

FALL 2026

OSHER

AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

ONLINE PREVIEW

AUGUST 3

View Preview Recording online by visiting
www.towson.edu/osher

SESSION I

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 9

SESSION II

OCTOBER 19 – NOVEMBER 13

TU
TOWSON
UNIVERSITY

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello Lifelong Learners,

Welcome to the fall 2026 semester! I hope you are as excited about the upcoming semester as we are.

Each semester, it's my goal to provide a variety of choices in our curriculum. They say, "you can't be all things to all people," and that is true, but oh, how I try. This fall we have topics ranging from The Beatles to Georgia O'Keeffe to Egypt's Golden Age to the Mysteries of Mars. Have you ever tried a course just to see how you would like it, only to find out that you are completely intrigued? That's the beauty of lifelong learning — you can stretch your interests and have moments of discovery that you hadn't expected.

In addition to an amazing selection of courses, we are holding a special event this fall that I want you to know about. The Re/Imagining Retirement Summit is designed for everyone who is curious about making their retirement purposeful and full of possibility. For many people, retirement is the beginning of a new chapter with opportunities to learn, contribute, connect and grow. Join us on Friday, September 25 to learn how longevity is transforming careers, retirement and life planning as you enjoy a full day of inspiring speakers, practical workshops, networking opportunities and valuable resources to help you write (or rewrite) your own retirement playbook.

This fall semester will be chock-full of choices and thought-provoking programs. Whether you are a first-time Osher member, or someone who has been with us for years, we are excited to have you join us this fall.

Thank you for including Osher at Towson University in your life!

Warm regards,



Tracy Jacobs

Fall 2026 – Important Information

- **Fall 2026 classes will be a mix of Zoom and in-person classes**
- **In-person classes will be held at Edenwald Senior Living on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays**
- **Zoom classes will be held on Mondays and Fridays**
- **The best way to reach Osher staff is by email: osher@towson.edu**
- **To receive all Osher announcements, make sure you are on the Osher email list. Please read the Osher News & Notes Newsletter which is emailed on the first Thursday of each month. If you are not receiving the newsletter, contact osher@towson.edu to notify Osher staff.**
- ***You are strongly encouraged to register online.* If you wish to mail your registration and/or payment, you must also email osher@towson.edu to let us know that it has been sent by mail.**
- **Do not mail in registrations and/or payments before August 4 as we are not allowed to process any payments prior to the start of registration.**
- **Check payments take several weeks to be processed.**
- **We are unable to accept walk-in registrations or phone registrations.**

EMAIL OSHER@TOWSON.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION

FALL 2026 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Monday ZOOM	Tuesday EDENWALD	Wednesday EDENWALD	Thursday EDENWALD	Friday ZOOM
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SESSION I (SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 9)*

**Classes will not be held on Friday, September 25. The makeup date is Friday, October 16*

9:30 a.m.	Music and the Holocaust	The Beatles	Art Glass	20th Century Baltimore	Mysteries of Mars
11 a.m.	Georgia O'Keefe (11:15 a.m.)	Egypt's Golden Age	The Bhagavad Gita	Undercover II	The Universe
1 p.m.	1976 in Film	The Longevity Movement	Eight Plays	Opera and Real Life The Language of Loss	Films of James Earl Jones
2:30 p.m.	Flannery O'Connor	Orchestral Women Composers	The History of Baltimore Parks	Environmental History of North America Shakespeare's Sonnets	

SESSION II (OCTOBER 19 – NOVEMBER 13)

9:30 a.m.	Caring for Ourselves While Caring for Others	The Beatles	I Should Have Known That	Twentieth Century Baltimore	Nutrition and Healthy Aging
11 a.m.	Georgia O'Keefe (11:15 a.m.)	Egypt's Golden Age	Duke Ellington & Count Basie	Major General Maurice Rose	The Universe
1 p.m.	American Higher Education	The Longevity Movement	Eight Plays	Opera and Real Life Sex, Religion, and Bias in the Supreme Court	Films of Meryl Streep
2:30 p.m.	Flannery O'Connor	The Great Baltimore Fire of 1904	The 1930s and Today	Environmental History of North America Shakespeare's Sonnets	The Animal Kingdom

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

LOCATION OF CLASSES

Edenwald Senior Living: 800 Southerly Road, Towson, MD 21286

Online: Zoom

LOCATION OF OFFICES and OFFICE HOURS

Our Osher offices are located at 401 Washington Avenue, Towson, MD 21204.

9 a.m.–4 p.m. | Monday–Friday

IMPORTANT: Office hours are by appointment only.

MAILING ADDRESS

Osher at Towson University
401 Washinton Ave, 3rd Floor
Towson, MD 21204-0001

CONTACT US

Email: osher@towson.edu

Website: www.towson.edu/osher

Phone: 410-704-3688 (Leave a message and you will receive a response as quickly as possible.)

Staff

Tracy Jacobs, *director*

410-704-3437, tjacobs@towson.edu

Jessica Tye, *membership coordinator*

410-704-3688, jtye@towson.edu

Osher Advisory Council

Deborah Anderson

Lynda Anozie

Charlene Couch

Sandy Goldberg

Tracy Jacobs (staff)

Colleen Lamont

Ilene Lewandowski

Nancy Peper

Ruth Spivak

Jessica Tye (staff)

Jane Wolfson

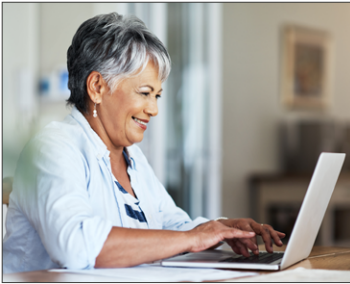
Towson University's policies, programs and activities comply with federal and state laws and University System of Maryland regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, disability and sexual orientation.

Towson University is a smoke-free campus.

Your participation in Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University constitutes implied consent to be photographed, video recorded, and to have those images published in any manner, including use on web pages and social media outlets. Should you have questions, please contact the director.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

SCHEDULE OF CLASS LOCATIONS



MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS

Classes meet online via Zoom

- Enjoy classes from your home or wherever you can connect
- Most Zoom classes are recorded and available to registrants to view if they have missed a class or would like to review a lesson
- Zoom courses that are not recorded are noted in the course descriptions section



Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Classes meet at Edenwald Senior living in Towson,
located at **800 Southerly Road, Towson, MD 21286.**

- Enjoy the camaraderie of in-person learning
- Convenient location near the Towson Town Center mall
- Free and accessible parking
- Comfortable and welcoming atmosphere with auditorium and multipurpose classroom
- Take a coffee or lunch break at Edenwald's café. Cash only.

WE ARE ALL VALUED AND RESPECTED.

When you join Osher at Towson University, you are part of a community. Our courses, lectures, interest groups and social activities all offer the opportunity for lively discussions and a chance to develop new friendships. We strive for a culture of kindness, respect, inclusiveness, patience and understanding. All members of the Osher community — students, instructors and staff — are expected to behave in a way that enables a positive and enjoyable learning experience for everyone.

Osher participants are expected to engage with each other with civility, kindness and respect. Classroom dialogue may prompt disagreement and informed debate as a valued part of the academic experience. Demeaning, offensive, disrespectful, violent, or otherwise hurtful language or behaviors will not be tolerated and could result in dismissal from the program at the sole discretion of the director.

Some ideas to optimize the learning experience:

- Strive to be on time.
- Silence or turn off your phone and other devices.
- Don't interrupt, turn to technology or engage in private conversations while others are speaking.
- Be open to learning from others.
- Everyone has the right to be heard. One speaker at a time.
- Avoid dominating the conversation. Allow others to participate.
- Listen respectfully. Listen to understand, not to respond.
- Assume good intent and be able to respectfully disagree.
- Practice grace. Remember that we are all human.

ENDOWED BY THE BERNARD OSHER FOUNDATION

ABOUT OSHER AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

HISTORY AND MISSION

Founded in 1999 with its first home in the historic Auburn House on the Towson University campus, the Auburn Society became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University in the summer of 2006 when it was awarded its first grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation. Osher is part of the university's Division of Business and Public Engagement.

The mission of Osher is to offer opportunities for continued learning along with programs and activities for social and cultural enrichment geared toward adults who are 50 and older. The basic concept of the organization is that learning is a life-long process and is enhanced in a congenial atmosphere with others who share a love of learning. There are no educational prerequisites for membership and no grades or credits are given.

Osher is a self-funded, membership organization, endowed by the Bernard Osher Foundation since 2009. Its programs and activities are planned and carried out by staff and member volunteers through committees. These committees include curriculum, membership engagement, philanthropy, and classroom facilitation.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Osher has fall and spring semesters each year. Each semester is divided into two four-week sessions. **Some classes are only four weeks in length while others are eight weeks.** This catalog describes the academic program for the **FALL 2026 SEMESTER.**

The dates are: Session I: September 14 – October 9
Session II: October 19 – November 13

****NOTE:** Classes will not be held September 25. Makeup date is October 16*

Classes are held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. unless stated otherwise. Each class meets once a week for one hour and 15 minutes unless stated otherwise in this catalog. **Fall 2026 courses will meet either in-person or online via Zoom. Zoom classes will be held on Mondays and Fridays, while in-person classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.**

In addition to the fall and spring semesters, Osher offers winter and summer lecture series.

OTHER PROGRAMS

In addition to its academic programs, Osher at Towson University offers special lectures, book clubs, interest groups, and day trips.

OSHER ONLINE™

Osher at Towson University is excited to offer additional online programming through the Osher Online™ program, in collaboration with the National Resource Center for Osher Institutes. Osher Online™ classes are offered quarterly. Each 6-week course meets for 90-minutes one day per week. Each quarter, a variety of courses are offered in numerous topic areas. These courses are offered separately from the Osher at Towson University fall and spring semester offerings. Membership is required to enroll. Each course is priced separately. Taught by an array of well-qualified instructors, the Osher Online™ program does not replace the semester online courses. Rather, it supplements our semester courses and gives members the opportunity to take classes with Osher members and instructors from across the country.

OSHER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University adheres to a policy of mutual respect between members, instructors, volunteers, staff, and the campus community. By joining Osher at Towson University, members agree to uphold the shared values of mutual respect, personal and academic integrity, and civil discourse.

- Members will not behave in a hostile, dismissive, or derogatory way toward anyone in the Osher community or others in University community.
- Members will be tolerant and respectful of diverse opinions and thinking.
- Members will not be disruptive in class or other activities.

The success of this policy relies on each participating individual upholding these values so that everyone can enjoy this educational community.

Osher members should contact the Director if there are any concerns or if they have witnessed behavior that is in violation of this Code of Conduct. The Director, in consultation with the Council Chair and the Osher Advisor, will investigate the issue and take the appropriate action to address any violations.

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

OSHER MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Osher is required to take classes. Membership is geared to individuals age 50 and better and their spouses. Annual dues, effective July 1–June 30, are \$60 per person. **Membership fees support operating costs of the organization.**

TUITION

The fee for one four-week course is \$74. The fee for two four-week courses or one eight-week course is \$148. The fee for three four-week courses or one eight-week course plus one four-week course is \$222. An unlimited number of courses may be taken during the semester for \$250.

REGISTRATION

Online registration will become available on August 4, 2026.

Online registration is strongly encouraged. If you are unable to register online, you may **download and print out the registration form.** You must be a current member to register for classes.

RENEW OR JOIN | **REGISTER FOR FALL 2026**

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

To best ensure our members' safety, Osher will follow the guidelines below for delays and closures during inclement weather. Regardless of Osher's status, please use your best judgment regarding your safety in traveling during inclement weather.

For Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday classes, please follow these Emergency Closing/Inclement Weather guidelines.

TOWSON UNIVERSITY DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS*

Towson University CLOSED	= Osher classes CANCELLED
Towson University OPEN at 10 a.m.	= Osher's 9:30 a.m. CLASS CANCELLED; First Osher CLASS BEGINS at 11 a.m.
Towson University OPEN at 11 a.m.	= First Osher CLASS BEGINS at 1 p.m.
Towson University OPEN at Noon	= First Osher CLASS BEGINS at 1 p.m.

**NOTE: The 401 Washington Avenue building follows Towson University schedule as building closures may be in effect.*

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS

Baltimore County Schools CLOSED	= Osher classes CANCELLED
Baltimore County Schools OPEN LATE	= NO CHANGES to Osher Class Schedule unless Towson University is closed or opening late (refer to schedule above)

COVID-19 POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

We are committed to the health and safety of all our Osher members and instructors. In-person classes provide camaraderie and a sense of community. To ensure everyone's safety in the classroom, we will follow all the public health and safety guidelines that are in place. We will also follow the guidelines that are established at the locations where we host our in-person courses. Important policy guidelines will be provided by email before the start of classes.

ZOOM COURSES

Online courses will meet via Zoom. Zoom links will be sent to those who are registered for the specific online course. These links are not to be shared with others.

CLASS MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

Registration is required and attendance will be monitored for all fall courses.

OSHER'S POLICY ON JEWISH HOLIDAYS

The Osher Institute follows Towson University's general policy as related to Jewish holidays, which is to hold classes as scheduled. However, an individual teacher may reschedule his/her class if desired. If a class has been rescheduled, it will be stated in the catalog after the description of the particular course affected.

DID YOU KNOW...?

THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE NETWORK

- There are over 120 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, often referred to as OLLIs, on college and university campuses in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- There are over 130,000 members nationwide.
- Osher Institutes are all unique, but each has the mission to design non-credit learning and social opportunities for adults age 50+, and each is part of a college or university.

**No tests, no grades, no homework.
Learning simply for the joy of learning.**

THE OSHER NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER (OSHER NRC)

- The Osher NRC is a non-governing center of excellence.
- It's hosted by Northwestern University School of Professional Studies.
- The Osher NRC produces the Osher Institutes National Conferences, a digital resource library, Osher Online shared courses and other valuable tools, training, and resources.
- The Osher NRC helps Osher Institutes thrive by
 - Connecting** — Institutes to each other and to resources
 - Collaborating** — With and among institutes and community partners
 - Consulting** — Helping Institute leaders find solutions
 - Celebrating** — Successes, camaraderie, and growth



The Bernard Osher Foundation, headquartered in San Francisco, was founded in 1977 by respected businessman, philanthropist and community leader Bernard Osher. The Foundation seeks to improve quality of life through innovative funding in higher education and the arts. The Foundation supports the national network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes.

[Click here to view a brief animated video history of The Osher Institute Legacy of Bernard Osher.](#)

Osher Online™

Osher Online offers shared online learning for members of participating Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes from across the United States. Experienced instructors lead unique and high-quality courses which supplement and complement the local Osher curriculum.

We are excited to offer Osher at Towson University members more course options through the Osher Online program. Study with subject matter experts, learn with Osher members from across the country and experience this exciting new opportunity.

- Osher Online courses are offered quarterly in the fall, winter, spring and summer with a variety of 6-week courses.
- Each class is 90 minutes long.
- Sessions meet live and are not recorded.

VISIT WWW.TOWSON.EDU/OSHERONLINE TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER.

FALL 2026 OSHER ONLINE COURSES

- Art Detectives: Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication
- Great Artists in American Roots Music
- Apple at 50: How it Revolutionized Computing and Transformed Daily Life
- Mexico City: Empires, Revolutions, and Everyday Life
- The Birth of the Beat Generation
- Winning the White House: The Evolution of the Presidency
- Some Assembly Required: The Story of the North American Kit Home
- Tracing Our Roots: DNA, Family History, and the Politics of Identity
- Biology & Society
- "Studies Show..." (Or Do They?): Under the Hood of a Scientific Study
- Sacred Mountains of the World
- The History and Experience of Route 66
- Cults and New Religious Movements in America
- August Wilson and His American Cycle—The First Five: 1904 – 1957
- Post War Architecture: The Innovative Architects of the Midcentury Modern Period
- Early 20th Century Avant-Garde: From Rebellion to Abstraction
- The 60s Through the Great Speeches
- Living Off the Laughter: History of Comedy in America
- Power and the People: The Evolution of the U.S. Federal Judiciary
- The Invisible Thread: 3,500 Years of Global Supply Chain

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORTERS OF OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to our donors for supporting the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University. Philanthropic gifts to Osher at Towson University enrich the program in many ways. Donations to Osher at Towson University help support technology upgrades, attract and retain great instructors, and keep tuition fees affordable. Thank you for demonstrating your belief in the importance of lifelong learning and your commitment to such a worthwhile program.

STRENGTHEN THE FINANCIAL FOUNDATION OF OSHER AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY. GIVE A GIFT!

Tax-deductible contributions to Osher are greatly appreciated and are important to its current and future operations. There are six funds to which you may give.

Osher Excellence Fund, (formerly the Osher Sustaining Fund), established in 2015, supports special program-related expenses and insures the ongoing success of Osher for years to come.

Patty Beere Ruby Memorial Fund, established in 2008 to honor the memory of Patty Beere Ruby, provides funding to celebrate and promote the Osher program.

Lou Cedrone Memorial Fund, established in 2015 to honor the memory of Lou Cedrone, Osher faculty member, 2000–2015, supports film courses at Osher.

Osher Lifelong Learning Endowment, awarded to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University in 2009 by the Bernard Osher Foundation, provides ongoing support for the Osher Institute.

R. Rex Rehfeld Endowment, established in 2016, sponsors Osher courses in honor of Osher faculty member, Rex Rehfeld.

Jacqueline L. and Eric K. Gratz Endowment for Lifelong Learning, through this legacy gift, the Gratz's have established an endowment that demonstrates their dedication to the Osher at Towson University organization and the pursuit of lifelong learning.

GIVE A GIFT!

*If you wish to donate by check, please indicate the fund to which you prefer to give. Please include notation that the gift is to Osher at Towson University. If you have no fund preference, your gift will go into the Osher Excellence Fund. Make check payable to **Towson University Foundation, Inc.** and mail to: **Towson University Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 17165, Baltimore, MD 21297-0219.***

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Osher thrives with the help of our volunteers. Whether they participate on a committee, facilitate a book club or discussion group, Osher volunteers are integral to the success of our program. Keep an eye out for Osher emails for ways to stay involved. A huge “thank you” to all the Osher volunteers. We can’t have a successful program without you!

We extend a special “thank you” to our volunteer instructors this semester: **Howard Cohen, Jonathan Cordish, and Bev Rosen.**

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AS AN OSHER VOLUNTEER

If you are an Osher member wondering how to get more involved at Osher as a volunteer, here are some great options:

PARTICIPATE ON AN OSHER COMMITTEE

Advisory Council—The Osher Advisory Council is comprised of members who serve in an advisory capacity to the Osher staff. The Advisory Council members act as ambassadors to the Osher membership and community on behalf of Osher at Towson University. Advisory Council members participate in bi-monthly meetings, provide important insights and feedback, and help to shape the direction of the organization. If you would like to be considered for the Advisory Council, please contact Tracy Jacobs at tjacobs@towson.edu.

Classroom Facilitation Committee—Classroom facilitators are essential to our courses. Classroom facilitators make important announcements at the beginning of each class, assist instructors with audio-visual needs, put out attendance sheets, and act as a liaison between instructors and staff during class meetings. Training on audio-visual equipment is provided to committee members and staff/technical support is available to support facilitators and instructors as needed.

Curriculum Committee—Members of the Osher Curriculum Committee review course proposals, provide feedback on instructors and courses, and assist in determining program offerings. This committee meets several times each year to discuss potential classes, instructors, and programs.

Day Trip Committee—Osher members love to participate in local and regional day trips, but they involve planning. This small group works with Osher staff to plan details of trips including locations, itineraries, and marketing.

Membership Engagement Committee—Membership engagement is vital to the sense of community that Osher provides. People serving on this committee ensure that Osher members feel welcome and informed. They help plan Osher social events, connect with new members, and identify ways to foster camaraderie among Osher members.

Shared Interest Group Facilitators—Share your interests with others at Osher. Facilitators organize book clubs, writing groups, and other groups for interested members.

Please consider volunteering at Osher by participating on a committee or leading a shared interest group. Contact **OSHER@TOWSON.EDU** to let us know if you are interested in being a volunteer and we will follow up with you.

ARTS, CULTURE & HUMANITIES



THE BEATLES

Jonathan Palevsky



DUKE ELLINGTON & COUNT BASIE: AMERICAN JAZZ ROYALTY

Seth Kibel

Sessions I and II

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 15)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

It has been over sixty years since The Beatles made their indelible mark on the world. Their music continues to be popular with both younger and older generations alike, even after half a century after the band broke up. Like all great artists, The Beatles were masters of self-reinvention, transforming themselves from the Beatlemania touring band into the profoundly serious studio musicians they became. We will explore the lives and songs of these remarkable lads and the undeniable impact of The Beatles on music and popular culture.

Jonathan Palevsky, B.M., M.M., is program director for WBJC. His undergraduate studies focused on musicology and his graduate work at Baltimore's Peabody Institute focused on instrumental training in classical guitar performance. Jonathan can be heard as host of Face the Music, Past Masters, WBJC Opera Fest and regular afternoon classical programming on WBJC. He also hosts Cinema Sundays at the Charles Theater. Jonathan has been a regular of the Osher faculty since the former Auburn Society's first semester in spring 1999.

Session II

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. (begins October 21)

Fee: \$74

Duke Ellington and Count Basie were both pianists who led big bands that achieved fame during the Swing Era. However, they were quite different in personality, careers and in their music. Recordings, videos and live performances from Seth will keep these lectures as lively as the music itself.

Seth Kibel is one of the Mid-Atlantic's premier woodwind specialists, working with some of the best bands in blues, jazz, swing, klezmer and more. Wowing audiences on clarinet, saxophone and flute, he is the featured performer with The Kleztet, Bay Jazz Project, Music Pilgrim Trio, Daryl Davis Band, The Natty Beaux and more. His most recent recording, "Clown with A Stick," was released in May 2023 on the Azalea City Recordings record label.

Make sure you are getting Osher emails and newsletter. Email osher@towson.edu.



ORCHESTRAL WOMEN COMPOSERS

Natalie Groom

Session I

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. (begins September 15)

Fee: \$74

With orchestral programming trends remaining deeply unequal, this exploration of women composers from all over the world will give you a glimpse into the wealth of overtures, symphonies and other pieces for orchestra that have been previously overlooked, from the 1700s to present day. Each week we will examine several different women composers, their work and their lives. This course brings the lives and music of many outstanding women composers out of obscurity and into the spotlight.

Dr. Natalie Groom is a clarinetist, educator and composer. She teaches clarinet, chamber music, clarinet choir and academic courses at UMBC and Towson University. In 2024, she was recognized for her inventive and explorative teaching with three Towson University Scholarship of Teaching and Learning grants focused on the use of innovative classroom technologies and developing Open Educational Resources (OER) materials. From 2019 to 2020, Natalie was an artist in residence at Collington Retirement Community where she responded to the pandemic with 45 virtual events that brought essential programming to isolated seniors. Natalie is a co-founder of Whistling Hens, a soprano and clarinet duo that performs and commissions music by women composers. The duo's name was plucked from a quote by a music critic who wrote in 1918, "women composers are at best whistling hens." Since its founding in 2018, Whistling Hens has commissioned 16 compositions, premiered 41 pieces, released two albums, held six ensemble-in-residence positions and received multiple international awards. Learn more at www.nataliegroom.com.



OPERA AND REAL LIFE

Roger Brunyate

Sessions I and II

Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 17)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

What is reality in opera? In 1779, Dr. Samuel Johnson described opera as an "irrational and exotic entertainment," but does it have to be? Even operas written for court performance grew out of real political conditions, and it would not have succeeded so well as a public spectacle had it not in some way reflected contemporary social conditions. More importantly, the best productions now manage to say something that matters to the audiences of today and contain characters whose triumphs and temptations we can see as very similar to our own. Learn how music, acting and sensitive directing reveal the deeper qualities of the characters and the overall productions. All classes will be illustrated by modern videos with English titles.

A long-time musician, Roger Brunyate was artistic director of the Peabody Opera for thirty years. Before that, he worked as a stage director and designer in Europe, reviewed cinema and dance for British newspapers, taught art history at Glasgow University, and studied literature at Cambridge. His past ten years of adult teaching have allowed him to inspire others with the interaction of multiple arts.

ZOOM COURSE



MUSIC AND THE HOLOCAUST: TRAGEDY, HOPE AND LEGACY

Emanuel Abramovits

Session I

Mondays, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 14)

Fee: \$74

Music was heard in many ghettos, concentration camps and partisan outposts of Nazi-controlled Europe. For many victims of the Holocaust, music was an important way of preserving and asserting their humanity. Learn the role that music played in the struggle for hope in the darkest of times. With support from audiovisuals and anecdotes, we'll learn about the artists who died in the Holocaust, those who survived, the fate of the instruments that have been restored and how the musical world was affected by WWII and the Holocaust.

Emanuel Abramovits is a mechanical engineer with an MBA and has been a concert promoter since 2000, directly involved in many events by international artists. He designed and staged many original orchestral events, including an "Event of the Year" winner and several world premieres. He served as the cultural director at Union Israelita de Caracas from 2008 to 2019, releasing books, organizing film cycles, concerts and art exhibits. He has been consistently teaching online and in presence across the U.S. since 2020.

ZOOM COURSE



GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: THE MOTHER OF AMERICAN MODERNISM

Joseph Cassar

Sessions I and II

Mondays, 11:15 a.m. (begins September 14)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

NOTE: This course will not be recorded

This course explores the life and work of Georgia O'Keeffe (1887–1986). In this course, we will get an overview of her artistic education, influential mentors, her relationship with photographer Alfred Stieglitz and his circle, and her move to New Mexico. This course will focus on several phases of O'Keeffe's art, including the New York skyscraper series, the crosses series, the skull series, landscapes, the flower series and more.

Joseph Paul Cassar is professor of art and graphic communications at the University of Maryland Global Campus. He has been engaged in designing online art courses for the university as well as for the New York Knowledge Network. He has lectured at the University of Malta for the Faculty of Education, Mediterranean Institute, Faculty of Theology and formed part of the art department with the Faculty of Arts, where he lectured on the modern and contemporary period. He is the author of several award-winning art books with a special focus on Maltese modern artists. In addition to presenting at area institutions, Cassar has lectured at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Walters Art Museum and at the Smithsonian Institution. Cassar is also a practicing artist who exhibits his works regularly in the Baltimore-Washington area. Cassar keeps Malta at heart, visits regularly and maintains a studio in Xemxija.



CAST, CUT, FUSED AND STAINED GLASS ARTISTS

Howard Cohen

Session I

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 16)

Fee: \$74

This class explores the work of innovative glass artists who use casting, fusing, cutting, laminating and stained glass to create bold and compelling art. We will examine striking international works — from monumental installations to intricate geometric forms — that transform light, color and space. Featured artists include renowned stained-glass visionary Judith Schaechter, whose richly detailed panels reimagine traditional imagery through a contemporary feminist lens. The course also includes a special in-person lecture by Washington, DC artist Michael Janis, who creates evocative, surreal portraits using glass powder painting and kiln casting. At the end of the series, students are invited to go on an optional behind-the-scenes studio tour at the Washington Glass Studio, offering a rare opportunity to experience these artists' creative processes firsthand.

Howard Cohen is an actuary and a leading advocate for contemporary glass art, recognized as a collector, curator and educator with more than 25 years of deep engagement in this vibrant, close-knit community. For over a decade, he has delivered compelling programs for lifelong learning programs throughout Baltimore. He has also led curated visits to artists' studios and major art museums, offering rare, insider access to the field. As membership chairman and co-chair of the Education Committee of the Art Alliance for Contemporary Art, he actively shapes the organization's growth and educational impact. What sets Mr. Cohen apart is his ability to translate experience into connection — sharing the compelling personal narratives and creative processes of artists with clarity and enthusiasm born from decades of immersion in the medium.



EIGHT PLAYS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW, FALL 2026 EDITION

Greg Jones

Sessions I and II

Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 16)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

In this edition of the popular series, students will look at plays by or about strong female characters. In addition to comments about each plays' context and place in the literary and theatrical canon, the course will be illustrated by performance clips and, where possible, live performances by celebrated local actors. Lively discussion is encouraged. Links to the scripts and online performances will be given in advance, but no prior preparation or attendance in previous classes is required. The eight plays to be considered are: "Inherit the Wind" (inspired by the Scopes Trial), "Gross Indecency: The Trials of Oscar Wilde," "Richard III," "The Miracle Worker" (inspired by Helen Keller's teacher), "Twilight Los Angeles 1992" (about the LA riots), "St. Joan" and "The Elephant Man."

Greg Jones has appeared in more than 60 stage productions and has written 10 full-length plays. His American tragedy play called "Dead Air" recently had its world premiere at Dominion Stage in Virginia. He has a B.A. in drama from Catholic University and an M.A. in English literature from Salisbury University. He has taught English, literature and film in colleges in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia and serves on the board of the Anne Arundel County Scholarships for Scholars program.

ZOOM COURSE**A VIBRANT VOICE: THE FILMS OF JAMES EARL JONES**

Arnold Blumberg

Session I**Fridays, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 18)****Fee: \$74****NOTE: Classes will not meet on Friday, September 25. The makeup date is Friday, October 16.**

Overcoming a stutter as a child to become one of the most distinctive and resonant voices in pop culture history, James Earl Jones crafted a career that brought him success on stage and screens, big and small, leading to him achieving the coveted EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Awards). Embodying an elegance and dignity that lifted him to the level of movie royalty and countered racist resistance to his groundbreaking presence in many roles, Jones appeared in films like “Dr. Strangelove” (1964), “The Great White Hope” (1970), “The Man” (1972), “Coming to America” (1988), “Field of Dreams” (1989) and “The Hunt for Red October” (1990). For one generation, he will always be the voice of Mufasa in “The Lion King” (1994), while for many others, his stentorian intonations are forever linked with the helmeted silhouette of Star Wars’ Darth Vader, which he began voicing in 1977.

Arnold T. Blumberg is a pop culture historian and professor of multiple courses in media literacy and other cultural topics. He has taught at UMBC, the University of Baltimore, CCBC, and Osher at Towson University. He spent 15 years in the comic book industry as writer and editor of “The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide,” curated a pop culture museum for five years, and currently runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

ZOOM COURSE**ACCENT ON VERSATILITY: THE FILMS OF MERYL STREEP**

Arnold Blumberg

Session II**Fridays, 1:00 p.m. (begins October 23)****Fee: \$74**

The often-chameleonic Meryl Streep is one of the most celebrated and respected actors of her — or any — generation. She has won three Academy Awards to date, one for Best Supporting Actress in “Kramer vs. Kramer” (1979), and two for Best Actress in “Sophie’s Choice” (1982) and “The Iron Lady” (2011), having been nominated an additional (and amazing) 18 times. Also winning a 1978 Emmy for her lead role in the acclaimed but controversial NBC miniseries, “Holocaust,” Streep has drawn accolades for roles in “The Deer Hunter” (1978), “The French Lieutenant’s Woman” (1981), “Silkwood” (1983), “Defending Your Life” (1991), “Death Becomes Her” (1992), “The Devil Wears Prada” (2006), “Mamma Mia!” (2008) and “Julie & Julia” (2009). Her prolific career, record number of Oscar nominations and advocacy of better and more nuanced representation of women in film have made her a pivotal and powerful pop culture personage.

ZOOM COURSE**1976: THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF A STAR-SPANGLED YEAR IN FILM**

Arnold Blumberg

Session I**Mondays, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 14)****Fee: \$74**

A little more than halfway into a cinematic era sometimes referred to as the American New Wave or the Hollywood Renaissance, films were produced and released in the historically significant year of 1976 that captured a wide-ranging and memorable silver-screen snapshot of the United States and the world. Crime dramas, science fiction fantasies, western and war epics, and tales of horror, humor and history, the films of 1976 told stories in every genre and left an indelible mark on pop culture history with landmark performances and unforgettable visuals that remain burned into the brains of generations of moviegoers. The films we will discuss include "Taxi Driver," "Robin and Marian," "Family Plot," "Logan's Run," "The Omen," "The Shootist," "Marathon Man," "Assault on Precinct 13," "Network," "Silver Streak," "Freaky Friday" and "Voyage of the Damned."

Arnold T. Blumberg is a pop culture historian and professor of multiple courses in media literacy and other cultural topics. He has taught at UMBC, the University of Baltimore, CCBC and Osher at Towson University. He spent 15 years in the comic book industry as writer and editor of "The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide," curated a pop culture museum for five years and currently runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

ZOOM COURSE**THE STORIES OF FLANNERY O'CONNOR**

Robert Jacobs

Sessions I and II**Mondays, 2:30 p.m. (begins September 14)****Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)**

Considered one of America's greatest fiction writers, Flannery O'Connor wrote bold and shocking stories that resisted conventional description. A devout Roman Catholic who lived in the "Christ haunted" Protestant South, O'Connor's stories are strange, darkly humorous and often violent. But the violence itself is never gratuitous, rather it serves as a wake-up call for her somnambulant characters. O'Connor said, "In my own stories I have found that violence is strangely capable of returning my characters to reality and preparing them to accept their moment of grace. Their heads are so hard that almost nothing else will do the work." In this course we will read a number of O'Connor's most famous and critically acclaimed stories from her collection "The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor."

W Robert Jacobs is a Towson University graduate with a B.A. in English. He traveled to the United Kingdom where he attained an M.A. in comparative literature from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He spent several years in London working as a freelance writer and has contributed to a variety of publications such as "Time Out London," The Baltimore Sun's Metromix, and "The Examiner." He is an adjunct instructor at Community College of Baltimore County, Johns Hopkins University and Montgomery College.



SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS: 400 YEARS OF TIMELESS LOVE

Liza Achilles

Sessions I and II

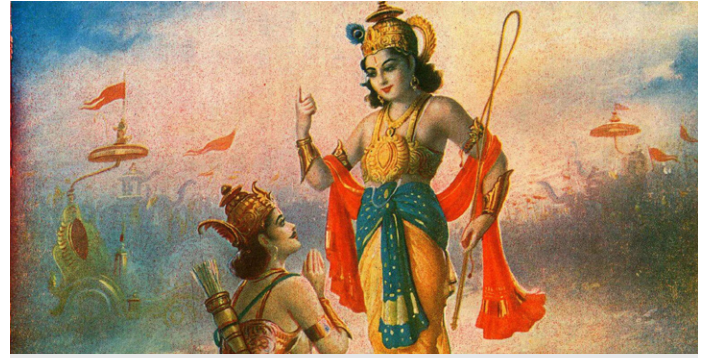
Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. (begins September 17)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

William Shakespeare's sonnet sequence was first published over 400 years ago and still resonates with readers today. "But thy eternal summer shall not fade," proclaims the most famous of them all (Sonnet 18). The poet addresses these words to a young man known as the Fair Youth, but the words also refer to the poetry itself. In this course, we will read and discuss Shakespeare's sonnets, including the 154 sonnets as well as the short narrative poem "A Lover's Complaint" that was published with the sonnets in 1609. We will examine the life and times of Shakespeare and learn how he crafted these masterful 14-line poems, which have often been ignored due to their shocking sexual content. We will also read selected sonnets by other writers from various historical periods, from the Italian Renaissance through the twenty-first century.

NOTE: We will read from Shakespeare's Sonnets: Revised Edition, ed. Katherine Duncan-Jones, The Arden Shakespeare, 2010, ISBN 1408017970 and The Art of the Sonnet by David Mikics and Stephanie Burt, Belknap Press, 2011, ISBN 0674061802. You are encouraged to have these books for this class.

Liza Achilles is the author of "Two Novembers: A Memoir of Love 'n' Sex in Sonnets" (Beltway Editions, 2024), which was called "an intimate, often hilarious, always relatable debut," by DCTRENDING magazine. Her writing has appeared in Beltway Poetry Quarterly, Tofu Ink Arts Press, Exacting Clam, Brief Wilderness, The Big Windows Review, the Washington Independent Review of Books, and the Silent Book Club blog, among other publications. The Blog for the Discerning Reader at lizaachilles.com attracts thousands of readers each month. She works as a freelance writer, editor, web designer, graphic designer and speaker and lives near Washington, DC.



THE BHAGAVAD GITA

Ed Fotheringill

Session I

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. (begins September 16)

Fee: \$74

The Bhagavad Gita (Song of the Lord) is one of the classic texts of Hindu Philosophy. It is also part of the Indian mythological epic, The Mahabharata. The Bhagavad Gita (4th Century BC) is essentially a parable about the Hindu path to enlightenment. In this course, the central tenets of Hindu philosophy and its path to enlightenment will be explained and discussed.

Edward Fotheringill has been teaching philosophy at the college level for 45 years. For many years, he held the position of senior lecturer of philosophy at Towson University and Goucher College. For the last ten years of his career, he was an adjunct professor of philosophy and intellectual history at the Maryland Institute College of Art.



LANGUAGE OF LOSS: A POETRY, GRIEF AND HEALING WORKSHOP

Rabbi Benjamin Shalva

Session I

Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 17)

Fee: \$74

NOTE: Class will not meet on Thursday, October 1. The makeup date is Thursday, October 15.

An exploration of grief, memory and loss through poetry — reading celebrated poets and writing from one's own experience. Through close reading and guided writing, participants discover that finding language for what we carry is itself a form of healing. In the first week, we will open by asking why grief resists ordinary language and why poetry may be uniquely suited to the task. We will read selected poems and have prompts for guided writing. No prior experience is required.

Benjamin Shalva is a poet, hospice chaplain and rabbi. He serves as manager of Jewish Care at Gilchrist Hospice.



THE NEW KINGDOM: EGYPT'S GOLDEN AGE

Bob Baer

Sessions I and II

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 15)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

The New Kingdom was the period when Egypt reached its greatest artistic, architectural and intellectual development. Known for the famous pharaohs Tutankhamun, Ramesses, Akhenaton and Hatshepsut, it saw the building of splendid temple complexes and the Valley of the Kings and most expansive empire. Explore the great cultural and historical accomplishments of Egypt's Golden Age through this highly illustrated class.

Bob Baer is a college administrator with over forty years of experience in higher education. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in history and a doctorate in higher education. Bob is a history instructor at Community College of Baltimore County, Johns Hopkins University and Towson University Osher programs, York College-CUNY and Norwalk Community College.



THE ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICA: FROM PRE-COLONIAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT

Peter Levy

Sessions I and II

Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. (begins September 17)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

Environmental history studies the changing relationship between human beings and the natural world over time. Or put in the form of a question, how have humans shaped and been shaped by the physical environment? This course examines the environmental history of North America from the pre-colonial period to the present. Our central premise throughout will be that much of the familiar terrain of American history looks very different when seen in its environmental context, and that one can learn a great deal about both history and the environment by studying the two together.

Peter B. Levy, professor emeritus, taught U.S. history for over thirty years at York College of Pennsylvania, where he offered courses on recent America, the Civil Rights Movement, and environmental history. He is the author of over two dozen books and articles and a member of the editorial board of Maryland Historical Magazine. Since his retirement from teaching, he has spent much of his time trying to transform his historical research and knowledge into original plays.



TWENTIETH CENTURY BALTIMORE

Jack Burket



GREAT BALTIMORE FIRE OF 1904: FROM DEVASTATION TO DETERMINATION

Bev Rosen

Sessions I and II

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 17)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

This course is a survey of the history of Baltimore, its people, their lives and activities and the events that impacted the city and region both international, national and local in scope. The course covers, decade by decade, the story of Baltimore from New Years Eve 1899 to the renaissance of the city in the 1970s. If you want to learn of and understand the Baltimore of today, its story is written by the events of its history — it is here we offer the details of Baltimore's modern times. The story of Baltimore unfolds as the city moves from a turn of the century industrial center filled with an increasing immigrant population during successive eras. Through wartimes and the Great Depression to mid-century growth, the good times were followed by an unfolding schism over differing attitudes and generations. A decade of unrest is followed by a true renaissance led by a leader dedicated as no other in making Baltimore a treasure on the Patapsco. Included are events from the Great Baltimore Fire and becoming a part of the arsenal of democracy in World War II, to lesser-known stories of the city's unique way of handling its resistance to 1920s Prohibition, and a start of the city's recovery and re-building commencing with the Baltimore City Fair.

Jack Burkert is a Baltimore native and a 1969 graduate of the University of Maryland, graduating with honors with a degree in history and education. His working life, some 40+ years, was spent in various educator roles, beginning in the Baltimore City Public School System, then as a staff member at the Pennsylvania State University, through private employers and then until his retirement in his own consulting firm. Jack worked as an educator at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. In recent years, he has presented several hundred Baltimore history programs to various adult audiences and written a book entitled, "Twentieth Century Baltimore."

Session II

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. (begins October 20)

Fee: \$74

The Baltimore Fire of 1904 was the third largest devastating city fire in the United States. Even a century later, the story of the fire and the city's remarkable recovery makes for one of the truly dramatic chapters in U.S. history. Yet many people do not appreciate the fact that all downtown Baltimore was burned, and that the fire lasted 30 hours untamed. We will learn about the cause of this tragedy, the firefighter challenges and some of the reasons the fire could not be controlled. We will learn about the heroes of the fire, the role of the National Guard, the importance of ordinary citizens, the failed strategies like dynamiting buildings and even a heroic horse. We will also learn about the role of people including the newspaper men who with ingenuity got their papers published elsewhere and ordinary citizens who helped the firefighters despite peril to themselves. But most of all this is a story of a city that reacted to this crisis to become a revitalized city with indomitable courage and determination.

Bev Rosen is a historian whose lectures, training, workshops, national presentations and walking tours have delighted hundreds of students. She has presented at CCBC, the Renaissance Institute, Edward A. Myerberg Center, the Jewish Museum, the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Jewish Community Center, Baltimore Heritage and many other organizations.



THE HISTORY OF BALTIMORE PARKS

Jennifer Liles

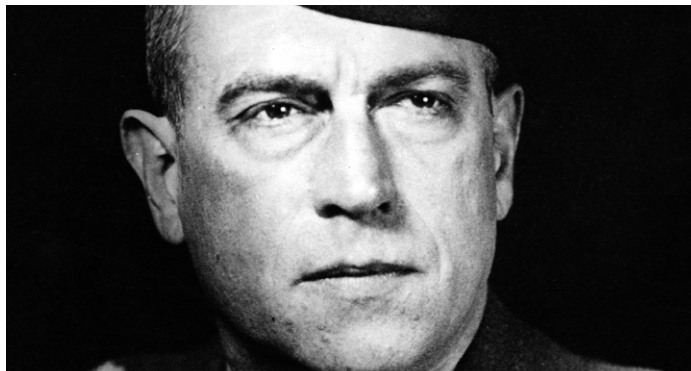
Session I

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. (begins September 16)

Fee: \$74

The history of Baltimore's parks is vast and covers all the city and the population. Come learn how our parks define us as a city and community and how they have always been "our backyard." In this course, we will discuss the beginning of the park system in Baltimore. We will learn about the park designers and the owners of the park land. We will discover how and why the parks were created, the purpose they had initially and how that purpose has changed over the centuries.

Jennifer Liles is a public historian with a degree in public history from Stevenson University. She researches and works on projects related to the history of Baltimore and its people as well as industry, places and events that make Baltimore unique.



MAJOR GENERAL MAURICE ROSE: UNSUNG HERO AND CULTURAL ICON OF WWII

Jonathan Cordish

Session II

Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. (begins October 22)

Fee: \$74

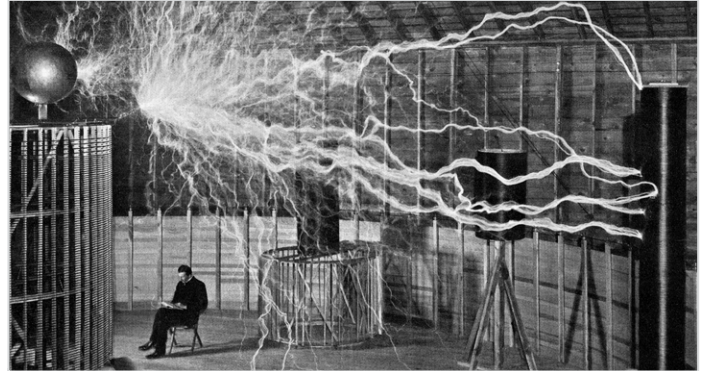
This course examines the career and legacy of Major General Maurice Rose, the highest-ranking American officer killed in action in Europe during World War II. One of the war's most consequential armored commanders, Rose led pivotal operations from Normandy and Saint-Lô to the Battle of the Bulge and the Ruhr, earning praise as "the best armored commander in the business." His public memory, however, was contested. Raised in an observant Jewish household, Rose identified as Protestant during nearly three decades in uniform, as he navigated a deeply exclusionary officer corps. After his death in combat in March 1945, mainstream outlets cast him as the ideal, implicitly Protestant American soldier. By contrast, American Jewish newspapers proclaimed Rose the "Jewish General," casting him as a proud communal standard-bearer for his birth faith and people. Through four illustrated lectures, this course reconstructs Rose's life and "afterlife," from his battlefield leadership to the wartime contest over his identity. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the wartime Army and American society — its ideals, its limits and the cultural debates that shaped how a wartime hero was remembered.

Jonathan Cordish holds a M.A. in military history with distinction from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. He has taught multiple courses at Osher on World War II, most recently on the U.S. decision to use atomic weapons against Japan. His current course grows out of archival research he conducted for his master's thesis on Maurice Rose.



THE 1930S AND TODAY

Bill Barry



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT

Meg Algren

Session II

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. (begins October 21)

Fee: \$74

With the political turbulence today, it is worth looking at another historical period that changed our country. This course will examine the New Deal, Social Security, the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act and federal support for the arts — then and now. Students will learn about the different social movements of the 1930s and will learn about specific legislation, passed in the 1930s that is still effective today.

Bill Barry is the retired director of labor studies at CCBC-Dundalk and a longtime instructor for the Osher at Towson University program.

Session II

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. (begins October 21)

Fee: \$74

This course covers a wide range of topics from the whimsical — how to get a holiday named after yourself — to the weighty — the impact of addiction on human exploitation and imperialism. Students will explore the impact of deliberate and accidental historical events and phenomena on society. We will examine the impact on social change from a variety of different occurrences such as the Jack the Ripper murders, America's love affair with the peanut, and the competition between Thomas Edison, Nicola Tesla and George Westinghouse. This thought-provoking course is designed for those with curious and eclectic minds.

Meg Algren is professor emeritus from Towson University where she taught in the Mass Communications Department. She has taught several courses for Osher at Towson University.



SEX, RELIGION, AND BIAS IN THE SUPREME COURT

Barbara Ressin



UNDERCOVER II

Daniel Sutton

Session II

Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. (begins October 22)

Fee: \$74

Many Supreme Court cases involve religion, many involve sex, and some involve both. Supreme Court justices are supposed to be unbiased and not allow their personal feelings about issues get in the way of their decision making. However, they are still human beings, and along with that caveat, they sometimes can't help themselves. One justice was an avowed antisemite, and another was known for being homophobic. Their feelings were not hidden from the public. The cases we will review, and the resulting decisions will be enlightening. From same sex marriage to interracial marriage, from abortion to reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, from school prayer to praying in a football huddle prior to a game, and from a picture of Jesus hanging in a public school to the Ten Commandments being displayed on government grounds, the Supreme Court justices often have a lot to answer to from the public. Whether it's a case of antisemitism, homophobia, or clinging to one's religious beliefs, how have these justices ruled on controversial issues?

Barbara Ressin is a graduate of Towson University with a B.S. in education. She taught for three years in the Baltimore City Public School System, 25 years at the Beth Tfiloh Day School in the secular division, and as adjunct faculty member of Community College of Baltimore County at both the Owings Mills and Hunt Valley campuses, adjunct faculty member of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University, adjunct faculty member of the Renaissance Academy for the Florida Gulf State University, member of Oasis faculty in Montgomery County under auspices of Johns Hopkins University, taught at Food For Thought Lectures, Kaleidoscope at Roland Park School, lectured for The Lecture Group, Western Howard County Senior Center, Friends of the Pikesville Library, North Oaks Retirement Community and various religious and philanthropic groups around the state.

Session I

Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 17)

Fee: \$74

NOTE: Class will not meet on Thursday, November 24.

The makeup date is Thursday, October 15.

In this four-week course, Dan Sutton will continue his first-person accounts of his career as an undercover special agent for the U.S. government. You may know the Hollywood version, but in this course, you will learn about the real thing through the eyes of the instructor who worked as a special agent criminal investigator for 25 years, much of it working undercover. What does undercover work really entail? How do men and women in law enforcement and government carry out missions to protect and defend? Attendance in the previous course is not required.

Daniel Sutton spent 25 years employed as a criminal investigator for the United States government for three different agencies. He conducted extremely sensitive criminal investigations with worldwide impact including cases investigating the mafia and international arms dealers. Nearly half his career was spent working undercover.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION?

Fred Pincus



THE LONGEVITY MOVEMENT: SOCIAL, ETHICAL AND ECONOMIC FRONTIERS

Ann Farrell

Session II

Mondays, 1:00 p.m. (begins October 19)

Fee: \$74

This course will explore ways that American higher education is being reshaped in the second Trump administration. The administration is trying to reshape higher education to be more consistent with its conservative policies and values. Students will learn about the status of the U.S. Department of Education, including severe staff reductions and the transferring of important higher education programs to other government agencies. The attack on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs has led to a decline in students of color and low-income students. The weaponization of charges of antisemitism has cost higher education institutions millions of dollars in fines and has made it more difficult for professors and students to protest and to express their first amendment rights. Some colleges and universities and most higher education organizations have resisted while others have not. Each class will have time devoted to questions and discussion.

Fred L. Pincus is an emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He taught courses on educational policy and diversity at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has published five books and dozens of academic articles as well as more recent op-eds in the Baltimore Sun and the online website, The Conversation.

Sessions I and II

Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. (begins September 15)

Fee: \$148 (\$74 for each session)

The burgeoning longevity movement is driven by an increasing fascination — bordering on obsession — with extending life and improving healthspan, the period of life spent in good health. The movement has gained momentum globally with people exploring various methods to achieve their longevity goals. The past year marked one of the most productive years in human longevity science, with major breakthroughs in human trials, drug repurposing, metabolic therapeutics, biomarker discovery and encouraging policy shifts. Because science suggests it is achievable, society needs it, business can profit from it and people increasingly expect it. Longevity has moved from fantasy to a plausible, actionable goal — and that makes it irresistible. This course explores the current longevity movement, its roots, science, hopes and perils.

Ann Farrell, BSN RN, is a career-long patient advocate in roles as direct care provider, hospital and HealthIT vendor executive, and principal of Farrell Associates, a strategic healthcare consulting firm. Ann has been a popular featured speaker in numerous international and national forums and an instructor in prior Osher courses focused on the U.S. healthcare market and medical industrial complex.

ZOOM COURSE**THE UNIVERSE: EVER EXPANDING,
EVER EVOLVING**

Shelley Bonus

Sessions I and II**Fridays, 11:00 a.m. (begins September 18)****No class on September 25. Makeup class on
October 16.****Fee: \$148 (\$74)****NOTE: This course will not be recorded.**

This course explores theories and myths about the origin and evolution of the universe. Cosmology and astronomy are interdisciplinary sciences which often overlap and complement each other. This course combines the insights gained from both disciplines to achieve a deeper understanding of the universe and our place in it. We explore current cosmological theories about how the universe evolved from its primordial stages — including inflation and the Big Bang — to the present and its potential future of continuous expansion into darkness or a catastrophic crunch. We also explore various tribal myths known colloquially as “the gods of the gaps” which tend to incorporate undefined celestial phenomena to explain what “appear to be mysterious occurrences of the sky-world.”

Shelley Bonus, an eclipse chaser and Osher instructor for more than 20 years, is an astronomer, writer, lecturer, science translator and zero-gravity flyer. She was a session director and the telescope coordinator for the Mt. Wilson Observatory, home of the historic 100” Hooker telescope, for over 25 years. She wrote the content for Caltech’s infrared astronomy website, Cool Cosmos, a Solar System Guide for the Planetary Society, and created and presented the “Janet Planet and Space E! Tracy” planetarium shows and served as an on-call editor for NASA educational materials. A lifelong learner herself, when she’s not chasing eclipses or lecturing on cruise ships around the world, Shelley specializes in teaching cosmology, astronomy and space exploration “update classes” to lifelong learners at various universities. Shelley has received a NASA Group Achievement Award for her work with telescopes in education, and the International Astronomical Union honored Shelley by naming Asteroid 10028 Bonus after her, for “her unique method of translating difficult scientific discoveries to the general public.”

ZOOM COURSE**MYSTERIES OF MARS**

Jim O’Leary

Session I**Fridays, 9:30 a.m. (begins September 18)****No class on September 25. Makeup class on
October 16.****Fee: \$74**

Long mysterious, Mars captures the imaginations of scientists, writers and artists alike. Ancients viewed reddish Mars as a sign of fire and destruction, noting its erratic motion across the sky. Some observed canals, fueling decades of imagining intelligent civilizations and inspiring classic science fiction. Today, we explore its volcanoes and ancient rivers, search for signs of life and plan future travels to the Red Planet.

Jim O’Leary served as chief astronomy specialist for the Maryland Science Center, producing exhibits, planetarium programs and IMAX films, and creating professional development for teachers; received the Excellence in Outreach Award from NASA and, for 12 years, hosted the astronomy radio program Skywatch on WYPR.

ZOOM COURSE**THE ANIMAL KINGDOM—WELL SOME OF IT, ANYWAY!**

Stephenie Slahor

ZOOM COURSE**CARING FOR OURSELVES WHILE CARING FOR OTHERS**

Emily Kearns

Session II**Fridays, 2:30 p.m. (begins September 18)****No class on September 25. Makeup class on October 16.****Fee: \$74**

From jungle to polar, the Earth hosts a huge variety of animals. We will explore six habitats where animals live — in the air, arbo-real, underground, on land, in fresh water and in saltwater. We will learn about some of the animals that live, hunt or rest in each of those habitats.

Stephenie Slahor, Ph.D., is retired from university and law school teaching and now creates informative and enjoyable lifelong learning courses, primarily in the natural sciences and history. This is her second course for Osher at Towson University.

Session II**Mondays, 9:30 a.m. (begins October 19)****Fee: \$74****NOTE: This course will not be recorded.**

Most of us are, or will become, a caregiver — that is, someone supporting another — a child, parent, sibling, spouse, neighbor, co-worker or others. Some of us are professional caregivers, in jobs that support those living with challenges. Whatever the case, the last thing we consider is taking care of ourselves, as others become our priority. Join us in learning how to stay healthy and resilient, taking care of our body, mind and spirit, while we support others. We will explore recent research on stress reduction and calming the nervous system to better sustain the caregiving marathon.

Emily Kearns, Ph.D., is formerly the coordinator for Dementia Friendly Baltimore County with the Baltimore County Department of Aging providing community-wide dementia education, resources and care support. Emily was also formerly the lead for Dementia Friendly Massachusetts and a consultant with the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition, evaluating innovative respite programs and hosting a television show called “Caring for Others, Caring for Ourselves.” She has facilitated memory cafés, dementia-supportive fitness programs at the Y, Dementia Dialogues at the public library, and retreats. She has also created a multimedia art installation called “Dementia’s Way.” Emily’s personal experience as a caregiver/care partner to her parents, who both lived with dementia, was life-changing, catapulting her into supporting those living with dementia. Emily earned a doctorate in sociology from Boston College and an executive MBA from Northeastern University. She is also a Somatic Experiencing Practitioner (SEP), end-of-life doula, somatic care consultant, installation artist and Reiki master.

ZOOM COURSE



NUTRITION AND HEALTHY AGING

Karen Wright

Session II

Fridays, 9:30 a.m. (begins October 23)

Fee: \$74

What are the key nutrition guidelines that promote healthy aging? Students will learn about overall nutritional recommendations, gut health and its role in wellness, the relationship between nutrition and cognitive health and tips for a heart healthy diet.

Karen Wright is a licensed clinical nutritionist with over five years of experience providing nutritional counseling and health coaching to clients with diverse health concerns including diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, thyroid issues and mental health disorders. She is passionate about empowering individuals to lead healthier lives through evidence-based nutrition advice.

BIG THANKS

to all Osher Volunteers who help
to make Osher a success.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OSHER FAQs:

HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH OSHER STAFF?

The best way to reach the staff is to email osher@towson.edu. If you are not receiving emails from Osher, please let us know and we can include you on our email distribution list.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BE AN OSHER MEMBER?

Membership runs from July 1 through June 30 and is \$60 per person. Courses are open to current members. [Join or renew your membership today](#). Your membership not only allows access to courses, it helps to sustain our lifelong learning community.

WHAT ELSE DOES OSHER OFFER?

Osher offers a wide variety of book clubs, discussion groups, and special interest groups. Announcements for these happenings are sent via our Osher email list.

HOW LONG ARE OSHER CLASSES?

Classes typically last for an hour and 15 minutes, unless otherwise stated.

CAN I SIGN UP FOR JUST ONE SESSION OF AN 8-WEEK COURSE?

Yes—but keep in mind that if you are signing up for the second session of an 8-week course, you will be missing the material covered in the first four weeks.

HOW DO I REGISTER ONLINE FOR CLASSES?

Online registration will open on August 4. Please review [these instructions \(PDF\)](#) before registering.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Online Registration is strongly encouraged. If you wish to register by mail and pay with a check, you must also email osher@towson.edu to inform the Osher staff of the classes you wish to take.

**OSHER AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS:**

RE/IMAGINING RETIREMENT SUMMIT



September 25 / 9 AM–4 PM / Towson University / \$75 (EARLY RATE)

TICKET INCLUDES PARKING, LIGHT BREAKFAST & LUNCH

RETIREMENT ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE, AND THAT'S A GOOD THING!

Whether you're already retired or just beginning to think about what's next, the Re/Imagining Retirement Summit from Osher at Towson University will help you build a future filled with purpose, possibility and connection.

Enjoy a full day of inspiring speakers, practical workshops, networking opportunities, and valuable planning resources. Learn how retirement is changing in this era of longevity!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
TO REGISTER VISIT
[TOWSON.EDU/OSHER](https://towson.edu/osher)**

OSHER DAY TRIP



HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026 | WASHINGTON, DC | \$70 PER PERSON

Come with us to visit Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, a hidden gem in Washington, DC. This gorgeous estate was the former residence of famous businesswoman, art collector, and philanthropist, Marjorie Merriweather Post. Hillwood features an exquisite collection of 18th century French decorative arts and the most comprehensive collection of Russian art outside of Russia, and 25 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens and woodlands. The visit includes a docent led tour of the mansion and the beautiful gardens. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Merriweather Café.

The bus will leave the parking lot of Greenspring Shopping Center on Smith Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209 at 8:30 a.m., and will depart Hillwood at 2:00 p.m.

REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP

*Osher membership is **not required** to attend this day trip.
Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.*

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE FALL 2026 REGISTRATION FORM

New Member ☐ Renewing Member ☐

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To REGISTER ONLINE visit www.towson.edu/OsherRegistration

Session I (September 14 - October 9) • Session II (October 19 - November 13)

✓	TITLE	DAY	TIME	SESSION I	SESSION II	BOTH
ARTS, CULTURE & HUMANITIES						
	The Beatles	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	Duke Ellington & Count Basie	Wednesday	11 a.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	Orchestral Women Composers	Tuesday	2:30 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	Opera and Real Life	Thursday	1 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	ZOOM: Music and the Holocaust	Monday	9:30 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	ZOOM: Georgia O'Keefe	Monday	11:15 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	Art Glass	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	Eight Plays	Wednesday	1 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	ZOOM: Films of James Earl Jones	Friday	1 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	ZOOM: Films of Meryl Streep	Friday	1 p.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	ZOOM: 1976 in Film	Monday	1 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	ZOOM: Flannery O'Connor	Monday	2:30 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	Shakespeare's Sonnets	Thursday	2:30 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	The Bhagavad Gita	Wednesday	11 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	The Language of Loss	Thursday	1 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCES						
	Egypt's Golden Age	Tuesday	11 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	Environmental History of North America	Thursday	2:30 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	Twentieth Century Baltimore	Thursday	9:30 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	The Great Baltimore Fire of 1904	Tuesday	2:30 p.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	The History of Baltimore Parks	Wednesday	2:30 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	Major General Maurice Rose	Thursday	11 a.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	The 1930s and Today	Wednesday	2:30 p.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	I Should Have Known That	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	Sex, Religion, and Bias in the Supreme Court	Thursday	1 p.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	Undercover II	Thursday	11 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	ZOOM: American Higher Education	Monday	1 p.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	The Longevity Movement	Tuesday	1 p.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
TECHNOLOGY & WELLNESS						
	ZOOM: The Universe	Friday	11 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)	☐ Session II (\$74)	☐ Both (\$148)
	ZOOM: Mysteries of Mars	Friday	9:30 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	ZOOM: Caring for Ourselves While Caring for Others	Monday	9:30 a.m.	☐ Session I (\$74)		
	ZOOM: The Animal Kingdom	Friday	2:30 p.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	
	ZOOM: Nutrition and Healthy Aging	Friday	9:30 a.m.		☐ Session II (\$74)	

IMPORTANT: Members mailing forms and payment MUST email osher@towson.edu to ensure receipt & processing.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Osher Membership cycle runs July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Osher Membership Fee: \$60 per person

Please complete the form below (one form for **EACH** person) and **send to:**

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Towson University, 401 Washington Ave, 3rd Floor, Towson, MD 21204-0001

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TOWSON UNIVERSITY.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. Sex: M F Today's date _____

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Name you prefer on nametag _____

TU alum? ☐ Yes ☐ No Date of Birth _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email (please print) _____

☐ Please check box if you **DO NOT** wish to receive email messages from Osher.

Emergency Contact Name _____ Emergency Contact Phone # _____

Are you retired? ☐ Yes ☐ No Former (present) occupation _____

Would you consider teaching? ☐ Yes ☐ No What subjects? _____

How did you learn about Osher?

☐ Friend ☐ Flyer ☐ Website ☐ Baltimore Magazine ☐ MPT Guide ☐ BSO Overture ☐ Towson Times

☐ Other _____

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

FALL 2026 PAYMENT FORM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Members mailing forms and payment MUST email osher@towson.edu to ensure receipt & processing.

Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

**Please include this form along with your
REGISTRATION FORM AND/OR MEMBERSHIP FORM.**

One 4-week course	\$74
Two 4-week or One 8-week course	\$148
Three 4-week or One 8-week plus One 4-week course	\$222
Unlimited number of courses	\$250

TUITION FOR CLASSES (\$74, \$148, \$222 or \$250) \$ _____

MATERIALS FEE (if applicable) \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP FEE (if owed): \$60 per person \$ _____

TOTAL TUITION AND FEES \$ _____

Osher refund policy: Your payment is being processed by the state of Maryland upon receipt. If you desire a refund and have paid by check, we are unable to issue a refund without your social security number and address on a signed and dated w9 form. If you paid with a credit card, a refund will be issued to that credit card. Please note: No refunds will be issued once classes have begun.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TOWSON UNIVERSITY.

Please enclose completed Membership Form.

Mail to: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Towson University
401 Washington Ave, 3rd Floor
Towson, MD 21204-0001

☐ Check enclosed

To register and pay with a Mastercard or Visa credit card, visit www.towson.edu/OsherRegistration.

FOR OFFICE USE:

Date received: _____ Check# _____ Total Amount _____ Date Deposited _____ Batch # _____

Academic and Administrative Buildings

University Admissions is located in the Enrollment Services (ES) building, 2nd floor.

- AD Administration - G6
- AH Auburn House - G2
- BU Burdick - C6
- CC Center for the Arts - D4
- CC Child Care Center - G1
- CH Cook Library - E8
- CH Dowell - E8
- ES Enrollment Services - B4
- ES Field Hockey Field - F0
- ES Field Hockey - E1
- GS General Services - B6
- HH Hawkins - D7
- LH Lecture Hall - D7
- LA College of Liberal Arts - D7
- LI Linthicum - D7
- LS Landscape Services - E0
- MC Media Center - E7
- OP Towson City Center - A9
- PA South Campus Pavilion - G2
- PP Power Plant - E8
- PS Public Safety - C6
- PY Psychology - D7
- SB Softball Field - F0
- SC Science Complex - F7
- SF Soccer Field - D1
- SM Smith - D6
- SP Schaefer Park - C5
- ST Stephens - F7
- TA Towson Center - F1
- TC Tennis Courts - F0
- TX Transportation Annex - F5
- US Johnny Unitas® Stadium - E2
- UU University Union - D6
- VB Van Bokkelen - F7
- WA 401 Washington Ave. - A7
- WC West Village Commons - B3
- WW Health & Counseling Centers at Ward & West - D8
- YR 7800 York Road - F7

Residence Buildings

- AT Glen A - D5
- BA Barton - B4
- BT Glen B - D6
- CH Carroll - A3
- CT Glen C - E6
- DO Douglass - B3
- DT Glen D - E6
- GD Glen Dining - D6
- MA Marshall - A3
- MH Millennium - C4
- NE Newell Dining - E8
- PH Paca - B3
- PR Prettyman - E9
- RT Residence Tower - D8
- RI Richmond - F8
- SH Scarborough - E9
- TH Tulman - B3
- TM The Residences at 10 West Burke Avenue - E9
- TR Towson Run - B3

- Pay & Display Visitor Parking
- Loading/Unloading (Free Meter)
- Restricted Parking
- Construction areas
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Tiger Statues - F1, D6, E7, F8



Fall 2020



Where should I park?
Don't waste time searching for parking. Depending on when you arrive on campus, parking can generally be found in the lots in one of three zones.



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**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at Towson University**

401 Washington Ave, 3rd Floor
Towson, MD 21204-0001

P 410-704-3688

towson.edu/osher

**REGISTER ONLINE
FOR FALL 2026!
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS**

TOWSON.EDU/OSHER

