

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



Huzzah! for
Revolutionary Ideas

Fall 2026

SNEAK PREVIEW

Join us for an extraordinary Fall at the Osher Institute

With 130+ courses* ranging from science and economics to health and the humanities, you'll expand your horizons – and connections – as a member of our lifelong learning community.

American History

- Benedict Arnold: America's First Turncoat *Rebecca Staton-Reinstein*
- Challenges the Founders Failed to Predict *Rebecca Staton-Reinstein*
- Domestic Servants in Early 20th Century America *David Hopkinson*
- Colonial Apothecary: How 18th-Century Medicinals are Relevant in the 21st Century *Henry Kozek*
- The Gay 90s: From Fig Newtons to Coca-Cola *Marilyn Younger*
- The JFK Assassination Part I: The People in the Plaza *Michael Kerley*
- Leeches to Lasers – 18th Century Medicine versus Today *Robert Jaffee*
- The Life and Times of the Delaware & Hudson (D&H) Canal *Peg Becker*
- Make Ready, Take Aim, Fire: The Continental Army *Holly Mayer*
- Man or Superman? The Life of Alexander Von Humboldt *Tom Thompson*
- Revolutionary Ideas at Menokin *Alice French, Connie Rosemont*
- Saratoga and the Wars in the North *Buck Beasom*
- Suddenly, the Vice-President Is President *William Fetsko*
- Three Nifty Presidential-ish Stories *Feather Foster*
- Trial of the Century: The 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial *Bennett Smith*
- Virginia's Road to Revolution Ep. 5: Absolved of All Allegiance *Mark Howell*
- Washington's Generals *John Rogers*
- Written in the Bricks: The Story of Fort Pulaski *Shannon Rowe*

American Wisdom Tradition

- Visions of Paradise: A Philosopher's Town & Garden Walk *Michael & Diana Lorence*
- A Year in the Life of an American Indian: *Russell Reed, Michael Lorence*

A Woodland Saunter *Diana Lorence*
The Year the Universe Changed *Michael & Diana Lorence*

Art, Music, Film & Photography

- Americana at Its Best: Bluegrass Music *Alan Tompkins*
- Bad Men, Worse Choices: A Noir/Neo-Noir Journey *Tom Thompson*
- Hamilton: The Man and the Musical *Dan Sherman*
- The Huguenots and Their Craft *Caroline Nicholson*
- An Introduction to Jewish Music *Wendy Shermet*
- Italian Mannerist Painting *Nick Vrettos*
- Joy of Photography *Michael Richardson, Wilson Hurst*
- Michelangelo: Reluctant Painter, Defiant Genius *Harry Chancey*
- Palaces, Villas, and Gardens of the Medici *Paula Henderson*
- Post WWII Architecture in Germany and Russia *Gerald Larson*
- The Revolution Men Couldn't Erase: Women of Abstract Expressionism *Harry Chancey*
- Sight Unseen: Art Design & Modern-Era Camouflage *Roy Behrens*
- Time in a Bottle: Musicals That Capture a Historical Moment, Pts 5&6, *Issa Puttre*
- Watch a Working Rehearsal of Opera in Williamsburg's Zorro! *Naama Zahavi-Ely*
- When Our Music Ruled the World: Road to Woodstock *Cale Shipman*
- Winnetou: A German Take on American Westerns *Frauke Carlucci*
- Zorro! The Opera *Glenn Winters*

Current Affairs & Media

- American Healthcare Reform 2050 *Jim Roskelly*
- Critical Thinking and the Declaration of Independence *Bruce Cogossi*

Critical Thinking for a Better Civic Life *Michael Collier*

- Generative AI: From ChatGPT to Everyday Life *Candice Benjes-Small*
- It's Party Time! Role of Political Parties in America *Karen McPherson*
- Pundits Polls & Politics! The 2026 Mid-Term Elections *Doug Stowell*
- The Fourth Founding: The Revolution of 1776 Continued *Don Matthewson*
- What's New in AI? Fall 2026 Edition *Candice Benjes-Small*

Finance & Economics

- Adventures in Microeconomics – or Why Does Popcorn Cost So Much at the Movies? *Phil Holleran*
- Build Your Own Optimal Retirement Portfolio *Graham Spiers*
- Direct Indexing: What Is It & How Can It Benefit Me? *Jacob Bales*
- Do You Really Need a Trust? *John Burton*
- Economics 101 at Jamestown (May 1607) *James Belcher*
- Managing Investment Portfolios After Losing a Spouse *Graham Spiers*
- Modern Wealth Management *Sean Allburn*
- Politics, Religion, War and (Your) Money *Keith Reagan*
- Taxes in Retirement & Social Security *Jacob Bales*
- Understanding Today's Economics Trends and Issues *Daniel Gaske*

Government & Law

- The Constitutional War Power: Who Has It and Why *Bob Spitzer*
- Government Of, By and For the People *Megan Rhyne*
- Your Tax Dollars at Work: How the Federal Government Spends Your Money *Nils van den Beemt*

Health & Wellness

- Common Health Myths: Separating Fact from Fiction *Kerry Prewitt*
- Dance for Fun *Bess Williams*
- Decoding the Data: Guide to Research-Backed Health Information *Jim McDonald*
- Exploring Japanese Cuisine: Healthful Eating and Presentation *Tomoko Kato*
- Fitness Walking – Basic & Advanced *Ray Funkhouser*
- Getting Older II: Disease of Aging *Jim McDonald*
- How to Listen So Others Will Talk *David Hopkinson*
- Beginning & Intermediate Tai Chi: A Path to Physical and Mental Well-Being *John Paugh*

- Keys to Preventing Dementia: Help & Hope as We Age *Patricia Quinlisk*
- Medicare 2027: Know Your ABCDs *Daphne Bernstein*
- Planning Ahead: Understanding Advance Directives *Cryst'I Scheer*
- Problem-Solving Skills for Lifelong Learners – Thinking Outside the "bLox" *Scott Langhorst*
- The Role of End-of-Life Doulas in the Community *Cryst'I Scheer*
- The Transgender Experience *Leslie & Deb Fabian*
- Wearable Health Devices: How Technology is Changing Cardiac Care *Kerry Prewitt*

Languages

- French Conversation Table *Kathleen Hickey*
- German Conversation Table *Frauke Carlucci*
- Parliamo Italiano *Nicola Costa*
- Spanish Conversation & Grammar Review *Christopher Scheiderer*
- Spanish Conversation Table *Frauke Carlucci*
- Spanish for Beginners *Christopher Scheiderer*

Literature & Writing

- Book Lovers Discussion *Cathi Davis*
- Ireland and the Literature of Place *Craig Owens*

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■ Shaping Truth: Turning Life into Story *Carla Malden*

Religion & Philosophy

Human Rights & Happiness *Bill Rhodes*

- Superstition: Spiritual Technologies in an Uncertain World *Ed Ingebretsen*

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

- The Amazing Human Body Takes a Walk *Wendy LeBolt*
- Celebrating Sundials: Many Ways to Tell Time *Dan Sherman*
- Fiber Optics, Lasers & LEDs *Mike Finlan*
- History of Cartography (Mapmaking) *Steven Beck, Aaron Lovejoy*
- How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer *Marc-Anthony Arena*
- Improving Your Security in an Online World *Keith Parkansky*
- Introduction to Astronomy *Brad Perry, Carmen Fragapane*
- Introduction to Self-Driving Cars *Mark Huff*
- iPhone/iPad: The Basics & Beyond *Rick Chase*
- The Little Ice Age & the Founding of the American Republic *Gerald Mulvey*
- Navigating by the Stars *Michael Collier*
- Overview of Clinical Research: Pathway to Discovery *Peg Becker*
- Taste as Experience: Why We Like What We Like *Whitney Matthews*
- Winds and Waves: An Introduction to Weather of the Marine Environment *Gerald Mulvey*

Special Interests

- Backyard Birding: Discovering the Joy of Nature at Home *Jim Easton*
- Breaking Barriers: Growth of Women's Sports in the U.S. *Karen Thomas, Liz Fones-Wolf*
- Children: How They Understand Nature *Griz Caudle*
- Creative Genealogy *Karen McPherson*
- Double Decker Yanks: Visiting London Like a Local *Kelly Shaw, Bill Rhodes*
- Finding Your Revolutionary War Patriots *Deborah Misiag*

- Grandparent Magic *Steven Mains*
- Killer in the Code: Did the Zodiac Killer Also Commit the Black Dahlia Murder? *Frank Wood*
- London History from the No. 24 Bus *Kelly Shaw*
- Medieval Embroidery & The Bayeux Tapestry *Anna-Marie Cox*
- Nature Mandalas *Kristi Apperson*
- Navigating the National Park System *David Kroese*
- The Safari Experience *Beth Barnes*
- UFOs/UAPs – Is It Time for Disclosure? *John Hickok*
- W&M Autumn Garden Tour *Tony Orband*
- Wreath Making for Winter Decoration *Tony Orband*

World History

- The Battle of Okinawa – Typhoon of Steel *Dennis Litalien*
- Beowulf's World – 600 Years of Anglo-Saxon History *Martin & Anna-Marie Cox*
- The China Burma India Theater in WWII *Bill Riffer*
- Commanders Who Revolutionized the Warfare of Their Day *John Rogers*
- The Dilemma of Ordinary People in Hitler's Germany *David Wessel*
- First Supreme Allied Commander: Marshal Ferdinand Foch *Joe Johnson*
- Mapping Early Modern London *Paula Henderson*
- Peace with Honor: Nixon's War, 1968-1973 *Alan Stark*
- Prisoners of Geography: How Geography Shapes the Fate of Nations *Stephen Beck*
- The Rise of the Nazis, 1919-1933 *Don Schilling*
- Scourge of the Seas: Pirates in History and Today *Mike Knapp*
- The Story of the USS Houston CA-30/ POW Experience *John Schwarz*
- The World War II Siege of Budapest – with a Personal Twist *Ron Corson*

Join a W&M Research Study

Intergenerational Storytelling with AI: Learning, Creating, and Connecting Across Generations *Yvonne Wang*

New to OLLI at W&M? [Click to join](#) our mail list

*Courses subject to change.

■ Online class via Zoom

Fall 2026 at OLLI at W&M

Jun 1-30	Fall scholarship applications accepted (LearnAtOsher.wm.edu)
Aug 1	Catalog available
Aug 14-25	Early registration
Sep 1	Class schedules emailed
Sep 4	Open enrollment begins
Sep 7	Labor Day (University closed)
Sep 14	First day of Fall classes
Nov 1-30	Spring 2027 scholarship applications accepted online
Nov 3	Election Day (university closed)
Nov 23-27	Thanksgiving Break (University closed; no classes except for Camouflage Zoom)
Dec 11	Last day of classes
Dec 21-Jan 4	Winter Break (university closed)

Fees & Registration

Fall membership is \$200; allows enrollment in up to 8 multi-session courses and any number of one-time classes for a maximum of 16 courses total for Fall.

Early registration is open August 14-25. Early registrants participate in a lottery for oversubscribed courses and are automatically waitlisted for classes requested that are fully subscribed.

Open enrollment starts September 4. Classes with available seats are available first-come, first-served, observing our maximum course load policy.

Did You Know?

Many members are surprised to learn that the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at W&M is 100% self-funded. The university, as a state-funded public institution, cannot provide financial support for auxiliary organizations like ours. We rely exclusively on membership fees, ad sponsors, grants, member gifts, and annual distributions from the Osher and Kernodle endowments to fund our program.

Gifts designated for the Osher Impact Fund (No. 3914) are fully tax deductible, acknowledged by the university, and benefit our program 100%. We welcome your support as a member, volunteer, and/or donor. Contact us to learn about the many ways you can help.

A Final Huzzah! for a Revolutionary Year

“Revolutionary ideas are born of a desire for change. Revolutionary ideas can engender profound, enduring transformation of beliefs, practices, and systems, creating a new status quo.”

– Osher Curriculum Committee
2026 “Revolutionary Ideas” Workgroup

Over the last four semesters, Osher at W&M has been commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country’s July 1776 founding *and* the centennial of John D. Rockefeller’s March 1926 visit to Williamsburg that inspired the restoration of Virginia’s colonial capital by highlighting “Revolutionary Ideas” that have changed the world.

Beginning in the Fall semester a year ago, our instructors kicked off the semiquincentennial celebration by offering 60+ new or adapted existing courses. Each course explored the concept of “revolution” beyond the American independence movement to include ideas across the ages and disciplines.



Our program’s celebration of knowledge and human progress has continued in earnest since. At the conclusion of the Fall 2026 semester this coming December, our 1,000+ members and 180+ volunteer instructors will have studied, discussed, and reflected on the impact of more than 200 “Revolutionary Ideas” – extraordinary accomplishments ignited in precipitous moments of human brilliance.

And to that, we say, HUZAH!

About the Osher Institute at W&M

We are a community of adults — mostly ages 50 and better — seeking knowledge, enrichment, and connection with the larger world through intellectually stimulating and socially engaging educational experiences.

Our program’s hallmarks are a quality curriculum, extraordinary instructors, and vibrant membership. Courses are offered through semester-based membership, with three semesters each year.

A department of William & Mary’s School of Education, the program was founded in 1991 as the Christopher Wren Association and designated an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in 2018. Today, we are one of 124 Osher Institutes located at select universities across the United States.

Visit LearnAtOsher.wm.edu to view or request a course catalog, register for courses, learn about becoming an instructor, support our mission with a gift, volunteer your time and talent, and so much more.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at William & Mary

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