



# FALL 2025 CATALOG

## CALENDAR

- AUG. 18** Online and Phone Registration Opens 9:30 am
- AUG. 28** Welcome Event
- SEPT. 8** Classes Begin

Visit [cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning](https://cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning) for details and updates

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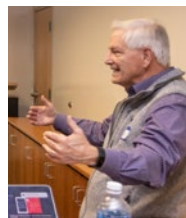


# Welcome to LLI of Virginia Tech

This fall, LLI presents our biggest program yet! With over 80 courses, webinars, field trips, and special events, LLI truly has a program for everyone.

Your membership in LLI allows you to register for programs that match your interests. With your membership, you will also be able to attend selected lectures and special events free of charge, along with member social and pop-up events.

We invite you to join our community, now with over 440 members!



## THE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE OF VIRGINIA TECH

The Lifelong Learning Institute of Virginia Tech (LLI) is a member-driven, volunteer organization that draws on the wealth of academic and community resources in the New River Valley and beyond to provide intellectual, cultural, and social experiences for curious adults 50 and older. LLI is an official program of Virginia Tech Continuing and Professional Education (CPE).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

CPE Registration: 540-231-5182

🖱️ [www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning)

✉️ [lifelonglearning@vt.edu](mailto:lifelonglearning@vt.edu)

📘 [facebook.com/vtlifelonglearning](https://facebook.com/vtlifelonglearning)

## REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 9:30AM

Register online by visiting the LLI Home page at [www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning) and clicking REGISTER.

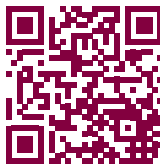
*This is the fastest way to register. We recommend registering online whenever possible.*

Register by phone by calling **540-231-5182**.

*Please note that there will be no walk-in or mail-in registration for fall.*

**Need step-by-step instructions for registering online?**

Scan this QR code or visit [cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/membership/instructions.html](http://cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/membership/instructions.html).



SCAN TO REGISTER



SCAN FOR  
INSTRUCTIONS

## Catalog Contents

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*All program information is subject to change without notice.*

# LLI Fall 2025

## COURSES AT A GLANCE

See the LLI website and online catalog for full course and event descriptions:  
[www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning)

Classes generally meet once a week on the same day; but note occasional gaps in date sequences, which may be necessary to accommodate instructor and classroom availability.

### MONDAY

#### 18. Puccini, *La bohème*, and Italian Opera

Christopher Campo-Bowen  
9:00am-10:00am  
1 week: 11/3  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 25. The Current Status of College Admissions

Nancy Bodenhorn  
9:00am-10:30am  
1 week: 10/13  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 32. A Taste of LLI for New Members

Molly McClintock  
9:00am-10:30am  
4 weeks: 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room

#### 47. Make Your Home Safe for Independent Living

Mike Spriegel  
9:00am-10:30am  
1 week: 11/3  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Woodland Studio

#### 53. Create Unique Watercolor Effects with Ice Dyeing

Joselin Landry  
9:00am-10:30am  
2 weeks: 11/10, 11/17  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room

#### 56. Make AI Your Personal Assistant: Introduction to ChatGPT

Travis Carter  
9:00am-10:30am  
3 weeks: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 41. Experience Yoga!

Stephanie Buffett  
9:00am-10:30am  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
12 weeks: 10/13, 10/15, 10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29, 11/3, 11/5, 11/10, 11/12, 11/17, 11/19  
CRC, In Balance Yoga

#### 5. From Page to Screen: Remarkable Literary Film Adaptations

Seth Davis  
11:00am-12:15pm  
5 weeks: 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 54. Make a Miniature Quilted Wall Hanging

Paula Golden  
11:00am-12:30pm  
2 weeks: 11/17, 11/24  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 55. English Paper Piecing Garland: A Hand Sewing Class

Paula Golden  
11:00am-12:30pm  
1 week: 12/1  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 14. Drawing 101

Bonnie Moreno  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 42. Armchair Journeys

Coordinator: Molly McClintock  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
4 weeks: 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10  
Zoom

#### 57. Introduction to Microsoft 11.0 O.S. for Beginners

Bobby Buchanan  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 29. Charter Schools, Magnet Schools, and Vouchers: Their History and Promise

Nicholas A. Fischer  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
2 weeks: 10/27, 11/3  
CRC, Curiosity Room

#### 31. The Twilight Zone: Still Relevant After All These Years

Jamie McReynolds  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
5 weeks: 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 33. Appreciating the Wines of Washington State

Randall Horst  
3:00pm-5:00pm  
6 weeks: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20  
Vintage Cellar

#### 48. Sew Your Own Eighteenth-Century Clothing

Walt Bailey  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
6 weeks: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20  
Smithfield Plantation

### TUESDAY

#### 19. Sampler

Coordinator: Molly McClintock  
9:00am-10:15am  
5 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14  
Zoom

#### 35. Everyday Conflict Transformation

Don Makin  
9:00am-10:30am  
4 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7  
CRC, Garvin Room

#### 9. Read Local: Ed Falco's *Transcendent Gardening*

Ed Falco, Ellen Woodall  
11:00am-12:00pm  
3 weeks: 11/4, 11/18, 12/2  
CRC, Curiosity Room

#### 13. Contemporary Female Songwriters II: More Modern-Day Bards

Linda MacCleave  
11:00am-12:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14  
Zoom

#### 16. Appalachian Musical Traditions: English and Scottish Ballads

Alice Kinder  
11:00am-12:15pm  
2 weeks: 10/21, 10/28  
CRC, Curiosity Room

#### 20. Uncovering the Dead: Great Archaeological Discoveries

Lauren DiSalvo  
11:00am-12:30pm  
6 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/28, 11/4  
CRC, Concept Room

#### 36. Learning from Labyrinths: A Quest in Your Own Backyard

Rob Merritt  
11:00am-12:15pm  
5 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14  
CRC, Curiosity Room

#### 1. Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* at 50

Tom Gardner  
1:00pm-2:15pm  
4 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7  
CRC, Curiosity Room

#### 6. The Parables of Jesus: Messages Hidden in Plain Sight

Russell Gregory  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
5 weeks: 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18  
CRC, Curiosity Room

#### 26. Seeking Justice: The Extraordinary Freedom Suits of an Enslaved Virginia Family

Daniel Thorp  
2:30pm-4:00pm  
1 week: 10/14  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room

#### 60. Stay Ahead of the Scammers

Liz Craine  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
1 week: 10/21  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room

**10. Draw Your World: Artistic Techniques and Visual Perception**

Joseph Cooley  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
6 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room

**WEDNESDAY**

**2. Jane Austen Book Club: Northanger Abbey and Mansfield Park**

Peter Graham  
9:00am-10:15am  
5 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15  
CRC, Crescent Room

**3. Appreciating Toni Morrison's Beloved**

Ginney Fowler  
11:00am-12:15pm  
6 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22  
CRC, Curiosity Room

**17. Art Crimes: Looting, Fakes, and Forgeries**

Michelle Moseley  
11:00am-12:30pm  
4 weeks: 10/29, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10  
CRC, Concept Room

**37. Learning to Love the New River Valley**

Coordinator: Ellen Woodall  
11:00am-12:30pm  
5 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/22  
CRC, Concept Room

**21. "Unnatural Disasters": What We Can Learn from the Women of Katrina**

Suchitra Samanta  
1:00pm-2:15pm  
5 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15  
CRC, Curiosity Room

**28. The Gypsy (Roma) People: Their History and Culture**

Gerald Pops  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
3 weeks: 10/22, 10/29, 11/5  
CRC, Curiosity Room

**38. Basic Home Maintenance and Repair**

Lisa Garcia, Jeremy Glenn, Dan Crowder  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
5 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15  
CRC, Concept Room

**43. Euchre: The Card Game for Everyone**

Lois Harris, Phillip Harris  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room

**11. Introduction to Jazz Records**

Kyle Hutchins  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
3 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1  
Zoom

**34. Appreciating the Wines of Washington State**

Randall Horst  
3:00pm-5:00pm  
6 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22  
Vintage Cellar

**61. How Research Saved the Red-cockaded Woodpecker**

Jeff Walters  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
1 week: 10/22  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room

**24. Libraries and Society**

Andrea Hamre  
7:00pm-8:00pm  
6 weeks: 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12  
Zoom

**THURSDAY**

**44. Physical Activity: A Key to Healthy Aging**

Coordinator: Janet Rankin  
9:00am-10:30am  
5 weeks: 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20  
CRC, Concept Room

**58. Global Change XII**

Water Quality: Chemical and Physical Contaminants  
Coordinators: Anne McNabb, Don Mullins  
9:00am-10:30am  
6 weeks: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23  
Zoom

**15. How to Do Stand-Up Comedy**

Johnny Moore  
11:00am-12:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20  
CRC, Curiosity Room

**22. Dictatorship and Democracy in Syria and Lebanon, 1945-2025**

William Ochsenwald  
11:00am-12:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9  
CRC, Concept Room

**30. The Supreme Court: Presidents, Justices, and Cases**

Jack Call  
11:00am-12:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11  
CRC, Concept Room

**7. Mystery Misfits**

Britton Gildersleeve  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20  
Zoom

**27. Calvin and Hobbes: The Adventure Continues**

Phillip Harris  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
5 weeks: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13  
CRC, Concept Room

**59. What Is Our Digital Existence Costing Us?**

Marcia Davitt  
1:00pm-2:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9  
CRC, Concept Room

**8. True Crime in American Storytelling**

Ingrid Johnson  
3:00pm-4:15pm  
5 weeks: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13  
Zoom

**23. Virginia's Fascinating Role in the American Revolution**

Coordinator: Dwayne Yancey  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9  
Zoom

**39. Appreciating Single Malt Scotch Whisky**

Don Creamer  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
1 week: 9/25  
Private home

**40. Appreciating Single Malt Scotch Whisky**

Don Creamer  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
1 week: 10/16  
Private home

**45. Introduction to Chinese Medicine**

D. Michael Denbow  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
5 weeks: 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20  
CRC, Concept Room

**FRIDAY**

**46. Bridge Basics II: Competitive Bidding**

Jeff Legge  
9:00am-11:00am  
6 weeks: 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 12/5  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room

**49. Italian Cooking Experiences**

Claudia Levi  
9:00am-12:00pm  
1 week: 9/19  
Instructor's home

**50. Italian Cooking Experiences**

Claudia Levi  
9:00am-12:00pm  
1 week: 10/17  
Instructor's home

**52. Cooking Fusion Food Inspired by the Silk Road**

Anne McNabb  
Class 1 (Zoom): 9:00am-10:30am;  
Class 2 (in person): 9:00am-1:30pm  
2 weeks: 10/3, 10/10  
Instructor's home

**12. Representing Your World through the Perspectives of Vincent van Gogh**

Jesi Pace-Berkeley  
10:00am-12:00pm  
5 weeks: 9/19, 9/26, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room

**4. Memoir and Essay Writing**

Richard Gilbert  
11:00am-12:30pm  
5 weeks: 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24  
CRC, Curiosity Room

**51. Knit A Classic Pullover Your Way**

Diana George, Kaye Graham, Nancy Metz  
11:00am-12:30pm  
6 weeks: 9/26, 10/3, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14  
Instructor's home





- ✓ The opportunity to register for LLI courses and field trips at an additional charge.
- ✓ Register free for selected lectures, webinars, and special events (see pages 27–29).
- ✓ Attend Member social events such as happy hours and coffee chats.
- ✓ Receive invitations to special pop-up events.
- ✓ Connect with other members, both online and in person, in discussion on topics of interest to you.
- ✓ Receive email updates throughout the term.
- ✓ Receive notice of LLI travel opportunities.
- ✓ Participate in special Summer on-demand programs.
- ✓ And more!

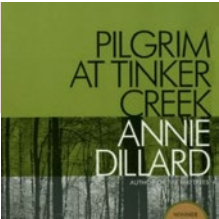


*Niles Award winners (left to right): Randall Horst, Jack Call, Jesi Pace-Berkley, Richard Gilbert, Dean Spader*

1. Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* at 50

**Tom Gardner** | Tuesday, 1:00pm-2:15pm  
4 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, published when the author was 28 and set in Roanoke, appeared in 1974 and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1975. It's one of the great works of what we would now call creative non-fiction. This course will give us a chance to read (or re-read) the book together, under and alongside the very skies and shadows and creeks she writes about. We'll spend three weeks marveling with her at the natural world and tracing out her intense, brilliantly realized responses. We'll spend our last week looking at short excerpts from books that have built on this masterpiece.



**REQUIRED TEXT**  
Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* (any edition)

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Tom Gardner** is emeritus professor of English at Virginia Tech. His most recent books are *Lyric Theology: Art and the Doctrine of Creation* (with a chapter on Annie Dillard) and *Sundays*, a collection of 52 short lyric essays. His *Poverty Creek Journal* was just reprinted in London on its tenth anniversary.

2. Jane Austen Book Club: *Northanger Abbey* and *Mansfield Park*

**Peter Graham** | Wednesday, 9:00am-10:15am  
5 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15  
CRC, Crescent Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

LLI's Jane Austen Book Club is back to continue our lively literary pilgrimage through the author's six novels. This time we'll focus on *Northanger Abbey* and *Mansfield Park*. The first of these "house" novels, a spirited parody of the Gothic novel, was composed while the author was in her early twenties but was published posthumously. The second was Austen's third published novel, finished when she was in her late thirties and controversial ever since. As before, the course will take a casual book-group discussion approach. No previous experience of reading Austen is necessary. Newcomers are always welcome to the "club."



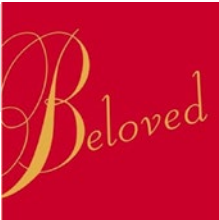
**REQUIRED TEXT**  
Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (Oxford ed. preferred)  
Austen, *Mansfield Park* (Oxford ed. preferred)

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Peter Graham**, professor emeritus of English at Virginia Tech, has been a confirmed Janeite for 50 years and more. He's Life Member of the Jane Austen Society of North America and has lectured and written widely on Austen and her works.

3. Appreciating Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

**Ginney Fowler** | Wednesday, 11:00am-12:15pm  
6 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

Readers of Toni Morrison's earlier fiction have often been confused by her 1987 novel *Beloved*. In this six-week course, offered at the request of LLI participants, we will demystify Morrison's so-called "ghost story," and through close reading and lively discussions, discover the novel's complex and rich meanings. At heart, the novel tells multiple love stories, while at the same time it dramatizes the effects of slavery on human relationships. Though many have considered it a novel about slavery, it is primarily about slavery's long-term impact on the enslaved.



**REQUIRED TEXT**  
Morrison, *Beloved* (any edition)

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Virginia Fowler**, professor emerita of English at Virginia Tech, taught American literature and African American literature for more than 40 years. Her research has focused on Toni Morrison's fiction and Nikki Giovanni's poetry.



## 4. Memoir and Essay Writing

**Richard Gilbert** | Friday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
5 weeks: 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

We're in an age of essays and memoirs. Some become bestsellers or films; many others, self-published, are composed for friends and family. In this class, students read innovative and award-winning personal nonfiction, draft their own, and share their writing with classmates. The instructor provides exercises, prompts, and ideas for developing the work. Based on the richly collaborative workshop model — receiving peers' insights and commenting helpfully in turn — the class makes learning less narrowly instructor-based and brings more brainpower to each memoir or personal essay.

Beginning and intermediate writers are welcome. Enthusiasm and a desire to write are the core prerequisites!

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Richard Gilbert** is a freelance editor of personal and narrative nonfiction. He's author of *Shepherd: A Memoir*, a finalist for the Ohioana Book Award, about his family's decade-long farming adventure in Appalachian Ohio. His essay "Animals Saved Me" won the *Hunger Mountain* Creative Nonfiction Prize.

## 5. From Page to Screen: Remarkable Literary Film Adaptations

**Seth Davis** | Monday, 11:00am-12:15pm  
5 weeks: 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

Great books have been sources for thousands of films since moviemaking began. However, books and films are two different art forms. What makes a remarkable film adaptation? What elements of great literature translate well to screen, and what elements are often missed or translated in controversial ways? These are a few of the questions we'll ponder as we discuss film adaptations of *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962), *The Color Purple* (1985, 2023), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975), and *Emma* (1996, 2020).

Participants are encouraged (but not required) to read the original novels before the film discussion.



**REQUIRED TEXT**

Participants will need to view the films listed below before the class session in which each is discussed. Either rent, stream, or check them out from the library:

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, dir. Robert Mulligan (1962)

*The Color Purple*, two versions: dir. Steven Spielberg (1985) and Blitz Bazawule (2023)

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, dir. Miloš Forman (1975)

*Emma*, two versions: dir. Douglas McGrath (1996) and Autumn de Wilde (2020)

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Seth Davis** is the executive director of The Lyric Theatre in downtown Blacksburg. He is also a musician, teacher, avid book reader, and movie buff!

## 6. The Parables of Jesus: Messages Hidden in Plain Sight

**Russell Gregory** | Tuesday, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
5 weeks: 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

Although Jesus did not invent the genre of the parable - a short, evocative story that teaches by comparison, illustration or analogy - he was a master of this art. In this six-week course, we will analyze and classify the parables of Jesus, paying close attention to the way they speak to his audience and enable new understandings about the Kingdom of God. Close reading will reveal multiple layers to these deceptively simple stories; they are brief and homely enough to connect with listeners and have immediate impact, but they linger in the mind to prompt subsequent realizations.

The instructor will distribute a handout containing the text of the parables we will study.

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Russell Gregory** is an emeritus professor of religious studies at Radford University. He has an abiding interest in the literature of the Bible and focuses on narrative analysis.



## 7. Mystery Misfits

**Britton Gildersleeve** | Thursday, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20  
Zoom | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$35

Mystery subgenres abound; you might be a fan of the cozy, hardboiled, or courtroom mystery, the police procedural, or the thriller. In this class, we explore mysteries that straddle or resist genre classification. The charming detective in Dean James’s classic cozy, *Posted to Death*, happens to be a vampire. In Vicky Delaney’s *A Three Book Problem*, the world of Sherlock Holmes infuses the investigation when a bookstore devoted to his works becomes a crime scene. And in Josi Havari’s *Nest Egg* series, mystery, romance, humor, and tropical beauty blend when a city girl inherits an egg farm in Hawaii.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Dean James, *Posted to Death*  
Vicki Delaney, *A Three Book Problem*  
Josi Havari, *Nest Egg: A Cozy Hawaiian Mystery. An Inheritance Whodunit with Chickens, Culinary Secrets and Murder* (first book in the series)

### INSTRUCTOR

**Britton Gildersleeve**, a retired faculty member and administrator from Oklahoma State University, has been a mystery reader since age eight, when she first read the Nancy Drew series and her father’s Sherlock Holmes. Since then, mysteries of almost all types (including those that tease the genre!) have been a favorite distraction.

## 8. True Crime in American Storytelling

**Ingrid Johnson** | Thursday, 3:00pm-4:15pm  
5 weeks: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13  
Zoom | Limit: 50 | Fee: \$35

From the early days of the republic to contemporary times, Americans seem to be more than usually obsessed by the genre of true crime. In this five-week course, we will explore the historical roots of this obsession and trace its continuing transformation into new media forms. As we consider notable examples of the genre, we will ask ourselves: Why are Americans so fascinated by true crime? How do race, gender, class, and other components of identity affect the story that is told? What are the ethics of consuming a genre that seems to exploit and sensationalize human suffering?

### REQUIRED TEXT

All required texts and videos will be available online.

### INSTRUCTOR

**Ingrid Johnson**, advanced instructor in Virginia Tech’s Department of English, is an award-winning teacher and director of the department’s Distinguished Alumni Board. In Spring 2025, 500 students signed up for her course, True Crime in American Storytelling.

## 9. Read Local: Ed Falco’s *Transcendent Gardening*

**Ed Falco, Ellen Woodall** | Tuesday, 11:00am-12:00pm  
3 weeks: 11/4, 11/18, 12/2  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35



The Read Local series focuses on a single book written by a local or regional author. Readers engage with the author face-to-face in stimulating conversation during the first and last meetings.

Set in the North Georgia mountains, Ed Falco’s *Transcendent Gardening* is the story of Angel Maso, a gardener and would-be playwright, whose life quietly unravels after his wife divorces him. While she adjusts well to her new life, and their daughter proves wildly successful as a social media entrepreneur, Angel ekes out a livelihood as a gardener and part-time teacher. When all that falls apart, so does Angel, with consequences that shake both his hometown and the nation. This novel about a mass shooting, told from the point of view of the shooter, is certain to prompt important conversations.

### REQUIRED TEXT

*Transcendent Gardening* will be available at Blacksburg Books by September 1. Participants may also purchase the book in class on the first day. There is no reading assignment for the first meeting.

### INSTRUCTORS

**Ed Falco** is an award-winning poet, novelist, playwright, and short story writer who has published more than a dozen books. A recipient of the Robert Penn Warren Prize in Poetry from *The Southern Review* and the Emily Clark Balch Prize in Fiction from the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, he recently retired from Virginia Tech’s English Department, where he taught in the MFA program.

**Ellen Woodall**, who coordinates the Read Local series, is the manager of Blacksburg Books.

# Visual & Performance Arts

## 10. Draw Your World: Artistic Techniques and Visual Perception

**Joseph Cooley** | Tuesday, 6:00pm-8:00pm  
6 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room | Limit: 20 | Fee: \$35

Deepen your artistic skills and expand your perception of the world in a class that teaches you to analyze form and express yourself through drawing. We'll begin with the basics of solid geometry and then explore concepts like contours, perspective, and shading. We'll apply these concepts to portraiture, figure drawing, landscapes, and composition. The course encourages creative exploration and personal style. Through structured exercises, live drawing sessions, personal projects, and individual feedback, you can start at your own level and progress at your own pace, refining your drawing technique and developing new ways of seeing and interacting with our beautiful world.

Those who register for the course will receive a list of required and recommended tools.

**INSTRUCTOR**

With a foundation in commercial architecture, **Joseph Cooley** brings a unique perspective to their art classes, emphasizing the essentials of line drawing and the power of visualization. At the heart of their teaching lies a commitment to helping students gain skills to see and capture the world with newfound clarity and creativity.

## 11. Introduction to Jazz Records

**Kyle Hutchins** | Wednesday, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
3 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1  
Zoom | Limit: 50 | Fee: \$35

Introduction to Jazz Records is a guided exploration of the most collected and essential jazz albums, from swing to fusion and beyond. Over three online sessions, we'll dive into the iconic recordings that shaped the genre, discussing their history, influence, and must-hear tracks. Perfect for music lovers, jazz enthusiasts, and curious listeners alike - no musical background needed.

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Kyle Hutchins** is an assistant professor of practice in music at Virginia Tech, where he teaches saxophone, chamber music, jazz ensemble, and jazz history.

## 12. Representing Your World through the Perspectives of Vincent van Gogh

**Jesi Pace-Berkeley** | Friday, 10:00am-12:00pm  
5 weeks: 9/19, 9/26, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room | Limit: 16 | Fee: \$35 | Materials Fee: \$45

Do you want to paint a world full of beauty, hope, life, wonder, and joy? Would you like to convey who you are at a deeper level, rather than merely represent your physical features? If so, join our next intermediate watercolor class, where we will focus on Vincent van Gogh's artistic journey through Paris, the Netherlands, and the South of France. We will explore sunflowers, landscapes, still lifes, figures, and self-portraits. We'll study van Gogh's use of color and value to create emotion and incorporate his signature dots and stripes into our own watercolor compositions.

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Jesi Pace-Berkeley** is a professional fellow of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Artist in Residence at the Don and Catherine Bryant Cultural Series, Outer Banks.



### 13. Contemporary Female Songwriters II: More Modern-Day Bards

**Linda MacCleave** | Tuesday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14  
Zoom | Limit: 50 | Fee: \$35

Songwriters are modern-day bards - poets who serve as historians and preservers of oral tradition in our culture. Songs reflect and influence what humans consider important: ideas, feelings, and stories. In this four-week Zoom course, the instructor will present songs composed by female songwriters that spoke to a generation or a cultural moment in definitive and powerful ways. Class participants will be invited to participate in the conversation after the presentation. Featured this fall are Loretta Lynn, Shania Twain, Kacey Musgraves, Nanci Griffith, Mary Gauthier, Bonnie Raitt, Lucinda Williams, Mary Chapin Carpenter, and Iris Dement.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Linda MacCleave** has an M.A. in English Education and is retired. Her appreciation for the inspirational poetry of music led her to pursue sharing the history and interpretation of songs with her peers. She also presents LLI classes at the University of Richmond and George Mason.

### 14. Drawing 101

**Bonnie Moreno** | Monday, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 20 | Fee: \$35

Bonnie Moreno, a trained art teacher and lifelong artist, firmly believes that anyone can draw. Look at cartoons, for example; the drawings are simple and drawn with the artist's own particular hand. The qualities of hand-eye coordination are already inherent in your hand as well. Bonnie will teach you how to pick up a pencil and draw with relative confidence what you could not explain or express with words or gestures. You will add drawing to your communication toolbox.

Participants will need a 24 x 26 drawing board with prop, a variety of drawing tools, an 18 x 24 newsprint pad, and an 18 x 24 mixed media drawing pad.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Bonnie Moreno** holds an MFA in painting and is certified to teach art in public schools. She is also a Master Gardener and flower arranging blue ribbon winner.

### 15. How to Do Stand-Up Comedy

**Johnny Moore** | Thursday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

Can you make people laugh? Discover your funny by learning the key forms of stand-up, including observational, anecdotal, ad-libbed, and sketch comedy. We'll talk about where to find material, how to compose it, and what you can learn from rehearsing a draft in front of a trial audience. You'll learn how to handle your nerves and deliver your act at an optimal pace. (Hint: slow is funny.) Participants will be invited to develop and workshop their own killer five-minute routine in a heckle-free environment. A comedy showcase event at a local brewery could even be a possibility.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Johnny Moore** is a professor emeritus of history at Radford University and a self-anointed stand-up historian. He has performed his own hour-long comedy shows.

### 16. Appalachian Musical Traditions: English and Scottish Ballads

**Alice Kinder** | Tuesday, 11:00am-12:15pm  
2 weeks: 10/21, 10/28  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$25

The Child ballads consist of 305 English and Scottish folk songs collected by Harvard Professor Francis Child in the British Isles in the mid-1800s. Decades later, Cecil Sharp, traveling through southern Appalachia, collected American versions of them, part of a vibrant oral tradition in the region. Several American musical genres likely emerged from these folk songs, including bluegrass, folk, and country. In this two-part class, we'll learn about the cultural significance of these ballads, and we'll sing and listen to some of them. Tap your toes and sing along - or not - just as you please.



**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Alice Kinder** is a senior instructor of English at Virginia Tech. She is a lifelong student and teacher of Appalachian Studies.

## 17. Art Crimes: Looting, Fakes, and Forgeries

**Michelle Moseley** | Wednesday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
4 weeks: 10/29, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$35

The U.S. Department of Justice currently ranks art crime as the third highest-grossing global criminal enterprise. This five-week course looks at art crimes throughout history, with a focus on 20th- and 21st-century problems. Topics include thefts, forgeries, frauds, fakes, looting, ransom, and terrorism, as well as what is lost when cultural heritage is damaged or destroyed. We'll explore the forensic, ethical, cultural, and legal means of addressing these issues. Discussion will reflect on the larger questions of why (beyond its dollar value) art is so often the target of crime - and why we should protect it.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Michelle Moseley** is an associate professor of art history, and director of the Material Culture and Public Humanities M.A. Program at Virginia Tech.

## 18. Puccini, *La bohème*, and Italian Opera

**Christopher Campo-Bowen** | Monday, 9:00am-10:00am  
1 week: 11/3  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$15

On Saturday, November 8, the Metropolitan Opera will broadcast, live in HD, the performance of Puccini's *La bohème*, one of the world's most popular operas. The broadcast will be shown at the Regal Cinema in Christiansburg at 1 pm. This lecture explores how Puccini's timeless opera both grows out of and expands on the traditions of Italian opera. It provides a framework for understanding the historical context of *La bohème* and will prepare the audience to engage more fully with the Met broadcast.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Christopher Campo-Bowen** is an assistant professor of musicology in the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech. He completed his Ph.D. in musicology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.





# History, Culture, & Current Affairs

## 19. Sampler

**Coordinator: Molly McClintock** | Tuesday, 9:00am-10:15am  
5 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14  
Zoom | Limit: 50 | Fee: \$35

This engaging sampler course treats participants to a wide range of speakers and topics, something different each week.

### Sept. 16. Helping Bees to Help Us

Explore the life and times of a honeybee colony, how they form, the life of the Queen, the workers, the drones, and “the brood.” Find out how and why bees make honey. Learn why colonies (and not just honeybees) are critical to sustaining life on our planet.

**Rocky Roland** is an avid reader and traveler, having visited more than 110 countries. He’s a former president and active member of the Alpena Michigan Association of Lifelong Learners.

### September 23. Five Mistakes People Make When Estate Planning

The rules governing asset transfer at death can be complicated, and the overlap of several legal concepts creates a minefield for estate planners. Learn about some of the most common and important mistakes made in estate planning. The presentation will cover

basic strategies for protecting your assets and give you the opportunity to seek clarification or ask questions.

**Warren Rosborough** is an attorney with Rosewood Law PLC, specializing in elder law and estate planning.

### September 30. National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) is the largest grassroots mental health organization in the nation. Nancy Bodenhorn and Kristine Reid will explain how NAMI operates on local and national levels and how its resources could benefit you and those you love.

**Kristine Reid** is the Affiliate Leader of NAMI NRV. **Nancy Bodenhorn** is a recent co-leader of one of NAMI’s signature classes. Both speakers have family members with serious mental illnesses.

### October 7. Global Population: Issues and Impacts

Where are populations growing and shrinking? How is economic development impacted by population change? How is population change concentrating wealth? What are the environmental impacts?

**Dave Notter** is an emeritus faculty member in animal sciences at Virginia Tech and an authority on the global management of farm animal genetic resources.

### October 14. The Dog Aging Project

Ever wonder why some people live longer than others? Dogs may help us find the answers to that question. The Dog Aging Project is the most ambitious canine health study in the world. Researchers are investigating what influences healthy aging in both dogs and humans and how to increase healthspan and lifespan in both species.

**Audrey Ruple** is the Dorothy A. and Richard G. Metcalf Professor of Veterinary Medical Informatics at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. She is a co-principal investigator of the Dog Aging Project.

## 20. Uncovering the Dead: Great Archaeological Discoveries

**Lauren DiSalvo** | Tuesday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
6 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/28, 11/4  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$35

This course introduces participants to the material culture of death from the ancient and medieval worlds. Together we will explore some of the greatest archaeological discoveries of tombs and their burial goods from around the globe. A close study of these burial assemblages will demonstrate how much they reveal about their respective cultures - their art, technology, social structures, and beliefs. But we will also discover trends among burials that transcend their specific time and place and speak to us today.

### INSTRUCTOR

A classical archaeologist turned art historian, **Lauren DiSalvo** studies how the classical world, especially Greek and Latin artifacts, have been represented in different cultural contexts over time. Subjects of her recent research include the plaster casts used at world’s fairs in the 20th century, souvenirs associated with Rome and the Grand Tour, and portraiture of women in the eighteenth century.

## 21. “Unnatural Disasters”: What We Can Learn from the Women of Katrina

**Suchitra Samanta** | Wednesday, 1:00pm-2:15pm  
5 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

Women are 70% of the world’s poor and are especially and adversely impacted by climate change and consequent disasters. Scholars rightly call these “unnatural disasters,” where social inequities prior to the disaster, as defined by age, disability, class, race, or gender, result in greater harm to vulnerable populations. In this course, we will explore several examples of this phenomenon globally, but we will focus primarily on Hurricane Katrina’s impact on New Orleans in August 2005. How did the city’s women fare and cope? How did race and class factor into the outcomes? What can we learn from their experiences?

**REQUIRED TEXT**  
David and Enarson, eds., *The Women of Katrina. How Gender, Race, and Class Matter in an American Disaster*, 2012

**INSTRUCTOR**  
Collegiate Associate Professor Emerita **Suchitra Samanta** was a faculty member in the Women’s and Gender Studies program at Virginia Tech.

## 22. Dictatorship and Democracy in Syria and Lebanon, 1945-2025

**William Ochsenwald** | Thursday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$35

How can a dictatorship collapse and become a democracy? How can a democracy lose political legitimacy and move toward chaos or dictatorship?  
This course will examine the political, military, diplomatic, ethnic, religious, gender, and economic histories of modern Syria and Lebanon from independence until today to illustrate answers to these questions. The course will help explain the dramatic events of 2024 when Syria’s dictator was overthrown and when Lebanon’s democratic government, dominated by a Shi’i Hizbullah militia, fell apart.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**William Ochsenwald** has presented nine earlier courses for the Lifelong Learning Institute. He is the author of *The Middle East: A History* and is an emeritus professor of history at Virginia Tech.

## 23. Virginia’s Fascinating Role in the American Revolution

**Coordinator: Dwayne Yancey**, founding editor of *Cardinal News* | Thursday, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9  
Zoom | Limit: 50 | Fee: \$35

The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Four historians look at the roles Virginians played in our march toward independence.

**Sept. 18: The Role of Western Virginians**  
**Eric Monday**, member of the Virginia250 Commission

**Sept 25: Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia**  
**Woody Holton**, professor of history, University of South Carolina

**Oct. 2: Lord Dunmore’s Emancipation Proclamation and The Role of Black Virginians**  
**Andrew Lawler**, journalist, author of *A Perfect Frenzy: A Royal Governor, His Black Allies, and the Crisis that Spurred the American Revolution*  
**Oct. 9: The Role of Women**  
**Kelly Brennan**, historian, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

## 24. Libraries and Society

**Andrea Hamre** | Wednesday, 7:00pm-8:00pm  
6 weeks: 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12  
Zoom | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

Why are libraries called “palaces for the people,” and what role do they play in our democracy? This discussion-based Zoom class encourages students to reflect on libraries as key social infrastructure. Libraries have the capacity to combat rising rates of loneliness and declines in civic engagement, but they are also contested spaces facing bids for censorship, pressures from information and communication technologies, and challenges like the substance abuse crisis. Students in this class will become conversant with the difficulties and opportunities facing libraries today, and they will be empowered to engage more knowledgeably in critical conversations about libraries and society.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Andrea (“Andi”) Hamre** is a lifelong learner and avid volunteer who holds a Ph.D. in planning, governance, and globalization from Virginia Tech. She volunteers with adult English learners at the Alexandria Public Library and the English Empowerment Center and is passionate about civic engagement and public libraries.



## 25. The Current Status of College Admissions

**Nancy Bodenhorn** | Monday, 9:00am-10:30am  
1 week: 10/13  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$15

The college admissions process has been impacted in the last decade by shifting demographics, court directives, scandals, changing financial aid policies, technology, and divergent perspectives on the value of requiring standardized tests. In this one-session overview, a panel of current college admissions administrators will bring you up to date on the pressures and opportunities facing the current generation of college applicants and their families. The presenters will take questions after the presentation.

**MODERATOR**

During her twenty-year career as a school counselor, **Nancy Bodenhorn** supported high school students in their college application and decision-making process.

**PANELISTS**

**Dannette Beane** is vice president of Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications at Radford University. She previously served as associate director of undergraduate and graduate admissions at Virginia Tech and as an admissions counselor for Hollins University.

**Janice Austin** is assistant dean and director of Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress for the Virginia Tech Graduate School.

**Ashley Browning** is vice president for Enrollment Management at Hollins University in Roanoke.

## 26. Seeking Justice: The Extraordinary Freedom Suits of an Enslaved Virginia Family

**Daniel Thorp** | Tuesday, 2:30pm-4:00pm  
1 week: 10/14  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 75 | Fee: \$15

In antebellum Virginia, enslaved individuals could sue for their freedom if they believed they were being held in violation of the state's laws defining slavery. *Unis v. Charlton*, the longest running freedom suit in Virginia history, began in Christiansburg two hundred years ago this September. This lecture will describe both the general process of freedom suits and the specific case brought by Unis Lewis and her family in 1825.

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Daniel Thorp** has been teaching American history at Virginia Tech for forty years and is the recipient of college and university teaching awards.

## 27. Calvin and Hobbes: The Adventure Continues

**Phillip Harris** | Thursday, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
5 weeks: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$35

The *Calvin and Hobbes* comic strip debuted in November 1985. After creating 3,151 daily strips on every possible topic, Bill Watterson ceased publishing *Calvin and Hobbes* on December 31, 1995. Today, Calvin, still the rambunctious six-year-old, and his best friend, Hobbes, the stoic stuffed tiger, continue their daily appearance in newspapers worldwide. They also appear in nineteen books that remain popular with generations of readers eager to experience the wisdom and magic of Watterson's art. If you are or want to be one of those readers, this class is for you.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Watterson, *The Calvin and Hobbes Tenth Anniversary Book*

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Phillip Harris**, a retired attorney, practiced law in Washington, DC and Chicago, principally on behalf of religious denominations. Phil is an avid fan of newspaper comics and appreciates their influence as art, humor, opinion, and philosophy. He begins each day with *Calvin and Hobbes* and coffee.

## 28. The Gypsy (Roma) People: Their History and Culture

**Gerald Pops** | Wednesday, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
3 weeks: 10/22, 10/29, 11/5  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

This class will clarify and demystify the origins, movement, and culture of the Gypsy (Roma) people through the last millennium. We will discuss their culture and means of survival in many countries amid constant prejudice and discrimination. Special attention will be paid to Gypsy belief systems, community structure, and self-governance.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Gerald Pops**, a professor emeritus from West Virginia University, held a Fulbright lectureship in Hungary and the Republic of Georgia in 1993.

## 29. Charter Schools, Magnet Schools, and Vouchers: Their History and Promise

**Nicholas A. Fischer** | Monday, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
2 weeks: 10/27, 11/3  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$25

Charter schools, magnet schools and vouchers: what do they bring to the educational opportunities available in communities? What do they promise, what do they deliver?

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Nicholas Fischer** built a career in public education that spanned more than fifty years across eight states; he served as a high school teacher, elementary principal, associate superintendent for instruction, superintendent, and associate commissioner for finance and accountability.

## 30. The Supreme Court: Presidents, Justices, and Cases

**Jack Call** | Thursday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$35

This course will examine the role the Supreme Court plays in resolving issues of great national significance. It will look at what the Constitution says about the Court, the Justices, and the kinds of cases that the Court may consider; the role played by the President in appointing Justices; how it is determined which cases will be heard by the Court; the internal processes by which cases are decided; and what the future likely holds for the Court.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Jack Call** was on the faculty at Radford University for 34 years, retiring in 2020. He taught Courts and the Criminal Process, Constitutional Rights of the Accused, and Criminal Law. He has taught 18 courses for LLI.

## 31. The Twilight Zone: Still Relevant After All These Years

**Jamie McReynolds** | Monday, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
5 weeks: 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$35

Rod Serling brilliantly injected social criticism into his *Twilight Zone* episodes, using the guise of science fiction to escape the censorship of sponsors and network executives. Although the series ran from 1959-1964, many episodes address contemporary issues; they are as relevant now as they were 60 years ago. Participants will watch and discuss five such episodes. The themes dramatized will seem familiar: community versus isolationist thinking; science versus greed and power, and the impact we often make on others' lives without even knowing it. This repeat of the Fall 2024 *Twilight Zone* course incorporates an entirely new selection of episodes.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Jamie McReynolds** is a retired Unitarian Universalist hospital and hospice chaplain.

32. A Taste of LLI for New Members

**Molly McClintock** | Monday, 9:00am-10:30am  
4 weeks: 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 75 | Fee: \$35

Designed for those new to LLI, this course features one talk each in history, literature, science, and the arts. You'll meet some of our great instructors and make connections with other participants new to LLI.

Sept. 8. The Land Grant Revolution in American Higher Education

The Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862 created a new system of higher education that received federal support in exchange for meeting the economic needs of a changing nation. How did this process unfold? And what lessons can we learn during our own era of technological and political crisis, when the role of the federal government in higher education - and the value of universities - is once again under debate?

**Paul Quigley** is the director of the Center for Humanities and the director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies.

Sept. 15. The Secret Lives of Artworks

Viewers are used to looking at works of art hanging on walls or sitting on plinths, but

what does a work tell us if we look on the back, underneath, behind, between, or inside? A closer look at materials and structure tells the object's hidden story, revealing new information about the stages of its long life.

**Michelle Moseley** is an associate professor of art history in the Virginia Tech School of Visual Art, where she currently directs the M.A. program in Material Culture and Public Humanities.

Sept. 22. Waggle Dancing Bees

Honeybees use an amazing behavior called a waggle dance to communicate the distance and direction to good resources. Learn how we can use these dances to investigate where bees are finding good food to feed them and, potentially, other insect pollinators.

**Margaret Couvillon** is an associate professor in the Virginia Tech Department of Entomology. She is a broadly trained bee researcher with a particular interest in the foraging and recruitment behaviors of the honeybee.

Sept. 29. Why We Should Read Jane Austen Now

Jane Austen's 250th birthday, upcoming this December, marks an auspicious occasion to revisit her classic novels. Virginia Tech Emeritus Professor Peter Graham will make the case that Austen's appeal is not merely nostalgic - that she speaks powerfully to contemporary issues and contemporary readers. Illustrating his talk with examples drawn from the novels and from recent screen adaptations, Peter will inspire you to re-discover Austen's trenchant wit and keen insights as they spoke to her own day - and speak to our own fraught times.

**Peter Graham** has lectured and written widely on Austen and her works.

33. & 34. Appreciating the Wines of Washington State

**SELECT ONE SESSION DATE.**  
**33. Session 1 | Randall Horst** | Monday, 3:00pm-5:00pm  
6 weeks: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20  
Vintage Cellar | Limit: 40 | Fee: \$35 | Wine Fee: \$150. Pay the wine fee directly to Vintage Cellar by check or credit card. Look for instructions after enrollment.  
**34. Session 2 | Randall Horst** | Wednesday, 3:00pm-5:00pm  
6 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22  
Vintage Cellar  
Limit: 40 | Fee: \$35 | Wine Fee: \$150. Pay the wine fee directly to Vintage Cellar by check or credit card. Look for instructions after enrollment.

Washington state is the second largest producer of wines in the United States. While there are some viticultural activities in the cooler, western half of the state, the overwhelming majority of wine grape production takes place in the shrub-steppe eastern half where the major wine regions include Columbia Valley, Horse Heaven Hills, the Wahluke Slope, Yakima Valley, and Walla Walla Valley. Three dozen grape varieties from these regions will be tasted in this class.



**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Randall Horst** is a wine enthusiast, buyer for Vintage Cellar in Blacksburg, and veteran instructor for LLI. He has taught wine appreciation every term since 2015.



## 35. Everyday Conflict Transformation

**Don Makin** | Tuesday, 9:00am-10:30am  
4 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7  
CRC, Garvin Room | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$35

Because we generally have a negative view of conflict, the work of facing our differences openly is often undertaken with fear and anxiety – or avoided altogether. This doesn’t have to be the case. A healthy approach to working through differences can transform conflict into a positive opportunity for creativity and growth. In addition to a conceptual framework for understanding conflict, this course offers practical steps for transforming conflict between individuals and within groups.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Don Makin** is a retired Presbyterian minister with long-term involvement in conflict transformation. He has led workshops on the topic and has worked with groups and individuals seeking healthy relationships in times of difference.

## 36. Learning from Labyrinths: A Quest in Your Own Backyard

**Rob Merritt** | Tuesday, 11:00am-12:15pm  
5 weeks: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14  
CRC, Curiosity Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

In this five-week class, we will discuss the history of labyrinths (circular walking spaces) and delve into the spiritual, physical, mental, and creative benefits of walking the path. We’ll begin with finger labyrinths and then visit several local labyrinths. No strenuous activity will be required; the emphasis is on slowing down. The labyrinth experience offers stress reduction and relaxation. It can prompt new insights and jump start the creative process. Journeying by stages to “the still point of the turning world” will help us “arrive where we started/And know the place for the first time” (T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*).

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Rob Merritt** is a distinguished professor emeritus of creative writing at Bluefield University. An active member of The National Association for Poetry Therapy, he published his fourth poetry collection, *Sense of Direction*, in 2025.

## 37. Learning to Love the New River Valley

**Coordinator: Ellen Woodall** | Wednesday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
5 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/22  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$35

This course is designed for residents new to the area, recent retirees, and others who wish to learn more about this place they call “home.” It’s informed by Melody Warnick’s *This Is Where You Belong: Finding Home Wherever You Are*, a book based on the author’s attempts to overcome the loneliness she initially experienced after moving to Blacksburg. Participants will learn about the area’s history, natural beauty, volunteer opportunities, and recreational activities from speakers who know the New River Valley and its resources well. But this is not a lecture class. “Homework” will involve venturing out and reporting back!

**REQUIRED TEXT**  
Warnick, *This Is Where You Belong: Finding Home Wherever You Are*

## 38. Basic Home Maintenance and Repair

**Lisa Garcia, Jeremy Glenn, Dan Crowder** | Wednesday, 1:00pm-3:00pm  
5 weeks: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35 | Materials Fee: \$50 for home repair kit

Take control of your home! Learn simple hands-on plumbing, electrical, and seasonal maintenance skills in four classes designed to keep your home safe. A final class will address questions that have arisen during the course. Participants will learn to find their way around the breaker box, install a floor nightlight, and change a lightbulb they can’t reach. They will learn to identify the master valve and shut it off, and they will review the steps homeowners should take to prepare a house for winter. Participants will receive an organized binder of prevention checklists and resources.

**INSTRUCTORS**  
**Lisa K. Garcia** is a business consultant who prides herself on being a “fixer.” In addition to her consulting, she works with the New River Valley Timebank, where she helps other do-it-yourselfers connect and coordinate their efforts.  
**Jeremy Glenn** is a professional handyman in the New River Valley.  
**Dan Crowder** is a construction project manager for the Division of Student Affairs at Virginia Tech. Previously he planned and built houses for Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley.

## 39. & 40. Appreciating Single Malt Scotch Whisky

### SELECT ONE SESSION DATE.

**39. SESSION 1 | Don Creamer** | Thursday, 3:00pm-4:30pm

1 week: 9/25

Private home | Limit: 10 | Fee: \$25

**40. SESSION 2 | Don Creamer** | Thursday, 3:00pm-4:30pm

1 week: 10/16

Private home | Limit: 10 | Fee: \$25

Single malt whisky is made from only three ingredients, water, barley, and yeast - yet it yields an unlimited variety of tastes. In this one-session class, we will learn what qualifies as a single malt scotch, how and where it is produced, and how best to discern its complex and distinctive flavors. Five single malts will be tasted, selected from distilleries located in different regions of the country.

## 41. Experience Yoga!

**Stephanie Buffett** | Monday & Wednesday, 9:00am-10:30am

12 weeks: 10/13, 10/15, 10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29, 11/3, 11/5, 11/10, 11/12, 11/17, 11/19

CRC, In Balance Yoga, 2000 Kraft Dr, Suite 1204 | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$50

Learn to connect movement with the breath and explore ways to improve circulation, flexibility, and balance. Slow and intentional movement through various postures (asanas) will be combined with Vinyasa Yoga, where poses are linked together, moving from one pose to the next connected by the breath. The course is appropriate for all levels including those with mobility and joint issues and will include chair yoga modifications.



## 42. Armchair Journeys

**Coordinator: Molly McClintock** | Monday, 1:00pm-2:30pm

4 weeks: 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10

Zoom | Limit: 50 | Fee: \$35

Travel along virtually on fascinating journeys. Speakers will share their adventures, along with photos and videos enhancing their stories. There will be plenty of time for participants to comment and ask questions.

### Oct 20 Northern India with Pam Knox and Fred Piercy

Pam and Fred will relate the sights, surprises, and lessons learned from wise hosts, intense contrasts, and unexpected, unforgettable experiences.

### Oct 27 Thailand and Vietnam with Janet Rankin

After participating in a small-group tour in Thailand, Janet embarked on her own eleven-day excursion through northern Thailand and Vietnam. She will explain her planning process and describe her experiences.

### INSTRUCTOR

**Don Creamer** is associated with ScotchHunter.com, a partnership of three scotch-loving friends. He has participated in tasting 600+ single malts during the past 30 years.

### INSTRUCTOR

**Stephanie Buffett** is a retired United States Air Force nurse and has practiced yoga for over 15 years. She is a certified Hatha Yoga instructor and has completed Vipassana and Presence Meditation training.

### Nov 3 The Arctic North with Harriet Shaw

In Churchill, Manitoba, Harriet observed and photographed polar bears as they gathered to go onto the frozen Hudson Bay. She discovered that Churchill is also one of the best places in the world to view the aurora borealis.

### Nov 10 Madagascar with Peggy Layne

In her three-week visit to Madagascar, a land of contrasts, Peggy saw lush jungles, beautiful beaches, parched deserts, exotic flora and fauna, luxurious resorts, and extreme poverty.

## 43. Euchre: The Card Game for Everyone

**Lois Harris, Phillip Harris** | Wednesday, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
6 weeks: 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room | Limit: 16 | Fee: \$35

In 1862, the Library of Congress Law Librarian, Charles Wharton Meehan declared Euchre to be the “Queen of all card-games.” It was certainly popular with Mark Twain and his wife, Olivia, who reportedly played Euchre on their honeymoon! While not as well known in the 21st century, Euchre remains popular nationwide, especially on college campuses. It is a fun and friendly game particularly suited to sociable gatherings and groups of all ages. Easy to learn, Euchre can be enjoyed quickly. Join this class, and you will learn to play and soon be eager to play again. *“Your deal...”*

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Lois Harris**, now retired, previously served as the director of accounting for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), headquartered in Chicago.

Her husband, **Phil Harris**, is a retired attorney who served as the ELCA general counsel until 2018. Lois and Phil grew up in the “Euchre Belt” (sometimes referred to as the Midwest) in families where everyone played this card game. Together they represent 130+ years of Euchre experience and enjoy teaching the game to others.

## 44. Physical Activity: A Key to Healthy Aging

**Coordinator: Janet Rankin** | Thursday, 9:00am-10:30am  
5 weeks: 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 36 | Fee: \$35

In this series of presentations, current and retired Virginia Tech faculty with expertise in various aspects of exercise will share their insights and practical advice for developing a physically active life, along with the research that supports these recommendations.

**Aerobic Exercise for the Health of It – Startup Tips for Seniors.**

**William Herbert**, professor emeritus, Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, Virginia Tech

**Yoga for Every Body: A Vehicle for Holistic Wellbeing as We Age.**

**Samantha Harden**, associate professor, Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, Virginia Tech

**Lifting for Life: The Role of Resistance Training.**

**Rodney Gaines**, collegiate associate professor, Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, Virginia Tech

**Activity and Eating to Maintain Mental Health and Function.**

**Stella Volpe**, department head and professor, Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, Virginia Tech

**The “Exercise is Medicine” Concept.**

**Janet Rankin**, professor emerita, Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, Virginia Tech

## 45. Introduction to Chinese Medicine

**D. Michael Denbow** | Thursday, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
5 weeks: 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$35

Chinese medicine is among the oldest health care systems, having been practiced for over 5,000 years. Arising out of Daoism, the goal of Chinese medicine is to restore balance, thus creating an environment in which illness cannot take root. Classically, a Chinese doctor was only paid as long as the patient remained healthy. This course will examine the principles guiding Chinese medicine.

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Michael Denbow** is a professor emeritus from Virginia Tech where, among other classes, he taught an honor’s colloquium titled Chinese Medicine for twelve years. He is the owner of Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture Clinic and a licensed acupuncturist.



# 46. Bridge Basics II: Competitive Bidding

**Jeff Legge** | Friday, 9:00am-11:00am  
6 weeks: 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 12/5  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room | Limit: 16 | Fee: \$35

Are you ready to take your bridge game to the next level? Bridge Basics 2: Competitive Bidding is the perfect class for players who have a basic understanding of the game but want to improve their bidding skills in competitive situations. With the guidance of Audrey Grant's authoritative book on the subject, participants will improve their decision-making strategies regarding when to enter the action, when to stay silent, how to advance a partner's bid, and how to handle interference from opponents.

**REQUIRED TEXT**  
Grant and Lindop, *Bridge Basics 2: Competitive Bidding* (the second book in *The Official Better Bridge Series*)

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Jeff Legge** is certified by Audrey Grant to teach from her *Better Bridge* series of instructional books.

# 47. Make Your Home Safe for Independent Living

**Mike Spriegel** | Monday, 9:00am-10:30am  
1 week: 11/3  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Woodland Studio | Limit: 20 | Fee: \$15

Learn practical ways to make your home safe for independent living. We'll review how aging affects safety and explore such topics as fire and fall prevention, chemical and electrical safety, and inexpensive fixes for common household hazards. The presentation will also help you prepare for natural and man-made disasters like hurricanes, fires, floods, and power outages. Participants will receive a 100-point home safety checklist and an emergency preparedness manual. Although the subject is serious, the instructor builds fun and laughter into the presentation. Door prizes will be awarded.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Mike Spriegel** is a retired industrial safety and human resources professional. A writer and inventor, he owns LifeBucket LLC, a home safety and emergency preparedness company.



# Cooking & Crafts

## 48. Sew Your Own Eighteenth-Century Clothing

**Walt Bailey** | Monday, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
6 weeks: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20  
Smithfield Plantation | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$35

Learn about eighteenth-century life and fashion in the New River Valley by sewing an authentic garment from the period. Registrants who enroll in this living history project will receive advance guidance in selecting an article of clothing, acquiring a historic pattern, and ordering appropriate fabric and notions. The instructor will provide support for the sewing, which begins on the first day of class.

The finished garment could be a history-themed dress-up outfit for a favorite grandchild. Or participants might want to model their own creations as Smithfield volunteers or costumed guides at local museums. We'll explore some of these opportunities.



**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Walt Bailey** is the Visitor Experiences Coordinator at Historic Smithfield. Over the course of his 25-year career, he has served as an interpretive specialist in state parks, a historical reenactor, and most recently, a historical sewist.

## 49. & 50. Italian Cooking Experiences

**SELECT ONE SESSION DATE.**  
**49. SESSION 1 | Claudia Levi** | Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm  
1 week: 9/19  
Instructor's home  
Limit: 8 | Fee: \$15  
**50. SESSION 2 | Claudia Levi** | Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm  
1 week: 10/17  
Instructor's home  
Limit: 8 | Fee: \$15

This one-session course offers a hands-on cooking class at the instructor's house, where participants will learn to prepare simple and classic Italian recipes and enjoy the food and the company at the end of the class. The fall class will feature: *Torta Pasqualina* (savory cake with spinach, ricotta, eggs, and parmigiano); *Spaghetti Aglio e Olio* (with EVOO, garlic, and hot pepper); and *Spaghetti alla Puttanesca* (tomato sauce with capers and olives). Delicious and nutritious food does not have to be complicated to make nor expensive to buy!

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Claudia Levi** was born and raised in Torino, Italy. She cooks every day from scratch for her family and friends. She is excited to offer Italian Cooking Experiences and share her joy for cooking as it was transmitted to her by her mother and grandmothers.

## 51. Knit A Classic Pullover Your Way

**Diana George, Kaye Graham, Nancy Metz** | Friday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
6 weeks: 9/26, 10/3, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14  
Instructor's home | Limit: 12 | Fee: \$35

Ready to graduate from hats and scarves to fitted sweaters? Jane Richmond's Classic Raglan Pullover is simple enough to be a "first" sweater. The pattern comes in all sizes with versions for men, women, and children. The instructions are uncluttered and easy to follow.

For experienced knitters, the pattern is a blank slate for artful adaptations. We encourage experimentation and will provide models and resources for introducing colorwork, modifying stitch patterns, and personalizing the look of the sweater.

For pattern links or questions, contact [nancy.metz@vt.edu](mailto:nancy.metz@vt.edu).



**INSTRUCTORS**  
For the past two years, **Diana George, Kaye Graham, and Nancy Metz**, have co-led LLI's Knit-Along. They learn something new with each pattern and from every one of the participants.

## 52. Cooking Fusion Food Inspired by the Silk Road

**Anne McNabb** | Class 1 meets Friday 10/3 via Zoom, 9:00am-10:30am; Class 2 meets in person, Friday 10/10 9:00am-1:30pm at the instructor's home.  
2 weeks: 10/3, 10/10  
Limit: 12 | Fee: \$35

The Silk Road, stretching from the far east to eastern Europe and the Middle East, facilitated the distribution of new products and the incorporation of new ingredients into some traditional dishes across national borders. In a preliminary Zoom class, we will discuss notable examples of this historical process and introduce the recipes we'll cook the following week. Then we will meet at the instructor's home for a morning of cooking followed by a multi-course lunch. This course was previously offered in Spring 2024; some new recipes will be featured in Fall 2025.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Anne McNabb** is a professor emerita of biological sciences and associate dean of the graduate school at Virginia Tech. She is an avid cook who has taught Chinese and Moroccan cooking classes for LLI; she is particularly interested in international cuisines.

## 53. Create Unique Watercolor Effects with Ice Dyeing

**Joselin Landry** | Monday, 9:00am-10:30am  
2 weeks: 11/10, 11/17  
Blacksburg Community Center, Community Room | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$25 | Materials Fee: \$12

Ice dyeing resembles tie dyeing but employs different techniques. Soaked fabric that is scrunched, tied, stitched, or folded is placed on a rack over a tub and covered in ice. Powdered dyes are sprinkled on top. The fabric absorbs color as the ice melts, creating unique watercolor effects. In this two-part class, the instructor will demonstrate these techniques and guide students in hands-on practice dyeing a small garment or piece of cotton. Students will take home their projects, together with written instructions for creating ice-dyed tea towels, blouses, or scarves.

Participants should bring to class protective gloves, a plastic or tin tub, a cooling rack, paper towels, a dust mask, and apron.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Joselin Landry** is a fiber artist experienced in various methods of dyeing material.

## 54. Make a Miniature Quilted Wall Hanging

**Paula Golden** | Monday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
2 weeks: 11/17, 11/24  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 20 | Fee: \$25

Take Paula's "A Day at the Beach" pattern and make it your own. No quilting experience is necessary, but a sewing machine is required. Participants will need to provide fabric, batting, and thread. Detailed information will be sent to those who register for the class.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Paula Golden** is a nationally renowned quilter and teacher. She has taught multiple classes for LLI.

## 55. English Paper Piecing Garland: A Hand Sewing Class

**Paula Golden** | Monday, 11:00am-12:30pm  
1 week: 12/1  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 20 | Fee: \$25

In this one-session workshop, you will create a holiday garland using the techniques of English paper piecing, a hand-sewing technique that originated in the 1770s as a way of piecing together objects with complex angles. No experience is necessary. Bring your own fabric, needle, and thread. Detailed information will be sent to those who register for the course.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Paula Golden** is a nationally renowned quilter and teacher. She has taught multiple classes for LLI.



# Science & Technology

## 56. Make AI Your Personal Assistant: Introduction to ChatGPT

**Travis Carter** | Monday, 9:00am-10:30am  
3 weeks: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 18 | Fee: \$35

Curious about artificial intelligence but not sure where to start? In this three-session course, we'll introduce you to ChatGPT - an easy-to-use AI tool that can help with everything from writing emails to meal planning. Session one covers the basics of AI and its common uses. In session two, you'll create your own free ChatGPT account and try it out hands-on. In session three, we'll share our experiences and explore more ways to use ChatGPT in daily life. No tech background required - just bring a device and your curiosity!

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Travis Carter** currently assists Virginia Tech's Continuing and Professional Education department with IT-related needs, bringing over a decade of experience in technology and a strong commitment to staying current with emerging tech trends.

## 57. Introduction to Microsoft 11.0 O.S. for Beginners

**Bobby Buchanan** | Monday, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$35

Windows 11.0 is the most recent operating system from Microsoft. More than just an update, it is a full redesign with a different look and offers new tools to improve security, organization, and productivity. In this introductory course, those new to the program will master basic commands and tasks, gain skill in organizing files and folders, and improve their ability to search the internet efficiently and securely. The class will conclude with an overview of some specific applications that come standard with the Windows 11.0 operating system.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Bobby Buchanan** worked in the technology sector for over 38 years, from the IBM mainframe, to desktop, to cloud-based development. He was a senior technical instructor for seven years, traveling all over the U.S. and Canada teaching database and computer programming to employees of Fortune 500 companies.

## 58. Global Change XII — Water Quality: Chemical and Physical Contaminants

**Coordinators: Anne McNabb, Don Mullins** | Thursday, 9:00am-10:30am  
6 weeks: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23  
Zoom | Limit: 50 | Fee: \$35

Water quality is critical for ecological and human health as well as food production and a wide variety of medical, industrial, and societal uses. Speakers will address key sources of water contaminants and explore how contaminants differ with the environment. They will also identify strategies employed to remove contaminants so that water is safe for public supplies, agriculture, and other specialized uses. This course is a follow-up to the spring 2025 course on water availability.

**Clean Water for Life: Challenges Old and New**  
**Stephen Schoenholtz**, professor emeritus, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, director emeritus, Virginia Water Resources Research Center, Virginia Tech

**How Drinking Water Quality is Regulated in the United States**  
**William Knocke**, professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech  
**Naturally-Occurring Contaminants in Groundwater**  
**Maddy Schreiber**, professor and associate department head, Geosciences, Virginia Tech

**Human-made Contaminants, Plastics, Chemicals, and Other Toxic Materials**  
**Austin Gray**, assistant professor, Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech  
**Meeting Agricultural Nutrient Reduction Goals in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed**  
**Zachary Easton**, Horace E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin, Professor of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Biological Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech  
**Water Politics in Guatemala: An Introduction**  
**Nicolas Copeland**, associate professor, Department of History, Virginia Tech

## 59. What Is Our Digital Existence Costing Us?

**Marcia Davitt** | Thursday, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
4 weeks: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9  
CRC, Concept Room | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$35

What is required to sustain our growing demand for uninterrupted internet/data access? In this course, we will critically examine the view that digital innovations are essential to well-being and progress. We'll lift the veil from metaphors like "The Cloud" and discover darker realities hidden from view. And we'll closely examine the ways our increasing dependence on digital media distorts our social relations and harms the earth. As we attempt to calculate the environmental and socio-economic costs of this dependence, we'll consider the extensive supply chains of labor and materials required to support our digital lives and the interests they serve.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Marcia Davitt** is an adjunct instructor of history at Virginia Tech with a background in healthcare information systems and environmental science and policy. Her recent research challenges the assumptions that undergird triumphalist claims about technological innovations, particularly in the realm of big data and artificial intelligence.

## 60. Stay Ahead of the Scammers

**Liz Craine** | Tuesday, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
1 week: 10/21  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 60 | Fee: \$15

This one-session class will help you learn how to identify and avoid common scams used in email, text, and phone calls—an important refresher since frauds of this kind continue to evolve and become more sophisticated. We'll pay special attention to the specific scams plaguing our local area. The instructor may call on volunteers from the class to participate in role-play exercises.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Liz Craine** provides tech support for a local hospital system and is interested in using technology to make life better for the community. She has taught multiple technology courses for the Lifelong Learning Institute.

## 61. How Research Saved the Red-cockaded Woodpecker

**Jeff Walters** | Wednesday, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
1 week: 10/22  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 75 | Fee: \$15

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is unique in excavating its cavities in living pine trees, and unusual in living in family groups. In the 1980s there were no increasing populations of the species, and it seemed headed for extinction. But studies led to a new understanding of the bird's social system, which, in turn, resulted in a new management paradigm. The outcome has been a radically changed trajectory for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and ultimately its removal in 2024 from the endangered species list.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
**Jeffrey Walters** is the Harold Bailey Professor of Biological Sciences. He received a Golden Goose Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his research on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.



# Field Trips

## 62. & 63. Tour of the Original 16 Squares of Blacksburg

*In partnership with the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation*

### SELECT ONE SESSION DATE.

**62. SESSION 1** | Tuesday, Sep 9, 1:00pm-2:00pm  
Alexander Black House | Limit: 20 | Fee: \$15

**63. SESSION 2** | Friday, Sep 12, 11:00am-12:00pm  
Alexander Black House | Limit: 20 | Fee: \$15

This walking tour meets at The Alexander Black House and explores the historic streets within the original 16 Squares of Blacksburg, a small grid of streets and lots that William Black established on 38 acres of inherited land. This footprint formed the beginnings of the town of Blacksburg in 1798. We explore these historic streets and learn the rich history and stories behind many of the buildings, homes, and landmarks throughout town that may go unnoticed.



## 64. Bear Man Chainsaw Carving

**Jerry Williams** | Wednesday, Sep 10, 1:00pm-3:15pm  
Studio in Ripplemead, VA | Limit: 15 | Fee: \$15

Chainsaw carving became a well-established art form by the 1980s. Traveling carvers would load their carvings into the backs of trucks, showcasing their work like moving galleries. In the 1990s, chainsaw carving gained further recognition as an art, earning wider acceptance and public appreciation. Today, this craft features a diverse range of styles, skill levels, and themes, demonstrating that the true power of the art lies in the artist's imagination.

Drive or carpool to beautiful Giles County to visit Jerry's carving and equipment garage, as well as his studio shop with pieces for sale or custom orders. Jerry will demonstrate how he creates a bear carving - so bring ear plugs and eye protection if you have them (others can borrow). We will depart from Blacksburg at 1:00pm and return at approximately 3:15pm.



### PRESENTER

**Jerry Williams** has been carving plants and animals, especially bears and cubs, out of cedar, oak, walnut, and other tree trunks and limbs ever since being introduced to the art form in 2010.

## 65. & 66. Exploring the Geological Mysteries of Mountain Lake and Its Surroundings

### SELECT ONE SESSION DATE.

**65. SESSION 1** | Skip Watts, Beth McClellan  
Saturday, Sep 20, 10:00am-12:30pm | Rain date: Saturday, October 11  
Trip starts and ends in front of Mountain Lake Lodge | Limit: 16 | Fee: \$20

**66. SESSION 2** | Skip Watts, Beth McClellan  
Saturday, Sep 27, 10:00am-12:30pm | Rain date: Saturday, October 11  
Trip starts and ends in front of Mountain Lake Lodge | Limit: 16 | Fee: \$20

The field trip will start on the lawn in front of Mountain Lake Lodge to view the lakebed. We'll discuss the lake hydrology, the history of its fluctuating water levels and, of course, the filming of the movie *Dirty Dancing*. The next stop is a small quarry nearby to talk about the geologic history of the lake and its surrounding mountains and to enjoy a bit of fossil collecting. Finally, we will visit the natural landslide dam at the north end of the lake to learn about landslides, earthquakes, and factors responsible for creating the lake. The trip will end with a 20-minute hike into the rocky but magnificent terrain of the Garden of the Gods, the source area for the landslide debris that blocked the gorge allowing the lake to form. Some participants may wish to enjoy lunch in the Mountain Lake Lodge restaurant afterward.

Attendance at the free lecture on Mountain Lake on Thurs, Sept 18 at Warm Hearth is recommended but not required.

### GUIDES

**Skip Watts** is a professor emeritus of geology at Radford University.

**Beth McClellan** is a professor emeritus of geology at Radford University.





## 67. Bus Trip to Reynolda House Museum of American Art *Offered by Blacksburg Parks and Recreation*

**Joy Herbert, Trip Coordinator** | Thursday, Sep 25, 8:30am-7:00pm  
Reynolda House Museum of American Art  
Limit: 18 | Fee: \$0 CPE | \$47 payable to Blacksburg Parks and Recreation



Join your LLI friends for an exciting day trip to Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Built in 1917, Reynolda House was the former home of Katharine Smith and R.J. Reynolds and is now a beautifully preserved historic estate covering over 34,000 square feet, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Inside, you'll discover more than 6,000 historic objects and a collection of world-renowned American art.

A guided tour of the house is included, providing a rich history and art experience. Lunch will be on your own. You'll also have time to stroll through the scenic gardens and explore shopping at Reynolda Village.

Transportation and trip coordination is provided by Blacksburg Parks and Recreation; the bus will depart at 8:30am. We will return to the Community Center at approximately 7:00pm. If your registration is confirmed with LLI, you will be sent instructions for payment of the \$47 fee. Your seat is not guaranteed unless and until you make payment to the trip coordinator. Tour minimum is 15.



## 68. Visit the Virginia Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition at Radford University

**Michele Walter** | Friday, Oct 3, 10:15am-11:30am  
Covington Center, Radford University | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$15 | Lunch at your own cost

Join us for a visit to the 46th Annual Virginia Watercolor Society's Juried Exhibition at the Douglas and Beatrice Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts, Radford University. Co-chair of the exhibit, **Michele Walter**, will talk about the organization and its annual exhibition and point out some of the featured work by New River Valley artists. This show will be of particular interest to our watercolor students. After viewing the gallery, join us for an optional lunch together at BT's Restaurant across from the campus.

## 69. & 70. Campfire Cookout

**SELECT ONE SESSION DATE.**  
**69. SESSION 1** | Margaret Marsille  
Thursday, Oct 9, 11:00am-1:00pm  
Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Center Shelter  
Limit: 15 | Fee: \$10 | \$15 food fee to be paid to organizer at time of event  
**70. SESSION 2** | Margaret Marsille  
Friday, Oct 10, 11:00am-1:00pm  
Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Center Shelter  
Limit: 15 | Fee: \$10 | \$15 food fee to be paid to organizer at time of event

Join us for a hands-on outdoor harvest celebration at the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Center picnic shelter. Learn various methods of cooking on a 3-stone open fire – in foil packets or Dutch ovens or directly over the fire. The menu will include biscuits, cornbread with jam and apple butter, rice, black beans, butternut squash with walnuts and apples, and a variety of meats. Please bring a Dutch oven or cast iron skillet if you can.



## 71. Pilgrimage to Tinker Creek: An Exploration of the Secret Life of Streams

**Rachel Pence** | Friday, Oct 31, 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Mason Mill Park, Roanoke | Limit: 28 | Fee: \$15

Join us for a short walk along Roanoke’s recently completed Tinker Creek Greenway, led by dedicated scientists from Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality. In support of Roanoke’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of Annie Dillard’s *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, the scientists invite LLI participants to join them in the sampling and monitoring work they do in protecting local waters, particularly fish and aquatic insects. Tweezers, nets, and much enthused guidance will be provided. You’ll need only good eyes and a sense of wonder. Drive or carpool to Mason Mill Park in Roanoke to begin your exploration of the secret life of Tinker Creek.



**PRESENTER**  
**Rachel Pence** is a water quality monitoring specialist with the Department of Environmental Quality and a volunteer manager of a citizen science monitoring program called the Roanoke River Project.

## 72. The American Revolution at 250

**April Martin, Jeff Briggs** | Wednesday, Nov 5, 11:30am-1:30pm  
Wilderness Road Regional Museum, Newbern | Limit: 25 | Fee: \$35 includes lunch

Virginia will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with events throughout the Commonwealth during 2025-26 (see VA250.org and the Virginia Museum for History and Culture for details). Close to home, you can check out colonial activities and culture on your own at the Wilderness Road Fall Festival October 11-12 in nearby Newbern, where the entire Fincastle Company of 18th century living history interpreters will participate.

The Wilderness Road Regional Museum is hosting a special tavern lunch just for LLI members on Nov. 5 where you can savor authentic foods of the period – stew, corn bread, dessert, and hot tea are on the menu. We’ll also learn more about the British and loyalist views of the war from the founder and director of the Fincastle Company and the Wilderness Road museum director.



**PRESENTERS**  
**April Martin** is director of the Wilderness Road Regional Museum as well as the Ratcliff Transportation Museum.  
**Jeff Briggs** is founder and director of the Fincastle Company, a group of volunteer historical reenactors.





*These free programs are offered as a member benefit; register for as many as you plan to attend.*

## Special Events

### FREE LECTURES AT WARM HEARTH

*LLI Sustaining Partner: Warm Hearth Village*

Warm Hearth Village has been a Sustaining Partner of the Lifelong Learning Institute since our inception. Warm Hearth, with its convenient location for our members, generously offers us space for programs. In turn, LLI invites Warm Hearth residents to attend free lectures each term, even if they are not LLI members. Our valued partnership has contributed to LLI's success, and is one that we look forward to continuing in the coming year.

*Non-member Warm Hearth residents are invited to attend the following talks held at Warm Hearth; registration is not required.*



### 73. The History and Geological Mysteries of Mountain Lake

**Skip Watts, Beth McClellan** | Thursday, Sep 18, 2:30pm-4:00pm  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 75 | Fee: \$0

Mountain Lake is one of only two naturally formed lakes in Virginia. The mysteries surrounding its formation and the dramatic fluctuations in water level through the years have long intrigued geologists. Learn about the ancient and recent geologic history of Mountain Lake as revealed through the latest research performed by Radford University, Virginia Tech, and Kent State University using traditional tools and modern technology. A guided field trip to Mountain Lake is also available this term.

#### PRESENTERS

**Skip Watts** and **Beth McClellan** are professors emeriti of geology at Radford University. They have studied the long-standing mysteries of Mountain Lake's geologic setting and fluctuating water levels since 2009.

### 74. Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia

**Lauren Trice** | Monday, Oct 13, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 50 | Fee: \$0

Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia is funded by the Mellon Foundation and housed at Virginia Tech. The project provides funding for nine monuments that reclaim, imagine, document, reinterpret, display, and amplify the histories and experiences of people whose stories have been silenced, denied, or excluded. Each monument is a community-driven collaborative project. Learn more about the process of creating these monuments and then work to create your own ideas for monuments.



#### PRESENTER

**Lauren Trice** is the project coordinator for Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia.

### 75. Atrial Fibrillation: Causes, Complications and Management

**Larry Cox** | Friday, Oct 31, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 75 | Fee: \$0

Atrial fibrillation is the most common sustained arrhythmia. The lifetime risk of experiencing it is about 25%; incidence increases rapidly with age. It is an important cause of one of the most dreaded medical complications - stroke. We will discuss the causes, symptoms, detection, and management of atrial fibrillation, including anticoagulation to prevent stroke.



#### PRESENTER

**Larry Cox** is a retired board-certified cardiologist.



## 76. History of the Appalachian Trail: Roanoke and the New River Valley

**Diana Christopulos** | Friday, Nov 21, 3:00pm-4:00pm  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 75 | Fee: \$0

The Appalachian Trail was conceived more than a century ago in the mind of a visionary landscape architect. Throughout its development, residents of the Roanoke and New River Valley region have played a crucial role, beginning with the establishment of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club (RATC) in 1932.

Join Diana as she shares photos from the RATC's archives and recounts stories of the many challenges faced during the trail's construction - including relocating the trail from the Blue Ridge Parkway to Angel's Rest, Peters Mountain, and Dragon's Tooth.




**PRESENTER**  
**Diana Christopulos** has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail and filled many roles in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club.

## 77. Diabetes Education Healthy Dialogues with LewisGale Hospital Montgomery

**Christine Green** | Friday, Oct 17, 3:00pm-4:00pm  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 75 | Fee: \$0

Diabetic Education In-Service at LGH Montgomery is designed to empower individuals with diabetes and their caregivers by providing essential knowledge on managing the condition effectively. This educational session covers key aspects of diabetes care, including lifestyle modifications, medication management, and the latest technological advancements, such as continuous glucose monitoring and insulin pumps.

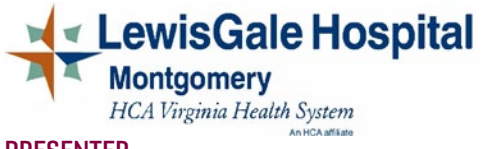


  
**PRESENTER**  
**Christine Green**, RN and certified diabetes care and education specialist, has been working at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery since 2008.

## 78. Sleep Health Healthy Dialogues with LewisGale Hospital Montgomery

**Joey Conduff** | Wednesday, Nov 19, 4:00pm-5:30pm  
Warm Hearth Village Center, Tall Oaks Room | Limit: 75 | Fee: \$0

Join us for a special event dedicated to improving your sleep health. Dr. Conduff will lead a discussion on effective strategies and available treatment options - both surgical and non-surgical - to help you achieve a better night's sleep. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions. Don't miss this chance to take steps toward healthier, more restful nights.

  
**PRESENTER**  
**Joseph (Joey) Conduff** is an ear, nose, and throat specialist with LewisGale Physicians ENT. He has recently introduced to our area an innovative, FDA-approved surgical option - the Inspire implant - for treating obstructive sleep apnea. This new procedure helps keep the airway open during sleep, allowing patients to breathe more easily and enjoy restful, uninterrupted nights.



## FREE PARTNER EVENTS *(not hosted at Warm Hearth)*

### 79. The Reshaping of U.S. Democracy and the Role of the Courts

*In partnership with the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, VA, and the Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County branch of NAACP*

**Max Stephenson, Brandy Faulkner**

Wednesday, September 24, 7:00pm-8:15pm  
Blacksburg Town Council Chambers, 300 S. Main Street  
Limit: 100 | Fee: \$0



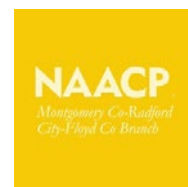
The Trump administration has moved fast and aggressively to reshape our government. Congress has little will for asserting its own responsibilities. While judges and lower courts have stopped some executive orders as unconstitutional, the fate of these judgments as they move to higher courts is unknown. Still, the courts have a major role to play in maintaining the rule of law and balance of power among the three branches of government.

What are the prospects for our democracy in the months and years ahead? How have and can the three branches work together as priorities and values shift? How far will the courts be willing to go to uphold the Constitution? How can citizens assert their will? This event is open to the public; guests are welcome.

#### PRESENTERS

**Max Stephenson** is professor of public and international affairs and director, Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance.

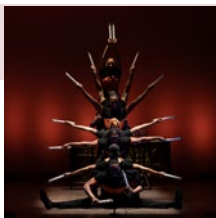
**Brandy Faulkner** is professor of political science and Gloria D. Smith Professor of Black Studies at Virginia Tech.



### 80. The History and Heritage of Stepping

*In partnership with the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech*

**Ben Jewell-Plocher, Center host** | Saturday, Sep 27, 6:30pm-7:00pm  
Cube, Center for the Arts, 190 Alumni Mall | Limit: 40 | Fee: \$0



Join leaders from *Step Afrika!* for an engaging discussion of the history and heritage of stepping. With the heart-pounding energy of traditional African stepping, live drumming, and vibrant storytelling, Step Afrika! delivers experiences like no other. Since 1994, the company has introduced communities in over 60 countries across the globe to stepping's origins, including dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities and traditional South African dances, such as the powerful dance of the Zulu Nation and the polyrhythmic South African gumboot dance.

The *Step Afrika!* performance begins at 7:30. Buy your tickets through the Center for the Arts.

#### PRESENTER

**Ben Jewell-Plocher** is the associate director of engagement of the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech.



## FREE WEBINAR

### 81. Breaking WWII's Enigma Code

*In partnership with AARP Virginia*

**Dan Sherman** | Friday, Nov 17, 1:30pm-3:00pm  
Zoom | Limit: Unlimited | Fee: \$0



The now legendary Enigma machine was used by all branches of Nazi Germany's military to encode messages by scrambling letters that could only be read by another machine with proper keys to decode the message.

This webinar explores the fundamental principles of encrypting messages, delves into how the Enigma machine operated, and examines how the Allies exploited a critical weakness in the design to read the Nazis' secret messages. The session will blend a discussion of code breaking with WWII historical context and cover how the long-secret effort to break the Enigma code eventually came to light.

#### PRESENTER

**Dan Sherman** is a retired economist who has taught many courses to adult learning groups. He is an LLI favorite.



# LLI Information

## FEES

Membership each term is required to register for courses and participate in free events. Fall term membership is \$60 and is non-refundable. Course and event fees are listed in each description. Courses must be cancelled one week prior to the first session of the class to receive a refund of the course fee.

## FEE WAIVERS

The Lifelong Learning Institute is committed to accessible and affordable educational opportunities for NRV residents. Requests for fee waivers should be addressed to the LLI Program Coordinator, phone 540-231-1725. All requests are confidential.

## VOLUNTEER

The Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech thrives on the contributions of its volunteers. Learn more about how you can volunteer by visiting our website at [cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/volunteer.html](https://cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/volunteer.html), or email [lifelonglearning@vt.edu](mailto:lifelonglearning@vt.edu).

Volunteers are needed as:

- Instructors - lead a course in an area of your own expertise or passion.
- Class Assistants – assist the instructor with managing the class.
- Committee Members – serve on one of our four LLI committees: Program, Instructional Support, Membership, or Fundraising
- Occasional Assistance – volunteers are needed for a variety of short-term tasks. Newcomers welcome!

## DONATE

LLI has become an important part of the quality of life for retirees in the New River Valley and an effective outreach program for Virginia Tech. Your support will allow the LLI at Virginia Tech to grow this important community resource.

The Lifelong Learning Institute is a self-supporting entity of Continuing and Professional Education at Virginia Tech. All gifts to LLI (excluding membership and course/event-related fees) are fully tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Designated gifts are received and managed by the Virginia Tech Foundation for the purpose of growing and sustaining the Lifelong Learning Institute.

Visit [cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/support/donations.html](https://cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/support/donations.html) to learn the many ways that you can provide a donation to support the work of the Lifelong Learning Institute.

## COURSE WAIT LISTS

Is your desired class full? After registering for your other classes, look for a Wait List link on your Transaction Receipt. We'll contact you if an opening occurs.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

For questions about a location's access or to request accommodation for a disability, contact the LLI Program Coordinator at [lifelonglearning@vt.edu](mailto:lifelonglearning@vt.edu) or 540-231-1725. Please contact us at least 14 days in advance of the start of class or the event.

For a full list of LLI Policies, visit our website at: <https://cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/membership/policies.html>

## REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 9:30AM

Register online by visiting the LLI Home page at [www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning](https://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning) and clicking REGISTER.

*This is the fastest way to register.  
We recommend registering  
online whenever possible.*



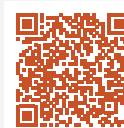
SCAN TO REGISTER

Register by phone by calling **540-231-5182**.

*Please note that there will be no walk-in or mail-in registration for fall.*

**Need step-by-step instructions for  
registering online?**

Scan this QR code or visit [cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/membership/instructions.html](https://cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/membership/instructions.html).



*All program information is subject to change without notice.*



# LLI Fall 2025 REGISTRATION WORKSHEET

Please use this worksheet to collect your choices and to facilitate online or phone registration beginning at 9:30 am, August 18, 2025; credit cards only. Walk-in and mail-in registration are not available.

## MEMBERSHIP FEE, FALL TERM (REQUIRED) \$60

### COURSES

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Annie Dillard's <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> at 50, Tuesday, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 1:00pm-2:15pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Jane Austen Book Club: <i>Northanger Abbey</i> and <i>Mansfield Park</i>, Wednesday, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 9:00am-10:15am, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Appreciating Toni Morrison's <i>Beloved</i>, Wednesday, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 11:00am-12:15pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Memoir and Essay Writing, Friday, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5. From Page to Screen: Remarkable Literary Film Adaptations, Monday, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10, 11:00am-12:15pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 6. The Parables of Jesus: Messages Hidden in Plain Sight, Tuesday, 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 1:00pm-2:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 7. Mystery Misfits, Thursday, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 1:00pm-2:30pm, Zoom, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 8. True Crime in American Storytelling, Thursday, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 3:00pm-4:15pm, Zoom, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 9. Read Local: Ed Falco's <i>Transcendent Gardening</i>, Tuesday, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 11:00am-12:00pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10. Draw Your World: Artistic Techniques and Visual Perception, Tuesday, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 6:00pm-8:00pm, in person, \$35</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> 11. Introduction to Jazz Records, Wednesday, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Zoom, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 12. Representing Your World through the Perspectives of Vincent van Gogh, Friday, 9/19, 9/26, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10:00am-12:00pm, in person, \$35 + \$45 materials fee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 13. Contemporary Female Songwriters II: More Modern-Day Bards, Tuesday, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 11:00am-12:30pm, Zoom, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 14. Drawing 101, Monday, 10/13, 10/20, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 1:00pm-2:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 15. How to Do Stand-Up Comedy, Thursday, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 16. Appalachian Musical Traditions: English and Scottish Ballads, Tuesday, 10/21, 10/28, 11:00am-12:15pm, in person, \$25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 17. Art Crimes: Looting, Fakes, and Forgeries, Wednesday, 10/29, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 18. Puccini, <i>La bohème</i>, and Italian Opera, Monday, 11/3, 9:00am-10:00am, in person, \$15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 19. Sampler, Tuesday, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 9:00am-10:15am, Zoom, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 20. Uncovering the Dead: Great Archaeological Discoveries, Tuesday, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/28, 11/4, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$35</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> 21. "Unnatural Disasters": What We Can Learn from the Women of Katrina, Wednesday, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 1:00pm-2:15pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 22. Dictatorship and Democracy in Syria and Lebanon, 1945-2025, Thursday, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 23. Virginia's Fascinating Role in the American Revolution, Thursday, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Zoom, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 24. Libraries and Society, Wednesday, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Zoom, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 25. The Current Status of College Admissions, Monday, 10/13, 9:00am-10:30am, in person, \$15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 26. Seeking Justice: The Extraordinary Freedom Suits of an Enslaved Virginia Family, Tuesday, 10/14, 2:30pm-4:00pm, in person, \$15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 27. <i>Calvin and Hobbes</i>: The Adventure Continues, Thursday, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 1:00pm-2:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 28. The Gypsy (Roma) People: Their History and Culture, Wednesday, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 1:00pm-2:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 29. Charter Schools, Magnet Schools, and Vouchers: Their History and Promise, Monday, 10/27, 11/3, 3:00pm-4:30pm, in person, \$25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 30. The Supreme Court: Presidents, Justices, and Cases, Thursday, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$35</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> 31. The Twilight Zone: Still Relevant After All These Years, Monday, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 3:00pm-4:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 32. A Taste of LLI for New Members, Monday, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 9:00am-10:30am, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 33. Appreciating the Wines of Washington State, Monday, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 3:00pm-5:00pm, in person, \$35 + \$150 wine fee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 34. Appreciating the Wines of Washington State, Wednesday, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 3:00pm-5:00pm, in person, \$35 + \$150 wine fee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 35. Everyday Conflict Transformation, Tuesday, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 9:00am-10:30am, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 36. Learning from Labyrinths: A Quest in Your Own Backyard, Tuesday, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 11:00am-12:15pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 37. Learning to Love the New River Valley, Wednesday, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/22, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 38. Basic Home Maintenance and Repair, Wednesday, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 1:00pm-3:00pm, in person, \$35 + \$50 materials fee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 39. Appreciating Single Malt Scotch Whisky, Thursday, 9/25, 3:00pm-4:30pm, in person, \$25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 40. Appreciating Single Malt Scotch Whisky, Thursday, 10/16, 3:00pm-4:30pm, in person, \$25</p> |
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- ❑ 41. Experience Yoga!, Monday, Wednesday, 10/13, 10/15, 10/20, 10/22, 10/27, 10/29, 11/3, 11/5, 11/10, 11/12, 11/17, 11/19, 9:00am-10:30am, in person, \$50
- ❑ 42. Armchair Journeys, Monday, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 1:00pm-2:30pm, Zoom, \$35
- ❑ 43. Euchre: The Card Game for Everyone, Wednesday, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 1:00pm-2:30pm, in person, \$35
- ❑ 44. Physical Activity: A Key to Healthy Aging, Thursday, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 9:00am-10:30am, in person, \$35
- ❑ 45. Introduction to Chinese Medicine, Thursday, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 3:00pm-4:30pm, in person, \$35
- ❑ 46. Bridge Basics II: Competitive Bidding, Friday, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 12/5, 9:00am-11:00am, in person, \$35
- ❑ 47. Make Your Home Safe for Independent Living, Monday, 11/3, 9:00am-10:30am, in person, \$15
- ❑ 48. Sew Your Own Eighteenth-Century Clothing, Monday, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 3:00pm-4:30pm, in person, \$35
- ❑ 49. Italian Cooking Experiences, Friday, 9/19, 9:00am-12:00pm, in person, \$15
- ❑ 50. Italian Cooking Experiences, Friday, 10/17, 9:00am-12:00pm, in person, \$15
- ❑ 51. Knit A Classic Pullover Your Way, Friday, 9/26, 10/3, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$35
- ❑ 52. Cooking Fusion Food Inspired by the Silk Road, Friday, Class 1 (Zoom): 10/3, 10/10, 9:00am-10:30am; Class 2 (in person): 9:00am-1:30pm, \$35
- ❑ 53. Create Unique Watercolor Effects with Ice Dyeing, Monday, 9:00am-10:30am, 11/10, 11/17, in person, \$25 + \$12 materials fee
- ❑ 54. Make a Miniature Quilted Wall Hanging, Monday, 11/17, 11/24, in person, \$25
- ❑ 55. English Paper Piecing Garland: A Hand Sewing Class, Monday, 11:00am-12:30pm, 12/1, 11:00am-12:30pm, in person, \$25 + \$10 materials fee
- ❑ 56. Make AI Your Personal Assistant: Introduction to ChatGPT, Monday, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 9:00am-10:30am, in person, \$35
- ❑ 57. Introduction to Microsoft 11.0 O.S. for Beginners, Monday, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 1:00pm-2:30pm, in person, \$35
- ❑ 58. Global Change XII Water Quality: Chemical and Physical Contaminants, Thursday, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 9:00am-10:30am, Zoom, \$35
- ❑ 59. What Is Our Digital Existence Costing Us?, Thursday, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 1:00pm-2:30pm, in person, \$35
- ❑ 60. Stay Ahead of the Scammers, Tuesday, 10/21, 3:00pm-4:30pm, in person, \$15
- ❑ 61. How Research Saved the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Wednesday, 10/22, 3:00pm-4:30pm, in person, \$15

## OUT AND ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

- ❑ 62. Tour of the Original 16 Squares of Blacksburg, Tuesday, 9/9, 1:00pm-2:00pm, \$15
- ❑ 63. Tour of the Original 16 Squares of Blacksburg, Friday, 9/12, 11:00am-12:00pm, \$15
- ❑ 64. Bear Man Chainsaw Carving, Wednesday, 9/10, 1:00pm-3:15pm, \$15
- ❑ 65. Exploring the Geological Mysteries of Mountain Lake and Its Surroundings, Saturday, 9/20, 10:00am-12:30pm, \$20
- ❑ 66. Exploring the Geological Mysteries of Mountain Lake and Its Surroundings, Saturday, 9/27, 10:00am-12:30pm, \$20
- ❑ 67. Bus Trip to Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Thursday, 9/25, 8:30am-7:00pm, \$47
- ❑ 68. Visit the Virginia Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition at Radford University, Friday, 10/3, 10:15am-11:30am, \$15
- ❑ 69. Campfire Cookout, Thursday, 10/9, 11:00am-1:00pm, \$10 + \$15 food fee
- ❑ 70. Campfire Cookout, Friday, 10/10, 11:00am-1:00pm, \$10 + \$15 food fee
- ❑ 71. Pilgrimage to Tinker Creek: An Exploration of the Secret Life of Streams, Friday, 10/31, 1:00pm-3:00pm, \$15
- ❑ 72. The American Revolution at 250, Wednesday, 11/5, 11:30am-1:30pm, in person, \$35

## FREE SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❑ 73. The History and Geological Mysteries of Mountain Lake, Thursday, 9/18, 2:30pm-4:00pm
- ❑ 74. Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia, Monday, 10/13, 3:00pm-4:30pm
- ❑ 75. Atrial Fibrillation: Causes, Complications and Management, Friday, 10/31, 3:00pm-4:30pm
- ❑ 76. History of the Appalachian Trail: Roanoke and New Valley, Friday, 11/21, 3:00pm-4:00pm
- ❑ 77. Diabetes Education, Friday, 10/17, 3:00pm-4:00pm
- ❑ 78. Sleep Health, Wednesday, 11/19, 4:00pm-5:30pm
- ❑ 79. The Reshaping of U.S. Democracy and the Role of the Courts, Wednesday, 9/24, 7:00pm-8:15pm
- ❑ 80. The History and Heritage of Stepping, Saturday, 9/27, 6:30pm-7:00pm
- ❑ 81. Breaking WWII's Enigma Code, Friday, 11/7, 1:30pm-3:00pm

# REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 9:30AM

# Corporate Research Center Locations

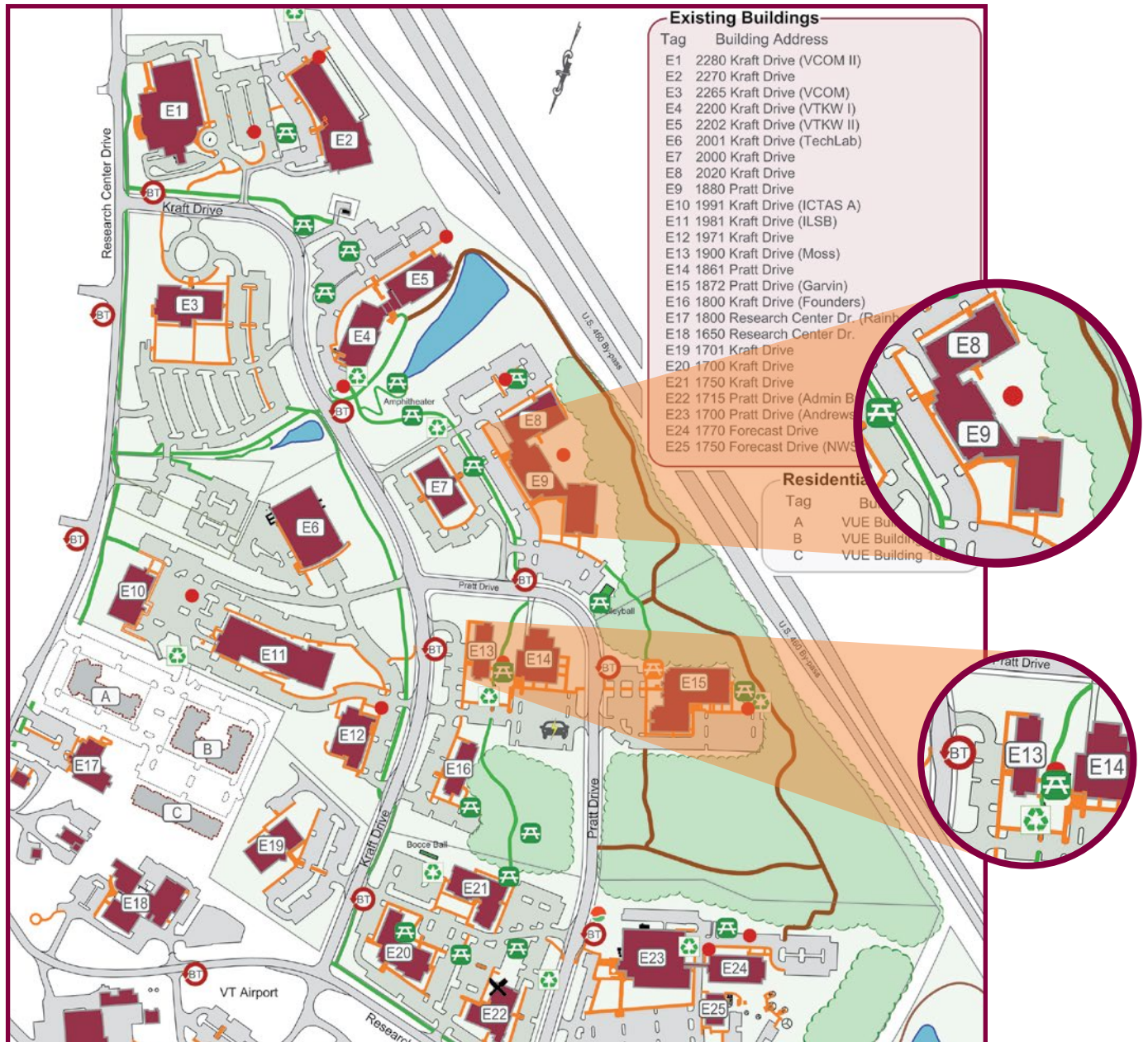
**E7:** 2000 Kraft Dr.  
Crescent Room  
Suite 2100

In Balance Yoga  
Suite 1204

**E9:** 1880 Pratt Dr.  
Concept Room  
Suite 2018

**E13:** 1900 Kraft Dr.  
Curiosity Room  
Suite 1000

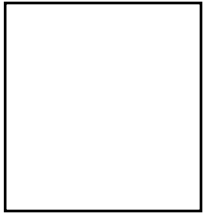
**E15:** 1872 Pratt Dr.  
Garvin Room  
Suite 1050







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*See where your own LLI  
adventure might take you!*

# Join US!



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PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION  
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