Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at Tufts University

JAN/FEB 2022
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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022 ONLINE STUDY GROUP OFFERINGS

Astronomy—Topics 2  
*Robert Staron, OLLI Member*

**4 Sessions**, Somewhat interactive- a mix of lecture and discussion  
**Wednesday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, (February 2, 9, 16, 23)**  
**$100**

This study group will have three major areas of focus: the instruments astronomers use, stellar evolution, and unlocking the mysteries of stars and galaxies. There will be some reading and worksheets assigned on a strictly voluntary level. Participants are free to participate at any level they choose. Classes will be in the form of lectures with class discussion as the need arises. Lectures will include animations and videos where appropriate.

**Biography:** Robert Staron is an OLLI member, amateur astronomer, and teacher. He received his MS in Astronomy from Wesleyan University, CT, was the Director of the Springfield Science Museum, and a physics and astronomy teacher at Springfield Public Schools, Westfield State University, Holyoke Community College, and Springfield Technical Community College. *Robert Staron has led previous study groups, including most recently Astronomy Topics.*

Blues Music: History to Current Times  
*Robert Berend, OLLI Member*

**8 Sessions**, Highly interactive- lots of discussion  
**Thursday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, (January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3)**  
**$175**

In this course we will review and discuss the history of blues music in the United States from pre-Civil war/spirituals to Vaudeville. Together we will explore:

- The instruments used in blues music
- The style of the various music selections
- Blues artists of the 1920s and 1930s
- Black migration from Mississippi to Chicago, L.A. and St. Louis and the impact of that migration on blues music
- The blues of the 1950s and 60s and how it evolved and/or differs from earlier eras
- Modern blues musicians and the spread of blues music in US culture and globally

Participants will be asked to use the following materials which are available on Amazon, AbeBooks, or the library. *The Devil’s Music by Giles Oakley* (required, paperback is fine) and *Deep Blues by Robert Palmer*, (optional). Each member, working alone or with others in the class, will be asked to volunteer and assist in presenting a topic related to class material.

**Biography:** Robert Berend, J.D., Ph.D., has been a fan of blues since he first turned a radio on before The Beatles arrived. He’s been to thousands of rock concerts and blues festivals around the world and has lectured on the blues. He has infinite interests and has been paid not to sing. He is happy to attend blues concerts with people that are vaccinated and mask wearing. *Robert Berend has led previous study groups, including most recently The History, Music and Cultural Impact of The Grateful Dead.*
Breaking the Color Barrier in Opera
Barry Schoenfeld, Outside Instructor
6 Sessions, Somewhat interactive- a mix of lecture and discussion
Tuesday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, (January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15)
$150
Like many other institutions and performing arts the world of opera has been slow to accept and showcase the talents of people of color (POC). This study group will trace the history of POC in opera from Marian Anderson to Leontyne Price (of the past) to Pretty Yende (of the present) and names not widely known...of the future. The various barriers of the last century to color blind casting will be detailed and discussed and how/if they were overcome.

Biography: Barry Schoenfeld is NOT a musicologist—rather he is a passionate lover of the performing arts. But in the 5th Grade he studied La Traviata in depth and was rewarded with a field trip to The New York City Opera to actually see a performance. He was instantly hooked and went on to see dozens of performances of La Traviata usually tearing up at the first note of the overture and bawling as Violetta dies! Since that early age Barry has studied and listened to dozens of other operas both the known and the forgotten and now considers himself a quasi Opera Snob! He has taught at other OLLI’s across the country live and via Zoom. He currently lives in Palm Springs, California, where there is not enough live opera for him. Barry Schoenfeld has led previous study groups, including most recently The 6 Greatest Arias in 6 Weeks.

Citizen Mojo—Learn to Contribute as a Citizen Mobile Journalist
Stephen Knifton, Outside Instructor
8 Sessions, Somewhat interactive- a mix of lecture and discussion
Wednesday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, (January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2)
$175
Adapting your smartphone to record broadcast quality video and audio. Class participants will need either an iPhone or Android device for class. The phone can be any year or model and participants should be sure to have the Filmic Pro app installed. (Cost is $14).
Participants will:
* Explore the free software that enables you to edit, add graphics, text, titles and animation right on your smartphone.
* Break down the various social media platforms and develop an understanding of the audiences and types of content that works best on each one.
* Learn to create and produce social media stories that connect with the unique audiences on each social media platform.
* Use graphic design, layout formats, shooting styles (vertical, square and landscape) and dynamic text to create content on, and publish it, from your phone.
*Learn to use these skills to contribute as freelance / citizen journalists.

Biography: Stephen Knifton teaches video storytelling, film production and smartphone filmmaking at colleges and in workshop settings in both Canada and the US. He also produces brand video content for business, non-profits and the design industry and has produced video work for museums and cultural institutions across the country. He’s a former senior cable network news producer and won an Emmy for live breaking news coverage of 9-11. He has 3 great kids and a lab named Gordon. Stephen Knifton has led previous study groups, including most recently Smartphone Filmmaking.
Climate Change in World Literature: Anthropocene and Capitalocene.

Amrita DasGupta, Outside Expert

8 Sessions, Somewhat interactive- a mix of lecture and discussion

Monday, 8:00am - 10:00am, (January 10, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 28, March 7, 14)

$175

This course aims to address the aspects of human influence on the present environmental crisis and how that crisis initiated the pivotal turn in history resulting in a new geological epoch: The Anthropocene. We will explore how this new era is reflected in fictional literatures from around the world—South Asia, America, Europe and Africa. In so doing we will be reading literature from around the world to see how climate change has been depicted.

Literary texts have always been an important tool in helping readers conceptualize the world around them. Robert Macfarlane, an environmental writer, in 2005 questioned “Where is the literature on Climate Change?” The rhetorical question underlined the dearth of fiction on climate change—the most pressing issue of our times. It was only around 2009 that certain climate change fictions began to emerge. However the term climate fiction/ “cli-fi” was only introduced in 2013 in a five-minute radio segment on Weekend Edition Saturday.

Note: Each class will begin with 20 minutes of footage of the geolocation and climate change issues that we will be reading about, followed by 60 minutes of overview lecture/ presentation, followed by 40 minutes of discussion based on preassigned weekly readings.

Biography: Amrita DasGupta, is a Doctoral Candidate at the Department of Gender Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She researches on transnational migration, borders, sex work, climate crisis and gender in the lower deltaic Bengal. Her PhD deals with Indo-Bangladesh water-borders and trafficking in humans. After an undergrad and postgrad degree in English Literature she acquired an M.Phil degree in Women’s Studies from Jadavpur University in India in 2018. Her research interests also include Postcolonial Studies and Environmental Humanities with regards to South Asia. Amrita DasGupta is a new study group leader for Osher.

Demystify: Gene Editing

Saul Einbinder, Outside Instructor

2 Sessions, Somewhat interactive- a mix of lecture and discussion

Friday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, (February 11, 18)

$50

With CRISPR, designer babies and biohacking it is clear that genetic engineering is here right now. In these two approachable and interactive sessions you will learn what gene editing is and gain an appreciation of the remarkable potential it is bringing to medicine and other areas. We’ll also talk through a framework for thinking about the ethical issues, benefits and concerns. No preparation is required, though articles will be suggested. I encourage interruptions, questions and discussion. Materials include videos and other media. As with other “Demystify Technology” sessions, we will separate hype from reality, sprinkle in just a bit of tech talk and keep it entertaining along the way.

Biography: Saul Einbinder held senior technology and business positions at Bell Laboratories, uReach Technologies and Spirent Communications and has appeared in the New York Times, Boston Globe, Forbes and on Marketplace and CBS Radio. After retiring in 2020 he created the “Demystify Technology” series for adult learners to bridge the gap between media hype and reality and has been teaching with the continuing education programs at Rutgers University, Rochester Institute of Technology and other lifelong learning schools. Saul Einbinder has led previous study groups, including most recently Demystify Technology.
DNA: The Recipes of Life  
*Kiril Sinkel, OLLI Member*  
**5 Sessions, Somewhat interactive-a mix of lecture and discussion**  
**Wednesday, 10:00am - 12:00pm, (February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2)**  
**$125**  
Join us as we explore the role of the DNA genetic code, our body’s master recipe book and see how it controls our body’s structure and all its functions. We will first describe how DNA code specifies 20 thousand different kinds of proteins in our bodies. Then we will look at examples of DNA’s many higher-level functions including how cells differentiate from stem cells into many specific tissue types, how genetic programs regulate development from embryo to adult and even how DNA ‘mug shots’ identify pathogens and provide immunity. This class is designed to present the big picture and to help students understand emerging genetic technologies like gene editing using CRISPR, rational vaccine development and new cancer treatments.  
We will make use of animations of biological processes when available. Active discussion will be encouraged.  
**Note:** This is a repeat of the study group most recently presented in Summer 2021  
**Biography:** Kiril Sinkel, a retired computer programmer, has been had a long-term interest in natural information systems like the genome and neural system and has been auditing Boston University genetics, microbiology and neuroscience classes over the last ten years. *Kiril Sinkel has led previous study groups, including most recently Evolution: Processes and Puzzles.*

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*Don Carlo: Verdi's Grand Opera*  
*Francesco Castellano, OLLI Member*  
**3 Sessions, Somewhat interactive- a mix of lecture and discussion**  
**Thursday, 10:00am - 12:00 pm, (February 3, 10, 17)**  
**$75**  
You will view and hear an online production of the Giuseppe Verdi’s opera *Don Carlo* with English subtitles. Some written translations will also be provided for arias and ensembles of note for discussion of drama. There will be an introduction to Verdi, his music and times and references to the drama by Friedrich Schiller, *Don Karlos*, on which the opera is based.  
**Biography:** Francesco Castellano is a native speaker of Italian with a lifelong interest in music, literature, and history. In addition to his military career he taught languages from Jr. High level through College. He earned a Master’s Degree in Italian Literature at Boston College and taught at BC for the last ten years. He has participated in a public reading of the entire Divine Comedy at B.C., where he also presented two cantos, one each from Purgatorio and Paradiso. He has also presented topics on Italian opera and history. He has done commercial recordings for several Italian textbooks and for over 25 years he has been the male speaker in Italian for one of the major commercial language programs. *Francesco Castellano has led previous study groups, including most recently Dante’s Paradiso.*
Exploring Japanese Culture

Yuki Imai, Tufts Graduate Student

6 Sessions, Highly interactive- lots of discussion

Tuesday, 4:00pm - 6:00pm, (January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15)

$150

Did you know that the Japanese were basically vegetarian until the Western culture was introduced in the 19th century? Did you know that it is a taboo to put your chopstick in your food? (There is a reason behind the custom!) This course will introduce not only cuisine and tradition but also arts, religion, anime, historical sites & architecture with some activities including watching videos, making crafts and playing games. (The content can be flexible depending on the students’ interests.) Throughout the course you will become familiar with fundamental aspects of Japanese culture and society.

Biography: Yuki Imai was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She is a 2020 graduate of International Christian University (ICU) in Japan and currently attending Fletcher school at Tufts. She has been working for the ministry of Japan since 2020 and will be working at Japan embassies and consulates around the globe after graduation. She has traveled to more than 20 countries and one of her passions is international communication! Yuki Imai is a new study group leader for Osher.

Fundamentals of Restorative Practices: Healing and Transforming Communities

Chelsea Quilling, Tufts Graduate Student

7 Sessions, Highly interactive- lots of discussion

Thursday, 4:00pm - 6:00pm, (January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24)

$165

This course will examine the fundamentals of restorative practices and their applications to the criminal justice system, education system and everyday life. The goal of the course is to introduce the principles of restorative practices, create a forum for discussion and provide students with skills, resources and opportunities to repair harms and transform their relationships and communities. Students will be expected to come with an open mind, challenge their assumptions and participate in active discussions and exercises on active listening, relationship building and consensus decision-making. The course will also include a resource guide and volunteering opportunities for students to put their learning into practice and have real impact on their communities. Reading will not be required but a resource guide will be provided, including optional readings.

Biography: Current Fletcher student and Colorado-native Chelsea Quilling has been a passionate volunteer in restorative justice and restorative practices since 2005. She has taken part in many restorative justice facilitator and community member training courses, volunteered extensively in law enforcement, university and community partner restorative justice programs and has nine years of experience in the legal field prior to her studies at Fletcher. She holds her bachelor’s from of Gonzaga University and wears many hats as a student and community leader at Fletcher where she studies tech policy and international security. Chelsea Quilling is a new study group leader for Osher.
Great Stuff From Your Public Library ... Online and Free!

*Margaret Lourie, OLLI Member*

**4 Sessions**, Minimally interactive- mostly lecture

**Monday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, (January 31, February 7, 14, 28)**

**$100**

Perhaps the Library is closed, or services are limited, or there is too much cold, snow, and/or ice, or maybe you are just hesitant to go in there? Never fear - the online, digital, library is fully open! Today's libraries have expanded way beyond their physical walls to provide a wealth of high-quality online resources—everything from streaming movies and research materials to e-books, audiobooks, newspapers, music, and more are all available from wherever you are, as long as you have Internet access and, of course, a library card. Even better, these resources are absolutely FREE to you, provided to you by networks of your public libraries. These are things that you CANNOT find through a Google search. Join us as we explore the vast array of resources available to you from your public libraries.

**Note:** This class will cover resources available to Massachusetts libraries and their residents, and will not be applicable to residents of other states. This is a repeat of the study group most recently presented in January, 2021.

**Biography:** Margaret Lourie is a librarian who is dedicated to learning and to maximizing the use and enjoyment of libraries. She wants everyone to know about and benefit from the great high quality resources for research, learning, and entertainment that our public libraries and similar organizations give to us for free. She looks forward to exploring many rich resources with her study group participants.

*Margaret Lourie has led previous study groups, including most recently Visiting Unusual Museums Virtually.*

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**Improviseational Speaking**

*Chester Eng, Tufts Graduate Student*

**8 Sessions**, Highly interactive- lots of discussion

**Monday, 4:00pm - 6:00pm, (January 10, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 28, March 7, 14)**

**$175**

This course is a hands-on, practical class that combines theory, basic principles and methods of improvisation in public speaking. This class will focus on informal and impromptu speaking. Through exercises and collaborative activities students will learn to speak extemporaneously (without preparation) with greater confidence and clarity. Students will explore and become familiar with improvisational tools that enhance their abilities to think quickly, listen, build relationships and be creative. Classes will consist of brief lectures, demonstrations, discussions, collaborative activities and presentations. Through thoughtful and constructive feedback, students and the instructor will teach, support and learn from each other well. By the end of this course all participants will become more effective communicators.

**Biography:** Chester Eng is a master’s student at the Fletcher School who focuses on International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution. Previously, Chester served in the Peace Corps in Kosovo as a high school English teacher, youth project manager, and community organizer in a small city. He then taught academic English for the Rochester Institute of Technology in Kosovo. In all these roles, he practiced public speaking and taught lessons to young people. Before relocating to Kosovo, Chester worked as a tour guide in Washington, D.C. *Chester Eng is a new study group leader for Osher.*
John Brown—Prophet, Terrorist, Hero?

Bill Saunders, OLLI Member

2 Sessions, Minimally interactive- mostly lecture
Tuesday, 10:00am - 12:00pm, (January 11, 18)

$50

Almost everyone has heard the Civil War marching song and knows that *John Brown’s body lies a-moldering in the grave*. But who was this man who spoke with the moral certainty of an Old Testament Prophet while having no trouble shading the truth or committing murder? How did his actions in *Bleeding Kansas* and his raid on Harpers Ferry change American history? And how, in the few weeks between his capture and execution, did he go from being almost universally reviled to a martyr who died to redeem America’s sin of slavery? His legacy as either a hero or domestic terrorist is still debated but many historians now agree with Frederick Douglas who said: *If John Brown did not end the war that ended slavery, he did at least begin the war that ended slavery.*

Suggested readings will be provided as PDFs or web links

**Note:** This is a repeat of the study group most recently presented in Late Fall 2021.

**Biography:** Bill Saunders was formerly a marketing consultant for high-tech companies. His recent interest in John Brown began while traveling on John Brown Avenue in Port au Prince, Haiti with a medical team that made seven trips to Haiti to provide care throughout the countryside around Leogane, the epicenter of the 2010 earthquake. Bill has taught other courses at Tufts Osher, including the history of Haiti in Spring 2020 and an analysis of historical events through the lens of four Graham Greene films in the Fall of 2019.

*Bill Saunders has led previous study groups, including most recently John Brown -- Prophet, Terrorist, Hero?*

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Life Lessons Learned Through Travelling

Gaurav Sharma, Tufts Graduate Student

8 Sessions, Highly interactive- lots of discussion
Friday, 8:00am - 10:00am, (Jan. 14, 21, 28 Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 Mar. 4)

$175

Throughout this class we will share guided insights, based on my personal experiences living in these countries, highlighting eight geographical areas. In each session we will explore a new area by highlighting and discussing the following topics:

- Geographic, Cultural, Customs, Political and Social system such as freedom of speech
- Landscape of the country (cities, villages, etc.)
- People’s living and Community lifestyle - from poor to rich
- Languages and Cuisine
- Local Festivals and Ceremonies
- What personal challenges has any participant experienced in these countries, how did they overcome them, and how did they change your life?

**Biography:** Gaurav is a global citizen with 16 years of experience in telecom and automotive industries. Gaurav lived in 30 countries and speaks 4 languages. He earned a Bachelor Degree in Engineering with a concentration in Electronics and Telecommunication back in 2005. Through his course he developed a passionate interest in digital communications. At Nokia and Volkswagen Gaurav built teams with people from different geographies and diverse backgrounds to achieve one common business objective for small- and large-scale multimillion-dollar projects. In the last job Gaurav was working as Product Strategy Manager with Volkswagen Germany and designing connectivity car products. His long-term goal is to work as a social entrepreneur to solve the world’s pressing challenges. Gaurav plans to launch his own business venture- based on technology to tackle one of the social challenges. *Gaurav Sharma has led previous study groups, including most recently Technology and Its Impact on Society.*
Marguerite Yourcenar’s 1968 Novel, *The Abyss*

*Emese Soos, OLLI Member*

**6 Sessions, Highly interactive- lots of discussion**

**Wednesday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, (Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16)**

$150

Marguerite Yourcenar (1903-1987) was the first woman elected to the Académie française. After her best selling novel, *The Memoirs of Hadrien* (1951), she published *L’Oeuvre au noir* (*The Abyss*) in 1968. It evokes the complexities of sixteenth century Europe with its plagues, wars, religious persecutions, scientific advances and the social upheaval of the incipient industrial revolution. Numerous anachronisms suggest a parallel with the twentieth century. The title, drawn from the first, most difficult phase of the alchemical process, implies a question: will the 20th century emerge from its conflicts as well as did 16th century Europe? Our discussions will be based on the paperback version of the Noonday Press/Farrar, Straus and Giroux edition of the novel, available new or used from Amazon; about 60 pages per session.

**Biography:** Emese Soos majored in French and history at Mount Holyoke College, earned a Ph.D. in French from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and taught French language and culture courses at Tufts for over 30 years. She delights in revisiting some of her favorite literary works, this time in English. *Emese Soos has led previous study groups, including most recently Gustave Flaubert, Master of 19th Century French Realism.*

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**Reading India Right**

*Shruti Rao, Tufts Graduate Student*

**8 Sessions, Highly interactive- lots of discussion**

**Thursday, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, (January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3)**

$175

The study group will be most suited for those interested in the history, culture, religions, politics and the economic prospects and the geo-political role of the Indian subcontinent in the 21st century. While there will be required readings on the above subjects, the class discussions will play with the imaginations and perspectives of the participants relating to India, the land, the people, and the myths and the realities. Readings will be a mix of classic texts (dense readings) and recent articles/videos/news coverage on India. Weekly readings should be around 8-10 pages only, complemented with short informative video clips. Participants will be requested to make a short presentation, on a voluntary basis, on any one of the topics that is most interesting to them followed by inputs from all other members of the group.

**Biography:** Shruti Rao has been a Foreign Policy Consultant with India Foundation, a New Delhi-based think tank. She has work experience with leaders from both the national ruling and the opposition political parties of India. She has been a researcher on South Asia as a Yenching Scholar at Peking University, Beijing, China. As a Young India Fellow at Ashoka University, she has formally studied a wide range of issues on India under some of the most well-known Indologists. She has written extensively on issues of Indian politics, economics and history on several national news platforms. She has been a panellist for a lecture series on politics in India at the Department of South Asia, Peking University, and lectured on Indian Foreign Policy at the Department of International Relations, Islamic University of Indonesia. Growing up in the holy city of Varanasi, she has enjoyed a vantage point that has helped her develop a strong grasp on Indian culture, history and politics. *Shruti Rao is a new study group leader for Osher.*
The Power of Social Innovation  
*Masrura Oishi, Tufts Graduate Student*  
8 Sessions, Highly interactive- lots of discussion  
**Monday, 10:00am - 12:00pm, (January 10, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 28, March 7, 14)**  
**$175**

In this course we will delve into some of the thorniest global problems, along with some of the simple solutions that solve them at scale. In each session, we’ll discuss inspiring stories of social innovation from all over the world and learn what kind of tools and approaches are being used to solve problems using local resources. We will look at alternative education in India, microfinance in Bangladesh, the growth of financial inclusion in Kenya through fintech and the power of Lean Data and the crucial concept of failures. We’ll also talk about the conceptual space in which this kind of social innovation is happening at the intersection of development, capital, technology and behavioral design. Weekly readings will be provided between sessions, and for our final session, attendees will be invited to come prepared to present a social innovation story that resonate most with them. All classes are discussion based.

**Biography:** Masrura Oishi is a social innovation practitioner with over 5 years of experience in designing and implementing social change initiatives. Last summer she worked with MIT D-Lab to create a new problem framing curriculum for Social Entrepreneurs in East Africa and South Asia. She worked as an Innovation Ecosystem and Partnerships Manager at BRAC Social Innovation Lab focusing on technology adaptation in challenging contexts. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Business for Social Impact at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. *Masrura Oishi has led previous study groups, including most recently The Power of Social Innovation.*

US-European Relations  
*Alex Betley, Tufts Alum*  
8 Sessions, Highly interactive- lots of discussion  
**Tuesday, 6pm- 8pm (January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1)**  
**$175**

US-European relations have undergone massive change over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries. Two world wars, the Cold War and its end, the rise of terrorism, the enlargement of pan-European institutions and NATO, climate change and global power shifts have all impacted the transatlantic alliance in important ways. Despite this change, the West has generally remained united along important shared values—namely those of democracy, respect for human rights and an open global economy. Yet for the last two decades cracks have appeared, many growing deeper with time. Will the US and Europe be able to resolve their differences? What shared challenges do US and Europe face? Lastly, how important is the US-European relationship in securing desired political ends on both sides of the Atlantic? This course will examine these questions by looking at US-European relations from the early 20th century through to the present. It will cover the rise of the United States in the Western Hemisphere, two world wars, the Cold War, and relations during the post-Cold War and post-9/11 era up through to Biden. Homework will include 50-70 pages of reading per week provided by the study group leader. The reading requirement will be necessary for such a discussion-heavy course.

**Biography:** Alex Betley is a recent MALD graduate of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy where he studied European foreign relations, international economics and public international law. He was TA to former German Ambassador to the United States, Klaus Scharioth, Senior Editor with the Fletcher Security Review, and an ISSP Civil Resistance Fellow researching Belarus. He wrote his MA thesis on US-European relations and grand strategy in international monetary affairs. *Alex Betley has led previous study groups, including most recently Europe: Successes, Crises, and Challenges Ahead.*
Have you ever wondered how warblers, cardinals or canaries learn to sing? Like humans learning to speak, songbirds must not only hear the sounds of adults during a sensitive period, but they must also hear the sounds of their own voice so they can repeat the song they hear from their parents, then play with different variations until they hit the right notes. In the process, they learn the motor patterns needed to repeat those notes until they have mastered the entire melody. Because the parts of the bird’s brain that control song learning are closely related to human circuits for motor skill learning, lessons from songbirds may provide clues to the causes and possible treatments of motor disorders, such as Parkinson’s disease and Huntington’s disease. No text or prior knowledge is required. A list of suggested readings and videos will be provided for those who would like to delve more deeply into the material.

Note: This is a repeat of the study group that ran in Winter 2019 and Winter 2020.

Biography: Mimi Kao is an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at Tufts who has investigated the neural mechanisms underlying vocal learning in songbirds for over 20 years. Mimi Kao has led previous study groups, including most recently What Songbirds Can Teach Us About Learning & Maintaining Motor Skills.
## LUNCH AND LEARN TALKS

**Winter 2022 Lunch and Learn “Zoom” Lectures**

Talks take place on Wednesdays and run from 12:30 - 1:30pm!

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<th>Date</th>
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| Jan. 5 | Curt DiCamillo, Curator of Special Collections at the New England Historic Genealogical Society  
*The Story of Jewish Families and Their English Country Houses* |
| Jan. 12 | Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby, Authors  
*Cousins: Connected through Slavery* |
| Jan. 19 | Merrill Kohlhofer, Park Guide, National Parks of Boston  
*Massachusetts’ Freedom Riders of 1840* |
| Jan. 26 | Oliver Curme, OLLI Study Group Leader, Brandeis University  
*Ten Curious Things You May Not Know About the Assassination of JFK* |
| Feb. 2 | Irving Lubliner, Author and Emeritus Professor, Southern Oregon University  
*Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light* |
| Feb. 9 | Keidrick Roy, PhD Candidate in American Studies at Harvard University  
*Race, Religion, and Black Political Thought in Antebellum New England* |
| Feb. 16 | Professor Noe Montez, Chair of the Department of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, Tufts University  
*What is Latinx Theater?* |
| Feb. 23 | Joe Orfant, former Chief of Planning, Design and Resource Protection for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
*The Woman Who Invented the Central Artery* |
HOW TO REGISTER

1. Become a Member or Renew your Membership
   (Membership runs from 7/1/2021-6/30/2022)
   By visiting our website: https://universitycollege.tufts.edu/lifelong-learning

   Membership is required for class registration.

2. Register Starting on Monday, December 6th at 9am.
   - Register online - E-newsletter subscribers will automatically receive a reminder email with registration instructions. Email OsherLLI@tufts.edu and join our e-newsletter to get a reminder and more!

3. Receive Confirmation and Submit Payment
   After the close of initial registration, we will contact you with a summary of your courses, your total balance due, and payment instructions.

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

- Initial Registration Period: December 6-7
- OLLI Office Confirms Initial Course Enrollments: December 10
- Add/Drop Period: Dec. 13 - Jan. 10
- Classes Begin: January 10th

PRICING

Membership Fee: $50 (Membership runs from 7/1/2021-6/30/2022)

Study Group Pricing: Varies by Course

HOW TO PAY

After your registrations for the term are finalized, our office will contact you to let you know how much you owe. You will then have the option to pay via our online payment portal, or send a check (made payable to Trustees of Tufts College) to our office.

FINANCIAL AID

Partial tuition remission is available on a limited basis. For more info, call our main office and ask to speak with the director.

WITHDRAWALS & CANCELLATIONS

You will be charged $25 for each withdrawal before the second session of a multi-session class. (No refunds will be available after the second session.) If the OLLI office cancels any courses, full refunds will be issued. When an individual session needs to be cancelled due to instructor illness or other reason, we do our best to schedule a makeup session.

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