

THE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE – FALL 2026

(LEARNING: A LIFELONG EXPERIENCE)

Please Join with Us
(Onsite and/or by Zoom)



The Learning Collaborative
at
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Sparkill, New York

Registration Opens Monday, August 10, 2026
Classes Begin Tuesday, September 8, 2026

THE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE'S FALL 2026 SEMESTER

This fall, your Learning Collaborative will hold its second semester housed at St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) and we could not be more pleased to be there.

Our past spring semester was successful in every way and our friends at STAC did everything in their power to make us feel welcome and to make things run smoothly. We are confident that our mutual regard will continue to grow in the future.

We are keenly aware that for many, the warmth of being together onsite for classes is a big positive, but we also know that many others prefer the convenience of attending by Zoom. With the excellent facilities at STAC being constantly upgraded, we are heading more and more toward combined onsite and Zoom classes. This seemed to appeal to our student body and we saw a rise in attendance for the past spring semester – the first increase, in fact, since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic. This coming semester we will benefit from improvements in STAC's sound and video technology and we believe you will notice that. Therefore, we are continuing the practice of combining onsite and Zoom classes when we can.

In addition to our regular Tuesday morning classes, we are again offering three six-week add-on courses with popular lecturers Robin Brancato, Mike Rossi, and Alice Twombly.

In the “old days” many of us used to enjoy having programs in the morning, then lunching together and finally having an afternoon program. On November 17, we are going to duplicate that experience. The day will begin with two onsite classes, then lunch across the path at the student cafeteria (purchase or bring your own), and then a special musical session with Emmy Award-winning soprano Ilana Davidson back at the Sullivan Theater. Details are given below.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the hot topic these days. Our AI guru, Dr. Alan Pierce, aided by ChatGPT, has created an AI-generated song about The Learning Collaborative. Copy this link <https://youtu.be/Zgcx4-RcA58> to your web browser and hear the song. (Yes, there is that period in the middle of youtube.) To have the words show as the song plays, just click on the “cc” (closed caption) icon. Enjoy.

Hope to see you in class.

Best regards,
Marty O. Cohen,
Catalog Editor

“A good education is another name for happiness” – Anne Plato

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Regular Program

(All “regular” classes are on Tuesday mornings)

Sept. 8, 10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom**)

The Art and Architecture of Ancient Rome – Suzanne Altman #1

This class will look at the progression of Roman art from the Etruscans to the Republican Era to the Imperial Age. We will look at the important innovations of the Romans in architecture and technology that transformed many civilizations that followed.

Sept. 8, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (by **Zoom**)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Martin Schneit #1

Mozart was the quintessential child prodigy who astonished the world. This celebrated Austrian composer produced over 800 works in his short life. Listen to excerpts from the following great compositions: *Turkish March*, *Bastien and Bastienne*, *La Finta Semplice*, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *Queen of the Night*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Requiem*.

Sept. 15, 10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom** and **Onsite**)

Amazing Artificially Intelligent Humanoid Robots and How we Got Here – Dr. Alan Pierce

The Lecture will look at today’s humanoid AI-driven system, how people are literally being tasked with teaching these machines how to do their jobs, and look back in history to when machines started to perform the work that once could only be done by people.

Sept. 15, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (by **Zoom**)

Jewish New York – Martin Schneit #2

Marty will detail how Jewish America started in New York City. He will talk about the Brownsville Girls, Shearith Israel, Temple Emanuel, the Jews of Brighton Beach, the Eldridge Street Synagogue, Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Gustav Mahler, Washington Heights (aka Frankfurt on the Hudson), Zabar’s, the egg cream, and Henny Youngman. Marty will explain how the New York Jews pioneered the rise of the garment industry which had a great impact on the world of fashion.

Sept. 22, 10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom**)

The Art of the Dutch Golden Age – Suzanne Altman #2

The 17th century was an incredibly productive time for art in The Netherlands with great painters like Rembrandt, Hals, and Vermeer. It featured a revolution in the style and subject matter of art. Landscapes, still lifes, portraits, and genre paintings were bought in great numbers as the Dutch Republic prospered.

Sept. 22, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (by **Zoom**)

Write It Out – Ronni Miller

Write It Out® is a hands-on expressive writing workshop with exercises from a nationally recognized program. You will experience motivational exercises that tap into your feelings, memories, and experiences and you write them out in any genre including memoir, fiction, and poetry. *The Write It Out Book*, by Ronni Miller, a new textbook with expressive writing syllabi, available on Amazon, will be used in the workshop, but is not required.

Sept. 29, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Leave Your Legacy, Not a Headache (Because “Figure It Out Later” Is Not an Estate Plan) – **Courtney Boniface Part 1 of 2**

Topics this session will include: Charitable Giving Strategies that Stretch Your Legacy (But Not Your Bank Account) and Protecting Beneficiaries through Trusts when divorce, creditors, and/or spending issues are a concern.

Sept. 29, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

America by the Numbers – Sylvia Lewis

Who are we? In this class the question isn't about philosophy. It's about demographics. We'll be exploring what the latest Census Bureau information tells us about ourselves as Americans – about our population, our families, and our communities. The data may surprise us and it may challenge some of our long-held assumptions about our nation. Sylvia Lewis is a retired journalist who has often mined census data when writing about cities and city planning.

Oct. 6, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Abraham Lincoln: The Great Emancipator – Tom DeStefano #1

Born in a one-room log cabin in Kentucky, this self-educated lawyer was elected the first Republican president in 1860. His victory prompted a majority of the slave states to secede and form the Confederate States which led to the Civil War. In 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which declared slaves to be free. He delivered the Gettysburg Address which became one of the most famous speeches in American history. He is remembered as a national hero for his wartime leadership and his efforts to preserve the Union and abolish slavery.

Oct. 6, 11:30 am -12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Buena Vista Social Club: the Musical – Rick Feingold #1

In the 1950s, Havana, a group of young musicians, created a sound that shook the world of Cuban music – until the revolution changed everything. Forty years later, the band came back together to record the songs they had left behind and unexpectedly created the greatest-selling world music album of all time. This class covers pre-revolutionary life in 1950s Cuba, the *Son Cubano* musical artists featured in a 1999 documentary movie, and the Tony-award winning 2025 *Buena Vista Social Club* Broadway musical.

Oct. 13, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Great Changes – Dr. Marty O. Cohen, Part 1 of 2

In this class we will discuss important innovations in technology and major scientific discoveries that changed the course of human history.

Oct. 13, 11:30 am -12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

The Opera Experience – Joan Mallory

This class continues Joan's delightful, interactive presentations including costumes, drama, music, and a mock visit by the composer and features exposure to beautiful operatic arias. This time the class will feature the opera *Turandot* by Giacomo Puccini, which is about Prince Calaf, in ancient Peking, who saves his life by answering three riddles that a cruel princess has given him. The story tells how the power of his love restores peace to the kingdom.

Oct. 20, 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.

Oct. 20, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (by **Zoom**)

Beauty, Serenity, and Inspiration through Poetry and Nature – Phyllis Citrin

This course will use poetry sources such as Amanda Gorman's *Call Us What We Carry*, National Geographic's *Book of Nature Poetry*, and other sources selected for their power to inspire, soothe, and allow us to share the beauty within us and the beauty still remaining on this beautiful earth.

Oct. 27, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Great Changes – Dr. Marty O. Cohen, Part 2 of 2

In this class we will discuss major events that changed the course of American history. Be prepared for some surprises.

Oct. 27, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Religion and the First Amendment – Dr. Duncan Lee II, Part 1 of 3

Thomas Jefferson famously advocated for a complete separation of Church and State. However, those words do not appear anywhere in the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment to the constitution contains five rights, one of them referring to the “establishment” of a religion and to the “free exercise” of religion. This course will examine how the Supreme Court has interpreted the meaning of these First Amendment rights in the past, how the “Trump” Supreme Court interpreted recent related cases, and where the Court seems to be headed in the future.

Nov. 3, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

John F. Kennedy: The King of Camelot – Tom DeStefano #2

At 43, JFK was the youngest person elected President. A Harvard graduate, he commanded PT boats during World War II. As a senator, he won a Pulitzer Prize for his book *Profiles in Courage*. At the height of the cold war, he authorized an attempt to overthrow the Cuban government of Fidel Castro in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. Kennedy stared down the Russians during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. He presided over the establishment of the Peace Corps and the goal of landing a man on the moon.

Nov. 3, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

1950s TV Quiz Show Scandals – Rick Feingold #2

In 1956, the TV game show *Twenty-One* premiered and was, at first, played honestly but ended as a “dismal failure” when “popular” contestants could not answer the questions correctly. As a result, *Twenty-One* became rigged with certain players being given answers in advance. When dominant long-running winner Herbert Stempel was ordered to lose, he answered a key question incorrectly. Afterwards, however, he blew the whistle on the scam. Congressional hearings followed. This presentation will feature viewing the infamous *Twenty-One* episode when Herbert Stempel faced Charles Van Doren.

Nov. 10, 10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom**)

Preventing Arthritis and Strain-Related Injuries – Jenna Rogoff

Jenna Rogoff, MOT, OTR/L, is the Clinic Director of West Nyack Hand Therapy and a practicing occupational therapist. She is dedicated to restoring function, relieving pain, and enhancing quality of life through personalized therapy plans and hands-on care. She believes in integrating physical, mental, and emotional well-being into her therapy practice to help patients achieve optimal recovery and long-term success.

Nov. 10, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

The History of Artificial Intelligence – Vincent Cina

This presentation will trace the 90-year history of Artificial Intelligence (AI) from Alan Turing's theoretical foundations to the public explosion of ChatGPT. We'll explore the technical breakthroughs and the brilliant minds that shaped AI. We will examine the structural shift moving away from human-written "If-Then" rules toward the adoption of Machine Learning.

Nov 17, 10:00-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Leave Your Legacy, Not a Headache (Because "Figure It Out Later" Is Not an Estate Plan) – **Courtney Boniface Part 2 of 2**

Topics this session will include: Medicaid Planning (Protecting What You Have Worked a Lifetime to Build) and Planning for Loved Ones with Disabilities.

Nov. 17, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Religion and the First Amendment – Dr. Duncan Lee II, Part 2 of 3

(See description on Oct. 27.)

Nov. 17, 12:45-1:45 pm (Lunch at the Campus Cafeteria)

Bring your own lunch or purchase

Nov. 17, 1:45-3:00 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Music Affiliated with Rockland County Historical Sites – Ilana Davidson

The presentation this semester is the first of several that will span several semesters. Each session will focus on Rockland County historical sites with the corresponding folk music of the era. The program includes history, handouts, and sharing music of the era connected to those places and their stories. The historic sites this time will be the DeWint House, built in 1700, the oldest building in the county, and the Old Stone Meeting House, built in 1813, which is the oldest church and gathering place in the county.

Nov. 24, 10:00-11:15 am) (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

New York City Baseball in the 1960s – Jay Rifkin

Enjoy interesting stories, facts, and anecdotes about NYC baseball in the 1960s. Relive some of your fondest memories playing ball on the streets and in the parks and watching games in our iconic stadiums.

Nov. 24, 11:30 am-12:45 pm (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

Religion and the First Amendment – Dr. Duncan Lee II, Part 3 of 3

(See description on Oct. 27.)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS (by add-on subscription only)

Tuesday Afternoons: Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29, and Oct. 6, 13

1:30-2:45 pm (by **Zoom**)

Reading Shakespeare Aloud: “Henry IV, Part One” – Alice Twombly

Preferred editions in this order: Folger edition, Arden edition

This course will give us the chance to examine some of Shakespeare’s most famous characters as well as a look at an important time period in English History – the

1400s – when the Plantagenet royalty divided into the House of York and the House of Lancaster and when their rivalry resulted in the bloody War of Roses.

Thursday Mornings: Sept. 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1, 8, 15

10:00-11:15 am (by **Zoom**)

Six Films – Robin Brancato

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. The films will be announced in advance.

Sept. 10 - To Be Announced

Sept. 17 - To Be Announced

Sept. 24 - To Be Announced

Oct. 1 - To Be Announced

Oct. 8 - To Be Announced

Oct. 15 - To Be Announced

Thursday Mornings: Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, skip Thanksgiving, Dec 3, 10-11:15 am (**Onsite** and by **Zoom**)

The Lewis and Clark Expedition – Mike Rossi

This famous expedition, exploring the new American lands obtained via the Louisiana Purchase, and sponsored by President Thomas Jefferson, was a real eye opener. A cast of characters assisted in the journey. What did they encounter? How did political issues influence the leaders of the trek? How did Lewis and Clark fare when it was over?

SEMESTER SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

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

(For full titles, course descriptions, and modes of presentation, see pages 3-7, above.)

Regular Programs On Tuesdays (Special Programs Follow On The Next Page)

10:00-11:15 AM	11:30 AM-12:45 PM
9/8 Altman - Art & Arch. Ancient Rome	Schneit - Mozart
9/15 Pierce - Amazing Artificially Intelligent Humanoid Robots and How we Got Here	Schneit - Jewish New York
9/22 Altman - Dutch Golden Age	Miller - Write It Out
9/29 Boniface - Leave Your Legacy 1 of 2	Lewis - America by the Numbers
10/6 DeStefano - Abraham Lincoln	Feingold - <i>Buena Vista Social Club</i>
10/13 Cohen MO - Great Changes 1 of 2	Mallory - Opera: <i>Turandot</i>
10/20 Willins - Gentle Chair Yoga	Citrin - Beauty, Serenity, etc.
10/27 Cohen MO - Great Changes 2 of 2	Lee - First Amendment 1 of 3
11/3 DeStefano - John F. Kennedy	Feingold - Quiz Show Scandals
11/10 Rogoff - Preventing Injuries	Cina - History of AI
11/17 * Boniface - Leave Your Legacy 2 of 2	Lee - First Amendment 2 of 3
11/24 Rifkin - 1960s NYC Baseball	Lee - First Amendment 3 of 3

* See next page for special program in the afternoon of 11/17

Special Programs

Tuesdays

1st 6 weeks Twombly (Zoom) **1:30 -2:45 pm**

Shakespeare's *Henry IV-Part One* Six Films

Preferred editions in this order:

Folger edition, Arden edition

Thursdays

Brancato (Zoom) **10-11:15 am**

2nd 6 weeks

Rossi (Onsite & Zoom) **10:11:15 am**

Lewis and Clark Expedition

(on 12/3 instead of 11/26)

11/17 only Davidson (Onsite & Zoom) **1:45-3:00 pm**

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 Community Foundation of Orange, Sullivan and Rockland 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 "Community Foundation of Orange, Sullivan and Rockland" in the memo line. Please make sure your name and address are on the check and mail it to:

Community Foundation of Orange, Sullivan and Rockland
Attn: Julie Sadowski, Executive Director
30 Scott's Corners Drive, Suite 203
Montgomery, NY 12549

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

“My heart is singing for joy this morning. A miracle has happened! The light of understanding has shone upon my little pupil’s mind, and behold, all things are changed.” – Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller’s teacher

(* 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.

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.

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 Masters 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.

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 the longest serving member of TLC Board and is the catalog editor.

Ilana Davidson is a Grammy Award-winning soprano and performer based in Nyack. She trained at the Curtis Institute of Music and has performed in concert halls and opera houses throughout Europe and the United States. Ilana has been featured on many recordings. She is the founder of the Serenata Chamber Series, bringing intimate world-class chamber music to Rockland County.

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. 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 57 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.

Ronni Miller is an award-winning fiction writer with thirteen published books of fiction and nonfiction. She created and founded Write It Out[®], a motivational and expressive writing program in 1992 and teaches it in the US, Bermuda, and Italy at colleges, education centers, and at private venues. She is a Book Midwife/Developmental Editor and guides her clients to birth their books from inception to delivery. Consult her website www.writeitout.biz for more information.

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 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.

* **Jenna Rogoff**, MOT, OTR/L, is the Clinic Director of West Nyack Hand Therapy and a practicing occupational therapist. She earned her Masters degree in Occupational Therapy from the New England Institute, where she developed a strong foundation in upper extremity rehabilitation through diverse clinical rotations. As a skilled hand therapist, Jenna specializes in custom splint fabrication, post-surgical rehabilitation, and the treatment of a wide range of conditions, including musculoskeletal disorders, neurological injuries, nerve compressions, arthritis, tendon injuries, fractures, overuse syndromes, and pediatric hand cases such as brachial plexus injuries.

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.

So Who Was Thomas Aquinas?

Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274) was a medieval Italian Dominican friar and one of the most influential philosophers and theologians in Western history. A Doctor of the Church, he labored to harmonize Christian faith with Aristotelian philosophy, arguing that reason and revelation work together to reveal truth. His magnum opus, the *Summa Theologiae*, remains a foundational text of Catholic theology. Aquinas was profoundly influenced by the Islamic scholar Ibn Rushd (known in the West as Averroes) and by the Jewish philosopher Moshe ben Maimon (aka Maimonides.)

OK, Then, So Who Were Averroes and Maimonides?

Averroes (1126 to 1198) was an Islamic polymath born in Cordoba, Spain, renowned for his monumental commentaries on Aristotle. He served as a chief judge and court physician for the Caliph. He wrote on philosophy, medicine, astronomy, and Islamic law. He famously argued for the compatibility of reason and faith, asserting that “truth cannot contradict truth.” His Latin translations heavily influenced European thinkers, sparking an Aristotelian revival that shaped the Renaissance.

Maimonides (1138–1204) was a Jewish philosopher and physician. Born in Cordoba, Spain, his family fled religious persecution, eventually settling in Cairo, Egypt, where he became the court physician to the famous sultan Saladin. He profoundly shaped Jewish thought through his intellect and writings. His magnum opus, the *Mishneh Torah*, remains the definitive codification of Jewish law. He also authored *The Guide for the Perplexed* which harmonized Aristotelian philosophy with religious faith.

REGISTRATION

For general questions about The Learning Collaborative, call Sam Mazen (TLC) at 845-359-4753 or Michael DiBartolomeo (STAC) at 845-398-4233.

REGISTRATION BEGINS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026 AT 9:00 AM,

→ **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 Fall 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 Board member Judy Gorman, at judygorman34@gmail.com. For suggestions to improve this catalog, please contact the editor, Dr. Marty O. Cohen, at genesixmoc@gmail.com.