



STONY BROOK  
UNIVERSITY

OSHER LIFELONG  
LEARNING INSTITUTE



## SUMMER 2025 CATALOG



IN-PERSON



HYBRID



ZOOM

***LEARNING NEVER RETIRES***

### Key Dates for Summer 2025 Registration

**4/10/25** — Registration Opens

**5/1/25** — Registration Closes

**5/1/25- 5/8/25** — Lottery Process

**5/8/25-5/15/25** — Registration re-opens for any remaining workshops  
***(first come first serve basis)***

**5/15/25** — Registration Final Close

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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# OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

As you peruse our catalog, we hope you will find some new workshops that interest you (although old favorites are fine, too!) If, while looking through our catalog, you get an idea for a new workshop you would be willing to lead or co-lead, please let our Curriculum Committee know. We are always looking to expand our offerings with the help of our dedicated, talented and engaged membership.

All information provided in this document is *subject to change*.

## On Campus Workshop Locations:

- *Social & Behavioral Sciences Building (SBS)*
- *Wang Center*
- *Student Activities Center (SAC)*
- *Student Union*

## Workshop Formats:

- **H Hybrid:** These workshops will be held in person and on Zoom simultaneously, with the workshop leader conducting the workshop from the Stony Brook campus. At the time of registration, members will have the option of registering for either the in-person section or Zoom sections of the workshop
- **I In Person:** Members will come to the Stony Brook campus or select off campus locations to attend these workshops.
- **Z Zoom:** Members will attend these workshops virtually on Zoom.



**Registration Information Available at:**  
[www.campusce.net/stonybrookolli](http://www.campusce.net/stonybrookolli)

## INDEX BY TITLE

<b>Workshop Name</b>	<b>Workshop Leader</b>
<b>A Journey into the Great Divide of Human Consciousness</b>	<i>Anthony A. Esposito</i>
<b>A Slow Read of a Big Book</b>	<i>Joe Perlman</i>
<b>Casual Cards - Summer 2025</b>	<i>Scott and Mary McMullen</i>
<b>Duplicate Bridge</b>	<i>Arnie Fox &amp; Sherry Shore</i>
<b>Introduction to Yiddish</b>	<i>David Altman</i>
<b>Jewelry &amp; Gemology</b>	<i>David Altman</i>
<b>Music, Literature, and Art</b>	<i>David Bouchier</i>
<b>Near Death Experiences &amp; Spiritually Transformative Experiences: How These Experiences Transform Lives In A Meaningful Way</b>	<i>Catherine Chapey</i>
<b>New York City's Famous 20th Century Landmarked Attractions</b>	<i>Jeff Hollander</i>
<b>Roman Mini-Epic: Catullus 64</b>	<i>Thomas Hayes</i>
<b>Simplifying the Landscape</b>	<i>Janet Skydel</i>
<b>The Supreme Greatest Hits! (The Court, Not the group!)</b>	<i>Tony Parlatore</i>
<b>The History, Development, and Quirks of the English Language</b>	<i>Amy Benjamin</i>
<b>The Lives of Stars and the 'Job of the Universe'</b>	<i>Ralph Maust</i>
<b>The Magic Edible Garden, Honey</b>	<i>Valerie Doyle</i>
<b>Writers at Work</b>	<i>Amy Benjamin</i>

# INDEX BY DAY

## TUESDAY

**10:15-11:30AM**

**THE SUPREMES GREATEST HITS (The Court, NOT the group!)**

*History and Politics*

**The History, Development, and Quirks of the English Language**

*Language and Communication*

**The Lives of Stars and the 'Job of the Universe'**

*Science and Philosophy*

**12:00- 1:15PM**

**A Journey Into the Great Divide of Consciousness**

*Science and Philosophy*

**New York City's Famous 20th Century Landmarked Attractions**

*History and Politics*

**1:45 - 4:00PM**

**Duplicate Bridge**

*Games and Leisure*

## WEDNESDAY

**10:15-11:30AM**

**Simplifying the Landscape**

*Arts & Music*

**Roman Mini-Epic: Catullus 64**

*Literature and Writing*

**12:00-1:15PM**

**Casual Cards - Summer 2025**

*Games and Leisure*

**Music, Literature, and Art**

*Arts and Music*

**Near Death Experiences & Spiritually Transformative Experiences**

*Science and Philosophy*

**1:45- 3:00PM**

**A Slow Read of a Big Book**

*Literature and Writing*

## THURSDAY

**8:30 - 9:45AM**

**Introduction to Yiddish**

*Language and Communication*

**10:15-11:30AM**

**Jewelry & Gemology**

*Science and Philosophy*

**12:00-1:15PM**

**The Magic Edible Garden, Honey**

*Science and Philosophy*

**1:45-3:00PM**

**Writers at Work**

*Literature and Writing*

# SUMMER 2025 WORKSHOPS

## ARTS & MUSIC

### **Simplifying the Landscape** ①

*Janet Skydel*

This workshop will be geared to all levels. Beginners are welcome. We will be learning how to approach Landscape Painting from photos, simplifying and abstracting the images. The medium will be acrylics on paper. Supplies Needed: Participants will need their own art supplies (acrylic paint, paper, brushes).

### **Music, Literature, and Art** ②

*David Bouchier*

Music, art, and literature have been interwoven into our culture for hundreds of years. This fascinating tapestry provides the background for this look back at two of the most popular topics from David's previous music workshops.

## GAMES & LEISURE

### **Duplicate Bridge** ①

*Arnie Fox & Sherry Shore*

We will continue to enhance our bridge skills in a duplicate environment. Participants should have knowledge of conventions and techniques from previous semesters. Contact either leader if unsure of readiness.

### **Casual Cards – Summer 2025** ①

*Mary and Scott McMullen*

Our summer workshop will focus on card games we've played in past workshops. We will play classic Canasta for three weeks. During the other three weeks, there will be a variety of card games: SkipBo, Phase 10, Five Crowns, Hearts, and Spades. Members new to our workshop are welcome. With the help of "experienced" players, we will guide new people on how to play the games. Our goals are fun, meeting new people, and keeping our brains active.

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### **The Supremes Greatest Hits (The Court, NOT the group!)** ①

*Tony Parlatore*

An in-depth analysis and discussion of "All Things SCOTUS." Emphasis is on the current Court but prior decisions will be reviewed in light of current events and trends.

### **New York City's Famous 20th Century Landmarked Attractions** ②

*Jeff Hollander*

Those were the days when New Yorkers flocked daily to world-famous Coney Island and the thousands of Kosher delicatessens found everywhere in the region. Their historical origins are a story that needs to be revisited to fully appreciate what they were in their heydays. Please join us to share your experiences and cherished memories with your OLLI friends.

## LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION

### **Introduction to Yiddish** ①

*David Altman*

This workshop revives the basics of the Yiddish language, perfect for those seeking to reconnect with cultural roots. It introduces pronunciation, vocabulary, and conversational elements.

### **The History, Development, and Quirks of the English Language** ①

*Amy Benjamin*

Discover the fascinating twists and turns of history that have created and shaped the English language, from the Anglo-Saxon invasions, to the Norman Conquest, to the Renaissance, to Shakespeare, to the Victorian Era when the sun never set on the British Empire, turning English into a global language. We will move on to the era of early 20C American English and how it grew with immigration, cultural mixing, media, and technology; and on to the Post-War Era, straight into the wilds of Digital English. We will discuss various accents, regionalisms, styles, slang, and other quirks of how we speak English and why.

### **Roman Mini-Epic: Catullus 64** ②

*Thomas Hayes*

Catullus, the pre-eminent of the Roman Republic, unites traditional mythology with the poetry of love and loss, friendship and betrayal, Greek drama and ancient morals in a tour-de-force of 408 lines of wide-ranging and fast moving poetry. It is "Catullus In a Bottle". We will read --and discuss-- the poem in English with secondary material suggested.

## LITERATURE AND WRITING

### Writers at Work

*Amy Benjamin*

A round-table presentation and discussion of members' writing in various genres—fiction, non-fiction, poetry, essays, and scripts. Emphasis is on writing technique with short excerpts.

### A Slow Read of a Big Book

*Joe Perlman*

Do “big” novels sit on your bookshelf unread. You know—the books with the big spines that shout out to you that they are NOT “quick reads.”

This summer tackle along with us *Midnight's Children* by Indian-British writer [Salman Rushdie](#). *Midnight's Children* won the Booker prize in 1981,

and the New York Review of Books called it “one of the most important books to come out of the English-speaking world in this generation.”

For the first class, read through the fifth chapter, “A Public Announcement.” We will start the following week with “Many-headed Monsters.”

## SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

### A Journey into the Great Divide of Human Consciousness

*Anthony A. Esposito*

Explore the “explanatory gap” between subjective and objective consciousness, based on split-brain research and Iain McGilchrist's work. Investigate how each hemisphere frames our experience.

### Near Death Experiences & Spiritually Transformative Experiences

*Catherine Chapey*

In this workshop we will learn about Near Death Experiences (NDE's) and Near Death Like or Spiritually Transformative Experiences (STE's). We will listen to different speakers that will share about their NDE's and STE's. There will be time for Q and A after our speaker shares. We will come to understand how their life journeys were altered through these extraordinary life changing events. We will discover how these experiences have changed them for the better. We will also explore some of the obstacle's these people have gone through as a result of their NDE's and STE's and have overcome. We will come to an understanding of how these obstacles have eventually been a catalyst for them to be able to live their life in a more authentic and purposeful way. We will explore together as group what we have learned from these NDE's and STE's. We will discuss

how their experiences have been transformative and how these people then go on to help others to understand that we are much more than just our physical existence. We will discuss the implications of such experiences on society as a whole. We will also discuss how these Extraordinary Experiences are life changing, not only for the NDE and STE Experiencers, but also for the many that hear their stories. I hope you can join us as we delve into this fascinating topic of Spiritually Transformative Experiences and Near Death Experiences and how knowing and learning about these experiences can change our world for the better.

### The Magic Edible Garden, Honey

*Valerie Doyle*

This four-session, limited engagement workshop brings together science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) in an interactive, hands-on exploration of gardening and artistic expression. Participants will learn how to create sustainable gardens, understand the science behind plant growth, and explore the art of drawing from nature. The workshop will be fun, educational, and creative, encouraging participants to engage with nature in both practical and artistic ways.

### Jewelry & Gemology

*David Altman*

Explore the history, science, and artistry behind gemstones and jewelry-making. Learn to identify different gems, understand settings, and examine the cultural value of adornments

### The Lives of Stars and the Job of the Universe

*Ralph Maust*

Where do stars come from? How are they born, live and die? How do they ‘make energy’ and new forms of matter? How and when did we (humans) figure all this out? And, what is the ‘job’ of the Universe? In this open-ended workshop we will explore these questions and, using a ‘digital planetarium’ on our tablets or smart phones, discover where in our night sky we can see answers. We'll also be building a one ten-billionth scale model of our solar system to help get a true feel for the enormity of space and time.

**Don't see what you're looking for?**  
**Consider leading a New Workshop!**



**Contact the Curriculum Committee Chairs**

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Ella Nyc: [ellanyc@icloud.com](mailto:ellanyc@icloud.com)

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