



Blue Ridge Center for
Lifelong Learning

www.BRCLL.com

828-694-1740

May and June 2024

Volume 2024 Number 5

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.

Did you know you can see all classes offered through December 2024 at our new online registration site? Check it out!

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 *WNCWoman* and hopes to write *For Bold Life* in the future.

Attention ZOOM class participants!

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



- Enter 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.



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.

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
1962 Cuban Missile Crisis	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
Berlin 1933	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
Cracking the Singapore Code!	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
Elevated Living	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
Fission & Fusion	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

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.

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 19th 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.

What Does a Death Doula Do?

1 Session
Wednesday
June 5

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

Fee: \$30

What does a Doula do? You may have heard of a doula supporting childbirth, but instead of assisting an expectant mother, a death doula aids in making decisions that will bring peace and comfort, not only to the dying but also their family. Decisions include choices of physicality, hospice, visitors, letters, and music.

How can you become an informed funeral consumer? What matters to you and your family? What should you ask when comparing funeral homes? How do you compare prices? What about prepaying?

Beyond burial choices, what are the options? We'll discuss donation to science, green burial, human composting and more.

Jennifer Duran has been a licensed funeral director and embalmer for 30 years. For the past decade she has also been a Certified Celebrant giving families the option of a more personalized funeral service with a focus on the deceased and honoring their spiritual beliefs. Jennifer began advocating to help families have the difficult, but necessary, conversations surrounding end-of-life decisions and what will happen after a death occurs. Jennifer and her family have been residents of Flat Rock 18 years.



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 and search "personal enrichment"



Animal Rescue/Dog Assistance

1 Session
 Tuesday
 June 11

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

Fee: \$30

CSP-CCLL 012
 75041



We will learn about fostering and its challenges, rescuing pregnant dogs, and will hear a story about the impact fostering can have on animals, families and the community who open their hearts to them.

Next, we will learn about **canine assistance** worldwide, starting with conventional uses such as service dogs, police dogs, therapy dogs and search & rescue canines. We will then explore emerging uses of canines such as seizure response, court dogs, K-12 reading dogs, cancer detection, mobility partners, and dogs used for autism and psychiatric support. We will cover:

- *The history and evolution of canine-assistance dogs
- *Emerging roles in education, safety, medicine, literacy and mobility assistance
- *Cultural issues and expansion of roles for dogs in other cultures
- *Emerging research.

Jaime Seymour-Newton is an award-winning Master Photographer with 20 years of experience as a photographer and animal advocate. Passionate about photographing pets and their people, she has fostered hundreds of rescue dogs. Jaime recently relocated to Hendersonville from Miami with her husband and 3 dogs and has a studio in Flat Rock.

A Certified Therapy Dog Handler through the Alliance for Therapy Dogs organization, **Tom Keating** has worked with therapy dogs in a variety of venues including library reading programs, long-term care, acute care and collegiate environments. Tom has researched the use of assistive canines in supporting community engagement and meditation interventions.

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"/> 73563 CSP-CCLL 093	Shakespeare: Othello W, 5/1 & 8 1-3pm Sink 239	\$40	<input type="radio"/> 75017 CSP-CCLL 009	Elevated Living* W, 5/29 1-3pm Sink 239/ZOOM	\$30
<input type="radio"/> 73851 CSP-CCLL 001	Poetry Writing for Beginners M, 5/13 & 20 10-Noon Sink 239	\$40	<input type="radio"/> 73560 CSP-CCLL 016	Forgetfulness or Dementia TH, 5/30 10-Noon Sink 239	\$30
<input type="radio"/> 73499 CSP-CCLL 089	Freethinker: Thomas Paine* T, 5/14 & 21 10-Noon Sink 239/ZOOM	\$40	<input type="radio"/> 75016 CSP-CCLL 008	What Does a Death Doula Do? W, 6/5 10-Noon Sink 239	\$30
			<input type="radio"/> 75041 CSP-CCLL 011	Animal Rescue/Dog Assistance T, 6/11 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

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