Welcome to Fall Activities

Dear Fellow Learners,

Somehow, I never get over the feeling that September is a beginning. Ever since I started grammar school with a new school bag (now backpack) and sharpened pencils, September has felt that way. As our Fall semester begins, I would like to start with a welcome, and an acknowledgment of our gratitude for the bounty of learning opportunities that our Osher Institute has set before us.

Thanks for our instructors who share their knowledge and experience. As a former teacher, I am well aware of the hours of study and planning that go into each session of a course. And thanks for our members who volunteer in our classrooms, on our committees, and as members of our board. Thanks for our staff who work, usually behind the curtain, to keep things running smoothly. Thanks too for Wayne and Ruth Kernoodle whose time and devotion to lifelong learning created what is now our Osher Institute. And, finally, I am thankful that we are now the lifelong
learning element of William & Mary. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

It is a wonderful feeling to be excited by the beginning of a new “school year.” Kathleen and I loved going through the new Fall semester catalog, and seeing the great variety of course offerings, some, but not all, of which we will be able to take. That was like trying to select from a great dessert menu. And now, the anticipation of attending classes, learning about things that interest us, and sharing the learning experiences with classmates fuels our imaginations and enriches our conversations.

I have such respect and admiration for people like you: instructors who use past experiences to inform and enrich our learning-lives and members who are enthusiastic about the array of learning and social opportunities we offer.

Keep learning today and tomorrow, and looking to the future.

President John Anderson

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**Fall Semester Underway, But Still Time to Register!**

Our Fall semester of 177 courses, one-time lectures and activities (including Town and Gown Noon Lecture Series), got underway August 28 with a fabulous live rehearsal of Bizet’s, *The Pearl Fishers* by the performers of the Opera in Williamsburg. But the other learning activities don’t kick off until September 9th or later. The semester ends December 6th.

There is still time to become a Regular member and register for up to eight courses, plus an unlimited number of one-time lectures and activities (including the Town and Gown Noon Lecture Series). Or purchase an Associate member and enroll in Town & Gown Noon Lecture Series.
How to Register

Follow this link for step by step instructions:
www.wm.edu/osher

You will receive confirmation of your enrollments and a Wait List notification if your course is oversubscribed.

September 9 Deadline

That’s the deadline for refunds of the membership fee. Please send a written request with brief explanation to osher@wm.edu or to William & Mary, Osher Institute at W&M, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795.

Changes to Fall Catalog

Activities

Page 7 - Meditative Yoga as Preventative/Supplemental Medicine, Madhur Hans. Date changed from 10/22/19 to 10/21/19.

Page 7 - Meditative Yoga Practice Workshop, Madhur Hans. Date changed from 10/15/19 to 9/23/19.

Page 7 - Meditative Yoga Practice Workshop – Madhur Hans. This has been canceled.

Page 9 - Vinyl Lives! - Edward Chambers. This has been canceled.

Courses

Page 14 - From Page to Stage: Musicals Based on Literary Works, Melissa Puttre. Add “Part III” to title.

Page 15 - Let’s Sing Opera, Nancy Burstein. Room 154 (Dates and times remain the same).

Page 15 - The Genius of Bill Evans, David Hamilton. Room 154 (Dates and times remain the same).

Page 16 - The Road to Broadway, Melissa Puttre. Add “Part II” to title.


Page 43 - **The Dead Sea Scrolls**, Glenn Markus. Revised course description: On the western shore of the Dead Sea, about eight miles south of Jericho, lies a complex of ruins known as Khirbet Qumran. The site occupies one of the lowest locations on Earth. At this location were found more than 900 ancient individual documents that shook the world of biblical studies. Known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, the documents contain not only the oldest copies of the Bible, but also Jewish texts that date from the 3rd century B.C. through Rome’s catastrophic war with Judea in the 1st century A.D.

**One-Time Lectures**

Page 36 - **Pearl Harbor Attack Spies, Dupes, and Traitors**, Thomas Kimmel. *This has been cancelled.*

Page 36 - **Precious Nonsense: The Operas of Gilbert and Sullivan**, Ken Krantz. Corrected Course Description: For more than 50 years, the student-run Sinfonicron Light Opera Company has presented Gilbert and Sullivan operas and Broadway musicals to the Williamsburg community. This lecture examines the history, plot, and music of the company’s January 2020 production. There will also be an overview of Thomas Nelson Community College’s Summer 2020 G&S production.

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**New Name, Same Mission**

Don’t miss this online exclusive article by William and Mary about the Osher Institute and the late co-founders Wayne and Ruth Kernodle. Click below to learn more about how our program was started and future goals:
A new instructor orientation, hosted by John McLaughlin, Program chair, welcomed 19 new instructors last month. They heard teaching tips and received other valuable resources. They bring new horizons to our learning endeavors. We deeply appreciate their willingness to share their knowledge with our members.

From left to right: Karen Thomas, Jack Miley, Janice Hathaway, Bernie Henderson, Marilyn Younger, Stan Rockwell, Meredith Poole, Roseanne Reddin, Nancy Burstein, Ray Funkhouser and Thomas Redmond.

An Osher hangtag must be displayed in vehicles parked on the Thomas Nelson Community College and W&M campuses when parking at Kaplan Arena to attend classes at these W&M buildings: Andrews Hall, Integrated Science Center, Kaplan Arena, Morton Hall, School of Education, Small Hall, Swem Library, Tucker Hall and the Sadler Center.

Complete the vehicle registration form on Page 60 of the 2019 Fall catalog or obtain one at the W&M Office of Parking Services on 201 Ukrop Way. A separate form is required for each driver who attends classes. The cost is $14 for the academic year (September 2019-June 2020).

Members with a displayed DMV handicap parking permit and an Osher parking hangtag may park in any W&M faculty, staff or metered parking space on campus at no additional charge.

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**Transport To and From Classes**

The WATA Green Line Shuttle routes and stops will not change, however there is a possibility of times changing by a few minutes. For the most up to date schedule, please click the below link.

[WATA Green Line Schedule](#)

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**Make Our Osher World Go**

Our world couldn’t go ‘round without volunteers—many in fact. They set out cookies, put away AV equipment, write articles and take photos for this newsletter, assist our office staff, among other critical and very valued tasks.

We need—and will deeply appreciate—your help. Give us a call at (757) 221-1506 or, better yet, come by to visit us at 5300 Discovery Park Blvd, Rooms 111-112.

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**Immigrants: Have We**
Learned from Our Past?

Bill Fetsko, author and retired educator, teaches the history of immigration in America in a course that begins October 21. Photo by Mary Meagher.

Article by Mary Meagher, PR and Marketing Committee.

Winston Churchill is purported to have said, “Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” This is the quote that Bill Fetsko told me is a source of his inspiration for his six-session course, “United States Immigration: An Historical Perspective,” that begins on October 21. The other source is his own background as a grandchild of immigrants and growing up with neighbors from Italy and Eastern Europe.

Have we learned from the past? According to Bill, we can trace how we got here through past government actions and responses to people entering our borders. But the deeper question he asks is whether “as individuals have we taken the time to acquaint ourselves with how the U.S. arrived at this stage?” For meaningful discussion on this topic, it is important to understand the history of immigration and the policies that impacted it, Bill also notes. “The focus of my presentation is to provide a historical overview of past actions as they relate to immigration from the mid-1800s to the present time. My intent is to try and move the current debate forward in a more positive and responsible manner.”

Immigration is a major theme of a program Bill taught at the Colonial Williamsburg Summer Teaching Institute for several years. He has a doctorate from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He worked in public education for 35 years in both teaching and administrative capacities. He authored or co-authored a number of educational related articles including a textbook entitled, “Participation in Government: Making A Difference.”

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First-time Instructor Speaks

By Gordon Bratz, PR & Marketing Committee
New to us last fall, Dawn Brotherton, award-winning author of *The Road to Publishing*, recently told me about her experiences as a first-time instructor. Some were good, and some were not-so-good.

“I volunteered because there are a lot of promising writers out there, and they don’t know where to get started. I was delighted to be accepted,” she said. “However, learning about Osher didn’t happen until very recently. My husband and I both retired from the Air Force and moved here in 2006. We hadn’t seen any advertising; we don’t subscribe to the *Virginia Gazette.*” When asked how she did learn about us, she replied, “I happened to be interviewing one of your instructors this summer for something completely different, and he told me about Osher. I love the concept and applied right away.”

I asked her to talk about her course. “The participants were attentive, engaging, and willing learners; I enjoyed them,” she said. “My first day was a bit shaky, however. The classroom assistant didn’t bring the teaching materials to me until half-way through the first two-hour session. And only 10 of the 18 members who signed-up actually attended. That may have been because the walk from the nearest parking lot was a haul, especially for the older crowd. But the classroom was very nice and modern.”

When asked if she would teach for Osher again, she was upbeat. “Certainly. But if I could wave a magic wand, I’d like a classroom that is near a member-authorized parking area,” she added with a grin. I assured her that we try our best to accommodate instructors and members alike. She said, “Yours is a great program. Not only am I going to sign up to teach again, my husband and I are going to sign up for classes in the fall.”

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**Native Virginian Talks Slavery**

*Bill Sizemore, Osher instructor, author, former journalist. Photo by Mary Meagher.*

*Article by Mary Meagher, PR and Marketing Committee*
Bill Sizemore never imagined that his research into his family’s history with slavery would forever enrich his life as much as it has. He has come to know a wonderful extended family that descended from two generations of his ancestors’ slaves and took the family’s surname after emancipation. He talked about this in his lecture, “Overcoming Amnesia: Uncovering the Truth about a Family’s Role in Slavery,” based on his book, *Uncle George and Me: Two Southern Families Confront a Shared Legacy of Slavery*.

Bill said, “My research deepened my knowledge of African-American history. Growing up in the segregated South, that was a vast hole in my education. In particular, I learned the true story of Reconstruction, a little-studied and little-understood period of our history. My most amazing discovery was that Uncle George Sizemore, my No. 1 source, is only one generation removed from slavery. His father was born a slave in 1858. Uncle George was in his 90s when we met, and his memory is still sharp at age 99. I spent many pleasant hours listening to his stories.”

I asked Bill what he wants those who hear his lecture to think about. He said, “My hope is that sharing this story will contribute toward a needed national conversation across racial lines about slavery and its toxic legacy, which still endures today. That requires telling the truth about the past and overcoming the historical amnesia that too often has blotted it out. I’ve found that my audiences are hungry to talk about it. The Q&A at the end is always lively and thought-provoking.”

A native Virginian, Bill spent most of his career with *The Virginian-Pilot* and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

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**Host, Class Assistant, & Instructor Training**

From August 26 to 29 we held training sessions for our classroom hosts and assistants--member volunteers who
set out refreshments and put away AV equipment, and make needed announcements. We also held instructor training on how to operate the equipment during class. The sessions were held at TNCC, the Discovery classroom and at on-campus locations, including the Kaplan Arena. Training at W&M’s School of Education is next (on September 5th). Thank you to all who participated!

Director Scherry Barra provides AV training to our instructors and class assistants in Small Hall. Photo by Carrie Kelley.

Administrative Coordinator Carrie Lehman provides host training in our Discovery classroom. Photo by Ann Covington.

NOTICE

We’ve received compliments about the interviews in recent issues. So too have we gotten complaints about the added length of the newsletter.

Thus, beginning in October, instructor interviews will appear on our website. For more interviews, follow this link: www.wm.edu/osopher.
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