

OLLI On Campus Speaker Webinars - Tuesday Mornings 9:30-11:30 - FALL 2021

Theme: An American Mosaic

DATE	Topic
Tu 9/14/21	<p><u>Presentation:</u> <i>An American Mosaic: the Contributions of Indigenous Peoples to Our Daily Lives</i></p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Roger Collins <i>Roger Collins</i> is a graduate of the University of Denver and retired from Sears Roebuck & Company after 25 years as manager of several stores in Colorado and Wyoming. Following his retirement, he created the largest printing operation of the Signal Graphics printing franchise in 15 years of operation. Roger retired again in 2000. It was then he focused on his passion. He has given courses focused on American Indians at four OLLI locations over the years. Some of Roger's collection of Native American artifacts, art, and crafts are shared and explained during his classes. History, stories, music and Native American dancing are weaved into his discussions, as well as power points and weekly DVDs of music and dance. His goal is to provide an understanding of the American Indian by providing additional knowledge, compassion and appreciation of a misunderstood people through music and dance.</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Did you know that 65% of the foods we have today were introduced by the American Indian? Sugar, chocolate, strawberries, cotton and potatoes were some of these. The indigenous people also contributed such “modern” inventions as rubber, roads, and architecture. Join veteran OLLI facilitator Roger Collins as he brings us on a journey through the intersecting cultures in America.</p>
Tu 9/21/21	<p><u>Presentation:</u> <i>An American Mosaic: A colorful Tesserae of Asian Indian contributions</i></p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Mitra Verma <i>Mitra Verma</i> is an artist from INDIA who has been working and practicing art as a discipline of self-empowerment, as well as inspiring people of all age groups to discover their own inner artist. She studied Bachelor’s in Fine Arts (BFA) from a recognized Indian University, which led her to become a handicraft designer by finishing her Post-graduation from a distinctive handicraft design institute, India. She was assigned empanelment as a Handicraft Designer by Development Commissioner Handicraft (DCHC) India and formerly professionally worked in a handicraft sector of India on various projects for five years. She is self-motivated, conscientious, passionate artist and for the past ten years she held classes and workshops in painting and crafts. She is eager to share her love of art with students who want to venture into new areas.</p> <p><u>Description:</u> India’s contribution to American society and heritage is significant and is increasing in different spheres of the American way of life. The history and modern encounters that Indian Americans have grown to be one of the more diverse and well-recognized communities in the United States. With a population of 2.8 million, Indian Americans are the third largest group and the wealthiest communities in America. They have served into a certain extent all professions and occupations. Both the Indian and the American cultures are very proud and rich heritages that are seemingly poles apart but are similar in some ways. The two countries are actively observing and assessing each other. They also inadvertently try to imitate each other, and, in that process, we can spot the differences between the two unique cultures. In the last few decades, the Indian and the American cultures have undergone unprecedented changes that have led to westernization of Indian culture as well as the Americans developing keen interest in practicing yoga and developing a taste for Indian cuisine. The purpose of this talk would not be to debate if one culture is better than the other but to give my guests a better understanding of the Indian culture and contribution.</p>

<p>Tu 9/28/21</p>	<p>Presentation: <i>An American Mosaic: Irish Exiles in Early Leadville- The Journey of Naming Unnamed Famine Orphans in Unmarked Graves</i></p> <p>Speaker: Dr. James Walsh Dr. James Walsh is an Associate Professor in the Political Science Dept. at the University of Colorado Denver, where he has taught for the past twenty-four years, specializing in labor, immigration, social movements, and the Irish Diaspora. Walsh is co-author of <i>Irish Denver</i> and author of soon to be published <i>Michael Mooney and the Leadville Irish</i>. Walsh is also the founder of the Romero Theater Troupe, an all-volunteer organic community theater that uses the stage to highlight little known stories of human rights activism past and present.</p> <p>Description: This presentation will examine the lives of Irish immigrants in early Leadville. We'll explore the migration networks that brought thousands of Irish immigrants to the Cloud City, the institutions that they built there, and the two massive strikes that they led. We'll also turn to Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery, where thousands lie in sunken, unmarked graves in a Potter's Field at the back of the cemetery; asking ourselves what can be learned from attempting to name and recognize those buried there.</p>
<p>Tu 10/5/21</p>	<p>Presentation: <i>An American Mosaic: The Political, Economic, and Cultural Contributions of Mexicans, Mexican Americans and Chicanos in Colorado as Told by Art</i></p> <p>Speakers: Adrianna Abarca and Alfredo Reyes Adrianna Abarca, Founder and Board Chair of the Latino Cultural Arts Center (LCAC); Adrianna brings half a century of knowledge and commitment to cultivating an appreciation for Latin American cultural expression. Her vision is to preserve these traditions while creating leadership and education opportunities in the arts. She received her BA in Latin American Studies at CU Boulder. Adrianna has traveled throughout the Americas and Europe while refining her expertise in curation, business, and philanthropy. She founded the LCAC in 2017 and Chairs the Board of Directors. Alfredo Reyes is the Executive Director of the Latino Cultural Arts Center (LCAC); Alfredo is responsible for translating LCAC's vision into action through cutting-edge partnerships and programs. He draws upon his training in leadership and pedagogy to highlight the complexity and depth behind the Latino imagination. Alfredo received his BA in Political Science from Colorado College in 2012 and continued his graduate studies at CU Boulder, where he earned his MA in Educational Foundations, Policy and Practice. He pursued three-years of doctoral study at UC Santa Cruz before returning home to lead the LCAC.</p> <p>Description: This presentation will focus on the political, economic, and cultural contributions of Mexicans, Mexican Americans and Chicanos in Colorado as told by art. The Abarca Family Art Collection stands among the nation's finest examples of Mexican, Mexican American, and Chicano creative expression. It includes books, drawings, ephemera, jewelry, paintings, photographs, prints, textiles, and sculptures. Their analysis will feature representational art forms that depict and draw from both urban and rural traditions revealing both foundational ancient and contemporary indigenous heritage.</p>

<p>Tu 10/12/21</p>	<p>Presentation: <i>An American Mosaic: "Philotimo", the Essence of Greek Life in America</i></p> <p>Speaker: Christine Smith Christine Smith is a first generation American raised in the rich traditions of Greek faith and culture. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder and has lived in Greece and Denver throughout her life.</p> <p>Description: Greeks in America are bonded by a similar belief that has propelled their ability to survive and thrive. That belief is epitomized in the word 'philotimo', from 'philo' (friend) and 'timo' (honor, value). We will explore this belief through the eyes of a first-generation Greek-American woman and see its influence on the achievements of Greeks throughout history and in our current times.</p>
<p>Tu 10/19/21</p>	<p>Presentation: <i>An American Mosaic: Influence of Indigenous People on Our Form of Government</i></p> <p>Speaker: Roger Collins Roger Collins is a graduate of the University of Denver and retired from Sears Roebuck & Company after 25 years as manager of several stores in Colorado and Wyoming. Following his retirement, he created the largest printing operation of the Signal Graphics printing franchise in 15 years of operation. Roger retired again in 2000. It was then he focused on his passion. He has given courses focused on American Indians at four OLLI locations over the years. Some of Roger's collection of Native American artifacts, art, and crafts are shared and explained during his classes. History, stories, music and Native American dancing are weaved into his discussions, as well as power points and weekly DVDs of music and dance. His goal is to provide an understanding of the American Indian by providing additional knowledge, compassion and appreciation of a misunderstood people through music and dance.</p> <p>Description: "Most folks do not know that our system of government was greatly influenced by the Iroquois Confederacy in which the women chose the leaders. Who knew best what men were capable of doing after the women raised the children for several years? Would it not be logical that they would know best the child's strengths and abilities as they became adults? Benjamin Franklin studied with the Iroquois Confederacy their form of government and then made recommendations as to how our system of government should be handled."</p>
<p>Tu 10/26/21</p>	<p>Presentation: <i>Covid Spirituality: Religion and Worship During the Pandemic</i></p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Dheepa Sundaram Dr. Dheepa Sundaram (she/her/hers) is scholar of performance, ritual, and digital culture at the University of Denver. Her research examines the formation of Hindu virtual religious publics, online platforms, social media, apps, and emerging technologies such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence. Dr. Sundaram's current monograph project examines how commercial ritual websites fashion a new, digital canon for Hindu religious praxis, effectively "branding" religious identities through a neoliberal "Vedicizing" of virtual spaces. Her most recent article explores how Instagram helps foster virtual, ethnonationalist, social networks within India, highlighting issues of access/accessibility to religious spaces and the viability and visibility of online counter-narratives, especially those from minoritized/marginalized caste, gender, and class communities.</p> <p>Description: The pandemic has both increased our use of online platforms (e.g. social media, apps, live streaming, etc.) while also making us feel more isolated. This talk considers how religious communities have adapted to the pandemic. We will discuss how various religious traditions have altered practices, performed rituals virtually, inaugurated new deities, and</p>

	<p>adopted new modalities for worship and fellowship. I will detail how various religious bodies both within the US and abroad have responded to the pandemic, the challenges these communities have faced, and what will happen to these virtual modes of worship after the pandemic ends.</p>
Tu 11/2/21	<p>Presentation: <i>Sounds of a Classical Autumn</i></p> <p>Speaker: Betsy Schwarm</p> <p>Betsy Schwarm is a classical music historian, classical radio host, music appreciation professor, pre-performance speaker, and author of nine books on classical music history: Betsy Schwarm combines those backgrounds in her classes and talks for OLLI – and other organizations around the Denver metro area.</p> <p>Description: Classical music about Autumn? There’s Vivaldi, of course, but a great deal more, too. Mozart, Mendelssohn (both Felix and Fanny), Sullivan, Tchaikovsky, and more, all found inspiration in autumn, as did composers before and after their time. How might one evoke autumn in music, other than by imitating falling leaves? Speaker Betsy Schwarm will explore that idea, with an abundance of musical examples, from the Italian Baroque to current day American composers. There’ll be time for questions at the end.</p>
Fall Seminar	<p>Presentation: <i>A Classical Christmas</i></p> <p>Speaker: Betsy Schwarm</p> <p>Betsy Schwarm is a classical music historian Classical music historian, classical radio host, music appreciation professor, pre-performance speaker, author of nine books on classical music history: Betsy Schwarm combines those backgrounds in her classes and talks for OLLI – and other organizations around the Denver metro area.</p> <p>Description: <i>Silent Night</i> and <i>Jingle Bells</i> count as Christmas classics, but what about a classical Christmas, as in music influenced by the stylistic approaches of Mozart and Company? In fact, there’s plenty of “classically” patterned Christmas music. Betsy Schwarm, formerly of the vintage KVOD, offers a survey of the subject. We’ll have classical manger scenes, classical shepherds and angels, even a classical Santa Claus to two, and certainly a few beautifully decked evergreens. The lecture will include musical and visual examples, as well as time for questions. Join us, please, as we musically deck the halls!</p>

Registration for any or all of these webinars is free to OLLI members who have purchased a Fall Term 2021 membership. The cost for non-OLLI members who would like to attend is \$15 per session. You must register for EACH session you would like to attend.

Register at: <https://reg134.imperisoft.com/OLLlatDU/search/registration.aspx> (sort by genre and you will find “webinars” as an option)

Questions? Please contact Jacqueline Wyant, Site Manager, OLLI On Campus (Jacqueline.wyant@du.edu or 610-248-7962)