Spring 2019 Study Groups  
April 1 – May 31, 2019

Mondays (April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20)

Please note: Specific dates are listed in group descriptions

Art Heist Casebook: The Forger and the Conman  
Suzanne Meier  
10:00 – 11:30 am

6 sessions (April 1 – May 6)

The study group members will watch the episode Forger and the Conman from the Art of the Heist documentary. We will read and discuss Provenance: How a Conman and a Forger Rewrote the History of Modern Art as a companion item in order to enrich the groups’ knowledge and appreciation for the topic and to add to the discussion of the topic.


Facilitator: Suzanne Meier has an extensive background in the history of architecture and art. She has given lectures in the past for various groups and was a frequent guest lecturer at the Theosophical Society of Baltimore. Suzanne first became interested in art theft after reading Peter Watson’s The Caravaggio Conspiracy back in 1985. She is also very interested in culture, popular art movements and how they affect and shape the built environment. She has facilitated three other OLLI study groups.

Antigone, Ancient and Modern  
Richard Meier  
1:30 – 3:00 pm

6 sessions (April 1 – May 6)

Continuing the fall study group on the Oedipus plays by Sophocles, we now turn to his equally famous Antigone, about the daughter of Oedipus and her conflict with Creon, who has taken over the kingship of Thebes and forbidden her to perform burial rites for her brother Polynices. Their eloquent arguments over public authority vs. the bonds of kinship and sacred custom have been a stimulus for discussion ever since. Next we will read a modern retelling of the story by Jean
Anouilh, written and performed in France under Nazi occupation. We will also watch film versions available on DVD and YouTube.


**Facilitator:** Richard Meier has degrees in philosophy and history. He has facilitated study groups on Homer, Virgil, Cicero and the Oedipus plays

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**Films from the Middle East**

*Marganit Weinberger-Rotman*

1:30 – 4:30 pm

8 sessions (April 1 - May 20)

The group will watch and discuss movies that represent various aspects of life in the Middle East. All of the films were made in the last decade. The following are some of the topics that will be presented in the films and discussed by the group: the plight of women; ramifications of the Israel-Palestine conflict; homosexual love; class, religion, and corruption; Christian Minorities in the Middle East and irreconcilable marital differences. The order of the films will be determined by availability.

Films to be shown include:
- Wadjda (Saudi Arabia)
- Ava (Iran)
- Caramel (Lebanon)
- The Insult (Lebanon)
- Foxtrot (Israel)
- The Cake-maker (Israel)
- Eyes Wide Open (Israel)
- Yacoubian Building (Egypt)
- Holy Air (Palestine)
- Winter Sleep (Turkey)
- Princess (Israel)

**Reading Material:** none

**Facilitator:** Marganit Weinberger-Rotman worked for Israeli Television for many years and attends the International Jerusalem Film Festival every year. She has facilitated seven OLLI study groups involving Israeli cinema, French comedies, and German and Iranian

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*Meet the Rostovs: Tolstoy's "War and Peace"—Film, History, Philosophy (and the Novel)*
Fred Christensen
1:30 – 4:30 pm

5 sessions (April 1 – April 29)

This group will watch and discuss the Oscar-winning 1967 Russian film of Tolstoy's War and Peace (with English subtitles). This nearly seven-hour epic will be shown as a miniseries of five episodes (60 to 90 minutes each), followed by discussion of each segment's characters, ideas, and historical events. As for the novel, participants could (a) not read it, (b) remember it from having read it before, or (c) read it in weekly installments corresponding to the film. The recent translation by Pevear and Volokhonsky is a good one. War and Peace has been called the greatest soap opera ever written, and this group will allow us to experience the world of Pierre, Andrei, and Natasha, their families and friends, enemies and rivals, all set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic wars and the great invasion of Russia in 1812.

Reading Material (optional): War and Peace by Pevear and Volokhonsky

Facilitator: Fred Christensen is a former history instructor at the University of Kentucky and assistant professor of military science at the University of Illinois. He teaches noncredit classes for OLLI, Parkland College, and other venues, in five areas of history and archaeology: Britain, Germany, early America, Israel/the Holy Land, and military history in general. He has led many OLLI study groups in the past.

Tuesdays (April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28)

Occasional Conversations about books on American history and politics:
American Dialogue: The Founders and Us by Joseph Ellis
Trisha Crowley and Dick Flood
10:00 – 11:30 am

4 sessions (April 2 – April 23)

The goal of the study group is to use Joseph Ellis’ book, American Dialogue, to, in Ellis’ words, “learn more about our origins... [to] frame the salient questions of our time with greater wisdom”. Each week we will examine an issue by looking at one of the Founding Fathers views on the issue and then the impact of the Founders’ views and decisions on today’s problems. The Then and Now topics are: 1. Race-Thomas Jefferson and Abiding Backlash; 2.Equality-John Adams and Our Gilded Age; 3. Law-James Madison and Immaculate Misconception; and 4. Abroad-George Washington and At Peace with War.

As with a book club discussion, reading this book will be essential to maximum participation in, and benefit from, this study group. Approximately 50 pages per week.
**Facilitators:** Trisha Crowley has a BA in History and a JD. She has had a lifetime interest in why government and politics are the way they are.

Dick Flood has done extensive reading to be well informed as a political cartoonist for the San Jose Mercury-News, courtroom artist for CBS and ABC Network News and WCIA TV.

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**Poetry Reading**

*Bill Breeding, Linda Coleman, Kendall Rafter, Claudia Reich, Will Ridenour, Joy Thornton-Walter, and Jean Weigel*

1:30 – 3:00 pm

9 sessions (April 2 – May 28)

Poetry is a dish best enjoyed among friends. Poems evoke feelings, meanings and experiences that are personal in nature; what moves you may not move me, what intrigues me may not intrigue you. And when we share our different responses to poems, we all gain a deeper understanding. Every week we will read and discuss poems, from the classics to the modern. Selections will be chosen by consensus and we will draw on available free resources such as The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org) and other Internet sites. We envision this Study Group as a communal endeavor, and we will share the responsibilities of proposing poems to read and facilitating discussions of them.

**Reading materials:** Selections will be chosen by consensus and we will draw on available free resources such as The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org) and other Internet sites.

**Facilitators:** The naming of facilitators only reflects the necessity of providing channels of communication, but we stress the notion that participation will require active engagement from everyone in the group.

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**John Dewey and American Pragmatism**

*Walter Feinberg*

1:30 – 3:00 pm

8 sessions (April 9 – May 28)

John Dewey, (b. 1859 d. 1952) was arguably the most important American philosopher during the first half of the Twentieth Century. Pragmatism, the name given to Dewey’s philosophy, had a powerful influence on American thought and practice and served as an alternative to British and continental philosophy. Dewey is important for a number of reasons, among them are his contribution to both educational theory and democratic ideals, which he believed were closely relate. He believed that modern democracy required an education that exemplified the basic ideas of democracy. For Dewey these included more than just the vote, and more than majority rule and minority rights. For Dewey democracy involved a communal way of life, a life of engagement where everyone had an opportunity to participate and to grow as a person. As an educator he is most well-known for his idea that learning must be connected to experience. The slogan “learning
by doing” is often used to sum up his educational ideas. As a philosopher Dewey’s ideas embraced a wide range of topics from a theory of knowledge, to aesthetics, to value theory. As a public intellectual he addressed many of the critical concerns of his day from war and peace, to the depression, to the rise of totalitarian governments.

In the 1950’s Dewey’s influence began to decline as other philosophical movements gained prominence, but there has been a recent resurgence of Dewey’s thought in many fields.

This study group will examine Dewey and pragmatism in light of social, political and educational developments in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century.

**Reading materials:** A suggested reading list based on member input will be provided by the facilitator. No prior knowledge is required.

**Facilitator:** Walter Feinberg is The C. D. Hardie Professor Emeritus of philosophy of education at the University of Illinois. He was the founding director of the Program for the Studies of Cultural Values and Ethics (Now The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities) He is the author of a number of books and articles addressing the educational and social aspects of liberalism. The latest are *What is A Public Education and Why We Need It* and *John Dewey and Education*. In 2014 he was presented with the lifetime achievement award of the John Dewey Society.

*These Are a Few of our Favorite Films*

**Multiple Facilitators**

1:30 – 4:30 pm

9 sessions (April 2 – May 28)

Nine facilitators will present eight films, one per week, covering a broad variety of genres and times, from the 1940s to the present. Each facilitator will present a film of their choice, giving a brief introduction, then the film itself, and then lead a discussion of the film with some possible additional background provided. The nine films will be:

Joyce Francisco: *Robin and Marian* (1976)
Frank Modica: *The Graduate* (1967)
Mike Murphy: *Swept Away* (1974)
Marilyn Resch: *Some Come Running* (1958)
Bill Roberts: *The Great Dictator* (1940)
Claudia Reich: *Amarcord* (1973)
Robin Goettel: *An American in Paris* (1951)
Tom Galer-Unti: *Return of the Pink Panther* (1975)
Craig Cutbirth: *Nobody’s Fool* (1994)

**Reading materials:** None.

**Facilitators:** The facilitators have all taken the previous favorite films study group and have volunteered to show and discuss their favorite film. Some are veteran study group facilitators, some
are new to the role, and all of them are interested in sharing ideas with the OLLI community in this team-led format.

**Wednesdays (April 3, 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)**

*The New Yorker*
*Kathleen Holden and Marilyn Resch*

10:00 – 11:30 am

9 sessions (April 3 – May 29)

*The New Yorker* provides a unique mix of articles and reviews on current topics, literature, and the arts. This study group is designed for readers of *The New Yorker* who want to get together to discuss current articles from the magazine. The weekly selection of the articles is made by a consensus of the group. Members are encouraged to choose and lead the discussion of one or more articles during the session. When not leading the discussion, members are encouraged to participate in the discussions. Members are required to have some reliable means of obtaining the articles to be discussed.

**Reading Material:** *The New Yorker* magazine

**Facilitators:** Kathleen Holden is a retired UIUC administrator. She has been a member of several interesting OLLI study groups, including the New Yorker.

Marilyn Resch is a retired attorney. Since joining OLLI in late 2013, she has participated in a number of study groups on a variety of topics. The New Yorker is one of her favorites.

**Rock Docs: Classic and Recent Rock Music-Related Documentaries**
*Tom Galer-Unti and Casey Sutherland*

1:30 – 4:30 pm

9 sessions (April 3 – May 29)

We will present nine documentary films with a theme of rock music, which we are intentionally defining broadly. One film will be from the 1970s, another from the mid-1980s, with the remainder being 21st century productions. We’ll start with classic rock of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, and then present a variety of films that offer some diversity in themes and genres. Two of the films will trace Native American and New Orleans influences on rock music; we’ll watch a female pop jazz singer’s biographical film; we’ll learn more about soul music and the record production industry; we’ll introduce you to lesbian twin sister comedic and country/folk rock stars from New Zealand; we’ll view a concert/art film; and we’ll end with a charming documentary about the Beatles’ long-time secretary and fan club president. The films will range
from major studio theatrical releases to films that only played the festival circuit but live on via DVD.

Each session will start with a brief introduction, followed by the feature film, a break, and then a group discussion. The documentaries to be screened are:

- *The Beatles: Eight Days a Week* (2016)
- *Gimme Shelter* (1970)
- *Make it Funky!* (2005)
- *Good Ol’ Freda* (2013)

**Facilitators:** This is Tom Galer-Unati and Casey Sutherland’s fourth time co-facilitating a film/TV-related study group together.

Tom has been the sole or co-facilitator of ten OLLI study groups and has taken numerous film classes and study groups. He also regularly assists with the OLLI tai chi class offerings.

Casey is a happily retired librarian who has previously co-facilitated five OLLI film/TV study groups. She has participated in film study groups and film classes every term since joining OLLI in January 2014. She is also a native New Orleanian who spent countless hours of her young adulthood in the music clubs of her hometown.

**Reading and Discussing The Economist**
*Claire Barker and Jeff Gordon*
1:30 – 3:00 pm

9 sessions (April 3 – May 29)

*The Economist* is a global weekly magazine written for those who share an uncommon interest in being well and broadly informed. Each issue explores domestic and international issues, business, finance, current affairs, science, technology and the arts. *The Economist*, an English magazine, has been in publication since 1843. The reporting is currently from 196 countries, decidedly with an international flavor. The circulation includes 4.5 million print subscribers and 2.8 million digital readers making it the most widely read magazine covering politics, economics, culture and general news around the world.
Participants will discuss the selected articles, take turns commenting on the topics, and add insights and information from other resources, personal experience, and knowledge, e.g. travel in foreign country. We aim to have active participation and lively conversations about the world today. Come join us in reading and discussing world events as seen more broadly than from any other periodical being published today.

**Reading material:** All participants are expected to have access to *The Economist* in print or digitally. Student subscription rate is available for short term or annually. An inquisitive interest in world affairs is encouraged. New print subscribers should expect 4-6 week delay in receiving the magazine. Digital access is available through the Champaign Public Library at no cost with a library card.

**Facilitators:** Jeff Gordon retired in 2014 after 23 years at the Building Research Council, where he participated in the research, educational, and public service missions relating to building science. A wide-ranging curiosity about the world led him to *The Economist* magazine. He has been an active participant in *The Economist* study group at OLLI for the past two years.

Claire Barker, who grew up in Toronto, Canada, is a geriatrician who recently retired from Carle Physician Group. She is currently in the OLLI Economist magazine study group as well as an international Economist readers group with American, Canadian, and British members.

*Crime and Punishment in the Jewish Bible: A Discussion Facilitated by a Student of Philosophy and a Rabbi*

*Norman Klein and Bob Strauss*

1:30 – 3:00 pm

4 sessions (April 3 & 10; May 1 & 8)

These stories often are represented or at least referred to in the Muslim Koran and are presented in what Christians refer to as the Old Testament (in Hebrew, the Tanach, in English the Jewish or Hebrew Bible). We will explore in what ways stories in the Jewish Bible have punishments that do or do not address appropriately the crimes depicted (or as in the case of Job alone, a crime does not appear, and hence, we will examine why the Book was written).

In the course of exploring stories such as Adam and Eve's exile from the Garden of Eden, the Flood, the Akedah (the Binding of Isaac), Moses not being allowed to enter the Promised Land, and the situation of Job, we will discuss whether the moral lessons often derived from these narratives are more problematic than might first appear. Does the text support the moral claims that have been passed down for generations? How do these texts resonate with our 21st century values?

Join us in reading the stories and measuring your sense of right and wrong in these days with those of ancient times.
**Reading material:** Any translation of the Bible that includes the Old Testament

**Facilitators:** Norman Klein is retired as the emeritus rabbi at Sinai Temple in Champaign after serving as the interim rabbi at temples in Canada and Florida. Before becoming Rabbi Emeritus at Sinai Temple, Champaign, IL, he served as rabbi from 1995 to 2013.

Prior to his career in Human Resources management, Bob Strauss completed a Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in philosophy. His areas of study included the history of philosophy.

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**Ancient Greek Philosophy: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle**

*Frank Hoss*

3:30 – 5:00 pm

8 sessions (April 3 – May 22)

Study group members will discuss the three philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. The discussion will be based on the book *The Dream of Reason* by Anthony Gottlieb. The facilitator will also utilize YouTube lectures by philosophy professors when appropriate in order to enhance understanding of the three philosophers’ ideas.

8 total sessions; 2 on Socrates, 2 on Plato and 4 on Aristotle

**Reading Material:** *The Dream of Reason* by Anthony Gottlieb

Frank Hoss has an undergraduate degree in Philosophy, B.D. in Religions and M.A. in Classical Languages and Philosophy. He has taught philosophy and religion in three community colleges and has led numerous OLLI study groups on philosophy.

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**Thursdays (April 4, 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)**

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**The Best American Mystery Stories 2018**

*Bev Herzog and Ron Baker*

10:00 – 11:30 am

8 sessions (April 4 – May 30 – will not meet on April 11)

This session we will be reading and discussing the twenty stories in *The Best American Mystery Stories 2018* edited by Louise Penny, with Otto Penzler as Series Editor. This edition includes twenty stories by such well-known authors as James Lee Burke, Lee Child, Michael Connelly, and Joyce Carol Oates (of course!), as well as many that will be new to most of the study group. In her introduction, Louise Penny wrote that writing short stories takes “Skill. Discipline. Knowledge of
the form while not being formulaic. In a short story there is nowhere to hide. Each must be original, fresh, inspired." She continued that this collection meets those criteria.

Group members will be expected read and be ready to discuss two to three stories each week, totaling approximately 30 to 60 pages. Group members will also be asked to volunteer to lead the discussion of a story or two, including researching the authors of the stories and developing study questions. Many members follow the session with lunch together at a local restaurant, where they may continue to discuss the stories and develop friendships. Story leaders get to select the restaurant.

**Reading Material:** *The Best American Mystery Stories 2018*, edited and introduction by Louise Penny and Otto Penzler, Series Editor.

**Facilitators:** Bev Herzog is a retired geologist who has been an avid reader of mysteries since she was introduced to Nancy Drew and Trixie Belden as a child. She has participated in mystery short stories study groups since joining OLLI in 2010 and has co-facilitated this group fourteen times since 2011 to excellent reviews.

Ron Baker is a retired Federal Human Resources Manager and OLLI member since 2013. He almost exclusively reads mystery stories and has been in several OLLI mystery story study groups. He has co-facilitated this group nine previous times, eight with Bev.

**Surrealism: Its History and How It Impacted U.S. Art During the 1930’s and early 1940’s**
*Sharon Williams*
10:00 – 11:30 am

8 sessions (April 4 – May 30 – will not meet on April 11)

In the United States during the 1930’s, American Scene painting dominated. As artists painted the American Scene, some of them included Fantastical and Surrealistic strategies. They had been influenced by several major exhibitions of the 1930’s, which showcased European Metaphysical, New Objectivity and Surrealistic art, and by magazine and newspaper information. Since European Surrealistic artists would not come to the US themselves until later in the decade, American artists were generally unencumbered by any single source or artist. In addition to the European sources, they observed the surrealistic tendencies of Mexican artists. They freely mixed to find their own effective modes of expression. A flood of dramatic visual strategies fed the Surrealist language that they could use to express the complicated fears and experiences of modern life.

Before we seek to understand how American artists used the visual strategies of surrealism, we will consider the history and definitions of European Surrealism. As we do so, we will view the work of major European artists such as Andre Masson, Jean Miro, and Salvador Dali. We will map Surrealism’s pathway to the United States and review the exhibitions that were held there.

Then we will view the work of the American artists who mixed Surrealists strategies, such as Peter Blume and O. Louis Guglielmi.
Lastly we will consider the impact of Surrealism on the “New York School”. Once WW II threatened and European artists sought refuge in the U.S., the “New York School” artists enjoyed a more extensive knowledge of Surrealism. Their personal experience with European artists helped them pave the way toward Abstract Expressionism. We will consider the influence of Surrealism on artists such as John Graham, Philip Guston, Archile Gorky, Adolph Gottlieb, and Jackson Pollock.

Each week Sharon will post on the OLLI website readings and paintings, which will be the basis of that week’s discussion. Additional paintings, videos, and films, with comments from art historians, will be used to add to the understanding of each week’s artists and topics.

Facilitator: Sharon Williams is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and a State of Illinois licensed Interior Designer who was co-owner of a furniture and design business for over 35 years. She has an interest in art and art history and hopes to share her knowledge and learn from other OLLI members.

She is serving on the Study Group Committee and has participated in numerous study groups and courses. This is the 15th Art History Study Group she has facilitated.

Time Magazine
John Moore
10:00 – 11:30 am

8 sessions (April 4 – May 30 – will not meet on April 11)

The group selects three articles from Time Magazine each week to discuss, with a volunteer leader for each article. Time Magazine is the world’s leading newsmagazine, featuring national and international affairs; health, business, culture and entertainment.

Reading material: All participants must have access to Time Magazine in print or digitally.

Facilitator: John Moore is an almost retired Allergist and Pediatrician. He is a long-time fan of Time and Newsweek.

Fridays (April 5, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Writing and Performing Poetry
John Palen
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

8 sessions (April 5 – May 31 – will not meet on April 12)
This is a continuation of a study group that has been held for several years now. At each session participants discuss a model poem chosen by the facilitator. The purpose is not to “critique” the poem but to identify the creative tools the poet used, and to gain inspiration from the poem for one’s own work. Some writing may take place during the session, especially at first, but participants will also write and revise at home. After the first session, participants will read their poems to the group, and briefly comment on how they used the model as a springboard. Then, we’ll take up a new model poem. There will also be occasional craft discussions on topics like figures of speech, poetic form, reading to an audience, etc. At semester’s end, the group will present a reading of their work for friends, family and OLLI members. There are no prerequisites, and no special knowledge is needed.

**Reading materials:** To be provided at each session by facilitator.

**Facilitator:** John Palen has been writing, performing and publishing poetry in literary magazines and anthologies for 50 years this year. His latest book, his eighth, was published recently by Mayapple Press. An English major as an undergraduate, he holds a Ph.D. degree in American Studies, which included study of American poetry. He also used many of this study session’s techniques in the 1970s with el-hi students in Michigan as part of the state’s Writers in the Schools project.

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**Advanced Latin**

**Harold Diamond**

1:30 – 3:00 pm

8 sessions (April 5 – May 31 – will not meet on April 12)

This is a continuation of the Advanced Latin Study Group that has been meeting through OLLI since 2013. We welcome prospective members. Participants should have prerequisite skills in the Latin language, e.g. some familiarity with grammar and vocabulary. Our meetings are lively and include discussions of historical and etymological topics. We have completed *Orberg's Lingua Latina Pars I* and *Ecce Romani II-B and III*. We have been recently reading works of Caesar, Cicero, and Augustus, among others.

**Reading Material:** *Using Latin II*, by Gummere and Horn, published by Scott, Foresman, 1955. It will be useful also to have a Latin grammar book and a Latin dictionary for this study group.

**Facilitator:** Harold Diamond studied Latin in high school, attended Kay Neal's OLLI classes, and participates in the Advanced Latin Study Group. All members of the group share in determining the path we follow.

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**The Evolution of the Universe from a Human Perspective**

**Eric Jakobsson**

1:30 – 3:00 pm
6 sessions (April 19 – May 24)

This study group will provide a comprehensive overview of the history of the universe as we know it, starting with the Big Bang. Members will learn about the Big Bang itself and the consequent expansion resulting in creation of matter, formation and evolution of stars and solar systems, formation and geological and climatic history of the earth, origin of life and biological evolution, emergence of primates, hominids, and humans, evolution of human societies from hunter-gatherer to agricultural to cities and city-state, to regional and global empires and alliances, to the Anthropocene Era in which the activities of humans are having a major impact on all other life on earth.

Reading material: No outside reading is required. An excellent single book covering this material is *Maps of Time* by David Christian. Other readings will be suggested during the course of the study group.

Facilitator: Eric Jakobsson teaches a course covering this material in the Campus Honors Program. He has a PhD in Physics and is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois.

Writers’ Café
Frank Chadwick
1:30 – 4:00 pm

8 sessions (April 5 – May 31 – will not meet on April 12)

Each week we meet to exchange news about writing in the Champaign-Urbana area, share a craft tip or exercise, and then (the main activity) read passages we’ve written and have the group critique them and make suggestions for improvement. We write all genres and forms: children’s stories, young adult, science fiction, historical fiction, memoir, poetry, song, travel – you name it. All levels of experience welcome. We all start somewhere, and the best place is in the company of those who are working toward the same goals.

Reading material: None.

Facilitator: Frank Chadwick is a published historian and novelist and his *Desert Shield Fact Book* reached number one on the New York Times bestseller list. He has facilitated several OLLI study groups and taught three OLLI courses - *Writing the Novel*, *The 1973 Arab-Israeli War* and *World War II: A Look behind the Curtain*. 