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Spring 2024 Catalog

WELCOME TO THE SECOND HALF LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

Our Mission is to provide comprehensive educational programming, social interaction, and travel, enhancing the quality of life, thereby empowering lifelong learners to age successfully.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“ Lifelong learning is one of the keys to success people rarely talk about. They talk about mindset, perseverance, passion, and so on, but we often overlook the power of learning.

The best way to invest your time is to do active learning every day.”

Prakhar Verma

Spring Semester is here, and we are delighted to offer you a semester full of education, local travel, and special events--what more could you want?

Joining The Second Half is a perfect way to meet people and bring more life and fun into your life. The faculty is incredible, their expertise will impress you.

Please call or email me if you have questions about the Spring 2024 semester or The Second Half in general.

I want you to have a successful and rewarding Spring Semester with us, but you must take the first step and Join Us.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Registration begins on February 15th, 2024. But please register as soon as you receive your catalog. Classes begin in March , April, and May. To ensure that you get the class that you want, register right away.

Call me at 508-677-4694 or email me at office@secondhalflli.org

Roberta Melton

Executive Director

The Second Half Lifelong Learning Institute

INDEX OF STUDY GROUPS

Art

2707 Dutch Art of the Golden Age 3
Tues 9:30-11:30, March 5-April 9

2716 Is the US on the Verge of a Civil War? 10
Thurs 9:30-11:30, April 11-May 30

2719 Introduction to Native American Basketry 11
Thurs 10:00-11:30, March 7-April 4

2711 The Nazi Roots of Modern Radical Islam 6
Wed 9:30-11:30, March 20-May 1

Film

2713 John Ford, Part 1: Not the Westerns 8
Wed 12:30-2:30, April 3-May 22

2705 Aging with Grace, Part 2 2
Mon 12:30-2:00, April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20

2709 A Look at Senior Lives Through the Lens of the Camera 4
Tues 1:00-3:30, April 30-June 11

2702 Finding Meaning & Purpose in the Second Half of Life: From Striving to Thriving 1
Mon 11:00-12:30, April 15-May 20

2718 Advanced Beginner Bridge 11
Thurs 9:30-noon, April 18-June 6

2708 Send in the Clowns, Part 2 4
Tues 9:30-11:30, March 5-April 9

Games

2720 Trivia 12
Thurs noon-2:00, April 18-May 23

2715 Conversational Spanish: Intermediate 10
Wed noon-2:00, March 6-May 8

2703 Beginning Birding 1
Mon 9:30-11:30, April 16-June 3

2706 History of Romance Languages 3
Mon 7:00-8:30 p.m., March 4-April 1

2701 Dandelions, Possums, and the Joy and Wonder of Gardening 1
Mon 9:30-noon, March 11-April 8

2710 The Art of the Short Story 5
Tues 2:00-4:00-March 19-April 30

2723 Researching Your Family History 13
Fri 9:30-11:30, May 3-June 7

2714 Book Club for the Mind and Soul 9
Wed Noon-2:00, March 13-June 5

2704 Ancientist History 2
Mon noon-1:30, March 4-April 1

2724 British Children's Authors 13
Fri 9:30-11:30, June 14-July 19

2722 Great Decisions 13
Fri 9:30-11:30, March 1-April 19

2717 The Way of the Breath: Mindfulness Practice in Our Daily Lives 11
Thurs In person: 10:00-11:00, Feb 29, March 14, 28, April 11, 25, May 9
Phone Group: **5:00-6:00 p.m.**, Feb 22, March 7, 21, April 4, 18, May 2

2712 Historical Kaleidoscope 7-8
Wed noon-2:00, April 10-May 15

2721 Great Piano Works Explained, Part 3
Thurs 2:30-4:30, March 7-May 9

MONDAY CLASSES

2701 Dandelions, Possums, and the Joy and Wonder of Gardening

9:30 a.m. - Noon, March 11 – April 8 maybe a celebration on April 15 (6 weeks)

Why do we Garden? Are you still in touch with the joy and wonder of gardening amidst all of the chores of lawn mowing, weeding, leaf raking, and deadheading your petunias? Would you like to focus on the why instead of the what to recapture the wonder of looking at the puffball of the seed head of a dandelion, wonder where a possum lives in the middle of a city... admire the tenacity of the Johnny-jumps-ups that squeeze through the smallest crack in your cement walk? Maybe you have some books that have inspired you, or a poem or a piece of music or a favorite place in your garden ... or someone you admire. This is our adventure together to share.

LOCATION: My Garden and my home at 167 Sylvia Street, New Bedford

Facilitator: Renate Oliver

Renate has been a Certified Master Gardener since 1996. She prides herself on her knowledge of botany and soil science. "Now I am a Certified Old Gardener, and now I want to learn more about gardening with my heart and soul."

2702 Finding Meaning and Purpose in the Second Half of Life--From Surviving to Thriving

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., April 15 – May 20 (6 weeks)

The first half of our lives is consumed with building the container of our identify, or what the Greek Philosopher Archimedes called, finding a "lever and a place to stand." As a necessary aspect of survival, we focus on questions such as what makes me unique or important; how will I feel safe

and secure; how will I support myself; and who will my friends be? Then in the second half of our lives, if we are knowledgeable and courageous enough to walk through the gateway of opportunity, we begin to populate our container with meaning and purpose; moving from the "survival dance to the scared dance"; from ego to spirit; from getting to becoming; and from understanding ourselves as separate begins to embracing our larger identity as part of the interconnected web of all existence. In this six-week course, we will develop a framework for creating a life of meaning and purpose, while experiencing together various pathways to its actualization. Come explore the promise of happiness that awaits you.

Location: TBA

Facilitator: Ed Merck recently moved back to Rhode Island after living for a decade on Martha's Vineyard. Prior to that, he spent four years sailing up and down the East Coast of America on his boat, *Kairos*, which translated from Greak means, symbolically, "opportune moment." With advanced degrees in both music and business, Ed's work in higher education was initially as a member of the music faculty, and later as a strategic planning/finance executive. Ed is an avid sailor, writer of books and articles, teacher of mindfulness meditation, certified yoga instructor, and a performing classical musician.

2703 Beginning Birding

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., April 16 – June 3 (8 weeks)

If you have watched birds at your feeder or at the beach and wanted more, this is the class for you. You must be able to walk at least two miles--one mile in and one mile out of the refuge. Wear good walking shoes and a hat to shield the sun. If you do not own binoculars, I have an extra pair! Spring is Bird Migration time. We go to some wonderful places and have great fun! Welcome aboard.

LOCATION: April 16 and April 22 – Somerset Library – 1464 County Street, Somerset, MA. Field Trips – April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27, and June 3

MONDAY CLASSES

Facilitator: Mary Martha Murphy

Mary Martha started birding during a vacation to the Allagash in Northern Maine in 1970. A fellow traveler introduced her to the *Little Golden Book of Bird Identification*, and he pointed out that the “duck” they had been chasing in their canoe was a common loon. She has graduated to more sophisticated field guides! Her birding trips include forays into Rhode Island, Cape Cod, Cape Ann, and the Bay of Fundy. She has also traveled to Southern Texas and the prairies of Montana.

2704 Ancientest History

Noon – 1:30 p.m., March 4 – April 1 (6 weeks)

This class will focus on the period circa 1000 BCE - 500 CE. It will be a continuation of the last Ancientest History Class. It is not required to have taken a previous class on this subject.

LOCATION: On-Line Zoom

Facilitator: Thomas Roche

Thomas holds an M.S.L. and a Ph.D. in classic/ancient history from SUNY Buffalo and an M.S. from the University of Vermont. He holds a B.A. in classics from Williams College. He has taught extensively in K-12 settings, as well as at Wheaton College, Salve Regina, Bridgewater State University, and Eastern Nazarene College. He has taught classical Latin and ancient Greek, rhetoric, philosophy, German, and reading/study library skills.

Aging with Grace, Part II

12:30 – 2:30 p.m., April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20 (5 weeks)

If you have wondered how to age gracefully, you will find some great ideas from the discussion on the book, *The Gift of Years*, and from speakers from the world of wellness in this five-week course.

April 22: Beverly Bish, Bonnie Bower and Connie Macdonald, Westport COA Technology Instructors, are volunteers with experience using Computer Technology and have the goal of assisting seniors become more comfortable using

their digital devices so they can become proficient and remain independent.

April 29: Home Care and Hospice

Lisa Parent is the President and CEO OF Community Nurse Home Care. She is a nurse and has more than thirty years of experience working in home care and hospice.

May 6: Brain Health: Protective Factors = Safety

Dorothy Dunn is a family Nurse Practitioner, recently retired as tenured Associate Professor of UMASS College of Nursing and the School of Nursing in Flagstaff Arizona, where her focus was memory loss and cognitive issues in the Dunn Family Wellness Center.

May 13: Are You Prepared? Estate Planning Considerations

Jane Sullivan is an attorney in Fall River, where she concentrates her practice in the areas of Elder Law and Estate Planning. She is a leader in Professional organizations and a frequent guest speaker. Jane has taught many exceptional classes in the past for The Second Half.

May 20: Spirituality in Aging

Sister Cynthia Bauer and Sister Madeleine Tacy

Sr. Madeleine and Sr. Cynthia are Dominican Sisters of Hope offering spiritual direction. Sr. Madeleine is retired from Campus Ministry after 37 years at UMASS Dartmouth, and Sr. Cynthia is a retired Interfaith Chaplin from Hospitals and Nursing Homes in this area.

LOCATION: The Wamsutta Club, 427 County Street, New Bedford, MA.

Located in the James Arnold Mansion

Facilitator: Norma Olivier received her B.S.N. degree from Georgetown University and has worked as a nurse, retreat leader, and trainer in communication skills for over fifty years. She is the mother of five children and enjoys family and volunteering for her church, community, and The Second Half.

MONDAY CLASSES

2706 History of Romance Languages

7:00 – 8:30 P.M., March 4 – April 1 (5 weeks)

This class will, after a brief explanation of the basis of historical linguistics and the history of the Latin languages, discuss the history of the major Romance languages in turn. My extensive experience as a teacher of Latin and student of linguistics should make the class more interesting.

LOCATION: Online Zoom

Facilitator: Thomas Roche

Thomas holds an M.S.L. and a Ph.D. in classic/ancient history from SUNY Buffalo and an M.S. from the University of Vermont. He holds a B.A. in classics from Williams College. He has taught extensively in K-12 settings, as well as at Wheaton College, Salve Regina, Bridgewater State University, and Eastern Nazarene College. He has taught classical Latin and ancient Greek, rhetoric, philosophy, German, and reading/study library skills.

TUESDAY CLASSES

2707 Dutch Art of the Golden Age: Beyond Rembrandt and Vermeer

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., March 5 – April 9 (6 weeks)

Have you visited the new Dutch galleries at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston? Here is an opportunity to learn more about this superb collection and other Dutch Art of the Golden Age from the 16th to the early 18th centuries. During this period, the Dutch Republic was the first human society to experience sustained economic growth and was the center of European and world-wide trade. Its art has been described as “worldly” because it reflected the values of its ruling urban elites. While we will not fail to mention Rembrandt and Vermeer, our focus will be on how this bourgeois society depicted itself, with a special emphasis on the roles of women and the material culture of ordinary citizens. It did not ignore religious subjects but developed new genres of secular art, such as domestic scenes, still-lives, land and seascapes, artistic maps, and ordinary urban environments.

LOCATION: The Maria Connor Center for Active Living (formerly the Dartmouth Council on Aging), 628 Dartmouth St, Dartmouth, in the Bullard Wellness Building behind the main building.

Facilitator: Gerard Koot

Gerard is a long-time member of The Second Half. He was born in The Netherlands and lives in Dartmouth. He is an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he taught European history for 38 years.



TUESDAY CLASSES

2708 Send in the Clowns, Part 2

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., April 2 – April 30 (5 weeks)

I am one of several men who have adopted a group identity called The Clowns, taken from the song written by Stephen Sondheim and made famous by Judy Collins. The title and refrain of the song is “Send in The Clowns.” At our breakfast meetings we (The Clowns) talk about everything and anything. At times there is deep seriousness in our exchanges, but there is always lots of laughter and good-natured ribbing. Humor and self-deprecation help maintain this unusual bond of intellectual honesty and friendship. I know this because, despite our digressions and ramblings, I think each of us accepts that we are nothing more than simple creatures of the universe trying to understand ourselves, others, and the world we live in. That being said, we have decided to put our show on the road for a second time in, **Send in the Clowns Part 2.** Once again, the subjects of these presentations are about the human experience, and that inescapably involves you. Raymond Loranger

April 2: Introduction to the series, Send in the Clowns Part 2, *Raymond Loranger*

Understanding the Trump Movement, Bob Miller
The Trump movement is historically unique in American politics in that “for millions of Americans Trump himself is the response to their fears and resentments.” Join me for an analysis and a discussion of what all this means for our political future.

April 9: When Religion and Politics Collide, Mariano Merino In renaissance Florence, Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498) rose from monastic obscurity to become a religious and political leader in the latter part of the 15th century. His preaching not only challenged church authorities but also the Medici political dynasty. Under his political and religious leadership, Florence became a theocracy governed by Christian principles. However, in a reversal of fortune, the populace that

has first acclaimed him as a leader, revolted against his ruling, brought him to trial, and put him to death by hanging and burning on the pyre. In this presentation we will look at the social, religious, and political forces that brought Savonarola from the pinnacle of power to an ignominious death with his ashes being thrown into the Arno River.

April 16: Frederick Douglass

Based on David Bright’s book, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom,* David Horowitz

We will discuss how the escaped slave and statesman lived up to or fell short of the epitaph “Prophet of Freedom.” We will look at Frederick Douglass’s connection to New Bedford and have a discussion regarding his relevance to our current political situation.

April 23: American Diversity/American Humanity, Joseph Cote

America’s social fabric contains all races, religions, and nationalities. Together they are a powerful force reflecting the universality of human caring and human spirit that reflect the American soul. Come visit some of our “soul makers.”

April 30: A Last Lecture: The Pilgrimage of My Mind, *Raymond Loranger*

Comments, observations, and reflections on how minds are shaped and changed when seeking purpose and meaning in life. A personal search for freedom and wisdom.

LOCATION: Wamsutta Club, 427 County Street, New Bedford, located in the James Arnold Mansion

2709 A Look at Senior Lives Through the Lens of the Camera

1:00 - 3:30 p.m., April 30 – June 11 (7 weeks)

Aging is an integral part of the human life cycle. As we age, however, we are confronted with new challenges that often threaten the joy of living we had previously enjoyed. Issues of loss, grief,

TUESDAY CLASSES

autonomy, generational disconnect, health problems, end of life treatment, and aid-in-dying decisions are some of the challenges faced by seniors. In this class, we will look at seven movies which deal with the above challenges with honesty and without sugarcoating the pill of aging and decline. The movies are:

A Song for Martin (2001), *The Straight Story* (1999); *The Father* (2020), *Age-Old Friends* (1989), *Sunset Story* (2003), *The Second Time Around* (2016), and *Last Flight Home* (2022). The viewing of each movie will be followed by a thorough discussion of the issues presented in the film.

LOCATION: The Maria Connor Center for Active Living (formerly the Dartmouth Council on Aging), 628 Dartmouth St, Dartmouth, in the Bullard Wellness Building behind the Main Building.

Facilitators: Joan Eye and Mariano Merino

Joan has both bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology and has worked at the NH State Prison for men, and as a therapist with the VA Vet Centers, focusing primarily on combat soldiers with PTSD. She has been a member of The Second Half since 2015 and loves it.

Mariano has worked in the field of mental health. A 17-year member of The Second Half, he has facilitated different study groups. He has a special interest in ethical and social issues.

2710 The Art of the Short Story: Best American Short Stories of the 20th Century, Part 2

2:00 – 4:00 p.m., March 19 – April 30 (7 weeks)

The Art of the Short Story class will look at what some consider the golden age of the American short story, the 20th century. We will use as a text *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, Expanded Edition, John Updike; Katrina Kenison, Editors (Houghton Mifflin). Since the series' inception in 1915, the annual volumes of the *Best American Short Stories* have showcased the most compelling stories of each year and confirmed the

significance of the short story in our national literature. This text presents the best of the best, fifty-five extraordinary stories by noted writers. We will continue our reading of the text, starting on page 369, with "The Ledge" (1960).

LOCATION: Westport Council on Aging, 75 Reed Road, Westport, MA

Facilitator: James Cronin

Jim has an undergraduate degree in English Literature from Harvard University and has taken numerous postgraduate classes in literature and creative writing at Harvard Extension School, Brown University, and Frequency Writers. He has facilitated the Art of the Short classes for many years. His first book of poetry, *World of Shadows*, was published in 2018 by the Poetry Loft Press of Cranston, RI.



WEDNESDAY CLASSES

2711 The Nazi Roots of Modern Radical Islam: Nazi's Islamist, Arab Nationalism, and the Making of the Modern Middle East

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., March 20 – May 1 (7 weeks)

In this class we will examine the Nazi connection with the political Arab sphere and how it helped to inspire and shape the modern Arab world. It continues to do so even after the demise of Nazi Germany. We will begin with a short introduction of Germany's obsession with the Middle East and Arabs starting with Kaiser Wilhelm II. We will examine the dark and sinister connection between Hitler and the Gran Mufti of Jerusalem (Hajj Amin al-Husseini), the creation of a Muslin SS Battalion, and the plan for a "Judenfrei" Middle East. We will see how the Nazi Movement inspired many individuals, including Michel Aflaq, an Arab nationalist who helped found the "Baath" party.

We will also examine the formation of the "Muslim Brotherhood," which was formed in Egypt in 1928 by Hassas al-Banna, who hero worshipped Hitler. He even has the notorious *Der Sturmer* translated and adapted to suit the Arab world.

Today the Muslim Brotherhood's popularity has grown and inspired groups such as Hamas, ISIS, and Al-Qaeda.

LOCATION: The Maria Connor Center for Active Living (formerly the Dartmouth Council on Aging)
628 Dartmouth St, Dartmouth in the Bullard Wellness Building behind the main building.

Facilitators: Ronald Weisberger and Manya Bark

Dr. Weisberger is the Director of the Bristol Community College Holocaust Center and an M.A. in History and an Ed.D. in higher education. He has taught at Bristol Community College for 40 years and has co-taught a course for The Second Half on the Holocaust for the last fourteen years.

Manya Bark is an independent scholar. She has a B.A. and an M.A. in German and East European history as well as a minor in Judaic Studies. She was born and lived in Germany and studies in Australia as well as the United States.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

2712 Historical Kaleidoscope: Join Us on an Historical Ride through History

Noon - 2:00 p.m., April 10 – May 15 (6 weeks)

This is a class for anyone who likes history, is open to a little adventure, and wants to experience something new or unique. New England has so much to share. Let's travel through time together. The adventure begins on:

April 10: Rhode Island Planetarium; Natural History Museum

LOCATION: Roger Williams University, located at 1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, RI

Museum of Natural History and Planetarium
We should carpool for this event.

We will be taking a "Journey to the Stars" at the Planetarium, featuring images from telescopes on the ground and in space and stunning visualizations of physics-based simulations. This show launches visitors into space to experience the life and wealth of the stars in our night sky, including our own nurturing sun. This will be fabulous.

Students must be at the Natural History

Museum Planetarium by 10:45. The show begins at 11:00 a.m., and once the doors shut, they will not open during the show. This show lasts about one hour.

After the show, on to the Museum of Natural History, which is in the same building as the Planetarium. This is Rhode Island's only natural history museum. For more than a century, the museum has served as a unique educational, scientific, and cultural resource with exhibits and programming. This is a great way to learn about our world and its people.

April 17: A Day in the Life of a Judge: The Judicial Branch of Government in Massachusetts

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Judge Raffi N. Yessayan will discuss his experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney and judge. He will discuss the role of the courts in our system of government, specifically focusing on the types of

cases, both criminal and civil, within the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Superior Court.

The Honorable Judge Raffi N. Yessayan is an Associate Justice of the Superior Court. He previously worked as a criminal defense and immigration attorney with offices in New Bedford and Quincy. Prior to opening his practice, Judge Yessayan served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Suffolk County DA's Office, ultimately serving as the Chief of the Gang Unit in that office. Judge Yessayan currently serves as the Regional Administrative Justice for Bristol County.

LOCATION: New Bedford Superior Court, 441 County St., New Bedford

April 24: The Saylesville Massacre and the American Tradition of Protest

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Protest is fundamentally American. People have expressed dissent through protests from the early years of the American Revolution. The legacy of American protest is still alive and well today. But how do we reckon with a protest that ends in violence?

At Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, rangers have worked with community members to explore legacies of violence that haunt local landscapes. In this talk, we will take a closer look at the Saylesville Massacre. Part of the 1934 General Textile Strike, this violent clash between working class people and state officials left two dead. We will consider how this event aligns with other moments of protest and violence, starting with the American Revolution, and coming closer to the present with more recent episodes of national unrest.

Mark Mello, Park Ranger, Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.

LOCATION: TBA

May 1: Temples of Refuge: Boston, New Bedford, and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

As a part of the Compromise of 1850, the federal government enacted a harsh new Fugitive Slave Law. Slave catchers were allowed to roam free states in search of runaways and mandated the assistance of state and local authorities, as well as the public, in returning freedom seekers to slavery. Met with outrage in the North, many communities rose in defiance to the law. Join us as we explore parallel resistance movements in both New Bedford and Boston.

Janine da Silva serves as the Program Manager of Visitor Experience, Resource Stewardship for New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. She is co-author, with Kathryn Grover, of “A Historic Resource Study of the Boston African-American National Historic Site,” prepared for the National Park Service. Jan graduated from Princeton University with a degree in History and from Roger Williams University with a degree in historic preservation.

LOCATION: TBA

May 8: Diversity as Represented in Food and Handwork—The 1850s Ladies Noon – 2:00 p.m.

This lecture will be a sort of show and tell. We will bring examples of food and handwork that were associated with groups of people living in New Bedford during the 1850s. The groups that will be discussed will be Portuguese, Cape Verdean, Hawaiian, Italian, Native American, and more.

Ruth (Lucy Bly) and Abby (Judith Roderiques) are two ladies from the 1850s who visit the current time through a “worm hole” in the vault of their bank. They are women who lived in New Bedford and were friends and neighbors. They are part of the New Bedford Mass Visitor Center. They share true and probable stories in an entertaining way.

LOCATION: TBA

May 15: Swan Point Cemetery

The cemetery is located in Providence, RI, and was established in 1846. In 1886 H.W. S. Cleveland was hired to redesign the area. It was inspired by the landscape of the first rural garden cemetery in

the United States--Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. The cemetery has expanded to 200 acres. It is considered the most prominent cemetery in Rhode Island due to the well-known citizens of the state buried there. The author H. P. Lovecraft is buried there. We will tour the cemetery with a guide. It is truly a beautiful and unique resting place.

PLEASE WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES

We will carpool into Providence for this event.

Tour Guide **Debi Hogan** is the historian and archivist at Swan Point Cemetery, a rural garden cemetery in Providence. She has been working to preserve the cemetery’s written history, books, and photography since 1995, when she was hired to prepare a historical booklet and exhibit for the cemetery for the 150th Anniversary. Debi is also a trained horticulturist and can offer information about the trees and shrubs in this beautiful cemetery.

LOCATION: 585 Blackstone Blvd, Providence, RI

Facilitators: Lois Spirlet and Robin Melton

2713 John Ford, Part 1: Not the Westerns

12:30 – 2:30 p.m., April 3 – May 22 (8 weeks)

John Ford is one of our greatest film directors. I say this because his films are still studied and copied today, and his influence on the great directors that followed him is apparent. Today we think of Ford’s westerns as his calling card, and why not, they defined what a western should be in their stories and scope. His mythmaking was second to none. Many of our beliefs regarding “The West” are due in part to Ford’s Westerns. But, like all great artists, he had other visions to hone, and this is what we will explore in Part 1. Part 2, if there is one, will focus on his Westerns.

Films to be viewed:

Mr. Roberts (1955)

The Long Gray Line (1955)

The Last Hurrah (1958)

Donovan’s Reef (1963)

Young Mr. Lincoln (1939)

The Grapes of Wrath (1940)

How Green Was My Valley (1941)

The Quiet Man (19

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

LOCATION: The Maria Connor Center for Active Living (formerly the Dartmouth Council on Aging) 628 Dartmouth St., Dartmouth, in the Bullard Wellness Building behind the Main Building.

Facilitator: Dennis Tweedy

Dennis is still retired and still enjoying it!

2714 Book Club for the Mind and Soul

Noon – 2:00 p.m., March 13 – June 5 (5 weeks)

March 13: *The Good Wife of Bath* by Karen Brooks

A provocative, immersive medieval novel starring one of literature's most unforgettable characters in her own words: Chaucer's bold and libidinous Wife of Bath.

April 3: *A Girl Called Samson* by Amy Harmon
From *The New York Times* bestselling author Amy Harmon comes the saga of a young woman who dares to chart her own destiny in life and love during the American Revolutionary War. In 1760, Deborah Samson is born to Puritan parents in Plympton, Massachusetts. When her father abandons the family, and her mother is unable to support them, Deborah is bound out as an indentured servant. From that moment on, she yearns for a life of liberation and adventure.

April 24: *The Condition* by Jennifer Haigh
The Condition tells the story of the McKotches, a proper New England family that comes apart during one fateful summer.

The year is 1976, and the family, Frank McKotch, an eminent scientist; his pedigreed wife, Paulette; and their three beautiful children have embarked on its annual vacation at the Captain's House, the grand old family retreat on Cape Cod. One day on the beach, Frank is struck by an image he cannot forget: his thirteen-year-old daughter, Gwen, strangely infantile in her child-sized bikini, standing a full head shorter than her younger cousin Charlotte. At that moment he knows the truth that

he can never again unknow: something is terribly wrong with his only daughter. The McKotch family will never be the same.

May 15: *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

A novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune--an unlikely friendship that changed the world. This is the story of two different, yet equally formidable, passionate, and committed women and the way in which their singular friendship helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.

June 5: *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt

1987. There's only one person who has ever truly understood fourteen-year-old June Elbus, and that is her uncle, the renowned painter Finn Weiss. Shy at school and distant from her older sister, June can only be herself in Finn's company; he is her godfather, confidante, and best friend. When he dies, far too young, of a mysterious illness her mother can barely speak about, June's world is turned upside down. But Finn's death brings a surprise acquaintance into Junes' life, someone who will help her heal and question what she thinks she knows about Finn, her family, and even her own heart.

NOTE: If you have Amazon Prime, *A Girl Called Samson*, is available to read free in the Amazon Prime Kindle Books.

LOCATION: 1600 Highland Ave, Fall River, MA

Facilitator: Anne Miranda

Anne is a retired elementary school teacher. She taught in Boston, Acushnet, and New Bedford public schools, and at Dominican Academy in Fall River. Since her retirement, she has enjoyed reading and traveling.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

2715 Conversational Spanish: Intermediate Level

Noon – 2:00 p.m., March 6 – May 8 (10 weeks)

This is an ongoing, progressive learning study group. It focuses on increasing the participants' familiarity with the Spanish language and their ability to express themselves both orally and with the written word. Class discussion is in Spanish. Review of written exercises and increased mastery of grammar are major components of the class. Anybody with a basic knowledge of Spanish is welcome to join this class.

LOCATION: ONLINE ZOOM



Facilitator: *Mariano Merino* is a native of Spain. After graduate studies in Madrid, he continued his graduate education at Boston University and Rhode Island College. He has worked in the field of mental health. Retired for over a decade and a half, he enjoys engaging in new learning and continued education. He has facilitated several programs for The Second Half.

violence that could put at risk the future of the US as a free and democratic society.

The events identified in that study are: (1) a striking rise in violence and particularly in firearm violence; (2) an equally unprecedented increase in firearm purchasing that began with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in January 2020 and, except for a brief respite late in 2021, has continued through June 2022; (3) growing uncertainty about the stability and value of democracy in the US; (4) the expansion into the mainstream of American public opinion of extreme, false beliefs about American society; and (5) growing support for the use of violence to accomplish political or social objectives.

This course will explore these trends in US society based upon the above study and also based on the analysis done by Barbara. F. Walter in her book, *How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them*. We will define what is meant by a civil war in today's world; explore questions regarding citizens' political and social beliefs; citizens' support for, and willingness to engage in, political violence.

LOCATION: The Maria Connor Center for Active Living (formerly The Dartmouth Council on Aging), 628 Dartmouth St, Dartmouth, Dartmouth, in the Bullard Wellness Building located behind the main building.

THURSDAY CLASSES

Facilitator: Bob Miller

Bob has a B.A. in Political Science from The Ohio State University and has participated in several political campaigns over the years. He also graduated from The Ohio State University School of Law (Moritz) and has thirty years' experience in the administration of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) in the mutual fund and insurance company industries.

2717 The Way of the Breath: Mindfulness Mediation Practice in our Daily Lives

**In Person: 10:00 – 11: a.m., Feb 29, March 14,
March 28, April 11, April 25, May 9**

Ken will be adding an additional option this semester: telephone group sessions.

Phone Group: Feb 22, March 7, March 21, April 4, April 18, May 2

This six-week study group will offer strategies for guided meditations and opportunities for discussion to help us become more adept at taming our internal dialogue. Four decades of research into this 2,500-year-old practice has shown it to be beneficial for many stress-related emotional and physical conditions. It is also helpful in nurturing an atmosphere of inquiry into our internal lives and our own relations. Students must have previous knowledge of meditation.

LOCATION: 209 Bedford St, Fall River

Facilitator: Kenneth Pinter

Ken is a part-time psychotherapist who has studied and practiced mindful mediation for approximately 26 years. He currently maintains his own individual and weekly group practice.

This class is limited to 8 students.

2718 Advanced Beginner Bridge

9:30 a.m. – noon, April 18 – June 6 (8 weeks)

This class is for Beginner Bridge players who understand the basics of Suits: count, Major, Minor, and No-Trump bids, and play. The class will look at how to handle distribution hands, such as preempts. It will also teach high-count hands, such as 18-19-point hands, 2NT, and 2c bids. Additionally, it will showcase Blackwood, Gerber, and Roman Key Card, and when each can be used.

The class is limited to 16 players.

LOCATION: Fairhaven Council on Aging,
229 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven, MA

Facilitator: Caroline “Coco” Cooper

I have played bridge for a long time but stopped when career path and family were higher demands. Returning to bridge after retirement, I found that things had changed dramatically. I have adopted most of these changes but continue to learn, as bridge is a never-ending learning experience. I play both Social and Duplicate Bridge and have points of many colors.

2719 Introduction to Native American Basketry: Tradition and Innovation

10:00 – 11:30 a.m., March 7 - April 4 (5 weeks)

Basketry is an ancient art that predates weaving and pottery. The baskets of indigenous people have value that is cultural, economic, and spiritual. Before contact with Euro-Americans, indigenous people used basketry techniques to make everything from ceremonial vessels and cradles to containers for food and cooking. After contact, conflicts, and conquest by Euro-Americans, basketry changed significantly. In the 18th and 19th centuries, church, state, and federal policies pressured Native People to reject their own cultures. Despite this difficult history, baskets emerged as an art with an Indian identity. Baskets are more than containers made of interwoven flexible material. Here is a definition by

THURSDAY CLASSES

Terroll Dew Johnson, from the Tohono O'odham Nation in Arizona. "... a basket is a container or a vessel that holds everything. It is multi-faceted and multi-purpose. It can hold food, it can hold physical objects, but it also can hold memories and spirits." In this five-part course, Catherine Hunter, a retired museum curator, will introduce highlights of five geographic regions across North America. The program includes myths, history, ethnobotany, basketry techniques, regional designs, and new artists. In short videos, a dozen artists will discuss processing traditional materials, new materials, their personal philosophies, and the importance of community. For example, Shan Goshorn, Cherokee, tells the story of students at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. Gail Trembly, of the Onondaga and Micmac nations, comments on the false depiction of "Indians" in Hollywood films. Two videos will introduce Molly Neptune Parker (1939-2020) and Jeremy Frey, who are prominent Passamaquoddy artists in Maine.

LOCATION: ONLINE ZOOM

Facilitator: *Catherine Hunter* was a museum curator, educator, and independent museum consultant for over twenty years. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History of Art from Cornell University and began her career as a curator in the Department of Textiles at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Catherine has a lifelong interest in the connections one can discover while studying art, history, science, and culture. Catherine was a Research Associate for the Native American Basketry Project at the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts.

2720 Trivia

Noon – 2:00 p.m., April 18 - May 23 (6 weeks)

Are you tired of having all that trivial information in your head and no one to share it with? Are you afraid that someday your head might explode if that trivia has no place to go? The Second Half has heard you, and we are ready to provide a solution.

Join our Trivia class and release all that pent-up knowledge in a fun and painless way. Each week your Trivia Master will ask questions of students taken from a variety of trivia games and sources. All you need is a pad of paper, pen or pencil, and your fabulous brain. During the game, we also explore some of the more obscure trivia answers to fill your brain with even more useless information. A winner will be declared each week. So, if you know that Boston was the first United States city to have a subway, that Knute Rockne popularized the forward pass in football, or that when doing a tequila shot, the order is salt, tequila, lemons, this class is for you. **Warning:** Some questions may require serious thought.

LOCATION: The Maria Connor Center for Active Living (formerly the Dartmouth Council on Aging), 628 Dartmouth St, Dartmouth in the Bullard Wellness Center behind the main building.

Trivia Master: Susan Richard

Sue is a retired English teacher and department head who spent 36 years working with high school students. Working with adults is a joy and a pleasure. She is also the President of the Governing Board of Your Theatre, Inc., and an avid theater patron. Although she has not been active on the stage for some time, she has directed and performed in community theater.

2721 Great Piano Works Explained, Part 3

2:30 – 4:30 p.m., March 7- May 9 (8 weeks)

Music of Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, Anton Webern, Claude Debussy, Charles Ives, Sergei Prokofiev, and Béla Bartok.

LOCATION: ONLINE ZOOM

Facilitator: Thom Sargent

Thom was the Parish Music Director and Organist at St. Anthony of Padua Church in New Bedford. He retired in 2000 from the Providence Rhode

THURSDAY CLASSES

Island Department as Music Director at Classical High School. His formal education includes degrees in Church music, music education, and choral conducting.



many topics. She ran the News Hounds Program at the library for several years. She facilitated discussions on local, state, regional, national, and world newspapers, articles, and current events.

2723 Researching Your Family History

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., May 3 – June 7 (6 weeks)

In this class we will cover the basics of researching family history and putting it in order to create a book. Starting with each person's genealogy, students will learn how to find information and organize it. This class will teach the group how to place family members in the proper historical context and blend fact with family history. We will put together biographies of relatives, create a timeline, read certain books as examples, discuss options, and begin the story of you.

LOCATION: ONLINE ZOOM

Facilitator: Carol Gafford

Carol is the Youth Services /Outreach Librarian at the Swansea Public Library. She has done extensive work in geology, and she can guide and direct each student to uncover their own story.

2724 British Children's Authors

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., June 14 – July 19 (6 weeks)

In this class, you will learn and understand more about six Great British children's authors: A. A. Milne, C. S. Lewis, Anna Sewell, Beatrix Potter, Lewis Carroll, and Edith Nesbit. Learn about their lives, their literature, and what motivated and inspired them to create great classic books. We will reread the classic books and various biographies of the writers. We may also watch some of the films based on the books.

LOCATION: ONLINE ZOOM

Facilitator: Carol Gafford

Carol is the Youth Services/Outreach Librarian at the Swansea Public Library.

THE SECOND HALF LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2023-2024

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Members new to The Second Half: Please complete this form.

We would like to get to know you better and ask that you respond to the following questions.

This information will allow us to better plan classes, trips, and special events.

Name _____ **Street Address** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone _____ **Email** _____

How do you prefer we contact you? _____

How did you hear about The Second Half?

Age? Under 50 _____ 50-55 _____ 56-60 _____ 61-65 _____ 66-70 _____ 71-75 _____

76-80 _____ 81-85 _____ 86+ _____

Are you retired? _____ **Do you work part time?** _____

Please describe your hobbies, interests, and activities.

In what areas would you like us to offer classes, trips, special events?

Membership is \$50.00 per year, September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024

Please make check payable to *The Second Half* and mail to

The Second Half

PO Box 9333

Fall River MA 02720

THE SECOND HALF: LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE REGISTRATION FORM – SPRING 2024

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Street Address _____ Cell Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU NEW TO THE SECOND HALF? YES NO

IF YES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

STUDY GROUP SELECTIONS.

Please use the number of the study group, not the name, in completing your registration.

REGISTRATIONS ARE FIRST COME/FIRST SERVED. Registrations received on or before September 1 will be date stamped with that date and processed first.

(1) # _____ (2) # _____ (3) # _____ (4) # _____ (5) # _____

(6) # _____ (7) # _____ (8) # _____ (9) # _____ (10) # _____

(11) # _____ (12) # _____ (13) # _____ (14) # _____ (15) # _____

If you registered for a class in the FALL and did not get in, you may request priority admission to the SAME class if it is offered again in the spring. **Please make your request as soon as registration opens.**

Priority request for # _____

_____ \$50.00 Membership dues if you did not pay in the fall or are joining for the first time

_____ \$150.00 Tuition for up to two study groups

_____ \$ _____ Tuition for additional study groups (\$30.00 per study group)

_____ I am a facilitator. My tuition is waived.

_____ \$ _____ Donation

\$ _____ **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE**

Please make checks payable to *The Second Half* and mail to The Second Half, PO Box 9333, Fall River, MA 02720.

THE SECOND HALF LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

WHO WHAT WHEN WHERE HOW

The Second Half Lifelong Learning Institute is a non-profit community agency that has been in operation since 2000. Not even Covid could stop us from providing students throughout Southern Massachusetts with comprehensive, informative, always entertaining, educational programming.

Our students are retired, work full-time or part-time, and range in age from 55 to 90. Our students just want to learn new things and meet new people. They want to take advantage of our trips (local and international), reconnect with old friends, and make new friends. It's a no-pressure environment when you take classes with us--no grades, no report cards. Our students and faculty live all over Southern Massachusetts and beyond. They reside in Fall River, Dartmouth, Mattapoisett, Westport, Somerset, Swansea, Berkley, Taunton, Acushnet, Attleboro, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Lakeville, Middleboro, Norton, Seekonk, and many other locations in Massachusetts and Southern Rhode Island.

The Second Half provides a wide array of programing each semester. The class subjects range from humanities--history, politics, philosophy, music--to films, bridge, and trivia. We provide 25 to 31 classes each semester. Our Fall Semester runs from September through December. Our Spring Semester begins in February and can run until June. Classes begin at different times and in different months. They take place during the week in the daytime and usually run from 6 weeks to 8 weeks.

In an effort to have classes closer to where students live, we offer various class locations. For example, classes can run in Fall River, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Westport, and online on ZOOM. The semester catalog will let you know where and when classes are located.

As a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, we rely on funding from tuition and special event fundraising.

I believe that you will experience more than a learning experience. You might walk into the classroom a little nervous, unsure of what to expect. That feeling fades quickly. You will leave with the feeling of empowerment through gaining new knowledge and finding a new community of like-minded friends.

How do you get involved? Join us--the catalog provides information on all classes and a registration form. Call me at (508) 677-4694 or email office@secondhalflli.org with questions, then decide that you want to do something good for yourself. We are waiting for you.

Roberta Melton
Executive Director, The Second Half

**The Second Half: Lifelong Learning Institute
PO Box 9333
Fall River MA 02720**

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