

The Osher News March 2021

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

There have been a few changes to the Spring course catalog.

1. A Little Grammar and Reading with Conversation for Intermediate / Advanced Spanish Students, starting on March 22, has increased its max enrollment to 25
2. Pickett's Charge: A Microhistory of the Final Attack at Gettysburg on May 7 has added a suggested reading: *Picketts Charge* by George S. Stewart.
3. Meditation as Preventative/Supplemental Medication is now scheduled for April 12, 9:30AM – 11:30AM

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

Osher Storytelling Class Blog!



This semester launched out a series of Blackboard classes - an exciting and new style of classes for our Osher members. The members of Storytelling: An Act of Memory, Imagination and Vision led by Osher Instructor, Shari Wiltshire, have spent the month of February writing, reading, writing, and reading some more. Then, they decided to put together **Osher's very first Blog!** What a wonderful surprise this new site was when we learned about it - definitely too

good to keep to ourselves (and definitely too good for the members of the class to keep to themselves)! So, enjoy reading the short story works of your fellow Osher members at <https://www.osherstorytelling.com/> . Thanks to the members who created this blog completely on their own, we look forward to many more stories!

W&M Special Event

The Reves Center for International Studies and the Center for Comparative Legal Studies and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding at William & Mary Law School proudly present:

Arab Spring Ten Years After: The Continuing Quest for Democracy in the Middle East A lecture by Tamara Sonn



Friday, March 12, 2021
4pm - 5:15pm, via Zoom

The event is free and open to the public, but [registration is required](#).

The explosion of pro-democracy movements across the Arab world in 2011 took many observers by surprise. Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "We're facing an Arab awakening that nobody could have imagined." But pro-democracy movements are nothing new in the region. This talk will trace the history of pro-democracy movements in the Middle East over the past century, arguing that democratic impulses remain strong and suggesting that the U.S. has an important role to play in nurturing them.

Please note, this is not an Osher sponsored course, though we are pleased to share it with our Osher membership on behalf of W&M.

Registration is required using this [link](#) and this program is presented in celebration of the **Asian Centennial at William & Mary** through the Reves Center for International Studies.

In Memoriam

The Osher staff and community would like to remember our friend, Robert Klausner, known to us as "Fritz," who passed away in October 2020. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kathleen (Kathy) Klausner, two children, six grandchildren, and several siblings. Both Fritz and Kathy were dedicated Osher members, generous volunteers, and heartwarming classmates. Fritz's desire to learn was undeniable as he typically took a full course load of classes with us, ranging from his interest in jazz, opera, and Spanish, as well as



volunteered his time assisting in the classroom. He often spoke of his adventures across the globe, from hiking to sailing and back again. We will miss seeing Fritz around campus and thank Kathy for sharing news of his life with our community.

Follow this link to read the full

obituary: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/williamsburg-va/robert-klausner-9857990>

Osher's 30th Anniversary Celebrating Friendships

The Osher Institute at William & Mary has always been a wonderful place to make new friends, but sometimes, old friends are reconnected too, even over Zoom!

This past fall semester, Nancy Bolash and Claudia Kirk, childhood friends, found each other during the French Conversation Table and were willing to share their story with us.

Nancy and Claudia were in the same Girl Scout troop in Fairfax County. As they grew older, they ran in the same circles but started losing touch in high school. Fun fact, though: Nancy had a crush on Claudia's brother and even went to prom with him!



Fast forward a little bit and the two eventually moved to Williamsburg, albeit at different times. Nancy has spent most of her adult life here. Her mother was a member of the Christopher Wren Association and when it was time for her to retire, Nancy joined as well. Claudia moved here four years ago and our

organization was one of the first things she learned about in her new city.

In addition to growing up together they both have family who live in France and have visited the country and are familiar with the language. Both joined the French Conversation Table to practice their skills - Claudia, just last fall. Now, a good portion of the conversation table is reading from a preselected article and both admit to following along with the text more than looking at the other attendees. But Nancy just happened to look up one time and noticed someone who looked familiar and shared the name with an old friend. Claudia was surprised to receive an email shortly thereafter asking her if she was the same Claudia who grew up in Mantua?

Nancy and Claudia chatted and were able to have a socially-distanced, outdoor reunion (which sadly didn't last long, due to the cold weather). They both look forward to a time when the pandemic subsides and the two can safely spend time together.

We at Osher, also hope that we can all meet in person again, sooner rather than later, but for now, we are grateful for the connections made and maintained online. And if you're on Zoom, and the cameras are on, take a look around. You might just be surprised at who you see!

Osher's Registration System Transition is Complete!

Thank you to the many members who have accessed the new Osher Registration System (IRIS) to add classes to your schedules, create your accounts, and welcome to the new members who have recently purchased memberships!

As a reminder, the limit of 8 courses has been lifted for this spring semester, due to the ongoing pandemic and our ability to have so many more seats available in many classes. Feel free to add to your schedule by accessing IRIS at <https://wm.irisregistration.com/Form/OSH2021REGSPR>. You can find step-by-step registration instructions on the [Osher website](#).

A Season of Change

The year of 2020 brought change to Osher - some planned, some unplanned. Who would have thought that, nearly a year after the COVID-19 pandemic sent us all into a stay at home order, we'd still be working and learning remotely?

So far in 2021, Osher has continued to see change. We welcomed a new Associate Director in January and experienced some board member departures. We migrated to a new registration system and kicked off Blackboard courses in February, and we're working diligently this month on more projects. As we celebrate our 30 year anniversary, we also celebrate becoming a fully integrated department of the university, and a fully endowed Osher Institute. As a part of this transition we expect to make further changes in the governing and operating structures of the organization, in accordance with William & Mary and Osher Institute guidelines and requirements.

In the coming months, we'll continue to work on further improving our program,

exploring and experimenting with additional styles of class offerings, and more. We're excited about the work being done and grateful for all the Osher members who are assisting in this work. We anticipate making available a wide variety of new interesting volunteer opportunities in the coming months. Stay tuned, some of these new features are planned for summer semester!

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 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).

Inclement Weather Policy

The Osher Institute at W&M will cancel courses, activities, events, and/or training for weather if William & Mary University Events and Activities are canceled. A notice will be on the Osher Institute at W&M office voice mail (757-221-1506).

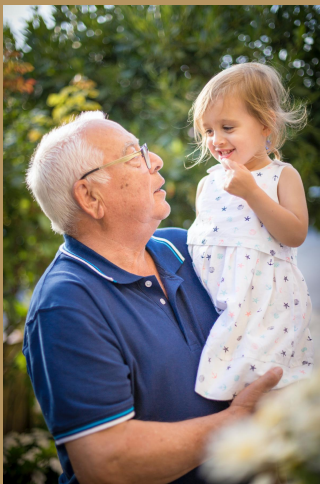
Please note, you will not be personally contacted.

Important Dates

March 13-21: Spring Break - Limited Classes

May 21: Last Day of Classes for Spring Semester

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



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