

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1991



LEARNING IN RETIREMENT INC.

c/o Temple Beth El

350 Roxbury Road

Stamford, CT 06902

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Email: lrstamford@gmail.com

Website: www.lrstamford.org

FALL 2026



SERVING THE COMMUNITY
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Learning in Retirement

c/o Temple Beth El
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902
203.350.9752 • www.lirstamford.org

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LEARNING IN RETIREMENT, INC. is a non-profit, volunteer-operated organization that provides education and enrichment for retired and senior citizens.

New this Semester:

- Due to increased costs associated with operating the program, our regular tuition is now \$12 per class. Walk-In tuition will remain \$15.

Continuing this Semester:

- Please enter TBE through the **glass doors only**. This is the entrance off the parking lot. If the classroom is used for lectures, you can choose to walk up the stairs or take the elevator.
- **Glass doors** will be open from 10-10:20 a.m. Please come early so you can socialize and pick your seats. Doors will be locked at 10:25 a.m.
- **Refreshments are not served** but you're welcome to bring your own beverage.
- Classes will consist of a lecture from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. followed by Q&A until noon.
- **Masks optional**. We will follow the State Health Department guidelines.
- **Walk-ins for classes will be allowed, but will be charged \$15, which can be paid by check (payable to Learning in Retirement) or cash.**
- **Walk-ins will not be permitted for field trips.**

Registration:

- Go to our website www.lirstamford.org to view our full current catalog and to connect to our online registration.
- When ready to enroll – or to see a picture and professional bio of the presenter – click the Registration link.
- After enrolling for classes, you will receive a registration confirmation email from LIR.
- You will receive reminders the day before and the day of each class.

Inclement Weather:

- If Stamford schools are closed due to weather, LIR does not meet and classes will be rescheduled.
- If Stamford Public Schools have a delayed opening LIR will have classes as scheduled.
- Check Cable Channel 12 for information or News 12 online:
<https://connecticut.news12.com/school-closings-closings-delays-and-early-dismissals-41390324>
- You will receive an email from **LIR Info** when a cancelled class has been rescheduled.

Security:

- Temple Beth El (TBE) doors are locked at all times and those entering must ring to be admitted.
- LIR will have someone at the glass doors to admit participants 20 minutes prior to scheduled classes (10 – 10:20 a.m.)
Please do not arrive prior to 10 a.m.
- The glass doors will be locked at 10:25 a.m.
- Everyone is encouraged to arrive on time since latecomers disrupt the TBE office staff.

Handicapped Accessibility:

- There are no stairs when entering TBE through the glass doors.
- An elevator is available if the lecture is in the upstairs classroom.
- A wheelchair is available if necessary.

General:

- There are no waiting lists when classes are fully subscribed.
- **There are no refunds for missed classes.**
- **Refunds are only available when LIR cancels or reschedules a lecture.**
- You will be notified **by email** if a class is rescheduled or cancelled.
- If registration for any class is too large for our classrooms, the lecture will be moved to the social hall.

Communication:

- Please leave phone messages at 203.350.9752.
- Check our website, www.lirstamford.org, where you can find the latest LIR Catalog.

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>



FALL 2026 – SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

All classes are in the TBE classroom and are from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. + Q&A, unless otherwise noted.
Online Registration closes at midnight the night before each class or field trip.

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRIDAY
31 Eblast, Catalog & REGISTRATION BEGINS	1	2	3	4
7 Labor Day	8 LIR Begins #201 - Famous Flops! How Once Hated Musical Works Became Classics, with Examples from Broadway, Orchestra, Opera and Pop – Zachary Kampler	9	10 #401 - Evita-Don't Cry for Me Argentina – Dan Egan	11 Rosh Hashanah #508 Tech Tips for Apple iPhone Users 1.0 – Maggie Kopec & Brian Mahoney Maximum 15
14	15	16 #301 Tech Tips for Apple iPhone Users 2.0 – Maggie Kopec & Brian Mahoney Maximum 15	17 #402 - Pre-Talk - Wadsworth Atheneum - Amistad Center	18 #501 - VizYourGov - Connecting the Dots Between Money and Politics – Rose Marie Secada
21 Yom Kippur	22	23 #302 - Field Trip: Walking Tour – History Happens Downtown - Stamford's Visible History(presentation in classroom if bad weather) – Wes Haynes Maximum 20	24 #403 - The Importance of Connecticut to the Revolution - Influence in Statesmanship and on the Battlefield – Mike Allen	25 Sukkot #502 - Field Trip: Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art – Amistad Center 9:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Maximum 45
28	29	30 #304 - Post Discussion - Wadsworth Atheneum – Amistad Center	1 #404 - Prospects for the US Economy and Financial Markets – Dr. Larry Kantor	2 Simchat Torah #503 - Camille Pissaro: Father of the Impressionist Movement – Scott Verchin

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

OCTOBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRIDAY
5 #101 - Delacroix: From the Paris Salon to the Father of French Romanticism - Darby Cartun	6 #202 - The Rolling Stones and the British Invasion - Brian Torff	7	8	9 #504 - Verdi's Rigoletto: Tragedy, Vengeance, and the Power of Melody - Dr. Gil Harel
12 Columbus Day	13 #203 - US Senator Richard Blumenthal 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	14 #303 - 2024-2026: Two Years in Singapore as the US Walked Away From Southeast Asia - Dr. Alexis Dudden	15 #405 - An Important Topic - Dr. Kevin Buterbaugh	16 #505 - Remarkable Women - Alice Look
19 #102 - Vermeer - Serdar Arat	20	21 # 305- The 2 Great "Affairs" That Took Place At Versailles - Diane Stone	22 #406 - Stamford: The State of the City - Mayor Caroline Simmons	23 #506 - Infrastructure Wars after Russia's Invasion of Ukraine - Dr. Olena Lennon
26 #103 - The Convergence of AI, Social Media & Concentrated Ownership on News - Mark Potts	27 #204 - Understanding Artificial Intelligence - Mark Potts	28 #306 – Issues: Snapshots of The Midterms - Tom Gardner	29	30

NOVEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRIDAY
2 #104 - Conversations with Art: The Elephant and the Dove - Diego Rivera And Frida Kahlo - Helane Rheingold	3 #205 - Pre-performance talk - President and CEO of Orchestra Lumos Walker Beard 	4 #308 -Performance Orchestra Lumos Wind Quintet 	5	6
9 #105 - Two Among the Greatest Ever Made – Foster Hirsch	10 #206 - History of CT pro sports - Bob Huessler	11 Veterans Day	12 #407 - Orchestra Lumos post performance feedback 	13
16	17	18 #307 - From Stage to the Top of the Music Charts - Nancy L. Meyer	19 #408 - A New Important Topic – – Dr. Kevin Buterbaugh	20 #507 - From Struggle to Glory: Brahms' First Symphony & German Requiem - Dr. Gil Harel LIR Semester Ends
23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27
30				

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

PERFORMANCE



Learning in Retirement, INC.
Recipient of a SACC Grant
For the project



Live Music and Learning at LIR Stamford

LIR Stamford is proud to announce we've received a Stamford Arts & Culture Commission grant. The SACC supports Stamford community initiatives that promote the understanding of history, literature, art, and other humanities fields. With their help, and in partnership with Stamford's Orchestra Lumos, we bring you:



The Orchestra Lumos Wind Quintet

in a 3-part session

A Concert for Small Spaces



#205 - TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 3 - PRE-TALK

Learn about and listen to the harmonious sounds of the classical wind quintet – flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn. Orchestra LUMOS CEO **Walker Beard** will illuminate the evolution of modern wind instruments, well-known wind quintet composers and pieces, and what to listen for in this chamber music.

#308 - WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 4 - CONCERT*

Included in the same entrance pass: LUMOS musicians will perform a concert and field questions.

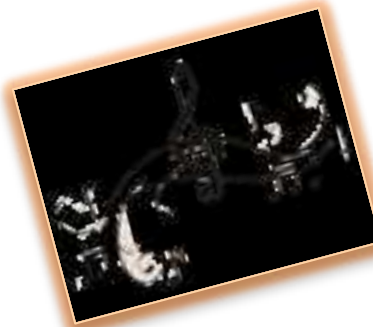
#407 - THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 12 - POST PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK

Attendees are invited to join a feedback session with LIR organizers to share comments and ideas for enhancing future classical lectures and performances.

All sessions are 10:30-11:30 & Q&A

Location:

Temple Beth El
350 Roxbury Road
Stamford, CT 06902



***Artists and works will be announced by October.**

Take your seats** and enjoy the sounds of the Orchestra Lumos Wind Quintet.

Tuition: \$15.00 for the 3-part session.

Visit our website to download the LIR catalog and to Register.

Go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

Or scan the QR code



To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

FALL 2026

#201 - FAMOUS FLOPS! HOW ONCE HATED MUSICAL WORKS BECAME CLASSICS, WITH EXAMPLES FROM BROADWAY, ORCHESTRA, OPERA AND POP



TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 8

TUITION \$12.00

Music director and conductor **Zachary Kampler** will discuss what makes music a hit. Is an audience's reaction to music always correct? Why would a once hated piece of music become popular? The answers to these questions and more will be explored at this engaging, interactive lecture.

#401 - EVITA- DON'T CRY FOR ME ARGENTINA



THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 10

TUITION \$12.00

The original Broadway production of *Evita* premiered on Broadway in 1979 and went on to win 7 Tony awards in 1980 including Best Musical, Best Actress, Featured Actor, Director, Score, Book and Lighting.

Dan Egan returns to LIR to discuss the revival London production directed by Jaimie Lloyd (*Sunset Blvd.* Revival) of the hit musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice coming to Broadway in Spring 2027 and how it differs from the original Hal Prince production.

#508 - TECH TIPS FOR APPLE iPhone USERS 1.0



FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 11

TUITION \$12.00

For best individual help in this class, registration is **limited to a minimum of 12 – maximum 15 participants.**

PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS THE SAME CLASS THAT WAS OFFERED DURING THE FALL 2024 SEMESTER.

Make the most of your iPhone. Learn how to use the Contacts features to store and recall important information. Learn how to find and sort your photos into albums to share with friends and relatives. Learn how to use Calendar to store and recall events, places and notes so you don't need a paper calendar again. Small class size (maximum of 15) for hands on instruction and individual attention. Bring your fully charged phone with you. Taught by **LIR Board members. See page 19 for more information.**

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

#301 - TECH TIPS FOR APPLE iPhone USERS 2.0

WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 16

TUITION \$12.00



For best individual help in this class, registration is **limited to a minimum of 12 – maximum 15 participants.**

PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS THE SAME CLASS THAT WAS OFFERED DURING THE FALL 2025 SEMESTER.

Explore Messages (texts). Learn about sending and receiving messages, attachments and special effects. Set up Emergency information on your iPhone. Use Wallet to store important documents. Use Apple Pay.

Small class size for hands on instruction and individual attention. Bring your fully charged phone with you. Taught by LIR Board members. See page 20 for more information.

#402 - PRE-TALK - WADSWORTH ATHENEUM – AMISTAD CENTER



THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 17

TUITION \$12.00

If you are NOT going on the field trip, but wish to attend this curator talk then you need to register for this class.

(If you have registered for the field trip, you are already registered for the Pre-Talk.)

You will learn from an expert Wadsworth Atheneum museum curator (live streamed to our classroom) about the works of art of **Framing American Democracy**, a series of exhibits to mark the nation's 250th birthday.

#501 - VIZYOURGOV - CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN MONEY AND POLITICS



FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 18

TUITION \$12.00

VizYourGov makes it easier for voters to be well informed about the influences on government and politics.

In this session **Rose Marie Secada**, founder of VizYourGov will teach us how to use it.

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

**#302 - FIELD TRIP: WALKING TOUR- HISTORY HAPPENS DOWNTOWN - STAMFORD'S
VISIBLE HISTORY (presentation in classroom if bad weather)**



WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 23

TUITION \$12.00

Maximum enrollment – 20

Walking Tour - A one-hour walking tour of the historic buildings and open spaces in Stamford's urban center.

Classroom Slide Show – (only if inclement weather) - The talk will explore the past 250 years of Stamford's social and economic history as told through a selection of existing local architecture and open spaces.

Stamford native **Wes Haynes** recently retired from a 50-year career in the tri-state region in historic preservation, working in non-profits and architectural offices.

See page 18 for more information.

**#403 - THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTICUT TO THE REVOLUTION - INFLUENCE IN
STATESMANSHIP AND ON THE BATTLEFIELD**



THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 24

TUITION \$12.00

Learn how Connecticut played an outsized role in winning U.S. independence from the British Empire 250 years ago. Our nickname was “The Provisions State” due to all the food and ammunition contributed to the Continental Army. Prominent statesmen, including Roger Sherman, helped form the new country. Women were both stoic and heroic in contributing to the cause. Military standouts – such as Benedict Arnold and Israel Putnam – won critical battles. Military engagements occurred in Danbury, Ridgefield, Saugatuck, Groton, New London, New Haven, Greenwich, Norwalk, and Fairfield.

Long-time public speaker, radio journalist and history podcast host **Mike Allen** returns to LIR to share CT's foundational role in our country's history.

#402 - PRE-TALK - WADSWORTH ATHENEUM - AMISTAD CENTER

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 17

THE WADSWORTH

**#502 - FIELD TRIP: WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART-
AMISTAD CENTER**

FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 25 - Maximum enrollment – 45

#304 - POST-DISCUSSION - WADSWORTH ATHENEUM - AMISTAD CENTER

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 30

See page 17 for more information.

#404 - PROSPECTS FOR THE US ECONOMY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS



THURSDAY - OCTOBER 1

TUITION \$12.00

The policies of the current Administration have received considerable attention, and that is no surprise considering how much they differ from historic norms. We've experienced the biggest increase in tariffs in our lifetimes, a sharp drop in immigration coupled with a surge in deportations and a war with Iran that has caused energy prices to soar. These are all what economists call negative supply shocks, which raise prices and reduce output. Despite all this, the economy and financial markets have weathered the storm remarkably well. That is because we are in the midst of the biggest technological spending boom in US history. The combination of solid growth and higher inflation has shifted the focus of

monetary policymakers from lowering rates to possibly raising them. At the same time, the President appointed a new Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board largely because he was disappointed that the previous Chair didn't cut interest rates enough. Meanwhile, stock prices continue to reach record levels even as bond yields have moved up. How does all this add up for the US economy and financial markets going forward? Is the stock market in a bubble? How long will the economy remain strong? **Dr. Larry Kantor** is an operating partner at Atlas Merchant Capital, a private equity firm.

#503 - CAMILLE PISSARO: FATHER OF THE IMPRESSIONIST MOVEMENT



FRIDAY - OCTOBER 2

TUITION \$12.00

Camille Pissarro is widely considered the Father of the Impressionist movement. He was a mentor to many of the world's great painters, including Cezanne, Degas, Renoir, Seurat, Gauguin, Monet, and Van Gogh. Art lecturer **Scott Verchin** will explore these relationships and how they impacted this new art movement, along with how the Impressionists collectively won over French society.

Scott Verchin is an independent business consultant in the media, visual arts, and museum sectors. Throughout his career, he has served notable roles as Publisher of MUSEUMS and ARCHAEOLOGY magazine.

#101 - DELACROIX: FROM THE PARIS SALON TO THE FATHER OF FRENCH ROMANTICISM



MONDAY - OCTOBER 5

TUITION \$12.00

Eugène Delacroix (1798–1863) opened an artistic doorway, breaking from rigid academic conventions. His work pulses with energy, liberating painting from the constraints of Neoclassicism. For Delacroix, passion emerges through extreme human experiences - war, love, death, and revolution.

A master of illustration, watercolor, and oil painting, he also left behind a vast body of sketches. His imagination continues to captivate, whether depicting the Middle Ages or contemporary events. His art remains seductive, compelling the viewer to look longer and want more.

Through analysis and appreciation, art historian **Darby Cartun** will demonstrate how Delacroix stands as a ground-breaking force, the defining figure of French Romanticism.

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

#202 - THE ROLLING STONES AND THE BRITISH INVASION



TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6

TUITION \$12.00

Professor of Music, composer and bassist **Brian Q. Torff** presents a critical overview of the Rolling Stones, their complex legacy, and their impact on the evolution of Rock and Roll. From ‘Satisfaction’ to ‘Street Fighting Man,’ The Rolling Stones have endured as a reflection of both good and bad in modern times. Professor Torff will give an analysis of the British Invasion of the 1960s.

#504 - VERDI'S RIGOLETTO: TRAGEDY, VENGEANCE, AND THE POWER OF MELODY



FRIDAY - OCTOBER 9

TUITION \$12.00

Join **Professor Gil Harel** as he journeys into the dramatic world of Giuseppe Verdi's 1851 masterpiece Rigoletto. This lecture explores one of opera's most gripping tragedies, following the deformed court jester Rigoletto as his quest for revenge against a philandering duke leads to heartbreaking consequences for his beloved daughter Gilda.

203 - US SENATOR RICHARD BLUMENTHAL



TUESDAY - OCTOBER 13 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM*

TUITION \$12.00

Please note the time for the Senator's session.

***While Senator Blumenthal's office has given us a confirmation, due to sudden changes in the Congressional schedule, LIR will email everyone if there is a change.**

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

#303 - 2024-2026: TWO YEARS IN SINGAPORE AS THE UNITED STATES WALKED AWAY FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA



WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 14

TUITION \$12.00

UConn **Professor Alexis Dudden** will share experiences from two years on the faculty of the National University of Singapore. Hear observations about living and teaching in Singapore. Learn how the US Foreign Policy during the 2nd Trump Administration has affected countries that tried to balance relationships between China and the US, as seen from the SE Asian perspective. Professor Dudden will also touch on Unit 731, a WW2 China based Japanese Biowarfare organization that has recently become a hot topic in SE Asian media.

#405 - AN IMPORTANT TOPIC



THURSDAY - OCTOBER 15

TUITION \$12.00

Dr. Kevin Buterbaugh, professor of Political Science at Southern CT State College, defers his choice of topic until near presentation time when he will select an important current event.

#505 - REMARKABLE WOMEN



FRIDAY - OCTOBER 16

TUITION \$12.00

Alice Look is a former journalist and television executive for A&E, History and Lifetime and a co-founder and executive producer of the Remarkable Women Project. She is the author of *Remarkable Women: Reclaiming Their Stories*, which features 23 women – unsung heroes -- who changed the world through their inventions, discoveries, activism and creativity. Ms. Look returns to talk about more remarkable women and the Remarkable Women Project.

#102 - VERMEER



MONDAY - OCTOBER 19

TUITION \$12.00

Serdar Arat, an Emeritus Professor of Art from Concordia College and a working artist, will discuss Johannes Vermeer, the 17th century Dutch artist who has given us mesmerizing and enigmatic paintings. Yet, several paintings attributed to him are problematic, to say the least, even though they all have the right provenance. Some look like an amateur's work and others are emotionally powerful while technically inferior. We will explore the enduring mysteries, including the theory that Vermeer's daughter became his apprentice - through vividly detailed images and captivating scholarly and forensic research.

#305 - THE 2 GREAT "AFFAIRS" THAT TOOK PLACE AT VERSAILLES



WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 21

TUITION \$12.00

With approximately 100 years between them, the 2 great "affaires" – the French spelling – that occurred at the French Court are among European history's wildest stories. **Diane Stone** will discuss *The Affair of the Poisons* during the reign of Louis XIV and *The Affair of the Necklace*, during the reign of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. They will keep you on the edge of your seat. These are true crime stories worthy of today's limited series genre that you are guaranteed to find interesting.

#406 - STAMFORD: THE STATE OF THE CITY



THURSDAY - OCTOBER 22

TUITION \$12.00

Mayor Caroline Simmons of Stamford will discuss her administration's priorities and provide an overview on the work and initiatives occurring in the City of Stamford.

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

#506 - INFRASTRUCTURE WARS AFTER RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE



FRIDAY - OCTOBER 23

TUITION \$12.00

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the growing role of energy infrastructure as both a strategic asset and a military target. This course examines how states use and contest critical infrastructure, including energy networks, transportation corridors, ports, communications systems, and agricultural supply chains, during times of conflict. Through the lens of the war in Ukraine and its broader Eurasian implications, we will explore the weaponization of infrastructure, economic coercion, energy security, and the geopolitical consequences of disruption across interconnected regional and global networks.

Olena Lennon Ph.D. is an Adjunct Professor of National Security at the University of New Haven. An Eastern Ukraine native, and a former Fulbright scholar, she also serves as an election observer with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and has completed several election observation missions in Eurasia.

#103 - THE CONVERGENCE OF AI, SOCIAL MEDIA & CONCENTRATED OWNERSHIP ON NEWS



MONDAY - OCTOBER 26

TUITION \$12.00

The way we get our news has changed dramatically over the past three decades, shifting from ink on newsprint to social media, short videos and artificial intelligence on mobile devices. **Mark Potts** had a front-row seat to this transformation as an executive at The Washington Post and other media companies and digital startups.

He'll talk about how media has changed, how the newspaper industry blew the transition to digital media and what comes next for news.

#204 - UNDERSTANDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



TUESDAY - OCTOBER 27

TUITION \$12.00

AI has invaded our lives and economy over the past few years as one of the most dramatic technology revolutions we've ever seen. **Mark Potts**, CEO of AI-driven local information startup LocAlmanac, will explain in clear, non-techie language what AI is and how it works, discuss its pros and cons and talk about how we can safely use and take advantage of this exciting - and somewhat scary - new technology.

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

#306 - ISSUES - SNAPSHOTS OF THE MIDTERMS



WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 28

TUITION \$12.00

Tom Gardner of *Born To Run The Numbers* will share his thoughts on the political scene, the upcoming 2026 mid-terms and beyond.

#104 - CONVERSATIONS WITH ART: THE ELEPHANT AND THE DOVE - DIEGO RIVERA AND FRIDA KAHLO



MONDAY - NOVEMBER 2

TUITION \$12.00

Over 95 years ago, on August 21, 1929 Frida Kahlo (21) and Diego Rivera (42) were married in Mexico.

It was her first marriage; it was his third. Frida's mother was against this marriage. Diego was twice divorced, a communist, an atheist and a womanizer. She described the wedding as a marriage between an elephant, 6' tall and 300 pounds, and a dove, 5'3" and 100 pounds.

Join **Helane Rheingold** for a *Conversation with Art*, where we will discuss their complex relationship and how they impacted each other, in their art and lives.



A Concert for Small Spaces

#205 - PRE-PERFORMANCE MUSIC TALK

TUESDAY – NOVEMBER 3

TUITION \$15.00

#308 - PERFORMANCE – ORCHESTRA LUMOS WIND QUINTET

WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 4

#407 – POST-PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK

THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 12



See **page 5** for more information.

#105 - TWO AMONG THE GREATEST EVER MADE



MONDAY - NOVEMBER 9

TUITION \$12.00

Foster Hirsch will discuss two late 1950s films starring James Stewart: *VERTIGO* (1958), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, and considered by many critics and historians to be among the greatest films ever made; and *ANATOMY OF A MURDER* (1959), directed by Otto Preminger, widely considered the greatest of all films about the American system of trial by jury. In both films, the actor, breaking his popular image as an affable everyman, takes on complex, ambivalent, hard-to-read characters. The films pose challenging questions for the

viewer about the moral choices each character makes: does Stewart's lawyer in *ANATOMY OF A MURDER* make the right decision about his client; does his detective in *VERTIGO* treat the Kim Novak character fairly?

Mr. Hirsch is the author of *Hollywood And The Movies Of The Fifties: The Collapse Of The Studio System, The Thrill Of Cinerama, And The Invasion Of The Ultimate Body Snatcher - Television*, published by Alfred Knopf.

For those who have not seen these movies or wish to watch the movies again prior to the lecture, you can watch them, for a fee, on Amazon Prime or YouTube.

#206 - THE HISTORY OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS IN CONNECTICUT



TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 10

TUITION \$12.00

Professional sports have played a larger role in Connecticut's history than many people realize. The state has been home to franchises in the WNBA and NHL, once hosted a National League baseball team, and even came close to securing an NFL franchise. What brought these teams to Connecticut, and why did so many eventually leave? Through the captivating stories of teams, owners, athletes, and politicians, we'll explore the economic, cultural and political forces that have shaped - and continue to shape - professional sports in the great state of Connecticut.

Bob Heussler is a Connecticut-based sportscaster who has covered events in the state and in the New York City market for over 40 years. He is the longtime voice of Fairfield University men's basketball.

#307 - FROM STAGE TO THE TOP OF THE MUSIC CHARTS



WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 18

TUITION \$12.00

How does one make a pop hit from a musical theatre song? It's a little more complex than one would think! We'll take an historical look at and listen to how pop artists, and their producers, select, adapt, and morph musical theatre pieces into hit recordings. This lecture will feature recordings by Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, the Beatles, Linda Ronstadt and Dionne Warwick, as well as other recording artists, and the musicals that inspired them.

Master teaching artist, theatre director, performer, improvisational comedy troupe member, and author **Nancy Limbacher Meyer** will explore a bit about the process different "book writers" take to transform what worked or didn't work in a movie to make a musical.

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

#408 - A NEW IMPORTANT TOPIC



THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 19

TUITION \$12.00

Dr. Kevin Buterbaugh, professor of Political Science at Southern CT State College, defers his choice of topic until near presentation time when he will select an important current event.

#507 - FROM STRUGGLE TO GLORY: BRAHMS' FIRST SYMPHONY & GERMAN REQUIEM



FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 20

TUITION \$12.00

Join **Professor Gil Harel** to explore two towering masterpieces by Johannes Brahms: his monumental First Symphony — long awaited and hailed as “Beethoven’s Tenth” — with its dramatic journey from dark tension to radiant triumph, and the deeply moving A German Requiem, a humanistic choral work that offers comfort to the living rather than judgment of the dead. Together, they reveal Brahms at the height of his compositional powers.



Learning in Retirement, INC.

Journey to Cultural Gems II

A Three-part Series Special

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART



How have artists helped Americans understand the meaning—and contradictions—of democracy? As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, this question provides the central focus for LIR's *Journey to Cultural Gems II*, a **three-part** humanities program designed to engage participants in examining the nation's founding ideals through art, history, and discussion.

The program will bring participants to the Amistad Center for Art & Culture and Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Through exhibitions, lectures, and group reflection, participants will explore how artists across generations have interpreted the promise of the American founding—particularly the revolutionary assertion that “all men are created equal”—and how those ideals have often stood in tension with historical realities such as slavery and racial inequality.

The museum visit will include a docent-led tour of **Framing American Democracy**, a series of exhibits to mark the nation's 250th birthday. Split into smaller groups, we will explore:

Radical Roots:

The Museum describes this exhibit as: “Who participates in democracy, and who has historically been excluded from or denied full participation within it? From its colonial settlement by English Puritans onward, Connecticut gave rise to political revolutionaries and revolutionary artists alike. In conjunction with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederic Edwin Church (1826–1900), this exhibition untangles the Connecticut roots of American democracy and its legacy. A cross-section of objects ranging from paintings and sculptures to decorative arts and ephemera help reframe Connecticut as a hotbed of radical thought. Prompting reflection on what American notions of freedom and liberty have meant at different moments in time, these same objects offer powerful lessons on the interplay between myth, memory, and history.”

Rebel, Revolt, Resist:

The exhibition highlights the resistance of enslaved people and offers perspectives often absent from earlier historical narratives, emphasizing the refusal of enslaved individuals to accept bondage. By presenting this history through art and cultural interpretation, the exhibition invites viewers to reconsider traditional understandings of American history and reflect on how resistance, agency, and struggle have shaped the nation's democratic ideals.

In **free time** at the museum, participants will also have the opportunity to experience **Manifest | Thirteen Colonies**, a related exhibition by photographer Wendel A. White. In addition, participants will explore related exhibitions at the Wadsworth Atheneum that examine the framing of American democracy through art from the revolutionary era to the present day.

The program includes:

#402 - Pre-Trip Talk - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Temple Beth El

You will learn from an expert Wadsworth Atheneum museum curator (streamed to our classroom) about the works of art that you will see on our museum trip. The Curators - see pictures>>>>

#502 - Museum Trip - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

- Departing from Stamford 9:30 a.m. and returning at 3:00 p.m.

Includes bus trip between Stamford and the Museum and docent-led tour of the Wadsworth Atheneum and Amistad Center

#302 - Post-Trip Discussion - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 - 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Temple Beth El

LIR team members will lead a post-trip discussion to review what we've seen and learned.



Katherine Tycz (pic)
Richard Koopman Associate Curator
for Decorative Arts at The
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum
of Art



Erin Monroe
Kneible Curator of American
Paintings and Sculpture at the
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum
of Art



Rodney M. O. Hart
Deputy Director at the Amistad
Center for Art & Culture

TUITION is \$85.00 for the series. Register for the Field trip to obtain this price. It includes the pre-trip lecture, museum admission, docent tour, bus transportation and post-trip discussion but **does not include lunch**. Registrants will be contacted at a later date with lunch options. **Maximum 45 participants**

If you can't go on the field trip: You can register for the pre-trip talk. The pre-talk will cost the regular \$12.00 class fee.

EASY- this field trip includes a museum gallery time standing – **Must be able to get on and off the bus unaided.**

YOU MUST CLICK THE WAIVER BOX WHEN YOU REGISTER FOR A FIELD TRIP.

Field Trip participants will be contacted prior to the trip with meeting place & time information.

Field Trip

#302 - WALKING TOUR- HISTORY HAPPENS DOWNTOWN

- STAMFORD'S VISIBLE HISTORY (presentation in classroom if bad weather)

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 23

TUITION \$12.00

Walking Tour - A one-hour walking tour of the historic buildings and open spaces in Stamford's urban center. Tour starts at the corner of Bedford and Forest Streets and ends at corner of Atlantic and Bell Street. Note, there is metered parking in Bedford Street or Bell Street Garages. **Maximum 20 participants**

Classroom Slide Show – (only if inclement weather)

The talk will explore the past 250 years of Stamford's social and economic history as told through a selection of existing local architecture and open spaces.



REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS will be emailed 24 hrs. prior of the change of venue.



Wes Haynes is a Stamford native who recently retired from a 50-year career in the tri-state region in historic preservation working in non-profits and architectural offices and teaching at Parsons, RPI and the Brooklyn High School for the Arts. He currently serves on the boards of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy, Emerson Hall Foundation, Pequot Library, and Adirondack Architectural Heritage.

YOU MUST *CLICK* THE WAIVER BOX WHEN YOU REGISTER FOR A FIELD TRIP.

Field Trip participants will be contacted prior to the trip with meeting place & time information.

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

Specialty Class

PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS THE SAME CLASS THAT WAS OFFERED DURING THE FALL 2025 SEMESTER.

#508 - TECH TIPS FOR APPLE iPhone USERS 1.0

FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 11

TUITION \$12.00

Make the most of your iPhone.

Learn how to:



Identify who is calling/emailing/messaging you. Use Contacts to make your life easier

Never miss a birthday or bill payment again, and other Calendar uses

Find, organize and share your Photos

Connect with QR codes

**For best individual help in this class, registration is
limited to a minimum of 12 – maximum 15 participants**

Bring your fully charged phone with you for this hands-on class.



This class will be taught by **LIR Board Members – Brian Mahoney and Maggie Kopec**

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>

Specialty Class

PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS THE SAME CLASS THAT WAS OFFERED DURING THE FALL 2025 SEMESTER.

#302 - TECH TIPS FOR APPLE iPhone USERS 2.0

WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 16

TUITION \$12.00

Make the most of your iPhone.

Learn how to:



Explore Messages (texts). Learn about sending and receiving message, attachments and special effects

Set up Emergency information on your iPhone

Use Wallet to store important documents

Use Apple Pay

For best individual help in this class, registration is **limited to a minimum of 12 – maximum 15 participants.**

Bring your fully charged phone and charger with you for this hands-on class.



This class will be taught by **LIR Board Members – Brian Mahoney and Maggie Kopec**

To Register or for Catalog updates go to: <https://www.lirstamford.org/>



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REGISTRATION WORK SHEET – (Do not mail this form)

All classes are in the TBE classroom and are from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. + Q&A, unless otherwise noted.

Online Registration closes at midnight the night before each class or field trip.

DATE	CLASS	TUITION	TOTAL
Sept 8	#201 - Famous Flops! How Once Hated Musical Works Became Classics, with Examples from Broadway, Orchestra, Opera and Pop – Zachary Kampler	12.00	
Sept 10	#401 – Evita – Don’t Cry for Me Argentina - Dan Egan	12.00	
Sept 11	#508 – Tech Tips For Apple iPhone Users 1.0 - Minimum 12 - Maximum 15 participants	12.00	
Sept 16	#301 – Tech Tips For Apple iPhone Users 2.0 - Minimum 12 - Maximum 15 participants	12.00	
Sept 17	#402 – Pre-Talk: Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and Amistad Center Class (registration for those not going on the field trip)	12.00	
Sept 18	#501 - VizYourGov - Connecting the Dots Between Money and Politics – Rose Marie Secada	12.00	
Sept 23	#302 - Field Trip: Walking Tour – History Happens Downtown - Stamford’s Visible History (If it rains - this will be an in-class session) - Wes Haynes - Maximum 20 participants	12.00	
Sept 24	#403 - The Importance of Connecticut to the Revolution - Influence in Statesmanship and on the Battlefield - Mike Allen	12.00	
Sept 25	#502 - FIELD TRIP: Wadsworth Atheneum and Amistad Center 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. - includes #402 & 304 Maximum 45 participants	85.00	
Sept 30	#304 - Post Field Trip Feedback: Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and Amistad Center		
Oct 1	#404 - Prospects for the US Economy and Financial Markets – Dr. Larry Kantor	12.00	
Oct 2	#503 - Camille Pissaro: Father of the Impressionist Movement – Scott Verchin	12.00	
Oct 5	#101 - Delacroix: From the Paris Salon to the Father of French Romanticism -Darby Cartun	12.00	
Oct 6	#202 - The Rolling Stones and the British Invasion– Brian Torff	12.00	
Oct 9	#504 - Verdi’s Rigoletto: Tragedy, Vengeance, and the Power of Melody - Dr. Gil Harel	12.00	
Oct 13	#203 - US Senator Richard Blumenthal 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	12.00	
Oct 14	#303 - 2024-2026: Two Years in Singapore as the United States Walked Away From Southeast Asia - Dr. Alexis Dudden	12.00	
Oct 15	#405 - An Important Topic – Dr. Kevin Buterbaugh	12.00	
Oct 16	#505 - Remarkable Women – Alice Look	12.00	
Oct 19	#102 - Vermeer– Serdar Arat	12.00	
Oct 21	#305 - The 2 Great “Affairs” That Took Place At Versailles – Diane Stone	12.00	
Oct 22	#406 - Stamford: The State of the City – Mayor Caroline Simmons	12.00	
Oct 23	#506 - Infrastructure Wars after Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine – Dr. Olena Lennon	12.00	
Oct 26	#103 - The Convergence of AI, Social Media & Concentrated Ownership on News - Mark Potts	12.00	
Oct 27	#204 - Understanding Artificial Intelligence – Mark Potts	12.00	
Oct 28	#306 - Issues: Snapshots of The Midterms -Tom Gardner	12.00	
Nov 2	#104 - Conversations with Art: The Elephant and the Dove - Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo - Helane Rheingold	12.00	
Nov 3	#205 - Orch. Lumos Wind Quintet Pre-talk – President and CEO Walker Beard		
Nov 4	#308 - Orch. Lumos Wind Quintet Performance -  includes #205 & 407	15.00	
Nov 9	#105 - Two Among the Greatest Ever Made – Foster Hirsch	12.00	
Nov 10	#206 - History of Connecticut Pro Sports – Bob Huessler	12.00	
Nov 12	#407 - Orch. Lumos Wind Quintet Post Performance Feedback - 		
Nov 18	#307 - From Stage to the Top of the Music Charts – Nancy L. Meyer	12.00	
Nov 19	#408 - A New Important Topic – Dr. Kevin Buterbaugh	12.00	
Nov 20	#507 - From Struggle to Glory: Brahms’ First Symphony & German Requiem - Dr. Gil Harel	12.00	

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