


Bigelow Center Lifelong Learners are
pleased to present

Lifelong Learners

Spring 2026
April 13th to May 8th

Live In-Person at Bigelow

Bigelow Center for Senior Activities
100 Mona Terrace
Fairfield CT 06824
(203) 256-3166



LIFELONG LEARNERS PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Lifelong Learners is a not-for-profit community-based organization for those who share a love of learning. The program is presented by the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities in cooperation with the Town of Fairfield. You do not need to be a Fairfield resident to participate.

If not already done, please fill out the new membership application at www.fairfieldct.org/bigelow/membership. After doing this online and submitting it, visit or call the Center at (203) 256-3166 to obtain your updated key tag code (free for Fairfield residents, \$25 for out-of-town members).

With your verified key tag code in hand, go online to www.myactivecenter.com and create or access your account. Scroll to LLL courses, pick your choices, put them in the cart, and pay with your credit card.

If you do not wish or are unable to pay online, you may mail or drop off a check to the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities after you've registered for the courses you wish to take on www.myactivecenter.com. All payments must be received before spring classes begin on April 13th.

The form at the end of this brochure is only for those not paying online.

SPRING 2026
April 13 - May 8

REFRAMING THE CANVAS: FAMOUS WOMEN ARTISTS

Scott Verchin — 10:00 to Noon

Monday, April 13

STRIVERS AND THRIVERS

Diane Stone — 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Monday, April 13, 20, 27, & May 4

**FIVE AUTHORS: JANE AUSTEN, ELIZABETH & ROBERT BROWNING,
LOUISA MAY ALCOTT, AND BEATRIX POTTER**

Mona Garcia — 10:00 to Noon

Tuesday, April 14, 21, 28, & May 5

**CHINA & JAPAN: HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL
RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO EAST ASIAN POWERHOUSES**

Mito Mardin — 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Tuesday, April 14, 21, 28, & May 5

CONNECTICUT INNOVATION AND INDUSTRY

Art Gottlieb — 10:00 to Noon

Thursday, April 16, 23, 30, & May 7

FOUR MORE VIENNESE OPERETTAS

David Shafer — 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Thursday, April 16, 23, 30, & May 7

AMERICAN HUMOR

Dr. Benjamin B. Schwartz — 10:00 to Noon

Friday, April 17, 24, May 1, & 8

POETRY FOR PROSE WRITERS

Carol Ann Davis — 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Friday, April 17, 24, May 1, & 8

REFRAMING THE CANVAS: FAMOUS WOMEN ARTISTS

\$15

Scott Verchin

Monday, April 13
Times: 10:00 to Noon

Women artists have been integral to art history, yet their contributions have often been overlooked or undervalued compared to those of their male counterparts. That said, over the years, many groundbreaking artists like Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, Georgia O’Keeffe, Sonia Delaunay, Helen Frankenthaler, Emily Carr, Barbara Hepworth were responsible for the birth and growth of several avant-garde movements. Many of these artists, from Europe to the Americas, introduced new forms, challenged norms, and combined traditional themes with modernist aesthetics. This course will focus on the work and legacy of these artists.

Scott Verchin is an independent business consultant, focusing on the visual arts and museum sectors. Throughout his career, Scott has served such notable roles as publisher of both *Museum* and *Archeology* magazines. He has also been a contributor to *Art Market* magazine covering US exhibitions. As a lifelong patron of the arts Scott has frequented art museums and galleries on five different continents.

STRIVERS AND THRIVERS

\$30

Diane Stone

**Monday, April 13, 20, 27, & May 4;
1:00 to 3:00 PM**

Learn about some of the Holocaust survivors who have made incredible contributions to the world. Meet people like Dr. Ruth, Marcel Marceau, Carl Laemmle, Bill Graham and more.

Diane Stone has a Masters degree in European History from University of Michigan. She has taught Lifelong Learners for over 15 years uniting European History and leisure travel.

**FIVE AUTHORS:
JANE AUSTEN, ELIZABETH & ROBERT
BROWNING, LOUISA MAY ALCOTT,
AND BEATRIX POTTER
\$30**

Mona Garcia

**Tuesday, April 14, 21, 28, & May 5;
10:00 to Noon**

This course focuses on the fascinating life and work of these icons of English language prose & poetry. They succeeded to be read and celebrated in their own times and to this very day.

Mona Garcia has a PhD degree in history and has taught European History at the college level and published articles on English History.

**CHINA & JAPAN:
HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT
POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO EAST
ASIAN POWERHOUSES.**

\$30

Mito Mardin

**Tuesday, April 14, 21, 28, & May 5;
1:00 to 3:00 PM**

This course focuses on the history and cultural background of the two nations and their implications for the #2 and #4 economies of the world in regards to current geopolitical developments.

Mithat “Mito” Mardin PhD was born in Istanbul, Turkey. He received a PhD in Organic Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology from the University of Göttingen in Germany. He worked at Bayer Pharmaceuticals on three continents (Europe, Japan/ Asia Pacific and the US) for 37 years, retiring as Vice President. He has served as President of the Japan Society of Fairfield County. Mito has taught Lifelong learners for many years, sharing his knowledge of the European Union, US economy, Islam and current world affairs and geopolitics.

CONNECTICUT INNOVATION AND INDUSTRY \$30

Art Gottlieb

**Thursday, April 16, 23, 30, & May 7;
10:00 to Noon**

This course will highlight Connecticut's historic accomplishments in innovation and industry. Connecticut enterprises have taken advantage of the decisive advantages of our state: an educated workforce, energy resources and access to transportation and the sea. We will focus on: Colt Firearms, Sikorski Aircraft, Electric Boat Company, and Waterbury Clock Company.

Mr. Gottlieb is a local lecturer on subjects of American history, themes of regional historical interest as well as topics of psychological insight and healing. While a professional curator of naval history and Technical Director of Exhibits at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum in NYC, Mr. Gottlieb worked extensively with veterans of all services creating exhibits illustrating the history of 20th century political and military action. Mr. Gottlieb currently maintains private practice as a Psychotherapist and Certified Senior Advisor.

FOUR MORE VIENNESE OPERETTAS

\$30

David Shafer

**Thursday, April 16, 23, 30, & May 7;
1:00 to 3:00 PM**

Oliver Twist famously said “please sir, I want some more”. We know that feeling. You loved the January classes at the Bigelow on “Four Viennese Operettas” But now it is done...Finished...Over...And you want some more...Sigh...But wait...There is some more! Four more Viennese operettas, with all the singing, dancing, humor, love, and lighthearted fun that you liked the first time, but with 4 different selections.

Dave Shafer has been a frequent presenter at the Bigelow Center for many years on a wide variety of topics. His main passion is opera (people die) and operettas (nobody dies). He is multi-talented and full of surprises.

AMERICAN HUMOR

\$30

Dr. Benjamin B. Schwartz

**Friday, April 17, 24, May 1, & 8;
10:00 to Noon**

This course will cover the history of American humor from tall tales to TikTok, with an emphasis on the dynamic nature of what is funny to Americans.

Benjamin Schwartz is a proud Fairfield native who holds a BA in American Studies from Brown University, an MA in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University, and a PhD in English from Vanderbilt University. He currently teaches in the English Department at Fairfield University, with a focus on American literature, African American Literature, Popular Music, and Humor in the United States.

POETRY FOR PROSE WRITERS

\$30

Carol Ann Davis

**Friday, April 17, 24, May 1, & 8;
1:00 to 3:00 PM**

Poetry for Prose Writers is a workshop designed to explore the ways in which poetry enhances one's life. This workshop is designed to unlock your experiences into language, and to introduce you to the ways in which poetry might enhance your experience of the world. In each session we will read a bit, generate a bit of poetry ourselves, and explore whatever resistances or opportunities might emerge from provided readings and discussion. This workshop applies to avid readers looking to study poetry more deeply or someone who occasionally writes poems or curious beginners.

Carol Ann Davis is a poet, essayist, and author. She is Professor of English at Fairfield University. A National Endowments for the Arts Fellow in Poetry, Carol Ann has read her work at the Library of Congress, Poets House, on the website of the PBS NewsHour, and at the Los Angeles Times Book Festival. In addition to her published collections, her work regularly appears in literary magazines and periodicals.

**2024 Spring Registration – Each Course is \$30,
except for one \$10.00 single class.**

**(A \$25 registration fee is valid September through
June for those not residing in Fairfield).**

Name_____

Telephone_____

Address_____

Email_____

Town_____ Zip_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Registration Fee (valid September-June for out-of-town participants). \$25.00

of Courses_____ x 30.00 = \$_____

of Courses_____ x 15.00 = \$_____

Total Due & Enclosed..... = \$_____

THIS FORM ONLY FOR THOSE NOT PAYING ONLINE

**2024 Spring Registration – Each Course is \$30,
except for one \$10.00 single class.**

**(A \$25 registration fee is valid September through
June for those not residing in Fairfield).**

Name_____

Telephone_____

Address_____

Email_____

Town_____ Zip_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Course Title_____

Registration Fee (valid September-June for out-of-town participants). \$25.00

of Courses_____ x 30.00 = \$_____

of Courses_____ x 15.00 = \$_____

Total Due & Enclosed..... = \$_____

THIS FORM ONLY FOR THOSE NOT PAYING ONLINE

**The Bigelow Center
for Senior Activities**
100 Mona Terrace
Fairfield, CT 06824

*The Fairfield Senior Center
is a program of the
Town of Fairfield*