

OLLI at WVU

COURSE CATALOG

Fall 2026

**NEW! Trial Memberships
Available**

Page 2

**Lifelong Learning,
Lasting Friendships**

Page 2

**Fall Classes, Workshops,
Day Trips, and More**

Starting on Page 8

Registration Opens August 24

Classes Start September 14



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

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.



DISCOVER. CONNECT. THRIVE.

OLLI ADVISORY COUNCIL 2026 - 27

William Braum
Kerry Harbert
Kathryn Kay
Leslie Lovett
Joanna Lowley
Doretta Malone
Susan Martino
Clark McKee
Gary McKinney
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Merle Stolzenberg
Audra Hamrick, WVU School of
Public Health

EMERITUS ADVISORS

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OLLI STAFF

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

COVER PHOTO:

Coopers Rock State Forest
Michelle Klishis

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 FRIENDSHIPS.

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.

STANDARD MEMBERSHIP

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

NEW - TRIAL MEMBERSHIP

- One-term trial membership: \$45
- Includes all membership benefits + one term of course enrollment
- Available only to new members

BROWSE WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL!

- At-a-glance schedules: pages 4 - 7
- Member events and Shared Interest Groups: pages 8 - 9
- Class descriptions: pages 10 - 19
- Community events: page 20
- International travel opportunities: page 21
- Osher Online: page 22

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

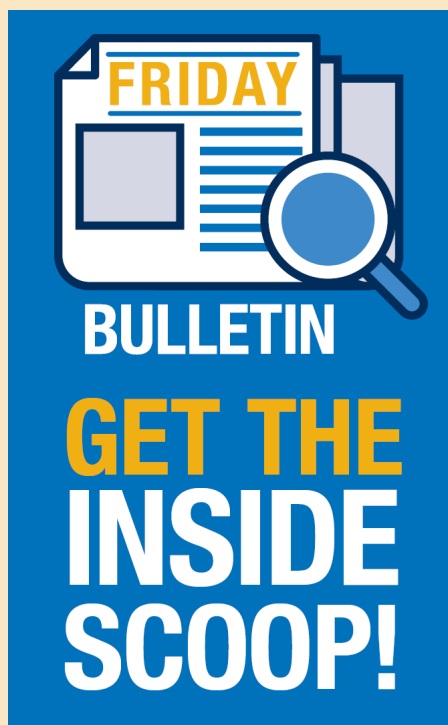
NEED HELP WITH COSTS?

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.



Join today at olliatwvu.org!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

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



CONTENTS

Schedule-at-a-Glance.....	4
Member Events.....	8
Shared Interest Groups.....	9
Class Schedule.....	10
Activity Level Key	10
The Arts and Art History	10
Health and Wellness	14
History.....	15
Literature and Writing.....	17
Other Interests	18
Philosophy and Religion.....	18
Science and Nature.....	18
Social Sciences and Current Events.....	19
Technology.....	20
Osher Online	20
Community Events	21
Travel with OLLI This Year.....	22
Program Information, Policies, and Assistance.....	25
Support Your OLLI.....	28
Directions.....	29
Registration Form (insert)	

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.*

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Fall registration opens August 24. Classes begin September 14.

CLASS/INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
MONDAYS			
Intermediate T'ai Chi (Pollard)	Sep 14 - Dec 14	10:00 - 10:50 AM	OTHER
The New Yorker Discussion Group (Attfield, Attfield)	Sep 14 - Nov 2	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	A & Z
Android Phones (Klishis)	Oct 19 & 26	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	B & Z
Story Songs and Fun Songs (with Ads) (Johnson)	Nov 16	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Z
Story Songs and Fun Songs (with Ads): WV Special (Johnson)	Nov 30	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Z
Beginner T'ai Chi (Pollard)	Sep 14 - Nov 16	11:00 - 11:50 AM	OTHER & Z
Great Artists in American Roots Music (Ackley)	Sep 28 - Nov 2	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	OO
The Invisible Thread: 3,500 Years of Global Supply Chain (Jones)	Oct 19 - Nov 23	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	OO
Yarn Arts	Sep 14 - Dec 14	12:45 - 2:30 PM	A
Baseball History Through the Lives of Seven West Virginians (Cole)	Sep 14 - Oct 5	12:45 - 2:30 PM	B & Z
Mirror, Mirror: Fairy Tales Through Film, TV, and Stage (Elkins)	Oct 19 - Nov 9	12:45 - 2:30 PM	Z
Art Detectives: Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication (Maasdam)	Sep 28 - Nov 2	1:00 - 2:30 PM	OO
The British Family in Film: Heavy Is the Head That Wears the Crown (Epps)	Sep 28 - Nov 2	1:00 - 2:30 PM	OO
Mon River New Horizons Band (Ornick)	Sep 14 - Dec 14	3:00 - 4:30 PM	A
Sacred Mountains of the World (Duncan)	Oct 5 - Nov 9	3:00 - 4:30 PM	OO
The Search for an American Sound (Abramovits)	Oct 12 - Nov 16	5:00 - 6:30 PM	OO
The History and Experience of Route 66 (Dedek)	Oct 5 - Nov 9	7:00 - 8:30 PM	OO
MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS/THURSDAYS			
Afternoon Walking Group (Braum)	Sep 14 - Dec 17	3:00 - 4:30 PM	OTHER
MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS			
The Making of Ireland (Smosna)	Oct 28 - Nov 18	3:00 - 4:30 PM	B
TUESDAYS			
Campus Club Morning Book Discussion (Ostrow)	Sep 15 - Dec 15	10:00 - 11:30 AM	A & Z
Yoga for Enjoyment and Health (Hnizdo)	Sep 15 - Oct 20	10:00 - 11:30 AM	OTHER
Great Concertos for Stringed Instruments from Mozart to the Present (Beall)	Sep 22 - Nov 17	10:00 - 11:15 AM	A
Winning the White House: The Evolution of the Presidency (White)	Sep 29 - Nov 3	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	OO
Paying Attention: Exploring Mindfulness (Price)	Sep 22 & 29	12:45 - 2:15 PM	A
The Great Game: Russia vs Britain in 19th Century Central Asia (Mould)	Oct 27	12:45 - 2:15 PM	Z
Peace Corps - Still the Toughest Job You'll Ever Love (Whitworth)	Nov 10	12:45 - 2:15 PM	B & Z
The Future of Weather Radar (Noll)	Nov 17	12:45 - 2:15 PM	B & Z
Common Pediatric Conditions People Should Know (Lubicky)	Sep 22 - Oct 20	1:00 - 2:00 PM	B & Z
Mexico City: Empires, Revolutions, and Everyday Life (Beezley)	Sep 29 - Nov 3	1:00 - 2:30 PM	OO
The Arctic Perils and Beauty (Kaufman)	Nov 3	1:00 - 2:30 PM	ES



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 www.usph-olli.augusoft.net.

CLASS/INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Cults and New Religious Movements in America (Davis)	Oct 6 - Nov 10	3:00 - 4:30 PM	OO
A Cosmic Grand Tour: The Realms of the Universe (Fraknoi)	Sep 29 - Nov 3	5:00 - 6:30 PM	OO
Horse Handling 101 (Smith)	Oct 6	6:00 - 7:30 PM	OTHER
Apple at 50: How It Revolutionized Computing and Transformed Daily Life (Kahney)	Sep 29 - Nov 3	7:00 - 8:30 PM	OO
Campus Club Evening Book Discussion (Attfield)	Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8	7:30 - 9:00 PM	Z
The Birth of the Beat Generation (Hemmer)	Sep 29 - Nov 3	9:00 - 10:30 PM	OO
TUESDAYS/WEDNESDAYS/THURSDAYS			
The 30 Best Living American Songwriters (Wendell)	Dec 1 - 10	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	B
TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS			
The Rise and Fall of the Voting Rights Act (Ball)	Nov 10 & 12	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	B & Z
The Joy of Mediterranean Cooking, Part 2 (Cohen, Cohen)	Sep 22 - Oct 1	3:00 - 4:45 PM	B
WEDNESDAYS			
Non-Fiction Book Club (Oughton)	Sep 16 - Nov 4	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	B
Beginning Appalachian Lap Dulcimer (Venable)	Sep 16 - Oct 14	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	A
An Art Arc for 250 America: Honoring the American Revolution (Cann)	Oct 21	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Z
An Art Arc for 250 America: Benjamin West (Cann)	Oct 28	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Z
An Art Arc for 250 America: John Singleton Copley (Cann)	Nov 4	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Z
Another Introduction to Quilling! (O'Brien)	Nov 11	10:00 - 11:45 AM	A
Story Songs and Fun Songs (with Ads) (Johnson)	Nov 11	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	B
Technology Security: Devices and Social Media (Klishis)	Nov 18	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	B & Z
Some Assembly Required: The Story of the North American Kit Home (Tate)	Sep 30 - Nov 4	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	OO
Whistles and a Bit More (Strakusek)	Sep 23 - Nov 11	12:45 - 2:15 PM	A
Massacre on King Street: Prelude to Revolution (Hammersmith)	Sep 23 & 30	12:45 - 2:15 PM	B & Z
Old Testament Contradictions (Hample)	Oct 7 - Nov 11	12:45 - 2:30 PM	B & Z
A Late Lunch (Rauch)	Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18	1:00 - 2:15 PM	OTHER
Post-War Architecture: The Innovative Architects... (Schrader)	Oct 7 - Nov 11	1:00 - 2:30 PM	OO
History Alive! Abigail Adams (Peterson)	Dec 9	1:00 - 2:30 PM	B
Advanced Tin Whistle (Strakusek)	Sep 23 - Nov 11	2:30 - 3:30 PM	A
Talking 'Bout OUR Generation (Kunkle)	Sep 23 - Oct 14	3:00 - 4:00 PM	B
Living off The Laughter: History of Comedy in America (Friedfeld)	Oct 14 - Nov 18	3:00 - 4:30 PM	OO

A = Morgantown Classroom A B = Morgantown Classroom B Z = Zoom
 ES = Charleston Edgewood Summit Retirement Community
 OO = Osher Online OTHER = see description for location

continues on next page

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Fall registration opens August 24. Classes begin September 14.

CLASS/INSTRUCTOR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
The Magic Behind Film Scores: The Role of Music in Great Movies-Part II (Agron)	Sep 30 - Nov 11	5:00 - 6:30 PM	OO
August Wilson and His American Cycle-The First Five: 1904-1957 (Menson-Furr)	Oct 7 - Nov 11	5:00 - 6:30 PM	OO
Tracing Our Roots: DNA, Family History, and the Politics of Identity (Cervantes)	Sep 30 - Nov 4	7:00 - 8:30 PM	OO
Fall Trivia (Klishis, Hyde)	Nov 18	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Z
THURSDAYS			
Walking Outdoors with Campus Club (Covey)	Sep 17 - Dec 17	9:00 - 10:00 AM	OTHER
Strong for Life: Strength Training for Function and Longevity (Martinelli)	Sep 17 - Oct 22	9:30 - 11:00 AM	OTHER
T'ai Chi for Arthritis, Part 2 (Pollard)	Sep 17 - Nov 5	10:00 - 11:30 AM	OTHER
The Poetry of Self-Discovery (Nelson)	Sep 17	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	A
Whispers from the Past: Enigmatic Demises (Reddy)	Sep 24	10:00 - 11:45 AM	Z
Strong for Life: Strength Training for Function and Longevity (Martinelli)	Sep 17 - Oct 22	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	OTHER
Biology & Society (Simon)	Oct 1 - Nov 5	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	OO
Generations: A Study of Differences! (Colvin, Haislet)	Oct 1 - 15	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	B & Z
Rangolee Art (Bapat)	Oct 22	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	A
Archaeological Discoveries of Early Mankind in Türkiye (Hutchins)	Oct 29 - Nov 12	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Z
Story Songs and Fun Songs (with Ads) --West Virginia Special (Johnson)	Nov 19	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	B
Campus Club: Let's Do Lunch! (Rauch)	Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	OTHER
Board Games & Bricks (Madison)	Sep 17 - Dec 17	12:45 - 2:30 PM	A
Handcrafts: Gift Baskets for All Occasions (Elkins)	Sep 24	12:45 - 2:30 PM	A
Handcrafts: Polish Star Ornaments (Pryor, Elkins)	Oct 22	12:45 - 2:30 PM	A
The Golden Age of Bands (Hendricks)	Oct 29 - Nov 12	12:45 - 2:15 PM	B
Residents Aware Network...Your Home to Become the Frontline Caregiver (Reddy)	Sep 17	1:00 - 2:00 PM	B & Z
Prohibition in Charleston, West Virginia (Bumgardner)	Sep 24	1:00 - 2:30 PM	ES
Power and the People: The Evolution of the U.S. Federal Judiciary (Andersen)	Oct 15 - Nov 19	1:00 - 2:30 PM	OO
Downsizing and Decluttering: Rightsizing Your Life (Misiti)	Oct 22	1:00 - 2:30 PM	ES
Pictorial History of Early Oil Well Drilling in WV (Holsclaw)	NOV 19	1:00 - 2:30 PM	ES
"Studies Show..." (Or Do They?): Under the Hood of a Scientific Study (Hendrickson)	OCT 1 - NOV 5	3:00 - 4:30 PM	OO
Early 20th Century Avant-Garde: From Rebellion to Abstraction (Weingarden)	OCT 8 - NOV 12	5:00 - 6:30 PM	OO
Drinks & Dinner	Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10	6:00 - 8:00 PM	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
FRIDAYS			
Take a Hike (Klishis, Hyde)	Oct 23	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	OTHER
Black Friday Hike (Klishis, Hyde)	Nov 27	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	OTHER
Curiosity Discussion Group (Oughton)	Sep 18 - Nov 6	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	A
The 60s Through the Great Speeches (Benedict)	Oct 9 - Nov 13	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	OO
Film Forum: Rob Reiner Tribute (Held)	Sep 18 - Oct 23	12:45 - 4:00 PM	B
Amazing Grace: How a Hymn Became a Bridge Across Divides (Kay)	Oct 9	1:00 - 2:30 PM	ES
SATURDAYS			
Intermediate T'ai Chi (Pollard)	Sep 13 - Dec 19	10:00 - 10:50 AM	OTHER
Introduction to T'ai Chi & Qigong (Pollard)	Sep 13 - Dec 19	11:00 - 11:50 AM	OTHER
SUNDAYS			
OLLI Virtual Happy Hour	Sep 13 - Dec 27	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Z
A = Morgantown Classroom A B = Morgantown Classroom B Z = Zoom ES = Charleston Edgewood Summit Retirement Community OO = Osher Online OTHER = see description for location			

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!

MEMBER EVENTS

Member events are open to all current OLLI members!

Payment of term fee is not required.

BLACK FRIDAY HIKE!

Michelle Klishis, Michael Hyde*

L2

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.

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.

TAKE A HIKE!

Michelle Klishis, Michael Hyde*

L3

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.

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

L2

Most Mondays

July 2026 - June 2027, 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.
Morgantown Dance Studio and Zoom
Enrollment is by permission of OLLI instructors.

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

L2

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

L2

Every Thursday

July 2026 – June 2027, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Various rail trails in Morgantown

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!

CLASS SCHEDULE

Fall 2026

September 14 - December 19

**FALL REGISTRATION
OPENS AUGUST 24**

Classes start April 1

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.

THE ARTS & 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.

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

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*.

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’œil 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 art work that she created from her experiences.

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.

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).

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.

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.

AN INTRODUCTION TO QUILLING

Cindy O’Brien

**Wednesday, November 11,
10:00 – 11:45 a.m.
Morgantown A**

ENCORE

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!

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

*Andrea Elkins**

**Mondays, October 19 – November 9,
12:45 – 2:30 p.m.
Zoom**

NEW
DATE

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.

RANGOLEE ART

Madhuri Bapat

**Thursday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown A
Materials Fee: \$5.00**

ENCORE

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.

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.

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.

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!

GET TO KNOW THE OLLI INSTRUCTORS

Want to know more about this term's OLLI volunteer instructors and presenters?

You can read their biographies on pages 24-27.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

BEGINNER T'AI CHI

*Cecil Pollard**

**Mondays, September 14 – November 16,
11:00 - 11:50 a.m.
Morgantown Dance Studio & 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.

COMMON PEDIATRIC CONDITIONS PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW

John Lubicky

**Tuesdays, September 22 – October 20,
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & 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.

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.

THE JOY OF MEDITERRANEAN COOKING, PART 2

Stanley Cohen, Judy Cohen**

**Tuesdays & 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.

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.

STRONG FOR LIFE: STRENGTH TRAINING FOR FUNCTION AND LONGEVITY

David Martinelli, PhD, CPT, CNC

ENCORE

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

L2

Workout Sessions:

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

WVU Student Recreation Center

OFFERED
TWICE

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.

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.

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 & 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.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES OF EARLY MANKIND IN TÜRKIYE

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.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



LESLIE LOVETT: A SCOUT'S PROMISE TO SERVICE

Leslie Lovett grew up in Arizona, where her enthusiasm for volunteerism most likely started with her time in Brownie and Girl Scout Troop 918. She still has her sash and occasionally looks at her active citizenship, social dependability, and girl scout promise pins, and remembers what they mean to her. Over the years, she has been active in basketball and soccer coaching, the United Way, various PTO's and Advisory Boards, and non-partisan & partisan voting opportunities.

Leslie joined OLLI nine years ago after her husband passed. She expected to take a few classes, learn some new things, and make a couple friends. What she didn't expect was to find a community that would become such an important part of her life. Leslie has become an active, dedicated member, giving of her time, talents and leadership. She is serving on the Advisory Council, has volunteered to help with numerous committees and events, served as a class host, and is a passionate advocate for lifelong learning and involvement.

Throughout her service, Leslie has enjoyed helping OLLI grow, welcoming new members, supporting programming & fundraising opportunities, and most of all working alongside other enthusiastic volunteers. She believes OLLI is much more than a place to take classes, it's a place where friendships are formed, curiosity is encouraged, and everyone has something to contribute.

"Volunteering at OLLI has been an opportunity to give back to an organization that has enriched my life, connected me to others, and given me a chance to help ensure that OLLI continues to thrive in the future. It is truly one of the most rewarding chapters of my life."

BASEBALL HISTORY THROUGH THE LIVES OF SEVEN WEST VIRGINIANS

*Jay Cole**

**Mondays, September 14 – October 5,
12:45 – 2:30 p.m.
Morgantown B & 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.

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.

THE MAKING OF IRELAND

*Richard Smosna**

**Mondays & 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.

MASSACRE ON KING STREET: PRELUDE TO REVOLUTION

*Jack Hammersmith**

**Wednesday, September 23 & 30, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.
Morgantown B & 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.

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.

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.

WHISPERS FROM THE PAST: ENIGMATIC DEMISES

*Sumitra Reddy**

**Thursday, September 24, 10:00 - 11:45 a.m.
Morgantown B & 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.

LITERATURE & 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.

OTHER INTERESTS

DOWNSIZING AND DECLUTTERING: RIGHTSIZING YOUR LIFE

Patsieann T. Misiti

ENCORE

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.

HANDCRAFTS: GIFT BASKETS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

*Kathi Elkins**

NEW
DATE

Thursday, October 1, 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.

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.

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

OLD TESTAMENT CONTRADICTIONS

*Joseph Hample**

Wednesdays, October 7 – November 11,
12:45 - 2:30 p.m.
Morgantown B & 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.

SCIENCE & NATURE

HORSE HANDLING 101

Crystal Smith

ENCORE

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.

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, & 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 & 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.

THE NEW YORKER DISCUSSION GROUP

Michael Attfield, Hilary Attfield**

**Mondays, September 14 – November 2,
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.

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Judy Ball

**Tuesday & Thursday, November 10 & 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & 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.

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!

ENCORE

TECHNOLOGY

ANDROID PHONES

*Michelle Klishis**

**Mondays, October 19 & 26,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

NEW
DATE

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.

THE FUTURE OF WEATHER RADAR

Alan Noll

**Tuesday, November 17, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.
Morgantown B & 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.

TECHNOLOGY SECURITY: DEVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

*Michelle Klishis**

**Wednesday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom**

ENCORE

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?

Osher Online™

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

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**

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

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

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 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.

Visit <https://olliatwvu.wpcomstaging.com/archives/16002> to register for community events and to see the latest information on events.

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.

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.

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

See the WORLD!

TRAVEL WITH OLLI @ WVU

co-sponsored by WVU Retirees Association



DISCOVER LONDON & PARIS

April 30 - May 9, 2027

From cosmopolitan London to romantic Paris, cross under the English Channel via the Eurostar train and take in the best of these iconic cities.

RESERVATION DEADLINE
November 20, 2026

FINAL PAYMENT DUE
January 31, 2027

Learn more and book your travel:

groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1435437



EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA, VICTORIA FALLS, & BOTSWANA

October 24 - November 7, 2027

Get ready for an unparalleled journey through the cultural diversity and abundant wildlife of southern Africa. Epic scenery and winding coastlines come together in an incredible adventure.

RESERVATION DEADLINE
December 18, 2026

FINAL PAYMENT DUE
July 26, 2027

Learn more and book your travel:

groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1434843



COLLETTE TRAVEL PRESENTATION

Tuesday, September 1, 3:00 p.m.
Morgantown B & Zoom

Discover exciting travel opportunities and expert tips that you won't want to miss!!

Register at **olliatwvu.wufoo.com/forms/m1syz1ey0zotdma/**



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**.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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***.

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.

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.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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*.

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.

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

Cindy O'Brien has always enjoyed playing with others and when her sister sent her materials for quilting, 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."

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.

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

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

each woman she portrays. Since 2008, JoAnn has been a West Virginia Humanities Council History Alive! presenter.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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

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.



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.**



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

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.org/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.

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.



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.

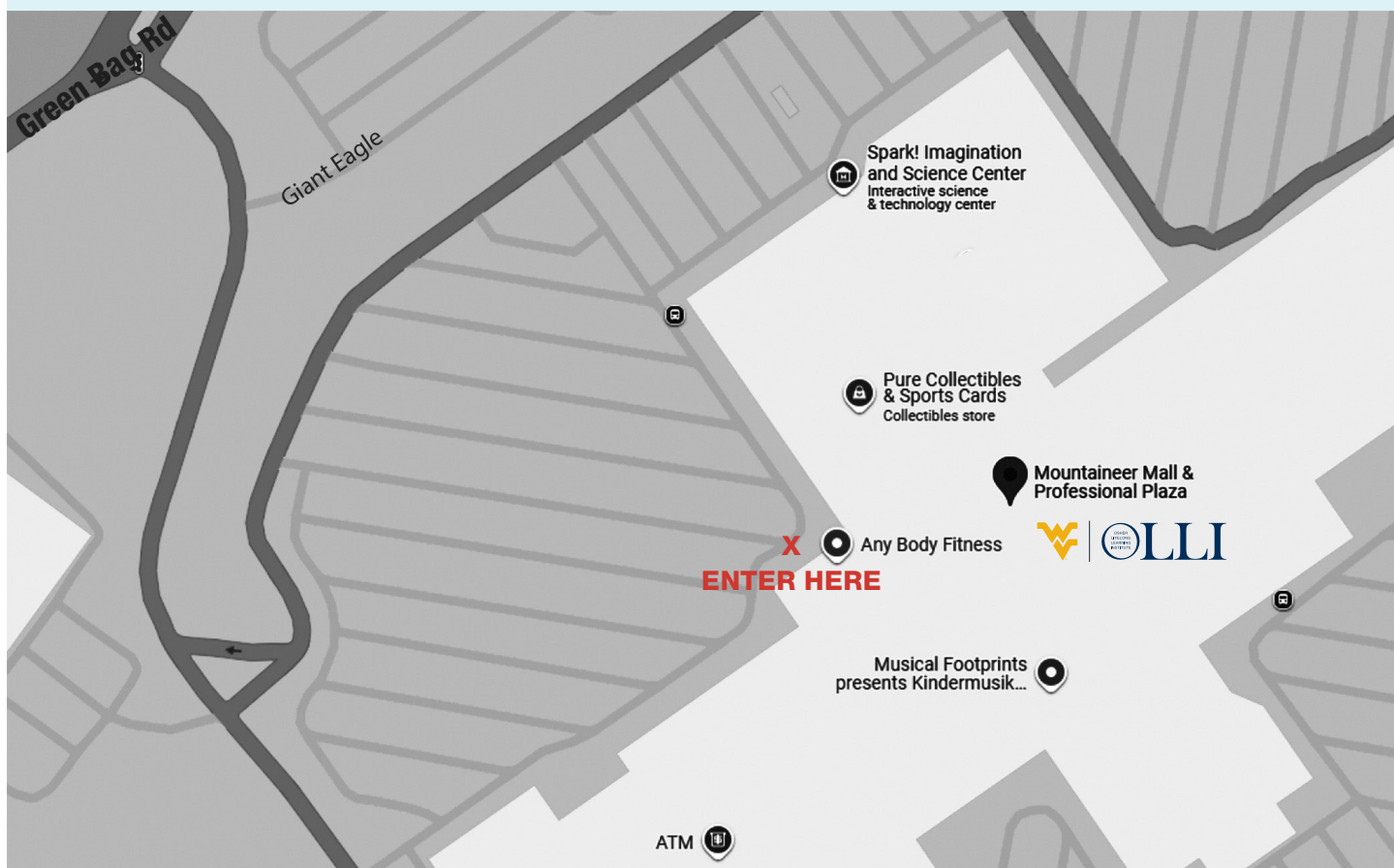
OUR CLASSROOMS

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.



Map data ©2025 Google

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

Join us for Fall 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

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

Mountaineer Mall, Center Court,
5000 Green Bag Road

CHARLESTON

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

Edgewood Summit, 300 Baker Lane

Register today at <https://bit.ly/4h0IIYc>

We hope to see you there!

