



# Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning

www.BRCLL.com

828-694-1740

April and May 2024

Volume 2024 Number 4

Go [here](#) to register online.

Please note that while we welcome walk-ins with [exact fees/credit card](#) (pending late class cancellations and space availability), mailed in registrations should be received at least a week in advance. Online registrations can occur up to the day before the course.

## Introduction to Japan

2 Sessions  
Wednesdays  
April 3 & 10

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$40

**CSP-CCLL 004**  
73963

Indulge in the captivating allure of Japan, a realm of ceaseless fascination. From the neon-lit streets of Tokyo to the centuries-old temples of Kyoto, Japan offers something for everyone. Nippon is a world of remarkable paradoxes, where Zen temples and age-old traditions coexist harmoniously with avant-garde technologies and pop culture. A panorama of fluorescent skylines and lightning-fast bullet trains transport you from ultramodern cityscapes to timeworn castles and serene bamboo groves. There's even a grand Godzilla hotel.

This informal two-part class delves into the essence of Japan, daily life and professional landscape. We will cover cultural insights, etiquette guidelines, essential greetings, a unique educational structure, sumo wrestling, the Samurai world, performing arts, the family and culinary tapestry. We will demystify the geisha, explain the Japanese communication style and dispel common misconceptions.

**Dave Tanenbaum** considers his 14 years in Japan to be the highlight of his life. He worked as Director of Employee Development at Marine Corps Community Services, where half of the staff were Japanese. Dave designed and facilitated professional development classes to help Americans understand Japanese values and customs so they could avoid misunderstandings and make the most of their time in Japan. Topics included cultural awareness and how to work with Japanese colleagues.



### Attention ZOOM class participants!

**Only classes listing a location of Sink Building/Zoom in newsletter are available for Zoom.**

- Enter [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) in your browser or install Zoom app.
- Select "join meeting"
- Enter Meeting ID: 573 909 3090
- Enter Meeting Passcode: BRCLL

Only those registered for a Zoom class may participate.



**Berlin 1933\***

1 Session  
 Tuesday  
 April 9

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/ZOOM**

Fee: \$30

**CSP-CCLL 087**  
 73399



The time is 1933, the place Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany at a turning point in history. This course is based on Erik Larson's book *In The Garden of Beasts*.

**Stacie Dotson**, retired English teacher, history buff, prolific reader and lifelong learner, is a product of Transylvania County public schools, a Western Carolina University graduate, a National Board-Certified teacher, and a Holocaust education professional. With a life-

long interest in the Holocaust and World War II, she has studied at NCCAT, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Israel's Yad Vashem, Pearl Harbor, and primary sites of WWII and the Holocaust. Stacie is a Volunteer Director on the Program Planning Committee for the NC Council on the Holocaust. She has presented workshops about the Holocaust and World War II.

Stacie teaches literature through a historical lens because the humanities reflect the events of the day. Words, music and art often record the creator's impressions, thoughts and feelings on what is happening around them. From seemingly mundane daily routines, to the cries of a generation, and everything in between, these creations become lessons from history.

**NEW!! Online registration – try it – IT'S EASY!**

Go to: <https://blueridge-register.fundfive.com/filtered/course/BRCLL>

HOME / REGISTRATION  
 CURRENT COURSE OFFERINGS

Blue Ridge has more to offer! [Click here to see all classes.](#)

Click on the name of the course below for additional information about each course section.

Show 25 entries

Course Name	Location	Start Date	Start Time	Price	Seats Available
<a href="#">1962 Cuban Missile Crisis</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	03/18/2024	10:00 am	\$40.00	30
<a href="#">Berlin 1933</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	04/09/2024	10:00 am	\$30.00	30
<a href="#">Cracking the Singapore Code!</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	03/27/2024	10:00 am	\$30.00	30
<a href="#">Elevated Living</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	05/29/2024	01:00 pm	\$30.00	30
<a href="#">Fission &amp; Fusion</a>	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	04/22/2024	10:00 am	\$40.00	30

**Click on class you want to see more information on/register for.**

- **Classes are listed alphabetically.**
- **Click on the START DATE header to view classes in date order or reverse.**
- **On payment page, for "signature", type your name.**

**New ONLINE registration**

**Questions to Ask Re: Elder Law\***

1 Session  
Tuesday  
April 23

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/ZOOM**

Fee: \$30

**CSP-CCLL 006**  
74900



This course addresses questions you might not know to ask about legal issues as you age, such as:

- ◆ What plans should I have in place, in case I can't advocate for myself due to incapacity from a stroke or dementia?
- ◆ What can my bank do if they suspect I am being exploited or defrauded?
- ◆ Who can my doctor call if he/she thinks my cognition is declining?
- ◆ How might I avoid probate without the need for a complex and expensive trust?
- ◆ How can I preserve assets in the event I need long term care?

**Caroline Knox** is a Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney in Hendersonville. The founder of Knox Law, she focuses on elder law, estate planning and administration, with an emphasis on special needs trusts and planning tools for clients with disabilities. Caroline advises clients on guardianship, Medicaid and how to preserve assets to qualify for benefits and pass an inheritance onto future generations.

**Understand Your Shoulder**

1 Session  
Tuesday  
April 30

**1 p.m. — 3 p.m.**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$30

**CSP-CCLL 010**  
75019



This lecture will give attendees a clear understanding of how the shoulder works, what can go wrong, how to recognize red flags requiring treatment, and how to prevent injuries.

**Suzanne Hall** is an orthopedic surgeon and Fellowship Trained Shoulder Specialist. She strongly believes that teaching the nonoperative and operative treatment of shoulder problems to other medical professionals and to the community can improve the level of care and raise the level of discussion during medical visits for this important and complex joint.

**Shakespeare: Othello**

2 Sessions  
Wednesdays  
May 1 & 8

**1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$40

**CSP-CCLL 093**  
73563



The name Othello conjures up dark thoughts: Iago, Othello's ensign, warns Brabantio, a Venetian senator, that "an old black ram is tupping your white ewe," alluding to the marriage between Othello and Desdemona, the senator's daughter. This innuendo sets the stage for miscegenation, misogyny, betrayal and distrust as the means by which Iago's devious plot controls all the other characters in order to destroy their lives.

Iago is far more powerful than Othello. So why is the play titled *Othello* and not *Iago*, when the latter holds the fate of all the other characters in his hand? Where do you suppose Shakespeare stands on the issues of a woman's right to choose a husband?

Come to class, having familiarized yourself with this story and be prepared for a discussion about the nature of true evil. A good film version is the Laurence Fishburn / Kenneth Branagh edition.

**Susanne Kimball** is a retired literature professor. Having received her PhD in Comparative Literature from UCSD in San Diego, Suzanne taught world literature on all levels at both UCSD and UTSA in San Antonio. Since relocating to Asheville, she has taught literature at BRCLL and OLLI, in addition to being a docent for the Asheville Art Museum. She was a feature writer for

**Poetry Writing for Beginners**

2 Sessions  
Mondays  
May 13 & 20

**10 a.m. – Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$40

**CSP-CCLL 001**  
73851



This introductory course uncovers what is poetry, a personal definition, and evokes ways to express one's feelings or describe an experience meaningfully so the reader shares the poet's mind. The instructor unwraps basics learned from a lifetime of writing poetry. Both coach and cheerleader, Richard's classroom is a safe place to ask questions and to reveal one's self through poetry.

**Richard Morgan** has been a teacher for 55 years. In the last ten years, he has taught *Writing Personal Poetry*, *Writing Memoir Poetry*, and *Writing Poetry for the Holidays* at multiple places, including at BRCLL and the Jersey Shore.

**Looking for more personal enrichment classes?**

Be sure to check out the wide variety of Learning for Leisure offerings from Blue Ridge Community College.

Visit [www.blueridge.edu](http://www.blueridge.edu) and search "personal enrichment"





**Freethinker: Thomas Paine\***

2 Sessions  
Tuesdays  
May 14 & 21

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/ZOOM**

Fee: \$40

**CSP-CCLL 089**  
73499



In January 2023, President Biden signed a law to memorialize an original founder beloved by radicals and Ronald Reagan. Biden acknowledged "America is taking a step closer toward marking the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution by erecting a new monument to Thomas Paine in the nation's capital." While that long-overdue monument is being completed, this "forgotten founding freethinker" invites our serious consideration and appreciation.

With today's rise of religious nationalism, this revolutionary thinker presents a powerful reminder of the secular foundation of America that protects true religious freedom. Through his commitment to critical thinking, science and human rights, Paine offers a timeless practical path to a just society that extends across borders, including boundaries of belief. The class gives particular attention his revolutionary text *The Age of Reason*.

**Chris Highland** holds degrees from Seattle Pacific University and San Francisco Theological Seminary and has over 30 years experience in interfaith work. He has taught and given presentations in diverse venues for decades. A former ordained minister, he is now a humanist celebrant and freethinker. The author of over 20 published books, Chris writes the weekly "Highland Views" column for the Asheville Citizen-Times. For more information, see "Friendly Freethinker" at [www.chighland.com](http://www.chighland.com).

**Elevated Living\***

1 Session  
Wednesday  
May 29

**1 p.m. — 3 p.m.**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/ZOOM**

Fee: \$30

**CSP-CCLL 009**  
75017



The invention of the passenger elevator not only transformed the urban skyline by playing a critical role in the development of the modern skyscraper, it also transformed the way in which people engage with the broader architectural landscape. It also very quickly assumed and has sustained a unique place in popular culture. This course will trace the technological, architectural, and cultural history of the passenger elevator from the late 1860s to the present.

**Lee Gray** is the Senior Associate Provost and Professor of Architectural History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He received a Ph.D. in architectural history from Cornell University, a Masters in architectural history from the University of Virginia, and undergraduate degrees in architecture from Iowa State University. He is the author of *From Ascending Rooms to Express Elevators: A history of the Passenger Elevator in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* (2002). Since July 2003 he has written monthly articles on the history of elevators, escalators and moving sidewalks for *Elevator World*, the leading international trade journal for the vertical transportation industry. He has published over 250 articles on the history of elevators, escalators and moving sidewalks and is currently working on a history of escalators.

**Forgetfulness or Dementia**

1 Session  
 Thursday  
 May 30

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building**

Fee: \$30

**CSP-CCLL 016**  
 73560

We all forget things from time to time. If you're like most seniors, you may wonder if that forgetfulness is normal aging or an early sign of dementia. Many fear that diagnosis and may deny the symptoms, concerned that others will think lesser of us. And before we are excluded by others, we exclude ourselves from community activities.

What if there were no stigma with dementia? What if we felt fully welcomed throughout our social circles, regardless of an increasing incidence of memory lapse or cognition? How would we want to be treated? Could getting tested sooner than later make a difference?

Join us for an engaging session with Kitty Hancock and Denise Baker, steering committee members of Dementia Friendly WNC.

**Kitty Hancock**, MSN RN, focuses on mental health and aging as a nurse educator. She is passionate about meaningful communication with people living with dementia. **Denise Baker** worked for the intelligence community in DC and traveled adventurously. She enjoys talking about what it's like to live with dementia having been diagnosed with MCI, Vascular Dementia and ultimately Alzheimer's in 2016.



# REGISTRATION #4: Mail this form or register online.

**ONE FORM PER PERSON - The information in this box is required by the college.**

*NOTE - CLASS CONFIRMATIONS ARE SENT ONLY IF YOU REGISTER ONLINE.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State/ZIP

Email (Required): \_\_\_\_\_  
*The following information is required by NC State Board of Community Colleges.*

Employment Status: Full Time \_\_\_\_ Part Time \_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_ Do Not Work \_\_\_\_

Highest Level of Education: High School \_\_\_\_ 2-Year College \_\_\_\_ 4-Year College \_\_\_\_ Higher \_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

*To register online click [here](#).*

*If mailing, mark circles indicating your course registration choices. All requests to drop classes must be in writing (email/mail) and received **BEFORE** the start of the course. Only classes in red, with \*, can be Zoomed. All Zoom classes use the same meeting ID: 573 9093 090 and the same passcode: BRCLL.*

<input type="radio"/> 73963 CSP-CCLL 004	Introduction to Japan W, 4/3 & 10 10-Noon Sink 239	\$40
<input type="radio"/> 73399 CSP-CCLL 087	Berlin 1933* T, 4/9 10-Noon Sink 239/ZOOM	\$30
<input type="radio"/> 74900 CSP-CCLL 006	Questions to Ask Re: Elder Law* T, 4/23 10-Noon Sink 239/ZOOM	\$30
<input type="radio"/> 75019 CSP-CCLL 010	Understand Your Shoulder T, 4/30 1-3pm Sink 239	\$30
<input type="radio"/> 73563 CSP-CCLL 093	Shakespeare: Othello W, 5/1 & 8 1-3pm Sink 239	\$40
<input type="radio"/> 73851 CSP-CCLL 001	Poetry Writing for Beginners M, 5/13 & 20 10-Noon Sink 239	\$40
<input type="radio"/> 73499 CSP-CCLL 089	Freethinker: Thomas Paine* T, 5/14 & 21 10-Noon Sink 239/ZOOM	\$40
<input type="radio"/> 75017 CSP-CCLL 009	Elevated Living* W, 5/29 1-3pm Sink 239/ZOOM	\$30
<input type="radio"/> 73560 CSP-CCLL 016	Forgetfulness or Dementia TH, 5/30 10-Noon Sink 239	\$30

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt# \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail registration to:

**Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning, 180 West Campus Drive, Flat Rock NC 28731**

For courses, each member must enroll individually, **one form per person**. You may write one check for all courses made payable to Blue Ridge Community College, "BRCC." Unless you are notified to the contrary, your registration has been accepted. Refunds must be requested in writing *before a course begins*. No refunds will be issued after a course begins. Pursuant to College Procedure 8.1.1 Blue Ridge Community College reserves the right to use photographs, motion pictures and electronic images of students who are age 18 or older for marketing and promotional purposes. Objection to the use of an individual's photograph in such a manner may be made in writing to the Blue Ridge Community College Director, Marketing and Communications.

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

**Credit Card payments are not permitted by phone or fax. Form must be mailed in or register online [here](#).**

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing you agree to receive e-mailings from BRCLL. You may unsubscribe at any time using the "Unsubscribe" link on all e-mailings we send.

## Miscellaneous

### Mission

We are committed to nurturing intellects, inspiring imaginations, and expanding the horizons of adult lifelong learners.

### Vision

Through our educational and culturally diverse offerings and opportunities, we expand the minds and inspire the imaginations of our adult lifelong learning participants plus enhance the quality of life in our community.

### Values

We are inclusive. In all that BRCLL does, we create an atmosphere that is welcoming and open to all who want to benefit from and enjoy our programs and services.

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Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning is committed to creating a sense of community, focusing on individual enrichment and growth, ensuring excellence and innovation to benefit our participants and enhance the quality of life in our community.

## Important Information

Office hours depend on many things including class schedules. In general, the office is open during class times. The office program specialist, Gretchen Koehler, can be reached at **828-694-1740** or by email ([g.koehler@blueridge.edu](mailto:g.koehler@blueridge.edu)). Messages may be left at any time and are returned as soon as possible.

If the College is closed for weather-related issues, all Lifelong Learning programs scheduled for that day are cancelled. If BRCC is on a delayed opening, please report to class at the scheduled time (i.e. 10:00 a.m. if scheduled or 1:00 p.m. for an afternoon class). Always check before arriving for any last minute changes. Closing information is sent via Blue Ridge Alert and broadcast on local radio and television stations. You can also call the College at **828-694-1700**.

Handicapped parking is available in front of the Sink Building.

Remember to bring a sweater if you tend to get cold as the temperatures in the rooms vary.

## Center for Lifelong Learning Board of Directors

Mary Johnston

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