

LIFELONG LEARNING — LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

by Shifra Vega, Lifelong Learning Coordinator

In 1974, the high school students at Rutgers Prep were preparing to stage Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Chris Combest was a freshman at the time, and Barbara Herzberg was an English teacher. Both participated in the play, and Chris was so impressed with her that he decided to take her class the following year, and each year after that until he graduated, six semesters in all.

Chris thought Barbara was a tough, inventive, and inspiring teacher and admired the way she brought drama to life in the classroom, whether it was through Shakespeare, Greek tragedy, or European literature.

When he went to college, he kept in touch with his high school teacher, sending letters that were folded lengthwise down the middle with his name signed on the back, just like the format for the exams he had submitted when he was her student.

Later in her career, Barbara was one of the founders of the Evergreen Forum and has taught every year since 2001. Chris knew that she was teaching, but as a partner at a Chicago law firm, there was no chance that he could attend. He did manage to visit her most recently when his class at Rutgers Prep had its 40th reunion. However, when PSRC moved its programming to Zoom, Chris was able to carve out two hours a week for ten weeks to attend Barbara's class once again. Those were the hours of the week he most looked forward to.

Students in Barbara's class are not urged to be literary critics but actors, playing the play's roles as the author directs. Chris has the date for registration for her next class circled on his calendar.

Barbara's class is always called "More Plays Off the Page," though the subject matter varies, and students should come prepared to exercise their acting chops, a task Barbara says is made a bit easier by Zoom. Barbara believes that she has always been a good fainter, but "dying is easier on Zoom."



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CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22.**

Evergreen Forum corporate sponsors for spring 2021: **Capital Health, Homewatch CareGivers, NightingaleNJ Eldercare Navigators, Penn Medicine Princeton Health & Home Health,** and **Stark & Stark Attorneys at Law**

STILL ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS

Reminder — all courses will be held on the video conferencing platform, Zoom. To register, go to princeton senior.org. Telephone and mail applications will not be accepted.

Waitlists: If a class is full, registrants are encouraged to put their name on the online waitlist.

Fees are \$95 for a 6 to 8 week course, and \$70 for a 3 to 5 week course.

Cost should never be a barrier to learning! Senior Scholarships are available to those for whom the fee is a hardship.