

The Osher News April 2021

Spring, In Full Swing!

You can check for updates to the catalog on our website [here](#).

Volunteers Needed



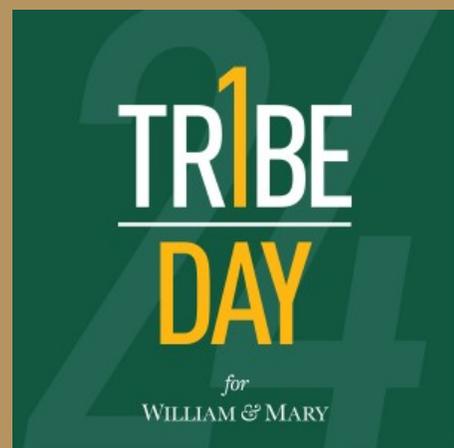
Online courses require more staff time so we appreciate the willingness of those who have volunteered to help us manage our 106 online courses this past semester.

If you are interested in being a class assistant for this semester or for the next, please email us at osher@wm.edu or leave us a message at (757) 221-1506. We're happy to train you on what you'll need to know for Zoom in order to assist. And, you'll get to attend the class while volunteering at the same time, all from the comfort of your home!

One Tribe, One Day Is Almost Here!

On **Tuesday, April 13, 2021**, the William & Mary community will come together for one incredible day to give back and pay it forward. Every gift to any area, no matter the size, makes a difference and helps unlock challenges that increase the impact of your gift.

[Explore One Tribe One Day Events or Make a Gift to Osher!](#)



Would You Like to Teach for Osher?

Here at Osher, we are always looking for new



instructors and classes and would love to talk to you about teaching for us! We are getting ready to start planning for the upcoming semester and will be soon be requesting course proposals for the fall. If you have ever considered teaching for Osher, it is not too late to start the process.

If you have a great idea for a class, send us an email at osher@wm.edu or leave a message at 757-221-1506. We can answer any questions you might have and explain the process and get you started.

Osher's 30th Anniversary Celebrating Memories



From the archives: Members enjoyed a BBQ Picnic in the Fall of 2010.

We look forward to being able to gather together in person when it's safe to do so. In the meanwhile, we are excited to share photo memories of days gone by (and days when we used to gather together without having to think about a global pandemic!).

Instructor Introductions - by Ann Teske Meet John Livecchi

*"Where love and skill
work together, expect a
masterpiece."*

-- John Ruskin



Initially, I didn't know exactly what it was that captivated me about the Christopher Wren experience, now Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William and Mary, except to say it has changed my life.

Here's my story.

Like many of us living in Williamsburg, I had recently left a busy life and career out of state, for me, in Houston, seeking to settle into a quieter, easier life, filled with opportunities to enjoy many of the things I had put on hold for so many years. High on my list was the chance to return to the classroom to study subjects I had somehow missed during my academic years. I was looking for a learning environment that would challenge me and offer me an opportunity to ask my "ultimate questions."

A few months into my new life in Williamsburg, a neighbor told me about the

lifelong learning program at Christopher Wren. Securing my membership and moving forward at top speed, I registered for John Livecchi's class, *The Long Journey Home: Understanding Homer's Odyssey*. (Side Bar: I had never read Homer but no matter. I had done harder things.)

Now, we come to the important part of my story: John.

On my first day of class, I survived the dread of not finding a parking place near campus, of not finding my classroom, of not knowing another soul. But then, I met John Livecchi, my instructor. John Livecchi, beloved high school teacher of Homer for over forty years, recipient of numerous awards and a fellowship, author of several books, instructor with Osher Institute for almost twenty years ... a brilliant, kind, humble, gentle man.

John invited me on a journey with Homer that took me, in future semesters, beyond *The Odyssey* and on to *The Iliad*. I enrolled in each of John's classes twice and each and every time, I came closer to finding the answers to some of my "ultimate questions." John brought Homer's characters to life in such a way that they became fellow travelers with me on my journey.

Their journey became my journey. Their search for "home" was my search for "home." In a word, Ithaca. Through John's lens, I saw "how their lives intersect ours ... though their time is as distant from us as the nearest star ... they never fail to offer insight, clear perception, wisdom"

A learned man, wise beyond his years, John created, through love and skill, a classroom encounter that I consider a masterpiece. For me, it was a transformational, lifelong learning experience.

If you haven't had the pleasure of attending one of John's classes, I highly recommend it to you. There, you will find Homer and all of John's friends. You will discover that, "they too have felt every joy we celebrate and suffered every pain we endure"

And, if you decide to say yes to all of this, I assure you, you will not be disappointed. And, best of all, you will find John, and in so doing, a friend.

Thank you, John!

(All of the quotations are from *Retellings: Homer's Characters Speak in Our Time. Poems Inspired by Homer's Work*, John Livecchi. 2018)

Osher Institute Policies

Refund Policy

Please note that the Osher Institute at William & Mary fees are membership fees. They are used to cover overall expenses of operating

Inclement Weather Policy

The Osher Institute at W&M will cancel courses, activities, events, and/or training for weather if William & Mary University Events

Important Dates

April 2: Call for Proposals Begins for Summer 2021 Session

April 9: Call for Proposals Begins for Fall

our lifelong learning program in a given semester and are not directly related to the number of courses you may take (i.e., there are no “per course” fees, and therefore, no “per course” refunds).



and Activities are canceled. A notice will be on the Osher Institute at W&M office voice mail (757-221-1506).

Please note, you will not be personally contacted.



2021 Semester

April 23: Summer Course Proposals Due by 5pm

May 7: Fall Course Proposals Due by 5pm

May 31: Memorial Day
The office will be closed in honor of the holiday and will reopen on Tuesday, June 1 at 8am.

June 1: Summer Session Begins and lasts through June 30

July 5: Independence Day. The office will be closed in honor of the holiday and will reopen on Tuesday, July 6 at 8am

[Give to Osher @ W&M](#)

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