

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



Explorers Compass Newsletter Jan./February 2026

The Explorers LLI is ever-grateful to Salem State University for being our generous sponsor.

Welcome to our next Explorers newsletter!

We hope you enjoy reading this.

These issues will be coming to your computer inbox instead of your snail-mailbox. This issue continues to introduce readers to a few Explorers who help make our experiences there so bright and meaningful. We are ever-grateful to these dedicated, shining stars.

We are so very excited about the new 2026 Spring catalog of terrific courses available. Gay Porter and the Curriculum Committee have worked hard to offer us a variety of choices to enrich our days.

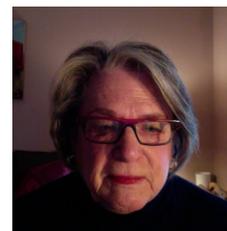
BRING A FRIEND AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Whenever I discover a new book, movie or television series that interests me, I invariably share my find with a friend. And my friends share their discoveries with me. Then, quite naturally, we discuss these things.

The most important element of Explorers is our members. Of course, without participants, there would be no presentations. As an all-volunteer organization, members drive every aspect of Explorers. Members refer us to presenters and evaluate our courses. Members' feedback helps us to keep abreast of what people want to know in our ever-changing world. Membership also serves to support our basic expenses.

If you enjoy Explorers, why not bring a friend? Enjoy the Intersessions and courses together. Meet other people and their friends who are also learning and enjoying together.

Your Explorer Friend,
Gay Porter



Are YOU ready to Volunteer?

As Gay shared, the Explorers is a dedicated volunteer community; from the course teachers, to the hardworking committees, to the tech team, and more! You can add your skills and enthusiasm and become a volunteer. Know something about technology? Ted Novakowski helps organize the helpful tech team and is seeking additional volunteers he'd be happy to train. Let the office know if you'd like to join the crew.



If you don't have time to volunteer at this point, financial donations are very welcomed.

However you may choose to help, we truly appreciate your involvement.



It is our honor to offer
these fine upcoming concerts
Thank you, Peter Sheckman!

EXPLORERS LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

at the Center for Creative and Performing Arts

2026 Concert Series

Pre-concert lectures with Peter Sheckman



FEBRUARY 8

**Brass trio: Kevin Owen,
Joseph Foley and
Hans Bohn**

MARCH 22

**Clarinet and Piano:
Rane Moore and Yoko
Hagino**

APRIL 19

**Trio Oko: Charles
Overton, Emma Powell
and Mina Kim**

PERFORMANCES

Feb. 8, Mar. 22,
Apr 19, 2026

All concerts begin
at 3 pm.

Pre-concert lecture with
Peter Sheckman
begins at 2:30pm.

LOCATION

Salem State University
Recital Hall,
Harrington Campus

71 Loring Avenue,
Salem, MA 01970

For more information visit
salemstate.edu/arts.

For accommodations and access
information, visit
salemstate.edu/access.

FREE, limited tickets available. RSVP in advance to explorers@verizon.net.



Co-sponsored by Salem State Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute and JCC of the North Shore.



*Would you like to learn more about musical instruments?
Peter is offering a spring Explorers class.*

206 Classical Symphony and its Instruments

Tuesday 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Class Leader: Dr. Peter Sheckman

April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5

An in depth look at the symphony orchestra, conducting in session one, then a

professional musician discussing and demonstrating each family of instruments: strings, brass, woodwinds and percussion.
 Course Format: Discussion, Didactics, Demonstrations. Willingness to participate, answer questions and try an instrument.

We offer a musically inspired poem by local poet and friend of Peter's, Clem Schoenebeck.

Poem notes from Clem:

"The music that inspired the poem.

It was the first piece of real classical music that my church choir sang about 25 years ago when I started to sing in our church choir at the UU church in Swampscott. You can google "Sicut Cervus" by Palestrina. Cambridge singers do a really nice sing with it."

A Day for Palestrina

Giovanni P. da Palestrina
 Composer (1525-1594)

From the organ,
 Nami sounds the pitch.
 Outside the open window,
 trees stand tall in green attention,
 subdue their leafy flutter.

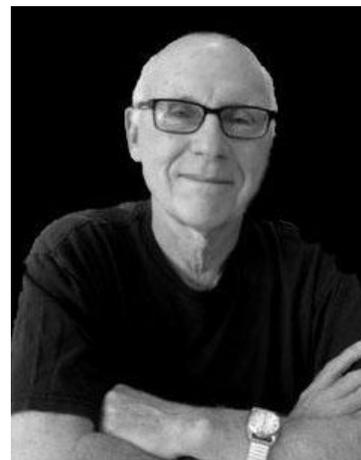
Sicut Cervus the brave tenors lead.
 Dependable altos, sparkling sopranos,
 determined basses echo their entrances.
 We are lifted, *de si de rat ad fontes aquarum*

as each of us weaves our strand of harmony
 into the tapestry, until we detach from gravity,
anima mea ad te Deus; then our descent
 to our semi-circle on earth, the sun-filled earth.

Behind his closed eyes,
 we were Reverend Vann's meditation.
 We'd blurred Tom Lunt's eye and
 carried Linda Lee to a great cathedral,
 our notes swirling in the high vault.

And were we that good?
 We searched our conductor's eyes,
 already on us, wide, a hint of surprise;
 then Francie touched her lips, extended
 fingers, palm open and up and blew thanks.

Yes, we were that good.
 The trees resumed swaying,
 four beats to the measure, as they
 shimmered in green applause and



our notes streamed out into the world,
 above and through the sunny hopeful world,
 without end, Amen, and our pastor said
sing it again.

July, 2006

Poetry is truly the music of life.

Thank you to upcoming Explorers presenter, Claire Keyes.

*We asked Claire to send us a poem
 to publish and she selected this one.*

The Blind Man

At the concert, I can see the fear in his face
 like a boy who's been smacked too often
 for things he never considered doing.

I love him too much to ask about the success
 of the latest operation. He will smile
 his great, broad smile

as if meeting me were the big event of his
 day,
 but I will sense the sadness he carries.
 Mixed with fear, it's a large, baggy winter
 coat.

Shrug it off as many times as he can, it
 refuses
 to abandon his shoulders, his heart.
 Save your pity, his smile says,

for the one-legged children of Gaza, for the
 citizens
 of Sudan pursued
 and slaughtered by their own kin.

Even so, I catch myself observing him, afraid
 he'll sense my boldness.
 And what is my crime

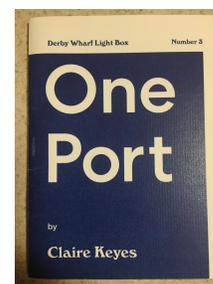
but wanting to know what scars does terror
 leave?
 No pity for the blind man. His vision
 may be stronger than mine:

a matter of seeing within, perhaps the valley
 of the shadow of death, perhaps
 God's smile.



Photo by Rod Kessler,
 (Claire's colleague from
 Salem State University)

Claire Keyes is the author of two collections of poetry: *The Question of Rapture* and *What Diamonds Can Do*. Her chapbook, *Rising and Falling*, won the Foothills Poetry Competition. A second chapbook, *One Port*, was published by Derby Wharf Light Box. She is Professor emerita at Salem State University and her poems have been published in *Hamilton Stone Review*, *Turtle Island*, and *One Art*. She lives in Marblehead, Massachusetts.



One Port, a chapbook of poems by Claire Keyes, is available from the Salem

by Claire Keyes

publisher, Derby Wharf Light
Box at
Derby Wharf Light Box
derbywharflightbox.com

*Do you enjoy Poetry? Would you like to learn a bit more about it?
This is a description of Claire's upcoming spring Explorers course offered:*

109 The New Yorker Poem Limited to 35 students

Monday 2-4 pm

Class Leader: Claire Keyes

April 6, 13, 20, 27

Do you read everything in The New Yorker but the poetry? This course will challenge your assumptions about poetry published in The New Yorker. Poems from the most recent issues will be our subject.

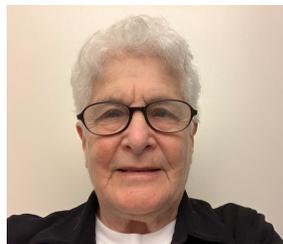
Course Format: discussion

Required books or supplies: Poems will be supplied as hand-outs.

*If you love to engage with a good book or two, why don't you join our Monday monthly Explorers Zoom-only Book group?
(You can come even if you haven't read the book!)*

Explorers Book Corner by Roz Eschelbacher

Every Explorer member is invited to join our Book Group discussions which take place the first or second Monday of the month at 10:00 am. If you sign up for Book Group, you will automatically receive emails, updates, and the link. We ask our members for suggestions and each semester select from the rich and varied choices submitted.

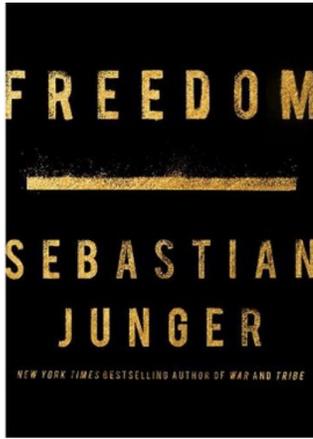


February 2

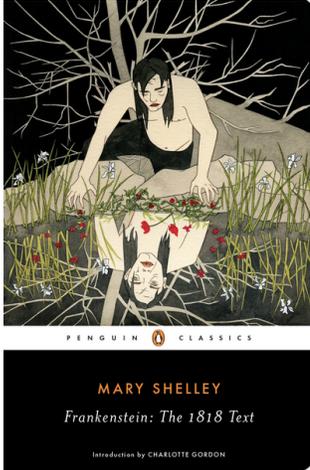
Freedom

by Sebastian Junger

2021, 176 pages Non-fiction



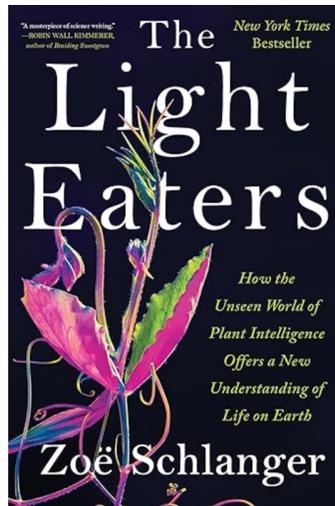
Throughout history, humans have been driven by the quest for two cherished ideals: community and freedom. In this intricately crafted and thought-provoking book, Sebastian Junger examines the tension that lies at the heart of what it means to be human.



March 2

Frankenstein: The Original 1818 text Edition
by Mary Shelley

1818, 200-300 pages, Fiction
“Frankenstein by Mary Shelley is still a potent examination of moral responsibility, loneliness, and ambition. The story’s unadulterated passion and intellectual significance are captured in the 1818 edition, reminding readers why it’s frequently said to be the first authentic piece of science fiction.” The author was 18 years old when she began and 20 when published.



April 6

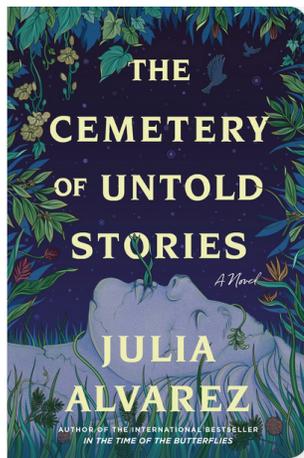
The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth
by Zoe Schlanger

2025, 304 pages, Nonfiction science
(There are some interesting video interviews with the author to clear up some of the science.)
“Explores groundbreaking research revealing plants’ remarkable abilities to communicate, remember, adapt, and behave socially, challenging our understanding of intelligence and consciousness in nature.”

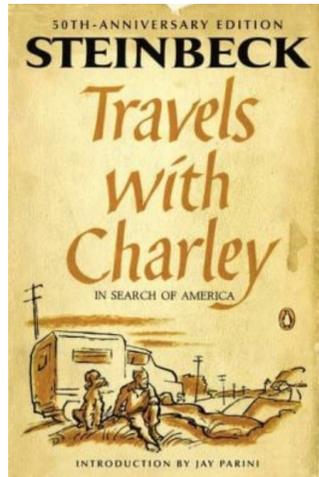
May 4

The Cemetery of Untold Stories
by Julia Alvarez

2024, 272 pages Historical fiction



“A celebrated writer inherits land in the Dominican Republic and decides to turn it into a graveyard for her unfinished stories. However, her characters have other plans and begin to defy their author, rewriting and revising themselves.” Prize winning American author of Dominican-American historical fiction.



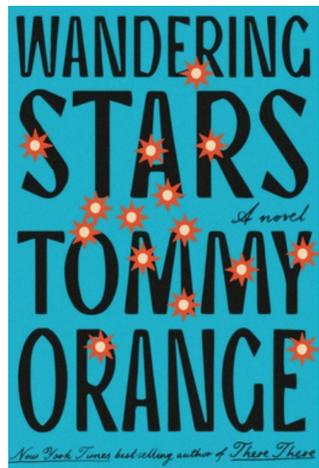
June 1

Travels with Charley in Search of America

by John Steinbeck

1962, 277 pages Nonfiction

“His journey and experiences are truthful, playful, and at times, raw and challenging to read. The parallels of Steinbeck’s journey throughout the United States in 1960 in comparison to today’s challenges in this same country are eye opening.”



July 6

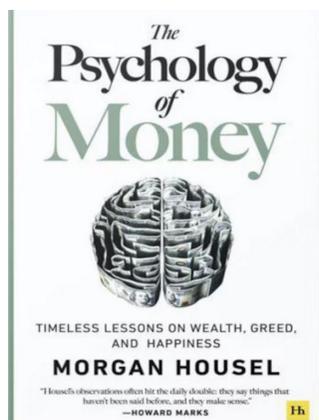
Wandering Stars: A Novel

by Tommy Orange

2024, 336 pages, Fiction

From the author of There, There.

“A multigenerational story tracing Native American trauma from the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre through modern-day Oakland, following families affected by institutional violence and their search for healing.”



August 3

The Psychology of Money: Timeless Lessons On Wealth, Greed, and Happiness

by Morgan Housel

2020, 256 pages, Nonfiction

“Through 19 short stories, explores how human behavior and psychology influences financial decisions, challenges the traditional math-based

approach to money management and investing.”

September 14

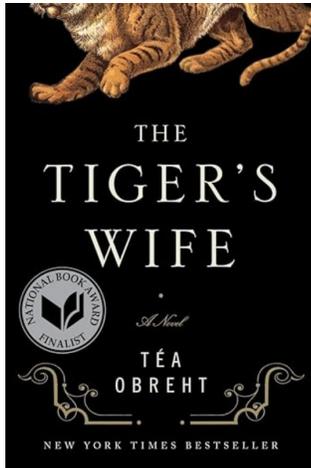
The Tiger's Wife: A Novel

by Tea Orbreht

2011, 384 pages, Fiction

“A beguiling blend of realism, myth and legend”

“In this National Book Award Finalist novel, a young doctor investigating her grandfather's mysterious death in a Balkan country uncovers family legends, including tales of an immortal man and a tiger stalking a wartime village.”



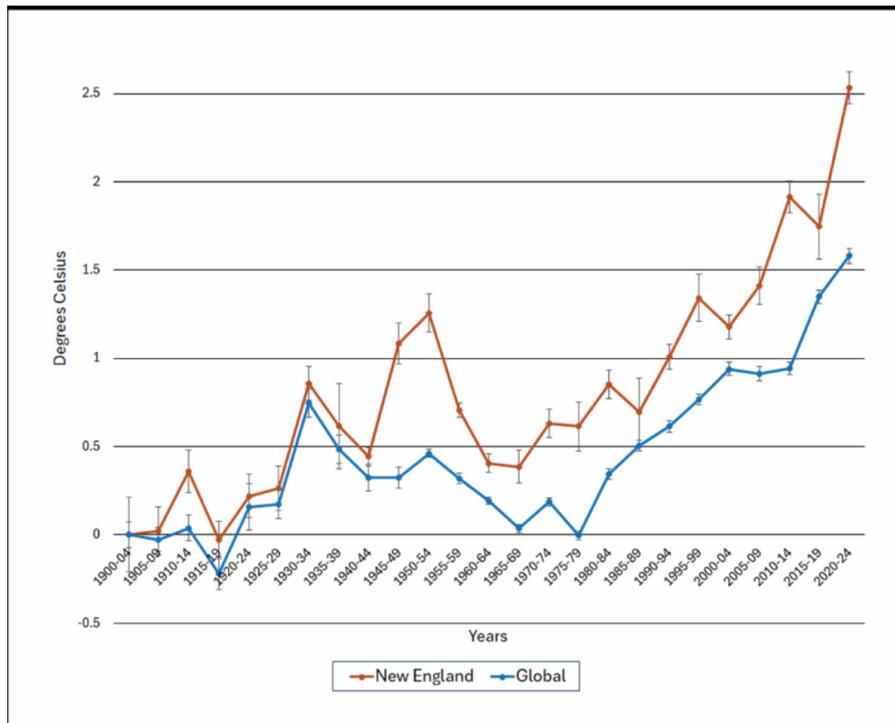
The weather and climate are very much on everyone's mind this season. Our esteemed Explorer lecturer, Dr. Stephen Young, Professor Emeritus Salem State University, along with his son, Joshua, have published a paper in the journal Climate on the profound climate change affecting us here in New England and specifically, Massachusetts. Here is a brief write-up of their publication, with the link to the full paper.

A recent publication by Stephen Young (Salem State University) and his son Joshua Young shows that New England is not only continuing to get warmer, but the warming has accelerated in the past five years, making New England one of the fastest warming regions of the world outside the Arctic region. Their publication **“Decreasing Snow Cover and Increasing Temperatures Are Accelerating in New England, USA, with Long-Term Implications”** in the journal *Climate*, is one of the most viewed articles in the journal over the past 6 months and is in the top 5% of media attention for all articles ever published in the journal *Climate*, being reported in the Boston Globe, the Guardian, WGBH, WBUR, and other regional news sources. Not only are the temperatures rising in New England, but the duration of

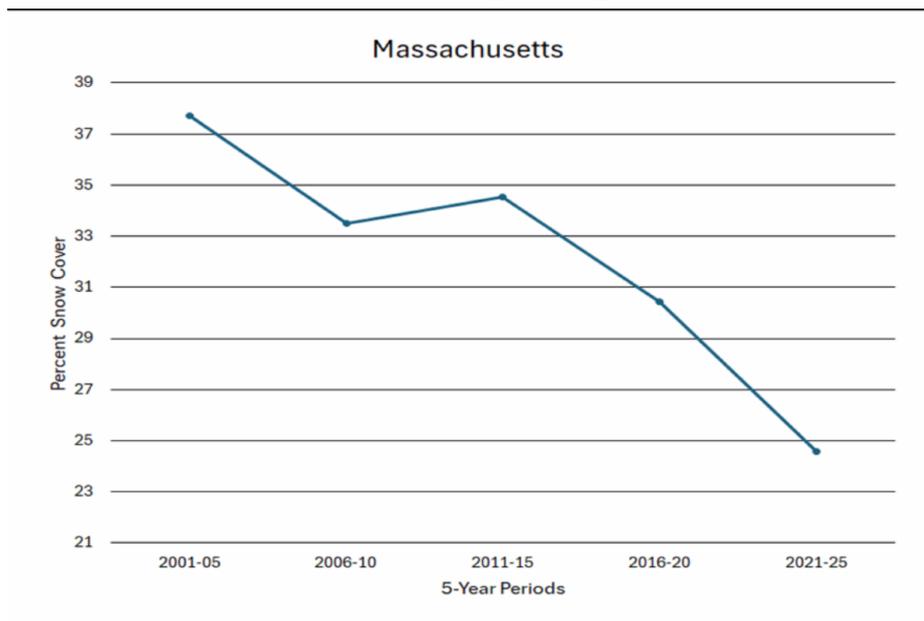
snow cover is decreasing throughout New England and especially in southern New England. Eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut are now losing snow cover faster than 95% of the rest of the world where snow cover is decreasing. Massachusetts now has 31 fewer days annually with snow on the ground than it did on average in the years 2000-2004 based on satellite data. New England is warming because of 3 main reasons: 1) the continued massive burning of fossil fuels which put greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere and is heating the whole globe; 2) the ocean waters off the New England coast are rapidly warming, sending heat to New England from strong onshore breezes and air flow; 3) snow is highly reflective and without snow more energy is absorbed by Earth and not reflected, so as New England loses snow cover, more solar energy is absorbed creating additional heat. The article not only shows the changes occurring in New England but also discusses the implications of these rapid changes, such as increases in droughts and floods, sea-level rise, and in-migration of various pests, among other implications.

Article link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2225-1154/13/12/246>

The graph below shows New England (brown) warming faster than the global average (blue) with a clear acceleration in the last 5 years (2020-2024). Note: the decrease in temperatures from the 1950s to the 1970s is due to air pollution blocking sunlight.



The graph below shows snow cover decline in Massachusetts which accelerated in the most recent 5 years (2021 – 2025).



Dr. Stephen Young offers a beloved "My Favorite Lecture" course featuring guest lecturers from Salem State University in the Explorers Spring semester. Here are the details.

**405
Explorer's My Favorite Lecture Series 2026**

Thursday 11:30 am-1:30 pm
Class Leader: Dr. Stephen Young
March, 5, 12, 26; April 2, 9, 16; May 7

March 5

Tiffany Chenault (Sociology Department) "Running as an act of joy and Resistance: Navigating through racialized spaces in 50 states."

March 12

Stephen Young (geography and Sustainability Department) "Images of Earth from Space, and how we use them to tell us about planet Earth!"

March 26

Brian Vanden Hauvel (Dean, College of Arts and Sciences) "Why Flowers look the Way They Do—Form, Function, and How We Use Them to Name Plants"

April 2

Avi Chomsky (History Department) "Immigration in the USA: What's New and Why"

April 9

John McArdle (Accounting and Finance Department) "Language, Colonialism, and Identity: Lessons from Ireland and Kosovo."

April 16

Marcos Luna (Geography and Sustainability Department) "The Geography of Power: Understanding the changing landscape of energy in a time of political and climate change."

May 7
 Keja Valens (English Department) Recipes for Research, Research for Recipes:
 Scholarly
 Readings of Caribbean Cookbooks

Meet Dr. Rose Wolf!

What class are you planning to teach this upcoming spring? Tell us about what you hope to share during the class.

This spring, I'll be offering a course on STAR WARS, in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of that great science-fiction epic. Though its stories are ostensibly set "far away and long ago," it's really a contemporary retelling of the classic myth called The Hero's Journey. This is the saga of a young person who, filled with well-meaning but ignorant enthusiasm for a particular cause—often the defeat of evil--embarks on a quest to achieve it. Even though he is provided with a wise advisor, a mystical weapon, and a group of loyal friends to aid him, he must discover—and dispatch—the darkness within himself before he succeeds. J.R.R. Tolkien wrote in a famous essay that all truly timeless tales deserve to be dressed afresh in the clothes of every generation because their essential nature can always be perceived no matter how strangely they're clad. STAR WARS is a tale that has been, and continues to be, meaningful to millions, and it's fascinating and fun to consider why—and to find out how it can inspire each of us.

Have you taught this class before (at Explorers or elsewhere)?

No, I've never taught a class on George Lucas's saga, but I gave a presentation on it some years ago at the Unitarian Church in my hometown of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I've also been inspired to put words to several of the John Williams themes from the films—he's such a "listen-in-able" composer that a wannabe lyricist has only to let the tunes "sing" in his head, and the words write themselves. You asked for a poem, so how about the first STAR WARS piece I wrote: two verses for the Main Title theme, which I've always thought of as the Jedi Hymn. Here's the first:

"Come, ye knights of the Jedi! / Glorious our vision, holy our quest: / Hence, and take up the battle-- / We may not falter, nor may we rest. / With the Sword of Power to be as a burning brand, / We shall light the way to Liberty: / Let us strive to serve the Right on sky and sea and land, / Never ceasing till all people shall be free!"

What drew you to consider first teaching a class at the Explorers? How long have you been teaching at the Explorers?

Oddly enough, it was the compass-rose logo, and the legend "Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute," on the front door of the Center in the Ten Federal Building that made me want to know more. The compass rose became a favorite symbol of mine some years ago, and as my students know, I use the term as my email "handle" and a pun on my name. It's my humble hope that my teaching will serve as a "Rose's Compass" to point those who attend my classes in new and exciting directions as they think about the works of poetry, prose, or music we considered and allow the ideas of those authors and composers to touch their lives for the better. I've lost track of how many courses I've taught, though I've been with Explorers for over five years.

Had you ever taken a class at the Explorers before, *as a student*?

No, although many courses look intriguing, and I'm now proud to be part of such an eclectic and enrichingly-varied curriculum as an instructor.

Do you have any particular hopes for your students as, or after, they take your class?

As we consider the lofty destiny of a certain sand-crawler who became a sky-walker, I hope they'll remember the words of Emily Dickinson with regard to heroic action: "We never know how high we are / Till we are called to rise; / And then, if we are true to plan, / Our statures touch the skies. / The heroism we recite / Would be a daily thing, / Did not ourselves the cubits warp / For fear to be a king." Or, as "mythologist" Joseph Campbell (who gave us the phrase "The Hero's Journey") tells us, "The Hero has a thousand faces—and one of them is yours."

Tell us a little more about yourself: hobbies, interests, travel etc., anything you care to share about things you enjoy doing outside of the Explorers or what careers you may have had previously or still have?

I've always enjoyed fantasy stories, so much that I decided years ago to become a writer of that type of literature. My passion for poetry began at the same early age, with my mother reading her favorite verses to me, and I began making up rhymes before I could put them on paper. My proudest achievements have been the publication of my fantasy / autobiography THE DOOM OF DARKENDOWN and my poetry collection SPOOKS AND ODD FOLKS. I also love music, especially the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan, and I studied voice in order to be able to perform with a G&S group, which I was able to do ("Modified rapture!" as one of the characters exclaims) while working on my Ph.D. at SUNY-Binghamton. Now my chief delights are working up jaunts for Explorers and "waking up" haunts for the members of my Unitarian Church as I give the annual Halloween sermon. Weekends from March to December, I manage Wynotts Wands on Essex Street, where powerful magic wands from around the world are sold; I love telling customers the lore and legends about each one. At home, I enjoy relaxing with a unique and charming cat, a calico Manx named Ember, one of a breed I've loved since childhood. Many Manx have no tails, but I love telling the "tales" that abound about these amazing animals!

Ready to sign up for Rose's class? Here are the details of her course.**303 THE HERO'S JOURNEY TO THE STARS: The People, Places, and Philosophy of STAR WARS Limited to 12**

Wednesday 9:30-11 am
Class Leader: Dr. Rose Wolf
April 1, 8, 15

2026 brings the fiftieth anniversary of STAR WARS, a modern retelling of the classic "hero's journey." Though set long ago and far away, its vision has never been more relevant than here and now. We'll look at the first three films, examining people, places, and philosophy in Lucas's galaxy-spanning saga.

Course Format: Lecture with video presentation

Required books or supplies: Some years ago, I spotted a fascinating book that was issued in connection with the Smithsonian Institution's exhibition inspired by the first

three STAR WARS films. You will need—and want—to purchase this volume, which is available in either a hardcover or paperback format, for your “Galactic Guidebook” as we steer our “course.” Many copies are available on EBay for five dollars or less. STAR WARS: THE MAGIC OF MYTH by Mary Henderson (Bantam Books, NY: 1997.) ISBN #0-553-10206-0 (hc); ISBN #0-553-37810-4 (pb).

Required reading for first class: For the first session, please read pages 3-59 in *The Magic of Myth*, the section that covers *SW: A New Hope*. You may also want to watch this first film, though we will be looking at scenes from each installment with every class. (Don't be worried about finding a profound interpretation in any of our material; if you feel uncertain as to the meaning of the concepts, just take the wry advice offered by great science-fiction author Arthur C. Clarke to viewers puzzled by his mystical masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey*; “Read the book, see the movie, and repeat the dosage as often as necessary!”)

For the second class, look at pages 60–90, covering *The Empire Strikes Back* and watch the film should you choose. For the third, cover pages 91-113, and view *Return of the Jedi* if you wish. Additional material in the form of handouts will be provided on the trilogy's mythology and psychology (don't worry—it won't get too “-logy” or it not only won't get off the ground but would never “walk the sky”!).

Meet Tom Mela!

Our longtime Explorers course co-presenter on current Supreme Court cases

1. What class are you planning to teach this upcoming spring? Tell us about what you hope to share during the class.

Together with my co-presenter, Lee Bromberg, we plan to identify for class discussion the most important cases pending at the U.S. Supreme Court.

2. Have you taught this class before (at Explorers or elsewhere)?

Each fall and each spring, for six years, I have been teaching this course at LLI on current cases pending at SCOTUS.

3. What drew you to consider teaching a class at the Explorers? How long have you been teaching at the Explorers? Had you ever taken a class at the Explorers before, as a student?

For several years I was a member of various LLI courses, and then I decided to offer to teach a course as well.

4. Do you have any particular hopes for your students as, or after, they take your class?



My hope has been that members of my course participate actively in our class discussions.

5. Tell us a little more about yourself: hobbies, interests, travel etc., anything you care to share about things you enjoy doing outside of the Explorers or what careers you may have had previously or still have?

Although I officially retired ten years ago from practicing civil rights and children's rights law in state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations for fifty years, to some extent I continue to volunteer as a lawyer and as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher. And I enjoy grand-parenting!

6. Anything else you care to share or would like included?

In the SCOTUS course I was fortunate to know Michael Eschelbacher who became my co-presenter for several years. Sadly, Michael passed away a year ago, and I was again fortunate that my good friend from law school, Lee Bromberg, agreed to become Michael's successor as co-presenter.

Here are the course particulars:

502 Supreme Court

Limited to 40

Friday 9:30-11 am

ZOOM ONLY

Class Leaders:

Tom Mela, Lee Bromberg

May 29; June 5, 12, 19, 26

An ongoing discussion of the cases to be heard by the Supreme Court during the Court's October 2025 session (10/25-6/26), as well as any other developments affecting the Court which may arise. While the facilitators will provide historical background and context, the success of the

course is wholly dependent on participation by the class.
 Course Format: Remote (Zoom) discussion.
 Required books or supplies: Relevant readings will be provided prior to each class.

Looking for some fun learning over the next chilly winter month? Bring yourself and your friends to our free Intersession lectures. This is a great way to share the valuable Explorers experience with others. Although some of the January lectures are now past, they will be available on our webpage to view later.

2026 WINTER INTERSESSION SPEAKERS PROGRAM

When: Wednesdays from 10 AM to 11 AM

Where: Explorers LLI of Salem State University, 10 Federal Street, Suite 10, Salem, MA

Website: www.explorersLLI.org Phone: (978) 744-0804

All of our winter speaker presentations will happen in-person at our Salem headquarters and will also be simulcast over Zoom. The general public is invited at no charge. *Most talks are posted later as videos on our website.* To access these meetings over Zoom, click or copy/paste this link into your web browser:

<https://bit.ly/winter26talks>

Wednesday, January 7 – Just Back from Ukraine...What’s Happening on the Ground? – Kenneth Dike-Glover, humanitarian and Salem historic tour guide. An up-front picture of the present condition in war-torn Ukraine. Along with his partner, Mr. Glover risks his life in bringing needed aid to the Ukrainian people. Both just returned from their 7th trip, having traveled to Ukraine every 6 months... all funded by them personally and through donations.

Wednesday, January 14 - Hate Football? Fun facts to Help You be Part of the Crowd!- Barrie J. Atkin, book author of the same title. You can't get away from football. It's America's most popular sport. Our guest will provide tips and useful information to help you enjoy watching football. Games can be exciting, fun, and even beautiful. For beginners or diehard fans.

Wednesday, January 21 - How Did Common Idiomatic Expressions Originate? – Noel Defilippo, retired physician. Idiomatic expressions are basically phrases where the meaning of the entire phrase doesn't necessarily match the meanings of the words. Come and learn the origins of many expressions that we use every day.

Wednesday, January 28 – The Coming Impact of Artificial Intelligence. – Steve Swartz, Chief Information Officer, Salem State University. We hear so much about A.I. in the news today, but what does it actually do? Our guest will provide a general overview of how machine learning and A.I. work, and will also give us examples of what they use it for at Salem State.

Wednesday, February 4 - A Comparison of Reconstruction-Era Civil Rights with the Current Administration's Practices - Jack Beermann, Boston University Law School. Professor Beermann, a constitutional lawyer, returns to discuss his books on U.S. history in relation to occurrences of the present day.

Wednesday, February 11 – The Food Project – a Community Gardens Movement - Gray Lawson, North Shore Access and Education Manager. The Food Project stewards over 70 acres of land on urban and suburban farms across eastern Massachusetts and builds gardens to ensure that anyone who wants to grow their own food has access to non-toxic growing spaces. They also employ 120 teenagers every year from diverse backgrounds in meaningful work on our farms in order to build just and healthy food systems.

Wednesday, February 18 – State of the Coast – a Report on the Restoration of the North Shore Coastal Zone - Alejandra Narvaez, Coastal Project Manager, Trustees of Reservations. Our guest will provide examples of protecting erosion of coastline that is owned both by the Trustees and also public shore fronts, such as Salem's Collins Cove. She will discuss a recently published major report on what needs to be done in our area regarding the impacts of flooding and beach erosion, and our future as related to climate change.

Wednesday, February 25 – The Great Salem Fire of 1774 - Curtis White, retired national park ranger. With all the talk about the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, did you know that in the year prior to 1775 a major fire in Salem destroyed shops, a meeting house, dwellings and even the Custom House? Was the fire a diversionary tactic to deter the arrest of Mass delegates who met in defiance of the Massachusetts Government Act by the British? Ranger White is well versed in the answer.

Have some of these courses mentioned above intrigued you?

Then you are ready to view our spring catalog and sign up for some mind- and heart-expanding classes? *Signing up is easy!*

Here is the [Spring 2026 catalog](#) and [Spring on-line registration form](#).

Helpful Senior Resources for Explorers

Have you stopped by your local Senior Center recently?

Lots of great opportunities await you!

(If you have any to add for our next [Compass](#) newsletter, please let us know. We're happy to share.)

[Beverly Senior Center](#)

[Danvers Senior Center](#)

[Lynn Senior Center](#)

[Lynnfield Senior Center](#)

[Marblehead Senior Center](#)

[Nahant Senior Center](#)

[Peabody Senior Center](#)

[Salem Senior Center](#)

[Swampscott Senior Center](#)

[Topsfield Senior Center](#)

We hope you enjoyed our on-line [Explorers Compass](#) newsletter. The editor is grateful to the kind people who allowed themselves to be interviewed to share their stories with the Explorers readers, to Gay Porter and Michael Eschelbacher, who both had the vision to re-create The [Compass](#) as an on-line communication with our Explorers community, and to Roz Eschelbacher and Liz Curtin, who both assisted with great ideas and proof-reading the issues. If you have any ideas/thoughts for items you'd care to see introduced or expanded in our future newsletters, please let us know. Our newsletter is an evolving creation designed to be meaningful to you. Our

Explorers Vice president, Jon Leamon, suggests you forward this [Compass](#) newsletter to your friends to spread the word to **Explore!**

January 2026, *Sami Lawler* (editor/interviewer)

EXPLORERS LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

978-744-0804

explorers@verizon.net

explorerslli.org

The Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute is a nonprofit organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

Contributions are appreciated and tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute | 10 Federal Street Suite 10 | Salem, MA 01970 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!