



Never Stop Learning

Life Long Learning Classes at Freedom Village

We are proud to present the Winter/Spring selection of classes brought to Freedom Village by instructors at the Osher Life Long Learning Program at Widener.

There will be 1 class per session, each lasting for 4 or 5 weeks. Classes are on Mondays from 1:30-2:30 in the learning center/auditorium, beginning on January 6, 2025. Sign up in Book 2.

1. The Arab- Israeli Dilemma – Part 2

Instructor: Jeff Heim

5 weeks - January 6- February 3

Learning Center

COST: \$25

Part II surveys the dilemma prior to WWI and then examines the post WWI political processes that have led to the current Arab/Israeli volatility. The impacts of colonialism, national aspirations, cultural memory, genocide, political maneuvering, security, justice and stereotyping all come into play. The study emphasizes the increasing insolvability of a crisis that continues to increase the number of issues in dispute. Layering decreases the likelihood of a solution because it obscures the source[s] of the dilemma.

Jeff was a classroom teacher in West Chester for most of his career. He was Teacher of the Year twice. Jeff was also a Fulbright Fellow and Annenberg Fellow for studies in India and the Middle East. Since retiring, he teaches many courses at retirement communities and Lifelong Learning programs.

2. The American West: Changing Land, Changing People

Instructor: John Meicht

4 weeks - February 10, 17, 2, March 3

Learning Center

COST: \$20

Settlement vs. Genocide: A Clash of Cultures - began in the United States from 1803 with the Louisiana Purchase – and lasted to 1890 - the Massacre at Wounded Knee. America was transformed from an agrarian society into an industrial one. The class will focus on the time period from 1865 to 1890 and will give an understanding of how and why the American West transformed itself during the last half of the 19th Century. The concept of Manifest Destiny will be the focal point of much of the course.

John is a retired social studies teacher, having taught for 32 years in the Downingtown School District. In the last nine years, he has been active with

the Academy for Learning and Retirement at Widener University; lecturing at various retirement communities and cruise ships and also a docent for the Brandywine River Museum of Art.

3. Women Entrepreneurs

Instructors: Roberta McManus and Roberta Matz

5 weeks – March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7

Learning Center

Cost: \$25

Who are the women who have taken the risks to create new businesses? Were they rewarded for their efforts? We'll learn about some of these women from colonial times to modern day. Join us as we examine their endeavors involving ambition, wealth, successes, failures, scandals, politics, passions and business acumen.

Roberta Matz was a classroom teacher for 30 years, teaching French and Hebrew languages and Judaic studies in public and private schools. Additionally, Roberta worked for the Jewish Federations of Greater Philadelphia and Delaware, where she worked on Jewish Life and learning, community development and outreach.

Roberta McManus had a 39-year career teaching science in the Oxford Area School District, and co-authored two books on teaching strategies. She continues to be involved with schools as a volunteer and board member with the Oxford Educational Foundation.

4. Almost President: Candidates who Lost

Instructor: David Hudiak

4 weeks, 1 1/4 hours per class –

April 14, 21, 28, May 5

Learning Center

Cost \$25

These are famous Americans who tried for the White House, didn't quite make it, but were historically significant (Stephen Douglas, Henry Clay, Adlai

Stevenson, William Jennings Bryan and a number of others). We will discuss their lives and their failed attempts to win the Presidency.

David Hudiak has been a licensed attorney for more than 35 years and is a member of the Bars of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the District of New Jersey. He has extensive teaching experience, having taught numerous paralegal classes as well as seminars in law school admission test preparation. In retirement, he shares his love of the presidency though teaching at Life Long Learning Programs.



Speaker Series: The last Thursday of the month in the auditorium at 2 p.m. No charge for these programs

Thursday, January 30, 2 p.m. Paul Kelley will present

“Pennsylvania from a Geographer’s Perspective”

Get ready for an educational armchair trip around the state, illustrated with the lecturer’s own photography and an abundance of explanatory maps. Paul will break the state down into geographic regions and explain how their geological history has shaped both the physical and human landscapes you’ll see with new eyes after this entertaining and informative presentation.

Paul grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs, earned a BA from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota and an MA and PhD in geography from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 2007, he returned to the Philadelphia region and began creating lifelong learning courses in geography and astrology. He has also taught travel literature courses and native plant gardening. Paul is a member of the Association of American Geographers, and he is on the board of the Boston chapter of the National Council for Geocosmic Research, a professional astrologers’ organization.

Thursday, February 27, 2 p.m. Ned Lewis is back!

“African Americans in The Revolutionary War Part 2”.

Ned Hector, (AKA Noah Lewis) revolutionary Army soldier, will continue his talk about his life in Washington’s army. In full uniform, Ned will share the stories of the blacks who contributed to the success of the Revolutionary cause

Noah began his work as Ned Hector when his daughter was in 4th grade. He has researched Ned’s life and has written a book about him as well. We are thrilled to have him return to share his story with us.

Thursday, March 27, 2 p.m. Roberta Matz will tell the story of

“Women Spies of World War II. ”

Were there women spies? Who were they? Why didn't we learn about them? There were quite a number of women who aided the British, French and Americans from the outset of the war and their heroic efforts enabled the ultimate success of the Allies. A famous and scandalous entertainer, a Sufi pacifist and an undercover Jewish women...these and more will be featured in this 1-hour talk.

Roberta has developed a new career since retiring 10 years ago. She teaches Senior Learning classes on many topics, ranging from Travelogues, to Women's History to Judaica to Mah Jong and yoga. She had a long career in Community service and nonprofit management and Jewish education. Roberta has found retirement to more enriching than she ever imagined.

Thursday, April 24 2 p.m. "Holocaust Remembrance Day"

We will observe the anniversary Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943 with Roberta Matz. It became an official Israeli and Jewish observance in 1959. This day is dedicated to the 6 million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis during World War II, as well as the million of other civilians who died during this war.



Thursday, May 22, 2 p.m. Patti Garver will present

"Jerry Herman - An American Treasure"

Jerry Herman (1931-2019) was one of the most successful composers/lyricists in Broadway history. His shows (Hello, Dolly and Mame) are arguably two of the best and most successful musicals ever written, through which Carol Channing and Angela Lansbury achieved superstardom. He wrote many other musicals as well (La Cage aux Folles, Milk and Honey, Mack and Mabel to name a few). Come learn about the life and works of Jerry Herman. So, "Before the Parade Passes By", "Put On Your Sunday Clothes" and come and enjoy the glorious music of Jerry Herman.

Patty is certified in clinical counseling, life coaching and music/sound healing. She has been an instructor for Life Long learning programs, Neumann University and the Community College of Philadelphia. She is a member of the resident chorus of the Philly Pops, the Media Chamber Chorale and the Healing Presence of Singers. She firmly believes in the healing power of music for body, mind and spirit.

