

SEL FALL 2026 INSTRUCTOR BIOS

September 21 - November 12, 2026

****NOTE : Links provided with instructor bios are for informational purposes only.****

Alzheimer's Association focuses on care and support while being the world's largest non-profit funder of Alzheimer's research. [Alzheimer's Association](#)

Beyond Dementia Coalition is a non-profit focusing on education and awareness reaching out to individuals and organizations/first responders within our communities. [Beyond Dementia Coalition](#)

Rocky Beeland is a semi-retired registered pharmacist (with a doctorate level degree & residency) working with one of the large hospital systems in the Atlanta area. He has over four decades of experience with most of this time spent in the hospital/outpatient infusion center arenas (including leadership roles), along with an early history of retail practice. Teaching and education have been important aspects during most of his career, and he has remained deeply devoted to these pursuits. He has taught dozens of students, residents, medical staff, nursing staff, and other professional staff. He recently moved his teaching focus to the general public and has thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it.

Eren Brumley is a council member and has called Roswell home for over 30 years, raising her family here and investing deeply in the community she loves. She came to the United States through a Georgia Rotary Student Program scholarship, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1999. With a degree in Business Computer Systems, she has built a 30-year career in Information Technology, leading projects for small businesses and Fortune 500 companies alike. Beyond her professional work, Eren has long been a dedicated volunteer, from serving on her neighborhood HOA board, Scout troops, and local PTAs to working as a Fulton County poll worker and translator for nonprofits helping families in need. Her leadership and bilingual skills have allowed her to bridge communities, expand access, and give back in meaningful ways. She has two adult children and lives with her husband Scott and cats, Jellybean and Cookies & Cream, near the Chattahoochee River.

Rev. Tom Buchanan is Pastor and Head of Staff at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens, GA. He has been an SEL presenter since 2005. Tom is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Princeton Theological Seminary, and was ordained to the ministry in 1993. His teaching

interests span the background and interpretation of Biblical literature, historical and constructive theology, and the challenges facing religion in the 21st century. When not preaching, teaching, or running a church, Tom enjoys day-tripping, UGA concerts and events, and engaging in benign soccer hooliganism, all in cahoots with his beloved wife Lisa.

<https://www.covpresathens.org/>

Jan Buckley is a graduate of Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she earned a BA in Studio Art and a second BA in Education. Jan taught a combined thirty-two years in the Minnesota and Georgia public school systems. She was a facilitator of the Gifted Program for Cobb County, Georgia. Since retiring, Jan enjoys teaching watercolor painting and being an active member of the Roswell Fine Arts Alliance. Her art can be found in several North Fulton galleries.

Instagram: janetchristiansenbuckley

Paul A. Charp, Ph.D., FHPS recently retired after 38 years of US Government Service as a specialist in Health Physics which is the field of radiation protection. Besides his government service, he was a part-time instructor at Georgia Tech in the Nuclear Engineering and Medical Physics Program. His expertise includes radiologic environmental assessments, radiation dose assessments (non-medical aspects), radiation biology, radiochemistry, radiologic and nuclear emergency response, and a few other specialties. Over the course of his career, he has evaluated uranium mining sites, hazardous waste sites contaminated with radioactive materials, Department of Defense sites where radioactive materials have been used, and many of the Manhattan Project sites where atomic weapons were designed, weapons material produced, and extremely dangerous radioactive waste materials disposed of by various methods. He has also been a subject matter expert on a multi-agency team that responds to national response activities related to nuclear emergencies. He is a Fellow of the Health Physics Society and is the topic editor for ultraviolet light, infrared exposures, and use of lasers in the Ask the Expert feature of the society (www.hps.org).

Tom Dell has been playing Rock and Roll music since 1958. He played in rock bands during his high school and college years and still performs at small functions and reunions. Tom has an advanced degree in performing in seedy bars and for high schools and colleges in the Southeast, Juke Joints along the East coast, and nightclubs in Florida, Georgia, and New York. He earned a BBA from Georgia State University while serving six years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Tom has worked in the entertainment field as a performer,

the retail sector, and corporate sales and marketing in telecommunications. Since retiring in 2013, he developed a series of fourteen courses for senior citizens covering the origins and history of Rock and Roll. Since 2014, he has presented his courses to senior citizens in the Emory University OLLI program, Central Dekalb Senior Center, Senior University of Georgia, Perimeter Adult Learning, and Brenau University's BULLI program as well as various men's and women's clubs in Atlanta. He is married to his grammar school "sweetheart", has two daughters, three granddaughters and a great granddaughter.

Liberti Gates is the Environmental Education Coordinator for The City of Roswell's Environmental/Public Works Department. She began working for Roswell in April of 2022 and her position focuses on advancing environmental knowledge within The City. Prior to Roswell, Liberti worked for FIND Outdoors, a non-profit dedicated to managing recreational sites in the southeast. She attended the University of Georgia and received a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology and a Master's in Environmental Education. She has an avid love for the outdoors and spends much of her time hiking and camping. Through the environmental education field, Liberti has had the opportunity to express her passion for the environment and promote environmental stewardship, which is a cause close to her heart.

Tim Gelinas is a graduate of The University of Georgia. He is a former ordained campus minister at UGA. Tim and his wife Rachael have spent a total of over 30 weeks during 15 different trips to Israel. During these trips, they have become friends with many influential people in the archaeological community who have provided some of the experiences Tim will be sharing with you during his class. With over 25 years of experience, Tim has been diligently meeting the needs of his investment clients. He specializes in helping retirees and those about to retire preserve & protect their assets. He has won the Five Star Wealth Manager award 15 times along with other awards and recognitions.

<https://www.srfinancialplanning.com/>

Clive Gillon is a citizen of 3 countries and has worked in the IT and Communications industries for almost 5 decades. He has 20+ years of technical, marketing and management experience in each of the USA and Canada. His formal teaching experience covers a wide range of topics including sales techniques, operating systems and hockey. For SEL, he teaches courses on Canada, Evolution and British History. Clive holds a B.Math degree from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

Bob Greene, after retiring from a 25+ year career with IBM, was fortunate to become an independent Contract Trainer working with Pharmaceutical Reps and Management. Following that, he enjoyed a most memorable and rewarding assignment - becoming one of the staff managers with the 100th Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996. He and his wife, Marva, also served among the thousands of volunteers for those outstanding Games. That assignment morphed into Board Membership with several organizations committed to servicing and helping people in our community to move out of Hunger Insecurity and/or Homelessness. His favorite pastimes are playing Golf and playing Duplicate Bridge. He belongs to the American Bridge Association (ABA) and the local Kings & Queens Duplicate Bridge Club of Alpharetta. Recently, he has enjoyed assisting Marva, his wife of 60 years, in teaching the SEL Bridge course. Family is of utmost importance to him. They have two children and five perfect grandchildren.

Marva Greene is a member of the American Bridge Association (ABA) and currently serves as the President of the Kings and Queens Duplicate Bridge Club of Alpharetta, GA. She has been a member of ABA, a national duplicate Bridge association, for ten years, but started playing bridge competitively in the 1970s. Her long-time passion for the play and teaching of the game led her to volunteer to teach bridge to several groups. Marva has graciously shared her love of bridge for several seasons at SEL. The joy of her life is her family. She and Bob have been married for 60 years and have two adult children and five perfect grandchildren.

Beth Hall retired & moved to The Villages, FL, after a 40 year nursing career in Pennsylvania. This is where Beth learned Zentangle. She found it very relaxing and was amazed at the images she could create, becoming a Certified Zentangle teacher in November 2024. She co-teaches Zentangle classes twice a month in a Villages Life Style club and has a Facebook group ([ZenLinz](#)).

Chuck Hall is a lifelong learner, lover of people's stories, and connector who delights in exploring the "why" behind the "what." As a business coach and organizational consultant, Chuck has spent decades helping people uncover hidden patterns, rethink assumptions, and find meaning in unexpected places. With a bachelor's in Journalism from Penn State, Chuck learned how to ask great questions and chase compelling stories. His Master's in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania taught him to see systems, relationships, and human behavior from new angles. His career path — from ministry and social services to leadership roles at General Electric and Prudential to his own business for the past 18 years — reflects a deep curiosity about people, purpose, and progress. Chuck is also a certified peer specialist for mental health. Whether he's examining a historical oddity,

a cultural shift, or a modern mystery, Chuck brings warmth, humor, and a spirit of discovery to every discussion. He lives with his wife Amy, their three energetic dogs, and a lifelong passion for asking big questions about life, the universe, and everything. He keeps Amy on her toes by pondering all manner of unusual thoughts.

Sharon Izzo serves as the City of Roswell's Deputy City Administrator overseeing Environmental/Public Works and Transportation. She provides strategic leadership for initiatives related to infrastructure, mobility, environmental stewardship, stormwater management, and essential public services. A civil engineer with extensive experience managing complex capital improvement projects, she previously served as Roswell's EPW Director and Deputy Director, as well as holding engineering roles in the private sector. Izzo holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University.

Birdel Jackson has compiled an extensive library on Black History and has lectured on Current Events. He has taught on both subjects at Perimeter Adult Learning & Services (PALS) (www.palsononline.org) in Sandy Springs and at SEL. He is a registered professional engineer, a former trustee and engineering advisory board member at the University of Toledo and a civil engineering advisory board member at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has served as the Board President of SEL (2017-2018) & (2021-2026). Birdel currently serves as a STEM mentor at B.E.S.T. Academy in Atlanta. He is a retired pilot, author, and part-time historian. He is also principal of the Jackson Foundation which awards scholarships to civil engineering students. (www.jackson-davisfdn.com)

Betsy Jones was fortunate to be born and raised about 30 miles north of New York City – a 45-minute train ride followed by a 10-minute walk from her front door to Broadway. She fell in love with the theater, particularly musical theater, when she was about 7 and the love affair has never ended. Growing up, her record collection consisted largely of Broadway soundtracks. Even today she finds herself frequently tuning into the Broadway channel on Sirius XM. Never having any great desire to be on the stage herself, Betsy spent 33 very happy years working in the IT department of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. For better or worse, Betsy is also a collector of art glass paperweights, *Life Magazine*, and Folk Art. She also loves to travel. Betsy has enjoyed sharing some of these passions with our SEL classes.

Shannan Ford LaPorte is a native Atlantan who resides in Canton with her husband, Tom. She is a retired educator, having spent 30 years in Fulton County Schools as both a teacher

and administrator. Shannan holds two degrees from Emory University--a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Master of Nursing--in addition to a Master of Education Degree from Georgia State University. Her passion for teaching is rooted in her own love of learning, and guides her daily choices of what to read, where to travel, and how to spend her time. She is delighted to be returning to SEL to teach her second class.

Jeff Leatherman serves as the City of Roswell's Deputy City Administrator, helping guide strategic initiatives across economic and community development, recreation and parks, communications, and customer service. He brings more than 20 years of public-sector leadership experience and previously served as Roswell's Director of Recreation, Parks, Historic and Cultural Affairs. Throughout his career, he has led long-range planning efforts, major capital improvement projects, innovative programming, and sustainability initiatives designed to strengthen communities and enhance residents' quality of life. He holds a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration with a minor in Marketing from California State University and is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional.

Mark Levine, Ph.D. is a retired behavior specialist, researcher and teacher who used humor and laughter throughout his career to help people appreciate the humor around us.

Mitch Manning, an SEL instructor since 2016, grew up in Queens, New York. His father, Dick Manning, was a musical director at two radio stations, but his dream was to write songs. In 1945, Dick's first hit was "*I'll be Walking with My Honey*". He continued to write hits throughout the '50s and into the '60s. Mitch's own foray into the music world began at the University of Miami during the peak of his father's songwriting career. He would visit Miami radio stations urging them to play Dick's songs. Thus began Mitch's own career in the record business. After graduation and release from his Coast Guard Reserves enlistment, Mitch was hired by Columbia Records as their first trainee. He spent seven years in sales and promotion with Columbia, then moved on as National Promotion Manager for Musicor Records and their artists - Gene Pitney, The Platters, and George Jones.

Pastor Kevin Martin currently leads the people of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in the Johns Creek community. Prior to returning to Atlanta in 2017, he pastored congregations in South Carolina and Tennessee. While in South Carolina, he also served as a trauma chaplain for the state's only Level I trauma center. Pastor Kevin grew up with a father who had a deep interest in history, taking him to battlefields and museums across the country and providing him with a solid education in the past. He holds degrees in psychology (Oglethorpe University) and theology (Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary). His

amazing wife and kids help him to stay rooted in the present and all things practical. Since 2018, he has been volunteering at SEL, where the classes are fun, but the people are the real treasure. <https://poplutheranchurch.com/>

Linda McGinn is an artist, master gardener, decorator and retired registered nurse. After retiring from her nursing career, Linda went to GSU. and got an associate's degree in science and art (with honors). Pastels are her favorite medium. She has taught at the Johns Creek Arts Center as well as taken classes there. She has lived in Johns Creek since 1990. She and her husband travel extensively, and when home, they enjoy the antics of their three cats.

Joe Pennino serves as the City of Roswell's Deputy City Administrator for Planning, Performance, and Innovation, leading efforts related to strategic planning, organizational performance, technology, data, communications, and continuous improvement. He brings more than two decades of local government and public safety experience, including previous service as Roswell's Fire Chief and Emergency Manager. Dr. Pennino is also a published author, national speaker, executive coach, and recognized leader in government performance and public service. He holds a Doctorate in Public Administration and a master's degree in public policy.

Jennifer Phillippi is a council member and has called Roswell home since 2007. She has actively served the community through local nonprofit, church, and environmental initiatives. As Chief Operating Officer of Consolidated Risk Solutions, she brings more than 23 years of executive leadership experience to City Council. Jennifer is committed to fiscal responsibility, transparent government, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. She holds a bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science and a Master of Business Administration.

Mayor Mary Robichaux has been a native of Roswell for over 30 years. Originally from New Iberia, Louisiana, she was inspired into a life of service by her father, a military veteran of World War II. After a decades-long career in healthcare administration, Mary entered public office as the State Representative for House District 48. She served under the Gold Dome for two terms before running for Mayor in 2026. Mary was elected on a vision of transparency, and a government that serves ALL of Roswell.

Carlyn Romeyn is an art historian and travel addict, a lover of nature, books, photography, art and music. Likewise, she is devoted to her family, which has been blessed with four delightful and long awaited grandchildren. An admittedly curious and perpetual student as

well as a teacher, Carlyn embraces an interdisciplinary and conversational approach to group learning. She is enthusiastic about classroom engagements where information may be freely presented, discussed and shared with others who eagerly seek knowledge and meaningful experience. Since 2005 she has taught courses at SEL as well as organized and led seven different European trips as an extension of the SEL classroom for specific on-site learning and exploration. Her academic credentials include B.A. in Art (Lindenwood College), M.A. in Art History (Florida State University), and Ph.D. in Art History (Emory University). Prior to marriage and family, Carlyn spent an academic year in Florence, Italy; traveled extensively; and taught art history and design at Georgia Southern University where she also created an art history study abroad program for her students. She enjoys reading, playing flute, writing poetry, drawing, photography, and staying fit.

Gerry Roth is a former 24/7 caregiver for his wife whose passing followed a long dementia journey. His book *"24/7 Caregiver: The Everyday Battle—With Alzheimer's"* is rooted in that experience and continues to shape his work supporting caregivers and families facing similar challenges. He currently serves in a leadership role with Beyond Dementia Coalition (BDC) where he helps develop dementia education programs, caregiver training, and community outreach across GA. His focus is on practical, real-world tools that improve understanding, response, and daily support for families, caregivers, and first responders. Through BDC, he works to strengthen local partnerships and expand hands-on education that addresses the realities of living with dementia in the home and community. He is also engaged in Alzheimer's Association related community and state initiatives supporting awareness and education efforts.

Gerry retired as Senior Vice President of stores at Saks Fifth Avenue. After a long executive career in retail leadership, he owned a small business consulting firm, a restaurant with his culinary trained chef wife, and managed a small picturesque country inn in Vermont while fulfilling a life-long ambition teaching business, as part of The University of Vermont system. His work today is grounded in lived caregiving experiences, business leadership, and a strong commitment to improving how communities understand and respond to dementia.

Natalie Silver has taught computer classes for local universities and private entities for over 30 years. Her workshops are designed not to overwhelm, but meet the student where they are in the technical journey. Just before Covid, she launched a new side business, IT support for Seniors, and she calls herself "That Gadget Gal". She is available for private tutoring, and her husband, Richard, joins her for larger projects such as computer overhauls or hanging televisions.

Wanda Wells Smith received a BS degree from Bennett College and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Smith College. She taught Biology for two years at Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. Wanda was a chemist for Kelco in San Diego. She retired from the Fulton County department of Health as a clinic manager. Wanda's parents were avid Bid Whist players and taught their children to play Bid Whist. She learned the game of Bridge while attending the Kings and Queens Duplicate Bridge Club of Alpharetta. She loves the game of Bridge and loves to share that knowledge with others.

Quentin Thomas is a well-respected historian, author and public speaker. He has led classes for many years. His American History classes have focused on the West, our government's founding, and WWII. He works to give students a greater understanding of the many unique personalities, along with key events, that provide a fuller perspective. In Quentin's professional career, he served for 26 years in the United States Air Force, retiring as a full Colonel. The greater part of his military career was spent as part of Strategic Air Command (SAC) with many years in command positions. Quentin's classes are presented in a narrative manner involving the class in a personal way. He is the history teacher you wish you had while you were in school--by all critiques he and his classes are fun!

Pabel Troche leads the Roswell Fire Department, overseeing roughly 150 members across six divisions. Chief Troche holds degrees through the master's level (with a doctorate in progress). He is a Chief Fire Officer designee through the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Georgia Certified Fire Chief, and National Registry Paramedic. He is a dedicated mentor and advocate for the next generation of fire service professionals, and speaks frequently on executive leadership, organizational culture, and innovation in the modern fire service. Off duty, Chief Troche is a husband of 33 years, a father of four, and a grandfather to five granddaughters.

Kelly Vandever is a real estate agent with a past. She served as an officer in the US Navy for 11 years rising to the rank of lieutenant commander. After leaving the Navy, Kelly worked as a leader in corporate America in the IT industry for 13 years, then became a professional speaker and trainer working with leaders from over 200 organizations over 10 years. Now Kelly is a full-time Realtor® and Seniors Real Estate Specialist® with Keller Williams North Atlanta where she works with clients of all ages but has a particular focus on those of us 50 and older. In her free time, she loves to hang with family, friends, and grandchildren, play board or card games, or you might find her riding her Harley Davidson

Sportster 1200 XLT or her Kawasaki Ninja 400. She is a certified RiderCoach with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and teaches others to ride motorcycles. She's active in the Speakers Roundtable Advanced Toastmasters Club and Alpharetta Presbyterian Church. At home, she's happily married to her college sweetheart, mom to two wonderful children, mother-in-law to awesome children-in-law, and Nana to 3 growing grandchildren.

<https://www.kellyvandeever.com/>

Nicholas Yeomans, CFP®, is a fiduciary financial advisor specializing in tax planning, estate planning, and retirement income strategies. His approach centers on education — equipping clients with clarity and understanding so they can make confident, well-informed decisions for a successful retirement. Nic previously served as President of Your Retirement Coach™ — now a Partner with MERIT, where he helped guide the firm's strategic growth and client-focused planning philosophy. He is a graduate of Lee University and earned his Certificate in Financial Planning from Emory University.

In addition to serving clients, Nic is a dedicated educator. He has taught extensively through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Kennesaw State University, helping retirees and pre-retirees better understand the complexities of tax-efficient retirement planning, estate strategies, and income distribution. His teaching style emphasizes practical application, clear explanations, and real-world planning insight.

A former competitive athlete, Nic developed the discipline, resilience, and respect that now define both his professional standards and personal life. He and his wife, Suzette — his college sweetheart — have three daughters and three dogs. Active members of North Metro Church in Marietta, they enjoy traveling, exploring new restaurants, and investing deeply in family life. <https://meritfinancialadvisors.com/about/locations/marietta-ga/>

Randy Yeomans (CEP®, CFS®, BCAA, BCM) brings more than 35 years of experience helping individuals and families make wise financial decisions with clarity and confidence. As a fiduciary and Founder of Your Retirement Coach™, now a Partner with MERIT, Randy specializes in wealth management, estate planning, tax strategy, and retirement income design. Holding certifications as a Certified Estate Planner, Certified Fund Specialist, and Retirement Coach, Randy is known for his education-first approach. He believes confident decision-making begins with understanding — and he is deeply committed to personal and community education. For over 25 years, he has taught adult education classes at SEL, ELM, OLLI, and other institutions. Students consistently describe his sessions as some of the most engaging, practical, and information-packed classes they've ever attended.

Beyond financial planning, Randy integrates a unique focus on longevity and successful aging strategies. He believes retirement is not just about managing assets, it's about optimizing health, relationships, purpose, and economic life. Drawing from research in wellness, neuroscience, and performance longevity, he helps clients think holistically about extending not just their wealth, but their healthspan and quality of life. An avid snow skier, ocean diver, and Krav Maga practitioner, Randy practices what he teaches — staying physically active and mentally sharp. He enjoys traveling, reading, and investing time with his growing family of grandchildren. A proud Cobb County resident for over 40 years, Randy is passionate about serving his local community.

<https://meritfinancialadvisors.com/about/locations/marietta-ga/>

Janet S. Young, Ph.D. is a Certified Functional Nutrition Counselor. In 2007, she established The Natural Pathway (drjanetyoung.com), which was born out of her passion to provide practical information that empowers people to make healthier lifestyle choices. In 2025, Dr. Janet launched the Living Healthy Lives program which is currently conducted at The Piedmont at Buckhead in Atlanta, Seniors Enriched Learning in Roswell, and East Central DeKalb Community and Senior Center in Stone Mountain.

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