OLLI at UMass Boston – 2024 Summer Programs

The OLLI Office is creating opportunities for all members (and future members!) to stay engaged during the summer. Most programs will be held via Zoom, with some in-person opportunities being planned as well. All programs are free and open to members, former members, and nonmembers alike.

Summer events and programs are on a first-come, first-served basis. Members are encouraged to use the OLLI online registration system to sign up for these events. Sign-in using your OLLI username and password. Once you are logged in, all summer events will be listed under the Course section (look for Other Programs). Your username and password are still active even if your membership has expired. Not an OLLI member? Please email (ollireg@gmail.com) or call (617.287.7312) the OLLI office with the program titles you would like to register for. Zoom details for online summer events will be sent to participants the day prior to the program.

Summer Schedule of Events At-A-Glance

Please note the location of each program (in-person or online) is listed after the event date.

- Making Waves: Capturing the beauty of water in watercolor. Tuesday, August 6 – online
- Disinformation, Misinformation—Finding the Truth. Wednesday, August 7 – online
- The Coolest Place in Boston: Boston Harbor. Wednesday, August 7 – in-person
- New Narratives: Contemporary Works on Paper. Thursday, August 8 – online
- Geopolitics, Lessons From the Cold War, and the Way Forward. Wednesday, August 14 – online
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Boston's Theatres. Thursday, August 15 – in-person
- Colors of Kyoto: The Seifū Yohei Ceramic Studio. Monday, August 19 – online
- Gesture Drawing: Capturing the movement of people. Tuesday, August 20 – online
- 15,000 Years of Candles. Thursday, August 22 – in-person
- Birding at Wompatuck State Park. Friday, August 23 – in-person
- Summer Book Discussion: The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. Monday, August 26 – in-person
- Summer Book Discussion: The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. Wednesday, August 28 – online

Learning For The Love Of It! – About OLLI at UMass Boston

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UMass Boston is an inclusive, member-powered organization that offers educational and cultural programs to inspire adult learners ages 50+. Our non-credit courses are taught by volunteers, and there is no homework, tests, or grades. The organization is funded by The Bernard Osher Foundation and is part of a nationwide network of 124 OLLI programs. At UMass Boston, OLLI is housed in the Gerontology Institute, a part of the Manning College for Nursing and Health Sciences. For more information, please visit our website (www.umb.edu/olli) or contact our office via email (ollireg@gmail.com).

Making Waves: Capturing the beauty of water in watercolor

Tuesday, August 6, 10:00 a.m.–12 noon, online via Zoom

This workshop is for anyone interested in learning how to effectively capture the essence of the ocean in watercolor painting. We will examine the value structure of the ocean to realistically show the vastness of space in your paintings. Additionally, there will be a live demonstration of a step-by-step painting of a cresting
wave. Students will have time to paint from reference photos projected on the computer screen as well as from their own inspirational images. All levels are welcome. This workshop is taught entirely online through the Zoom platform. Presenter: Kate Nordstrom is an artist and art educator in Barrington, Rhode Island. Her passion for art started in childhood and has remained an important part of her life. Her most recent work details the ruggedness of the New England coastline, the majestic beauty of NE lighthouses, and the California landscape/architecture. Kate is thrilled to be teaching with OLLI. She is thrilled to be teaching at OLLI.

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Disinformation, Misinformation—Finding the Truth
Wednesday, August 7, 9–11:30 a.m. (OLLI at Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series live-stream online)
Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan is often credited with the observation that “Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts,” and 40 years ago, when Moynihan popularized this quip, it was generally accepted. No longer. Especially since the rise of social media and the 2016 election, there has been increasing recognition that facts themselves have become a battleground, amid widespread disinformation (that is, the often viral circulation of falsehoods) and misinformation (the intentional promulgation of untruths) are considered epidemic by many. Our conversation about this will consider how prevalent the problems really are, what practical difference they are making, including in our politics, how the press has been responding (for both better and worse), how these phenomena in America interact with similar issues elsewhere, and what might be done to get us back closer to Moynihan’s vision. Speakers: Richard Tofel is the principal of Gallatin Advisory LLC and author of the newsletter Second Rough Draft. He was the founding general manager (and first employee) of ProPublica from 2007-2012, and its president from 2013 until 2021. As president, he had responsibility for all of ProPublica’s non-journalism operations, including communications, legal, development, finance and budgeting, and human resources. During the period of Tofel’s business leadership, ProPublica published stories that won seven Pulitzer Prizes. Brandy Zadrozny is an award-winning digital and television investigative and features reporter for NBC News where she covers disinformation, extremism, and the internet. She is a former research fellow at the Technology and Social Change Project at Harvard Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, and host of the NBC News' podcast, “Tiffany Dover is Dead.” Joel Simon is the founding director of the Journalism Protection Initiative. Simon began his career as a journalist in Latin America, before joining the Committee to Protect Journalists in 1998. He served as CPJ executive director from 2006 to 2021. In 2022 Simon was a Fellow at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University, and also Senior Research Fellow at Knight First Amendment Institute, also at Columbia. He is the author of four books, most recently The Infodemic: How Censorship and Lies Made the World Sicker and Less Free, co-authored with Robert Mahoney. He writes regularly on press freedom issues for The New Yorker and Columbia Journalism Review and many other publications.
The Coolest Place in Boston: Boston Harbor
Wednesday, August 7, 4–5:00 p.m., in-person at the South Boston Branch of the BPL
*Note* – This is the same presentation given earlier this summer at the Thomas Crane Library in Quincy.
The ninety-degree days have come! How are you going to beat the heat? Head for the water of Boston Harbor! But isn’t that water dirty? Not like it used to be! But how do you even get out there? Let me tell you! In this presentation, Genny Peterson will highlight the clean-up and the resulting charms of visiting Boston Harbor in the 21st century. With the insight of a non-native New Englander who has spent over a decade giving historical tours on the harbor as well as serving as crew on several commuter boats, Genny will break down the range of harbor sites of interest and how to get there: from downtown Boston and its most historic sites to the most remote parts of Boston you can visit - its Harbor Islands. Where is the coolest place in Boston? The cooling winds and the calming waves of its harbor. Presenter: Genny Peterson’s favorite place in the Greater Boston area is Boston Harbor, a place where she can get away from the hustle and bustle and feel the familiar simple joy of being on the water. Genny grew up on Lake Chautauqua in WNY. She came to Massachusetts in 2007 for college. In 2020 she graduated with an MA in History from UMass Boston. Between her undergraduate and graduate education, she began narrating historical tours on boats out of Long Wharf. She also drove and narrated with Duck Tours in 2017. In addition to her current position as program coordinator at OLLI at UMass Boston, she works as a deckhand with Bay State Cruises.

New Narratives: Contemporary Works on Paper
Thursday, August 8, 10:30–11:45 a.m., online via Zoom
This session will focus on the special exhibition New Narratives: Contemporary Works on Paper, which explores the myriad ways in which contemporary artists use storytelling to engage the imagination, scrutinize the past, and envision the future. Comprised entirely of prints and drawings, the exhibition features many recent acquisitions to the CMA’s collection. Pervading the works on view is an interest in narrative, whether fiction or nonfiction, personal, cultural, or mythic. Artists in the exhibition utilize history, people, or events; biographies of known or often unknown people; and various media juxtapositions to layer the past and the present day. Presenter: Arielle Levine of the Cleveland Art Museum teaches students all around the world during video conferences in the museum’s Distance Learning Program. She has a degree in art history from Case Western Reserve University and has been with the museum’s education department for over 15 years.

Geopolitics, Lessons From the Cold War, and the Way Forward
Wednesday, August 14, 9–11:30 a.m. (OLLI at Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series live-stream online)
This session will start with the geopolitical cards dealt to the United States, Russia, and China. While the United States and its partners and allies are attempting to maintain a maritime global order to foster trade, China and Russia are great continental powers increasingly fixated on dominating territory. These differences have precipitated a Second Cold War. The second section will examine how the democracies won the First Cold War without fighting a hot war by turning to the conclusions of those on both sides who oversaw its end. The final section will suggest some possible ways forward based on the geopolitical hand that the United States holds, the potential strategies that such a hand can support, and the strategies that proved most fruitful the last time around. Speaker: Sally Paine is William S. Sims University Professor of History and Grand Strategy in the Strategy & Policy Department of the U.S. Naval War
College. Nine years of research in Australia, China, Japan, Russia, and Taiwan form the basis for her publications. Her degrees include: BA Latin American Studies, Harvard University; MIA Columbia University School for International and Public Affairs; certificates from both the East Asian and Russian Institutes; MA Russian, Middlebury College; and PhD history, Columbia University. She is currently working on a history of the Cold War from 1917-1991, and three edited books on fleets in being, sanctions, and World War II Pacific.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Boston's Theatres**
**Thursday, August 15, 1:30–3:00 p.m., in-person at the Calderwood Pavilion**

Many members have enjoyed the theatre outings that OLLI has sponsored over the past 18 years. These performances not only entertain theatre goers, but also educate folks on several historic and timely issues. OLLI has partnered with Art & Soul Consulting to create a program that explores the explosion of equity, diversity, and inclusion work in the Boston theatre scene following the racial reckoning of 2020. This 90-minute panel discussion will feature local theatre industry professionals taking a dive into how the work started, what progress has been made, what challenges remain, and more. The discussion will be moderated by Kira Troilo, the founder of Art & Soul Consulting. Kira and her team offer a bridge-building approach to equity, diversity and inclusion for the arts. SpeakEasy Stage, whose shows OLLI has attended regularly, is one of Kira’s clients.

**Colors of Kyoto: The Seifū Yohei Ceramic Studio**
**Monday, August 19, 1:30–2:45 p.m., online via Zoom**

This session will focus on the special exhibition *Colors of Kyoto: The Seifū Yohei Ceramic Studio*, which showcases works in porcelain and stoneware made by the Kyoto-based studio of Seifū Yohei from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. The exhibition is the first in North America to comprehensively examine the studio’s output from the time of its founder, Seifū Yohei I (1801–1861), through that of its fourth-generation head, Seifū Yohei IV (1871–1951). *Colors of Kyoto* features works by members of the Seifū family that reflect both the ceramics culture of Kyoto, an ancient city and former capital of Japan, as well as the artists’ engagement with Chinese forms and techniques as an alternative way to bring Japanese porcelain into the modern era at a time when Western cultures were leaving a major mark in Japan. **Presenter:** Arielle Levine of the Cleveland Art Museum teaches students all around the world during video conferences in the museum’s Distance Learning Program. She has a degree in art history from Case Western Reserve University and has been with the museum’s education department for over 15 years.

**Gesture Drawing: Capturing the movement of people**
**Tuesday, August 20, 10:00 a.m.–12 noon, online via Zoom**

This workshop is for anyone interested in learning how to draw the human figure in motion. Through quick “gestural” drawings, students will focus on capturing the essence of the figure in motion while paying attention to accurate proportions. This is a fast-paced workshop where students are challenged to draw quick studies ranging from 1 minute to 15 minutes in order to capture general gestures and movement. There will not be a live model. Instead, students will draw from reference photos projected on the computer screen. All levels are welcome. This workshop is taught entirely online through the Zoom platform. **Presenter:** Kate Nordstrom is an artist and art educator in Barrington, Rhode Island. Her passion for art started in childhood and has remained an important part of her life. Her most recent work details the ruggedness of the New England coastline, the majestic beauty of NE lighthouses, and the California landscape/architecture. Kate is thrilled to be teaching with OLLI. She is thrilled to be teaching at OLLI.
15,000 Years of Candles
Thursday, August 22, 10:30–11:30 a.m., in-person at the Mt. Ida Campus in Newton

Candles - OK, so they will not become a major source of energy. But they have a fascinating 15,000-year history of lighting and lengthening our days, religious and romantic overtones, technological development, etc. The Catholic Church has used beeswax from virgin bees for candles since the 12th century. There is a lot of chemistry and physics behind the beauty and light of a candle flame. Michael Faraday, father of magnetism and electricity, delivered a series of 6 lectures on the “Chemistry History of Candles” at the Juvenile Academy of the Royal Institution Great Britain” during the Christmas holidays of 1861. Individual entrepreneurship has always played a major in the history of candles. A shy Massachusetts high school student melting crayons to make candles in his parent's basement created the $1.75 billion-dollar Yankee Candle Company - which still dominates the market. The major ingredient that sells candles is scent; you have to pick them up and smell them. Join us for a review of candles from stones filled with animal fat, burning oily candlefish on a stick, to today's soy wax candles with highly engineered woven and wooden wicks. **Presenter:** Gerald Geise is a Chemical Engineering graduate of Montana State University. He spent over 25 years in key management positions in the nuclear industry and lectures frequently on nuclear power issues. He has a lifelong hobby of making candles and has also given numerous presentations on the history of candles. Backyard chickens have also been in his life for over 20 years and he is now tackling giving a fascinating talk on cluckers (chickens).

Birding at Wompatuck State Park
Friday, August 23, 8:30–11:00 a.m., in-person at Wompatuck State Park, Hingham

**Meeting Place:** Visitor’s Center: 204 Union St., Hingham, MA 02043 (please arrive by 8:15 a.m.)

Join us for a morning of birding with Mass Audubon at one of the South Shore's largest conservation areas. Wompatuck State Park comprises 3,000 acres of Eastern transitional forest and various other habitats. Habitats include semiconserved oak-conifer transitional forest, hemlock groves, ponds, palustrine wooded swamps, and early successional shrubland. Wompatuck is quickly becoming recognized as an enormous migratory bird trap and is home to an abundance of breeding birds including many species deemed high conservation priority. **Tour leaders:** Steve French is a Field Teacher in the Southeast Region for Mass Audubon. Prior to working for Mass Audubon, Steve volunteered for the organization for over 10 years. He is a Mass Audubon Field Naturalist Certificate Program graduate and retired small business owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Hanover. Doug Lowry is the Senior Teacher/Naturalist for Mass Audubon's Southeast Region, a Senior Field Instructor for The National Outdoor Leadership School and a Master Educator for The Leave No Trace Program. To sweeten the deal, we’ll have some of Doug’s legendary home-baked scones on hand.
Join OLLI Reads this summer as we read the NY Times bestseller *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. A great summer read, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* is a vibrant, compassionate, and often humorous story about small-town secrets and a community intertwined of immigrants, African American people and centered around the Jewish-owned Heaven & Earth Grocery store. The story takes place in Pottstown, Pennsylvania in the mid-20s and 30s and is a murder mystery locked inside a Great American novel. The author, who is both African American and Jewish, explores what it means to be in a community and to live in the margins of "white" American. OLLI Reads is an initiative that is supported by the OLLI’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Along the way we will read and discuss various books in the hopes of having a better understanding of the world around us. OLLI Reads is open to all OLLI members and guests, and allows us to come together as a community reading and discussing the same book. We hope you will be part of our OLLI Reads.

**A few notes about a couple of our summer programs...**

**OLLI at Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series**

**America’s Role in Preserving Peace and Prosperity**

6 Wednesdays, July 10–August 14, 9:00–11:30 a.m., online/livestream

"America's Role in Preserving Peace and Prosperity" is a thought-provoking six-lecture series delving into the critical challenges facing the United States in maintaining global stability and economic well-being.

Session 1 (July 10) explores challenges to U.S. global leadership. In Session 2 (July 17), the focus shifts to the rising threat of authoritarianism worldwide. Session 3 (July 24) examines the pressing issue of climate change and its profound impact on global prosperity. Session 4 (July 31) delves into the complexities of the population crisis, including issues of immigration, migration, and refugees, and their implications for peace and stability. Session 5 (August 7) addresses the pervasive problem of disinformation and misinformation, exploring its impact on public discourse and the search for truth in a digital age. Finally, Session 6 (August 14) offers insights into the way forward, proposing strategies and solutions for America's continued role in fostering peace and prosperity on a global scale.

**Registration Notes:** For the OLLI Dartmouth Summer Lecture Series, participants will need to register individually for each session given the nature of how Dartmouth manages the livestream viewing details. OLLI members and nonmembers will register through OLLI at UMass Boston as they would for any other summer program. Registration closes at 8:00 a.m. the Monday before each Wednesday lecture. For those that have registered, a live-stream link (YouTube) will be sent out each Tuesday. PLEASE CHECK YOUR SPAM/JUNK FOLDERS! If you sign up for more than one lecture, you will receive a different link for each one.
Cleveland Art Museum (CMA) presents...

CMA Up Close – Innovations in Art Materials and Processes

This 4-session course will offer insights into the materials and processes that artists use in making art, as well as the methods museum professionals use to conserve and exhibit them. Hear perspectives on the materials, making, care, and display of art. Individual session topics include: the printmaking methods used by artists from 18th to 21st centuries; an in-depth look at the history and making of arms and armor; and how Japanese artists’ engagement with Chinese forms and techniques was used as an alternative way to bring Japanese porcelain into the modern era.

The following presentations will be provided online via Zoom. Participants must register individually for each session due to how the Zoom link for each is generated.

- July 8 – Fairy Tales and Fables: Illustration and Storytelling in Art
- July 23 – Fashion in Steel: Arms and Armor
- August 8 – New Narratives: Contemporary Works on Paper
- August 19 – Colors of Kyoto: The Seifū Yohei Ceramic Studio