

The Town of Fairfield and
the Bigelow Center for
Senior Activities

A WINTER PROGRAM FOR LIFELONG LEARNERS

January 5 to 28, 2026
Live & In Person



Bigelow Center for Senior Activities
100 Mona Terrace
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 256-3166

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR WINTER 2026 LIFELONG LEARNERS

Lifelong Learners is a not-for profit community-based organization for those who share a love of learning. This winter we continue with **ten courses over four weeks** in January 2026. Each four session course is \$30.00. The cost of a one session course is \$15.00.

We will not be mailing brochures this year so go to the Senior Center to pick up a copy or view them online at fairfieldct.org/Bigelow. Register early and mark your own calendar so you don't forget to come to the course(s) you picked. **Registration begins December 8, 2025.**

Out-of-town members must have their \$25 annual membership fee paid prior to registration. You will not be able to register for classes without it, and you will not be fully registered until payment is received. If you are an out-of-town resident, please remember to mail a check for \$25 addressed to the Bigelow Center.

Once you are a member of the Center, **registration for Lifelong Learners classes may be done in the following ways:**

1. Register paying by credit card online on your myactivecenter account. (If you have not yet created an account, please call the Center for instructions on how to set up your account.)
2. In-person at the Center with cash or check. No credit cards accepted at the Center.
3. Mail in your registration and payment to the Bigelow Center, 100 Mona Terrace, Fairfield, CT. 06824.

Our Lifelong Learners board wishes you happy holidays during the closing weeks of 2025 and a safe and healthy 2026.

TWO 4-SESSION CLASSES
(\$30 EACH)

FOUR VIENNESE OPERETTAS
Dave Shafer
Wednesday mornings 10:00 to Noon
January 7, 14, 21, & 28

MODERN WARFARE: LESSONS FROM UKRAINE
Olena Lennon
Wednesday afternoons 1:00 to 3:00
January 7, 14, 21, 28

FOUR VIENNESE OPERETTAS

\$30

Dave Shafer

Wednesday mornings 10:00 to Noon

January 7, 14, 21, & 28

You say you like catchy tunes, humor, great dancing, romance, charming characters, and a lighthearted sense of fun. Now is your chance to view four of the best operettas ever produced and recorded, including *The Merry Widow*.

Dave Shafer has been a frequent presenter at the Bigelow Center for many years on a wide variety of topics. His main passion is opera (people die) and operettas (nobody dies). He has seen operas internationally and in our very own Bridgeport.

MODERN WARFARE: LESSONS FROM UKRAINE

\$30

Olena Lennon

Wednesday afternoons 1:00 to 3:00

January 7, 14, 21, 28

The war between Russia and Ukraine has revolutionized modern warfare. The course will discuss how the Russia-Ukraine war has changed warfare on political, economic, military, cyber, information, and nuclear fronts. A special emphasis will be placed on how the West can apply lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war to improve its deterrence and defense capabilities.

Olena Lennon, Ph.D., is an Adjunct Professor of National Security at the University of New Haven. She is a native of Ukraine, a former Fulbright scholar and most recently a Title VIII Scholar at Woodrow Wilson Center's Kennan Institute in Washington, D.C. Olena has dedicated her research to the domestic and international politics of Ukraine, as well as Eurasian geopolitics and security.

EIGHT 1-SESSION COURSES (\$15 EACH)

- January 5: WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC
Chris Zablan
Monday morning 10:00 A.M. – Noon
- January 8: SLAVERY IN FAIRFIELD
Alec Lurie
Thursday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
- January 12: THE HISTORY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS
Mike Roer
Monday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
- January 13: THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE EXPERIENCE
Julia Perkins
Tuesday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
- January 15: JOHNNY CASH: HIS LIFE, HIS MUSIC, HIS LEGACY
Jonathan Silverman
Thursday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
- January 20: PYGMALION: WHEN A CREATOR FALLS IN LOVE
WITH HIS “FAIR LADY.”
Arthur Gang
Tuesday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
- January 22: EXPLORING THE OUTSTANDING WORKS
OF THE PRADO MUSEUM
Dr. Marcie Slepian
Thursday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
- January 26: HOW TO READ A POEM
Dr. Mark Schenker
Monday morning 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC

\$15

Chris Zablan

Monday morning 10:00 to Noon

January 5

A guided journey through classical music history, focusing on the Baroque through the Impressionist era. This course will highlight key composers, historical context, and active listening to help deepen appreciation of the music written during the 1600's to the late 1800's. It will feature artists such as Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frederic Handel, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin, Johannes Brahms, and Claude Debussy.

An aspiring music therapist, Chris has extensive knowledge of music history and music theory. He is a classically trained pianist and multi-instrumentalist. He is a passionate musician who loves to spread his knowledge and share his experience with others.

SLAVERY IN FAIRFIELD

\$15

Alec Lurie

Thursday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

January 8

This course focuses on the lives of enslaved people in Fairfield, Connecticut, from the town's founding in 1639 through the abolition of slavery in 1848. We will delve into the rarely told stories of the men, women, and children whose forced labor helped shape the town that we know today. Through personal narratives we will explore how enslaved people navigated daily life, built families under threat of separation, and resisted enslavement in ways both large and small. Listeners will come away with a deeper understanding of historical Fairfield.

Alec Lurie is an educator and is studying for a PhD in history. His research focuses on Slavery in the American North and its lasting impact on communities of color.

THE HISTORY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

\$15

Mike Roer

Monday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

January 12

Learn about Columbia Records, its music innovations, and its conflict with RCA-Victor.

Mike Roer has taught entrepreneurship and venture capital at eight colleges and manages business accelerators and competitions. He has written two books about baseball and a business text. His hobby of record collecting led to the establishment of the Emporium, a book and record store formerly in Bridgeport.

THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE EXPERIENCE

\$15

Julia Perkins

Tuesday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

January 13

Ms. Perkins will discuss the challenges refugees and immigrants face to come to the United States and explain how The Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants supports them to rebuild their lives in Connecticut. She will include personal and real-life examples.

Julia Perkins is a member of the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants, which provides legal, economic, linguistic, and social services to immigrants, refugees, survivors of human trafficking, and unaccompanied minors throughout the state.

JOHNNY CASH: HIS LIFE, HIS MUSIC, HIS LEGACY

\$15

Jonathan Silverman

Thursday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

January 15

Learn about the life, music and legacy of the Man in Black.

Jonathan Silverman is professor and chair of English at UMass Lowell and director of American Studies and Sports Studies. He is the editor, author and co-author of several books on sports, American culture and the music of Johnny Cash.

PYGMALION: WHEN A CREATOR FALLS IN LOVE
WITH HIS “FAIR LADY.”

Arthur Gang

Tuesday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

January 20

George Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion* (1912) remains perhaps his most popular and enduring work, due, in no small measure, to its musical adaptation by Fritz Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner several years after Shaw’s death in 1950. We will explore the iterations of this timeless story. “With a Little Bit of Luck,” it will be a most enjoyable session.

Mr. Gang earned a BA from NYU, with Honors in English, a JD from Brooklyn Law School, and a Masters in American Studies from Fairfield University, with a thesis on the plays of Tony Kushner. He is President of the Fairfield County Chorale, a docent at Fairfield University Arts Museum, and an instructor/facilitator at Lifetime Learning Institute, Norwalk CT.

EXPLORING THE OUTSTANDING WORKS
OF THE PRADO MUSEUM

Dr. Marcie Slepian

Thursday afternoon 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

January 22

In this class we will explore the most outstanding works in the Prado, focusing on Spanish art, art collecting by the monarchy, and various misfortunes of the museum. The work of Diego Velasquez, Francisco Goya, and Flemish artists, Titian and Rubens will be featured. Artistic treasures of the collection by will be highlighted.

Dr. Marcie Slepian has an A.B. in Art from Brown University, a PhD in Art History from Yale University and has been an art educator in Connecticut for almost 40 years. Her specialties are Renaissance and and Baroque Art, and the History of Prints.

HOW TO READ A POEM

Dr. Mark Schenker

Monday morning 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

January 26

A One Day Workshop on the Reading of Poetry, which will sharpen your appreciation and understanding of Poetry.

Dr. Schenker, formerly a dean of Yale College, received his PhD in English Literature from Columbia University and has taught at Columbia, 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.

WINTER 2026 COURSE REGISTRATION APPLICATION

This form is only for those not paying online.
One form per person, please.

Tuition is \$30 per four session course (*Out of town members must have their membership fee paid). The cost of a one session course is \$15. **Registration begins December 8, 2025.**

Name _____

Phone# _____

Email _____

Street _____

Apt.# _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

New address? _____

Course Title _____

Course Title _____

Course Title _____

Course Title _____

Registration Fee for out-of-town participants \$ 25.00

of 1 session courses _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

of 4 session courses _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____

Total Due & Enclosed = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to and mail to:

Bigelow Center for Senior Activities

100 Mona Terrace

Fairfield, CT 06824

(203) 256-3166

**The Bigelow Center
for Senior Activities
100 Mona Terrace
Fairfield, CT 06824**

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