LEVI STRAUSS, THE GOLD RUSH, AND THE WORLD’S MOST FAMOUS PAIR OF PANTS!

Date: Tuesday, September 19
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon
Instructor: Anette Isaacs, M.A.

Everybody loves them, everybody wears them: Jeans are no doubt an iconic garment and they tell the legendary story of the American West. But did you know that they were made famous by an adventurous Bavarian Jew who combined his marvelous business sense with German ingenuity? Join historian and OLLI Director Anette Isaacs for a fascinating journey into the days of the Gold Rush and learn about Levi Strauss and his amazing life!

BEN FRANKLIN: JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF MOST!

Date: Tuesday, September 26
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon
Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Staton – Reinstein

Ben Franklin was much more than that avuncular fellow in the paintings. Before the Revolution he was the only American most Europeans had ever heard of – the “inventor” of electricity. He convinced the French to support the rebels with ships, leaders, soldiers, and money despite John Adams’ scathing criticism. He treated his biological family poorly while lavishing warmth and affection on others. He was ambitious, wily, brilliant, civic-minded, inventive, charming, and much more. Join historian Rebecca Staton-Reinstein and learn about Franklin’s remarkable life!
WHY MORE JEWS SURVIVED IN SOME COUNTRIES THAN IN OTHERS!

Date: Tuesday, October 3
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00
Instructor: John Ury & Desiree Rosenthal

Survival rates for the Jews in the Holocaust varied so much from country to country, from a low of 5% in Lithuania to an astonishing 80% in Italy (although Mussolini was a close ally of Hitler). There are quite surprising facts to report: In Holland only 25% survived. Yet, in neighboring Belgium, 40% survived. John Ury and his partner Desiree Rosenthal Israel explain these large differences in their fascinating talk.

METAMORPHOSIS: FROM ERICH WEISS TO HARRY HOUDINI!

Date: Tuesday, October 24
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Ronelle Delmont

Erich Weiss grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin after arriving in 19th-century America from Hungary with his Yiddish-speaking family. He became the most famous escape artist in history, yet his greatest "escape" was not out of locked trunks, iron chains, or straitjackets, but out of the dire poverty he and his family endured in America. Ronelle Delmont will dramatize Houdini’s amazing life with photos and film clips and will even explain some of Houdini’s tricks.

FAMOUS COMPOSERS’ LAST WORKS!

Date: Tuesday, October 31
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Alan Mason

Dr. Mason will discuss the Last Compositions of Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Gershwin, Stravinsky, Copland, Brahms, Ravel. A composer dictating from his deathbed, a composer requiring a friend to hold the pencil, a composer in serious debt, a composer at the top of his career, a composer writing for the cello for the first time, a composer getting slower and slower, a composer with no memory, and a composer writing his own Requiem.
NEVER FORGET: REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST IN BERLIN AND GERMANY!

Date: Tuesday, November 7
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Anette Isaacs

This year we commemorate the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht, also known as the November pogrom. Almost eight decades after the end of World War II, Germany has evolved into a country with a varied and fascinating remembrance culture, reminding Germans and visitors alike of the nation’s horrible past and legacy. German historian and OLLI Director Anette Isaacs will take you on a photographic journey to some of the many memorials to victims of the Holocaust, that show how remembrance and guilt have been expressed in the “land of the perpetrators.”

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND – SONGS OF AMERICAN WORKERS!

Date: Tuesday, November 21
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Matthew Sabatella

Music has been tied to work at least since the beginning of recorded history. People have sung songs while working. They have sung about work, working conditions, and other issues of concern to workers. Musician and Educator Matthew Sabetella is back to tells the story of labor in the United States through the songs of workers and labor movements. It includes music of farmers, lumberjacks, slaves, indentured servants, factory workers, railroad workers, coal miners, unions, and more.

ALL THE NEWS THAT’S FIT TO DISCUSS

Date: Tuesday, November 28
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Dr. Alan Fisher

This lecture will explore the current events taking place around the world at the time of the lecture. This session will be facilitated by Dr. Alan Fisher. You will also learn about the headlines four months before they appear in the Mass Media. Fisher has taught at the University of North Carolina, Tel Aviv University, San Diego State University, and California State University Dominguez Hills. He teaches several courses for OLLI at FIU on American political thought and the Constitution.

*Schedule subject to change. Visit https://olli.fiu.edu for the most up-to-date schedule or call 305-919-5900.*
HAMILTON: HOW AN ILLIGITIMATE IMMIGRANT BOY FROM THE ISLANDS SAVED THE REPUBLIC AND DESTROYED HIMSELF!

Date: Tuesday, December 19
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Staton-Reinstein

Hamilton, the musical, walked away with 11 Tony Awards for the hip-hop retelling of the story of our most controversial and brilliant founding father, Alexander Hamilton. You’ll be fascinated by his adventurous, flamboyant, patriotic, and tragic life. Hamilton’s rise from illuminate orphan began in the British Caribbean as local merchants and clergy sent him to New York to be educated. The beginning battles of the Revolution called him and formed an artillery unit which was soon absorbed into the Continental Army where he came to Washington’s attention. From there he rose in the early republic, married well, expanded into banking and publishing.

*Schedule subject to change. Visit https://olli.fiu.edu for the most up-to-date schedule or call 305-919-5900.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC!

Date: Tuesday, December 5
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Dr. Alan Mason

Dr. Alan Mason will be back at the Jewish Center with his own version of the “Holiday Pops” program, inspired by the New York Philharmonic. He will discuss Handel’s Messiah, Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite, Great Christmas Songs by Jewish Composers, and the hilarious Chanukkah in Santa Monica.