



# Spring 2016

## Catalogue of Courses

Learn.  
Discover.  
Enjoy.



Lifelong Learning  
COLLABORATIVE



## MONDAY - AM

### Monday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

6 weeks

Mar 7 - Apr 11

Fee: \$30

Class size limit: 20

### Cuba: Past, Present and Future

Coordinator: Carol Gjelsvik

We will look at the ecology, economy, and culture of Cuba, which is in the midst of great changes. In order to understand its present, it is necessary to have a clearer idea of its past. Did you know that because of the boycott, the ocean surrounding Cuba is unpolluted? That their food has been organic? That artists are among their richest citizens? That the infant mortality rate is lower than ours and their life expectancy is equal to ours? With the opening up of Cuba, will it quickly become just another resort-filled Caribbean island? Take part in learning more about this fascinating country which is one of our closest neighbors.

Format: Presentations and discussion.

Resources: *The Cuba Reader* edited by Aviva Chomsky is suggested background reading. Other resources to be determined.

Expenses: No expenses are anticipated.

Coordinator: Carol Gjelsvik has been to Cuba twice and has also coordinated classes on Cuba at both LLC and OLLI.

### Monday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 7 - May 9

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### Women Explorers of the 19th and Early 20th Centuries

Coordinator: Mary Speare

How were some women able to explore the world in an age when "a woman's place was in the home?" Who helped them, relatives, publishers or friends? How could they afford to wander Tibet or the deserts of the Middle East, go up the Nile, scale mountains in South America, explore Borneo or go around the world? Yet they became naturalists, writers, photographers and even possibly spies and behind the scenes diplomats.

Format: Participants will be expected to give a presentation on a topic selected from an extensive list of explorers and books by and about these women, variously called "Lady Explorers" or "Female Adventurers."

Resources: No required text.

Expenses: No expenses are anticipated.

Coordinator: A demographer and a sociologist, Mary Speare became interested in "faraway places with strange sounding names" while listening to her mother read to her books about children growing up in other countries. She has lived in Taiwan and Indonesia and traveled in Asia and Europe. These days, she prefers armchair exploration.

### Monday mornings

RI Philharmonic Music School, 667 Waterman Ave, E. Providence

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

6 weeks\*

Mar 7, 14 & 28, Apr 4 & 11, May 2

Fee: \$40

Class size limit: 30

### Concert Conversations

Coordinator: Bob Sandy

LLC is pleased to offer once again this exciting collaboration with the RIPO Music School, offering an in-depth exploration of the music to be played at several venues during the 2016 season. This course offers a great opportunity to develop an informed, active listening approach to classical music. Guest presentations by professionals will offer additional perspectives and enrich the learning experience.

*\*Course Schedule: Class members should pay particular attention to this unusual schedule, noting that the class does NOT meet weekly, but is based on performance schedules. This is a continuation of the class that started in January; members who registered during the Wintersession do not need to register again. The schedule of performances can be found at <https://www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org/Courses/concertconversations2016.pdf>.*

Format: This course follows a discussion format. Participants lead collaborative sessions, choosing from among many participatory formats that include leading a discussion, guiding a listening session, giving post-concert reviews, giving short presentations and other options. Class discussions focus on specific pieces and composers in upcoming concerts.

Resources/Expenses: In addition to the registration fee, class members are expected to attend the Winter/Spring concerts of the Philharmonic, the Providence Singers, RI Chamber Music, as well as two Metropolitan Opera high-definition presentations. Discounted tickets to the live performances are available for those who are non-subscribers.

Coordinator: Bob Sandy is Professor of Economics Emeritus at Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI). Indianapolis' rich classical music scene nurtured Bob's lifelong love of music. Bob and his wife Elaine recently moved to Providence to be near their two grandchildren. They have been delighted by the quality of the RI Philharmonic and the vibrancy of the city's classical music offerings.



Learn. Discover. Enjoy.

## MONDAY - PM

### Monday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00 - 3:00 PM

6 weeks

Apr 4 - May 9

Fee: \$30

Class size limit: 20

### Verdi and Wagner: The Clash of Titans

Coordinator: Midge Gordon

Born in the same year, Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner wrote some of the most famous music of all time. They became icons of their respective nations in turbulent eras: Verdi in Italy and Wagner in Germany. The six sessions of this course are devoted to exploring the lives of the two composers, who were fundamentally opposites and who grew in completely different directions. We will discover and discuss the essential differences between these two 19th century opera titans by viewing their biographies, listening to their music, and watching excerpts of their operas, which are still playing to packed houses around the world.

**Format:** Each session will include the use of DVDs. Presentations are encouraged!

**Resources:** Coordinator will distribute a packet with information about composers and a list of DVDs used.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinator:** Midge Gordon, MA has shared her passion for a variety of the arts with LLC over the years.

### Monday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00 - 3:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 7 - May 9

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 12

**This is an on-going group that welcomes new members.**

### Fact and Fiction

Coordinators: Sheila K Lawrence, Arthur Richter

Have you ever dreamed of writing a short story or publishing a novel? Or maybe you just wanted to try your hand at creative writing, but were afraid to try. Fear no more. We have the class for you! In this workshop, we will throw caution to the wind (while avoiding clichés like that one) and experiment with all kinds of writing: poetry, scripts, fiction, nonfiction, personal essays, and more.

**Format:** Now in its fifth semester, Fact and Fiction uses a format that maximizes participation through writing exercises and critiques. Guest speakers inspire, motivate and instruct us in every phase of writing, from character development to self-publishing and beyond. Class members are encouraged to submit their manuscripts to any or all members of the group for outside-of-class gentle and constructive critiques.

**Resources:** The coordinators will occasionally recommend resources and encourage workshop members to do the same.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinators:** A former journalist, Sheila K Lawrence recently published her first book (*A Leap of Faith: The History of Sophia Academy – 2001-2013*), which will soon be available on Amazon.com. Arthur Richter is a former businessman. Both have coordinated many courses in writing and the arts.

## TUESDAY - AM

### Tuesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 8 - May 10

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 15

### A House Divided: The Road to Civil War, 1850-1861

Coordinator: David Gagnon

This course will combine the participatory focus of an LLC course with the expertise of a web-based history course. Participants are asked to sign up for a free online course produced by Columbia University for EdX. The course – “House Divided: The Road to Civil War, 1850-1861” – reviews the institution of slavery and its central role in the Southern and national economies, as well as the political and social history of the 1850s. It traces how the expansion of slavery came to dominate national politics, and how political leaders struggled unsuccessfully to resolve the growing crisis.

**Format:** The EdX course has ten sessions corresponding to the subject matter of our class discussion. Each video session lasts approximately one hour and will provide background for our class discussion. Participants will be asked to choose the subject matter for each session (for example, the Dred Scott decision) and be the resource person for it in the discussion.

**Resources:** Those signing up for the course must be committed to reviewing the material for each week’s session. The EdX course provides visual material as well as an extensive bibliography for those interested in pursuing greater understanding of the subject.

**Coordinator:** David Gagnon has coordinated LLC classes in the past. He has been both an administrator and educator. His teaching background includes a range of experience from elementary school to university lectureships. His undergraduate degree was in American history with a focus on the Civil War and Reconstruction.

We are an independent, not-for-profit collaborative lifelong learning organization in Rhode Island, offering a program of affordable courses that cover a wide gamut of interests; trips and cultural events; as well as the opportunity to volunteer, serve on committees, coordinate a course and otherwise help shape the future of lifelong learning in our area. Our annual membership is low (\$25 yearly). You must be a member to participate in classes. Many of our classes fill within the first few days of registration. To avoid disappointment, we suggest that you register early. See registration form or register online.

## TUESDAY - AM

### Tuesday mornings

Temple Beth-EI

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 8 - May 10

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### Origins of Modern Art, 1450-1950

Coordinator: Terry Duffy

We will explore the origins of modern art, some of which may surprise you. We'll go back 400 years to Giorgione, then on to Caravaggio, Manet and Cezanne. These four artists symbolize the four steps to modern art in the 20th century. After reviewing them, we will engage in collaborative presentations about the "isms" of the 20th century, such as Futurism, Surrealism, and Abstract Expressionism, in order to identify the relationship of the past to the present.

**Format:** Team-led presentations and discussions.

**Resources:** The lecture series, "Four Steps to Modern Art," will be available well before the start of the course. Suggested reading: *Aristotle's Children*, Richard E. Rubenstein.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinator:** Terry Duffy, a retired business executive, brings a lifetime of exploring museums and art history to LLC. This is Terry's second time as an LLC coordinator, following up on his 2014 course, "Art Gives Voice to History: A Visual Conversation."

## TUESDAY - PM

### Tuesday afternoons

Temple Beth-EI

1:00 - 3:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 8 - May 10

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 15

### All Things Poe!

Coordinator: Ira Schaeffer

Gruesome, terrifying, weird – Edgar Allan Poe was the master of horror, creating tales and poems that sear the brain and brand the heart. Everyone can quote his Raven's penultimate refrain of "Nevermore," but there is so much more to the art of Poe, the creator of detective fiction, insightful critic, perpetrator of hoaxes, satirist and ardent lover. Poe was brilliant and tortured – or was he calculating and logical? If you enjoy reading Poe, want to explore more about the man and his connection to Providence, then hop on the Poe train.

**Format:** In addition to the usual close reading and in-class participation and discussion, we'll head out on a field trip or two to visit the local haunts of Poe.

**Resources:** *The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Writings: Poems, Tales, Essays, and Reviews* by Edgar Allan Poe, Penguin Classics; Reissue edition (April 29, 2003), ISBN-13: 978-0141439815.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated other than the purchase of the text.

**Coordinator:** Ira Schaeffer is a former CCRI English Professor, current poet and Poe enthusiast.

### Tuesday afternoons

Temple Beth-EI

1:00 - 3:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 8 - May 10

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### High-Tech TED Talks

Coordinators: Dick McWhirter, Carol Robinson

A flight from New York to London in one hour, a 3D printing of the human heart, a brain MRI that can read emotions and thoughts: these are just some of the technological advances that are currently under development. What impact will these have on us, our children, and beyond? Through TED Talks, we will explore the wonders that the high-tech community is working on and how these technological advances will enhance our lives and change our world.

**Format:** Each week, two class members will select a TED talk each for the following week and develop discussion questions. We will watch the TED Talks at home, referring to the discussion questions. In class the following week, the two class members will introduce the TED speakers with a brief bio, we will watch the TED talks together, and then he/she will serve as discussion leader.

**Resources:** Participants will need access to the Internet.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinators:** Carol Robinson has been a member of LLC for many years. She has coordinated courses on architecture, geo-politics, music and philosophy. Dick McWhirter, a retired accountant, has also coordinated many LLC courses.

This is LLC. Learn. Discover. Enjoy.

## TUESDAY - PM

### Tuesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

3:30 - 5:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 8 - May 10

**There is no fee for this course, but you must be a member of LLC.**

**You do not need to register for this class.**

**Just drop in to play.**

### Scrabble Scramble

**Coordinators: Pete DuPont, Bob Goodwin**

Three or four Scrabble boards and we're almost never bored. It's become a social/activity venue. Join us from 3:30-5ish at Beth-El if you wish to catch up on the news, politics, the latest movie, art exhibit, or play. Come and learn what's going on in the current LLC classes, book clubs, the Athenaeum, and the latest in science and medicine. It's a university in one room, and a place where everyone knows your name. All of this while playing a game of Scrabble. Multi-tasking, as it were. Or you may prefer a quieter table, scanning the Scrabble dictionary for your next play and savoring the pleasure of having learned one or two esoteric words. We are not purists but we do have some rules. Whatever, just come. There is something here for everyone. You may wish to join us afterwards as well for a convivial supper at a different local establishment each week.

**Coordinators:** Bob Goodwin and Pete DuPont, who are very good eggs, provide the Scrabble sets, dictionaries, and laughs.

## WEDNESDAY - AM

### Wednesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 9 - May 11

**Fee: \$50**

**Class size limit: 20**

### Don Quixote

**Coordinator: Tim Walsh**

*Don Quixote* is widely hailed as one of the greatest novels ever, and though it was written in 1605, it is still regarded by many critics as the first "modern novel." Funny and tragic, noble and absurd, the characters and events of this picaresque novel have made their way into our own language in phrases like "tilt at windmills" or a "quixotic" task. Join a lively conversation to explore this truly great book by the Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes.

**Resources:** The text will be *Don Quixote*, translated by Edith Grossman (Harper).

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated other than the purchase of the text.

**Coordinator:** Tim Walsh is a former high school history teacher and has coordinated several LLC courses: on Irish literature, Joyce's *Ulysses* and Melville's *Moby Dick*. Last year, as part of "The Literature of Ireland," he led his class on an eight-day literary tour of Ireland.

### Wednesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 9 - May 11

**Fee: \$50**

**Class size limit: 20**

### Armchair Tours of the World's Greatest Museums

**Coordinators: Bunny Fain, Elizabeth Hughson, Roberta Segal**

Explore outstanding museums and their collections by joining us on virtual tours. Each week we will "travel" to view an art collection, often meet a curator and delve into the history of the site and its origins. Also included is an in-depth look at several of the artists represented and their works. Several "guest lecturers" have been invited to lead a discussion. Although not necessarily class members, some are LLC members. We plan to have at least one curator from a major museum as a guest, and at least one session of the class at our local treasure, the RISD Museum. Travel the art world from our classroom seats without the hassle of airports, long lines and the expense.

**Format:** Presentations are not required, unless a class member chooses to lead a discussion.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinators:** Barnett (Bunny) Fain has coordinated many courses for LLC and before that, for BCLIR. An artist of note, an art collector, a frequent museumgoer and an expert in the museum experience, his knowledge of the art world and curation is a perfect match for this course. Roberta Segal has co-coordinated art courses with Bunny Fain for many years. An artist in her own right, she defines herself as a "museum groupie," and has visited them all over the world. She believes a museum's collection makes a cultural and social statement. Elizabeth (Betty Ann) Hughson has been invited to join Bunny and Roberta this semester. A world traveler, she has explored museums on her journeys. She is an art lover and especially admires the Impressionists and Van Gogh.



Class calendar available online at  
[www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org/calendar.html](http://www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org/calendar.html).

## WEDNESDAY - AM

### Wednesday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

8 weeks

Mar 9 - Apr 27

Fee: \$40

Class size limit: 20

### Lyrics and Lyricists

Coordinators: Linda Guccione, Nancy Riffle

Ever had an old song going through your head, like “Blues in the Night” or “The Way You Look Tonight” or “My Funny Valentine?” Ever wondered who wrote the lyrics to these songs? This course will explore both the lyrics and their authors. Lyrics change with the times and differ according to musical genre. Possible subjects for study and discussion include lyrics as poetry, how lyrics enter the language, how lyrics have changed through time and how lyrics differ from genre to genre. We will also consider specific lyricists (biographical info, their influence on music, who/what influenced them, which composers they worked with). Other topics will depend on the

class’ interests. We’ll do lots of listening, laughing, reminiscing and discussing!

**Format:** Participants are asked to do a presentation on a lyricist and his music or some aspect of the lyrics, and to participate actively in discussions. YouTube and music clips will be helpful. No musical knowledge or ability is needed.

**Resources:** Some not required but useful books are *The Poets of Tin Pan Alley*, Philip Furia and *The American Popular Song*, by Alec Wilder. Both are available through the library and/or Amazon.com. There is lots of information on the Internet, including the lyrics of specific songs.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinators:** Nancy Riffle is a retired educator. She is lover of music, especially vocal. She is a member of two choruses and has participated in many Temple Beth-El Purim Spiels. Linda Guccione has worn several hats, none of them musical. She has a longtime love of the lyrics of Cole Porter, Ira Gershwin, Dorothy Fields and Stephen Sondheim.

## WEDNESDAY - PM

### Wednesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00 - 3:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 9 - May 11

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### Art and Literature as a Reflection of Mexican Society

Coordinators: Marilyn Kaplan, Shula Schoenfeld

The art and literature of Mexican society reflect its struggle to create a new national identity. They depict the birth of a new culture with unique characteristics that are neither totally Spanish nor fully indigenous. Mexico is heir to two cultural traditions, resulting in a unique and rich heritage. This has brought about a dislocation of the status quo and led to a struggle for power between the European and the Indian traditions. In this course, we will focus primarily on 20th century Mexican art and literature, with its many representations of the social upheavals and the class struggles of its time.

**Format:** Each class member will be asked to make a presentation or lead a discussion on a suggested topic, novel or artist.

**Resources:** Class members will read and discuss one or two suggested novels as well as suggested online resources for historical background.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinators:** Marilyn Kaplan is a long time member of BCLIR/LLC, current secretary of the board, and has coordinated courses in the past. Shula Schoenfeld grew up in Mexico and has an advanced degree in history from the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico.

### Wednesday afternoons

Rochambeau Public Library, 708 Hope St, Providence

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Starting Mar 9

This is an on-going group that welcomes new members.

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 25

### Reading and Understanding Poetry

Coordinators: Joan Ramos, Judith Speyer

Whether you are an avid reader of poetry or a newcomer to its pleasures, we welcome you to share in the rewarding experience of reading poetry in the company of a diverse group of dedicated learners. We are always surprised to see how much the collaboration of a mature group can help us to better understand the vision of a poet. Participants find that the group’s diverse interpretations are – in their words – “inspiring” and “refreshing.” Our understanding of the work is enhanced in the process of sharing it. We read works from the modern era as well as those of previous centuries. Members read poems aloud with attention to how language is used. Experienced or inexperienced, we welcome you to add your voice.

**Format:** For each session, members present poems of their choice for reading and discussion.

**Resources:** *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry* (3rd ed., 2 vols.).

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated other than the purchase of the text.

**Coordinators:** Joan Ramos and Judith Speyer have led the poetry group for several years.

## WEDNESDAY - PM

### Wednesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00 - 3:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 9 - May 11

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### Hot Topics

**Coordinators: George Champlin, Ed Mehlman**

Do you enjoy talking with others about news of the day, hearing what they think is important and why? If so, you'll enjoy Hot Topics. Members of the class take turns selecting a hot topic of the week – one that will stir debate – and presenting it to the class. The presenter gets things rolling with a few questions to stimulate discussion. Class members should plan to read the *Providence Journal* and either *The New York Times* or *The Wall Street Journal* – or all three – along with other news sources they might want to look into. Any medium will do, paper or electronic, as long as the topics are timely and *hot*.

**Format:** Each week two members of the group will choose two or three articles on current hot topics. After briefly presenting these to the group, they will lead the discussion. The coordinators will act as moderators of the session and help ensure that all viewpoints are heard.

**Resources:** Participants will need access to Internet and will share with the group email articles from newspapers, journals, magazines and/or news releases.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinators:** Ed Mehlman and George Champlin have coordinated this popular course in the past.

### Wednesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00 - 3:00 PM

4 weeks

Mar 9, 16, 23 & 30

Fee: \$20

Class size limit: 15

### Divine Providence: A Multi-Faceted Look at Three Local Houses of Worship

**Coordinators: Betty Havrylik, Ellen Heath**

Roger Williams, Providence's founding father, preached that "religious freedom is the precious jewel of our settlement." In this course, we will look at part of our city's religious heritage by examining the architecture, art and the history of the structures of three different faiths. The introductory session will begin at Temple Beth-El and later classes will include visits to the other two sites. Class members may want to consider carpooling for one or more of them..

**Format:** The coordinators will moderate the sessions. Participants will be expected to join in the class discussions.

**Resources/Expenses:** There will be no text and no expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinators:** Betty Havrylik is a retired reference librarian/archivist who has given tours of Providence for the Providence Preservation Society and the Rhode Island Historical Society. Ellen Heath is the daughter of a minister and a retired community mental health psychologist. She has a lifelong interest in the varieties of worship experiences.

### Wednesday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

3:30 - 5:00 PM

9 weeks

**Classes: Mar 9 & 23,  
Apr 6 & 20, May 4**

**Photo shoots: Mar 16 &  
30, Apr 13 & 27**

**This is an ongoing  
group that welcomes  
new members.**

Fee: \$40

Class size limit: 20

### Snapix: LLC Photography Club

**Coordinators: Tom Backman, Kathy Webster**

Interested in photography? Want to focus on improving your skills? Join the LLC Photography club, which is open to photographers of all levels. Class will begin Wednesday, March 9 and will meet every two weeks (March 9, 23, April 6, 20 and May 4). Photos shoots will be held the alternate Wednesdays (March 16, 30, April 13 and 27).

**Format:** Participants will share and critique photos, participate in photo tutorials, and join in group photos shoots to area locations. Our purpose is to sharpen our skills while having fun and maybe even take the photo of a lifetime. We hope that members will share their knowledge and expertise with the group. Photo shoot dates and locations are included on alternate Wednesdays.

**Resources:** Members are expected to own a digital camera, either point and shoot or SLR, and be familiar with its basic operation. It is helpful to bring your camera to class for

easy reference during some sessions. There may also be a need for a flash drive to bring photos to class from home for viewing on the class computer.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinators:** Tom is a lifelong student of photography and is a member of the Rhode Island Photographic Society. Kathy is an avid photographer and is always hoping to get the next best shot. Both have coordinated this class in the past.



Learn. Discover. Enjoy.  
...and share this catalog with a friend!

## THURSDAY - AM

### Thursday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

8 weeks

Mar 10 - Apr 28

Fee: \$40

Class size limit: 20

Asia. We will also look at the impact of current controversies on the lives of Muslims in the United States, estimated at five to twelve million. We plan to invite one or two scholars to address the class.

**Format:** Class members will be expected to do the reading and to participate actively in class discussions.

**Resources:** Class members will read and discuss sections of a short book by Bernard Lewis, *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror* and to share articles from newspapers, journals and online resources. They will need access to the Internet.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated other than the purchase of the text.

**Coordinators:** Tony Allen has coordinated a variety of LLC courses in the past. Ralph Mero is a retired Unitarian minister and a fairly new member of LLC.

### Islam in the 21st Century

**Coordinators:** Tony Allen, Ralph Mero

Islam is one of the world's great religions, with a 1,400 year history and 1.5 billion adherents. Yet in recent decades, it has become one of the most controversial of religions, owing to the actions of Muslim extremists on almost every continent. This in turn has provoked politicians and others to label Islam as incompatible with democratic principles. Our goal in this class is to focus on the central tenets of Islam and the diversity of practice within Islam, and to improve our understanding of both normative Islam and the Islam of the extremists. We will also examine the sources of anger behind Muslim extremism and discuss the responses it provokes from both the West and

### Thursday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 10 - May 12 (Note:  
The 1st play is Feb 26)

Fee: \$60

Class size limit: 30

### Theatre Conversations

**Coordinators:** Kathy Webster, Mike Webster

Join our popular Theater Conversations seminar, a successful collaboration with Trinity Repertory Company, Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre, and the Wilbury Theatre Group. We will feature two plays at Trinity, (*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *Oklahoma!* by Rodgers and Hammerstein), two plays at Gamm (*A Skull in Connemara* by Martin McDonagh and *The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare) and a new work TBD at the Wilbury.

**Format:** Participants will obtain and read copies of the scripts and attend a performance of each play. They will also lead short, lively discussions of themes, plots, characters, actors, directors' interpretations, and overall productions. We look forward to class participation by all members.

Actors or other members of the theater companies will join us on several occasions to enrich our understanding of the plays and the production process. Several classes may be at locations other than the Temple.

**Resources/Expenses:** In addition to the registration fee, there will be costs related to the purchase of some scripts and attending some of the performances. We will advise registrants of the amount of anticipated expenses prior to the beginning of the first class.

**Coordinators:** Kathy and Mike Webster have co-coordinated this class for several semesters. They are avid theatergoers and supporters of our local companies.

## THURSDAY - PM

### Thursday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00 - 3:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 10 - May 12

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### The Nature of Spirituality

**Coordinators:** Gordon Hayes, Carol Hoppe

We hear people say, "I'm spiritual but not religious." What is the distinction and how do we view our own spirituality? Former Poet Laureate Billy Collins has said this: "For the majority of its followers, religion is less of an experience than it is a set of beliefs, a moral code...." But spiritual experience is indeed an experience, usually marked by a sense of sudden entry into another dimension. A spiritual life may be one of surprising glimpses that often resist verbal description, as distinct from a sustained set of theological beliefs and doctrines. Wordsworth's phrase 'spots of time' nearly captures the nature of such intense moments of insight, in which time is pierced and

eternity is revealed. To help us on our quest, we will read *The Best Spiritual Writing of 2012*, ed. Philip Zaleski, Smith College, which features short stories, essays and poems from a number of different religious perspectives.

**Format:** Participants are expected to read the assigned material and come to class prepared for discussion. Each class member will be asked to make a presentation, lead a discussion or bring in a guest speaker to lead a session.

**Resources:** *The Best Spiritual Writing of 2012*, ed. Philip Zaleski.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated other than the purchase of the text.

**Coordinators:** Carol Hoppe is a retired ESL teacher who has worked with people from a variety of cultures. Her interest in comparative cultures has inevitably led to an interest in comparative religion. Gordon Hayes is a retired corporate lawyer who practiced in large law firms in New York City and Boston. He has coordinated a number of other LLC classes and is keenly interested in comparative religion.

## THURSDAY - PM

### Thursday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00 - 3:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 10 - May 12

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### Great Writers' Interpretations of Illness, Death and Dying

Coordinators: Elsa Grieder, Frankie Raben

"Illness is the night-side of life," wrote Susan Sontag in her 1978 book, *Illness as Metaphor*. Like other aspects of life's night-side, illness, temporary or terminal, both frightens and fascinates us. Many stories tell of individuals' despair, bravery, loss and sacrifice in their time of facing cancer, heart disease, madness, and all ills to which our bodies are subjected. How do writers and we react to such invasions? This seminar (not for the faint of heart) will examine short fiction and poetry on the subject by authors such as Anton Chekov, Richard Selzer and William Carlos Williams. We will personally relate to the subject of each work and hopefully come up with ideas to express our inevitable experiences with illness and dying.

**Format:** Each class member will be asked to lead one discussion of a selected topic. Participants should come to class prepared to contribute to discussions.

**Resources:** Coordinators will provide copies of materials, suggest online resources, or recommend titles.

**Expenses:** The cost of copying stories and possible purchase of inexpensive books.

**Coordinators:** Frankie Raben was a professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York, specializing in the study of drama as literature. Elsa Grieder has been a Hospice volunteer for 15 years.

### Thursday afternoons

Temple Beth-El

1:00 - 3:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 10 - May 12

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### The Making of Modern India, Part 1: From the Mughals to the Raj

Coordinators: Rosemary Colt, Robert Martin

From the rise of the Mughal Dynasty through the establishment of British Colonial rule, India experienced a period of social turmoil, war and political upheaval that laid the foundation for conflicts in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan that have continued into the 21st century. In Part I of the course we will focus on the period from 1600 to 1857, during which the British East India Company gradually replaced the Mughal Dynasty as the dominant force in India. We will study the growth of "The Company" from a small trading outpost on the coast of India into an empire-building corporation that dominated Indian political and economic life, culminating in the destruction of the

Mughal Capital, Delhi in 1857. In Fall 2016, Part II will begin in 1857 and trace the path to independence from Britain in 1947.

**Format:** Participants will be expected to read the assigned texts, to participate actively in the discussions, and to give a presentation.

**Resources:** *The Great Moguls* by Bamber Gascoigne; *Love and Betrayal in Eighteenth-Century India*, William Dalrymple; *The Last Mughal: The Fall of a Dynasty*, William Dalrymple. These are available either on Amazon.com or on used book sites such as Abe Books. We will also be using Internet sites.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated other than the purchase of the texts.

**Coordinators:** Rosemary Colt has an advanced degree in literature from Brown University, and has taught a variety of LLC courses. Robert Martin has recently retired as Assisted Living Administrator and Director of Finance director at Tockwotton on the Waterfront. This is his first time coordinating an LLC course.

## FRIDAY - AM

### Friday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

10 weeks

Mar 11 - May 20 (No class April 29)

Fee: \$50

Class size limit: 20

### Cities of the Future

Coordinator: Sam Shamoon

For the past several years, we have explored cities in America and across the world, looking into what makes a city tick. This semester we will look to the future. Over the ten weeks, we will explore separate yet interrelated factors that impact cities today and into the foreseeable future. For example, rising sea levels and flooding threaten the very existence of some cities and global warming is creating havoc for many species that in turn affect the livability of some cities. Other factors include migration and demographic shifts, urban density and diversity, and of course, innovation and access to technology. We will study the nature of and the threats and opportunities of each of these, and we will look at specific cities to understand how they will determine its future.

**Format:** Individually or in teams, participants will research a particular element of change with a focus on its impacts upon cities. Participants will also select specific cities as case studies. Any city in the world is open for discussion.

**Resources:** Selected readings in PDF formats, articles and some video files will be suggested by the coordinator. Access to the Internet is required.

**Expenses:** No expenses are anticipated.

**Coordinator:** Sam Shamoon, the former City Planner for the city of Providence, is now president of LLC. He has coordinated the popular "Cities" courses for several years now.

## FRIDAY - AM

Friday mornings

Temple Beth-El

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

4 weeks

Mar 11 - April 1

Fee: \$20

Class size limit: 20

### Introduction to Genealogy

Coordinator: Lee Ashcraft

Genealogy is a popular hobby for millions of people. It seems that almost everyone wonders about where they came from and some seek answers in the study of family genealogy. If you are thinking about starting your study or are just beginning, this course could be just right for you. Topics will include: vital records, documentation and record keeping, oral histories, cemetery research, family narratives, internet resources, computer software, and DNA in your family tree. There will be three class sessions at Beth-El, and one session will be a visit to a local historical society.

**Format:** The class will be a mix of “how to” and individual and group work on family genealogies. Participants will be expected to apply lessons/techniques from class to their own research and to share those experiences in class.

**Resources:** Coordinator will provide links to online resources.

**Expenses:** There are no expenses anticipated.

**Coordinator:** Lee Ashcraft, an amateur genealogist, has offered this LLC course in the past.



### Registration and Refund Policy

1. Lifelong Learning Collaborative (LLC) classes are filled on a “first come/first served” basis up to the enrollment limit. Enrollment limits will include coordinators. No exceptions will be made to the enrollment limits.
2. No registration is accepted until payment is received.
3. Date/time of registration will be determined by the computer-generated date/time of online registration or the postmark of registrations sent in by mail.
4. A waiting list of up to four people will be formed after a class is full. People will be offered the opportunity of registering for an alternative course in lieu of remaining on the waiting list. When a waiting list is full, applicants turned away from a course will be encouraged to register for another course.
5. Exceptions to the “first come/first served” rule include the following: Two places will be reserved for new members in each class until Convocation, at which time, if they are not filled, the places will be filled from the waiting list.
6. Coordinators need not register or pay for the courses they coordinate. They must, however, be paid members of LLC.
7. The registrar will send, on a daily basis, by email or USPS (for members without email) acknowledgment of registration.
8. LLC reserves the right to cancel classes with fewer than ten participants up to the time of Convocation. The decision will be made jointly by the coordinator and the Curriculum Committee chair. The registrar will offer all people in cancelled classes the opportunity to sign up for other classes or to receive a full refund.
9. If a registrant withdraws from a class for any reason, a refund, minus a \$10 administrative fee, will be issued through Convocation. No refunds will be issued after Convocation unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances. **REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING** (email LLC Administration at [info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org](mailto:info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org)). Refund requests made through the Coordinator(s) will not be honored.
10. Those on the waiting list who are not accepted into the class of their choice by the time of Convocation will be offered the opportunity to choose another class or receive a full refund.
11. Guests are welcome in LLC classes one time only, with the advance approval of the Coordinator(s). There are no auditors.

Lifelong Learning Collaborative  
PO Box 2772  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
401.270.2556 Voice Mail  
[info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org](mailto:info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org)  
[www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org](http://www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org)



# Lifelong Learning Collaborative Registration Form - Spring 2016

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  I have moved or have a new email address

Current member

Taken courses in the past

New to LLC - If new, how did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (published annually and distributed to members electronically):

**Full listing** - include name, address, telephone, email     **Partial listing** - do NOT include:  Add  Tel  Email

**OPT OUT** - NO information will be included

*Class sizes are limited and filled on a first-come/first-served basis. To avoid disappointment, early registration is encouraged. If you choose, you may list your first and second choices. Please use a separate registration form for each individual registering. For registration and refund policy, see page 10 of catalog.*

### LLC AT RI PHILHARMONIC MUSIC SCHOOL

Concert Conversations (Mon AM, 6 wks)    \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

### LLC AT TEMPLE BETH-EL OF PROVIDENCE

Cuba (Mon AM, 6 wks)    \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Women Explorers (Mon AM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Verdi and Wagner (Mon PM, 6 wks)    \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Fact and Fiction (Mon PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

The Road to Civil War (Tues AM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Origins of Modern Art (Tues AM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

All Things Poe! (Tues PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

High-Tech TED Talks (Tues PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

*Don Quixote* (Wed AM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Greatest Museums (Wed AM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Lyrics and Lyricists (Wed AM, 8 wks)    \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

### LLC AT ROCHAMBEAU BRANCH, PROV LIBRARY

Understanding Poetry (Wed PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Mexican Art/Literature (Wed PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Hot Topics (Wed PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Houses of Worship (Wed PM, 4 wks)    \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Photography Club (Wed PM, 9 wks)    \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

Islam in the 21st C (Thurs AM, 8 wks)    \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

Theatre Conversation (Thurs AM, 10 wks)    \$60 \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Spirituality (Thurs PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Writers' on Dying... (Thurs PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Modern India, Part 1 (Thurs PM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Cities of the Future (Fri AM, 10 wks)    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Intro to Genealogy (Fri AM, 4 wks)    \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

## TO REGISTER FOR AN LLC COURSE, YOU MUST BE AN LLC MEMBER. (Our membership year is July 1 - June 30.)

I have not yet paid my dues for 2015-2016. **Please include membership dues with registration:**    \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Coordinator** (Coordinators do not pay for the course they are coordinating, but they must be paid members.)

List the course(s) you are coordinating this semester: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Possibilities Annual Giving Campaign supporting special programs/speakers. MY GIFT:  \$25  \$50  \$100  OTHER **Enter gift amount here:** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to register for the **Convocation** on Thursday, March 3, 2016. **Add \$15 per person:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of any guests you would like to bring: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$**

**Online registration is also accepted at [www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org](http://www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org).**

Please make checks payable to LLC, note class(es) on check, and return with this form to:

**LLC/Registration, PO Box 2772, Attleboro, MA 02703**



Lifelong Learning  
COLLABORATIVE

PO Box 2772  
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401.270.2556 Voice Mail  
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[info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org](mailto:info@lifelonglearningcollaborative.org)

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