", all over the world, from the US Embassy in Prague to Ventura, CA. Immersing herself in each woman's life, she has visited the birthplaces and final resting places, of each woman she portrays. Since 2008, JoAnn has been a West Virginia Humanities Council History Alive! presenter.

History Alive! is a program of the West Virginia Humanities Council.

Osher Online

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 \$55 each and require a current OLLI membership.

Course descriptions and instructor biographies available at:

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

GREAT ARTISTS IN AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC

Taylor Ackley

Mondays, September 28 - November 2, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

THE BRITISH FAMILY IN FILM: HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN

Butch Epps

Mondays, September 28 - November 2, 1:00 - 2:30 PM

ART DETECTIVES: FORGERY, PROVENANCE, AND THE SCIENCE OF AUTHENTICATION

Christine Maasdam

Mondays, September 28 - November 2, 1:00 - 2:30 PM

SACRED MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD

Jonathan Duncan

Mondays, October 5 - November 9, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

THE HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE OF ROUTE 66

Peter Dedek

Mondays, October 5 - November 9, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

THE SEARCH FOR AN AMERICAN SOUND

Emanuel Abramovits

Mondays, October 12 - November 16, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

THE INVISIBLE THREAD: 3,500 YEARS OF GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

Scott Jones

Mondays, October 19 - November 23, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

WINNING THE WHITE HOUSE: THE EVOLUTION OF THE PRESIDENCY

John White

Tuesdays, September 29 - November 3, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

MEXICO CITY: EMPIRES, REVOLUTIONS, AND EVERYDAY LIFE

William (Bill) Beezley

Tuesdays, September 29 - November 3, 1:00 - 2:30 PM

CULTS AND NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN AMERICA

Kathryn (Kate) Davis

Tuesdays, October 6 - November 10, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

A COSMIC GRAND TOUR: THE REALMS OF THE UNIVERSE

Andrew Fraknoi

Tuesdays, September 29 - November 3, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

APPLE AT 50: HOW IT REVOLUTIONIZED COMPUTING AND TRANSFORMED DAILY LIFE

Leander Kahney

Tuesdays, September 29 - November 3, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

THE BIRTH OF THE BEAT GENERATION

Kurt Hemmer

Tuesdays, September 29 - November 3, 9:00 - 10:30 PM

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED: THE STORY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN KIT HOME

Nigel Tate

Wednesdays, September 30 - November 4, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

THE MAGIC BEHIND FILM SCORES: THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN GREAT MOVIES-PART II

Mike Agron

Wednesdays, September 30 - November 11, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

TRACING OUR ROOTS: DNA, FAMILY HISTORY, AND THE POLITICS OF IDENTITY

Angel Cervantes

Wednesdays, September 30 - November 4, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE: THE INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTS OF THE MIDCENTURY MODERN PERIOD

Eleanor Schrader

Wednesdays, October 7 - November 11, 1:00 - 2:30 PM

AUGUST WILSON AND HIS AMERICAN CYCLE-THE FIRST FIVE: 1904-1957

Ladrica Menson-Furr

Wednesdays, October 7 - November 11, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

LIVING OFF THE LAUGHTER: HISTORY OF COMEDY IN AMERICA

Eddy Friedfeld

Wednesdays, October 14 - November 18, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

BIOLOGY & SOCIETY

Eric Simon

Thursdays, October 1 - November 5, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

“STUDIES SHOW...” (OR DO THEY?): UNDER THE HOOD OF A SCIENTIFIC STUDY

John Hendrickson

Thursdays, October 1 - November 5, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

EARLY 20TH CENTURY AVANT-GARDE: FROM REBELLION TO ABSTRACTION

Lauren Weingarden

Thursdays, October 8 - November 12, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

POWER AND THE PEOPLE: THE EVOLUTION OF THE U.S. FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Lauren Andersen

Thursdays, October 15 - November 19, 1:00 - 2:30 PM

THE 60S THROUGH THE GREAT SPEECHES

Arthur (Buck) Benedict

Fridays, October 9 - November 13, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

*The Osher NRC manages Osher Online. They will communicate with participants directly. Participants will receive an email from osheronline@northwestern.edu containing your Osher Online username and password and a link to the Osher Online website, through which you will access your classes. Osher Online Member Orientation will be held on Tuesday, September 22, at 2:00 p.m. EST.

See the World! Travel with OLLI at WVU

[Discover international travel opportunities](#) with Collette Travel, co-sponsored by OLLI at WVU and WVU Retirees.

Member Benefits

In addition to connecting to old friends and meeting new friends, discovering new interests and rekindling past ones, OLLI offers members a variety of other benefits, including:

[Ask a Geek](#)

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.

[Nearpeer](#)

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.

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
- WVU Office of Health Services Research

- Edgewood Summit Retirement Community
- Collette Travel
- OLLI Advisory Council, committee members, and volunteers
- OLLI 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 three 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, 2026):** Includes all Standard benefits plus unlimited class enrollment for the entire membership year.
- **Trial Membership (\$45):** Includes all Standard benefits plus of unlimited class enrollment for one term. Available only to new members.

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 come to the OLLI office or use the enclosed registration form. OLLI is no longer able to take credit card numbers over the phone. Checks are payable to the WVU Foundation. Credit card charges will appear as WVU HSC PUBLIC HLTH OLLI. 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.

Activity Levels

The following levels are provided for field trips, exercise classes, and outdoor adventures for guidance only. Conditions may change.

Level 1 - 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.

Level 2 - 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.

Level 3 - Participants should be in good physical health, able to do all the above, and able to participate in medium-endurance exercise and adventure.

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.

Volunteer for OLLI at WVU

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, give us a call, or visit <https://www.olliatwvu.org/get-involved/volunteer>

We'll find just the right place for you.

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!

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!

Share a class. Bringing a friend to class is a great way to introduce them to OLLI. Be sure to check with the OLLI office first to be sure we have a seat for them.

Directions and Spaces

OLLI's office and Morgantown classrooms are located at the Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Green Bag Rd.

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 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.

OLLI 2026-27 Advisory Council

William Braum

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Leslie Lovett

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Kerry Harbert, Office Volunteer