



Welcome to the ALP Fall Semester

By Beth Horlitz | Curriculum Committee Chair

A new ALP semester is just around the corner, bringing another season of engaging programs, lively discussions, and opportunities to learn something new. As always, our classes are scheduled so they do not overlap, allowing you to attend as many as you wish. For a single semester fee of just \$65, you have access to the entire curriculum.

This fall's offerings span history, literature, science, law, medicine, technology, and more. Our presenters include professors, physicians, attorneys, scientists, authors, and other knowledgeable experts who generously share their time and expertise.

Among this semester's highlights are:

- *Sex and the Christian Church: A History* — Borden Painter, PhD
- *Life on the Mississippi: Huckleberry Finn* — Jane Newpeck
- *Everyday Decisions: A Peek into the World of Probability & Statistics* — Jon Dixon, MD
- *Construction of Upper Body Prostheses* — Robert Rieger
- *Democracy Today: Challenges and Possibilities* — Miles Rapoport, former Connecticut Secretary of the State
- *Anatomy of a Federal Murder Trial* — Bob Frost, Attorney

You'll also find our popular hikes led by Paula Jones and Kevin Gough of the Traprock Conservancy, as well as Creative Writing, guided by attorney and poet Kim Hunt.

As you explore the pages of the **ALP News**, we hope you'll discover classes that inform, inspire, and perhaps even surprise you. Then, join fellow members on **September 10** for our **Preview Meeting** as we gather to launch another memorable semester of learning, friendship, and community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Fall Preview Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2026 | 9:30–11:30am
Seabury's Bishops' Chapel
200 Wintonbury Ave., Bloomfield, CT

Meet our presenters as they introduce their upcoming courses.
Bring your questions, enjoy refreshments and catch up with friends.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Beth Horlitz, Bob Hewey, and Carol Simpson

by Agnes Pier | Secretary

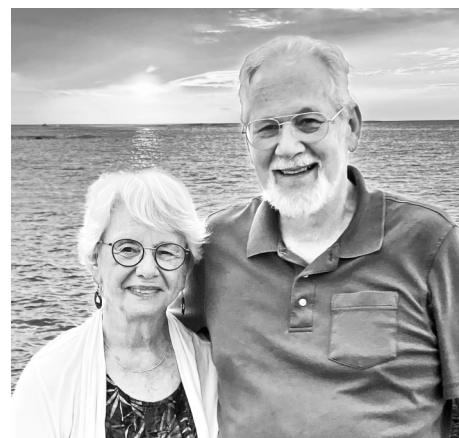
Beth Horlitz

Since joining the Curriculum Committee in 2019, Beth Horlitz has helped shape ALP's educational programs, arranging more than 100 courses over 15 semesters, including four years as Co-Chair and Chair. Beth introduced the outstanding Art History courses of Rhea Higgins and the literature classes of Jane Barstow, enriching ALP with exceptional presenters semester after semester. She has also tirelessly sought new speakers by attending lectures throughout the region, always looking for fresh ideas to share with our members. Thank you, Beth, for your dedication, enthusiasm, and countless hours of service to ALP. While you are stepping down from your leadership role, we are delighted that you will continue helping us discover engaging speakers for future programs.



Bob Hewey and Carol Simpson

Bob Hewey and Carol Simpson joined ALP shortly after moving to Seabury in 2012. Bob volunteered for the Curriculum Committee soon after and served until he was asked to become the ALP Treasurer from 2015 to 2018. He brought automation to the Treasurer's role through QuickBooks Online. Bob graciously accepted a nomination from the floor at the 2023 Annual Meeting and implemented changes that strengthened ALP's financial standing. Before stepping down in 2026, Bob made sure that ALP's finances would be in good hands.



Carol was no less instrumental to the ALP community, agreeing to become the ALP Horn editor after long-time editor Bob Ellis stepped down. Carol took over the newsletter, streamlining it and making it more effective. She served as editor from 2022 until 2026.

In addition, Bob and Carol presented two travelogues: "*Scandinavian Sojourn*" in the Fall of 2016 and "*Portugal & Northern Spain*" during the Fall 2018 term. Bob also helped Karen Will introduce the Connecticut Forum DVD programs and discussions to the ALP membership, which ran for many terms. The ALP community will miss Bob and Carol's leadership but looks forward to seeing them at many of our programs in the future.

*Welcome
to ALP*

We wish a warm welcome to our newest members:

Pamela Andros, Albert and Marilyn Boehm, Ana Marie Bonn, Joanne and Ed Brazalovich, Dave Cave, June Comer-Chagnon, Sharon Dau, Dennis Dell'Accio, Joan Geetter, Beverly Greenspan, Mary Martin, Michael McMahan, Alyson Mills, Darlene Oblak, Jacquelyn M Parente, Julia Rosa, Peter Smith, Lesley Warner, Susan White, Nancy Wildt, & Ann Wood.

Fall 2026 Multi-Session Classes

An asterisk (*) indicates a course with limited enrollment - see page 10.

FS-01 Movie Buffs

Presenter: James Hanley, Retired Co-Director of Cinestudio

When: Wednesdays 10/7, 11/4, 12/2 - 10:30am-12:00pm

Where: Zoom Teleconference

Do you ever wonder which movies are really worth your time, or what you should be looking for in a film? This is your opportunity to hear what others think and to listen to a very knowledgeable expert who provides insight into films and the film industry - people and technology. Movies discussed can be viewed at any theater or in the comfort of your own home on TV or other sources. You will also usually find the films playing at Cinestudio on the campus of Trinity College.

FS-02 Appetizer: Life on the Mississippi Main Course: Huckleberry Finn

Presenter: Jane Newpeck, ALP Member and Educator

When: Tuesdays 10/13, 10/20 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

Samuel Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain, had to live through the first to garner the material that informs the structure of the second. Twain evolved from Cub Pilot to published author and gave us a moving and controversial novel that I believe still belongs in America's literary canon. Come, glide down the Mississippi River, meet characters sympathetic and repulsive, and discover how you weigh in on the book's merits.

FS-03 Sex and the Christian Church: a History

Presenter: Borden Painter, Professor of History, Emeritus, Trinity College

When: Wednesdays 10/14, 10/21, 10/28 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

Inspired by and based in part on 'Lower Than the Angels: A History of Sex and Christianity' (2025), this three-session course examines the development of Christian attitudes toward sexuality from the early Church to the present. Topics include Paul, Augustine, and monasticism; the Protestant and Catholic Reformations; and the impact of the Enlightenment and the modern world on Christian teaching and practice.

Donors We extend our sincere gratitude to the following members who made donations this year, above and beyond their regular dues in support in the ALP program:

Dori Albert, Roger Albert, Gloria Alberti, Kit Beatty, Milliken Birch, Ingrid Boelhauer, Ana Marie Bonn, Anne Brock, Marian Brusberg, Barry Budlong, Ruth Budlong, Liz Burke, Rebecca Caldwell, Courtney Carey, Carolyn and Ian Clark, Martha Colton, June Comer-Chagnon, Peggy Creese, Dennis Dellaccio, Howard and Shirley DeLong, Ann Drahos, Shirley Dudley, Julie Fewster, Louise Fisher, Austra Gaike, Deirdre & Terrence Gilbert, Alice Gitchell, Barbara Goodwin, Constance Grandy, Bette Hardersen, David Hild, Christine Johnson, Janet Jones, Sonja Jones, Ursula Korzenik, Nancy Kramer, Stephanie Levine, Billie Levy, Peggy Lorence, Paula Lucafo, David Lund, Carol and Errol Matzke, Hugh and Kate McLean, Joan McVey, Marian Moore, Jane Newpeck, Borden Painter, Kathy and Tom Palmer, Wendy Peterson, Joan Phelps, Nancy Reed, Julia Rosa, Lynn and Sharon Scull, Lynn Snyder, Penelope Sullivan, Eleanor Sulston, Barbara Taylor, Janet Valencis, Richard Wenner, Nancy Wildt, Ann Winship, Katrina Woodhouse, Carol Ziegenhagen

Fall 2026 Multi-Session Classes, *cont'd*

An asterisk (*) indicates a course with limited enrollment - see page 10.

FS-04 Hikes

Presenter: Kevin Gough & Paula Jones, Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy

When: Fridays 10/23, 11/6, 11/20 - 9:30am-12:00pm

Where: Offsite

We will visit hiking trails within a 20-mile radius of Bloomfield which have been recommended for their natural beauty, historical significance, flora and fauna, or other unique characteristics. Carpooling will often be suggested. Participants should be able to walk 2.5 to 3 miles over uneven terrain. There is an additional fee to offset ALP's insurance cost for this program.

FS-05* Creative Writing

Presenter: Kim Hunt, Ret. Attorney, Author & Poet

When: Mondays 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Zoom Teleconference

Size Limit: 15

This is a discussion group for both the beginner and the more experienced writer. The spectrum of creative writing: essay, fiction, memoir, poetry, free verse - commonly involves guided reflection. Issues of trust, motivation, privacy, habit, goal, structure and quality entwine to both hamper and clarify the beckoning impulse, enticed by discoveries in 'creativity'. Reflection offers vast reprieve for much that causes us to grieve.

FS-06 Beyond the Silk Road: Geography of the Crossroads of Eurasia

Presenter: Steve Law, Ph.D., traveler, ALP Member & presenter of "*Geographies of Africa*"

When: Tuesdays 11/10, 11/17 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Hybrid Zoom & In-Person Seabury, Chapel

We will learn the forces that have driven the spread of peoples, faiths, and cultures across the greatest stage of humankind from prehistoric times to the present day. Among those drivers, recent research shows, premodern climate change was a major factor. Steve Law will illustrate these learnings with observations from his travels across these lands. We will also glimpse the Asian shrine where some Muslim traditions say Jesus preached after surviving the crucifixion.

FS-07* The Poetry of Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson

Presenter: Don Werner, Retired Headmaster and English teacher and coach, Westminster School

When: Tuesdays 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 - 1:00pm-4:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

Size Limit: 15

Join us for a discussion of selected poems by Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost, two of America's most celebrated poets. Together we will explore their distinctive voices, enduring themes, and the insights their poetry offers into nature and the human experience.

Fall 2026 Single-Session Classes

FSS-01 CT Foodshare's Produce Trucks

Presenter: Dom Piccini, Director of CT Foodshare's Agricultural Program

When: Friday 9/25 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

Dom Piccini leads CT Foodshare's Agricultural Program, using Freight Farms hydroponic trailers to grow fresh produce and expand access to nutritious food for food-insecure communities across Connecticut through innovative mobile farming and local partnerships.

FSS-02 Democracy Today: Challenges and Possibilities

Presenter: Miles Rapoport, Former Secretary of the State and Director of 100% Democracy

When: Thursday 10/1 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Chapel

Democracy in the United States seems powerfully challenged right now. There are claims that the elections are rigged, and there are worries about potential interference in the elections coming up for the midterms. Where does all of this stand, and what can we look for? At the same time, we have longer terms, structural challenges that distort our elections and make people wonder if participation matters; the outsize role of money in politics, gerrymandering and redistricting, low levels of voting participation, misinformation and AI's power. Are there ideas on how to fix these flaws? And can we hope to succeed? These issues, both immediate and long term, will be the topic of this important discussion.

FSS-03 Prisoner Rights

Presenter: Stephen Pevar, Professor at Yale Law School

When: Monday 10/5 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Chapel

The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that persons convicted of crime and sent to prison nevertheless retain certain constitutional rights in prison. These include the right to adequate food, clothing, and shelter. Stephen Pevar, during his 45 years on the National Staff of the ACLU, filed more than 50 "conditions of confinement" cases in federal court on behalf of prisoners seeking to protect these rights. Mr. Pevar will discuss the rights that prisoners retain, using his cases as examples.



Fall 2026 Single-Session Classes, cont'd**FSS-04 Revisiting 'The Age of Innocence' in Cynical Times**

Presenter: Jane Barstow, PhD, Professor Emerita, University of Hartford

When: Tuesday 10/6 - 10:30am-12:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

Edith Wharton wrote her 1920 Pulitzer Prize winning novel in a gentler, less satirical mode than previous works. In her mid-fifties following the end of the war, the deaths of close friends, the lingering aftermath of a passionate affair, she experienced a degree of nostalgia for the old New York of her childhood but also a degree of hope in the brash, less cultivated younger generation. We will look at the novel in the context of Wharton's life and art, her ongoing critique of American society, and her portrayal of men and women seeking to lead meaningful if limited lives.

FSS-05 The Triumphs and Tragedies of Mount Everest

Presenter: Mallory Howard, Assistant Curator, Mark Twain House and Museum

When: Friday 10/9 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Zoom Teleconference

There are many reasons why people decide to tackle the monumental challenge of climbing the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest. The highest point on Earth. We will take a look at some of the tragedies that have befallen climbers over the years as well as some of the inspirational accomplishments.

FSS-06 King Philip's War (1675-76) in the Connecticut River Valley

Presenter: Sarah Sportman, PhD, CT State Archeologist

When: Thursday 10/15 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

King Philip's War (1675-76) deeply affected communities along the Connecticut River Valley. This presentation explores the conflict with a focus on the Hollister Site, a large 17th-century farm complex in present-day South Glastonbury, Connecticut, believed to have been raided during the war. Located at the edge of early English settlement, the site offers a rich documentary record revealing the political, military, and trade activities of its residents. Through this lens, we gain insight into life on a colonial frontier shaped by conflict, uncertainty, and cultural interaction.

FSS-07 "Chronic Diarrhea" and Travelogue: China--"Off the Beaten Track"

Presenter: George Wu, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine Emeritus, Uconn

When: Monday 10/19 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Chapel

A lecture with Dr George Wu "Chronic Diarrhea" and Travelogue: China-"Off the Beaten Track"

Fall 2026 Single-Session Classes, cont'd

FSS-08 The Construction of Upper Body Prostheses

Presenter: Robert Rieger, Retired Corporate Executive in the Chemical and Electronics Industries

When: Monday 10/26 - 1:00pm–3:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

Join us for an inspiring look at how technology and compassion come together to change lives. This course introduces e-NABLE, a global network of volunteers who design and 3D print prosthetic hands and arms for people in need, especially in underserved countries. The presenter, a retired corporate executive with a background in engineering and electronics, will share his personal journey into 3D printing after retirement. Over four years, he has created and donated 34 devices to children and adults. Come and see how one person's skills can make a remarkable difference.

FSS-09 CT Beaver Dams and AI

Presenter: Evan Zocco, PhD Student, UConn Department of Natural Resources and the Environment

When: Tuesday 10/27 - 10:00am–12:00pm

Where: Seabury Chapel

Evan Zocco's research uses drone imagery, remote sensing, aerial imaging, and deep learning to monitor changes in wetlands and floodplains. He is particularly interested in how beavers influence hydrology, vegetation, and ecosystem dynamics across landscapes. His work develops computer-based mapping methods that help identify and track environmental change over time.

FSS-10 Astrophotography

Presenter: Jeffry Mitton, Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado

When: Thursday 10/29 - 1:00pm–3:00pm

Where: Zoom Teleconference

Professor Mitton's "dedicated astro-camera" explores an incomprehensible vastness. Its pinpoint tracking of light depicts events such as the remnants of a supernova explosion named "Jellyfish" which is 5,000 light years away and 70 light years across. Jeff's photography has captured the "Ghost of Cassiopeia," and the Whirlpool Galaxy, 31 million light years away and canvassed among the 100 billion stars of the Milky Way. Jeff will describe his equipment and the planning that precedes a photographic outing.



Fall 2026 Single-Session Classes, cont'd**FSS-11 Everyday Decisions: A Peek into the World of Probability and Statistics**

Presenter: Jonathon Dixon, MD

When: Tuesday 11/3 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

Probability and statistics should not be thought of as boring or abstruse branches of mathematics. On the contrary, they can be useful as simple aids to rational, everyday decision making. This session will review some very basic but easily understood concepts utilizing real-life examples and probability puzzles. Audience participation, while totally voluntary, will be encouraged. You might think you are a math dummy, but you will still have fun. Absolutely no math experience is required, just some curiosity. You might also gain a new perspective on intuition.

FSS-12 Anatomy of a Federal Murder Trial

Presenter: Robert (Bob) Frost Jr., Attorney

When: Friday 11/13 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Seabury Heritage Room

Based on an actual Connecticut federal murder case that ended in a mistrial and eventual dismissal, this presentation offers a first-hand look at the challenges and courtroom dynamics of defending a person accused of a serious crime. Participants will gain insight into the federal criminal justice system and the role of defense counsel.

FSS-13 Making Your Voice Heard in Dark Times

Presenter: Christine Palm, Director, The Active Voice; and former state legislator

When: Friday 12/4 - 10:00am-12:00pm

Where: Seabury Chapel

"Making Your Voice Heard in Dark Times: A Citizen's Guide to the Untapped Power of State Government" explains, through concrete examples, how "ordinary" citizens can have a powerful role in protecting our democracy. As the federal government goes further into authoritarian practice, state governments -- especially here in Connecticut -- have enormous power (thanks to the Tenth Amendment) to protect their citizens. Participants will learn how they can play a critical role in this.



Please Note: The views and opinions expressed by guest speakers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views, positions, or endorsement of the University of Connecticut or the Adult Learning Program (ALP). Speakers are invited to share their expertise and perspectives for educational and discussion purposes only. ALP does not verify or take responsibility for the accuracy of statements made by individual presenters.

ALP Membership Registration Form - Fall 2026

An Adult Learning Program (ALP) membership entitles you to participate in all classes. For the most **secure** & convenient experience, we highly recommend registering online.

Option 1: Register online Register & pay by credit card at <https://alp.uconn.edu/reg/registration-page>. Paying online by credit card is **SAFER** and easier than writing a check, and you can register for your classes at the same time.



Option 2: Mail-in registration by check Fill out this form along with the form on page 10 and mail both to:

Adult Learning Program
Hartford County Extension Center
Exchange Building – Suite 262
270 Farmington Ave.
Farmington, CT 06032

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- ☐ Check if you are a NEW member
- ☐ \$65 One-Semester Membership
- ☐ Donation to ALP \$_____

For more information, call - ALP office:(860) 785-5609, or go to our website:
<http://alp.uconn.edu>

How will you contribute?

ALP is a volunteer organization with everyone contributing his/her share. Please let us know which committee/activity you would consider working on or learning about.

- ☐ Curriculum Committee - Plans all multi-session and single-session classes.
- ☐ Events and Membership Committee - Integrates new members into ALP, nurtures leadership among members, nominates board members, plans and staffs membership meetings.
- ☐ Communication Committee - Provides information to potential and current members through word of mouth, the preparation and distribution of promotional handouts, the ALP News, and the ALP website.
- ☐ Presentations - Present a multi or single-session class, or put us in touch with a possible presenter.

ALP Registration, Fall 2026
(only needed if paying by check)

NAME: (Please print): _____

Please check the courses below that you'd like to take.

Courses marked with an asterisk (*) have limited enrollment. For these courses:

- Priority goes first to people on the waiting list from the last time the course was offered (if they sign up again this semester)
- Remaining spots are filled by random selection from other enrollees
- You'll be notified whether you got a spot as soon as possible after the Preview Meeting

Can't attend a seminar you signed up for?

Please call the ALP office at 860-785-5609 so someone else can take your spot. (No need to call if you're just missing one class.)

Confirming your schedule:

We'll send you a list of your course selections. You can also build your own calendar at www.alp.uconn.edu.

Multi-Sessions

- ☐ FS-01 Movie Buffs
- ☐ FS-02 Huckleberry Finn
- ☐ FS-03 Sex and the Christian Church
- ☐ FS-04 Hikes
- ☐ FS-05* Creative Writing
- ☐ FS-06 Beyond the Silk Road
- ☐ FS-07* Robert Frost & Emily Dickinson

Single-Sessions

- ☐ FSS-01 CT Foodshare's Produce Trucks
- ☐ FSS-02 Democracy Today
- ☐ FSS-03 Prisoner Rights
- ☐ FSS-04 Revisiting The Age of Innocence
- ☐ FSS-05 Triumphs & Tragedies of Mt. Everest
- ☐ FSS-06 King Philip's War
- ☐ FSS-07 Lecture with Dr. Wu
- ☐ FSS-08 Upper Body Prostheses
- ☐ FSS-09 CT Beaver Dams and AI
- ☐ FSS-10 Astrophotography
- ☐ FSS-11 Everyday Decisions
- ☐ FSS-12 Anatomy of a Federal Murder Trial
- ☐ FSS-13 Making Your Voice Heard

Course Listings by the Day of the Week

Fall 2026

MONDAY

FS-05*	Creative Writing	1:00-3:00	11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14
FSS-03	Prisoner Rights	1:00-3:00	10/5
FSS-07	Lecture with Dr. Wu	1:00-3:00	10/19
FSS-08	Upper Body Prostheses	1:00-3:00	10/26

TUESDAY

FS-02	Huckleberry Finn	1:00-3:00	10/13, 10/20
FS-06	Beyond the Silk Road	1:00-3:00	11/10, 11/17
FS-07*	Robert Frost & Emily Dickinson	1:00-4:00	11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15
FSS-04	Revisiting The Age of Innocence	10:30-12:00	10/6
FSS-09	CT Beaver Dams and AI	10:00-12:00	10/27
FSS-11	Everyday Decisions	1:00-3:00	11/3

WEDNESDAY

FS-01	Movie Buffs	10:30-12:00	10/7, 11/4, 12/2
FS-03	Sex and the Christian Church	1:00-3:00	10/14, 10/21, 10/28

THURSDAY

FSS-02	Democracy Today	1:00-3:00	10/1
FSS-06	King Philip's War	1:00-3:00	10/15
FSS-10	Astrophotography	1:00-3:00	10/29

FRIDAY

FS-04	Hikes	9:30-12:00	10/23, 11/6, 11/20
FSS-01	CT Foodshare's Produce Trucks	1:00-3:00	9/25
FSS-05	Triumphs/Tragedies of Mt. Everest	1:00-3:00	10/9
FSS-12	Anatomy of a Federal Murder Trial	1:00-3:00	11/13
FSS-13	Making Your Voice Heard	10:00-12:00	12/4

ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM INC.

Hartford County Ext. Center - Suite 262
270 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT 06032

Administrator: Jenny Gaines
860-785-5609 (by appointment)
admin@uconnalp.org

ALP Managing Editor: Bert Sirkin
bert@photobert.com

ALP is a non-profit organization composed largely of retired people who share a common interest in ongoing education. Members participate in courses presented by fellow members and guest lecturers on a variety of subjects. ALP is associated with the Department of Extension at the University of Connecticut. It is one of more than 400 Lifelong Learning Institutes (LLIs) affiliated with Road Scholar across the United States.

We Meet at Seabury

200 Seabury Dr., Bloomfield, CT 06002
<https://alp.uconn.edu>

Check out the ALP website!

The ALP website is much more than a course catalog. It's the easiest way to stay connected with everything happening in ALP. You can:

- Register and pay for classes
- View the most up-to-date course information
- Learn about any schedule or room changes
- Find parking information, snow-day announcements, photos, and other helpful resources



<https://alp.uconn.edu>

Check the website often—it's the quickest way to stay current throughout the semester.

Fall Preview



Tuesday, September 10, 2026 ; 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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Hope to see you there!