THE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE – SPRING 2026

(LEARNING: A LIFELONG EXPERIENCE)

Please Join with Us

(Onsite and/or by Zoom)

As The Learning Collaborative Partners with
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Sparkill, New York

Classes Begin Tuesday, March 10, 2026

THE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE'S SPRING 2026 SEMESTER

The Learning Collaborative (TLC) enthusiastically reports a significant change to our program.

Starting with the upcoming spring 2026 semester, TLC will be liaising with an institute of higher learning (as we did originally with LIU.) Specifically, we will be partnering with St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC), headquartered at its beautiful Orangetown Campus (in Sparkill), as part of STAC's Neighborhood Outreach Program.

The programming and fee structure will remain essentially the same, especially for Zoom classes. For onsite classes, we will be in STAC's comfortable and well-equipped Sullivan Theatre where coffee and tea will be provided (which can be taken to your seats.) Across the path from the Theatre, is a café where we will be most welcome to meet after classes for lunches from home or bought on site.

We believe that cross-pollination between us mostly retired folks and the younger population of the college will prove beneficial to both parties. In addition, those who register for a semester will be able to take advantage of STAC's many programs including those at their astronomy observatory.

In time for the spring semester, driving instructions, including where to park, and campus maps will be provided to all.

The New City Jewish Center (NCJC) has been informed of our plans and we will part on the very best of terms. TLC acknowledges the great contributions of NCJC for the past years.

Since COVID, our student base has been divided between those who prefer the camaraderie of onsite classes and those who prefer the convenience of attending classes from home via Zoom. STAC's Zoom facilities are excellent, and so for the spring semester we have expanded the number of classes available both onsite and by Zoom. In fact, more than half our classes will be in the hybrid mode for the spring 2026 semester.

One more thing: Some students have told us that they love the full (6-class) courses given by their favorite instructors. We experimented with that during the past fall semester with two such (optional) additions to our regular program, and it was successful. Therefore, for the spring, we've expanded that to three special courses. (We keep trying our best to satisfy multiple preferences.)

Hope to see you at classes.

Best regards,
Marty O. Cohen,
Catalog Editor

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Regular Program
(All classes are on Tuesday mornings)

March 10, 10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom**)
Can Anyone Be More Important than Me? – Dr. Lenny Grob
Most of us would claim that we humans are fundamentally concerned with "looking out for #1." As seemingly self-interested creatures, most would think that prioritizing the welfare of others is an unrealistic goal. But the 20th-century philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, writing in the spirit of Martin Buber, argues that an overriding concern for others is what makes us truly human. This is material for a lively discussion with examples to be drawn from our everyday lives.
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March 10, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (by **Zoom**)
The Legacy of Leonard Bernstein – Martin Schneit #1
At age 25, Bernstein came to prominence through a last-minute conducting debut with the New York Philharmonic, substituting for Bruno Walter on Nov. 14, 1943. Considered one of the most important conductors of his time, he was the first American-born conductor to receive international acclaim. Bernstein conquered every medium he touched: conducting, composing, Broadway shows, and education. Some of the topics that Marty will cover: the Young People's Concerts, Mahler's *Resurrection*, *Fancy Free*, *On the Waterfront*, *West Side Story,* and the Berlin Celebration Concert**.**

March 17, 10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom**)
Gentle Chair Yoga & Breathwork – Bette Willins
This chair-based yoga class is appropriate for all ages and levels of ability. Instruction incorporates yoga postures, gentle movement sequences, and breath awareness with applied breathwork practice, all of which focus on bringing an increased sense of mindful awareness. Research demonstrates that mindful breathing, as well as yoga bodywork practices, are effective in managing stress and benefit the nervous system. All are welcome. No yoga experience is necessary.

March 17, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (by **Zoom**)
Building Healthy Communities Through Creativity and the Arts – **Maia O'Brien**
How has history led to the dysfunctional social conditions we are dealing with in the world today? Maia helps people work through natural resistance to change and explore new options for integrating their physical, mental and emotional health. Using the "Hero's Journey" as a model for growth and development, they can build stronger connections with others for sustainable life balance, families, and communities.

March 24, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Spotting Scams and Schemes – Susan Carroll, Esq.:
This course will cover current scams and how you can identify a scam and protect your money. It will also cover steps you can take to protect your accounts and assets and introduce you to resources for assistance and reporting.

March 24, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Time to Kvetch! – Dr. Marty O. Cohen #1
Let's skip the major issues of the day and consider instead the minor, daily annoyances that bug us. Come instead to a fun-filled "kvetching" session when we explore the things in our lives that irk us. Marty will bring his own list as a starter, but we want to hear from you, too – so you can bring your own list to the session.

March 31 – No Classes

April 7, 10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom**)
Ludwig Van Beethoven – Martin Schneit #2
Beethoven was a gift to the world. He lives on today in some of the most wonderful music ever penned. His music is considered a bridge between the Classical and Romantic eras of music. Most of his best work was done after he became deaf. His *First Symphony* was the first of nine that changed the course of music. The *Ninth Symphony* still holds a supreme place in the hearts of the music loving world. We will listen to excerpts from the following great compositions: *Symphony No.1*, *Symphony No 3* ("Eroica"), *Symphony No.5*, *Symphony No.9*, *The Moonlight Sonata*, *The Emperor Concerto*, and the opera *Fidelio*.

April 7, 11:30 am -12:45 pm) (by **Zoom**)
Wellness Through Nature and Poetry, Part 2 – Phyllis Citrin
We will share more nature poetry chosen for inspiration, the awesome beauty of nature, and the poet's choice of words used to describe nature that along with other modalities promote wellness. Included will be original nature poetry written by the presenter, Pacific Northwest poetry written by the state of Washington's poet laureate, and other new and wonderful poems. Please consider writing your own original poem and sharing it with the group.

April 14, 10:00 -11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Artificial Intelligence – What Has It Done for You, Me, and Humanity Lately? (Part 1 of 2) – Dr. Alan Pierce
Both Parts 1 and 2 will begin with a lecture featuring slides and short videos to provide insight into Artificial Intelligence (AI) – its capabilities as well as its limitations. In Part 1, we will explore the origins of digital AI and examine how today's systems are built on neural networks loosely modeled on human brain function. We will also review AI's latest breakthroughs in science, medicine, and other areas of modern society.

April 14, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Things to Do Right Now to Improve Your Estate Plan – Courtney Boniface
Learn simple yet effective steps that you can take today to strengthen your estate plan. From updating key beneficiary designations to organizing critical documents and spotting gaps in your plan, these tasks can improve your family's preparedness. Perfect for all who know they *should* update their estate plan but haven't gotten around to it.

April 21, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite**)
Opera Experience Class – Joan Mallory
This class is an interactive presentation including costumes, drama, music, and a mock visit by the composer as well as exposure to beautiful operatic arias. The session will feature the opera *La Sonnambula* by Vincenzo Belllini about a sleepwalking bride who alters the course of her life.

April 21, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Pressures on the Press and Its Push Back – Sylvia Lewis
Lawsuits, political attacks, shrinking budgets, copyright violations by AI companies, and bosses who cave. America's mainstream media face more challenges than ever. But some outlets continue to fight for the rights granted by the First Amendment as well as for their own survival. Learn about their ongoing battle – but also their tactics and their successes. The class will update "Pressures on the Press," a Learning Collaborative class held last year. (Sylvia is a retired journalist who compiles a weekly memo about current events, including news about the media.)

April 28, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite**)
The Supreme Court's Latest Cases – Duncan Lee II
The Roberts' Court has dramatically changed the landscape of American Law. While everyone, not living under a rock, knows about the Dobbs decision reversing Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court has made decisions involving the limits of executive power, the operation and make-up of government agencies, and the concept of birthright citizenship – all of which will have far-reaching effects. This class will review these decisions and effects as well as how other areas of law will likely be changed by the current Court.

April 28, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite**)
Feel More Vitally Alive with VM! – Judith Rose
Offer your body and spirit the gift of Vital Movement™, a unique program for wellness enhancement that integrates the teachings and principles of a variety of kinetic and artistic disciplines to provide effective, joyful, and restorative movement experiences for participants of all ages and levels of proficiency. Each Vital Movement™ class is a deeply focused dynamic and fluid ritual that encourages growth and transformation. Class will begin with standing movement explorations and continue with chair choreography. All new music and movement combinations!

May 5, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Famous and Infamous Elections – Marty L. Cohen
Learn how famous and infamous elections have affected the course of American history. We will consider contested elections that involved serious allegations by top officials that the election was "stolen." Such allegations appeared after the elections in 1824, 1876, 1912, 1960, 2000, and 2020.

May 5, 11:30 am – 12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Amazing New Discoveries in Science – Dr. Marty O. Cohen #2
We will review the latest exciting developments in several branches of science – many of them revolutionary. You do not have to be a scientist, yourself, to understand and appreciate. All new and amazing things to wonder about!

May 12, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Benjamin Franklin – Tom DeStefano #1
Known as a "Renaissance Man," Ben Franklin was a leading writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, diplomat, printer, publisher, and philosopher. An American Founding Father, he was co-editor of the Declaration of Independence. As our first Ambassador to France during the Revolution, his diplomatic efforts were vital to securing French aid. He invented the lightning rod, bifocals, and the Franklin stove. Franklin published the wildly successful *Poor Richard's Almanac* – a digest of American proverbs. He was the founder of Philadelphia's first fire department, post office, and public library.

May 12, 11:30 am -12:45 pm) (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
American Bandstand – Part 2: 1957-1964 – Rick Feingold #1
Kids raced home after school in the 1950s to watch Philadelphia teenagers dance on American Bandstand. First the high school students danced the Jitterbug. Then Chubby Checker introduced the Twist, and dancing changed forever. Little Eva was next with the Loco-Motion dance craze. Videos will feature live Bandstand performances of "At the Hop" with Danny and the Juniors, "Beyond the Sea" by Bobby Darin, "Rebel Rouser" by Duane Eddy, "De De Dinah" by Frankie Avalon, "Lonely Teardrops" by Jackie Wilson, "Chantilly Lace" by The Big Bopper and more,

May 19, 10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom**)
The Art of Ancient Greece – Suzanne Altman
There is probably no more influential era in the history of Art than the time of the ancient Greeks. Their sculpture influenced artists such as Michelangelo, Bernini, and Rodin, and you can see many elements of their architectural innovations all around us today. Suzanne will include discussions of the pre-Greek art of the Minoans and Mycenaeans, the wonders of the Parthenon, and the drama of the Hellenistic era.

May 19, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom)**
Identity Verification on the Internet – Vincent Cina
This presentation introduces emerging Internet sign-in methods that reduce dependence on traditional passwords. It explains why passwords are increasingly insecure and difficult to manage, then outlines common alternatives such as magic links, one-time passcodes and biometrics. The session focuses on passkeys, a cryptographic, phishing-resistant standard supported by major tech platforms. Attendees will learn how passkeys work, what happens if a device is lost, and the current limitations as adoption grows. The goal is to help users feel confident transitioning to "passwordless" sign-in.

May 26, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
Artificial Intelligence – What Has It Done for You, Me, and Humanity Lately? (Part 2 of 2) – Dr. Alan Pierce
To prepare for Part 2, download ChatGPT from the Apple App Store or Google Gemini from the Google Play Store. We will pick up where Part 1 ended, focusing on the less desirable uses and potential misuse of AI. The goal of this session is for you to "learn by doing." Using your smartphone, iPad, or laptop, either in class or at home, you will actively engage in conversations on any topic with an AI system such as ChatGPT or Google Gemini.

May 26, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite**)
New York City Baseball from 1957 to 1969 – Jay Rifkin
Continuing from 1957 (where last fall's talk left off), Jay will provide more interesting stories, facts, and anecdotes focusing on NYC baseball of yesteryear. Relive some of your fondest memories playing baseball on the streets, in the parks, and watching it at our iconic stadiums – culminating with the "Miracle Mets" of 1969.

June 2, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
George Washington – Tom DeStefano #2
Washington was a military hero two times – first in the British Army during the French & Indian War and later against British rule as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War. He crossed the Delaware River to lead a surprise attack against Hessian soldiers and was victorious at the Battle of Yorktown. Washington was elected the first President of the United States and presided over a cabinet that included Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. He is one of the four Presidents featured on Mt. Rushmore and is remembered as the "Father of Our Country."

June 2, 11:30 am -12:45 pm) (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)
A 40th Anniversary Tribute to the 1986 Mets – Rick Feingold #2
The Mets were a last-place team for nearly ten years. Then General Manager Frank Cashen stocked the team with stars like Keith Hernandez, Gary Carter, Darryl Strawberry, and Dwight Gooden and in 1986 they won 108 games. Relive the Astros playoff series and the nail-biter 16-inning final game. Listen to Vin Scully's Game 6 call of the MIRACLE of Mookie Wilson's 10-pitch at bat and the ground ball through Bill Buckner's legs. Watch the post-season sequel of first-baseman Keith Hernandez playing himself in "The Boyfriend" episode on *Seinfeld*.

SPECIAL PROGRAM #1 (by add-on subscription only)

Six Films – Robin Brancato (by **Zoom)**
(This class will meet six times **by Zoom** on Thursdays, 10:00-11:15 am. The dates are given below.)
Watch each film in preparation for the usual discussion of ideas, relevance to the present, style, criticism, and more. Most are available on DVD and all are accessible via the usual streaming venues.

March 12 - To Be Announced
March 19 - To Be Announced
March 26 - To Be Announced
April 9 - To Be Announced
April 16 - To Be Announced
April 23 - To Be Announced

Important Note: Robin will be emailing all participants directly with the list of films being shown on each date.

SPECIAL PROGRAM #2 (by add-on subscription only)

Shakespeare and Jealousy: A Look at *The Winter's Tale* – Alice Twombly
(This class will meet six times **by Zoom** on Thursdays, 11:30 am-12:45 pm. The dates are: 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/9, 4/16 and 4/23.)
In this tragicomedy, Shakespeare explores the disastrous effects of a King's jealousy on his marriage, his pregnant wife, and his family. Among Shakespeare's late plays, sometimes called a romance, it takes 15 years for King Leontes of Sicily to rectify his errors and bring about the magical happy ending which makes this a comedy, after all.

SPECIAL PROGRAM #3 (by add-on subscription only)

The Amendments – Mike Rossi
(This class will meet six times **onsite** on Thursdays, 10:00-11:15 am. The dates are: 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, and 6/4.)
The U.S. Constitution was designed to be amended. "Amend" means: to correct; to reform; to restore. The Constitution has been amended only 27 times. (Fact: It took 203 years to ratify amendment 27!) Article V of the Constitution is "a sleeping giant"! We will review the amendments and potential changes.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

You will be informed by email, in advance, of all times just prior to all classes.

(In what follows, "**B**" means Onsite and by Zoom; "**O**" means Onsite only; "**Z**" means by Zoom only)

Regular Programs On Tuesdays (Special Thursday Programs Follow)

	10:00-11:15 AM	**11:30 AM-12:45 PM**
March 10	Grob (Z) Anyone More Important than Me?	Schneit #1 (Z) Leonard Bernstein
March 17	Willins (Z) Gentle Chair Yoga	O'Brien (Z) Building Healthy Communities
March 24	Carroll (B) Spotting Scams and Schemes	Cohen MO #1 (B) Time to Kvetch!
Break		
April 7	Schneit #2 (Z) Ludwig Van Beethoven	Citrin (Z) Wellness Through Nature and Poetry
April 14	Pierce Part 1 of 2 (B) Artificial Intelligence	Boniface (B) Steps to Improve your Estate Plan
April 21	Mallory (O) The Opera Experience – Bellini	Lewis (B) Pressures on the Press
April 28	Lee (O) Recent SCOTUS Decisions	Rose (O) Vital Movement™
May 5	Cohen ML (B) Infamous Presidential Elections	Cohen MO #2 (B) Science in the News
May 12	DeStefano #1 (B) Benjamin Franklin	Feingold #1 (B) American Bandstand – Part 2
May 19	Altman (Z) The Art of Ancient Greece	Cina (B) ID Verification on the Internet
May 26	Pierce Part 2 of 2 (B) Artificial Intelligence	Rifkin (O) NYC Baseball: 1957-1969
June 2	DeStefano #2 (B) George Washington	Feingold #2 (B) The 1986 Mets

Special Programs On Thursdays

	10:00-11:15 AM	**11:30 AM-12:45 PM**
1st 6 weeks	Brancato (Z) Six Films	Twombly (Z) A Look at Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*
2nd 6 weeks	Rossi (O) Amendments to the Constitution	

Contributions Gratefully Accepted

Do you love The Learning Collaborative and want to support our ongoing efforts to bring wonderful informative courses to our students? You can help! We have joined the Rockland Community Foundation (RCF) to accept tax-deductible donations to support additional technology, instructors, classes, and special events. Gifts of any size would be greatly appreciated.

To contribute, send a check payable to "The Learning Collaborative" with "The Rockland Community Foundation" in the memo line. Please make sure your name and address are on the check and mail it to:

The Rockland Community Foundation
Attn: Julie Sadowski, Executive Director
P.O. Box 323
New City, NY 10956

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." – Albert Einstein

(* Indicates that the instructor is new to TLC)

Suzanne Altman, B.F.A., Tyler School of Art, Master's in Art Education, Pace University, has taught art and art history in public and private schools. She has lectured on art history at many venues in the Hudson Valley and New Jersey. Suzanne is also a painter whose works have been widely exhibited.

Beth Blecker, RFC, provides clients approaching their retirement years or in times of transition with proactive financial strategies. She understands that it's not just your money, it's your life and works toward helping establish financial balance. Beth teaches retirement planning and distribution strategies to local CPA groups and corporations, as well as at various financial services industry events.

Courtney Boniface is the managing partner at Cane, Boniface & Eisen, P.C. The firm focuses on the areas of estate planning, elder law, and Medicaid planning. Courtney and her team offer personalized services to guide you through life's important decisions. They prioritize your peace of mind, ensuring that your legacy is thoughtfully protected for future generations.

Robin F. Brancato taught English, journalism, and creative writing at Hackensack H.S., Teaneck H.S., and Kean University, all in New Jersey. She has published eight young adult novels with Alfred Knopf and two nonfiction books for teenagers with Scarecrow Press. She is a member of the Authors Guild, PEN International, and Writers Guild East.

***Susan Carroll, Esq.** holds the position of Director of Training at Pace's Women's Justice Center. Through outreach and training programs, she raises awareness, shares information, and trains judges, police officers, attorneys, social service providers, law students, and the community on domestic violence and sexual assault, including issues involving campus sexual assault and elder abuse issues. Before joining PWJC, Susan worked with the Bronx D.A.'s office for 10 years, handling a wide mix of felonies including homicides, assaults, and domestic violence. She is a graduate of Boston College and Boston College Law School.

Vincent Cina is a computer scientist with over five decades of experience. He started as a computer operator and progressed to senior system programmer at a prominent New York utility. He then transitioned to IBM's Research Division where he spent 15 years as a senior computer science research manager and then 12 years as IT manager for IBM's worldwide Research Division. Vincent holds four computer science U.S. patents. Vincent is a member of TLC Board.

Phyllis Citrin holds a B.S. in Biology and a Master's in Science Education from CCNY. She did research and participated in leadership institutes at Princeton, Cold Spring Harbor Labs, Nathan Kline, and Cornell University. She was a finalist for 1999 New York State Teacher of the Year and taught Advanced Placement Biology and Science Research for over 44 years. Phyllis is a member of TLC board, having served, in the past, as Chair.

Marty L. Cohen is Adjunct Professor of History and Geography at CUNY. He was chairman of social studies at the Clarkstown Central School, is the director of the Rockland County Mentoring Collaborative, and has lectured at the Rockland and Bergen YMHAs. He has written numerous articles for magazines and journals on history and politics.

Dr. Marty O. Cohen has a doctorate in Nuclear Science and Engineering from Columbia University. He has lectured on history, science, and the historic approach to Bible at Road Scholar (nee Elderhostel) seminars, the Melton Institute, alumni associations, JCCs, synagogues, culture clubs, and well over sixty times here at the Collaborative. He is a member of TLC Board and is the catalog editor.

Tom DeStefano taught American History at Paterson H.S. for 30 years and currently teaches at Bergen Community College. He has presented many programs at local libraries. His specialties include the American presidents, the Civil War, and New Jersey history.

Rick Feingold worked as the marketing director at the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State University. He teaches *American Business History* at Bergen Community College. He holds a B.A. in History from Rutgers University and an M.B.A. from Penn State.

Dr. Lenny Grob is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Fairleigh Dickinson University where he taught for over forty years and where he chaired the philosophy department for several decades. Lenny's expertise lies in Existential thought, in particular, the philosophy of dialogue. He has written extensively on the philosophies of Martin Buber and Emmanuel Levinas. Lenny is also immersed in Holocaust Studies and in ethical issues pertinent to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Dr. Duncan Rogers Lee II is a local attorney who has taught a variety of Constitutional Law and science classes at the Collaborative. His former newspaper column and WRCR radio show, *The Law and You*, has explained legal issues to the general public for almost two decades. A former acting judge for the Village of Upper Nyack, he coaches the award-winning Nyack H.S. Mock Trial Team.

Sylvia Lewis is a retired journalist who spent many years heading the publications department of a nonprofit professional association, where she was in charge of magazine and book publishing. Early in her career she worked as a newspaper reporter and book editor. She earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in English literature (from Cornell University and the University of Washington, respectively). She also holds an M.S.J. from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

Joan Adinolfi Mallory has taught her popular "The Opera Experience" class at The Learning Collaborative for many years. She has 56 years of teaching experience and spent 22 years as head of the Music Education Department. at Nyack College. During her tenure as a teacher, she received the MENC model classroom teacher award.

***Maia O'Brien** has been working with adults for 30+ years, teaching creative integration of body, mind, and spirit through dance, integrative physical therapy, body-centered psychology, the creative arts therapies, and astrology. Maia offers new perspectives that promote wellness and self-care for better life balance. She specializes in burnout prevention, adult development, life transitions, grief/bereavement, trauma, management styles, and organizational transformation. Maia helps people master skills of creativity and emotional intelligence to bring higher levels of excellence to all areas of life at home, at work and in the community.

Dr. Alan J. Pierce, Ed.D., is the co-author of six textbooks on technology published by West Publishing and Glencoe McGraw-Hill. He was the technical consultant on the children's book *Discover How Things Work* and was an editor for the six books created by The Techknow Project and published by Centre Pointe Learning. His magazine column on new and emerging technology was published monthly for 26 years in the magazine *TechDirections*. His columns can be found online at *https://www.technologytoday.us/*. Alan is a member of TLC board.

Jay Rifkin spent over 35 years teaching math and almost twice that time as a BIG TIME baseball fan. By the age of 7, he was collecting baseball cards and could recite the starting lineups of all Major League teams (16 at the time). He also spent countless hours voraciously reading whatever he could about baseball. He looked forward to and enjoyed Opening Day with the same enthusiasm and excitement as his birthday. By March 1st, he was in full countdown mode to the start of a new baseball season. Not much has changed through the years.

Judith Rose, the founder of Vital Movement™, is an experienced educator, choreographer, published poet, and movement artist. She has an extensive background in a variety of movement arts, therapeutic modalities, and specialized trainings. Her private practice in therapeutic wellness work is located in Nyack.

Mike Rossi was an undergraduate at St. Thomas Aquinas College, a graduate of LIU, and a post-graduate of Iona College. He taught high school social studies and was a high school administrator. As a retired educator, he has authored four mystery novels, has become an education consultant, and advocates for elder care providers.

Martin Schneit is a born and bred New Yorker and historian. He has lectured at the New York Public Library, JCCs, the 92nd St Y, the Health Outreach Program of New York, Presbyterian Hospital, The Central Synagogue, The Hebrew Home for the Aged, The Ziegfeld Society of New York, for the patients at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in Manhattan, and at the Lincoln Center of Riverdale. The Jewish Braille Institute has recorded Marty's lectures for their audio magazine.

Alice Twombly has a B.A. in English from Brandeis and an M.A.T. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She taught Shakespeare and AP English at Teaneck H.S. for over 35 years. An educational consultant, photographer, and poet, Alice frequently lectures on literary topics at regional libraries, is the Curator of Thursdays Are for Poetry, a monthly poetry reading in Teaneck, and a member of Brevitas, an online poetry collective of over 70 poets in the NY Metro Area.

Bette Willins, M.S., LDT-C, is a certified yoga instructor holding advanced degrees in special education with years of experience in addressing the needs of clients of all ages and ability levels. Her personal journey, facing the daily challenges of Parkinson's Disease, and as a Davis Phinney Foundation Ambassador, has broadened her passion to acknowledge the needs of the whole person, specifically through the practice of yoga, breath work and meditative practices.

"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher." – Japanese proverb

REGISTRATION

For general questions about the Collaborative, call Sam Mazen (TLC) at 845-359-4753 or Michael DiBartolomeo (STAC) at 201-370-4660.

REGISTRATION BEGINS MONDAY, 9 A.M., FEBRUARY 9, 2026

→ **Refunds** will be given for requests received no later than **48 hours** before the semester starts.

You can register in one of two ways.

1. For online registration go to our website, stac.edu/tlc, and follow directions.

If two people will be at the same terminal or Onsite they must both register and pay the fees. The regular program must be signed up for. The special programs (6 sessions) are optional.

Regular Program:	**No. of students ____**	**x $70 per**	**= $_____**
Robin Brancato Special	No. of students ____	x $25 per	= $_____
Mike Rossi Special	No. of students ____	x $25 per	= $_____
Alice Twombly Special	No. of students ____	x $25 per	= $_____
TOTAL			**$_____**

2. For registration via postal mail, please use the page that follows.

Registration for Spring 2026 Courses

(For those not using online registration)

Registration, other than online, is by mailed-in check only.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip** _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____

If two people will be at the same terminal or Onsite they must both register and pay the fees. The regular program must be signed up for. The special programs (6 sessions) are optional.

Regular Program:	**No. of students** ____	**x $70 per**	**= $_____**	**(Mandatory)**
Robin Brancato Special	No. of students ____	x $25 per	= $_____	
Mike Rossi Special	No. of students ____	x $25 per	= $_____	
Alice Twombly Special	No. of students ____	x $25 per	= $_____	
TOTAL			**$_____**	

Make your check out to **St. Thomas Aquinas College** and list check number here. _____

Postal mail the registration form with your check to:

St. Thomas Aquinas College
Office of Student Financial Services
125 Route 340
Sparkill, NY 10976

and on the memo line be sure to add "The Learning Collaborative."

Learning Collaborative Board Members

Dana Asher	Sally Borgman	Phil Carmichael
Vincent Cina	Phyllis Citrin	Martin O. Cohen
Judy Gorman	Berton Greenberg	Phyllis Levin
Sam Mazen (Chair)	Alan Pierce	Miriam Tatzel

The contents of this brochure are submitted by TLC Board. The opinions expressed by our instructors do not necessarily agree with those of the Board. We do, however, uphold the principle of freedom of speech.

If you or someone you know is interested in teaching a course at TLC, please contact Sam Mazen, Board President, at isabel.sam@verizon.net. For suggestions to improve this catalog, please contact the editor, Dr. Marty O. Cohen, at genesisxmoc@gmail.com (new email address.)