

WEDNESDAY, CONT.

Music and the Brain (cont.)

George Scharr
One Class
1:30 - 3:30
November 4



Our bodies physically sync with breathing, heart rate, and even movements to rhythm. The brain is a complex structure that we are just beginning to understand and music's effects on the brain are far-reaching. We'll explore evidence-based research studies, TED talk videos, personal experiences, and familiar anecdotes to illustrate how we can make the most of music in our daily lives.

Henri Matisse

Beth Stein
B.S., Indiana University
M.A., Montclair State University
Art History presenter
since 2008
One Class
1:30 - 3:30
November 18



Matisse was almost 21 before he held a brush; he had no prior interest in art, nor anything else for that matter. He came from nowhere and for quite a few years was nobody in the art world. His teachers discouraged him, almost without exception. Only one of his teachers told him he had been born to simplify painting. He faced financial difficulties for a portion of his adult life. He suffered from tremendous anxiety. And he faced significant illness later in life. So how did this man become one of the most celebrated painters of the 20th century? How did he change the face of art in modern times, if not forever?

THURSDAY

The American Revolution: A Different Perspective

Janet Uhlar
Author, lecturer, preservationist.
Her study of the American Revolution spans forty-years. Her research has been published in various periodicals along with several books.

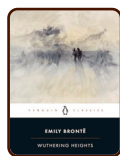
Two Classes
1:30 - 3:00
Oct. 1, 8



On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress declared Independence. It was not obtained until September 3, 1783, after eight years of brutal warfare, grievous hardship, and approximately 33,000 American casualties. We know the story of the men who declared Independence. What do we know of the men who ignited the flame and secured it?

THURSDAY, CONT.

The Enduring Power of Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights



Joseph Auciello
BA - Boston University
MA - Boston College
Four Classes
10:30 - 12:00
Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29

Fierce love, unbending hatred, and primitive passion unto death across the Yorkshire moors: Here is the story of Catherine and Heathcliff, a Shakespearean pair of "star-crossed lovers." Virginia Woolf observed that Emily Bronte possessed "the rarest of all powers" that enabled her to lift her characters "into the presence of greatness." If ever a Greek tragedy could be written as an English novel, it would be *Wuthering Heights*. We'll use the Penguin Classics edition, edited by Pauline Nestor. ISBN 978-0-141-43955-6



Hockney, the Old Masters, ... and Photography

Gordon Talley
B.A., Colgate University, Philosophy
M.F.A., Yale Drama, Directing
Coordinator, Ad Hoc Culture Group
Cambridge
One Class
1:30 - 3:30
October 15

We know that art set the standards for photography. But what influence has photography had on art? A highly controversial one. The art world fractured when British modernist David Hockney dared suggest that the old masters used lenses to paint their finely detailed canvases. How could he say that? Artists don't cheat! We will look at multiple examples — Raphael, Leonardo, Caravaggio, Dürer, Vermeer, Van Eyck, Ingres and others — that support his premise, alongside Hockney's own work. His colorful, figurative, impressionistic, iconoclastic, and joyful paintings ran against the predominant styles of today, truly sparking our imaginations. And, he was also a groundbreaking photographer — defying our sense of a camera's "reality."

THURSDAY, CONT.



Joe's Musical Odyssey in Europe: Austria, Italy, & France

Joseph Marchio
Assistant Conductor, Cape Symphony
Music Director, Chatham Chorale
Organist
Four Classes
1:30 - 3:00
October 22, 29, November 5, 12

Joe led three 2026 journeys in Europe. He immersed three lucky groups in the rich heritage of music over there. He is excited to virtually bring you on those trips with this course. First, walk in the footsteps of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Klimt, and more in Vienna, Austria. Next embark on a music and cultural journey to Reggio, and enjoy Joe's organ concert during the Festival of San Quirino in Correggio, Italy. Finally travel to Paris for a close look at the renovated Notre Dame, which is absolutely stunning in its glory, and enjoy music, art, and great architectural spaces in the City of Light.

A Fresh Look at the New World Order

Stew Goodwin
Career in international investments,
Lecturer for 20 years,
Academy for Lifelong Learning
Three Classes
10:30 - 12:00 (Zoom only)
(Zoomed also in the Craine Room)
Nov. 5, 12, 19



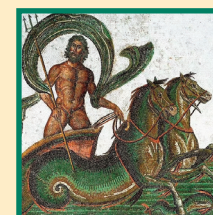
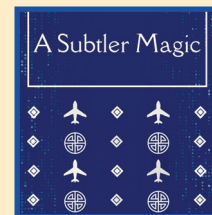
Stew's three classes are designed to show the world as it is now and where it is headed.

- 11/5: Spheres of Weakness**
Stew will cover spheres of influence, large and small, and go into the new warfare systems which are developing.
- 11/12: Economic Limitations**
This class will deal with the fragility caused by large debts and deficits, as well as the AI conundrum and the financial casino.
- 11/19: Governments in Transition**
We will discuss the new forms, the new connections, and the new finances.

COURSES ARE ONE TO FIVE CLASSES.

Most classes will be "hybrids," presented live in the Craine Room, to a maximum of 100 people, zoomed & recorded at the same time.

\$10 IS A SUGGESTED DONATION PER COURSE.



Friends of Snow Library Presents the 2026 Fall Session of the Lifetime Learning Program

Register online, by mail, or at Snow Library.

Member registration begins August 27.

Open registration begins September 1. Classes begin September 28.

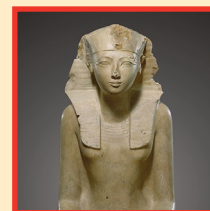
Course information and registration forms are available on our website:
www.friendsofsnowlibrary.org/lifetime-learning-program

Most of our courses are presented in person and simultaneously zoomed.

- **Weaving a Subtler Magic**
- **Altruism, Philosophy, Love, & Poetry: The Meaning of Life in Four Fun Films**
- **Ukraine Strikes Back: The Evolution of the Ukraine War from Invasion to a War of Robots**
- **Our Probable Futures: Climate Risk and Resiliency in Cape Cod and Beyond**
- **Guardians: We Are Nature**
- **The Tonga Letters, Reports from a Remote South Pacific Island**
- **Science in America (1945-2026): Eight Decades of Growth and New Challenges Today**
- **Novels & Ideas: Families**
- **Plastered & Stoned: Frescoes, Mosaics, & Graffiti of the Greco-Roman World**
- **Thoughts on the Upcoming Midterms**
- **The Road to the Revolutionary War: Did Religion Play a Role?**
- **Envisioning a Brighter Future?**
- **The Health of our Democracy and the Rule of Law in Light of the 2026 Midterms**
- **Matisse at War: Art and Resistance in Nazi Occupied France**
- **Three Visionary Pharaohs: Hatshepsut, Amenhotep III, & Akhenaten**
- **Shakespeare's Magical Vision of Miracles & Wonder in A Midsummer Night's Dream & The Winter's Tale**
- **Exploring & Enjoying The Great American Songbook**
- **Music and the Brain**
- **Henri Matisse**
- **The American Revolution: A Different Perspective**
- **The Enduring Power of Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights**
- **Hockney, the Old Masters, ... and Photography**
- **Joe's Musical Odyssey in Europe: Austria, Italy, & France**
- **A Fresh Look at the New World Order**

24 NEW COURSES TO EXPAND YOUR MIND

For over 40 years, our mission has been to provide continuing education and cultural enrichment. Our program has continually grown, averaging around 1,700 registrations per session from all over the country.



MONDAY

Weaving a Subtler Magic

Mike McCartney
Cape Cod-based writer, author, educator, book coach, and actor.
Taught gifted and talented students as Chair of English & Performing Arts at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.
Two Classes
1:30 - 3:30
Sept. 28 & Oct. 5



Mike will introduce us to the engaging world of *A Subtler Magic*, his debut novel. A historical fantasy set during the Blitz, *A Subtler Magic* weaves together some of your favorite topics from Mike's previous classes: archetypes, Arthurian Legend, mystery, and daily life in history! Come and hear Mike tell you about the genesis of his novel and be entertained by some snippets from key sections as Mike verbally performs them. (Photo of Mike by Bob Tucker, Focalpoint Studio.)



Altruism, Philosophy, Love, & Poetry: The Meaning of Life in Four Fun Films

Marc Strauss, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre and Dance
Holland College of Arts & Media
Southeast Missouri State University
Four Classes (Zoom only)
1:30 - 4:00
Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2

Can the meaning of life be found in four fun films? Sure, why not? Cinema is one of the planet's greatest collaborative art forms. Directors, cinematographers, actors, producers, set and costume and lighting designers, and dozens if not hundreds of other craftspeople all work together to bring a unique vision into being. The meaning of life is sometimes the focus of a cinematic undertaking. Occurring at surprising moments, the significance of altruism, philosophy, love and poetry resonates in our hearts and minds when we least expect it in *City Lights* (1931), *The Incredible Shrinking Man* (1957), *Harold and Maude* (1971), and *In Her Shoes* (2005)—a silent film, a science fiction film, a black comedy, and a family dramedy. Join Marc Strauss, Ph.D., in exploring the meaning of life together in these four films.

MONDAY



Ukraine Strikes Back: The Evolution of the Ukraine War from Invasion to a War of Robots

Frank Sobchak
Associate Professor
Joint Military Operations Department
One Class
1:30 - 3:30
November 16

Russia invaded Ukraine in Feb. 2022, expecting victory in two weeks. Across four years the war has seen a series of evolutions and innovations, from Bayraktar Drones, to World War One style stasis, to new technology cutting off supply lines in seized Crimea and threatening to have strategic effects on Russia's petrochemical income. Our speaker will discuss how the war has evolved in parallel with technology, touching on the regional and global implications of the conflict.

Note: Professor Sobchak is joining us in a personal capacity. The views he will share with us are his own and do not reflect the official policies or positions of the U.S. Naval War College, the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, or any entity of the U.S. government.

TUESDAY

Our Probable Futures: Climate Risk and Resiliency in Cape Cod and Beyond



Alison Smart
Founding Executive Director of Probable Futures, a nonprofit climate literacy initiative that makes world-class climate science accessible to individuals, communities, and organizations.

One Class
10:30 - 12:00
September 29

Climate change is here, and Cape Cod — along with every region on Earth — is already living it. Warming waters, shifting seasons, and increasingly intense storms are affecting the region's industry, pastimes, insurance rates, and more. Using world-class climate data and maps from Probablefutures.org, along with award-winning climate literacy materials, Alison will explore climate risk for the region and discuss how to think about and plan for the future in a changing climate.

TUESDAY, CONT.



Guardians: We Are Nature

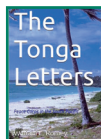
Fraser Morton
Award-winning Scottish photojournalist, writer, artist. Featured on BBC Earth, CNN, and National Geographic. 20 years as a media director, producer, & reporter. Founder of Far Features and Far Universal.

One Class in the evening,
6:30 - 8:00 PM
September 29

Fraser will share stories of courage, sacrifice, and hope from frontline nature guardians worldwide, who protect diverse habitats, from Antarctica to the Amazon. He'll discuss how to tell stories about what matters most, exploring the challenges, ethics, and thrills of award-winning environmental filmmaking.

The Tonga Letters, Reports from a Remote South Pacific Island

Bill Romey
Professor Emeritus, S.U.N.Y. Potsdam
Taught Animal Behavior & Aquatic Biology



One Class
10:30 - 12:00
October 6

Ever wondered what it would be like to live on a "deserted" South Pacific Island for two years? Bill will present images, writings, and treasures from his time as a 23-year-old Peace Corps volunteer teaching science on an outer island in the Kingdom of Tonga. He sent weekly letters to his parents on Cape Cod, now part of his recently published book, *The Tonga Letters*. Bill will also discuss the intricacies of Tongan culture, language, spearfishing, and the Kava ceremony.

Science in America (1945-2026): Eight Decades of Growth and New Challenges Today

Stephen Munroe
Prof. Emeritus of Biological Sciences,
Marquette University
Ph.D. Indiana University



Two Classes
1:30 - 3:30
October 6, 13

As World War II was ending, a far-sighted report advocated for a national science policy and led to the role of the federal government as the major supporter of basic research. This support established America as the unchallenged leader in science and contributed substantially to its remarkable economic growth. America's leadership is now being challenged by abrupt changes in government policy and by growing competition abroad.

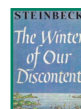
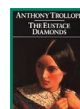


TUESDAY, CONT.

Novels & Ideas: Families

Steve Bornemeier, M.A.,
Tulane University
Jeff Bornemeier, B.A.,
University of Denver

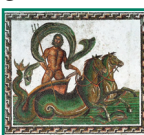
Four Classes
5:00 - 6:30
Oct. 6, 20, Nov. 3, 17



Read. Think. Listen. Discuss.
How literature should be enjoyed.
10/6: **The Eustace Diamonds** (1872)
by Anthony Trollope
10/20: **Howards End** (1910)
by E. M. Forster
11/3: **The Winter of Our Discontent**
(1961) by John Steinbeck
11/17: **The Maytrees** (2007)
by Annie Dillard

Plastered & Stoned: Frescoes, Mosaics, & Graffiti of the Greco-Roman World

Peggy Kelleher, B.A., Classical
Language, Chestnut Hill College,
M.A., Teaching of English,
Manhattanville College
Three Classes
10:30 - 12:00
Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3



Ancient frescoes and mosaics are snapshots of daily life and culture in the ancient world. Ordinary scenes preserved in extraordinary ways tell us about the mythology, sports, rituals, and ordinary experiences of living in early Greece and Rome. Some of these works were preserved by natural disasters like the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius; others lay forgotten and abandoned under dust and neglect, lost to the rest of the world for centuries. We will "excavate" interesting samples of each art form to get a closer look at what life was like at that time and why frescoes and mosaics (and graffiti!) enjoyed great popularity.

Thoughts on the Upcoming Midterms

Barbara Comstock
Former 2-term (2014-18)
Republican Virginia Congresswoman
Political commentator on ABC, CNN,
PBS and other platforms
President of the bipartisan
U.S. Association of Former Members



of Congress
One Class
(Zoom only)
1:30 - 3:00
October 27

Barbara will share her comments about the upcoming midterm elections with emphasis on the competitive Congressional races and the expected resulting balance of power.

TUESDAY, CONT.

The Road to the Revolutionary War: Did Religion Play a Role?

Ron Petersen
Lecturer & writer on Cape history.
Chair, Orleans Historical Commission.
Serves on town committees.



One Class
1:30 - 3:30
November 3

In following the road to the American Revolution, various subjects come up, like the concepts of "taxation without representation" and natural rights ... also key events such as the Stamp Act, the Coercive Acts, the Boston Massacre, and others. Not frequently mentioned, but significant, are religious issues, particularly in Massachusetts. Ron will explore the impact of religious issues in the pre-revolutionary period and the significant role that a Martha's Vineyard born Congregational minister, Jonathan Mayhew, played in the development of revolutionary thought

Envisioning a Brighter Future?

Dan Wolf
Founder & CEO, Cape Air, 1989-2021
MA State Senator for Cape Cod
& the Islands, 2010-2016
Business and community leader,
serving on many vital Boards
throughout Massachusetts
B.A. Wesleyan University,
Political Philosophy



One Class
1:30 - 3:30
November 10

An interactive discussion of the results of the November 3 midterm elections. What can we do to turn the tide towards the democratic utopia that our founders envisioned, and what do we want to achieve in those efforts?

The Health of Our Democracy and the Rule of Law in Light of the 2026 Midterms

Scott Harshbarger
Former Attorney General of MA
and Former President of
Common Cause National,
Founder and Board Chair of Lawyers
Defending American Democracy
One Class (Zoom only)
10:30 - 12:00
November 17



Scott will continue our discussion about the strength and fragility of democracy and the rule of law. Focusing on the significance of the midterm elections plus other consequential decisions and events, we will again ask: Will the center hold and will the traditional norms, values and principles that we deem fundamental to democracy prevail?

TUESDAY, CONT.

Matisse at War: Art and Resistance in Nazi Occupied France



Christopher Gorham
Lawyer, educator,
acclaimed author
One Class
1:30 - 3:00
November 17

Spotlighting the years during WWII when Henri Matisse and his family defiantly refused to evacuate Nazi-occupied France, this groundbreaking book illuminates the previously untold history of their passionate roles in the Resistance and the prodigious, revolutionary work that the artist produced in the face of fascism, violence, and hate. Winner of the 20th Annual Marfield Prize, a National Award for Arts Writing.

WEDNESDAY



Three Visionary Pharaohs: Hatshepsut, Amenhotep III, and Akhenaten

Beth Stein
B.S., Indiana University
M.A., Montclair State University
Art History presenter since 2008
One Class
1:30 - 3:30
September 30

Hatshepsut was known as the most authoritative, successful female pharaoh; some argue that Amenhotep III's insistent identification with the sun god in his monumental iconography and inscriptions was his deification; Akhenaten was best known for making changes to Egypt's polytheistic religion to monotheism, worship of the sun god Aten. Each of these three pharaohs left an indelible mark on the history of ancient Egypt, and arguably the world, forever. They challenged centuries of established practices to implement their innovations, defying the odds. They faced backlash during their lifetimes; strong forces sought to erase their very existence from history. Yet, in the end, each seemed to rise above his or her adversaries. We are still discovering and uncovering facts about their individual stories. Join Beth as she more closely examines and reveals what we know today about these three remarkable individuals who ruled one of the richest and most extensive empires of the ancient world.

WEDNESDAY, CONT.

Shakespeare's Magical Vision of Miracles & Wonder in



**A Midsummer
Night's Dream
& The Winter's Tale**
Kerry Brown, Ph.D.,
University of Delaware.



Taught Shakespeare to high school students for 46 years and to adults for many years at Snow Library & Eldredge Public Library.

Five Classes
10:30 - 12:00
Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4

In this course we will travel from Shakespeare's first masterpiece, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to one of his last, *The Winter's Tale*, and explore how his belief in the possibility of miracles and wonder was implicit at the start of his career and ripened to full maturity at its end in *The Winter's Tale*. Over five weeks we will read both plays and view highlights from critically acclaimed film versions of both.

Exploring & Enjoying The Great American Songbook

John Whelan
Former WOMR radio host, author,
Great American Songbook presenter
accompanied by
Peter Gaines, piano & vocals
Denise Page, vocals



Three Classes
1:30 - 3:30
Oct. 7, 14, 21

We will explore the lives, music and many accomplishments of Harold Arlen, Jule Styne, Jimmy Van Heusen, Duke Ellington, Harry Warren and other songbook greats. Songs you know and love. We'll examine just what makes a song a part of the Great American Songbook.

Music and the Brain

George Scharr
Arts Department Chair (retired) and
Music Faculty at Falmouth Academy
Bass Trombonist CSO Emeritus
Pre-concert Lecturer,
Cape Symphony



One Class
1:30 - 3:30
November 4

Why is music so powerful?" Why is it when we hear a song from our earlier years it brings us right back to where we were and what we were doing? Listening to music or, even more, performing music, triggers the limbic system, the emotional center of our brain. This causes the release of dopamine, which is the body's chemical that is linked to pleasure and the reward system.

(continued on next page)