

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AQUINAS COLLEGE

COURSE CATALOG  
**SPRING 2025**  
APRIL 7 — JUNE 30

REGISTRATION OPENS **MARCH 26, 2025**



AQUINAS  
COLLEGE

Cover Art:  
OLLI Member **Rik Brown**  
*Spirit Island*, 2020  
Digital Photograph

# GETTING STARTED

## ARE YOU AN OLLI MEMBER?

If you have already renewed, joined, or attended courses this programming year, you need not renew again. Annual OLLI memberships are valid from the date of purchase through June 30. Membership is required to participate in OLLI courses.

**Unsure of your status?** Contact OLLI at 616.632.2430 to confirm. Membership is now universal, featuring one pricing plan for all members.

Prorated OLLI Membership Rate (now through June 30, 2025):

**\$30.00 per person**

Annual memberships may be purchased by visiting [aquinas.edu/olli-membership](https://aquinas.edu/olli-membership) or calling **616.632.2430**.

## REVIEW THE COURSE CATALOG

Courses are offered in a series of three terms, each featuring its own course catalog.

**Fall:** September – December

**Winter:** January – March

**Spring:** April – June

Please read descriptions, note dates, times, and locations, and consult your personal calendar before enrolling. OLLI courses are offered with various numbers of sessions. All sessions may be selected individually. You may register for any or all sessions in a course with multiple sessions. The fee to register for each session is only **\$10.00**, unless otherwise specified.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

Spring 2025 Course Registration opens  
**WEDNESDAY, March 26, 2025, at 9:00am**

ALL course registrations are completed online via this URL: [aquinas.edu/olli-courses](https://aquinas.edu/olli-courses). This registration page is also linked in the weekly OLLI Outlook digital newsletter.

When on the online registration page, enter your contact information, read the instructions, follow the prompts, and make your selections.

Capacity limits will be listed alongside each course, so if you cannot select a particular option, the capacity limit has likely been reached. There is a chance that you can still attend if others withdraw or if a larger venue can be reserved. To be added to the waitlist for a specific course, please email [olli@aquinas.edu](mailto:olli@aquinas.edu).

Register carefully as there are **NO MONETARY REFUNDS** for courses you later cannot attend. If you need to cancel, notify the OLLI office **48 hours** prior to the scheduled session time to receive a coupon code redeemable for any future session in the 2024-2025 year. Courses canceled or rescheduled by OLLI are also eligible for course credit via coupon codes. Existing coupon codes from previously canceled or rescheduled sessions may be entered at the bottom of the registration page. When done, select "SAVE REGISTRANT" to register another person or to continue to the "Billing" section.

Complete the requested billing information and select "SUBMIT". Registration is not complete until you pay and receive a printed or emailed confirmation.

The registration page will remain open throughout the term so you can register for additional open courses at any time.

### Having trouble accessing the online registration page? Are you and computers a bad mix?

Contact the OLLI Office at **616.632.2430** or visit us in person to register. Please do not email registrations.

# GETTING STARTED

## ARE YOU RECEIVING OLLI OUTLOOK EMAILS?

The OLLI Outlook is a throwback to the Sunday morning paper. Our primary communication channel, this weekly, digital newsletter is shared every Sunday and includes weekly course calendars, reminders, and updates, registration links, access links to the OLLI Virtual Classroom (**ZOOM**), event notices, and special opportunities. Not receiving OLLI Outlook emails? Contact [olli@aquinas.edu](mailto:olli@aquinas.edu) or call 616.632.2430 to get on the list.

## EXPLORING THE CATALOG

**Course Dates and Times.** Courses are listed chronologically based on their first session date. Courses are 90 minutes in duration, and offered at 9:30am or 1:30pm, unless otherwise specified. Explore the full term calendar on **Pages 14 and 15**.

**Course Locations.** Courses are primarily offered on the campus of Aquinas College, unless otherwise specified. See the OLLI map featuring the **Browne Center** and the **Donnelly Center** (and their specific addresses) on **Page 15**. Some courses are offered virtually via Zoom. Virtual courses are designated by this icon. 

**Course Tags.** OLLI courses are divided into categories based on content or series.

**ARTS & CULTURE** — Art, Film, Humanities, Languages, Literature, Music, Religion, Sports, Travel

**HISTORY & POLITICS** — Business, Current Events, Economics, Education, History, Political Science

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY** — Biology, Botany, Environmental Science, Health, Medicine, Technology, Zoology

**OLLI EXPERIENCES** are interactive, limited-enrollment opportunities that often meet off campus, feature non-standard pricing, and may take place outside standard course times.

## PANTLIND SERIES

Named for former OLLI director Sheila Pantlind, the **Pantlind Series** features several different presenters speaking on a shared topic. It reflects the original programming structure of the Emeritus College, the predecessor to OLLI at Aquinas, founded in 1975.

# PANTLIND SERIES: VETERANS

## SPRING 2025

FEATURING:

- Life in the Mekong Delta
- Legacy of the G.I. Bill
- From Bunkers to Boats
- WWII Dissension
- A Hometown Hero of the “Silent Service”

AND MORE!



**Duty ends, but the journey continues.** Veterans face unique challenges and opportunities as they transition from military to civilian life. This series examines the impact of service, the realities of reintegration, advancements in veteran healthcare, and the policies shaping their futures. Courses explore PTSD, psychedelic therapy, the G.I. Bill, and pivotal conflicts like Vietnam, World War I, and World War II, alongside personal stories from OLLI members. By hearing these experiences, we can better honor their service and build a more supportive society.



Look for the **PANTLIND SERIES** designation throughout this catalog to find the courses included in this signature series.

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Mary McLeod Bethune: The “First Lady of Negro America”

Presented by: Judy Whipps, PhD

Mary McLeod Bethune was a trailblazing African American educator, political activist, and advocate for civil rights. Against the backdrop of racial discrimination and gender inequality, her life exemplified the dual struggle faced by African American women. Inspired by pioneers such as Mary Church Terrell, Bethune’s pragmatic approach emphasized community cooperation and the power of education. As a trusted advisor to Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, she advanced policies that addressed African American economic and social inequalities during the New Deal era.

*OLLI member Judy Whipps is a professor emerita of philosophy and interdisciplinary studies at Grand Valley State University. She is the author of over three dozen articles, and her recent book, Feminist Pragmatism and Social Rights, examines the history and philosophy of American women’s social reforms from 1890-1940.*

Date: **MON, Apr 7, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**



▲ Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955).

## PANTLIND SERIES

### Innovative Therapies for Veteran PTSD

Presented by: Kevin Saulnier, PhD, and Stacey Armstrong, PhD

According to a 2022 study, 9.4% of US military veterans experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which significantly impact their mental health and daily lives. Unfortunately, these invisible wounds are linked to higher suicide rates among veterans, with an average of seventeen veteran suicides per day according to the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Addressing PTSD through innovative and accessible therapies is crucial in reducing these alarming statistics and supporting veterans’ mental health.

**Apr 7, 2025: Evidence-Based Therapies** — This introductory session will focus on suicide prevention efforts within the Veterans Health Administration, with a particular emphasis on trauma and the role of evidence-based methods like cognitive processing therapy (CPT) and prolonged exposure (PE) therapy for treating PTSD. Additionally, explore other emerging approaches for suicide prevention treatment—including those addressing social isolation—as well as VA-wide suicide risk screening and assessment initiatives. (Saulnier)

**Apr 14, 2025: Psychedelic Therapies** — Despite the effectiveness of current evidence-based treatments for PTSD, some patients do not see long-term benefits. Researchers are now examining the augmentation of these strategies with psychedelic drugs, a subclass of hallucinogenic drugs that trigger non-ordinary states of consciousness. In August 2024, however, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rejected the use of MDMA (commonly known as “ecstasy”) in combination with talk therapy as a treatment for PTSD, citing a lack of evidence that the therapy was safe and effective. How is MDMA-assisted therapy administered, and what is the future of its efficacy? (Armstrong)

*Kevin Saulnier is an associate investigator at the Veterans Affairs Center for Clinical Management Research (CCMR), a staff psychologist with the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, and an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Michigan. He received a PhD in clinical psychology from Ohio University. Professor Saulnier’s research focuses on improving the identification and management of patients at risk for suicide.*

*Stacey Armstrong is the senior researcher and associate director of the Center for Psychedelic Drug Research & Education at The Ohio State University. She earned an MA and PhD in psychology from Bowling Green State University. Armstrong is a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in treating trauma and traumatic stress.*

Dates: **MON, Apr 7 and 14, 2025** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **ZOOM**

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### The World in Crisis

Presented by: Roger Durham, PhD, et al.

Is it the end of the world as we know it? Headlines feature war, human rights violations, disease, poverty, extremism, and environmental degradation, but how are individuals, states, and international organizations confronting these crises? Professor Roger Durham bookends the research of five talented Aquinas College students as they analyze the complexities of our interconnected world and the critical role diplomacy plays in moving from conflict to cooperation.

**Apr 8, 2025: Setting the Global Stage** — Explore major current events in international affairs including the war in Ukraine, the ongoing conflict in Palestine, and threats to human rights around the world. (Durham)

**Apr 15, 2025: From Trenches to Trenches** — First, explore the treatment of nearly seven million Ukrainians displaced by war and how Poland, Germany, and Russia have met—or have failed to meet—international refugee responsibilities. (Wilson) Then, see how inaction by the International Seabed Authority has created inequitable exploitation of deep sea resources with ramifications for ocean ecosystems and state sovereignty. (Rohrer)

**Apr 22, 2025: War, Peace, and All That Jazz** — This session begins with an examination of the unregulated, disempowering, and dangerous role of private military corporations in the geopolitical landscape. (Schwartz) Next, discuss how American jazz music—led by “ambassadors” Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, and Dave Brubeck—became a form of diplomacy and cultural warfare that sparked an era of civil rights during the Cold War. (Fjelstul)

**Apr 29, 2025: Sunrise, Sunset** — Japan’s population is aging rapidly, with nearly a third of its citizens over the age of 65. What caused these changing demographics, and how can they impact the stability of the Eastern world? (Butler) And to close this series, identify macro patterns of behavior that define the current state of the world, and measure the effectiveness—or ineffectiveness—of hard and soft power wielded upon the international order. (Durham)

**Roger Durham** is the Palmatier Endowed Professor and chair of political science and international studies at Aquinas College. He earned an MA and PhD from the University of Oregon. Professor Durham first developed “The World in Crisis” as a popular, semester-long undergraduate course.

**Aiden Butler** is a junior at Aquinas College studying political science and philosophy. In the summer of 2024, Butler interned with the US State Department’s Office of Crisis Management.

**Quinn Fjelstul** will graduate from Aquinas College this spring with a degree in international studies and a minor in economics. Currently applying for graduate teaching fellowships, Fjelstul previously served as a field coordinator for David LaGrand’s successful 2024 mayoral campaign.

**Leah Rohrer** is a member of the Aquinas College Class of 2026, double majoring in political science and sustainable business. Rohrer volunteers with Rank MI Vote, an organization dedicated to expanding rank-choice voting in Michigan.

**Callahan Schwartz** is a third-year student at Aquinas College majoring in international studies and minoring in Spanish. Schwartz plans to join the US Air Force following graduation.

**Grace Wilson** will soon graduate with a degree in political science and international relations from Aquinas College. Also studying English and writing, Wilson will begin law school in the fall.

Dates: **TUE, Apr 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2025** (4 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Donnelly Center**



# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Apple Watch Basics

Presented by: Mike Dornbos

Tap into the full potential of your Apple Watch. This hands-on course will guide you through navigation, customization settings, and using key features like notifications, health tracking, and apps. Whether you're a new Apple Watch user or just looking to explore more functionality, gain the confidence to make your Apple Watch an easy and beneficial tool for your daily life.

**Mike Dornbos** is a technician with RGA Tech Support, a local, in-home technology support business. A graduate of Hope College, he is equipped with years of experience and a passion for technology. Mike cuts through the technological "mumbo jumbo" to make the world of computers, mobile devices, and the internet more accessible and less intimidating.

Date: **TUE, Apr 8, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### The Archaeology of Words

Presented by: Gary Eberle, MA

Each word we speak has a history, and the meaning of most words changes over time. What is a compliment in one century may be an insult in the next. Listening and reading with eyes and ears tuned to language history can reveal unknown depths and buried meanings. See how linguists dig down into the layers of meaning of English words the way archeologists dig down into the soil to reveal history, meaning, paradox, and surprise. With detours into etymology and lexicography, this is a course for lovers of language and history—and the history of language.

OLLI member **Gary Eberle** is a member of the Aquinas Hall of Fame and professor emeritus of English at Aquinas College. He received a BA and MA in English from the University of Detroit Mercy. A longtime OLLI presenter and current chair of the OLLI Advisory Council, Professor Eberle has shared his passion for the English language as the author of several books of fiction and non-fiction.

Dates: **WED, Apr 9 and 16, 2025** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### The Swinging Sixties: London's Global Counterculture ZOOM

Presented by: Julie Taddeo, PhD

The Swinging Sixties was a youth-driven cultural revolution that took place in the United Kingdom during the mid-to-late 1960s. The movement emphasized a fun-loving hedonism and featured Swinging London as its vibrant center. This course will tour iconic landmarks like Carnaby Street, explore the influence of trendsetting figures such as Mary Quant and Twiggy, and analyze the global impact of the "British invasion" in pop culture, spearheaded by iconic bands such as The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. See how this so-called "permissive decade" of fashion, music, film, and sex was sometimes more of a media construction than a reality.

**Julie Taddeo** is a research professor of history at the University of Maryland, College Park. She holds a BA and PhD in history from the University of Rochester as well as a graduate certificate in women's studies from the University of Rochester's Susan B. Anthony Center. Professor Taddeo is the author and editor of multiple books and articles on modern British history.

Date: **WED, Apr 9, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **ZOOM**



# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Fungus: Friend, Food, and Medicine

Presented by: Chris Swinson

There's a fungus among us! This course explores the many uses of fungi, molds, and mushrooms, from their historical roles in nutrition, medicine, cuisine, and spirituality across cultures, to their modern applications in science, industry, and environmental remediation. Discover the fascinating animal-like decision-making and problem-solving behaviors of mushrooms that make them ideal tools for soil development in farming and gardening.

**Chris Swinson** is the owner, operator, and chief fungal officer of *Mycophile's Garden Mushroom Farm*. Alongside his partner Jess, Chris cultivates over a dozen varieties of edible mushrooms and sells them at markets and stores across West Michigan. He is an educator and State of Michigan Certified Mushroom Identification Expert.

Date: **THU, Apr 10, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Interpreting and Appreciating Graphic Novels

Presented by: Jennifer Dawson, PhD

Since Art Spiegelman's *Maus* won a Pulitzer Prize in 1992, graphic novels have been challenging the preconception that comics are cheap, low-brow entertainment primarily for children. This course begins with a short history of comics with an emphasis on the emergence of graphic novels and memoirs. Context will be provided for understanding the implications of using terms like "comics," "graphic novel," "sequential art," and "graphic narratives." Additionally, discuss interpretive strategies moving beyond simply reading the words and then looking at the pictures. Participants will gain an appreciation for how the comic medium combines language and visual art to create a uniquely powerful—and exceptionally fun—storytelling medium.

OLLI member **Jennifer Dawson** is a professor emerita of English at Aquinas College. She earned a BA in English from the University of Michigan, and an MA and PhD in English from Michigan State University. While her main area of scholarly interest is American literature and culture before 1900, Professor Dawson's academic passions include studying women writers, periodical literature, captivity narratives, letter writing, science fiction, and comics.

Date: **THU, Apr 10, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

▼ A cell from Marjane Satrapi's autobiographical graphic novel *Persepolis* depicting her childhood in Iran during the Islamic Revolution.



# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### PFAS: Forever Chemicals Impacting West Michigan

Presented by: Karen Vorce, et al.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often called "forever chemicals," have been a growing concern in West Michigan due to their persistence in the environment and potential health impacts. Staff from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) will provide a comprehensive introduction to PFAS—what they are and why they matter—in addition to discussing the sources of PFAS contamination, their impact on water and land, and the ongoing investigation and remediation efforts within the Wolverine Worldwide disposal area in Rockford—a key site in the fight against PFAS pollution.



**NOTE:** This course is FREE and open to learners of all ages.

**Karen Vorce** is the Grand Rapids District Supervisor for the Remediation and Redevelopment Division of EGLE. She holds a BS in geology from Wayne State University. Vorce oversees a team of scientists and professional staff designed to investigate and clean up PFAS-contaminated sites throughout nine West Michigan counties.

**Heidi Hollenbach** is the Grand Rapids District Supervisor for the Air Quality Division of EGLE, overseeing a team of air quality inspectors responsible for nine West Michigan counties. She earned a BS in biology from Bucknell University (Pennsylvania) and an MS in natural resource management from the University of Michigan. Hollenbach is the Grand Rapids Regional Team Lead for the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART).

**Kent Walters** is a geologist with the Materials Management Division of EGLE, working primarily with landfills and coal ash produced from power utilities. He received a BS in geology from Grand Valley State University and a MS in geology from the University of Cincinnati.

**Leah Gies** is a senior environmental quality analyst for the Remediation and Redevelopment Division of EGLE. She has a BS in geology and mathematics from Hope College. Gies currently manages over 500 sites of environmental contamination in the Grand Rapids District, including the Wolverine Worldwide investigation.

Date: **FRI, Apr 11, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Donnelly Center**  
 Event Fee: **\$0.00**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### A Preview of Circle Theatre's 2025 Season

Presented by: Lynne Brown-Tepper

Circle Theatre has been a staple of West Michigan summer entertainment since 1953. From its origins in the Rowe Hotel to its treasured decades at the John Ball Park Pavilion, Circle has since made its home on the campus of Aquinas College. Go behind the scenes with a tour of the Performing Arts Center and preview the crowd-pleasing farces and show-stopping musicals featured in Circle's upcoming season including *Dreamgirls* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

**Lynne Brown-Tepper** is the executive and artistic director of Community Circle Theatre. A former student at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, she was a member of the Withered Roots Theatre Project in Los Angeles. Brown-Tepper has spent over forty years with Circle Theatre as a performer, stage director, production manager, and executive director. Her award-winning stage career includes performances in *Follies*, *Into the Woods*, *The Wild Party*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Anything Goes*, *Cabaret*, and *Violet*.

Date: **MON, Apr 14, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Aquinas College Performing Arts Center  
 1703 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**



NOTE: See **Page 17** for more Circle Theatre opportunities.

# OLLI COURSES

**PANLIND SERIES**

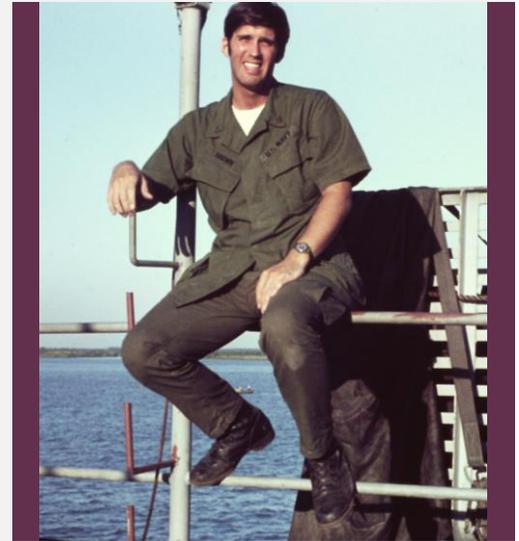
**My Veteran Story: Life in the Mekong Delta**

Presented by: Rik Brown, MSPH

In 1966, Rik Brown enlisted in the US Navy Reserve in an attempt to avoid deployment to Vietnam, but as fate would have it, he was sent to Saigon in May 1970, following his college graduation. Brown was stationed at the Nhà Bè Naval Logistics Support Activity Base, a strategic river and canal base home to platoons from SEAL Team 1, a detachment of the US Navy Seawolves helicopter squadron, and the Mobile Riverine Force of patrol boats. Through personal photographs and stories, Yeoman Third Class Brown will share a brief chronology of his naval training, details of the military equipment and armaments on base, and memories from life alongside the Vietnamese on and off the base.

*OLLI member **Rik Brown** is a retired healthcare executive and certified personal trainer. He holds a master's of science in public health from the University of Missouri. Brown served as a yeoman third class in the US Navy Reserve stationed at the Nhà Bè Naval Logistics Support Activity Base in South Vietnam from 1970-1971.*

Date: **TUE, Apr 15, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**



▲ Yeoman Third Class Rik Brown on the top deck of a berthing boat at the Nhà Bè Base.

**OLLI EXPERIENCES**

**“B is for Blandford” Walking Tour**

Facilitated by: Caroline Cook

Blandford Nature Center is a magical place where visitors are encouraged to get their hands and boots dirty because learning is best achieved through personal experience in nature and with wildlife. This walking tour takes you through the Bs of Blandford: the friendly beasts, the historic buildings, the acres of bark along the trails, the barns of the farm, and the new beginnings at both the associated schools and the Highlands. Live the legacy of the Center’s founder, Mary Jane Dockeray, and take a deep breath of fresh air in this incredible little corner of the world.

*OLLI member **Caroline Cook** is the founder and chief tour ambassador of Grand Rapids Running Tours. She is a proud downtown dweller, citizen historian, and exercise enthusiast. The host of nearly 2,000 walking, running, bus, and virtual tours through and around Grand Rapids, Caroline has earned a reputation as an incredible storyteller of Beer City’s past, present, and future.*

Date: **WED, Apr 16, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Blandford Nature Center**  
**1715 Hillburn Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504**  
 Event Fee: **\$15.00**  
 Limit: **30**

**SAVE THE DATES!** OLLI Hikes are open to everyone—no fee or advanced registration necessary. Each hike is led by an OLLI member who charts a 2-4-mile route over natural or paved terrain. All hikes are hosted on the second and fourth Mondays of each month and begin at 4:30pm, unless otherwise noted. Contact Susan Kohloff at [skk003@aquinas.edu](mailto:skk003@aquinas.edu) or 616.632.2430 for more information or to be added to the email list.

# OLLI COURSES

## ARTS & CULTURE

### OLLI Readers Series

Facilitated by: Jennifer Dawson, PhD, Deb McNally, MA, and Dave Kagan

In this series, OLLI members select their favorite books for participants to read and discuss together. For the best discussion, participants are expected to read each selection before the session date.

**Apr 17, 2025: *Maus* (1991) by Art Spiegelman** — In 1992, *Maus* became the first graphic novel to win the Pulitzer Prize, thereby igniting a debate about the appropriateness of using comics to explore serious topics—especially the horrors of the Holocaust. Written and meticulously drawn over an eleven year period, *Maus* relies on an extended metaphor—depicting Jews as mice and Nazis as cats—that has continued to be controversial. Relying on recorded interviews with his father, a survivor of Auschwitz, Art Spiegelman documents his parents' story of love and survival while confronting his complex relationship with his dad, his mother's suicide, and his own intergenerational trauma. Part memoir, part biography, part love story, *Maus* resists easy categorization. (Dawson)

**May 15, 2025: *Hope for Cynics: The Surprising Science of Human Goodness* (2024) by Jamil Zaki** — Cynicism is a fair response to injustice and inequality, but cynical thinking worsens social problems—when we expect the worst in people, we often bring it out of them. How can “hopeful skepticism” free us from this cynicism trap and rebalance our view of human nature? (McNally)

**June 12, 2025: *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* (2018) by Patrick Radden Keefe** — The disappearance of Jean McConville at the hands of the IRA is the mystery at the center of a web of brutal and disturbing stories wound together to compose an epic account of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the bloody sectarian conflict between Catholics and Protestants that extended from the 1960s to the Good Friday peace accord in 1998. (Kagan)

*OLLI member Jennifer Dawson is a professor emerita of English at Aquinas College. She earned a BA in English from the University of Michigan, and an MA and PhD in English from Michigan State University. While her main area of scholarly interest is American literature and culture before 1900, Professor Dawson's academic passions include studying women writers, periodical literature, captivity narratives, letter writing, science fiction, and comics.*

*OLLI member Deb McNally is a retired elementary school principal. She received a BA in psychology from Aquinas College and an MA in counseling and educational administration from Michigan State University. McNally served as a teacher, counselor, and administrator for Kentwood Public Schools as well as a professor of education at Grand Valley State University.*

*OLLI member Dave Kagan is a local theatre photographer and founder of Sensitography Grand Rapids. He earned a BA in marketing and advertising from Michigan State University before a forty-year career as a corporate world muckety-muck. Dave is proof there is enriching life after working.*

Dates: **THU, Apr 17, May 15, and Jun 12, 2025** (3 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**  
 Limit: **20**

## GIVE TO HELP US GROW!

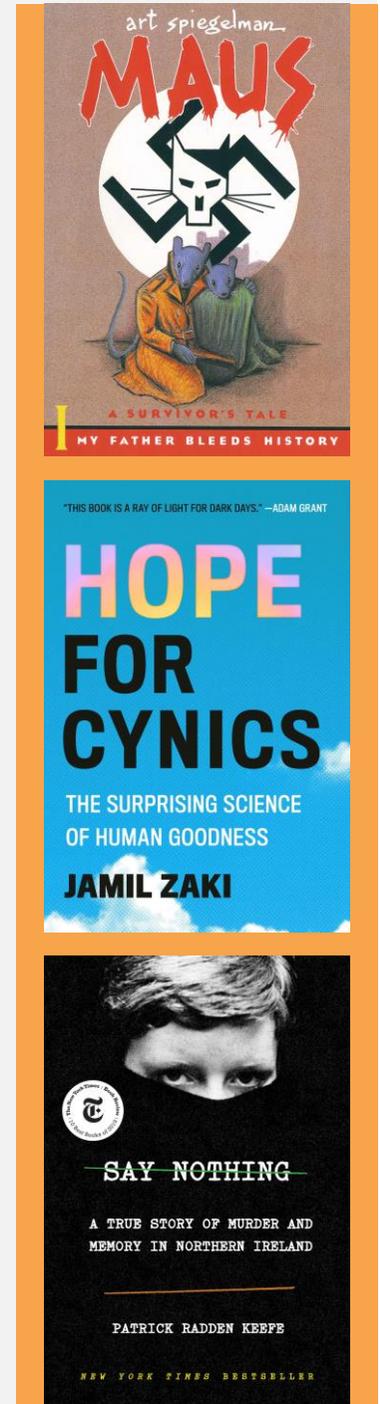
For 50 years, OLLI at Aquinas College has been a source of lifelong learning, curiosity, and connection in our community. Join us in honoring this milestone by supporting the future of our beloved program. We have renamed our Annual Fund Drive the **GIVE2GROW** campaign because a gift of any size can make a difference in the sustainability and growth of OLLI at Aquinas College. Your contributions can support the OLLI scholarship fund—expanding lifelong learning opportunities for everyone; support engaging presenters and courses; or support much-needed technology improvements in our classroom spaces—like tools to simulcast in-person courses to virtual audiences.

### GIVE TODAY!

Scan the QR code with your phone ►

or call **616.632.2430**

*Thank you!*



# OLLI COURSES

## PANTLIND SERIES

### Beyond the Battlefield: The Human Impact of Total War

Presented by: Jason Crouthamel, PhD

How do we uncover the impact of total war on soldiers and civilians? The First World War had seismic consequences for the social, political, and economic order of Europe, yet historians are only now finding ways to reveal the more intimate experiences of people whose lives were engulfed by the trauma of industrialized violence. While some found solace in religion, others experienced deep crises of faith. How did WWI trigger changing ideas about gender roles and concepts of masculinity and femininity? In addition to using letters, diaries, memoirs, and artwork from archives, see how historians are taking new approaches to understand the diverse psychological and spiritual dimensions of killing, dying, and surviving the 20th century's seminal catastrophe.

**Jason Crouthamel** is an author and professor of history at Grand Valley State University, where he specializes in the history of the two World Wars and the Holocaust, with a focus on trauma, memory, religion, and gender. Professor Crouthamel received a PhD in modern German history from Indiana University Bloomington.

Dates: **TUE, Apr 22 and 29, 2025** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Donnelly Center**

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### How Personalist Parties Destroy Democracy from Within

Presented by: Erica Frantz, PhD

Since World War II, democracies have typically fallen apart by coup d'état or through force. Today, however, they are increasingly eroding at the hands of democratically-elected leaders who seize control by slowly chipping away at democratic institutions. This erosion is enabled by personalist political parties, or parties that exist primarily to further their leader's career as opposed to promoting a specific policy platform. These actions, in turn, reverberate throughout society, deepening political polarization and weakening supporters' commitment to democratic norms of behavior. Is the rise of personalist parties around the globe facilitating the decline of democracy?

**Erica Frantz** is an associate professor of political science at Michigan State University. She earned a PhD in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). A political commentator and best-selling author of books, academic journal articles and op-ed pieces, Professor Frantz is an expert on authoritarian politics and the dynamics of political change.

Date: **WED, Apr 23, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **ZOOM**

## HISTORY & POLITICS

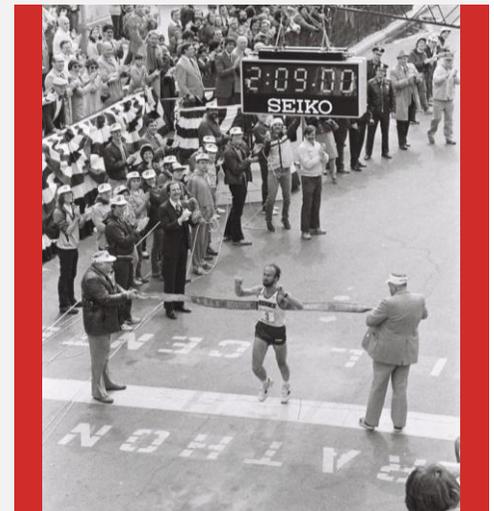
### Marathon Man: A Winner's History of the Boston Marathon

Presented by: Greg Meyer, MEd

Inspired by the Olympic marathon revival, the Boston Athletic Association Marathon (as it's formally known) was first held in 1897. This course will explore the origins of the world's oldest annual marathon, its rich history, and its lasting legacy as the ultimate symbol of human endurance. As told by one of the race's historic American champions, relive the Boston Marathon's unforgettable moments and traditions including record-breaking triumphs, imposters, Heartbreak Hill, heroic activism, the Wellesley Scream Tunnel, and the tragedy that reshaped the sport and made us all #BostonStrong.

**Greg Meyer** is a record-setting long-distance runner and winner of the 1983 Boston Marathon (2:09:00). He recently retired as the chief community officer at University of Michigan Health-West after serving in fundraising roles with the University of Michigan, Aquinas College, and the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids. He now serves as a media consultant to the Chicago and Boston Marathons.

Date: **THU, Apr 24, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Donnelly Center**



▲ Greg Meyer crosses the finish line at the 1983 Boston Marathon.

# OLLI COURSES

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Talkies Film Series

Presented by: Ian MacNeil

This series features screenings of thought-provoking films from various genres followed by guided discussions that analyze characters, story, themes, and technical elements.

**Apr 25, 2025: *Other People* (2016) directed by Chris Kelly** — A struggling comedy writer, fresh off a breakup and trying to convince everyone he's "doing okay," returns home to care for his dying mother.

**May 30, 2025: *20 Feet from Stardom* (2013) directed by Morgan Neville** — This captivating documentary reveals the hidden world of backup singers, celebrating their voices and journeys from the shadows to the spotlight.

**Jun 20, 2025: *Jaws* (1975) directed by Steven Spielberg** — Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the film that made generations terrified of the water. A local sheriff, a marine biologist, and an old seafarer hunt down a massive killer shark unleashing chaos on a New England beach community.

*Ian MacNeil is the director of OLLI at Aquinas College. He earned a BS in mathematics and political science from Aquinas College, where he developed a passion for movies.*

Dates: **FRI, Apr 25, May 30, and Jun 20, 2025** (3 sessions)  
Time: **9:30am - 12:00pm**  
Location: **Browne Center**



## PANTLIND SERIES

### Boots and Books: The Legacy of the G.I. Bill

Presented by: Fred Johnson III, PhD

The cultural, economic, and techno-industrial changes that were required for the United States and its allies to achieve victory in World War II also posed daunting adjustment challenges to the service women and men returning to civilian life. In response, a grateful nation passed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (more commonly known as the G.I. Bill). This forward-thinking legislation achieved profoundly positive results for the nation's veterans and their families while revealing that, despite the victories overseas, there remained battles on the home front to ensure that all veterans shared in the triumph.

**Apr 28, 2025: *So That All May Benefit... Mostly*** — Passage of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 was a tremendous step forward in helping the United States and its warriors returning from WWII get back to normal, but the new "normal" posed long-festering challenges that were not easily resolved.

**May 5, 2025: *A Personification of American Possibilities*** — The G.I. Bill steadily overwhelmed entrenched attitudes and habits that, for too long, had prevented the United States from being its better self until a Cold War and a place called Vietnam demanded accelerated change.

*Fred Johnson III is the Guy Vander Jagt '53 Professor of History at Hope College. He earned a BS from Bowie State University and an MA and PhD from Kent State University. Prior to his career in higher education, Professor Johnson served in the United States Marine Corps. His primary field of study is 19th-century US History, specifically the Civil War.*

Dates: **MON, Apr 28 and May 5, 2025** (2 sessions)  
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
Location: **Donnelly Center**



▲ President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the G.I. Bill into law on June 22, 1944.

# OLLI COURSES

## ARTS & CULTURE

### The Mythology of King Arthur

Presented by: Alice Chapman, PhD

The legend of King Arthur looms large in the minds of those interested in tales of chivalry, honor, and defense of the underdog. Early and inconsistent Welsh sources talk about him, but his story as a king and war commander takes off in the imaginative and fanciful *History of the Kings of Britain* written by a twelfth-century cleric named Geoffrey of Monmouth. So, who was Arthur? Did he fight at the Battle of Baden? Was he married to Guinevere? Separate fact from fiction as this course explores this great British folk hero, magical swords, wizards, romance, the Knights of the Round Table, and the Holy Grail.

**Alice Chapman** is a professor of medieval history at Grand Valley State University. She earned a BA from Utah State University, an MA in religion from Yale University, and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. Professor Chapman's scholarship focuses on intellectual and religious history of medieval Europe.

Dates: **MON, Apr 28 and May 5, 2025** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### The Prescription on Your Plate: Nutrition's Role in Preventing Illness

Presented by: Dan Bergman, PhD

What if the key to preventing illness wasn't found in a pill bottle—but on your plate? Research shows that up to 80% of chronic diseases can be prevented through healthy diet and lifestyle choices. Food is more than just fuel—it's a powerful tool for disease prevention and lifelong wellness. Explore how informed food choices complement or support ongoing wellness plans to reduce the risk of chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Feeling healthy? See how specific nutrients and dietary patterns support continued brain function and the prevention of neurodegenerative diseases.

**Dan Bergman** is an associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor of physiology at Grand Valley State University. He holds a BS and PhD in biological sciences from Bowling Green State University. Associate Dean Bergman's research expertise spans physiology, neuroscience, pathology, and nutrition, with a focus on neuronal injury, neuropharmacology, and the effects of pollutants on neural and hormonal health.

Dates: **THU, May 1 and 8, 2025** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Donnelly Center**



▲ What's on your plate?

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Executive Orders as Tools of the Imperial Presidency

Presented by: Devin Schindler, JD

The Framers envisioned a tripartite form of government to protect liberty by ensuring that three well-armed branches of government would check and balance one another. But for the last ninety years, the Judicial and Legislative Branches have increasingly deferred to the Executive Branch, allowing the President to seize unprecedented power. This is best exemplified by the proliferation and expanding scope of executive orders—written directives, signed by the president, that direct the government to take specific actions to ensure “the laws be faithfully executed.” Can our experiment in democracy survive this inexorable increase in presidential power?

**Devin Schindler** is a distinguished professor emeritus of constitutional law at Cooley Law School. He graduated from the Michigan State University James Madison College before earning a JD from the University of Michigan Law School. A former partner at Warner Norcross + Judd where he now serves as of counsel, Schindler has argued in front of the Michigan Supreme Court four times and has litigated numerous constitutional issues at all levels of state and federal courts.

Date: **TUE, May 6, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Donnelly Center**

# SPRING 2025 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>24 - MARCH</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
		<p><b>SPRING 2025 REGISTRATION OPENS 9:00am aquinas.edu/olli-courses</b></p>		
<b>31</b>	<b>1 - APRIL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
				<b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am — Browne Mary McLeod Bethune (p. 4) 1:30pm — ZOOM Veteran PTSD (p. 4)	<b>8</b> 9:30am — Donnelly World in Crisis (p. 5) 1:30pm — Browne Apple Watch Basics (p. 6)	<b>9</b> 9:30am — Browne Archaeology of Words (p. 6) 1:30pm — ZOOM Swinging Sixties (p. 6)	<b>10</b> 9:30am — Browne Fungus (p. 7) 1:30pm — Browne Graphic Novels (p. 7)	<b>11</b> 9:30am — Donnelly PFAS: Forever Chemicals (p. 8)
<b>14</b> 9:30am — Performing Arts Center Circle Theatre Preview (p. 8) 1:30pm — ZOOM Veteran PTSD (p. 4)	<b>15</b> 9:30am — Donnelly World in Crisis (p. 5) 1:30pm — Browne Mekong Delta (p. 9)	<b>16</b> 9:30am — Browne Archaeology of Words (p. 6) 1:30pm — Blandford Nature Blandford Walking Tour (p. 9)	<b>17</b> 1:30pm — Browne OLLI Readers Series (p. 10) <i>Maus</i>	<b>18</b>
				<b>OLLI CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30am — Donnelly World in Crisis (p. 5) 1:30pm — Donnelly Beyond the Battlefield (p. 11)	<b>23</b> 9:30am — ZOOM Personalist Parties (p. 11)	<b>24</b> 9:30am — Donnelly Boston Marathon (p. 11)	<b>25</b> 9:30am — Browne Talkies Film Series (p. 12) <i>Other People</i>
<b>OLLI CLOSED EASTER MONDAY</b>				
<b>28</b> 9:30am — Donnelly Legacy of the G.I. Bill (p. 12) 1:30pm — Browne King Arthur (p. 13)	<b>29</b> 9:30am — Donnelly World in Crisis (p. 5) 1:30pm — Donnelly Beyond the Battlefield (p. 11)	<b>30</b>	<b>1 - MAY</b> 9:30am — Donnelly Prescription on Your Plate (p. 13)	<b>2</b>
				<b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30am — Donnelly Legacy of the G.I. Bill (p. 12) 1:30pm — Browne King Arthur (p. 13)	<b>6</b> 9:30am — Donnelly Executive Orders (p. 13) 1:30pm — Browne History of Chinese Tea (p. 16)	<b>7</b> 9:30am — Donnelly Hearts and Minds (p. 16)	<b>8</b> 9:30am — Donnelly Prescription on Your Plate (p. 13) 1:30pm — Browne What Just Bit Me?! (p. 16)	<b>9</b>
				<b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30am — Browne Green Burials (p. 17) 1:30pm — JLN234 Universal Design (p. 17) 6:30pm — Performing Arts Center Circle 360 (p. 17) <i>The Prom</i>	<b>14</b> 9:30am — Donnelly Hearts and Minds (p. 16) 11:30am — Browne This Is Where I Stand (p. 18) 1:30pm — Browne Getting Woke (p. 18)	<b>15</b> 9:30am — ZOOM Destigmatizing HIV (p. 18) 1:30pm — Browne OLLI Readers Series (p. 10) <i>Hope for Cynics</i>	<b>16</b> 9:30am — Browne Laudato Si' (p. 19)
<b>OLLI CLOSED</b>				
<b>19</b> 9:30am — Browne Hometown Hero (p. 19)	<b>20</b> 9:30am — Browne Fear and Aging (p. 19) 1:30pm — Browne Mugshots and Mayhem (p. 20)	<b>21</b> 9:30am — Browne Jimmy Carter (p. 20) 11:30am — Browne This Is Where I Stand (p. 18)	<b>22</b> 9:30am — ZOOM Exodus: Leaving Religion? (p. 20) 1:30pm — Browne Rachel Ruysch (p. 21)	<b>23</b>
				<b>OLLI CLOSED</b>

# SPRING 2025 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>26 - MAY</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b> MEMORIAL DAY	<b>27</b> 9:30am — Browne Fear and Aging (p. 19) 1:30pm — GR City Archives Mugshots and Mayhem (p. 20)	<b>28</b> 9:30am — Browne Jimmy Carter (p. 20) 11:30am — Browne This Is Where I Stand (p. 18) 1:30pm — Donnelly Economic Headlines (p. 21)	<b>29</b> 8:00am — Toledo Museum of Art Rachel Ruysch: Toledo (p. 22)	<b>30</b> 9:30am — Browne Talkies Film Series (p. 12) <i>20 Feet from Stardom</i>
<b>2 - JUNE</b>  1:30pm — ZOOM Music and the Holocaust (p. 22)	<b>3</b> 9:30am — Browne Fear and Aging (p. 19) 1:30pm — Browne Mackinac Island Cottages (p. 22)	<b>4</b> 11:30am — Browne The BIG Questions (p. 18) 1:30pm — Donnelly Economic Headlines (p. 21)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30am — Browne WWII Dissension (p.23)
<b>9</b> 9:30am — Browne National Parks (p. 23) 1:30pm — ZOOM Music and the Holocaust (p. 22)	<b>10</b> 9:30am — EGR Comm. Center Ramona Park (p. 24) 1:30pm — Browne Tips for Traveling Abroad (p. 24) 6:30pm — Performing Arts Center Circle 360 (p. 17) <i>William Shakespeare [abridged]</i>	<b>11</b> 11:30am — Browne The BIG Questions (p. 18) 1:30pm — Donnelly Economic Headlines (p. 21)	<b>12</b> 1:30pm — Browne OLLI Readers Series (p. 10) <i>Say Nothing</i>	<b>13</b> 9:30am — Browne What Are the Kids Into? (p.24)
<b>16</b> 9:30am — Browne National Parks (p. 23) 1:30pm — ZOOM Music and the Holocaust (p. 22)	<b>17</b> 1:30pm — Browne Power of Friendship (p. 25)	<b>18</b> 1:30pm — Browne From Bunkers to Boats (p. 25)	<b>19</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b> JUNETEENTH	<b>20</b> 9:30am — Browne Talkies Film Series (p. 12) <i>Jaws</i>
<b>23</b> 9:30am — Browne National Parks (p. 23) 1:30pm — Browne Fatal Crossing: Flight 2501 (p. 26)	<b>24</b> 9:30am — Browne Precious Metals 101 (p. 26)	<b>25</b> 1:30pm — Browne From Bunkers to Boats (p. 25)	<b>26</b> 9:30am — Browne Estate Planning (p. 26)	<b>27</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30am — Browne National Parks (p. 23)	<b>1 - JULY</b>  MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026 REGISTRATION OPENS 9:00am <a href="http://aquinas.edu/olli-membership">aquinas.edu/olli-membership</a>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b> INDEPENDENCE DAY





## AQUINAS COLLEGE

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1700 Fulton Street E  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.**

# OLLI COURSES

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### Sip and Savor the History of Chinese Tea

Presented by: Wally Fu, PhD

It's tea time! The practice of drinking tea began in ancient China and has evolved into a tradition of immense cultural significance. Discover the origins, history, and flavors of various teas—from delicate greens to bold pu'er—through an immersive steeping and tasting experience that will demonstrate the role of tea in Chinese rituals and daily life.

**Wally Fu** is a retired pharmaceutical scientist and former professor of chemistry at Hope College. He received a PhD in organic chemistry from Marquette University. Born in Hong Kong, Wally is a dedicated educator excited to share aspects of his native culture.

Date: **TUE, May 6, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**  
 Limit: **24**

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Hearts and Minds

Presented by: Dave Evans, MS

Your heart and brain are the ultimate dynamic duo—working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep you alive, thinking, running, and even making questionable late-night snacking decisions. But how much do you really know about these two impressive biological machines?

**May 7, 2025: The Heart of the Matter** — Your heart is one of your most loyal friends—working steadily while you sleep and kicking into high gear when you need to sprint for safety. But how does it manage all of this without any conscious effort on your part? Join this “heart to heart” discussion about this vital organ, how it keeps you going, and why it deserves a little extra love.

**May 14, 2025: Our Wondrous Brain** — If your body were a corporation, your brain would be running the show—acting as CEO, COO, CFO, and Chairman of the Board all at once! It makes executive decisions, delegates tasks, manages resources, and plans for your long-term well-being. From decision-making and memory to problem-solving and body coordination, how does the brain juggle all of these responsibilities so seamlessly?

OLLI member **Dave Evans** is a retired research scientist. He earned an MS in zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and spent forty years as a protein and molecular biologist.

Dates: **WED, May 7 and 14, 2025** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Donnelly Center**

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### What Just Bit Me?!

Presented by: Steve Ashmead, MD

Tiny, biting arthropods are a part of being outdoors in Michigan. From mosquitoes and ticks to spiders and mystery critters, your backyard is full of itchy-bitsy creatures eager to make your acquaintance—whether you like it or not. But do these bites pose any serious risks? What diseases might the insects be carrying? How has our warming environment increased the danger? What should you do if bitten or stung? Explore answers to these questions and more as this course gets microscopic in an attempt to make your next outdoor adventure as pain-free as possible.

OLLI member **Steve Ashmead** is a retired physician with Trinity Health Grand Rapids. He earned an MD from the Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Ashmead practiced family medicine for over forty years while also serving as a senior faculty member for the Trinity Health Grand Rapids Medical Education Family Medicine Residency and associate clinical professor at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Date: **THU, May 8, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**



# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Green Burials

Presented by: Tony Mayotte, MBA, MDiv

What if your final farewell could give back to the planet? Interest in eco-friendly alternatives to traditional burial practices is growing, and green burials offer simple ways to return to the earth naturally while honoring personal, spiritual, and environmental values. First, this course will compare and contrast various sustainable disposition options such as natural organic reduction and aquamation. Then, go six feet under to distinguish between natural, conservation, and hybrid cemeteries. Finally, discuss the feasibility, legality, ethics, and best practices of green burials informed by scientific and conservation communities, and how green end-of-life decisions support environmental justice, affordability, and a more authentic, sustainable way to say goodbye.

**Tony Mayotte** is the executive director and co-founder of Jeremiah Commons, a non-profit organization formed to create, operate, and steward a conservation cemetery and land commons effort in southern Michigan. He has an MBA from Spring Arbor University, an MDiv from the Duke Divinity School, and he is currently pursuing a JD at the University of Michigan Law School.

Date: **TUE, May 13, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Designing a Universal Learning Environment

Presented by: Stefani Boutelier, PhD

Learning should be accessible and meaningful at every stage of life. This course introduces Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a flexible approach that helps adult learners of all abilities engage with new information in ways that suit their unique strengths and preferences. Through interactive discussions of inclusive learning strategies, play a role in how UDL is being implemented in the configuration of OLLI's reimagined classroom to enhance the OLLI member experience.

**Stefani Boutelier** is an associate professor of education at Aquinas College. She earned a PhD in education from Chapman University. Professor Boutelier is an International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)-certified educator and trainer whose courses focus on instructional design, diverse literacy, technology integration, and research methods.

Date: **TUE, May 13, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Jarecki-Lacks Center, Room 234 — Aquinas College (Grace Hauenstein Library)**

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### Circle 360

Facilitated by: Circle Theatre

Curtain up! Join Circle Theatre for a first act preview of a live show, an in-depth design demonstration, and an exclusive Q&A session with a member of the show's creative team.

**May 13, 2025: *The Prom*** — Four eccentric Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage in this musical/comedy. So when they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town prom, they know that it's time to put a spotlight on the issue—and themselves. The town's parents want to keep the high school dance on the straight and narrow, but when one student just wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, the entire town has a date with destiny.

**Jun 10, 2025: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged]*** — All 37 plays in 97 minutes! Three madcap men in tights weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's comedies, histories, and tragedies in one wild, fast-paced romp that will leave you breathless.

Dates: **TUE, May 13, and Jun 10, 2025** (2 performances)  
 Time: **6:30pm - 9:00pm**  
 Location: **Aquinas College Performing Arts Center  
 1703 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**  
 Event Fee: **\$15.00** per performance  
 Limit: **30**



# OLLI COURSES

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### This Is Where I Stand Discussion Group and The BIG Questions

Facilitated by: Dave Kampfschulte, MEd

Join OLLI's longstanding, facilitated discussion group where participants engage in thoughtful dialogue on current issues, ethical dilemmas, and the meanings of significant words and phrases. This forum encourages you to explore or reinforce your own belief system while gaining a deeper understanding of differing perspectives. Where do you stand? Then, let the discussion shift to life's bigger existential and philosophical questions.

Dates: **This Is Where I Stand**  
**WED, May 14, 21, and 28, 2025** (3 sessions)  
 Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**  
 Event Fee: **\$30.00**  
 Limit: **16**

Dates: **The BIG Questions**  
**WED, Jun 4 and 11, 2025** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**  
 Event Fee: **\$20.00**  
 Limit: **16**

OLLI member **Dave Kampfschulte** is an author, keynote speaker, and founder of Amazing Circles Workshops. He received a BA from Michigan State University and an MEd from Grand Valley State University. Kampfschulte is a retired, award-winning educator.

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Getting Woke

Presented by: Dave Kampfschulte, MEd

What happens when what you once believed to be true... no longer is? Throughout history, individuals and societies have experienced profound shifts in awareness, challenging long-held beliefs and reshaping the way we see the world. From Santa Claus to Charles Darwin, this course takes a fascinating journey through the moments, movements, and discoveries that have changed minds—both personally and globally. Unpack our collective experience of doubt, belief, and the ever-evolving nature of human understanding where “getting woke” is an acknowledgement of growth.

OLLI member **Dave Kampfschulte** is an author, keynote speaker, and founder of Amazing Circles Workshops. He received a BA from Michigan State University and an MEd from Grand Valley State University. Kampfschulte is a retired, award-winning educator.

Date: **WED, May 14, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Our Role in Preventing and Destigmatizing HIV

Presented by: Jay Knight, DNP

According to the CDC, over 30,000 mothers, friends, brothers, and children are newly diagnosed with HIV each year in the United States. Although this number is decreasing, long held and emerging bias and stigma—even within the medical community—threaten to reverse the tremendous progress made in recent years. HIV prevention starts with awareness—but ending stigma starts with all of us. This course opens up the innovative, evidence-based “HIV Prevention Toolkit” to unlock tools like inclusive language and trauma-informed approaches to enhance personal interactions, break down barriers, and actively contribute to more effective HIV prevention strategies.

**Jay Knight** (they/them) is a queer, nonbinary individual proudly serving as a member of the Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium and as an assistant professor of nursing at Grand Valley State University. They received a BSN from Kaplan University, and a MSN and DNP from Grand Canyon University. With over twenty years of healthcare experience, Dr. Knight's work includes sexual orientation and gender identity data collection, hemodialysis, HIV prevention, and assessing the impact of gender-affirming hormones.

Date: **THU, May 15, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **ZOOM**



# OLLI COURSES

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Laudato Si': The Pope's Call to Care for Our Common Home

Presented by: Mike Ingram, MA

A decade ago, *Laudato Si'* challenged the world to rethink our relationship with the environment, calling for urgent action on climate change, social justice, and sustainability. Analyze the impact of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical over the past ten years, examining the document in the context of Church canon, its initial global response, and its influence on policy, faith communities, and global ecological efforts. Discuss progress made thus far, supplemental papal documents, ongoing challenges, and how its message continues to inspire environmental and ethical responsibility today. Have we answered the call?

**Mike Ingram** is the director of Campus Ministry at Aquinas College. He holds a BA in theology from Aquinas College and an MA in theological studies from the University of Dayton. Ingram has served in several campus ministry and residence life roles at both Aquinas and Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, OH.

Date: **FRI, May 16, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## PANTLIND SERIES

### A Hometown Hero of the "The Silent Service"

Presented by: Jim Benjamin, MA

From the halls of East Grand Rapids High School to the depths of the Pacific, the story of local serviceman Captain Sigmund Bobczynski is one of courage, duty, and quiet heroism. As a US Navy submariner in World War II, "Mr. Bob" served aboard two legendary submarines, the USS Gudgeon (SS-211) and the USS Archerfish (SS-311), witnessing history from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay. His service included sinking the largest naval vessel ever sunk by a submarine, yet he remained a humble member of the "Greatest Generation." Dive into the incredible journey of Captain Bobczynski and the submarines that helped shape the war in the Pacific.

OLLI member **Jim Benjamin** is a retired social studies teacher, librarian, and travel consultant. He earned a BA in history and an MA in education from Western Michigan University. Benjamin's interest in this hometown hero began when he met Captain Bobczynski at a high school reunion in the 1980s. Captain Bobczynski was a friend, teammate, and classmate of Benjamin's father at EGRHS.

Date: **MON, May 19, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### The Psychology of Fear and Aging

Presented by: Amanda Fisher

Why does aging spark so much fear, and how can we shift our perspective? This discussion group explores the psychology behind aging anxiety, from societal pressures to personal concerns about health, independence, and identity.

**May 20, 2025** — Through open conversation, examine ways to reframe aging as a time of growth, wisdom, and new possibilities. In this first session, discuss how fear influences daily life as we age, and explore the concept of play as a tool for growth.

**May 27, 2025** — Take a walk outdoors to see how fear holds us back. Practice stepping beyond your comfort zone to discover new possibilities. Participants should expect walking on uneven terrain. Please wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear.

**Jun 3, 2025** — Reflect on the discussion and walkabout to identify personal limiting beliefs and strategies to overcome them.

**Amanda Fisher** is a licensed massage therapist, certified personal trainer, somatic practitioner, holistic coach, and the owner of Honor Wellness. Her goal is to help people break down both physical and mental barriers preventing them from living an active lifestyle.

Dates: **TUE, May 20, 27, and Jun 3, 2025** (3 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**  
 Event Fee: **\$30.00**  
 Limit: **16**

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Mugshots and Mayhem

Presented by: Matthew Ellis, MA

From violating prohibition to bombing a theater, the crimes within the Grand Rapids City Archives and Records Center's collection of mugshots and police records preserve the stories of those not often told. This course will explore the materials that make up the collection, provide an overview of the insightful data available, and give examples of the research made possible by these sources. The materials range from the late 1800s to the late 1930s, encompassing court records, turnkey logs, newspaper clippings, fingerprint cards, and the often-haunting photographs of the individuals arrested. While acknowledging the often-tragic stories of the offenders and their victims, these sources provide a lens into the record of crime in the Furniture City.

NOTE: The second session will be hosted at the Grand Rapids City Archives and Records Center.

**Matthew Ellis** is the assistant archivist for the City of Grand Rapids. He holds a BA in history and writing from Aquinas College and an MA in public administration from Johns Hopkins University. Ellis's enthusiasm for local history shines through as an author and member of a variety of historical boards, councils, and societies.

Dates:	<b>TUE, May 20, 2025</b>	AND	<b>TUE, May 27, 2025</b>
Time:	<b>1:30pm - 3:00pm</b>		<b>1:30pm - 3:00pm</b>
Location:	<b>Browne Center</b>		<b>Grand Rapids City Archives and Records Center 223 Washington Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503</b>

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Jimmy Carter: A Life of Service

Presented by: Jason Duncan, PhD

Jimmy Carter (1924-2024) served a single term as president of the United States from 1977 to 1981. As a lowly peanut farmer-turned-governor, his election in 1976 in the aftermath of Watergate and Vietnam was a classic American underdog story. Calling the nation back to its roots, Carter emphasized honesty and rejected the excesses of the imperial presidency that had emerged during the Cold War. He put together a biracial coalition as a representative of the "New South," but once in office, he struggled with a sluggish economy at home and crises overseas. Defeated for re-election in 1980, he went on to serve the nation and the world with an extraordinary post-presidency. Celebrate the life and legacy of Jimmy Carter: humanitarian, and an American original.

**Jason Duncan** is a professor of history at Aquinas College. He earned a BA in government from St. Lawrence University, an MA in Russian area studies from Georgetown University, and a PhD in American history from the University of Iowa. Professor Duncan is an experienced presenter and author.

Dates:	<b>WED, May 21 and 28, 2025</b> (2 sessions)
Time:	<b>9:30am - 11:00am</b>
Location:	<b>Browne Center</b>



## ARTS & CULTURE

### Exodus: Why Are People Leaving Religion?

Presented by: Daryl Van Tongeren, PhD

The United States is experiencing a "Great Disillusionment." Americans today are leaving religion in record numbers. For many, the faith, practices, and institutions that once provided comfort and guidance no longer fit their beliefs and values. What are the societal consequences of this changing religious landscape? Using international data samples, this course will examine why people are leaving, where they are going, and how they might find new meaning and purpose amid a changing religious identity.

**Daryl Van Tongeren** is a professor of psychology and the director of the Frost Center for Social Science Research at Hope College. He received an MA in experimental psychology from the University of Colorado and a PhD in experimental social psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Professor Van Tongeren is an award-winning author and educator whose recent research focuses on the increasing number of people leaving religion in the United States.

Date:	<b>THU, May 22, 2025</b>
Time:	<b>9:30am - 11:00am</b>
Location:	<b>ZOOM</b>

# OLLI COURSES

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Rachel Ruysch: The Dutch Painter Who Defined Flower Power

Presented by: Henry Luttikhuizen, PhD

Explore the exquisite floral still-life paintings of Rachel Ruysch, the most prominent female painter of the Dutch Golden Age, who revolutionized botanical art with her vivid compositions and scientific precision. Her paintings often depict lush, asymmetrical arrangements of flowers, sometimes intertwined with insects, shells, or other natural elements, set against dark, dramatic backgrounds. Examine her delicate mastery of color, texture, and light that celebrates both nature and art. At a time when women's access to careers as professional artists was severely limited, Ruysch nevertheless became highly successful and widely renowned.

**Henry Luttikhuizen** is the scholar-in-residence at Grand Valley State University and professor emeritus of art history at Calvin University, his alma mater. He received an MPhil from the Institute for Christian Studies (Toronto), and an MA and PhD from the University of Virginia. Professor Luttikhuizen is the author of numerous books and scholarly articles.

Date: **THU, May 22, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**



NOTE: See **Page 22** for details on an exclusive bus trip opportunity to view the work of Rachel Ruysch at the Toledo Museum of Art.

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Economic Headlines, Explained

Presented by: Dave Hebert, PhD

How much do we actually learn from scrolling chyrons or clickable, attention-grabbing headlines? Inflation, tariffs, and trade deficits are now daily features of our media diet, but despite all the attention, talking-head commentary can inaccurately conflate economic terms or misrepresent their impact on the American people—influencing voting behavior and political attitudes toward complex fiscal policy. Go beyond the headlines to define and discuss the economic terms entering our popular lexicon.

**May 28, 2025: Inflation** — Inflation is the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services rises over time, reducing the purchasing power of money. It occurs when demand outpaces supply, production costs increase, or excessive money is circulating in the economy. Who is responsible for inflation? Can it be corrected by legislation and policy?

**June 4, 2025: Tariffs** — Tariffs are taxes or duties imposed by a government on imported or exported goods. They are used to regulate trade by increasing the cost of foreign products, and theoretically, making domestic goods more competitive. Can tariffs replace income tax revenue?

**June 11, 2025: Trade Deficits** — The balance of trade, often described under the heading of a “trade deficit” or a “trade surplus,” is the difference between the dollar value of exports a country sells and the dollar value of the imports that a country purchases. How are they calculated? Are trade deficits good for the economy, or destructive?

**Dave Hebert** is a senior research fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER). He received an MA and PhD in economics from George Mason University. Hebert was formerly a professor at Aquinas College, Troy University, and Ferris State University. He has served as a fellow with the US Senate Committee on the Budget, worked for the US Joint Economic Committee, and had his work published in several popular outlets and journals.

Dates: **WED, May 28, Jun 4, and 11, 2025** (3 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Donnelly Center**

▼ The Port of Los Angeles is the busiest shipping port in the United States loading and unloading over ten million cargo container units in 2024.



# OLLI COURSES

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### Rachel Ruysch at the Toledo Museum of Art

Facilitated by: Henry Luttikhuizen, PhD

Continue the celebration of painter Rachel Ruysch beyond the classroom with a trip to the Toledo Museum of Art for a tour of the first monographic public exhibition of her work. Expertly guided by Henry Luttikhuizen, discover Rachel Ruysch's masterful brushwork, her illusionistic depictions of the natural world, the astonishing botanical diversity and teeming insect and animal life in her most recognizable paintings, and how her works reflect the intersections between painting, nature, and science.

NOTE: The event fee includes bus transportation, exhibit admission, and lunch.

Date: **THU, May 29, 2025**  
 Time: **8:00am - 8:00pm**  
 Location: **Toledo Museum of Art**  
 Event Fee: **\$70.00**  
 Limit: **24**



▲ Michiel van Musscher (1645-1705) and Rachel Ruysch (1664-1750). *Rachel Ruysch*, 1692. Oil on canvas.

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Music and the Holocaust: Tragedy, Hope, and Legacy **zoom**

Presented by: Emanuel Abramovits, MBA

Music was composed, performed, and experienced in many ghettos, concentration camps, and partisan outposts of Nazi-controlled Europe. For many Holocaust victims, music was a powerful means of preserving and asserting their humanity. Discover the profound role music played in sustaining hope during history's darkest moments. Through audiovisual materials and personal accounts, explore the stories of artists who perished, those who survived, the restored instruments that carry their legacy, and the lasting impact of World War II and the Holocaust on the musical world.

**Emanuel Abramovits** is a mechanical engineer and concert promoter. A native of Venezuela, he earned an MBA from the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas. Abramovits has designed and staged events featuring artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Sarah Brightman, Journey, and Kenny G. He previously served as the cultural director of Unión Israelita de Caracas, documenting Holocaust survivors' stories with art exhibitions, lectures, films, and orchestral concerts.

Dates: **MON, Jun 2, 9, and 16, 2025** (3 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **ZOOM**

## HISTORY & POLITICS

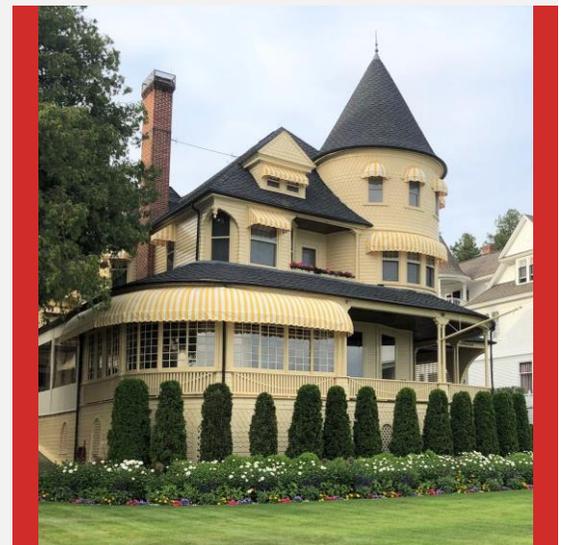
### Historic Cottages of Mackinac Island

Presented by: Kim Murphy

From 1870 to 1910, Mackinac Island rang with the sound of hammers and the buzz of saws. The Straits of Mackinac grew congested with barges of lumber to construct a hundred cottages and steamships full of people destined to summer in them. However, these were no ordinary cottages. From their scroll-sawn spandrels and incised lintels to bell roof turrets, these homes were a smorgasbord of architectural design that reflected resort life on Mackinac Island in its heyday. Peek into these architectural marvels and meet the families who settled the early island cottage communities.

**Kim Murphy** spent more than thirty years as a life enrichment coordinator at several Grand Rapids senior facilities. Passionate about lifelong learning, she is now an award-winning speaker, writer, educator, and event coordinator.

Date: **TUE, Jun 3, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**



▲ The Cairngorm Cottage on Mackinac Island's West Bluff.

# OLLI COURSES

## PANTLIND SERIES

### **La guerre en rose: WWII Dissension**

Presented by: Mike Firlik

“The Good War” of popular memory stars women riveting airplane panels, school children planting victory gardens, government officials leading the country arm-in-arm, and religious leaders organizing blood drives as soldiers on troop trains sing in harmony. The entire nation seemed like one big, happy family supporting our boys “over there.” However, many of the negative domestic attitudes toward US involvement overseas espoused today were prevalent during World War II including suspicion of foreign military entanglements, widespread disinformation, politicians at odds, draft dodgers, black marketeers, and fierce opposition to women in combat. This course shows how reality differed from our preconceived impressions of WWII, and examines, through the story of a reluctant Army medic, how many citizens dealt with that reality.

*OLLI member **Mike Firlik** is a writer and retired communications manager. He previously served as an adjunct professor at Grand Valley State University. Firlik recently published his first book based on his father's wartime letters.*

Date: **FRI, Jun 6, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### **Creating the National Parks: America's Best Idea**

Presented by: Will De Man

National parks are among America's greatest treasures, each with a unique history and special place in our collective heritage. How did a radical idea to preserve nature turn into a defining American legacy? Unpack the bold vision, fierce debates, and lasting impact of the National Park Service. Explore the people, adventures, triumphs, and crises behind “America's best idea” and how they have shaped the conservation movement.

**Jun 9, 2025: Origins** — Discover the origins of the national park “idea” and the legislation and conservation victories that predated the creation of the National Park Service.

**Jun 16, 2025: Founders** — Explore the campaign to create the National Park Service and the story of its founders, Stephen Mather and Horace Albright.

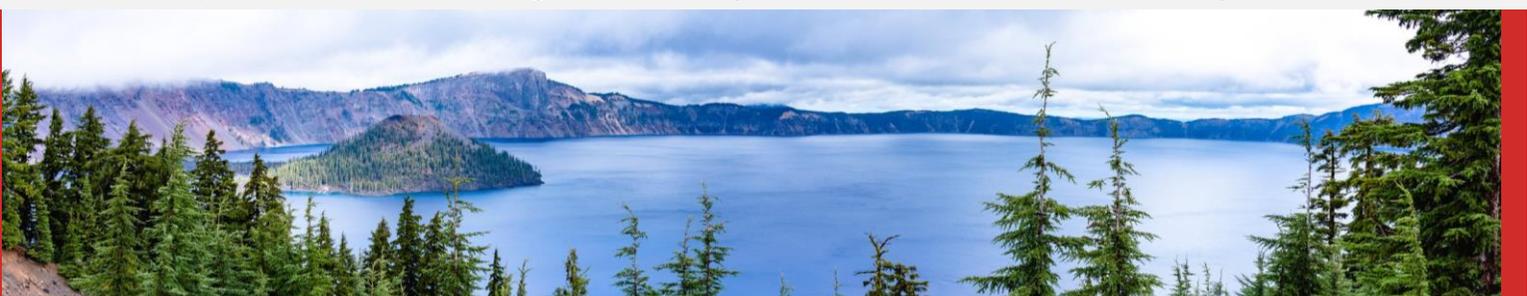
**Jun 23, 2025: Lands** — What was the process of acquiring the millions of acres of the National Park System as it is known today, including the protection of world-famous parks like the Grand Canyon and Grand Teton.

**Jun 30, 2025: Problems** — Identify problems with the National Park movement including the use of parks as tools of indigenous dispossession and scandals addressed by conservationists.

***Will De Man** is a social studies teacher at Grand Rapids Christian Middle School who moonlights as an American conservation historian. A graduate of Calvin University, De Man has authored a book on US national parks and runs the Instagram account @nationalparkhistory where you can find educational content about America's most prominent public lands.*

Dates: **MON, Jun 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2025** (4 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

▼ Established in 1902, Crater Lake National Park in Oregon features the deepest lake in the United States with a maximum depth of 1,949 feet.



# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Ramona Park on Reeds Lake: Grand Rapids Street Railway's Popular Resort

Presented by: Mary Dersch, MLIS

Step right up, folks! In the 1880s, the Grand Rapids Street Railway Company saw the value of encouraging ridership by purchasing acres of land at the end of its line at Reeds Lake in what is now East Grand Rapids. The Lake, already a well-loved resort, provided the setting for the growth of a true amusement park that would ultimately entertain the masses in West Michigan through the 1954 season. Hosted at Ramona Park's original site, this course will tour attractions such as the Ferris wheel, carousel, miniature railway, theatre pavilion, bumper cars, fun house, and the popular "Jack Rabbit Derby Racer"—a double-tracked wooden roller coaster.

**Mary Dersch** is the volunteer historian and curator of the East Grand Rapids History Room. She has a master's in library and information science from Wayne State University. Dersch is responsible for developing and maintaining the growing collection of historical artifacts, photographs, digital images, memorabilia, ephemera, and audiovisual items unique to the local community.

Date: **TUE, Jun 10, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **East Grand Rapids Community Center**  
**750 Lakeside Drive SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506**  
 Limit: **40**



## ARTS & CULTURE

### 10 Tips for Traveling Abroad

Presented by: Steve Soper

Whether you're a seasoned traveler or planning your first trip abroad, independent travel offers exciting opportunities for discovery and personal growth. But navigating new countries, languages, customs, and landscapes comes with challenges. Drawing from years of personal experience exploring the world for extended periods, this course identifies practical tips for staying safe, managing logistics, avoiding common pitfalls, and enhancing your overall travel experience.

*OLLI member **Steve Soper** is a published author, blogger, independent historian, and digital photographer. Frequently traveling to Europe for over three decades, he has also been a long-term resident of France and Italy.*

Date: **TUE, Jun 10, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### What Are the Kids Into?

Presented by: Catherine Hutchins, CFRE

Ever feel like kids these days are speaking an entirely different language? Wondering why Gen Z and Gen Alpha are obsessed with Minecraft, Charli XCX, K-pop, or some guy named MrBeast? Fear not! This course will help decode today's biggest trends in youth culture—from viral TikTok dances to the latest anime crazes—so you can finally earn some "cool grandparent" points. Don't be cheugy. It's time to level up your rizz. No cap!

**Catherine Hutchins** is the director of annual giving and sponsorships at Aquinas College. A graduate of Marquette University, she is a certified fundraising executive (CFRE) whose twenty years of fundraising experience ranges from international development to establishing grassroots organizations. In her spare time, Hutchins enjoys being a massive nerd.

Date: **FRI, Jun 13, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**



# OLLI COURSES

**ARTS & CULTURE**

**The Power of Friendship**

Presented by: Marilyn Emery and Carol Jennings

In a world that often feels disconnected, true friendship remains a powerful force of love, faith, support, and resilience. Embrace the remarkable 75-year bond between two women, Marilyn and Carol, who have navigated life’s joys and challenges together—from childhood to marriage, motherhood, tragedy, and beyond—and now find themselves in life’s final chapter. Through humor, wisdom, and heartfelt stories (including quiet moments on park benches), their journey reminds us of the enduring strength of friendship and inspires us to cherish the connections that shape our lives. This conversation will be moderated by literary agent Diane Jones.

**Marilyn Emery** is a joyful octogenarian. With a strong passion for learning, she earned multiple degrees in education and spent her career teaching, consulting, and developing curriculum. Now retired, Emery is an author and frequent traveler with her friend Carol, who inspired her book *The Power of Friendship: Lessons Learned from Lifetime Friends*.

OLLI member **Carol Jennings** formed a lifelong friendship with Marilyn at the age of five and later co-authored *The Power of Friendship: Lessons Learned from Lifetime Friends*. She balanced family, work, and education, earning a business degree while raising three sons and later working in a local bookstore. Jennings is a longtime member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO).

Date: **TUE, Jun 17, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**



▲ Authors and lifelong friends Marilyn Emery (left) and Carol Jennings (right) on their signature park bench.

**PANTLIND SERIES**

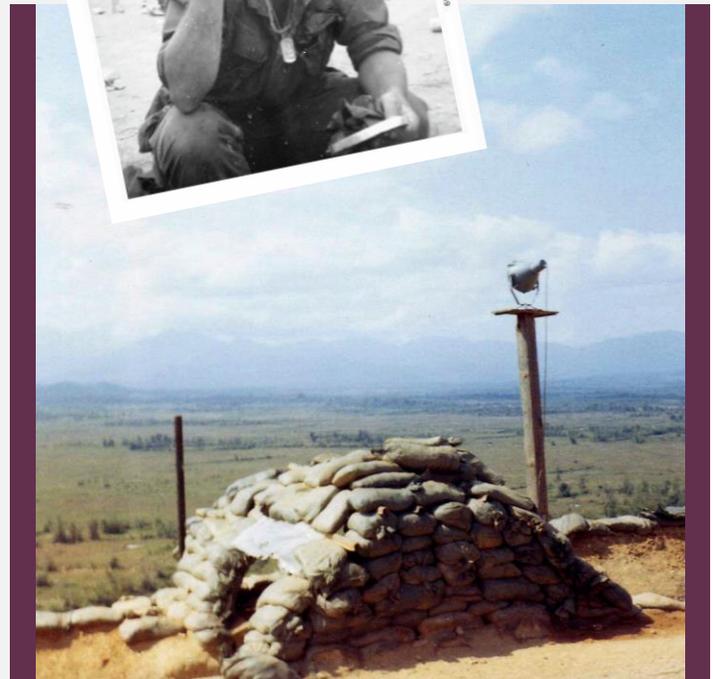
**My Veteran Story: From Bunker to Boats**

Presented by: Sgt. Dave Bishop

The Vietnam War was a conflict defined by facts and statistics, but for Sergeant E-5 Dave Bishop, it was defined by grief, guilt, and haunting memories. In the middle of the night on May 12, 1969, Sgt. Bishop awoke to gunfire erupting in and around his bunker at LZ Buff in the Quang Ngai province of central South Vietnam. Emergency flares turned the pitch black night to day so he could see Viet Cong sappers fast approaching through rebar and concertina wire. In a matter of minutes, Sgt. Bishop’s life would change forever. In this heartfelt, immersive retelling of one soldier’s harrowing journey from the thundering battlefield to quiet craftsmanship, discover how a damaged soul, like a battered ship, can be rebuilt and renewed.

OLLI member **Dave Bishop** is a retired mental health professional and painter. He earned a BS in psychology from Grand Valley State University. Bishop served as a sergeant E-5 in the Americal Division of the US Army during the Vietnam War, primarily stationed in Quang Ngai.

Dates: **WED, Jun 18 and 25, 2025** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**



▲ A typical sandbag bunker built by the US Army. (Insert) Sgt. E-5 Dave Bishop in May 1969.

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Fatal Crossing: The Mysterious Disappearance of NWA Flight 2501

Presented by: Valerie van Heest

On June 23, 1950, a DC-4 with 58 souls on board flew from New York's LaGuardia airport toward Minnesota. Shortly after Captain Robert Lind requested a lower altitude as he began crossing Lake Michigan, flight controllers lost radio contact with Northwest Airlines Flight 2501. Shredded human remains washing up on the beaches of West Michigan served as evidence of what was then the country's worst commercial aviation disaster. The Navy and Coast Guard never located the wreck, rendering it impossible to determine a cause for this tragic accident. Half a century later, a team from the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association teamed up with author Clive Cussler to pick up the search where the government left off and attempt to solve the mystery of the plane's disappearance. Explore the group's efforts to locate the wreckage, and how an unexpected meeting with a victim's son prompted a search of a different kind—one that would be more illuminating than submerged sections of twisted aluminum—and reveal that answers are sometimes found in unexpected places.

*Valerie van Heest is a maritime historian, award-winning author, and museum exhibit designer who seeks to inspire people through the study and interpretation of shipwrecks. She holds a BA in business administration and management from Loyola University Chicago. van Heest is an inductee in the Women Divers Hall of Fame and can frequently be found beneath Lake Michigan exploring the Great Lakes' submerged maritime history.*

Date: **MON, Jun 23, 2025**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Precious Metals 101

Presented by: Ben Soldaat

Why have gold, silver, platinum, and other precious metals been so valuable over centuries? Uncover their role in defining and growing financial systems from ancient to modern times. Trace the evolution of money and financial transactions, from early bartering to the creation of coins and currency. Perhaps those old coins in your basement are worth something?

*Ben Soldaat is the managing partner of Grand Rapids Coins, routinely traveling across the country to assess, buy, and sell precious metals and rare coins. He has a BS in accounting from Western Michigan University. Soldaat started collecting coins in the first grade, and his expertise has been consulted on television and in court cases.*

Date: **TUE, Jun 24, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### You Can't Take It With You: Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning

Presented by: Emily Horvath, JD

What happens to your stuff when you're gone? This course offers an approachable overview of estate law, including probate, non-probate, and trust distributions. Break down how essential documents like durable powers of attorney, wills, and trusts work together to protect your assets, your beneficiaries, and your wishes. What roles do conservators, guardians, and executors play in probate court? How have Supreme Court decisions impacted estate planning for individuals, married couples, and members of the LGBTQ+ community? Take the anxiety out of the process! It's never too early to make estate planning a breeze instead of a burden.

*Emily Horvath is an adjunct professor at Cooley Law School and former estate planning attorney. She earned a BA in political theory and constitutional democracy from Michigan State University and a JD from the Michigan State University College of Law. After nearly twenty years as a faculty member and administrator at Cooley, Professor Horvath reduced her course load and now owns and operates a private consulting business, Illume Executive Coaching, LLC.*

Date: **THU, Jun 26, 2025**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Location: **Browne Center**

# SPRING 2025 SUMMARY

COURSE	SESSIONS	DATES / TIMES	LOCATION	FEE	PAGE	INTEREST?
Mary McLeod Bethune	1	MON, Apr 7, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	4	
Veteran PTSD	2	MON, Apr 7 and 14, 1:30pm	ZOOM	\$20	4	
World in Crisis	4	TUE, Apr 8, 15, 22, and 29, 9:30am	Donnelly	\$40	5	
Apple Watch Basics	1	TUE, Apr 8, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	6	
Archaeology of Words	2	WED, Apr 9 and 16, 9:30am	Browne	\$20	6	
Swinging Sixties	1	WED, Apr 9, 1:30pm	ZOOM	\$10	6	
Fungus	1	THU, Apr 10, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	7	
Graphic Novels	1	THU, Apr 10, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	7	
PFAS: Forever Chemicals	1	FRI, Apr 11, 9:30am	Donnelly	\$0	8	
Circle Theatre Preview	1	MON, Apr 14, 9:30am	Performing Arts Center	\$10	8	
Mekong Delta	1	TUE, Apr 15, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	9	
Blandford Walking Tour	1	WED, Apr 16, 1:30pm	Blandford Nature Center	\$15	9	
OLLI Readers Series	3	THU, Apr 17, May 15, and Jun 12, 1:30pm	Browne	\$30	10	
Beyond the Battlefield	2	TUE, Apr 22 and 29, 1:30pm	Donnelly	\$20	11	
Personalist Parties	1	WED, Apr 23, 9:30am	ZOOM	\$10	11	
Boston Marathon	1	THU, Apr 24, 9:30am	Donnelly	\$10	11	
Talkies Film Series	3	FRI, Apr 25, May 30, Jun 20, 9:30am	Browne	\$30	12	
Legacy of the G.I. Bill	2	MON, Apr 28 and May 5, 9:30am	Donnelly	\$20	12	
King Arthur	2	MON, Apr 28 and May 5, 1:30pm	Browne	\$20	13	
Prescription on Your Plate	2	THU, May 1 and 8, 9:30am	Donnelly	\$20	13	
Executive Orders	1	TUE, May 6, 9:30am	Donnelly	\$10	13	
History of Chinese Tea	1	TUE, May 6, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	16	
Hearts and Minds	2	WED, May 7 and 14, 9:30am	Donnelly	\$20	16	
What Just Bit Me?!	1	THU, May 8, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	16	
Green Burials	1	TUE, May 13, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	17	
Universal Design	1	TUE, May 13, 1:30pm	JLH 234	\$10	17	
Circle 360	2	TUE, May 13 and Jun 10, 6:30pm	Performing Arts Center	\$30	17	
This Is Where I Stand	3	WED, May 14, 21, and 28, 11:30am	Browne	\$30	18	
The BIG Questions	2	WED, Jun 4 and 11, 11:30am	Browne	\$20	18	
Getting Woke	1	WED, May 14, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	18	
Destigmatizing HIV	1	THU, May 15, 9:30am	ZOOM	\$10	18	
Laudato Si'	1	FRI, May 16, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	19	
Hometown Hero	1	MON, May 19, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	19	
Fear and Aging	3	TUE, May 20, 27, and Jun 3, 9:30am	Browne	\$30	19	
Mugshots and Mayhem	2	TUE, May 20 and 27, 1:30pm	Browne / GR Archives	\$20	20	
Jimmy Carter	2	WED, May 21 and 28, 9:30am	Browne	\$20	20	
Exodus: Leaving Religion?	1	THU, May 22, 9:30am	ZOOM	\$10	20	
Rachel Ruysch	1	THU, May 22, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	21	
Economic Headlines	3	WED, May 28, Jun 4, and 11, 1:30pm	Donnelly	\$30	21	
Rachel Ruysch: Toledo	1	THU, May 29, 8:00am	Toledo Museum of Art	\$70	22	
Music and the Holocaust	3	MON, Jun 2, 9, and 16, 1:30pm	ZOOM	\$30	22	
Mackinac Island Cottages	1	TUE, Jun 3, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	22	
WWII Dissension	1	FRI, Jun 6, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	23	
National Parks	4	MON, Jun 9, 16, 23, and 30, 9:30am	Browne	\$40	23	
Ramona Park	1	TUE, Jun 10, 9:30am	EGR Comm. Building	\$10	24	
Tips for Traveling Abroad	1	TUE, Jun 10, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	24	
What Are the Kids Into?	1	FRI, Jun 13, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	24	
Power of Friendship	1	TUE, Jun 17, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	25	
From Bunkers to Boats	2	WED, Jun 18 and 25, 1:30pm	Browne	\$20	25	
Fatal Crossing: Flight 2501	1	MON, Jun 23, 1:30pm	Browne	\$10	26	
Precious Metals 101	1	TUE, Jun 24, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	26	
Estate Planning	1	THU, Jun 26, 9:30am	Browne	\$10	26	



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# **CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.**

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**Ian MacNeil**, Director

**Susan Kohloff**, Program Administrator

**Corey Boehm**, Program Administrator



## **SPRING 2025**

APRIL 7 – JUNE 30

REGISTRATION OPENS **MARCH 26, 2025**

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