



ILR NEWS

In This Issue

- ◆ President's Letter
- ◆ Study Group Leader Spotlight
- ◆ Join Our Volunteers
- ◆ A Peek at Fall Classes

President's Message

Warmest Greetings from Nick Maiorino, ILR President



I am pleased to announce that the Newsletter Editors, a subcommittee of the Communications Committee, are resurrecting the newsletter we previously sent periodically to members. We will use this vehicle to keep our members informed of upcoming courses, events and issues. You are

reading the first issue, which you received via email. Many thanks to the Communications Committee and the editors for their work in keeping us informed.

If your membership is current, be on the lookout in your “snail mail” for a paper copy of the Fall 2025 courses. This paper copy should arrive on or shortly after August 25. A sneak peek will be emailed to paid members around this time as well, along with a reminder to keep your ILR membership current. The catalogue will also be available on our ILR website.

The Curriculum Committee has put together another exciting program for the coming semester. We are sure you will find something to stimulate your interest and keep your brain active.

I look forward to hearing your comments about our program, course offerings, and any suggestions you may have. You can reach me at patnick2@gmail.com.

Thank you for participating in ILR of Greater New Haven. Enjoy the Fall term!

Spotlight on a Study Group Leader

Phillip Beard



Phillip Beard is a “newbie.” He has only taught a half dozen classes, but he is gathering a following and new friends. Living and working many years in the southeastern part of the country, he is also a “newbie” to New England. He came to Connecticut in 2022 on a reconnaissance mission. He rented a bike and rode miles in the greater New Haven area to get a sense of what we had to offer. As it turns out, we had just what he was looking for: a cultural mecca with museums, theater, public transportation, beauty, and seasonal weather changes. Being close to Yale and other academic institutions provided an assurance of meeting many people who were interested in lifelong learning. (He also discovered the Institute Library on Chapel Street in New Haven, and he occasionally gives presentations on poetry or music there.)

Phillip has been living here since 2024 and found ILR by web-searching for academic outlets for his interests. He immediately wanted to take classes through ILR but also decided to offer his services as a Study Group Leader, something he as a university literature teacher was well suited for.

His love of the written word began in his teen years not because of his English classes but sometimes in spite of them. Books that gave the world back to him with novel insights began with John Updike and then branched to include more experimental authors like James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, and Donald Barthelme, all helping to put him on that path that would become his love and occupation. This path included some excellent teachers of poetry, a subject he especially enjoys teaching.

His offerings in the future may include more history (which he has already taught) and philosophy, a subject he is passionate about, as he works and publishes essays with the George Santayana Society. His literature courses have multiple sessions as they are detailed and geared to the serious student. As for these students, Phillip has found teaching at ILR gratifying as members are engaged, energetic and curious.

I would expect Mr. Beard to lose his newbie status quickly. He loves to be in a classroom (as well as on stage, I hear) and from what I know, his students love him. This fall, he will be leading a course on *The Good Soldier* by Ford Madox Ford.

Written by Debby Kasowitz

Volunteer Opportunities

As you may know, ILR is a volunteer-run organization, and we appreciate all of our members who step in to keep our classes running. Here are our current volunteer opportunities.

Technical Committee

If you enjoy working with technology and/or learning new software, this is the spot for you. The Tech Committee reviews and manages software that is used for the organization. As a member of the Tech Committee, you will interact with all the committees. You may also act as a “help desk” for our members.

- Moderate computer skills are necessary, but more important is the desire to learn new skills.
- Contact: Susan Vallillo
susanvallillo@gmail.com

Volunteer Committee

Do you enjoy reaching out to others and helping them to find the right volunteer opportunity? If you answered, “Yes,” then the Volunteer Committee is for you. The primary function of the Volunteer Committee is to recruit and assign class liaisons and Zoom hosts. Class liaisons help in-person classes run smoothly by being the conduit between the Study Group Leader (SGL) and the organization. Being a class liaison is an easy but necessary job. As a liaison for in-person classes, you take attendance and introduce the SGL.

- Zoom classes require a few technical skills that can be easily learned. You don’t have to be a computer whiz. A Zoom host is

responsible for opening and closing the Zoom meeting, explaining the Zoom protocols, and activating closed captioning.

- Contact: Pat Maiorino
pgmaiorino@gmail.com or
patnnick@optonline.net

Social Committee

Part of ILR’s Mission Statement is to create a community of lifelong learners. To that end, the Social Committee organizes and hosts New Member Coffee Hours, our Holiday Luncheon, and the Annual Business Meeting Luncheon. Can you think of other social activities we can present to our members? Bring those ideas to a Social Committee meeting.

- Contact: Gayle Logan
guitarlady5561@att.net

Written by Pat Sirulnick



ILR NEWS is a quarterly publication for members of the **Institute for Learning in Retirement of Greater New Haven.**

Newsletter Editors: Debby Kasowitz,
Trish O’Leary Treat, and Pat Sirulnick

ILR, PO Box 1156, Orange, CT 06477
203-747-9675
www.ilrn.org

Fall 2025 Course Preview

Take a peek: this Fall we will offer 38 courses in person at one of our six locations plus eight courses on Zoom. Here are a few examples.

- ♦ **Dungeons & Dragons** with Eric Dunker
This most popular tabletop roleplaying game is having a comeback. Learn its history and how it is played.
- ♦ **Tyranny in Ancient Greece** with Thornton Lockwood
Some tyrants were infamous, but others were famous for their contributions to culture, philosophy and public architecture. See how ancient historians and philosophers rated them.
- ♦ **The Science of Memory** with Nick Maiorino
Why don't we easily remember as we age? We'll look at the biology of memory, types of memory, remembering and forgetting, and a few tips to help us remember.
- ♦ **The First Amendment and You** with Jerry Dunklee
Its historic background and the current state of the law.
- ♦ **History of Rock and Roll** with Harvey Heyman
A journey through its heyday from the 70's through the 90's.
- ♦ **Art History: Botticelli** with Irene Sommers and a **Topics in American Art** course focusing on the Hudson River School & works of Thomas Eakins with Michael Stein.
- ♦ **A Look at Democracy** with Kim Harrison
A brief history of democracy in America and a focus on current events that impact it.
- ♦ **Highlights from the Peabody Museum** showcasing Minerals and Mineral Science with Dan May and sessions with Kate Walton on Natural and Cultural Events that Shape the Course of Life on Planet Earth.

As you will see when the Fall Course Catalogue appears, this peek reveals only a smidgen of Fall course offerings. There are also courses on artificial intelligence (AI), consciousness, poetry and novels, current events, and German or French language groups.

Course Catalog

The Fall Catalog will only be mailed to members who were current as of August 11. To be sure your membership is current and you will be able to register, log into your account from www.ilrnh.org

Registration will begin September 2 at 9 am. Classes start September 15.