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Stay Connected.**
Learning is more
fun with friends
at OLLI NU!



Northwestern
SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

2026 OLLI ALL-VIRTUAL WINTER TERM

4 WEEKS: TUESDAY, JANUARY 20–MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026



PHOTO BY JEFFERY SEMEL



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KEY DATES:

Winter memberships are available for [purchase now](#).

Monday, December 15 at 9 a.m.: Winter [registration opens](#).

Monday, January 5 at 5 p.m.: Winter [registration closes](#).

Tuesday, January 20: Winter 4-week session begins.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is to enable the continuation of learning and intellectual pursuit for a community of mature adults. As a special program of Northwestern University's School of Professional Studies, OLLI offers a comprehensive curriculum of peer-led discussion groups covering topics in areas such as literature, history, politics, science, philosophy, current affairs, and the arts. OLLI welcomes diversity in its membership, and has no academic prerequisites or age restrictions.

OLLI ANYWHERE THIS WINTER!



OLLI's 4-week winter session is all virtual.

Participate from anywhere you have an Internet connection! Virtual classrooms are held via Zoom and follow our regular peer-led, highly interactive, social, and fun approach to learning. The winter virtual format

- allows members to avoid Chicago's inclement weather,
- accommodates members who travel in the winter months, and
- safeguards us during the cold/flu season.

In the spring term, we will return to our blended approach in which both in-person and virtual study groups will be available. Until then, enjoy the benefits of this short virtual winter term.

Winter Session: January 20–February 16, 2026. Spring Session: March 2–June 8, 2026.

ACTION ITEMS

RIGHT NOW:

1. Log into the OLLI Online Registration System (northwesternolli.augusoft.net) today.
 - This will ensure you know your username and password before registration day. By preparing early, our team will have the time to help you if you have any difficulty.

2. [Purchase](#) your OLLI membership (if you do not have a current membership.)*
 - Buy your membership early. Then, when registration opens, all you will need to do is select your study groups and quickly check out.

3. Review the study group offerings and **begin thinking about your list of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices**. Many groups fill quickly, so be open to other options that expand your interests and your exposure to new friendships.

**If you participated in OLLI's Fall term, you do not need to purchase a Winter membership.*

REGISTRATION DAY (Monday, December 15):

[Online registration](#) opens at 9 a.m.
Registration closes Monday, January 5, 2026 at 5 p.m.

If you need assistance, email olli@northwestern.edu. The first available staff member or OLLI Volli volunteer will call or email you to assist. This day is extremely busy, so we ask for your patience.

See pages 30 and 31 for membership purchase and registration instructions.

WINTER 2026 MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Memberships are purchased through the OLLI Registration System (Augusoft). Sign into your account, or create an account if you have not yet done so. OLLI members who participated in the fall term do not need to purchase a winter membership; the winter term is included in your current membership. See pages 30 and 31 for detailed instructions to purchase a membership and register.

Winter Membership Levels and Pricing			
Level	Price	Terms Included	Number of Study Groups per Term
Winter only	\$165 • All-virtual 4-week winter term	Includes: winter only	2 (4-week) winter study groups
Trial (1/term)	\$225 • Available only to new members and may be purchased only one time.	Includes: winter & spring	1 per term for a total of 2

The academic year is divided into 4 terms (two 14-week terms and two 4-week terms):

1) Fall Term
(14 weeks)

2) Winter Term
(4 weeks, all virtual)

3) Spring Term
(14 weeks)

4) Summer Term
(4 weeks)

A new OLLI academic calendar year begins each fall semester. Therefore, full year memberships are only available in the fall. Memberships are valid for the terms purchased and are not transferable to another term or member.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER

Spring 2026 semester is Monday, March 2–Monday, June 8, 2026

The 14-week Spring Semester will offer in-person (in the Chicago and Evanston campuses) and virtual study groups.

- **Catalog Release:** Sunday, January 18, 2026
 - emailed through the OLLI newsletter
 - online through the OLLI registration system (Augusoft)
- **Membership purchase:** Wednesday, January 21–Monday, February 16, 2026
 - Spring Half-Year memberships will be available to purchase
 - Spring Trial memberships will be available to purchase
- **Spring Registration:** Monday, February 2–Monday, February 16, 2026

OLLI WINTER 2026 TERM • BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

STUDY GROUPS AT-A-GLANCE

KEY

CI: Contemporary and Social Issues

CA: Creative Arts (Performing, Visual, and Literary Arts)

HIS: History & Government

LIT: Literature

STMH: Science, Technology, Medicine & Health

SS: Social Sciences

(Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics)

ALL OF THE OLLI WINTER 2026 STUDY GROUPS ARE ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Monday

	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	<i>The New Yorker</i> (Monday morning)
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	<i>Vigilante Nation: How State-Sponsored Terror Threatens Our Democracy</i>
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CA	Films of Steve Martin
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	<i>Henry V</i> —Shakespeare's Great History Play
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	<i>The New Yorker</i> (Monday afternoon)
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	HIS	<i>Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time</i>
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	LIT	P. D. James—Adam Dalgliesh and <i>Talking About Detective Fiction</i>
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	LIT	The Art of the One-Act: Famous One-Act Plays
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	STMH	Awe-Inspiring Astronomy: Diamonds in the Sky
NEW	3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	HIS	Fall of the Roman Republic Part I: Caesar and Company
	4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	CA	BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Monday)

Tuesday

NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	March Madness & Bracketology: Understanding the Game Behind the Game
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CA	<i>Rolling Stone's</i> Top 500 Songs of All Time
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	HIS	<i>The True Flag</i>
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	STMH	Learning to Use AI
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	STMH	Science in the News
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	STMH	The Brain: A User Guide for Non-Scientists
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	STMH	The Elements of Marie Curie

Continued on next page

	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	<i>The Hidden Side of Everything: A Freakonomics Podcast Journey</i>
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	Diane Keaton Retrospective
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	Spring Opera Preview—Women in Opera
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	Tuesday at the Movies: Intersection of Romance and Sports
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	HIS	<i>How Fascism Works</i>
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	LIT	<i>How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read</i>
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	LIT	Ian McEwan Returns
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	STMH	<i>Under a White Sky: Interventions to Save the Planet</i>

Wednesday

NEW	9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	<i>Anger, Fear, Domination: Dark Passions and the Power of Political Speech</i>
	9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CA	Creative Writing Workshop
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	<i>Foreign Affairs</i>
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	HIS	Resistance: Germany 1933–1945
NEW	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	HIS	<i>The Ghost Map</i>
	9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	STMH	What Were They Thinking?
	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	Articles from the Sunday <i>New York Times</i>
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	The Coen Brothers in the 21st Century: Fate, Failure, and Existential Angst
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	For the Love of Even More Art—Abstract Expressionism
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	HIS	Victoria Woodhull: The Riveting Story of an Extraordinary Woman
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	LIT	Future History: Asimov's Foundation
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	LIT	Into the Woods: <i>As You Like It</i>
NEW	1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	STMH	<i>The Sea Around Us</i> by Rachel Carson

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”

~ B.B. King

Thursday

NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	Continuing Care Retirement Communities
NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	CI	<i>The Message</i> from Ta-Nehisi Coates
NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	HIS	<i>Unfamiliar Fishes</i> —A Study of Hawaii and How It Got to Be a State
NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	A Return to Poetry: Finding Joy Again in Words
NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	Exploring Women's Roles in Modern Japan through History and Literature
9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	LIT	The Caldecott Award—Which Books will be Honored This Year? (<i>begins January 15</i>)
NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	STMH	Appreciating the 2025 Nobel Prizes
NEW 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	STMH	Exploring Science Through the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures
1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CI	<i>The Economist</i>
NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	CA	Spike Lee on Screen
NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	HIS	Chicago's Famous Hotels
NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	HIS	<i>Underground Empire</i>
NEW 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	STMH	<i>Valley of Forgetting</i> : the Search for a Cure for Alzheimer Disease
4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	CA	BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Thursday)





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OLLI WINTER 2026 TERM • BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

STUDY GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

ICON KEY

High level of discussion	Preparation: Less than 1 hour per week
Medium level of discussion	No preparation needed
Low level of discussion	Movies/documentaries shown
Participation strongly encouraged	Access to streaming service required
Participation encouraged	Kindle edition available
Participation according to comfort level	Digital SLR camera required
Preparation: More than 2 hours per week	Digital camera or Smartphone required
Preparation: Roughly 1–2 hours per week	

These icons are located after each study group description and indicate levels of discussion, participation, preparation, and other factors to consider when choosing a study group.

STUDY GROUP CATEGORIES

Study groups are organized into the categories listed here. You can find each group's category to the right of the study group name on the page.

- CREATIVE ARTS (PERFORMING, VISUAL, AND LITERARY ARTS)
- CONTEMPORARY AND SOCIAL ISSUES
- LITERATURE
- HISTORY & GOVERNMENT
- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH (STMH)

VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: MONDAY

BEGINS JANUARY 26, 2026

The New Yorker (Monday morning)

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Susan Gaud, Mary Watt, Jeffrey Less

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

The New Yorker magazine has won multiple awards for its creative coverage of art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, movies, fiction, fashion, and culture. In each session of this study group, we will examine the varied contents of this distinguished magazine. We will review the current issue from the cover to the cartoons and everything in between. Then we will explore a previously assigned article in depth. A volunteer discussion leader who has chosen the article will lead the discussion. Conversations will be lively and lead to expanded knowledge. Everyone will be encouraged to lead a discussion. A print or digital subscription to the magazine is necessary.



NEW Vigilante Nation: How State-Sponsored Terror Threatens Our Democracy

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

James Smith, Sharon Alter

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Ten months into the second Trump presidency, political violence is in the air. What might surprise you is how far back American political violence goes, and how much of it has been state-sponsored. In *Vigilante Nation: How State-Sponsored Terror Threatens Our Democracy* (Atria/One Signal Publishers, 2025), law professors Jon Michaels and David Noll trace the roots of state-authorized political violence back to the antebellum South, where it was turned on abolitionists, and the post-Reconstruction South, where it was the foundation of the Jim Crow era. The violence directed at the “Freedom Riders” of the Civil Rights movement came from the same source; yet the victory of that movement, expressed in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, seemed to put an end to it. But now it has come roaring back. The January 6 “insurrection” was just the largest expression of the determination of modern vigilantes to impose their will. This new wave of vigilantism includes right-wing activists, lawyers, grifters, and plutocrats who rally around our current President and blame their problems on Democrats, minorities, immigrants, scientists, bureaucrats, and educators. Join us as we consider this threat to democracy.



NEW Films of Steve Martin

CREATIVE ARTS

Tom Cotter, Margot Wallace

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Steve Martin has been performing all his life. In 1979, he moved from stand-up comedy to the movies. In this study group, we’ll explore four of his screenplays that chart his film career as a screenwriter. The films are *The Jerk*, *Roxanne*, *L.A. Story*, and *Bowfinger*. Each week, participants will watch the assigned film in advance and then join an engaging discussion about Martin’s humor, writing style, and reflections on American life. No prior film study is required—just a sense of humor and curiosity about how comedy can illuminate the human condition.



NEW Henry V—Shakespeare's Great History Play

LITERATURE

Scott McCue, Judith McCue

Monday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Henry V, the bard's great history play, traces the transformation of the wayward Prince Hal into the charismatic and politically astute King Henry V. We will read of the sieges and battles at Harfleur and Agincourt, where Henry's leadership is tested on foreign soil. Through close reading and discussion, we will examine how Shakespeare constructs kingship, honor, warfare, and national identity. Special attention is given to Henry's mastery of language—how he uses persuasion, performance, and rhetoric to inspire troops, negotiate with enemies, and assert authority. We will analyze some of the most celebrated passages in English literature, including the rousing call to arms, "Once more unto the breach," the moving St. Crispin's Day speech—"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers"—and Henry's witty and politically revealing courtship of Katherine of France, where he declares, "We are the makers of manners, Kate." By the end of the group, students will gain a deeper appreciation for Shakespeare's historical imagination, the power of rhetoric, and the enduring questions the play raises about leadership, morality, and the burdens of rule. A copy of the play is all that is required. The coordinators will suggest additional resources.

**The New Yorker (Monday afternoon)**

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Dale Melin Walters, Joanne Scheuble, Janet Schlaes

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* is dedicated to quality topical writings and ideas. Our winter study group will focus on the magazine's famous (and not so famous) writers. For this session, we ask you to pick a favorite writer for *The New Yorker* and lead a discussion on an article, past or present, from one of its illustrious contributors. If you are new to the magazine, do not let that deter you. Read articles and pick a favorite. You will need a current subscription, print or digital. Print subscribers can access the magazine's digital archives of past issues from the last 100 years for free.

**NEW Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time**

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Bob Jenkins, Kamal Ibrahim

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us in discussing *Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time* by Karen Armstrong (HarperOne, 2007)—a vivid portrayal of the Prophet Muhammad in his historical, cultural, and spiritual context. Armstrong, one of today's most respected religious historians, dispels myths and stereotypes while presenting Muhammad as a compassionate reformer who sought to build a just and ethical society. The book highlights his role as a religious leader, political guide, social reformer, and man of profound vision whose message remains deeply relevant. Armstrong asks readers to see Muhammad through the lens of history and as a figure whose life and teachings have enduring significance for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. In this 4-week study group, we will gain a better understanding of the life of one of humanity's most influential men living in a far distant time shaped by Jewish and Christian traditions. Our discussions will invite respectful curiosity, broadened perspectives, and lively exchange. Join us as we engage with a story that continues to shape global history and spirituality.



P. D. James—Adam Dalgliesh and *Talking About Detective Fiction*

LITERATURE

Beverly Snell, Roberta Rakove, Angela Pisano

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

P.D. James is one of the most widely admired—and widely read—mystery writers of all time. Her work has earned her numerous awards, including the CWA Cartier Diamond Dagger lifetime achievement award, and a life peerage as Baroness James of Holland Park. James is best known for her novels about fictional poet and Scotland Yard police detective Adam Dalgliesh. In this study group, we will read and discuss her last Dalgliesh novel *The Private Patient* (Vintage, 2008). At the same time, we will also read and discuss selected chapters from her non-fiction book *Talking About Detective Fiction* (Vintage, 2011). Here James explores the human appetite for murder and mayhem, and how mystery writers satisfy it. Any edition of the books may be used, and both books are available in hard copy, ebook, and audiobook online and from your library. Join us as we use James' own observations to better understand and evaluate detective fiction—including hers!



NEW The Art of the One-Act: Famous One-Act Plays

LITERATURE

Lee Nemchek, Eileen Rosenfeld

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Calling all theater lovers, this study group is for you! Although never widely popular on Broadway, the one-act play has long been a staple of experimental, regional, and non-professional theater. One-act plays offer a unique opportunity for deep engagement within a shorter format, making them ideal for lively group discussion. In this study group, we'll read eight selections from *24 Favorite One-Act Plays*, Bennett Cerf and Van H. Cartmell, eds. (Doubleday), which is widely available from online booksellers and local libraries. We'll spotlight iconic works by renowned playwrights such as Anton Chekhov, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, and Oscar Wilde. We'll explore the unique power of the one-act form—its intensity, brevity, and focus—and how it challenges writers, readers, and audiences. Participants will discover how a short play can leave a lasting impact through discussion of various topics, such as the playwrights' techniques, the social and/or philosophical issues reflected in each piece, themes, dramatic structure, character development, and historical context.



NEW Awe-Inspiring Astronomy: Diamonds in the Sky

STMH

Amy Abe, Valerie Maragos

Monday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us for a fascinating tour of the universe, beginning with our solar system and journeying through star-forming nebulae, colliding galaxies, and the mysteries of black holes. Our guide will be *Diamonds Everywhere: Awe-Inspiring Astronomy Discoveries* by Tom Kerss (HarperCollins, 2023), a richly illustrated collection of astronomy topics presented in clear, accessible essays for the curious mind. Each week, we will explore phenomena such as planetary aurorae, star birth, and cosmic collisions, with discussions supported by striking images from the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes and a range of curated videos. Awe-Inspiring Astronomy welcomes everyone, from those newly curious about the cosmos to seasoned astronomy enthusiasts. Come share in the wonder and expand your sense of the universe with a weekly dose of awe.



NEW Fall of the Roman Republic Part I:

Caesar and Company

David Mathers, Masako Osako

Monday, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Why, and how, do republics fall? Maybe the decline and fall of the Roman Republic will give us some answers. We will start by looking at the lives of towering Romans from the first century BCE, as described by the ancient historian Plutarch in *The Age of Caesar: 5 Roman Lives* (Plutarch, ed. by James Romm, W.W. Norton, 2017). Pompey, Caesar, Cicero, Brutus, and Antony all were fighting to either transform or preserve the Republic. Their conflicts left Rome shaken. In a subsequent study group, we will then look at how Augustus arose and toppled the whole thing.



BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Monday)

CREATIVE ARTS

Trish Ronan, Barry Blitzsten, Suraleah Michaels, Tim Atkins

Monday, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Let's shake things up a bit! Our first movie is Akira Kurosawa's *High and Low* (1963), a tri-part study of a rich businessman's travails with his business partners and a kidnapping gone wrong; the envious poor worker and his intricate plan, and the climactic ending with the ransom payment and the police determined to solve the case. The comparison is Spike Lee's 21st-century remake of *High and Low: Highest 2 Lowest*: a music mogul, a young rapper/kidnapper, and the kick-ass ending. What made Lee team up with Denzel Washington after a twenty-year hiatus? And what do you think of the updated version? An analysis of each movie with your discussion comments will make for a lively four weeks in the dead of winter. Bonus Groups do not count toward your membership study group allotment. The Monday sessions will meet on 1/26/26 and 2/9/26.



*“The mind is not a vessel to be filled,
but a fire to be kindled.”*

~ Plutarch

VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: TUESDAY

BEGINS JANUARY 20, 2026

NEW March Madness & Bracketology: Understanding the Game Behind the Game

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Ellen Fitzpatrick, Steve Greska, Thomas Ross

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Have you heard people talk about March Madness and “brackets,” but don’t really know what it means? Join us in this study group on college basketball’s biggest event—March Madness, where we will explore the excitement, strategy, and data-driven art of Bracketology. Through readings, podcasts, quizzes, and hands-on activities, participants will discuss how the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament works, what goes into predicting upsets, and how to fill out your own bracket with confidence. There has never been a perfect bracket in NCAA tournament history, but there’s always a first time!



Rolling Stone’s Top 500 Songs of All Time

CREATIVE ARTS

Howard Tanzman, Tim Atkins, Laurie Toth

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In 2004, *Rolling Stone* published its list of the top 500 songs of all time. In this study group, we will continue our exploration of this list by reviewing song numbers 384–409. We will listen to each song together and discuss the lyrics, melody, riffs, and other aspects of the music. We will share when and where we first heard the song and evaluate aspects of the band and their works. We will discuss whether we agree with *Rolling Stone* on their rankings. Join us as we have fun learning and reminiscing. Listen to classics from The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, The Supremes, Bob Dylan, Elton John, Led Zeppelin, and many others. Prior participation is not necessary. This will be an enjoyable walk down memory lane.



NEW The True Flag

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Richard Krantz, Gigi Miele

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

As wars go, the Spanish–American War was not much of a war, and it was only when the shooting stopped that the real fight began. This was a fight fought not with bullets but with words—fought in the newspapers, in Congress, and the Supreme Court, and culminating in the election of 1900. At issue was the very soul of the country. If the United States were to intervene in the affairs of other countries, would it be to help them gain their independence and freedom from foreign rulers, or would it be to gain territory, power, and economic advantage to fulfill the manifest destiny bestowed upon it? Steven Kinzer’s *The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain and the Birth of American Empire* (St. Martin’s Press, 2018) takes us back to the beginning of that now century-old debate, the unanswered question at the heart of American foreign policy. Using excerpts of actual speeches and writings of the proponents on each side, such as Roosevelt and Twain, Kinzer provides a riveting narrative history surrounding this great debate. Join us.



NEW Learning to Use AI

STMH

Dennis Glenn, Arthur Altman

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

AI is now everywhere—in your Google searches, in your email, or when asking for help on your bank’s website. Have you experimented with it, or are you afraid to touch it? Either way, this hands-on study group will help you learn new skills, spark your imagination, and give you the confidence to keep experimenting with new tools and ideas. AI is at its best when it supports human strengths—your creativity, your empathy, and your wisdom. As we will discuss throughout the sessions, learning to guide these tools through thoughtful prompts and ethical awareness allows them to serve as partners in lifelong discovery. During our four sessions, we will discover how to write prompts, create images and videos, and learn how to use AI to analyze data in spreadsheets. Prior to our study group, participants will receive self-directed learning tutorials, YouTube videos that demonstrate each task we will undertake, and a chat link to the coordinators through which they can get immediate feedback. This is a hands-on study group, so participants will be expected to be able to use AI in a separate window during the Zoom study group call. Join us as we explore the new world of AI capabilities.



Science in the News

STMH

Brenda Russell, Laurie Orgel, Tom Cotter

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We live in an ever-changing world with scientific breakthroughs and daunting advancements in technology. To stay up-to-date, we will rely on articles from *Scientific American*, a magazine committed to sharing knowledge, enhancing our understanding of the world, and advancing social justice. Each week, study group members will have in-depth discussions on two articles that cover the most important and exciting research, ideas, and knowledge in science, health, technology, the environment, and society. Coordinators suggest recent articles, and members may choose topics from *Scientific American* or other science sources. Members may enrich the discussion with additional videos or materials. Access to a digital or print subscription to *Scientific American* is required. No scientific background is needed. Simply bring your curiosity and interest in all things science. Join us for great discussions as we learn and laugh together.



NEW The Brain: A User Guide for Non-Scientists

STMH

Steve Barrigar, Steve VanderVoort

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Have you ever wondered why you have a brain? If you become a member of this study group, you will learn the answer in only four weeks. You will discover where brains came from, how they’re structured and why it matters, and how yours works in tandem with other brains to create everything you experience. Along the way, you will also learn to dismiss popular myths such as the idea of a “lizard brain” and the alleged battle between thoughts and emotions—or between nature and nurture—to determine your behavior. Guiding us along the way will be renowned neuroscientist Lisa Feldman Barrett, who will demystify that big gray blob between your ears with her book *Seven and a Half Lessons About the Brain* (Mariner Books, 2020). We are looking forward to mind-expanding lessons from the frontlines of neuroscience research. Join us!



NEW *The Elements of Marie Curie*

STMH

Jerry Bernstein, Judith Curtis

Tuesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Not just a biography, *The Elements of Marie Curie: How the Glow of Radium Lit a Path for Women in Science* by Dava Sobel (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2024) gives us the story of Marie Curie but adds “elements,” the women who were trained in her laboratory and went on to remarkable careers in science. If asked to name a famous woman scientist, the first name on most of our lips would be Marie Curie. Not just a woman in science, she was among the great physicists discovering the secrets of the atom. Besides her research, she mentored young researchers (mostly women), many of whom made their own significant discoveries. Sobel has us follow Marie through her own early struggles being a woman in science at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, and then dedicates half the book to telling the stories of the remarkable women who worked in her laboratory. The members of our study group will learn to appreciate the full accomplishments of Marie Curie. This book blends science, history, and biography for a general audience.



The Hidden Side of Everything: *A Freakonomics Podcast Journey*

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Bob Eder, Bob Myers

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us for a thought-provoking and fun selection of podcast episodes and discussion from the widely known and acclaimed *Freakonomics Radio* series *The Hidden Side of Everything*, produced and hosted by economist Stephen Dubner. Dubner and partner economist Steven Levitt co-wrote the acclaimed bestseller books *Freakonomics* and *SuperFreakonomics*. Study group members will choose a podcast from the series and prepare questions to stimulate discussion about the episode. Study group members will listen to the 50–60-minute episode in advance of the study group session and participate actively in the discussion.



NEW *Diane Keaton Retrospective*

CREATIVE ARTS

Timothy Atkins, Barbara Leff

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

While the late, great Diane Keaton, who died in October, was adept at both comedy and drama, she probably is best known for her film comedies. We will focus on four that display her expertise in this genre and discuss what makes these movies so memorable, including casting, directors, film scores, script, and cinematography. First up will be *Annie Hall* (1977), about a divorced comedian played by Woody Allen, who also directed, reflecting on his relationship with former lover Annie Hall. Keaton earned the Oscar for Best Actress. Next will be *Baby Boom* (1987), where she plays a Manhattan career woman who is suddenly forced to care for a toddler and moves to rural Vermont. In *The First Wives Club* (1996), she more than holds her own with powerhouse actresses Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn as a trio of “first wives,” middle-aged women divorced by their husbands for younger women. Last is *Something’s Gotta Give* (2003), in which Keaton plays a middle-aged playwright who falls in love with her daughter’s much older boyfriend played by Jack Nicholson. Members will view these films, available on streaming services, in advance of each session. Join us for an entertaining retrospective of this beloved actress.



Spring Opera Preview—Women in Opera

CREATIVE ARTS

Roger Parfitt, Bob Jenkins

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us in previewing four operas ahead of the 2026 Lyric Opera of Chicago Spring Season. We will begin with *Così fan tutte*, Mozart's 1790 classic battle of the sexes. Lyric's production will be a glamorous, 1930s-set tale of love, trust, and mischief. Next up is *Madama Butterfly*, Puccini's foray into 19th-century Japan. The Lyric's production will encompass soaring melodies, stunning visuals, and a heartbreaking betrayal in this timeless tale of love and loss. Following that will be *Salome*, Richard Strauss' 1905 opera that is staggeringly original, more than a little trashy, and unsettling in its sexual and racial politics. The Lyric version is Sir David McVicar's decadent production set in the 1940s. Last is *Der Rosenkavalier*, Richard Strauss' opera in which all key characters are women, and the opera is a work with a feminine focus where female relationships, concerns about age, marriage, and romance are key themes. The study group will opine on whether these operas should be presented largely in their original form or as an updated version. We will explore four weeks of opera and four different operatic portrayals of women. No prior knowledge of opera required. Operas will be viewed on the app *Met Opera on Demand*.



Tuesday at the Movies: Intersection of Romance and Sports

CREATIVE ARTS

Michael Pierce, Hillel Furlager, David Buffen

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

We will explore, in four highly acclaimed movies, the intersection of romance and sports. Each movie reveals more than just the pursuit of victory on the field or in the ring—they become a reflection of personal identity, ambition, and emotional growth. We will explore the crucial roles women have in shaping these stories of competition into deeper explorations of love, resilience, and even equality. We will view and discuss how female characters drive both the emotional and thematic strengths of the stories. Our movies are: *The Natural* (1984, Barry Levinson); *Bull Durham* (1988, Ron Shelton); *Million Dollar Baby* (2004, Clint Eastwood); and *Rocky* (1976, John G. Avildsen). Participants must obtain the movies on their own. They can usually be found through Amazon, Netflix, the local library, etc. Each movie is presented by one study group member who has volunteered to lead the discussion in a way that encourages engagement by all attendees. We focus less on movie plot and more on the details—acting, directing, cinematography—that created the legendary body of work for which each movie is revered.



NEW *How Fascism Works**Dan Burns, Tom Williamson*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

We are all familiar with the term fascism, but what exactly is it? Jason Stanley, in his book *How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them* (Random House, 2020 edition), provides a timely guide to the stories and tactics used by fascist movements and regimes around the world, from the 1920s to the present day. The author emphasizes that fascism is less about a fixed ideology and more about a strategic set of practices designed to consolidate power and foster division. The book is organized into ten chapters, each focusing on a specific aspect or tactic of fascist politics. By connecting historical patterns of fascism to current political trends, the author demonstrates how these fascist tactics are not a relic of the past but are actively used by leaders and movements around the world today. Jason Stanley is the son of parents who fled Germany during the Holocaust. A former professor of philosophy at Yale University, the author received renewed attention this past March when he expressed his opinion that the US is transitioning into becoming a fascist dictatorship, and he left the US, moving his family to Canada where he now teaches at the University of Toronto. Join us as we delve into this timely topic.

**NEW *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read****Galen Burghardt, Valerie Maragos, Thomas Green*

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

LITERATURE

Have you ever nodded thoughtfully through a discussion of *Ulysses* or *Crime and Punishment*, secretly hoping no one would ask your opinion? Pierre Bayard's witty and subversive book *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read* (Bloomsbury, 2007) invites us to rethink what it means to "know" a book. In this study group, we will explore Bayard's playful arguments about reading, memory, cultural knowledge, and the performance of literary conversation. Group members will engage in lively discussions of Bayard's work, reflect on their own reading habits, and parse the social forces that shape how we talk about literature. Together, we will ask: What does it mean to be well-read? Can skimming, forgetting, or even imagining a book be as valuable as reading it? Engaging and liberating, this study group encourages a joyful reexamination of our lifelong relationship with books, reading, and literary culture.



***“Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.”
~ Benjamin Franklin***

NEW Ian McEwan Returns

LITERATURE

Julie Johnson, Michael Singer, Lisa Oberman

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Present reality is dystopian enough, you say? Don't let that deter you from reading Ian McEwan's glorious new novel *What We Can Know* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2025), a literary mystery, a love story, and a futuristic commentary on human life rolled into one, limned with McEwan's famously precise and elegant prose. In the year 2119, in a world altered by rising seas and a nuclear accident, Thomas Metcalfe is a scholar whose area of expertise is English literature from 1990–2030. Because Metcalfe is researching a celebratory event that took place in 2014, that event and the personalities involved become the central focus of the novel, thus enabling the novel to take the long view on our era. Nostalgic for the past, Metcalfe reflects on what happened to change human life, as well as on the realities of 2119. McEwan, with his penetrating grasp of human psychology and his fascination with science, depicts a damaged world but one where beauty, love, and hope continue to exist. Join us for a rich discussion. (Note: participants will need to read about 75 pages per week.)



NEW *Under a White Sky: Interventions to Save the Planet*

STMH

Lorraine Edwalds, Jane Murtaugh

Tuesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Humans have been changing the environment for thousands of years. While much attention has gone to changes we didn't realize we were making, there are many changes that have been intentional—to make our world a better place for humans, for agriculture, even for recreation. The foundational book for this study group will be *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert. The book explores human interventions to our water, land, and air with a special emphasis on proposed technologic advances and what they might mean for our world. She includes information about the natural cycles of climatic change that occurred before humans made an impact. We will supplement the book readings with TED Talks and current news articles about changes being made and what they mean for our weather and our lives.



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: WEDNESDAY

BEGINS JANUARY 21 2026

NEW *Anger, Fear, Domination: Dark Passions
and the Power of Political Speech*

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

James Smith, William Barker

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In 1991, with the fall of Soviet Communism and the apartheid regime in South Africa, it seemed that liberal democracy had triumphed almost everywhere; as one commentator put it, the “end of history” was at hand. Only three decades later, it is all too clear that history did not end; rather, liberal democracy is endangered. How did this happen? In *Anger, Fear, Domination: Dark Passions and the Power of Political Speech* (Yale University Press, 2025), respected political commentator William A. Galston observes that liberalism imagines a form of politics based on rationality and civility. Lately, our darker passions—anger, resentment, fear, humiliation, hatred, and the desire to dominate—have come to play a leading role in our politics, and our politics have been much the worse for it. Galston analyzes the threat these darker passions pose to liberal democracy. He examines each of the major dark passions—anger, fear, and the desire to dominate—in detail. He explores how a new generation of demagogues has made use of these passions to advance their agenda. We will read and discuss how Galston advances an agenda for a new political rhetoric to address these darker passions and defend liberal democracy.



Creative Writing Workshop

CREATIVE ARTS

Bob Jenkins, Ron Denham, Arthur Altman

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is for members who love words and who wish to improve and practice their creative writing skills across the various genres: poetry, creative nonfiction, essay, memoir, and fiction. Members will present their work to the group, who will respond with encouragement, critique, and suggestions. Revisions and resubmissions are welcome. Longer works may be submitted in segments. This study group will give members a creative outlet and an opportunity to produce a finished piece of writing of which they can be proud. New and experienced writers are welcome. Members will bring their words, knowledge, humor, tears, fears, desires, perspectives, and wisdom.



*“Creativity is intelligence
having fun.”
~ Albert Einstein*

Foreign Affairs

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Gary Benz, Gene Mackevich, Jim Perlow, David Hunt

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

This study group is made up of fellow participants who love to read and desire to learn about the countries of the world through their interactions with one another. We encourage and attract people who have inquisitive minds and are serious about learning and exchanging ideas. We take pride in being inclusive and not intimidating by conducting study groups that are welcoming and tolerate a wide range of opinions that are documented and convincingly expressed. We start with material from *Foreign Affairs*, a bimonthly magazine published by the Council on Foreign Relations, but we don't stop there. Discussion leaders may supplement weekly readings with materials from think tanks (such as Brookings), mainstream periodicals (such as *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*), and topical books. The goal of this study group is to be interactive with a healthy exchange of ideas, while still being fun and rewarding. In doing so, we create our own “think tank” and try to resolve problems and world issues.



NEW Resistance: Germany 1933–1945

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Chuck Meyers, Suzanne Farrand

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

With authoritarian regimes currently on the rise worldwide, this study group focuses on three examples of resistance to Nazi rule in Germany between 1933 and 1945—the White Rose movement, Otto and Elise Hampel's anti-Nazi postcard campaign in Berlin, and Oskar Schindler's rescue of Jews. Through these examples, we will explore both individual and collective acts of resistance; their motivations, obstacles, successes, failures, and consequences. For each, we will discuss historical conditions of the time and place; whether the actions were active or passive; and whether the resistance came from within or outside the Nazi regime. Ultimately, this study group is designed to explore the efficacy of resistance as a vehicle for change. Materials for this study group will include films, digital exhibits, websites, archival materials, and articles that will both contextualize German resistance and apply lessons learned to contemporary issues.



NEW The Ghost Map

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Martha Bills, Jean Olsen

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

In the nineteenth century, cholera was a terrifying disease. It killed quickly and horribly. Entire families were dead within days of showing symptoms. How could this devastating killer be stopped when the causes and cures of so many illnesses were still a mystery? Public officials in London favored the miasma theory of the spread of disease. In examining the 1854 outbreak of cholera, *The Ghost Map* (Riverhead Books, 2006) by Steven Johnson lays out the setting and the clues, then tells the story of the investigator who methodically tracked the source of the contagion, the local curate whose own investigations ultimately confirmed the evidence, and the public health officials who were finally convinced to take action. All this happened two decades before Pasteur and Koch's germ theory of disease was developed. As *The Washington Post* states, “*The Ghost Map* is both a medical thriller and detective story.” Our study group will read this engrossing story of a forgotten event and consider, in our discussions, the links between science, public health, and urban planning that are still so relevant today.



What Were They Thinking?

STMH

Susan Salpeter, William King

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Why do smart people make catastrophic mistakes? How do well-designed systems fail spectacularly? Join us to explore these questions through Tim Harford's award-winning *Cautionary Tales* podcast. Tim Harford—*Financial Times* columnist, BBC broadcaster, and acclaimed economist—weaves gripping stories of human error with insights from psychology, economics, and behavioral science. Each week, discussion leaders will select two podcast episodes (30–60 minutes total), supplemented with videos, photos, and articles. Topics span aviation disasters, medical system failures, financial catastrophes, engineering mishaps, corporate fraud, environmental disasters, and cultural moments like the infamous Oscar mix-up. They include what went wrong with Chicago's parking meter sale, why redundant safety features sometimes backfire, how a doctor killed patients undetected, and what radical protest can and cannot achieve. Beyond compelling stories, you'll sharpen your critical thinking about risk and decision-making. As Harford promises: "Each story will make you wiser."



Articles from the Sunday New York Times

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Mitchell Harrison, Hilmon Sorey, Carole Bass

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

For well over 100 years *The New York Times* has been the newspaper of record. With its 132 Pulitzer Prizes since 1918 (the most by any news organization), some consider the *Times* to be the greatest newspaper in the country. The paper continues to cover New York, national, and international stories and is quoted worldwide. Its photographers and their work are also renowned. We will focus on articles from the front section of the paper in the previous Sunday's edition. Because the Sunday paper covers an incredibly broad scope of topics and areas of interest, articles from other sections of the paper can also be selected. Join us to learn, discuss, and even smile during these wonderful and lively discussions. Access to the current print or digital *New York Times* Sunday edition is required.



NEW The Coen Brothers in the 21st Century: Fate, Failure, and Existential Angst

CREATIVE ARTS

Jim Gecker, Jim Burns

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Starting in 2001, filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen turned from screwball comedy to a darker, more philosophical cinema—one that wrestles with arbitrary fate and the search for meaning in an indifferent world, as characters find themselves trapped by forces beyond their control. As we discuss *The Man Who Wasn't There* (2001), *No Country for Old Men* (2007), *A Serious Man* (2009), and *Inside Llewyn Davis* (2013), we will analyze how the Coens crafted narratives about ordinary people struggling against incomprehensible systems, focusing on the films' scripts, direction, cinematography, acting, and use of music, as well as their unique blend of bleak humor and existential inquiry. Participants will watch each film in advance via streaming or DVD, and we will share selected reviews, essays, and discussion questions before each session. No prior experience analyzing films is required—just curiosity to better appreciate the Coens' unique brand of philosophical storytelling.



NEW For the Love of Even More Art—Abstract Expressionism CREATIVE ARTS

Dorothy Balabanos, Tim Atkins

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Do you enjoy art, but don't understand why some people rave about abstract art? Do you look at abstract art and think "I could have done that," or do you like abstract art and want to learn more? Then join us as we explore eight American artists who pioneered the Abstract Expressionist movement from the 1940s through the early 1960s. We will learn how these artists used their art to express the chaotic, uncertain, and existential human condition in the post–World War II era, and how their art influenced future generations of artists around the world. We will delve into understanding abstract expressionism as an art form, studying the works of Jackson Pollock, Joan Mitchell, Willem de Kooning, and Lee Krasner, as well as four other artists, including the impact of their life experiences. In addition, study group members will have the opportunity to share the artwork of artists they love in a bonus 30-minute post–study group session. We will also take advantage of the Art Institute's excellent collection of abstract expressionism with a visit to the museum to view the work of the artists we have studied. Materials will be provided by the coordinators. Join us for an action-packed, eye-opening experience!



NEW Victoria Woodhull: The Riveting Story of an Extraordinary Woman

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Mary Goodkind, Martha Bills

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Victoria Woodhull was the first woman candidate for President of the United States. She rose from poverty, endured scandal, sued the British Museum, and fought for women's right to vote. Born in 1838, one of 10 children, her story covers the Civil War, the Gilded Age, and the reign of Queen Victoria, and recounts her achievement of great wealth through her business acumen and her third marriage. For someone many people may never have heard of, she led an extraordinary life. Our book is *The Improbable Victoria Woodhull: Suffrage, Free Love, and the First Woman to Run for President* by Eden Coolingsworth (Doubleday, 2025). Join us as we read and engage in discussion each week as we explore this rollicking true story.



NEW Future History: Asimov's *Foundation*

LITERATURE

Philip Zawa, Bill Kronenberg, Robert Jenkins

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

What if the rise and fall of civilizations could be predicted—and shaped—by science? Isaac Asimov's groundbreaking science fiction novel *Foundation* (Spectra, 2004; originally 1951) imagines exactly that. Set in a vast Galactic Empire on the brink of collapse, the story follows visionary mathematician Hari Seldon and his plan to preserve knowledge and guide humanity through the chaos to come. Blending epic storytelling with big ideas about history, power, science, and human agency, *Foundation* is a provocative exploration of how societies change and why. In this four-week study group, we'll read and discuss one part of the novel each week, exploring Asimov's genius at world-building and unpacking the novel's major themes, plot, and character development. No background in science fiction is required—just curiosity and a willingness to think deeply about the future (and past) of human civilization. Whether you're reading *Foundation* for the first time or returning to it with fresh eyes, you'll find lively conversation, new insights, and plenty to inspire your thinking.



NEW Into the Woods: As You Like It

LITERATURE

Robert Elliott, Margaret Schilt, Michael Hennessy

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The literary critic and Shakespeare scholar Harold Bloom declares: “Of all Shakespeare’s plays, the accurately titled *As You Like It* is as much set in an earthly realm of possible good as *King Lear* and *Macbeth* are set in earthly hells. And of all Shakespeare’s comic heroines, Rosalind is the most gifted, as remarkable in her mode as Falstaff and Hamlet are in theirs... If Rosalind cannot please us, no one in Shakespeare or elsewhere in literature ever will.” Let us journey together to the Forest of Arden, away from the world of *Lear* and *Macbeth*. We will get to know Rosalind (“a boy playing a girl playing a boy pretending to be a girl”!) through a close reading and discussion of *As You Like It* (Folger Shakespeare Library Updated Edition, 2019), followed by a final-week discussion of Kenneth Branagh’s film adaptation, set in Meiji Restoration Japan, which participants will view at home. Join us!



NEW The Sea Around Us by Rachel Carson

STMH

Janet Jablon, Jill Doherty

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Many of us know Rachel Carson as the author of *Silent Spring*. Few know that she began her career as a marine biologist in the US Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife, working in that field until she became a full-time nature writer in the 1950s. She published *The Sea Around Us* in 1951. The book is a work of elegant and lyrical prose grounded in deep scientific knowledge that remains relevant today. It was on *The New York Times* Best Seller List for 86 weeks and has been translated into 28 languages. Our study group will look at Carson’s work both as a literary and as a popular scientific achievement. We will contemplate how someone who didn’t like boats or know how to swim developed a profound love for the ocean. Our text is *The Sea Around Us* by Rachel Carson (Oxford University Press, 2018).



VIRTUAL STUDY GROUPS: THURSDAY

BEGINS JANUARY 22 2026

NEW Continuing Care Retirement Communities CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Philip Steptoe, Brenda Russell

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Some of us are facing the question of how to prepare for our senior years. The old idea was that the family would take care of us, but now this is often impracticable and maybe burdensome to them. These issues are challenging; not thinking about them is the worst choice of all. If we are considering moving into a senior living or retirement community, what kind of community and how do we choose? One option is a Continuing Care Retirement Community, or CCRC. What are they, what are the benefits, and the potential pitfalls? Our text is *Find the Right CCRC for Yourself or a Loved One* by Ruth Alvarez (Canyon New Media, 4th ed., 2025), which is a trove of practical information and advice. Each week, study group members will have in-depth discussions regarding the social, financial, legal, and health-related considerations that go along with choosing and living in a CCRC. Our discussions will be greatly enriched by knowledge and experiences shared by study group members.



NEW The Message from Ta-Nehisi Coates CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Connie Karduck, Willie Shaw

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Ta-Nehisi Coates' *New York Times* #1 bestselling book *The Message* (One World, 2024) is couched as a message to the students in his writing class. He presents three powerful essays about his experiences and reflections after trips to Dakar, Senegal; Columbia, South Carolina; and Palestine. Coates has been acclaimed for his penetrating writings on cultural, social, and political issues, particularly as these relate to African Americans and white supremacy. He has won many awards, including a National Book Award, for his works of nonfiction and fiction. Coates believes that writing is a duty, a means of preserving truth, but he understands that narratives can uphold injustice and yet obscure truth. His conclusions have often been found to be controversial. Come join us as we strive to understand how Coates' message might apply to us in our turbulent world.



NEW Unfamiliar Fishes—A Study of Hawaii and How It Got to Be a State HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Gordon Mallett, Andrew Griffin, Thomas Wuellner

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Sarah Vowell is a remarkable writer of history. After exploring the influence of the religious pilgrims who shaped New England society, she turned her attention to Hawaii in *Unfamiliar Fishes* (Riverhead Books, 2012). Vowell wryly argues that the year 1898 is more crucial to modern America's identity than 1776—since it marks the moment when the United States began acting like an international superpower almost overnight. The events in Hawaii were central to this transformation. Vowell uncovers the unique yet deeply symbolic story of Hawaii's Americanization, tracing its path from the arrival of New England missionaries to its eventual annexation as the fiftieth state. Her account captures a pivotal chapter in America's growing ambitions and evolving identity. Join us as we explore and discuss this fascinating period of history.



NEW A Return to Poetry: Finding Joy Again in Words

LITERATURE

Judith Myers, Michael Dolesh, Judith McCue

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Were you put off by poetry when you read it in high school? Was it boring or even intimidating? If you would like to overcome those feelings, re-engage with poetry, and discover the joy in words, then this study group is for you. Together, we will read and discuss poems that speak clearly, playfully, and powerfully to real human experiences through a gentle, engaging, and encouraging approach. We will discover ways to approach a poem without worrying about “getting it right.” We will read each poem aloud and, as a group, discuss the poem’s meaning, the emotion it evokes, and the techniques it uses. We will review the tools of poetry (e.g., metaphor, rhythm, rhyme, stanzas) using examples from the history of poetry, ranging from ancient poets including Homer, medieval poets such as Shakespeare, and contemporary poets like Billy Collins and Ada Limón. You don’t need prior knowledge of poetry—just curiosity and an open mind. At the end of four weeks, our hope is that you feel poetry is no longer a puzzle to solve but a language to bring you enjoyment and delight. No book is required; coordinators will provide links to the materials.



NEW Exploring Women’s Roles in Modern Japan through History and Literature

LITERATURE

Dory Rand, Michael Goodkind

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Join us as we explore the roles of women in modern Japan through history and literature. We will read and discuss two nonfiction books: *Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back* by Janice P. Nimura (W. W. Norton & Company, 2015) and *The Only Woman in the Room: A Memoir of Japan, Human Rights, and the Arts* by Beate Sirota Gordon (University of Chicago, 2014 edition). We will also read two fiction books: *Mild Vertigo* by Mieko Kanai (New Directions Publishing Corporation, 2023) and *Breasts and Eggs: A Novel* by Mieko Kawakami (Europa Editions, 2021). We will read and discuss one book each week.



The Caldecott Award—Which Books will be Honored This Year?

LITERATURE

George Sullivan, Mary Watt, Jeff Voltz

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (January 15–February 5)

Each January, the American Library Association awards the Caldecott Medal to the illustrator of the previous year’s most distinguished American picture book for children. The award, named in honor of 19th-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, is regarded as the most prestigious in children’s illustrated literature. In this study group, we will briefly explore the history of the Caldecott Award and peruse some of the recent honorees. We will also examine and discuss potential contenders for the 2026 award from a curated list, focusing on how accomplished illustrators successfully support and enhance a book’s written text. Once the winner and honor books are announced on Monday, January 26, we will discuss what set them apart and led to their selection for the awards. Participants will also have the chance to learn more about current trends in children’s literature and reflect on how these award-winning books provide readers with both a window into the world and a mirror of their own experiences. NOTE: This study group will begin and end one week earlier than other OLLI winter term study groups (January 15–February 5).



NEW Appreciating the 2025 Nobel Prizes

STMH

Benjamin Schwartz, Robert Rich

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

The Nobel Prizes are among the most prestigious awards given and recognize remarkable achievements. This study group is intended to give the members an opportunity to appreciate the 2025 awards by discussion, in layman's terms, of the accomplishments for which the awards were given, their significance, and the biographical background of the laureates. We will use materials posted on the NobelPrize.org website and news articles. Please join us for this fascinating discussion of human accomplishments.



NEW Exploring Science Through the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures

STMH

Tom Cotter, Doug Essex

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

For over 200 years, the Royal Institution in London has endeavored to help people discover and engage with science by creating spaces in which scientists and the public can explore science together. Since 1825, its Christmas Lectures have brought science to life through vivid demonstrations and clear explanations in a format accessible to curious people of all ages. This four-week study group introduces participants to the history, themes, and impact of these lectures, featuring highlights from past presenters such as Michael Faraday, Carl Sagan, Richard Dawkins, and Hannah Fry. Study group members will access the lectures online at <https://www.rigb.org/christmas-lectures>.



The Economist

CONTEMPORARY / SOCIAL ISSUES

Jennifer Gainer, Mark Goldberg, Elliott Hartstein, John Donovan

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

The Economist weekly magazine is widely acclaimed for its thoughtful and stimulating analyses of world news, politics, and business. It also has sections on science, technology, books, the arts, and extensive reports on particular issues of current interest. This long-running study group is always looking for new participants, interested in current events, who can enrich our discussions. Study group participants lead or co-lead a weekly discussion, selecting 8–12 articles from the current weekly issue and developing the questions needed to get the lively conversations started. However, with this being just a four-week semester, it's anticipated that the coordinators will take on all or most of this responsibility. Given the uncertainty of the mail, a digital subscription to *The Economist* is highly encouraged. Information on subscriptions is available at subscribenow.economist.com.



NEW Spike Lee on Screen

CREATIVE ARTS

Michael Jablon, Rick O'Konis

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us for a lively journey through four films of the visionary director Spike Lee, whose groundbreaking work has reshaped American cinema. The selected movies, watched before the study group, are a powerful blend of storytelling, style, and social commentary. Our discussions will reflect on how Lee's films challenge, entertain, and open windows into the American experience. Expect bold storytelling, unforgettable characters, social awareness, and visual flair. From neighborhood tensions to sweeping history, from gripping thrillers to biting satire, the films represent the heart of Lee's enduring legacy in cinema. Films: *Do the Right Thing*, *Malcolm X*, *Inside Man*, and *BlacKkKlansman*.



NEW Chicago's Famous Hotels

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Laurie Toth, Tim Atkins, Trudy Hobfoll

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Join us as we explore the fascinating history, architecture, and cultural impact of four of Chicago's legendary hotels—The Palmer House, The Drake Hotel, The Conrad Hilton, and The Ambassador East Hotel. Each of these landmarks tells a story of innovation, luxury, and the city's rise as a world-class destination. Together, we'll uncover the visionaries behind these hotels, their roles in shaping Chicago's social and political life, and how they reflect the changing eras of design, hospitality, and urban development. Through readings, discussions, and images from the hotels' storied pasts provided by the coordinators, participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the grandeur and resilience of these enduring Chicago institutions.



NEW Underground Empire

HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Joseph Hinkel, Margaret Schilt

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

For millennia, we have thought of empires in terms of the land masses that they conquer or control. However, in *Underground Empire: How America Weaponized the World Economy* (Henry Holt and Co., 2023), authors Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman argue that America has created tools to act as an empire without land accumulation. The authors, professors at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown, argue that the US government sits like a spider at the heart of a web of fiber-optic cables and obscure payment systems—a web of surveillance and control that binds the world. They provide extraordinary examples of the power that has been developed as the world digitizes and how the reaction to 9/11 has incentivized the country to utilize new tools to an extraordinary level. Real-life examples are included in each chapter for our discussion.



NEW *Valley of Forgetting:* the Search for a Cure for Alzheimer Disease

STMH

Mary Hummel, Rachel Ochs

Thursday, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most feared diseases of aging. It robs people of their memories, identities, and dignity. Despite years of research, no effective treatment has been discovered. In *Valley of Forgetting: Alzheimer's Families and the Search for a Cure* (Riverhead Books, 2025), author Jennie Erin Smith recounts the story of a doctor in Colombia who, in the 1980s, discovered an extended clan at high risk for early-onset Alzheimer's disease. A charismatic and dedicated physician, he formed international scientific collaborations and founded a research institute to collect data systematically on hundreds of individuals from these families. The author moved to Colombia in 2017 and became intimately acquainted with both the families and the researchers. She movingly describes the devastation of this disease and the added challenges posed by the poverty and violence that plagued this region. Join us to explore the valuable insights gleaned from the study of these families and some of the new ideas for therapeutic intervention for Alzheimer's disease inspired by this work. (Note: participants will need to read about 85 pages per week.)



BONUS GROUP: Let's Talk About the Movies (Thursday)

CREATIVE ARTS

Trish Ronan, Barry Blitzsten, Suraleah Michaels, Tim Atkins

Thursday, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Let's shake things up a bit! Our first movie is Akira Kurosawa's *High and Low* (1963), a tri-part study of a rich businessman's travails with his business partners and a kidnapping gone wrong; the envious poor worker and his intricate plan; and the climactic ending with the ransom payment and the police determined to solve the case. The comparison is Spike Lee's 21st-century remake of *High and Low: Highest 2 Lowest*: a music mogul, a young rapper/kidnapper, and the kick-ass ending. What made Lee team up with Denzel Washington after a twenty-year hiatus? And what do you think of the updated version? An analysis of each movie with your discussion comments will make for a lively four weeks in the dead of winter. Bonus Groups do not count toward your membership study group allotment. The Thursday sessions will meet on 1/29/26 and 2/12/26.



*“The mind, once stretched
by a new idea, never returns
to its original dimensions.”*

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

OLLI & WIRTZ THEATER IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER



HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING!

Go behind the scenes at Northwestern University's Wirtz Center to learn from and interact with artists producing the upcoming production of **HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING**.

Friday, January 30, 1:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.: Background and context on Wirtz's version of **HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING** with guests from the cast and artistic teams. Q&A and discussion.

Friday, February 6, 1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.: Backstage tour and presentation from design and creatives.

Friday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.: Opening night performance and post-show talkback.

Cost: \$40. Includes one ticket to the opening night performance, OLLI exclusive talk-back, tour, presentations, and discussion group sessions. Additional cost for parking on Friday afternoon sessions, free parking on opening night.

Location: Ethel M. Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston

Big business means big laughs in this riotous romp through the corporate world that took Broadway by storm, winning both the Tony Award for Best Musical and a Pulitzer Prize. As sharp as it is hilarious, the story follows the meteoric rise of J. Pierrepont Finch, an ambitious window washer who stumbles upon a book titled *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Armed with this handy guide, Finch sets out to conquer the Worldwide Wicket Company with a mix of wit, charm, and a bit of scheming. This reinvigorated production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* is a tune-filled, comic gem full of ambition, love, luck, and a whole lot of nerve!

During this three-session study group, members will learn about Wirtz's take on the play's themes, preview and interact with the production's scenic, costume, and lighting departments, tour the Wirtz Center, and attend opening night (February 20th) with a post-show talkback. For returning OLLI members, you will see familiar faces and spaces, but new creations are always in process at Wirtz!

Open to all current OLLI members. Register and pay through your OLLI registration account (Augusoft) beginning 9 a.m. Monday, December 15, 2025 through January 25, 2026. This event does not count toward your membership study group allotment.

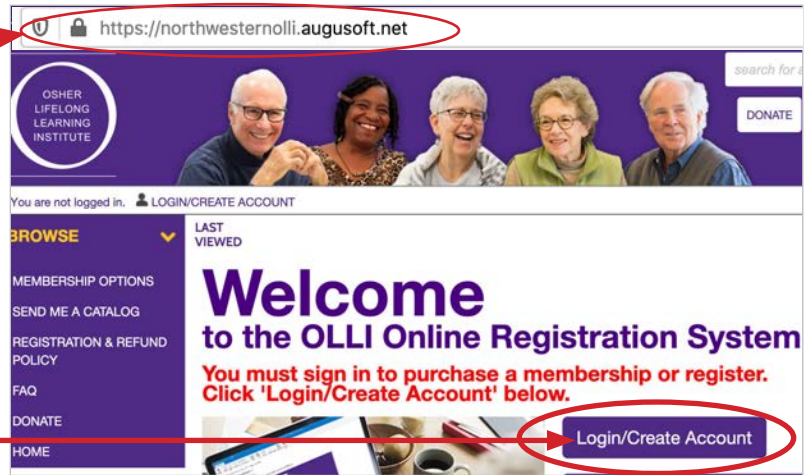


HOW TO PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTER FOR STUDY GROUPS

- Go to the OLLI Online Registration System (Augusoft) which can be accessed at:
<https://northwesternolli.augusoft.net>

- Click **Log In/Create Account**.

- This takes you to the **Sign In** page.



Sign In

Use your username and password to sign in here.
Please note that the password is case sensitive.

Student

Username

Forgot your username?

Password

Forgot your password?

Sign In

New Students

Click Create New Profile to create your own username, password and profile.

Create New Profile

EXISTING USERS:

If you are a current or former member and have a Profile in the system:

SIGN IN to Your Account with your **Username** and **Password**.

- Make sure the option says **Student** in the pull-down menu.
- If you have forgotten your Username or Password, click on the **Forgot Your Username?** or **Forgot Your Password?** links.

DO NOT CREATE A NEW PROFILE

NEW USERS:

If you are a new user, please create a new profile.

Click **Create New Profile** and follow the prompts.

- On the Profile Creation page, select Student Profile (single user) button, click Submit.
- Fill in the necessary information for Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3 tabs.
- Click **Submit** to register your account.

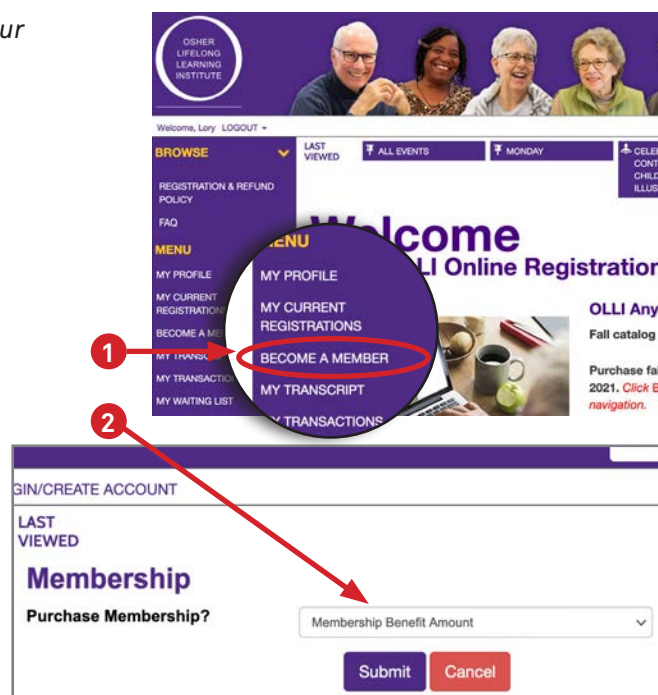
If you need assistance, email olli@northwestern.edu.

New Members who have created a profile and Existing Members who have signed in can now continue to **Purchase Membership**—instructions on next page.

PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP:

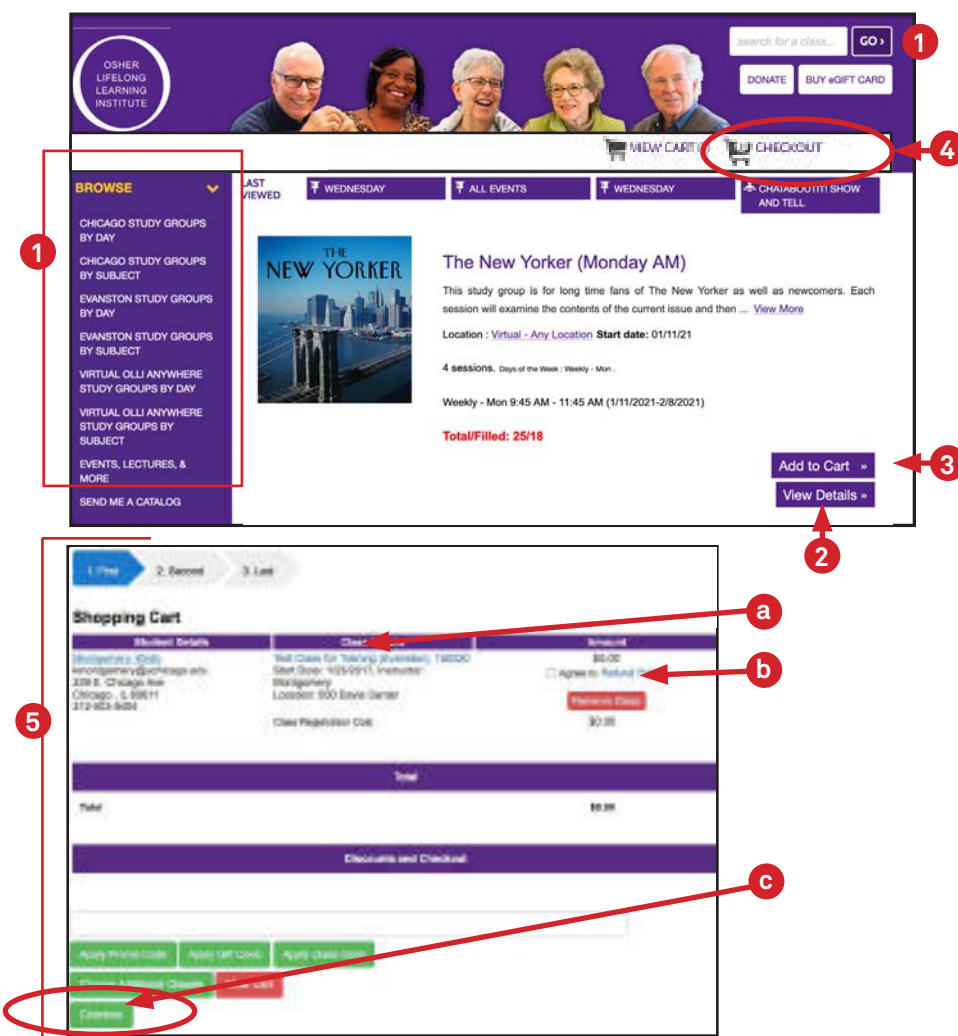
OLLI members who participated in the fall term do not need to purchase a winter membership; the winter term is included in your current membership.

1. On the **Welcome** home page, click **BECOME A MEMBER** in the purple column on the left.
2. On the **Membership** page, select the membership option you wish to purchase from the drop-down menu.
3. You will then be led to your cart page. Continue with the prompts to check out.
 - OLLI accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover.



REGISTRATION:

1. **BROWSE** Study Groups by location, by day, or by subject area. Or, type a portion of the title in the **SEARCH** bar at the top right of the page.
2. For more information about a Study Group click **View Details**.
3. Once registration is open, to register for a Study Group click **Add to Cart**.
 - To register for additional Study Groups, repeat Step 1 through 3.
4. **Important:** To complete your registration click **CHECKOUT** at the top right of the screen.
5. **Finish your checkout:**
 - a. Review your selections
 - b. Click the **Agree to Refund Policy** box
 - c. Click the green **CHECKOUT** box at the bottom of the screen.



Wait for the screen that says “Your transaction has been processed successfully.”

You will receive a confirmation email of your registration. **If you do not receive the confirmation email, your registration is not complete.**



2025–2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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OCTOBER 2025

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NOVEMBER 2025

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DECEMBER 2025

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JANUARY 2026

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FEBRUARY 2026

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MARCH 2026

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APRIL 2026

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MAY 2026

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JUNE 2026

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JULY 2026

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AUGUST 2026

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OLLI session dates and registration periods:

Fall Session:

14 Weeks, September 2–December 8, 2025

Registration August 4–August 18, 2025

Winter Session (all virtual):

4 Weeks, January 20–February 16, 2026

Registration December 15, 2025–January 5, 2026

Spring Session:

14 weeks, March 2–June 8, 2026

Registration February 2–February 16, 2026

Summer Session:

4 Weeks, July 6–July 31, 2026

Registration June 8–June 22, 2026

Break between sessions

OLLI and Northwestern University will be closed on the following days:

Monday, September 1, 2025

Thursday, November 27 and
Friday, November 28, 2025

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
through
Thursday, January 1, 2026

Monday, January 19, 2026

Monday, May 25, 2026

Friday, June 19, 2026

Friday, July 3, 2026



2024 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to the following donors who generously made gifts to OLLI during the calendar year 2024.

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Chuck Kurland
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The 2024 Honor Roll of Donors lists donations February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025. The 2025 Honor Roll of Donors will be announced after January 31, 2026

OLLI AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MEMBER FUND



Creating a Culture of Giving

Donate Today!



OLLI's Culture of Giving means that every member is encouraged to give of their time, talents, and dollars. Our goal is 100% participation.

Contributing to the OLLI Member Fund has a direct impact on your personal experience. Gifts are used for OLLI NU strategic priorities such as:

- Enhanced academic enrichment opportunities: special programs and guest speakers
- Acoustic improvements, hearing assistance devices, and sound transmission systems to provide better accessibility for all members.
- Increased diversity and outreach activities
- Need-based scholarships



[Scan the QR code](#)
or [click here to give to the OLLI NU Member Fund](#)

Your contribution—at any level—demonstrates your commitment to and appreciation for OLLI.

2025–2026 POLICIES AND INFORMATION

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Choice and Flexibility

Remember, every study group will have a limited number of seats in order to maintain the high quality, discussion-based learning model that Northwestern OLLI is known for. As a result, not everyone may get into their first choice. However, members are often pleasantly surprised and pleased by their second, third, or even fourth choice study group which expands their interests and their friendships. In the spirit of lifelong learning, we encourage members to keep an open mind when registering. There are many outstanding study groups from which to choose!

Membership Purchase and Registration

Participation in the OLLI program is based on membership. Membership allows you to join a given number of study groups in each term (varies by membership level). Membership also gives you access to lectures, workshops, enrichment opportunities, and other benefits through Northwestern.

REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

Membership Purchases and Registration are through the OLLI Online Registration System (Augusoft).

If you need assistance, email olli@northwestern.edu. The first available staff member or OLLI Volli volunteer will call or email you to assist.

ADDITIONAL STUDY GROUP PURCHASES

Additional study groups, beyond those included in your membership, can be purchased for an additional charge. To purchase additional study groups, email olli@northwestern.edu.

- **14-week term (Fall or Spring)** = Prime +\$65 / +\$33 for a 7-week; Standard +\$105 / +\$53 for a 7-week; Basic +\$150 / +\$75 for a 7-week
- **4-week term (Winter or Summer)** = Prime +\$50; Standard +\$80; Basic +\$100

Changes to your membership type are only allowed in specific circumstances which must be approved by the Director. If approved, changes are subject to an administrative fee.

REGISTRATION

You **MUST** be officially registered through the OLLI office for all study groups and bonus groups you attend.

Registration for study groups is on a first come, first served basis. If a study group is full, members will be placed on a waiting list and will be notified only if a space becomes available. Should space become available, members will be added to a study group in the order in which they have been wait listed. We encourage you to register for an open study group in case the waitlisted group does not become available.

OLLI accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover.

Unless otherwise noted, you must be a current member of OLLI to register for OLLI events.

Trial memberships are available only to new members and may be purchased only one time.

REGISTRATION ADD/DROP

Please make your selections carefully. Changes to study group selections may ONLY be made by the OLLI office. Changes are subject to study group availability.

Changes may only be made up to the end of the second week of the fall or spring term or the first week of winter or summer term.

If your plans have changed and you can no longer participate in a study group or bonus group you must notify the OLLI office.

Refund Policies

UNUSED MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: Refunds are **NOT issued** for unused membership benefits. If you are unsure of your plans for the year, we recommend that you purchase a half-year membership.

EVENTS: Refunds are **NOT issued** for academic enrichment or social events, including but not limited to prepaid meals, theater tickets, and prepaid tours.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES: Issuance of refunds for extraordinary circumstances are at the discretion of the OLLI Director.

METHOD: Qualifying refunds must be issued in the exact form as payment was made (i.e. to the same credit card that was used to pay for the transaction). Allow 6 weeks for processing.

NEW MEMBERS ONLY: If you participate in OLLI at Northwestern University for the first time and find that this program is not a good match for you, you may be eligible for a full or partial refund under the following circumstances:

If you started in the fall or spring term and you notify the OLLI Director in writing **within two weeks** of the start of the term.

If you started in the winter or summer term and you notify the OLLI Director in writing **within one week** of the start of the term.

Attendance Policies & Expectations

While occasional absences may be unavoidable, OLLI Membership is based on the expectation that you will register for, attend, and actively participate in study groups.

Members who are unable to attend the **first two weeks** of the fall or spring term are required to notify the study group coordinator of their absence, and (if possible) provide an expected date of return to the study group. Members who fail to notify their study group coordinator of their absence may be dropped from the study group at the end of week two.

Members who are unable to attend the **first week** of the winter or summer term are required to notify the study group coordinator of their absence, and (if possible) provide an expected date of return to the study group. Members who fail to notify their study group coordinator of their absence may be dropped from the study group at the end of week one.

Members who sign up for a study group and fail to attend at least half the scheduled sessions without communicating with the coordinator and the office may be refused registration/membership in the future.

If you require special accommodations, please contact the OLLI office prior to registration.

RSVP carefully to events and workshops, understanding that while there may be no cost to you, there is a cost to the program.

OLLI prohibits video recording of any study group by members or coordinators.

HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

Safeguarding the health and safety of our members and staff remains top priority. Northwestern OLLI continues to listen to the science and follow CDC guidelines, state mandates, and [Northwestern policies related to all COVID-19 safety protocols](#). If these guidelines, mandates, or policies change, Northwestern OLLI will adjust accordingly.

OLLI members should follow a common sense/common decency approach:

- Stay home if you are sick
- If you become ill with a bad cold, flu, or Covid-19, or other highly contagious disease, we encourage you to let your study group know so that they can monitor their own symptoms. However, we cannot require anyone to do so.
- Stay home until you are fully recovered—fever-free and/or symptom-free for at least 24 hours.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MULTIMEDIA RELEASE AGREEMENT

For good and valuable consideration, as a current or former member of Northwestern Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, you grant Northwestern University (the “University”) and its agents and assigns the right to record your appearance and participation on digital recordings, videotape, audiotape, film, photograph or any other medium and to use, publish, reproduce, modify, distribute, and publicly exhibit without limitation for promotional and marketing materials to be used by the University, television networks, and on websites, including but not limited to the University’s website, iTunes, iTunesU, and the University’s page on YouTube, such recordings, in whole or in part, without restrictions or limitation for any purpose that the University in its sole discretion deems appropriate. You further consent to the University’s use of your name, likeness, voice, and identifying information in connection with such recordings. You release the University, its successors and assigns, its agents, and all persons for whom it is acting from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the recording process, or any misspellings or inaccuracies, and you waive any right that you may have to inspect, approve, own, or control the finished recordings. You agree that neither you nor your heirs shall be entitled to any compensation for the use of your name, photograph, likeness, or other image of yourself.

NORTHWESTERN’S POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. Further prohibited by law is discrimination against any employee and/or job applicant who chooses to inquire about, discuss, or disclose their own compensation or the compensation of another employee or applicant.

Northwestern University complies with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination based on the protected categories listed above, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX requires educational institutions, such as Northwestern, to prohibit discrimination based on sex (including sexual harassment) in the University’s educational programs and activities, including in matters of employment and admissions. In addition, Northwestern provides reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants, students, and employees with disabilities and to individuals who are pregnant.

Any alleged violations of this policy or questions with respect to nondiscrimination or reasonable accommodations should be directed to Northwestern’s Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, equity@northwestern.edu.

Questions specific to sex discrimination (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment) should be directed to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu.

A person may also file a complaint with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights regarding an alleged violation of Title IX by visiting www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html or calling 800-421-3481. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to Northwestern may be referred to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator, the United States Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.

AVOIDING MICROAGGRESSIONS

To reduce the possibility of unintended harm to fellow OLLI members and to help OLLI be fully inclusive, we encourage all members to educate themselves on microaggressions and be mindful of this information as they engage in OLLI classrooms. Microaggression education can be found under Tips and Tools within the MyOLLINU website.

OLLI MEMBER/STUDENT CONDUCT RULES AND PROCESSES

Adapted from SPS Rules and Regulations of Student Conduct. All students are subject to applicable Northwestern University-enacted policies and standards.

Students admitted into the Northwestern University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Program (OLLI), offered through the School of Professional Studies (SPS), are SPS students taking non-credit courses in peer-led, discussion format.

OLLI students are subject to the following student conduct policies, rules and processes from the time of a student's registration for OLLI courses throughout participation in the OLLI community. These policies extend to student interaction with each other and with Northwestern staff and faculty, in and outside of the classroom.

Community Expectations: All OLLI students, as members of the Northwestern and SPS community, are expected to conduct themselves maturely and exemplify behavior consistent with Northwestern community standards. Northwestern students are expected to not only excel in the classroom but to engage in socially responsible behavior and to model exceptional conduct, character, and citizenship in class and beyond. All members of the Northwestern community are expected to engage with each other with respect and consideration. All students are expected to be respectful of OLLI and SPS staff time and resources.

Classroom Expectations: All course participants are expected to behave in a manner conducive to a successful and enjoyable learning experience. Sometimes, relatively harmless things can affect the classroom dynamic; for example, some students are so eager to participate that they unintentionally dominate class. Students must think about their role in class as an individual student but also as an integral part of a group experience. Some disruptions are of a more serious nature and cannot be tolerated.

Prohibited Conduct: All OLLI students are subject to applicable University-enacted policies and standards including but not limited to those in the Northwestern University Student Handbook. Any violation of these policies or assisting or encouraging others in the violation of these policies, may lead to student conduct action, including sanctions.

Prohibited and restricted conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Endangering self or others, including but not limited to the physical, psychological/emotional well-being of any person
- Interfering with the learning of others, including but not limited to in-person behavior, online behavior or use of University resources or systems to interfere with the work of another student, a faculty member, or a University staff member, or that otherwise interferes with normal operation of University systems or processes
- Acts of fraud, misrepresentation, or dishonesty including misuse of University documents or knowingly furnishing false information to the University
- Acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination and/or harassment
- Failure to comply to the reasonable request or instruction of a university staff member or emergency personnel acting in an official capacity

Scope of Conduct: OLLI students are subject to SPS Conduct Policies and applicable University-enacted policies found in The Northwestern Student Handbook. Conduct processes are adapted to the parameters dictated by offering peer-led non-credit programming. Northwestern and SPS reserve the right to review and resolve reports of alleged misconduct occurring from the time of a student's OLLI course registration throughout their time being a member of the OLLI community.

OLLI MEMBER/STUDENT CONDUCT RULES AND PROCESSES, CONT.

Student Conduct Process: All alleged violations of conduct by OLLI students will be reviewed by the program director to determine next steps. Options include, but are not limited to:

- close the case due to insufficient information
- resolution of case by OLLI director
- refer case to Northwestern University's Office of Community Standards, Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, and/or other appropriate University office or unit. *Per Northwestern's reporting obligations, all allegations of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment), discrimination based on a protected category, and harassment based on a protected category are referred to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance.*

The director will consider whether interim action is appropriate when notice of an alleged violation is received.

Notification: When a conduct violation allegation is determined to move forward, the OLLI student involved (respondent) is notified via correspondence by OLLI leadership. Notification will typically include a brief description of the alleged misconduct, including the time, date and place the incident allegedly occurred, and a list of any University policies allegedly violated. The notification letter will include a request for a written response to the allegations within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed two weeks of receipt.

Standard of Evidence: Northwestern University Office of Student Conduct and SPS use the preponderance of the evidence standard in reviews. This means that the conduct administrator(s), determine *more likely than not* what occurred.

Participation: The University expects students to participate promptly and fully in all aspects of the student conduct process. If a student elects not to participate in any part of the process, the case may proceed without the respondent's participation. Respondents may be held accountable for any outcomes issued, even if they fail to participate.

Determination of Responsibility, Notification and Sanctions: Outcomes determined by SPS will be communicated in writing in a reasonable timeframe following student written response receipt, or following the deadline provided for response. The Outcome Notification letter will be added to the student academic record. Using preponderance of the evidence standard, OLLI leadership will determine whether the respondent is responsible for the alleged policy violation and, if so, will issue appropriate sanctions, from warning to program dismissal at sole discretion of program director.

SPS reserves the right to take appropriate action for violations of this policy or other applicable University policies, up to and including dismissal of an OLLI student from the program.

Reports of alleged bias or hate-related incidents can be reported to the Bias Incident Response Team. Information on filing reports can be found on the web page:

<https://www.northwestern.edu/inclusion/respectnu/incident-report.html>.

The Northwestern University Student Handbook can be viewed at:
sps.northwestern.edu/student-handbook

LOGISTICS, SERVICES, AND RESOURCES

OLLI Office Location and Hours:

Chicago (Wieboldt Hall):
339 E Chicago Avenue, Room 412
Chicago, IL 60611

Evanston:
500 Davis Street, Suite 700
Evanston, IL 60201

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (less a flexible hour for lunch)
OLLI staff work remotely throughout the winter term.

OLLI Contact Information

EMAIL: olli@northwestern.edu

OLLI HELP DESK:

<https://spsolli.sps.northwestern.edu/>

Inter-campus Shuttle

Fully operational and available to OLLI students with a current Wildcard that contains your photo. [Click Here](#) for shuttle information.

NU Libraries

Northwestern Library holds over 8 million items making it the 11th largest private university library.

Wildcards

Wildcards are only issued before the fall semester and only to OLLI members who purchased a **full academic year membership**. 2024-2025 Academic Year Wildcards are valid through September, 2025.

OLLI members have access to the NU libraries and databases, however only full-time members with Wildcards have borrowing privileges.

Evanston Main Library:
[Click Here](#) for more information.

Wildcard ID Discounts

wildcardadv.northwestern.edu

PHONE: 847-491-7658

EMAIL: library@northwestern.edu

GUIDES: libguides.northwestern.edu/OLLI_libguide

University Police

EVANSTON: 847-491-3254

CHICAGO: 312-503-8314

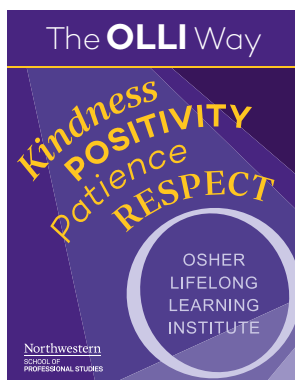
EMERGENCY: 911

LIBRARIAN: Tracy Coyne

tracy-coyne@northwestern.edu

WEBSITE: library.northwestern.edu

northwestern.edu/up



The OLLI Way

As a lean staff, we do the very best we can to provide an outstanding experience for each and every OLLI member. Our community values kindness, patience, positivity, and respect—something we call The OLLI Way. These values are critical as members, staff, and volunteers interact with one another. They are especially important as we manage the logistics, fun, and excitement associated with each new OLLI term. Thanks to all of you for embracing the OLLI Way.