Osher Summer Session ONLINE!

As our stay-at-home orders continue, the Osher Institute at W&M has converted its summer lineup of courses to online for the month of June. Purchase a Summer Membership for only $25.00, then register for as many courses as you wish. As many of you have noted in recent surveys, these online courses fall short in providing the social interaction we so much enjoy but it does eliminate the need for wait lists and parking hassles. There should be room for everyone.

Below is a list of the courses we plan to offer. We will post an abbreviated catalog on our website by May 12. Registration will open May 15. If you have any trouble with processing these transactions online, contact our office and a staff member will return your call to assist with your registration needs.

Color as a Compositional Tool in Photography with Helen Oderisi

Congress Shall Make No Law..." The First Amendment in Theory, History, and Practice" with Karen McPherson
Member Feedback On Osher Online Courses

Thank you for your prompt and thorough response to the surveys we sent out after the first session of each online course. Below is a summary of your input.

From the 13 surveys completed on zoom courses conducted to date, 82% of respondents indicated having no technical problems using zoom.

When asked how likely is it you would sign up for another zoom course, 77% of you indicated very likely.

When asked what you liked BEST about the online courses, here are a few of your comments:
• I think it's a great alternative and very welcome during these times. Thanks to all for working to make it possible.
• The opportunity to participate as part of the class in the extraordinary times! I have missed our Osher gatherings!
• It's the next best thing to being in class in that the student is able to hear the instructor, gain knowledge or listen to the perspectives and questions of others.
• Flexibility of being in my home...get a cup of coffee, snack, didn't have to get out in the rain.
• Hearing the instructor and seeing the slides at the same time

"I have just completed 'attending' Mr. Riffer's online presentation of the Patriotic War. I was very impressed with how the session went, and I believe that Osher management should strongly consider a plan where most if not all of future semesters' offering are online. Class size limitations would largely be eliminated" - Charles Glendening
• Have been enjoying several Osher classes on Zoom and it is an excellent vehicle to show slides, video and the instructor. Keep it going. I look forward to more Zoom classes
• No problem finding parking near the library
• Very convenient
• Good for you guys in keeping things moving the best you can under these difficult conditions, says Jim Palmer.
• How easy to join and navigate

When asked what did you like LEAST about using Zoom, you responded:

• I do not enjoy sitting in front of a computer screen for 2 hours
• Missed the ease of communicating with the instructor.
• Occasional video disruption
• I like the interaction with other members and the general on-campus atmosphere.
• No Oreos
• Not being able to sit with friends and discuss new information learned in class.
• Awkward to use the chat box.
• The phone is a problem for 2 hours, it’s expensive for 2 hours long distance and incoming call to distract me.
• Difficult to get logged into the meeting and got disconnected.
• Missed feeling I was part of group/community. This did not feel much
different than listening to CSPN TV history lectures.

- The lack of a classroom atmosphere.
- In person is always best...but this worked great.
- I found displays of the images of a couple of the participants distracting.

Lots of good information here for our staff, board and programming committee to ponder as we move forward to best serve you.

Scherry Barra
Director

For obvious reasons, our 2020 Annual Member Meeting was cancelled. But, our members have spoken. Over the past two weeks, the returns trickled in, and thanks to your participation, Osher will have a new Board as of May 18.

**HAIL**

The members, all of whom have agreed to serve are:

President, Scott Langhorst
Vice President, John McLaughlin
Immediate Past President, John Anderson
Treasurer, Frank Wood
Secretary, Elizabeth Keller
Program Chair, Ann Teske
Hospitality Chair, Kathy McLaughlin
Director at Large, Tim McPherson
Director at Large, Mike Kerley
Director at Large, Debbie Misiag

**FAREWELL**

After completing their service as directors, the following members of our 2019-2020 Board the following volunteers will be leaving the Board:

Gordon Bratz
Jo Ann Gora
Harry Haynsworth
Ed McMahon
Jim O’Reardon
Jim Rettig
Mark Smith
Leonard Taubman
Clive Van Orden

Speaking for our Osher members, we thank them for the contribution of their time, effort, and expertise on behalf of our Osher community.

Osher is a volunteer organization. With the exception of Scherry and our staff who are devoted to making Osher work, it’s all volunteers. Our instructors volunteer their time and expertise. Our committee members work behind the scenes to provide for constant improvement, and our classroom assistants help ensure that classes run smoothly. Please consider volunteering, and please join in extending our thanks to them all.

John Anderson
Osher President

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**A Fond Au Revoir From Deborah Corkey-Corber**

To my dear friends and colleagues,

Ever since my arrival in Williamsburg in 1996, the Christopher Wren Association became an integral part of my life. I discovered the classes and was hooked on this idea of life-long learning immediately. After attending a few classes, I decided to volunteer to teach a class on French history. There was some discussion in the beginning as to whether or not a high school teacher would be able to offer interesting classes, but that idea was soon dispelled and off I went. For the next 25 years, I took many classes with particular interest in history and literature, I taught classes on Provence, Paris and various periods of French history. I was asked to serve on the Board twice and became the Chairperson of Social Events serving for over 6 years. What an honor and privilege it has been to serve on behalf of you all. Christopher Wren and now Osher became a most important part of my social and intellectual life and I so appreciate the many friendships that were formed along the way. I thank the office staff for their countless hours supporting my teaching and the many theater trips and tours I was able to lead. These social events allowed me to get to know even more of the fantastic members of the Association for which I am most grateful. Now, I enter another chapter of my life in Charlottesville where I am near family. I shall most certainly look to get involved once again in Osher Life-Long Learning here at the University of Virginia. I know it will not be the same, as the Christopher Wren Association, is still one of the best opportunities in Williamsburg, but I hope to find interesting classes and perhaps once again volunteer to teach. I shall miss you all, but hope our paths cross when you come a little west on Route 64.
I would love to have you drop in for a visit. Many thanks and until we meet again!

Au Revoir!

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**In Memoriam**

We are sad to inform you that our long-time photography instructor, Norm Rictor, has passed away. His family will hold a ceremony in Baltimore after it is safe to travel and gather.

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**Thank You to All Our Volunteers!**

The Osher Institute Appreciates all our volunteers: those who served as hosts and class assistants, helped in our office, taught courses and served on our board and committees.

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**Spring 2020 Hosts and Class Assistants**

Al Cummins  
Alan Cummins  
Albert Davis  
Ann Teske  
Anne Collins  
Anne Hart  
Barbara Thomason  
Bentley Gregg  
Beth White  
Bill Christensen  
Bob Spencer  
Brenda Abbott  
Carol Ball  
Carol Shutt  
Carolyn Glendening  
Catherine Davis  

Lynn Dievendorf  
Margaret Peterson  
Marilyn Hamly  
Marilynn Harned  
Mark Hunt  
Mark Prosser  
Marla Boren  
Mary Alice Joss  
Mary Beth Fager  
Mary Dalton  
Mary Garrett  
Mary Huber  
Mary Hunt  
Mary Meagher  
Mary Minor  
Mary Schafrik
Catherine Sanderson
Catherine Sheedy
Cheryl Sanford
Clement Brown
Daniel Sanford
Daphne Kinkel
David Ross
Deborah DeBacco
Deborah Misiag
Dee Zarnowski
Diana O'Connell
Donna Powell
Dorothy Barat
Dorothy House
Ed Peterson
Edward McMahon
Edwin Thomas III
Elizabeth Guiliano
Elizabeth Keller
Ellen Spore
Ellen Swan
Helen McCormack
Jacelyn Polizzi
James Carey
James Heller
Jan Sarmiere
Janet Savage
Jean Scott
Jim Bowers
Jim Lockard
Jim McCormack
Jim Rettig
JoAnn Gora
Joe Cross
John Dyer
John VandeSand
Joseph Sell
Judith Leasure
Karen McPherson
Karen Thomas
Kathy Schoonmaker
Kerry Johnson
Melissa Puttre
Michael Halladay
Michael Harbin
Michael Richardson
Nancy Bolash
Nancy Greene
Patricia Gallagher
Patricia Vaughan
Patricia Volp
Peg Becker
Peter Burke
Peter Henderson
Peter Schoonmaker
Philip Horbert
Phoebe Kent
Ralph Simmons
Ray Morgan
Robert Ambrose
Robert Dennis
Robert Lund
Robert Stoegbauer
Robin Church
Rodney Stone
Rudi Laarhoven
Rudy Knepper
Ruurdje Laarhoven
Sandy Menaquale
Scott Orr
Sean Fitzpatrick
Stephen Bickham
Stephen Fedosick
Steven Ralph
Susan Bivins
Susan Delano
Susan Gregg
Susan Knepper
Suzanne Wagner
Terry Cavanaugh
Thomas Hale
Virginia Cranford
Virginia Silva
Walter Morrison
Advertise in Our Fall Catalog

Care to promote your business or know someone who would? Contact the Osher office for more information. Please note your ad and contract with credit card payment or check are due May 15. Call us with any questions, 221-1506.

Update Your Mailing Address

Now is the time to update us on any changes to your mailing addresses. We are starting to plan our fall semester and want to ensure that you receive your catalog when it comes out later this summer. For any questions on how to update your information you can call us at 757-221-1506 or email us at osher@wm.edu

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What's New at W&M

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