



# SPRING 2025 mini semester

## Adventures In Learning

### virtual & in-person classes



It's now a glorious spring in Greensboro! This season always reminds us why we love our community. The mini-series of Adventures In Learning semester will begin on April 22nd.

With many instructors and participants sharing spring days with friends and family, and many traveling but still interested in lifelong learning, we are offering a shorter group of classes for both in-person (4 weeks) and on Zoom (6 weeks). You can sign up for 1, 3, or more topics based on your schedule and interests; all for a one-time fee. But you must register!

**Step 1:** Click on the [link on page 4](#) of this document to get online to choose your classes and then to pay the special mini-semester fee of \$40.00. You will **pay online**, through the secure website, using PayPal or your credit card. Be sure to enter your preferred email address as that is the only way we can send you the connection links for your Zoom classes. \*\*

**Step 2:** After you pay the fee, you will get a confirmation email from PayPal. If you choose a Zoom topic, you will get the link for quick sign-in on the day before each class.

\*Live links to the classes cannot be shared, so **send this invitation to your friends** if you'd like them to attend

**Ready to expand your mind and BLOOM with us?**

*Sandy & Vickie & your AIL Volunteer Team*

### **ZOOM Classes that begin on 4/22/2025:**

#### **The Mysterious Murder of JFK mistress Mary Pinchot Meyer**

Instructor: **Tom Brawner**

Mary Pinchot Meyer, an artist and well-connected DC socialite, was shot and killed on Monday, October 12, 1964, during her daily walk along the C&O Canal in Georgetown, Washington, DC. Was her murder the tragic result of an attempted sexual assault? Or was it more complicated, perhaps linked to her ex-husband, a high-ranking CIA official, or her two-year affair with President John F. Kennedy? We will address the people, places, and intrigue associated with this unsolved murder  
*Tom is a retired attorney who loves researching murder mysteries and bringing them to SCG.*

Dates: **Tuesdays, April 22, 29, & May 6, 13, 20, 27**

Time: **9:30 am**

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#### **6 Cities Worth Talking About**

Instructor: **Lynn Zimmerman, PhD**

The class will focus on the history, culture, and architecture of 6 cities that I have visited: Krakow, Samarkand, Florence, Beijing, Barcelona, and St. Petersburg, Russia. (This Zoom will arrive in your home, direct from Poland where Lynn is still teaching!)

*Lynn is Professor Emerita of Education at Purdue University.*

Dates: **Tuesdays, April 22, 29, & May 6, 13, 20, 27**

Time: **11:30 am**

**Thursdays, beginning 4/24/2025 through 5/15/25 In-Person Classes**

at First Baptist Church (1000 W. Friendly Ave.)

Choose your classes when you click on the registration link. If the instructor has a reading or supplies list, it will be emailed to you after registration is completed. Social time before classes or during the Community gathering from 10-11 is encouraged...since your friends miss seeing you!

**Classes at 9:00 AM:**

**Art of Seeing Still Life**

Instructor: **Melanie Bassett**

Art, a 4-week, 2-hour class, to explore Still life. What is it? What can it say, not say? How might a still life feel? Participants may bring whatever medium they would like to work in. Pencil, charcoal, pastels, watercolor pencils (if you will be using anything that may be wet, please bring a table covering and cleaning materials). Each week we will all work on the same still life.

*Melanie's life has been making art, and studying in England and Spain, with fifty years of teaching, curating, restoring, and making art.*

Dates: April 24, and May 1, 8, 15

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**Pagan Religion**

Instructor: **Linda Danford**

In this class, we will discuss the beliefs and practices of religion in the ancient Greek and Roman world.

*Linda is a retired UNCG professor of classics studies.*

Dates: April 24, and May 1, 8, 15

**10:00 – 11:00 COMMUNITY FORUM**

***Mini-break with social time & coffee/snacks in the fellowship hall. Followed by the FORUM presentation from a local community leader, beginning at 10:15 to educate us on community actions/events/resources for all our participants.***

***FORUM presentations planned are:***

***Greensboro Public Library, Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, Greensboro Fire Department and Greensboro Housing Coalition***

**Classes at 11:00 AM:**

**Art of Seeing Still Life - continued**

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**America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary : "Start-Up" in Time vs.**

**"Design-Build" in Framing Colors**

Instructor: **Dr. Will Harris**

When we think about the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the United States in 2026, we should focus not on pinpointing a single momentous beginning but on a drawn-out sequence of an urgent,

creative making that culminates after the Civil War. This course is about ideas, not history. To avoid major distortion of the account, we must recognize that there is not one but, separately, **Three Stages of American Founding: Three distinct “paradigm shifts.” Three coexisting models of the well-ordered human community. Three operating systems**, which are set out to displace O/S 0.0 (randomness; arbitrariness; chaos). Like the Bible, they are layered and interwoven in a complex fabric as a palimpsest in Framing Colors. We draw essential aspects of a Civil Rights Nation variously from each of them. They supply our authentic sources of innovative thinking, worthy argument, and meaningful difference, beyond discordant blather.

*Dr. Will Harris (political and constitutional theory, University of Pennsylvania), principal scholar and head of the Initiative for the New Constitution, (International Civil Rights Center & Museum).*

**Dates: April 24, and May 1, 15**

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## **The Magic & Majesty of Music!!** ... a four part series:

### **The Piano Music of George Gershwin**

Instructor: **Dr. Paul Stewart**

The class will explore the creative synthesis of Ragtime, Blues, Jazz, and Broadway Show Tunes in Gershwin’s solo piano music. Eleven musical examples will be performed with contextual commentary and PowerPoint illustrations.

*Dr. Paul Stewart retired from the UNC-G School of Music in 2016 after 46 years of service. He holds music degrees from Indiana University, the University of Illinois, and Florida State University.*

**Date: April 24**

### **The Golden Age of the Piano**

Instructor: **Dr. Joseph DiPiazza**

Dr. Piazza will discuss and play numerous examples of the great 19th-century composers/pianists (e.g. Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, etc.), and how it led to the development of the piano.

*Dr. Joseph DiPiazza holds degrees from DePaul University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He participated as a performer, clinician, and adjudicator in festivals at Interlochen, Michigan and Eastern Music Festival, Greensboro. His focus is the Piano Literature Series at UNC-G School of Music where he was a member of the piano faculty for 43 years.*

**Date: May 1**

### **“From Cristofori to Steinway: The First 200 Years of the Piano”**

Instructor: **Dr. Andrew Willis**

In this class, a condensed history of the piano will be discussed accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation and/or video recordings.

*Dr. Andrew Willis Professor Emeritus of Music at the UNC-G School of Music, where he taught instruments ranging from harpsichord to modern piano and founded the school’s historical performance ensemble. Dr. Willis holds degrees from The Curtis Institute of Music, Temple University, and Cornell University*

**Date: May 8.**

### **Greensboro Opera Updates**

Instructor: **David Holley**

Let’s talk opera, updates, and musical story-telling

**Date: May 15**

# **The Fascinating Ecology and Natural History of the Brazilian Pantanal**

Instructor: **Dick Thomas**

The Brazilian Pantanal region contains the world's largest wetland, 20 times larger than the Everglades. The Pantanal supports an enormous number of plants and animals, many of which are rare or seldom encountered. This lively lecture, illustrated with beautiful photographs, endeavors to educate people about the importance of protecting this vital resource.

*Dick holds a BA in biology and an MS in environmental studies. He served as a naturalist for NC State Parks and is the Director of Piedmont Environmental Center in High Point.*

**Date: May 15** (one-day special presentation)

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**Are you excited for a sparkling spring? Sign up quickly for this mini-semester?**

Click here for the website to register and pay for the classes:

**[CLICK HERE to REGISTER](#)**

**Or, you can copy and paste that link into your browser**

(If you have never paid online, or need help, please call Sandy 10:00-4:00 at number noted.)

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# Shepherd's Center News & Updates

*As we are working on finalizing all the class information listed in the prior pages, we are also working on other key programs at SCG!! Check out and get involved with our new plans:*

**ShepNet Computer & Technology:** The lead volunteer instructors and our team have updated the computer labs, located at Starmount Presbyterian Church, and continue to offer up-to-date topics based on Windows11 and Apple iPhone/iPad/iWatches. (With MS no longer supporting Win10 in the fall, we want to get ahead of the deadline and help you learn to keep data safe). We need volunteers to coach in the classrooms while teachers teach, to help with tasks behind-the-scenes with mailings or data, to teach regular or new tech topics, and to keep this unique program moving along with all the changes. Call Sandy to talk about volunteering and please stay tuned for details.

## **It's time to get back on the road with our Shepherd's Travelers!!**

Our next day-trip will be to the Wohlfahrt Haus Theatre in Virginia. We have had so much fun at their musicals in past years and are thrilled that they are back in full operation with lively theatre and a full meal. Vickie has booked the comfy bus and made reservations for **The MUSIC MAN** for Wednesday, **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Mark your calendars and plan to bring the fun (we'll provide the bus).



And then, we are road-ready for a fabulous trip to **Savannah, GA**!! It's scheduled for holiday sights and warm weather on **December 8-12!** The tour includes visits to Jekyll Island, St. Simon's Island, Beaufort, and the gardens of Savannah. We have added a visit to the First African Baptist Church & the Penn Center...as well as dinners and entertainment. We have a flier and registration form ...just send a note to Vickie to request details.

[williamsonvickie1@gmail.com](mailto:williamsonvickie1@gmail.com) or [click here](#) to see the tour company's photos and details.

\*\*\*Click onto our [SCG website Travelers'](#) page for the links to registration forms and extra information.

**OUTBOUND ADVENTURES**\*\* has resumed!! This committee needs YOU to plan local excursions and group outings for fun gatherings and to visit unique places within local driving distance.

Where would you like us to plan our next venture? Where do you want to tour or get behind-the-scenes?

Watch for announcements about these newly developing gatherings/tours/talks to keep us connected in our broad community.

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Thank you for your interest and we'll see you in the April – May classes!

Vickie Williamson, Program Manager

home office: [williamsonvickie1@gmail.com](mailto:williamsonvickie1@gmail.com)  
**336.501.8849** mobile

Sandy Doyle-Jones, Executive Director

home office: [scgexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:scgexecutivedirector@gmail.com)  
**336.202.5769** SDJ mobile

**Shepherd's Center of Greensboro** is on a mission *to help older adults pursue independent and active lives of purpose.*

Mailing address: P.O. Box 4063 Greensboro, NC 27404

Website: [www.shepctrq.org](http://www.shepctrq.org) 336.378.0766