



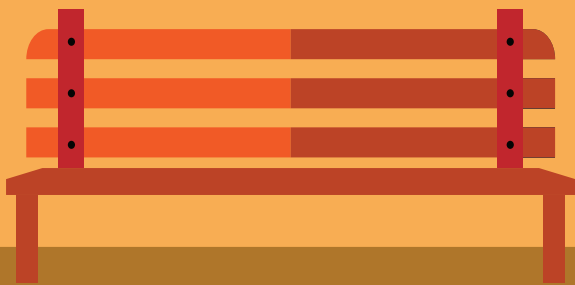
Bigelow Center
Lifelong Learners
are pleased to present

Lifelong Learners

Fall 2026

September 8 to November 5

Live In-Person at Bigelow
Bigelow Center for Senior Activities
100 Mona Terrace | Fairfield CT 06824
(203) 256-3166



BEFORE REGISTERING, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Lifelong Learners is a nonprofit, community-based organization for adults who have a love of learning. The program is offered through the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities. To participate, you must be a current member of the Bigelow Center.

To become a member or renew your membership, complete the membership application online at www.fairfieldct.org/bigelow/membership or visit the Bigelow Center in person. Out-of-town members must pay the \$25 annual membership fee before registering for classes.

Class registration is available in the following ways:

1. In Person

Register at the Bigelow Center and pay by cash or check made payable to the Bigelow Center.

2. By Mail

Mail your completed registration form and a check payable to the Bigelow Center to:

Bigelow Center

100 Mona Terrace

Fairfield, CT 06824

3. Online

Current Bigelow Center members with an active MyActiveCenter account may register and pay online at MyActiveCenter.com.

FALL 2026
SEPTEMBER 8 - NOVEMBER 5

FOUR SHORT STORIES FROM JAMES JOYCE'S "DUBLINER'S"

DR. MARK SCHENKER

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 8, 15, 22, 29
10:00 A.M. - NOON

TOTALITARIAN LEADERSHIP: STALIN, HITLER, PUTIN, XI

DR. BARBARA KELLERMAN

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 8, 15, 22, 29
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

HUMOR IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

DR. BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
10 A.M. - NOON

BATTLE OF THE MIDTERMS

HARVEY HEYMAN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
10 A.M.- NOON

KALAMAZOO GALS

DR. JOHN THOMAS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

WHAT REMAINS OF THE IRAN WAR?

DR. MITO MARDIN

FRIDAYS, SEPTEMBER 18, 25, OCTOBER 2
10:00 A.M. - NOON

REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS IN THE GREENFIELD HILL CEMETERY

LAURA LUGO

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

FIVE FASCINATING EUROPEAN LEADERS

DIANE STONE

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

FOUR RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN MUSICALS

DAVID SHAFER

FRIDAYS, OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23

1:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

RELIGIONS OF ABRAHAM

REV. DAVID SPOLLETT, RABBI JAMES PROSNIT, MOSTAFA HASSAN

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 6, 13, 20

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

EVOLUTION! LATIN AMERICAN ART

SCOTT VERCHIN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

10:00 A.M. - NOON

GEOPOLITICS - THE GEOLOGY IMPACTING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DR. DAN MAY

MONDAYS, OCTOBER 19 AND 26

10:00 A.M. - NOON

MAPS AND POLITICS

CHERYL CAPE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

10 A.M. - NOON

THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

DR. MARC J. BLOSVEN

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 15, 22, 29, NOVEMBER 5

10:00 A.M. - NOON

FOUR SHORT STORIES FROM JAMES JOYCE'S "DUBLINER'S" \$30

Dr. Mark Schenker

**Tuesdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29
10:00 A.M - Noon**

Dr. Schenker will discuss four short stories written by James Joyce which are in "Dubliner's". They will be presented in the following order: "Araby"- September 8; "Counterparts"- September 15; "A Painful Case"- September 22; "The Dead"- September 29. Please read each story before the class. They are available on the internet at (<https://gutenberg.org/ebooks/2814>) and in the Fairfield Public Library.

Dr.Schenker, formerly a dean in Yale College, received his PhD from Columbia and has taught at New York University and Trinity College (Hartford). He was the recipient of the 2001 Wilbur Cross Award for Outstanding Humanities Scholar, presented by the Connecticut Humanities Council.

TOTALITARIAN LEADERSHIP: STALIN, HITLER, PUTIN, XI \$30

Dr. Barbara Kellerman

**Tuesdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29
1:00 P.M.- 3:00 P.M.**

This course will explore the idea of totalitarian leadership in which the person at the top exerts near complete control over everything and everyone in their domain. It will use Stalin and Hitler, Putin, and Xi, as examples of how totalitarian leaders do their handiwork and get virtually all their followers to fall submissively into line.

Dr. Barbara Kellerman was a member of the faculty of Harvard University for over twenty years. She has also held professorships at, among others, Fordham, Tufts, George Washington, and Uppsala Universities. She is author and editor of over twenty books on leadership and followership including *Bad Leadership*, *Followership*, *The End of Leadership*, *Professionalizing Leadership*, and *Leadership from Bad to Worse*. Her new book, *Why We Follow Leaders – and Why We Don't* will be published in September by the University of Toronto Press.

HUMOR IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

\$15

Dr. Benjamin B. Schwartz

Friday, September 11
10:00 A.M to Noon

African American humor is one of the most important and least understood comedic traditions in the history of the United States. In this class we will read, watch, and listen to examples of humor from African American authors, comedians, and filmmakers in order to better understand questions such as, What are the origins of African American humor? How has it functioned as a form of social critique? How have changing audiences shaped African American comedy? And, what remains of this tradition today?

Dr. Benjamin Schwartz earned a PhD with Distinction in English from Vanderbilt University (2024), a Certificate in American Studies from Vanderbilt University (2024), an MA in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University (2016), and a BA in American Studies from Brown University (2013). In between, he served as a middle school and high school teacher in classrooms across CT, where he also taught in the English Department at Fairfield University.

He remains active in the Norwalk Public Schools and in the HomeBridge Ventures reentry Program.

Benjamin is the winner of TSL's Tony Hilfer Prize, Vanderbilt Department of Gender and Sexuality's Susan Ford Wiltshire Award, the Myers Best Dissertation Award, and the Thomas Daniel Young Prize for Distinguished Classroom Teaching.

Battle of the Midterms

\$15

Harvey Heyman

Thursday morning, September 17
10:00 A.M. - Noon

In ordinary times, a fair and free midterm election mostly favors the party out of power. However, these are no ordinary times. The current federal executive branch understands that a loss could lead to a “lawful reckoning” they could not tolerate. This course examines the range of strategies and tactics the federal government may use or is currently using to ensure favorable outcomes or disrupt the process entirely. It will also identify strategies available to or already being utilized by a lawful opposition. Videos of experts in the field will be shown,

Harvey Heyman retired in 2022 from a career in the business side of healthcare. He received a BA from Brown University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. He is a passionate consumer of contemporary political, social and cultural events. His home-base is New Haven’s Institute for Learning in Retirement where he has been an instructor for several courses.

KALAMAZOO GALS

\$15

Dr. John Thomas

Thursday, September 17

1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The Kalamazoo Gals, in secret, stepped into the Gibson guitar factory in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1942 when the men in the factory went to WWII. You will hear how twelve of these women were found and interviewed, hear songs on one of the Gibson guitars that a US soldier took to the battlefield, and see a short documentary that won awards at film festivals around the world, including best short documentary at festivals in New York, Los Angeles, and Paris.

Dr. Thomas has been described by National Public Radio as “a history buff, a law professor, an author, a musician, a guitar enthusiast, and a music nerd, all wrapped up in one person”. He also is a filmmaker and endurance athlete!

WHAT REMAINS OF THE IRAN WAR?

\$30

Dr. Mito Mardin

Fridays, September 18, 25, October 2
10:00 A.M. to Noon

After the Epic Fury: The 2025 National Security Strategy (NSS) and the 2026 National Defense Strategy (NDS) vis a vis the Iran War

Mithat “Mito” Mardin PhD was born in Istanbul, Turkey. He received a PhD in Organic Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology from the University of Göttingen. He worked at Bayer Pharmaceuticals on three continents, Europe, Japan/ Asia Pacific and the US, for 37 years retiring as Vice President. He served as President of the Japan Society of Fairfield County and as President of the Institute for Learning in Retirement of Greater New Haven. Mito has taught Lifelong Learners for many years, sharing his knowledge of the European Union, US economy and current world affairs and geopolitics.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS IN THE GREENFIELD HILL CEMETERY \$15

Laura Lugo

**Monday, September 28
1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

The Greenfield Hill Cemetery has over 90 Revolutionary War veterans interred within its walls. It is the final resting place of many Fairfield patriots of the war with Britain. Laura will discuss some of these men's military service and the importance of what they did in context with Revolutionary War events. Most of their stories of military service during the war are unknown-or were until now. She uses actual depositions of the men. Their voices are finally heard!

Laura Lugo is the author of *Connecticut Revolutionaries of Greenfield Hill Cemetery: 1775-1783*, published in 2024 and available on Amazon.

FIVE FASCINATING EUROPEAN LEADERS

\$30

Diane Stone

Thursdays, October 1, 8,15, 22
1:00 P.M.- 3:00 P.M.

Since history is made by powerful people, we will spend time with some of the most fascinating ones! Elizabeth I, Henry VIII, Louis XIV, Marie Antoinette and Napoleon and Josephine. Each ruled in a way that ensured that they would always be remembered. They left their legacies behind in ways that changed not only their countries, but all of Europe as well.

Diane Stone has a MA in European History from the University of Michigan. She has taught Lifelong Learners for over 15 years uniting European History and leisure travel.

FOUR RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN MUSICALS

\$30

David Shafer

Fridays, October 2, 9, 16, 23
1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

We will view and discuss four Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals as well as learn about the musical collaboration between Hammerstein, the composer, and Rodgers, the lyricist. We will also explore the role that the town of Fairfield played as the home of famous composers and performers such as Richard Rodgers, Leonard Bernstein and Mary Martin.

David Shafer is multi-talented and has given classes for many years at the Bigelow Center on topics such as opera, operettas, silent films, fascinating personalities, the technology of computer chips, short novellas, photography, ancient history, the history of weaving, and other subjects.

RELIGIONS OF ABRAHAM

\$30

**Rev. David Spollett, Rabbi James Prosnit,
Mostafa Hassan**

**TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 6, 13, 20
1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

Christianity: What are the essential theological elements of the religion of 2.5 million people across the globe? How does its chronology between Judaism and Islam shape it? (October 6)

Judaism: What is its core belief that has allowed the faith to adapt and survive over the millennia? Is it a faith? A culture? An ethnicity? (October 13)

Islam: The Islamic faith is a melting pot of the three Abrahamic religions which had co-existed and flourished leading to advances in science and literature.
(October 20)

All three Religions of Abraham lecturers will join together on October 20 for a question and answer session.

Reverend Spollett is Pastor Emeritus of First Church Fairfield and Protestant Chaplain at Fairfield University. **Rabbi James Prosnit** is Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport and current Jewish Chaplain and Instructor in Religious Studies at Fairfield University. **Mostafa Hassan** is the Outreach Committee Coordinator at the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center and a member of the Strategy Team and Board of CONECT, a faith-based organization that brings together Muslim, Christian, and Jewish leaders to address community issues.

EVOLUTION! LATIN AMERICAN ART

\$15

Scott Verchin

Thursday, October 8
10:00 A.M.- Noon

The 20th century was a period of tremendous artistic innovation, political change, and social transformation in Latin America. Latin American artists explored issues native to their local contexts while engaging and contributing to avant-garde art movements. Throughout the region there was a push and pull with ideas, styles, and techniques coming from Europe and the United States. These artists have maintained strong ties and sentiments to their own nations while experimenting with and adapting international avant-garde styles.

Scott Verchin is an independent business consultant, which includes the visual arts and museum sectors. Throughout his career he has served as publisher of both ***Museum*** and ***Archeology*** magazines. Scott has also been a contributor to ***Art Market*** magazine covering U.S. exhibitions. A lifelong patron of the arts, Scott has frequented art museums and galleries on five different continents. He hosted his first exhibition, ***BLACK & WHITE PAINTINGS*** on Long Island in 1989.

GEOPOLITICS - THE GEOLOGY IMPACTING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

\$30

Dr. Dan May

Mondays, October 19 and 26

10:00 A.M. – Noon

Geopolitics examines how physical geography (i.e. natural resources, climate, hydrology, etc.) influences political and international relations. It is a subdivision of political science that was formalized a century ago as scholars began to scrutinize empire-building throughout human history. This course will focus on natural resources for energy production and manufacturing that are unevenly distributed around the world due to their geological origins. The sessions also will address how geological analysis and exploration in the last two hundred years fostered the industrial revolution, international trade and globalization, and ongoing struggles for control of or access to economically critical resources. Examples of modern-day 'resource imperialism' (e.g. Ukraine, Greenland, Venezuela, Cuba, the Middle East and North Africa, South China Sea) will be addressed from a geological resource perspective.

Dr. Dan May is an emeritus professor of geology and a former Provost at the University of New Haven. His geological activities focused on regional mapping, mineral resource exploration, natural hazards assessment, and environmental remediation and risk management. He enjoyed conducting or directing field projects in more than a dozen US states as well as New Zealand, Australia and other South Pacific islands.

MAPS AND POLITICS

\$15

Cheryl Cape

Tuesday, October 20

10:00 A.M to Noon

Examining the elements of map creation, we will learn how they can be manipulated to deceive and misinform as shown by propaganda maps created during times of conflict. Maps can also be used to control and influence social issues and norms. We will learn about redlining maps from the mid-20th century, along with the current issue of gerrymandering of voting districts to influence vote outcomes.

Cheryl Cape is a geoscientist with over 30 years of experience with mapping and the use of Geographic Information Systems (maps on computers). She has enjoyed creating maps for environmental and natural resource studies, along with digital humanities projects, and for the past decade has taught students and college faculty how to create their own maps and digital exhibits.

THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

\$30

Dr. Marc J. Blosweren

October 15, 22, 29, November 5
Thursdays 10:00 A.M.- Noon

Session I: The semi-mythological tale of Romulus and Remus and how it created the rise of the early Roman Republic, including influences of Greek and Etruscan cultures.

Session II: Warring early “Roman” villages morphed into towns and small city states creating the Great Roman Republic, reaching its apex with Julius and Augustus Caesar.

Session III: The social, cultural, and military elements transitioned from Republic to Empire.

Session IV: The great split into the Western Empire and the Eastern Byzantine Empire.

Dr. Marc J. Blosweren has a BA and MA in Chemistry and Psychology, and a Doctorate in Science Administration. He is a retired Science Supervisor for New Haven BOE and retired OSHA Health & Safety Consultant for the City of New Haven. He is an Adjunct Professor at Quinnipiac University and Western CT State University. He is also an instructor for the Institute for Learning in Retirement.

**2026 Fall Registration - A Single Session Course is \$15,
Multiple Session Courses are \$30.**

**(A \$25 registration fee is valid September through
June for those not residing in Fairfield).**

Name_____

Telephone_____

Address_____

Email_____

Town_____ Zip_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Registration Fee (valid September-June for out-of-town participants). \$25.00

of Courses_____ x 30.00 = \$_____

of Courses_____ x 15.00 = \$_____

Total Due & Enclosed.....= \$_____

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for Senior Activities
100 Mona Terrace
Fairfield, CT 06824**

*The Fairfield Senior Center
is a program of the
Town of Fairfield*