

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AQUINAS COLLEGE

COURSE CATALOG
FALL 2025
SEPTEMBER 8 — DECEMBER 12

REGISTRATION OPENS **AUGUST 27, 2025**



AQUINAS
COLLEGE

Cover Art:
OLLI Member **Dave Kagan**
Upper Tahquamenon, 2018
Digital Photograph

GETTING STARTED

ARE YOU AN OLLI MEMBER?

Membership is required to participate in OLLI courses. If you have already renewed or joined since July 1, you need not renew again. Annual OLLI memberships are valid from the date of purchase through June 30.

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

OLLI Annual Membership Rate:

\$75.00 per person

Annual memberships may be purchased by visiting 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. Most sessions may be selected individually. You may register for any or all sessions in a course with multiple sessions, unless the sessions are intentionally packaged together. The fee to register for each session is only **\$10.00**, unless otherwise specified.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Fall 2025 Course Registration opens
WEDNESDAY, August 27, 2025, at 9:00am

ALL course registrations are completed online via this URL: 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.

Register carefully as there are **NO MONETARY REFUNDS** for courses you later cannot attend. If you need to cancel, please notify the OLLI office **48 hours** prior to the scheduled session time to receive a coupon code redeemable for any future session in the 2025-2026 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



JOIN US IN OUR NEW HOME AT THE GRACE HAUSTENSTEIN LIBRARY!

As OLLI continues to celebrate 50 years of lifelong learning at Aquinas College, our move to the Grace Hauenstein Library marks a meaningful step forward. Driven by growing membership, the need for greater accessibility, and a vision for expanded programming, our new office and classroom space—designed in collaboration with learning experts, technology specialists, and OLLI members—reflects the heart and evolving needs of our community. Among the many benefits of our new location:

- A dedicated, modern classroom equipped with HyFlex technology, enabling simultaneous in-person and remote learning.
- Comfortable seating and state-of-the-art audio/visual tools to support a wide range of programming.
- Improved accessibility, including barrier-free entry, elevator access, hearing assistance, nearby multi-stall restrooms, and reserved OLLI parking in the familiar Woodward Lot.
- Proximity to campus highlights like the Moose Café, Wege cafeteria, athletic field, and other student hubs—allowing for deeper integration with the Aquinas College community.

OLLI's GIVE2GROW HARVEST PARTY

You're invited to the **OLLI GIVE2GROW Harvest Party**—a festive fall open house filled with fun, friends, and fundraising! Join us for an evening of community and celebration featuring a silent auction, door prizes, games, and mini OLLI lectures that showcase our exciting course offerings. Enjoy seasonal appetizers, sweet treats, and an open beer and wine bar as we toast to lifelong learning and the continued growth of OLLI at Aquinas College. All members, friends, family, and guests over 18 are welcome. Help us harvest support for expanded programming in our beautiful new space! This event is sponsored by the OLLI Advisory Council.

Date: **THU, Oct 16, 2025**
 Time: **6:00pm – 9:00pm**
 Location: **Hauenstein Library**
 Ticket Fees: **ONE for \$25.00**
TWO for \$40.00



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!



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, 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 or call 616.632.2430 to get on the list.

EXPLORING THE CATALOG

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 offsite, feature non-standard pricing, and may take place outside standard course times.

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, 11:30am, or 1:30pm, unless otherwise specified.

Explore the full term calendar on **Pages 16 and 17**. A summary of all course offerings is provided on **Page 31**.

Course Modalities. Courses are now offered in three different modalities:

IN-PERSON — Primarily offered in the new OLLI classroom on the second floor of the Grace Hauenstein Library on the campus of Aquinas College. Courses may also be offered in-person at various offsite venues with parking and meeting location instructions provided.

VIRTUAL — Offered online only via the [Zoom](#)-based OLLI Virtual Classroom. The same access link is used for all virtual offerings. It can be found on the OLLI website and in the weekly OLLI Outlook. *Individual links are no longer emailed prior to a virtual session.*

HYFLEX — The best of both worlds! Offered in-person in the OLLI classroom **and** simulcast virtually via [Zoom](#).



GETTING STARTED

OSHER ONLINE

More classes are just a click away! We are thrilled to announce a new opportunity that expands your access to world-class lifelong learning—OLLI at Aquinas College is joining **Osher Online**! Offered by the Osher National Resource Center (NRC) in collaboration with Northwestern University, Osher Online is a new initiative that brings together OLLI members from across the country for engaging virtual classes taught by expert instructors known for their depth of knowledge and dynamic teaching styles. Whether you're at home or on the go, these nationally curated courses bring vibrant, conversation-centered learning right to your screen.

All Osher Online courses are six sessions in length and available for just **\$60.00** per person. These sessions are not available individually and must be registered as a complete package. Facilitated by Osher staff and hosted virtually via an exclusive **Zoom** portal, Osher Online courses are offered in addition to the regular schedule of courses at OLLI at Aquinas—giving you even more ways to explore, connect, and grow.

Space is limited, so flip to **Page 30** of this catalog to read detailed descriptions of the available Osher Online courses offered in Fall 2025.

You may register for Osher Online sessions using the same online registration form as other Fall 2025 courses, but **Osher Online registration closes TUE, Sep 22, 2025**. Registration questions may be directed to olli@aquinas.edu or 616.632.2430.

To participate, all registrants must attend a virtual Osher Online orientation on **MON, Sep 30, 2025, at 2:00pm EST**. For customer care and/or tech support, please contact the NRC's Osher Online Team via email, osheronline@northwestern.edu, or phone, 312.503.5555.



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: GR ICONS FALL 2025

FEATURING:

- Exploring Eastown
- Former Mayor Rosalynn Bliss
- A Pardon and a Public Disclosure
- Saving Sullivan Field
- A Visual History of the Pantlind Hotel

...AND MORE!



GRAND RAPIDS
175th Anniversary

Legacy lives here. For 175 years, Grand Rapids has grown through the vision of its people, the legacy of its places, and the power of its progress. Symbolizing unity and strength, the city's logo blends the sun, the Grand River, and the renowned Calder sculpture. Salute the visionary leaders, enduring cultural institutions, and neighborhoods that defined local identity and grew alongside industry and innovation. Rediscover the city you thought you knew. From Furniture City to Beer City USA, this series paints a portrait of a city built by icons, proud of its past, and energized for the future.



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

OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

A Pardon and a Public Disclosure

Presented by: Gleaves Whitney, MA

Few moments in American history were as bold as the choices made by Grand Rapids' own President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford. This course contextualizes President Ford's controversial pardon of Richard Nixon—on the 51st anniversary of the action—and Betty Ford's groundbreaking public disclosure of her struggles with alcoholism and substance abuse. These decisions redefined honesty and healing at the highest levels of public life, and their lasting legacy continues to reflect the character and values of the Fords' Midwestern roots.

Gleaves Whitney has been the executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation since 2020. He earned an MA in history from the University of Michigan. A historian and former chief speechwriter for Governor John Engler, Whitney taught history and was the director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University. He has edited and authored nineteen books.

Date: **MON, Sep 8, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ First Lady Betty Ford and President Gerald R. Ford on inauguration day, August 4, 1974.

HISTORY & POLITICS

Ranked Choice Voting: A Better Ballot for Michigan

Presented by: Sam Cale

Many voters are fed up with toxic politics and unresponsive, gridlocked government dominated by powerful special interests. Grassroots leaders across the country are organizing to solve one possible source of the problem—the voting system itself. Instead of picking just one candidate in a winner-take-all system, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) may offer a viable solution. This course details challenges with the current voting system, and outlines how an ambitious initiative could change the ballot to enable a better voter experience, better campaigns, and ultimately, better government.

Sam Cale is a co-lead for the West Michigan Field Team of Rank MI Vote, a Michigan-based, volunteer-run, non-partisan, and non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about Ranked Choice Voting. He has a BA in English from Michigan State University. Cale also serves as a precinct chair for elections in the City of Hastings.

Date: **MON, Sep 8, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



ARTS & CULTURE

Saving Lives: Memoir Writing

Presented by: Deb Moore

Want to leave an enduring legacy of your life? Why not start writing it down? Whether you're looking to preserve personal memories, family legends, or wild tales from childhood, this workshop is your invitation to get it all on paper. With a friendly mix of inspiration, guidance, writing time, sharing, and supportive feedback, you'll be amazed how fun and fulfilling it can be to capture your life, one story at a time. New to memoir writing? Perfect. Been here before but feeling stuck? Come back for a fresh spark and a creative boost!

OLLI member **Deb Moore** is a personal historian and owner of *The Stories of Your Life*, where she helps people record, preserve, write, and publish their life stories. In this role, she has preserved more than 100 individual, company, church, and community histories—including her own. Moore currently serves on the Grand Rapids Historical Commission.

Date: **TUE, Sep 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2025** (4 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 30]
 Course Fee: **\$40.00**

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

Who Are the Christians of the Middle East?

Presented by: Joseph Philip Amar, PhD

Until recently, many thought of Christianity as a western phenomenon—the religion of Europe and the Americas. This perception began to change in the middle of the 20th century as wars and social unrest engulfed the Middle East. Western Christians were suddenly faced with the reality of a Christianity that did not look or think or worship in familiar western ways. This course challenges the social, ethnic, and religious biases that contributed to the disappearance of Christianity from the lands of its birth.

Sep 9, 2025 – When Jews and Christians Drank from the Same Wells

Sep 16, 2025 – “Nisibis, Which Rome Sometimes Swallows, and Sometimes Spits Out”

Sep 23, 2025 – Visions of Paradise

Sep 30, 2025 – The Poison of the Greeks

Joseph Phillip Amar is a professor emeritus of Semitic languages and early Christian studies at the University of Notre Dame. He holds an MA and PhD from The Catholic University of America. Professor Amar specializes in the early interactions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. He currently directs post-doctoral research at Georgetown University and publishes on religion, history, and contemporary culture in print and online platforms.

Dates: **TUE, Sep 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2025** (4 sessions)

Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**

Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

ARTS & CULTURE

The History of Fashion: Into the 19th Century

Presented by: Suzanne Eberle, PhD

In this continuing series, see how the French Revolution, the Napoleonic wars, new technologies, and rapidly changing social norms impacted fashion from 1785 to the mid-19th century. Topics of discussion will include garment design and shifting ideal body silhouettes for both male and female fashion, and how early modern industrial inventions changed what was worn and how it was produced.

OLLI member Suzanne Eberle is a professor emerita of art history at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University, where she taught for over four decades. She earned a PhD in art history from the University of Detroit Mercy. Professor Eberle also serves on the Art Advisory Committee at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park and on the Arts Advisory Council of the Raclin Murphy Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame.

Dates: **WED, Sep 10, 17, 24, and Oct 1, 2025** (4 sessions)

Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**

Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

OLLI EXPERIENCES

This Is Where I Stand Discussion Group (Part I and Part II)

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?

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.

Dates: **Part I**
WED, Sep 10, 17, and 24, 2025 (3 sessions)
Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
Course Fee: **\$30.00**

Dates: **Part II**
WED, Oct 8, 15, and 22, 2025 (3 sessions)
Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
Course Fee: **\$30.00**

OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

A Walk Through History

Presented by: Caroline Cook

Step back in time with two guided walking tours that bring Grand Rapids' rich past to life. From the gothic beauty of St. Mark's Episcopal Church to the twinkling charm of Heritage Hill, discover the limestone foundations of the city and step into the holiday spirit of a bygone era.

Sep 11, 2025: The Crown of Pearl Street: Inside St. Mark's Episcopal Church – The oldest public building in Grand Rapids, St. Mark's Episcopal Church was built in 1848, and preceded the city's incorporation. It is not only historic, but beautiful—inside and out. Join a walking narration of the history of the church, its architecture, special features, and prominent role in the growth of the city of Grand Rapids. After all, its political and cultural significance dubbed it the "Church of the Mayors" as well as the "Crown of Pearl Street".

NOTE: Limited free parking is available in the St. Mark's Lot. Directions to be provided. Additional street and paid parking available.

Dec 10, 2025: A Heritage Hill Victorian Christmas – Pretend it's December at the turn of the 20th century, during the reign of Queen Victoria. Grand Rapids dominated furniture production, and the owners of the impressive mansions in Heritage Hill are celebrating the holidays in style. In this evening tour, walk through this beautiful neighborhood, enjoy the festive lighting, meet the original owners of the historic homes, and share Victorian Christmas traditions.

NOTE: Park and meet at the Grand Rapids Montessori Academy Parking Lot at 455 Lyon Street NE. Please wear weather-appropriate footwear and clothing.

*OLLI member **Caroline Cook** is the founder and chief tour ambassador of Grand Rapids Running and Walking Tours. She is a proud downtown dweller, citizen historian, and exercise enthusiast. With a menu of 90+ unique, thematically-organized tours, Caroline has become the local resource for healthy, "burn while you learn" events for all ages and abilities.*

Dates: Session 1: The Crown of Pearl Street
THU, Sep 11, 2025
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | St. Mark's Episcopal Church [Limit 30]**
134 Division Avenue N, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Session 2: A Heritage Hill Victorian Christmas
WED, Dec 10, 2025
6:00pm - 7:30pm
IN-PERSON | GR Montessori Academy [Limit 30]
455 Lyon Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

ARTS & CULTURE

Gilded Age Politics, Urban Bosses, and Progressive Reform

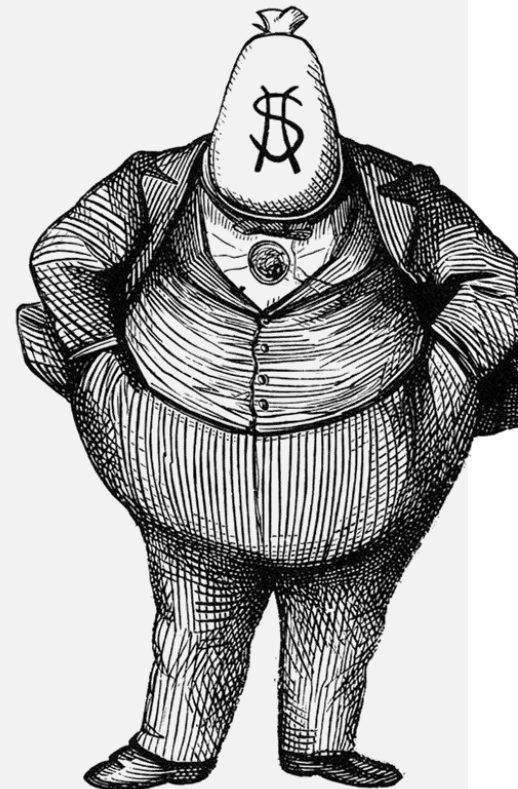
Presented by: Paul Murphy, PhD

The United States became a global industrial power during the late 19th century. Yet, economic progress brings turbulence, and great wealth breeds corruption. Political vote-buying and bribery were rampant; bosses ruled the cities; and conflict and poverty accompanied industrialization. In the Gilded Age, bosses promised benefits to their constituents in exchange for power. Their watchword was "loyalty"—not "fairness" or "justice." This course examines partisanship and political opportunism as well as the determined efforts of everyday Americans and reform-minded leaders to build a better, more democratic system during the Progressive Era. However, is the American commitment to democracy more tenuous than imagined? And was their new system really more just?

Sep 11, 2025 – Bosses and Party Loyalty
Sep 18, 2025 – Party Identity and Popular Politics
Sep 25, 2025 – Reform and the Question of Democracy

***Paul Murphy** is an author and professor of history at Grand Valley State University. He holds both an MA and PhD in history from Indiana University Bloomington. Professor Murphy teaches courses in US history, with an emphasis in American intellectual, cultural, and political history.*

Dates: **THU, Sep 11, 18, and 25, 2025** (3 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

Wildcrafting: Connecting to Place Through Wild, Edible Plants

Presented by: Lea Sevigny

Discover the art of wildcrafting—the practice of responsibly and sustainably foraging plants from the wild for food, medicine, and creative use. In this hands-on, interactive outdoor experience, take a walk around the campus of Aquinas College, locate and identify safe and useful plants, sample foraged foods, and explore nature-inspired crafts made from materials found right in our own backyard.

NOTE: Participants should expect walking on uneven terrain. Please wear weather-appropriate footwear and clothing.

Lea Sevigny is a certified environmental educator and founder of Joyful Wildcrafting. A Master Naturalist with years of land stewardship experience, she is a member of Wild Ones, the Native Plant Guild, and the West Michigan Conservation Network.

Date: **MON, Sep 15, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



▲ How about a quick and delicious dinner pasta with bacon and Milkweed florets?

ARTS & CULTURE

OLLI Readers Series

Facilitated by: Jackie Watson, MD, Chris Kaiser, MM, and Becky Knack, PhD

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.

Sep 17, 2025: *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* (2013) by Daniel James Brown – Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression and Nazi propaganda, *The Boys in the Boat* chronicles the inspiring true story of nine working-class American rowers and their journey of grit, teamwork, and determination on the world stage. (Watson)

Oct 15, 2025: *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* (1818) by Mary Shelley – The classic and haunting story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a living being from dead body parts—only to be horrified by what he's made. As the creature seeks understanding and vengeance, the novel explores themes of ambition, isolation, and the consequences of playing God. (Kaiser)

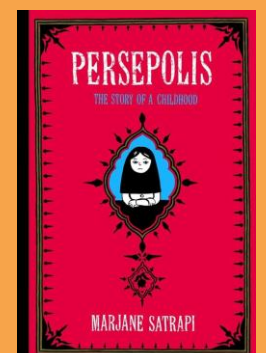
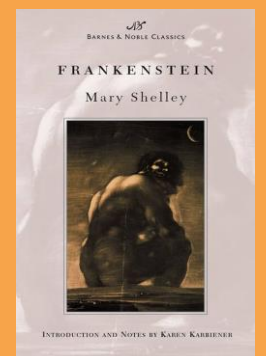
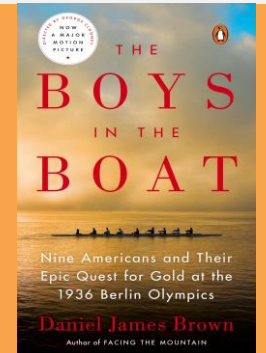
Nov 12, 2025: *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* (2003) by Marjane Satrapi – This powerful graphic memoir by Marjane Satrapi recounts her childhood and early adulthood during and after the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Through bold illustrations and personal storytelling, Satrapi tackles identity, repression, and resistance as she comes of age in a time of political and cultural upheaval. (Knack)

OLLI member **Jackie Watson** is a retired radiation oncologist. She received an MD from the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Watson is an avid reader and world traveler.

OLLI member **Chris Kaiser** spent 40 years with Amway Corporation and served as a client advocate with Elders' Helpers. He earned a BS in chemistry from Michigan Technological University and an MM from Aquinas College. Kaiser is a voracious reader and community volunteer.

OLLI member **Becky Knack** is a retired English teacher and debate coach. She received a PhD from the University of Michigan. Since her over 20-year career in public education, she has served on numerous community organization boards including her current tenure on the OLLI Advisory Council.

Dates: **WED, Sep 17, Oct 15, and Nov 12, 2025** (3 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]



OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

McDaniel's Toy Cryptocurrency World

Presented by: Michael McDaniel, PhD

Have you ever wanted to explore the wild world of cryptocurrency—without risking your savings or sanity? In this playful and completely risk-free course, enter a made-up digital economy where you get to mine coins, buy, sell, trade, speculate, and maybe even hack your way to millions!

Sep 18, 2025: How Does Crypto Work? – Explore the fundamental mathematics and language of cryptocurrency, including encryption, blockchains, and hashing. In an interactive take-home activity, simulate the mining process to add coins to your own digital wallet.

Sep 25, 2025: Playing with Crypto – Apply your new knowledge of basic crypto mechanics—and your own mined coins—inside a simplified version of a digital world. This simulation demystifies how Bitcoin and other digital currencies function behind the scenes.

NOTE: A standard TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required for both sessions. Limited quantities of loaners are available.

*OLLI member **Michael McDaniel** is a professor emeritus of mathematics at Aquinas College. He earned an MS and PhD in mathematics from George Washington University. Professor McDaniel can converse with humans, but prefers talking with his ferret, Cocoa Bananas.*

Dates: **THU, Sep 18 and 25, 2025** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 30]
 Course Fee: **\$20.00**



HISTORY & POLITICS

Low and Behold: The Estates That Became Aquinas College

Presented by: Ryan Wendt

Take a virtual tour of the storied estates that became Aquinas College. Once the grand home of the prominent Lowe family, the lush property between Fulton Street and Robinson Road featured stately residences, formal gardens, and striking architecture that still shape the campus today. This course showcases pictures, records, and memories of the original Holmdene Manor, carriage house, and gatehouse—as well as the homes of John Blodgett (Brookby), Amos Musselman (Browne Center), and US Senator William Alden Smith that form the campus' perimeter—while uncovering the lives of the families who once walked (and may still haunt) the grounds.

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

***Ryan Wendt** is chair of the Aquinas College Historical Commission. While earning a BA in education from Aquinas College, he was a member of the varsity men's baseball team, setting multiple school records which still stand today. He now serves as the locksmith of the Aquinas Campus Safety department.*

Date: **FRI, Sep 19, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

HOMEcoming 2025

Join us for Aquinas College Homecoming Weekend, **September 18-20, 2025**, with free public events for alumni, students, families, and friends! Visit www.aquinas.edu/homecoming for more details.



SAVE THE DATES! OLLI Hikes are open to all members—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 or **616.632.2430** for more information or to be added to the email list.

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

The Core Beliefs and Practices of Sikhism

Presented by: Rishi Singh

With nearly 30 million followers, Sikhism is the fifth largest faith tradition in the world. It is also one of the youngest and most dynamic. This engaging course offers an intimate exploration of Sikh beliefs, values, and practices, including their iconic beards and turbans, focused meditation (*simran*), and selfless service (*seva*). Anchored by the inspiring lives of the ten Gurus to the enduring messages of the sacred scripture, Sikhism tenets emphasize gender equality and religious freedom. Expand your global awareness with this discussion of Sikh history, culture, and contemporary life.

Rishi Singh is an interfaith outreach volunteer for the Grand Rapids Sikh community. A native of India, he moved to the United States with his parents (both former college professors) and later studied at Michigan State University. He is the owner and manager of Rishi's International Beverage, a specialty beverage retail store.

Dates: **MON, Sep 22 and 29, 2025** (2 sessions)
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ Sikhism emphasizes meditation and remembrance as a means to feel God's presence.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Medicare 101

Presented by: Robyn Coons

Confused by Medicare? You're not alone! This course offers a clear, engaging guide to navigating the ins and outs of the federal health insurance program for people age 65 or older. Identify when and how to enroll, what's covered (and what's not), and the key differences between Medicare Advantage and Supplement plans. Discover the important changes coming in 2026, so you can be confident and informed about your healthcare decisions with practical knowledge, expert tips, and peace of mind.

Robyn Coons is an independent insurance broker that specializes in Medicare, Medicaid, life insurance, and annuities. She earned a BS in nuclear medicine technology from Ferris State University and spent over thirty years providing direct patient care in the healthcare industry.

Dates: **MON, Sep 22, 2025**
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

HISTORY & POLITICS

Race, Religion, and Global Solidarities in Israel and Palestine

Presented by: Roger Baumann, PhD

As movements for racial justice in the United States gain momentum, they are increasingly looking beyond national borders to forge and appeal to global solidarities. But African American Christian communities themselves—rooted in divergent notions of the spiritual and political mantle of “the Black Church”—differ on whether and how to engage in global conflicts. Using four comparative case studies—from African American Christian Zionists who strongly support the state of Israel to Black activists who express solidarity with Palestinians—examine the distinct yet overlapping approaches to American Black Church activism refracted in the global political issue of Israel and Palestine.

Roger Baumann is an assistant professor of sociology and the director of peace and justice studies at Hope College. He received a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard University and a PhD in sociology from Yale University. His new book, *Black Visions of the Holy Land*, analyzes African American Christian engagement with the global issue of Israel and Palestine.

Date: **WED, Sep 24, 2025**
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

Saving Sullivan Field

Presented by: Paul Soltysiak

Batter up! In the heart of Grand Rapids' West Side stands Sullivan Field, a beloved neighborhood ballpark featuring one of the last remaining wooden grandstand stadiums in the country. Since opening as Valley Field in 1937, this historic neighborhood treasure has hosted thousands of baseball games—and now, you can walk the bases of its remarkable past. Explore the field's contributions to America's pastime which include local legends who made it to the majors, connections to the storied Negro Leagues, and the powerhouse Grand Rapids Sullivans—winners of four National Amateur Baseball Championships. See how a dedicated volunteer organization, Fans of Valley Field, is working to restore Sullivan Field and preserve this legacy for future generations.

NOTE: Participants should bring their own lawn chairs. Street parking is available on Valley Avenue NW or 6th Street NW.

Paul Soltysiak is the vice president and co-founder of Fans of Valley Field. A lifelong baseball and Detroit Tigers fan, Soltysiak has had a long career in the printing and marketing industry.

Date: **FRI, Sep 26, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Sullivan Field**
650 Valley Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504



▼ An old image of a baseball game being played at Sullivan Field (formerly Valley Field) in Grand Rapids.



ARTS & CULTURE

Exploring Vatican II Treasures

Presented by: Dan Pierson, MRE

The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) profoundly renewed the Catholic Church, providing a compass to guide Her for succeeding decades. Discover the fascinating people and themes that composed the Council and what recent popes have used to guide the Church into the third millennium. This course is presented in a Reader's Circle format, featuring small group reading and discussion activities centered on select passages of *Exploring Vatican II Treasures: Actors, Events, Insights* by James H. Kroeger.

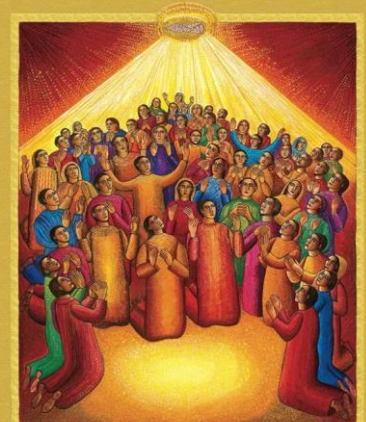
NOTE: All participants will receive a free copy of the book.

Dan Pierson is an author, publisher, and founder of eCatechist.com and faithAlivebooks.com. After formation at St. Augustine Seminary High School, he earned a Master of Religious Education from Loyola University Chicago. Pierson has served as a Catholic school teacher and as director of religious education for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

Date: **WED, Oct 1, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 30]

Exploring Vatican II TREASURES

Actors, Events, Insights



JAMES H. KROEGER, MM

OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

Exploring Eastown

Presented by: Sr. Mary Aquinas Weber, OP, Mary Alice Williams, and Stephen T. Staggs, PhD



Spanning 70 square blocks north-south from Fulton Street to Franklin Street and east-west from Plymouth Avenue to Fuller Avenue, Eastown began as a streetcar commuter suburb due to its location between downtown Grand Rapids and Reeds Lake. Through conversation, storytelling, and walking the very streets where it all happened, celebrate the history, heart, and transformation of one of Grand Rapids' most vibrant, progressive, and quirky neighborhoods sometimes described as the "Greenwich Village of Grand Rapids."

Oct 2, 2025, AM: Revitalization – In 1973, in the face of neighborhood decline, redlining, and rising crime, Aquinas College rallied Eastown businesses and residents to form the Eastown Community Association (ECA) and steer toward urban renewal. This partnership fostered a grassroots spirit that still fuels the community today. Sit down with Sr. Mary Aquinas Weber, OP, and Mary Alice Williams—two of the ECA's original leaders and fiercest Eastown champions—as they share fifty years of memories, civic pride, and community organization. Then, see how the ECA is actively engaging with community members today.

Oct 2, 2025, PM: A Stroll Through Eastown – Put on your walking shoes for an immersive, 2-mile guided tour through Eastown's storied streets with stops at five key sites: Holmdene Manor, the East Building, the US Post Office on Lake Drive, the former Sigsbee Elementary School, and the Eastown Community Association office. The tour culminates with a good 'ole hotdog at the landmark Yesterdog. Along the way, digitally access historic photos, maps, and documents on your personal device to see how Eastown has evolved from the early 1900s to the present. It's a walk through time—where every sidewalk has a story.

Sr. Mary Aquinas Weber, OP, is the chancellor emerita of Aquinas College, and a living Grand Rapids icon. She joined the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids in 1944, and was later elected as the congregation's youngest Prioress. She has spent years as an educator, administrator, community advocate, and public servant becoming a beloved leader across generations of students, Sisters, families, and organizations. Sr. Aquinas helped establish the Emeritus College (now OLLI at Aquinas) in 1975, and later served as its director.

OLLI member **Mary Alice Williams** is a community activist and former Grand Rapids City Commissioner. While attending Marquette University, she joined Students United for Racial Equality—beginning a lifelong commitment to social justice that included active roles in the ECA and other community-focused non-profit organizations.

Stephen T. Staggs is the executive director of the Eastown Community Association (ECA). He earned a PhD and graduate certificate in ethnohistory from Western Michigan University. Staggs is also an author and independent historian whose research focuses on the interactions between Indigenous, African, and European peoples.

Date: **THU, Oct 2, 2025**
 Times: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**
 Course Fee: **\$10.00**

Session 2: A Stroll Through Eastown
 Date: **THU, Oct 2, 2025**
 Times: **1:30pm - 3:30pm***
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 40]
 Course Fee: **\$15.00**

▼ Local artist Devin DuMond's mural, *A Postcard of Eastown*, is featured on the east wall of the McKendrick Building.



OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

Talkies Film Series

Presented by: Ian MacNeil

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

Oct 3, 2025: *Free Solo* (2018) directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin – A stunning and unflinching portrait of the free soloist climber Alex Honnold, as he prepares to achieve his lifelong dream: climbing the 3,000-foot face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park... without a rope.

Nov 7, 2025: *My Old Ass* (2024) directed by Megan Park – A psychedelic mushroom trip brings a teenager face-to-face with her middle-aged self who offers hauntingly humorous advice, urging her to rethink love and family as she approaches adulthood.

Dec 5, 2025: *The Lion King* (1992) directed by Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff – In this animated musical masterpiece, a young lion prince flees his kingdom after the tragic death of his father and must overcome betrayal, exile, and self-doubt to reclaim his throne.

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, Oct 3, Nov 7, and Dec 5, 2025** (3 sessions)
Time: **9:30am - 12:00pm***
Location: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



ARTS & CULTURE

Who's the Leader of the Club?

Presented by: Albert Bell, PhD

In October 1955, *The Mickey Mouse Club* premiered on ABC. The main cast members—child stars known as Mouseketeers—had been chosen after a lengthy nationwide search. The show was designed to tie in to the opening of Disneyland in Anaheim, CA, which took place earlier that summer. Hosted by Jimmy Dodd and Roy Williams, the variety show included song and dance numbers, cartoons, and serials such as *Spin and Marty*. Relive the magic as this course details the history of the program as well as the lives of the Mouseketeers—including Bobby Burgess, Annette Funicello, and Darlene Gillespie—during and after the show's original run.

Albert Bell is an author and professor emeritus of history at Hope College. He holds an MA in history from Duke University and a PhD in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Bell is a profound scholar of the Ancient Greek and Roman worlds, but he has a strong passion for American cultural history in the 1930s-1950s.

Dates: **MON, Oct 6, 13, and 20, 2025** (3 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ A 1956 publicity photo of the Mouseketeers.

OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

Liberty and Loyalty at the Edge of Revolution

Presented by: Richard Bell, PhD

What happens when personal convictions clash with the tides of history? Uncover the dramatic stories of the celebrated Marquis de Lafayette—a European noble who risked everything for American liberty—and William Franklin, a loyalist who engulfed his family in a bitter battle of blood and belief.

Oct 7, 2025: Lafayette: The Most Dangerous Man of All – Over the last 250 years, Americans have named at least 600 towns, counties, parks, lakes, rivers, and schools for the Marquis de Lafayette, the proud French knight who helped their ancestors break from Britain. However, beyond America, Lafayette's name can be hard to find. That stark contrast in how history has chosen to remember him is the subject of this session. Lafayette spent the vast majority of his political career in Europe, and the struggle to earn a place in that continent's pantheon of heroes was almost the death of him and still remains a work in progress.

Oct 14, 2025: William Franklin: Divided Loyalty – Dissect the complex life of William Franklin, Benjamin Franklin's only surviving son, whose loyalty to the British Crown set him on a collision course with his revolutionary father. As New Jersey's colonial governor, William upheld monarchy while Benjamin championed liberty, creating a poignant familial and political rift. Examine William's imprisonment, exile in England, and tireless advocacy for the Crown, contrasting it with his father's role in shaping a new nation.

Richard Bell is a critically-acclaimed author and award-winning professor of early American history at the University of Maryland, College Park. He received a BA from the University of Cambridge in his native England before earning an MA and PhD in history from Harvard University. Bell serves as a trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture.

Dates: **TUE, Oct 7 and 14, 2025** (2 sessions)
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

PANTLIND SERIES

A Visual History of the Pantlind Hotel

Presented by: Pamela VanderPloeg, MLS, and Lindsay Hovingh

Check in for a two-week stay at one of the most recognizable features of the Grand Rapids skyline. Construction of the Pantlind Hotel began in 1913, and by 1925, it was ranked among the top hotels in the country—wowing guests (and royalty) with its luxurious accommodations, gold-leaf ceilings, and crystal chandeliers. It later became the Amway Grand Plaza, an investment that sparked the city's modern downtown renaissance. This course is your room key to the glamour, grit, and glow-up of a true Grand Rapids icon.

Oct 8, 2025: Booking It – Trace the Pantlind's rich history with vintage photos, postcards, newspaper clippings, stylish advertising prints, and classic restaurant menus. Take in the stunning 1916 Adam-style redesign by Warren & Wetmore—famed architects of Grand Central Station—which established the hotel's signature look and glamorous reputation. Fast-forward to 1981, when a major restoration and rebranding as the Amway Grand Plaza introduced vibrant interior flair and the striking addition of the modern glass tower.

Oct 15, 2025: Checking In – Take a guided tour through the ornate lobby, ballrooms, guest rooms, and hallways of the historic Pantlind Hotel as well as its surrounding river view, streetscape, and connected Exhibitors Building. Along the way, hear behind-the-scenes stories and architectural details that bring the past to life and celebrate the future.

NOTE: The Session 2 course fee includes parking at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel Parking Garage—located at 216 Pearl Street NW.

OLLI member Pamela VanderPloeg is an award-winning historian and author. A former library administrator, she earned an MLS from Indiana University Bloomington and an MM from Aquinas College. VanderPloeg compiled ten years of research into Grand Rapids Downtown Buildings, a guide to the historic and modern architectural landscape of downtown Grand Rapids.

Lindsay Hovingh is the director of rooms at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. She holds a BA in hospitality business from Michigan State University and has spent nearly two decades in the hospitality industry. Hovingh is also a Certified Rooms Division Executive (CRDE), a credential awarded by the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI).

Dates: **Session 1: Booking It**
WED, Oct 8, 2025
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**
Course Fee: **\$10.00**

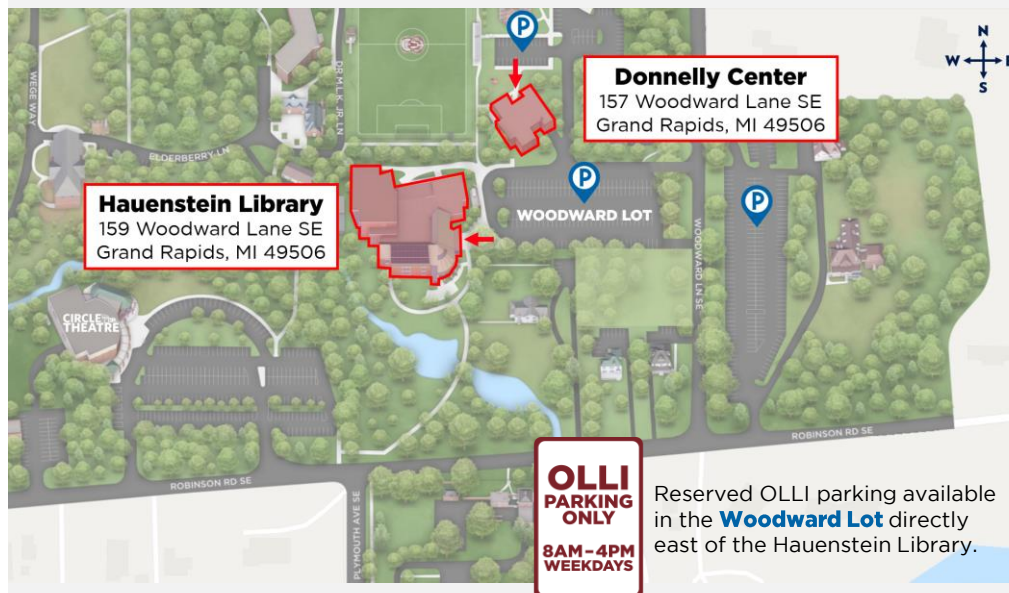
Dates: **Session 2: Checking In**
WED, Oct 15, 2025
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Amway Grand Plaza Hotel [Limit 25]**
187 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
\$25.00

FALL 2025 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 - SEPTEMBER OLLI CLOSED LABOR DAY	2	3	4	5 OLLI CLOSED
8 9:30am — Library/Zoom Pardon and Disclosure (p. 6) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Ranked Choice Voting (p. 6)	9 9:30am — Library Memoir Writing (p. 6) 1:30pm — Library Christians of the Middle East (p. 7)	10 9:30am — Library History of Fashion (p. 7) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 7)	11 9:30am — St. Mark's Episcopal A Walk Through History (p. 8) 1:30pm — Library Gilded Age Politics (p. 8)	12 OLLI CLOSED
15 9:30am — Library Wildcrafting (p. 9)	16 9:30am — Library Memoir Writing (p. 6) 1:30pm — Library Christians of the Middle East (p. 7)	17 9:30am — Library History of Fashion (p. 7) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 7) 1:30pm — Library OLLI Readers Series (p. 9) <i>The Boys in the Boat</i>	18 9:30am — Library Toy Cryptocurrency (p. 10) 1:30pm — Library Gilded Age Politics (p. 8)	19 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Lowe and Behold (p. 10)
22 9:30am — Library/Zoom Sikhism (p. 11) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Medicare 101 (p. 11)	23 9:30am — Library Memoir Writing (p. 6) 1:30pm — Library Christians of the Middle East (p. 7)	24 9:30am — Library History of Fashion (p. 7) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 7) 1:30pm — Library Global Solidarities (p. 11)	25 9:30am — Library Toy Cryptocurrency (p. 10) 1:30pm — Library Gilded Age Politics (p. 8)	26 9:30am — Sullivan Field Saving Sullivan Field (p. 12)
29 9:30am — Library/Zoom Sikhism (p. 11)	30 9:30am — Library Memoir Writing (p. 6) 1:30pm — Library Christians of the Middle East (p. 7)	1 - OCTOBER 9:30am — Library History of Fashion (p. 7) 1:30pm — Library Vatican II Treasures (p. 12)	2 9:30am — Library/Zoom Exploring Eastown (p. 13) 1:30pm — Library Exploring Eastown (p. 13)	3 9:30am — Library Talkies Film Series (p. 14) <i>Free Solo</i>
6 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Mickey Mouse Club (p. 14)	7 9:30am — Zoom Liberty and Loyalty (p. 15)	8 9:30am — Library/Zoom Pantlind Hotel (p. 15) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 7)	9 9:30am — Spectrum Theatre Actors' Theatre (p. 18) 1:30pm — Library How Amazon Works (p. 18)	10 9:30am — Library/Zoom London Past and Present (p. 19)
13 11:30am — Donnelly Smart Salads (p. 19) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Mickey Mouse Club (p. 14)	14 9:30am — Zoom Liberty and Loyalty (p. 15) 1:30pm — Library Mayor Rosalynn Bliss (p. 20) 5:00pm — Osher Online History in Six Songs (p. 30)	15 9:30am — Amway Grand Plaza Pantlind Hotel (p. 15) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 7) 1:30pm — Library OLLI Readers Series (p. 9) <i>Frankenstein</i>	16 11:00am — Osher Online In Darwin's Footsteps (p. 30) OLLI's GIVE2GROW HARVEST PARTY	17 9:30am — Library/Zoom London Past and Present (p. 19)
20 9:30am — Library/Zoom Trump and the Courts (p. 20) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Mickey Mouse Club (p. 14) 5:00pm — Osher Online Graceful Exits (p. 30)	21 9:30am — Library/Zoom Just War Theory (p. 21) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Rabbi Considers the Trinity (p. 21) 5:00pm — Osher Online History in Six Songs (p. 30)	22 9:30am — Zoom Gordie Howe Bridge (p. 22) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 7) 1:30pm — Library Edmund Fitzgerald (p. 22)	23 10:00am — Muskegon Art Michigan Made (p. 22) 11:00am — Osher Online In Darwin's Footsteps (p. 30)	24 9:30am — Library/Zoom London Past and Present (p. 19)
27 9:30am — Library/Zoom Trump and the Courts (p. 20) 1:30pm — Library The Group (p. 23) 5:00pm — Osher Online Graceful Exits (p. 30)	28 9:30am — Library/Zoom Just War Theory (p. 21) 5:00pm — Osher Online History in Six Songs (p. 30)	29 9:30am — Library Forest Bathing (p. 23) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Desdemona's Neighbors (p. 23)	30 9:30am — Library/Zoom Economic Headlines (p. 24) 11:00am — Osher Online In Darwin's Footsteps (p. 30) 1:30pm — Library Salem Witch Trials (p. 24)	31 9:30am — Library/Zoom London Past and Present (p. 19)

FALL 2025 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 - NOVEMBER 9:30am — Library/Zoom Trump and the Courts (p. 20) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Photographing America (p. 25) 5:00pm — Osher Online Graceful Exits (p. 30)	4 9:30am — Library/Zoom Just War Theory (p. 21) 5:00pm — Osher Online History in Six Songs (p. 30)	5 9:30am — Library Speaking Without Words (p. 25)	6 9:30am — Library/Zoom Economic Headlines (p. 24) 1:00am — Osher Online In Darwin's Footsteps (p. 30) 1:30pm — Library Salem Witch Trials (p. 24)	7 9:30am — Library Talkies Film Series (p. 14) <i>My Old Ass</i>
10 9:30am — Library/Zoom 20 English Words (p. 25) 1:30pm — Donnelly Buster Keaton (p. 26) 5:00pm — Osher Online Graceful Exits (p. 30)	11 9:30am — Library/Zoom Return to Vietnam (p. 26) 5:00pm — Osher Online History in Six Songs (p. 30)	12 9:30am — Zoom Broadway Divas (p. 26) 1:30pm — Library OLLI Readers Series (p. 9) <i>Persepolis</i>	13 9:30am — Library/Zoom Economic Headlines (p. 24) 1:00am — Osher Online In Darwin's Footsteps (p. 30) 1:30pm — Library French Riviera (p. 27)	14 OLLI CLOSED
17 9:30am — Library/Zoom 20 English Words (p. 25) 1:30pm — Donnelly Buster Keaton (p. 26) 5:00pm — Osher Online Graceful Exits (p. 30)	18 1:30pm — Library An Artist's Mind (p. 27) 5:00pm — Osher Online History in Six Songs (p. 30)	19 9:30am — Zoom Broadway Divas (p. 26)	20 9:30am — Library/Zoom Hot Topics: Epigenetics (p. 28) 1:00am — Osher Online In Darwin's Footsteps (p. 30) 1:30pm — Library French Riviera (p. 27)	21 OLLI CLOSED
24 9:30am — Library Papal Conclave (p. 28) 1:30pm — Zoom Bullfighting (p. 28) 5:00pm — Osher Online Graceful Exits (p. 30)	25 1:30pm — Library An Artist's Mind (p. 27)	26 OLLI CLOSED	27 OLLI CLOSED THANKSGIVING	28 OLLI CLOSED
1 - DECEMBER 9:30am — Library Papal Conclave (p. 28)	2 1:30pm — Library An Artist's Mind (p. 27)	3 9:30am — Zoom Broadway Divas (p. 26) 11:30am — Library A Thousand Words (p. 29)	4 9:30am — Library Leelanau County (p. 29) 1:30pm — Library African Americans in GR (p. 29)	5 9:30am — Library Talkies Film Series (p. 14) <i>The Lion King</i>
8 9:30am — Library Papal Conclave (p. 28)	9 1:30pm — Library An Artist's Mind (p. 27)	10 9:30am — Zoom Broadway Divas (p. 26) 11:30am — Library A Thousand Words (p. 29) 6:00pm — GR Montessori A Walk Through History (p. 8)	11 1:30pm — Library African Americans in GR (p. 29)	12 OLLI CLOSED



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1700 Fulton Street E
 Grand Rapids, MI 49506

CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.

OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

Actors' Theatre: Grand Rapids' Most Daring Theatre Company

Presented by: Fred Sebulske and Kyle Los

Get a front-row seat to an intimate, wide-ranging, and inspiring conversation between Actors' Theatre founder Fred Sebulske and current Executive Director Kyle Los. Held on the Spectrum Theatre stage on the opening night of *Hyenas*—the company's newest production directed by Los and written by local playwright Kristin Andrea Hanratty—this special event offers a powerful meeting of past and present. From its radical beginnings to its reputation for staging provocative and socially relevant work, Fred and Kyle reflect on what inspired the founding of Actors' Theatre, how it has carved out its distinct identity, how to carefully curate a season featuring local talent, and how bold entertainment can foster impactful conversations at a time when the arts are under attack.

NOTE: Validated 2-hour parking is available at the Grand Rapids Public Library Lot located at 181 Library Street NE.

*OLLI member **Fred Sebulske** is a former English, theatre, and film professor at Grand Rapids Community College. In 1981, he founded Actors' Theatre and served as its managing director for 26 years. Sebulske is an award-winning titan of the West Michigan theatre community, directing, producing, and starring in over 100 productions.*

***Kyle Los** is the executive director of Actors' Theatre. A prominent performer, director, and designer, his work on and off the stage earned him a spot on the Grand Rapids Business Journal's prestigious "40 Under 40" list of influential leaders.*

Date: **THU, Oct 9, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Spectrum Theatre**
160 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

How Amazon Works

Presented by: Mark Pereira, MBA

Ever wonder what happens when you place an order from Amazon.com? A company veteran will take you behind the scenes to share the challenges, innovations, and future of one of the world's largest retailers. Explore Amazon's vast logistics network, its use of data, and how eCommerce will shape what and how we buy in the age of automation and artificial intelligence.

*OLLI member **Mark Pereira** spent over twenty years as an executive at Amazon.com in various roles from retail and warehouse operations to management of an Amazon subsidiary. He earned an MS in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University and an MBA from Northwestern University. A holder of several patents in audiobook technology and inventory fulfillment, Pereira currently owns and operates two small businesses.*

Date: **THU, Oct 9, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

▼ Amazon processed 6.3 billion US delivery orders in 2024, equivalent to 17.2 million delivery orders per day.



OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

London Past and Present

Presented by: Martin Spence, PhD

London is one of the world's great cities. This course chronicles how London evolved from a small ancient settlement on the River Thames to become a sprawling metropolis of over eight million people.

Oct 10, 2025: Gift of the Thames – Explore Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and medieval London—a town of monks and merchants.

Oct 17, 2025: Through the Fire – This session will examine the destruction and renewal of the old city after the “Great Fire.” Trace the emergence of a new royal, political, and religious center up-river at Westminster.

Oct 24, 2025: The Capital of the World – Discuss the contradictions of Victorian London: a grand imperial city, but also an unruly urban conurbation wracked with poverty, disease, and crime.

Oct 31, 2025: London Calling – Despite Nazi bombardment, terrorism, and economic, racial, and social tensions, modern London has emerged as one of the world's most diverse and important global cultural and economic hubs.

***Martin Spence** is the academic director of the Calvin Wayfinder Project and an adjunct professor of history at Calvin University. He holds an MA and PhD in history from the University of Oxford in his native England. Professor Spence specializes in British and North American religion, culture, and identity.*

Dates: **FRI, Oct 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2025** (4 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

▼ A westward view across the River Thames featuring the Westminster Bridge, the iconic Big Ben clock tower, and the Palace of Westminster.



OLLI EXPERIENCES

Smart Salads: Greens with a Game Plan

Presented by: Casey Cid, MS

Say goodbye to boring bowls of iceberg lettuce and rock-hard croutons. It's time to explore a smart and simple approach to salad making—rooted in the game-changing philosophy of Samin Nosrat's book *Salt Fat Acid Heat*. In this interactive and flavorful workshop, balance these four essential elements to create vibrant, crave-worthy salads that are fast, affordable, healthy, and totally delicious!

***Casey Cid** is the executive assistant of the Office of Institutional Advancement at Aquinas College. She earned an MS in integrated marketing communications from West Virginia University. A health and culinary enthusiast with nearly ten years of experience in communications and marketing at Meijer, Cid gained a unique perspective on intentional grocery shopping and meal preparation.*

Date: **MON, Oct 13, 2025**
 Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Donnelly Center** [Limit 20]
 Course Fee: **\$25.00**

OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

Reflections from Former Mayor Rosalynn Bliss

Presented by: Rosalynn Bliss, MSW

Join former Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss for an exclusive, compelling conversation about leadership, legacy, lessons learned, and the future of the city she helped shape. As the first woman to hold the position, Bliss will share personal insights into her groundbreaking tenure including key accomplishments, tough challenges, and broken barriers in local politics. She'll offer her perspective on how local government operates and the role it plays in driving change. She will also share updates on key transformational projects in the city and her thoughts about what's next for Grand Rapids.

***Rosalynn Bliss** served as Grand Rapids' 60th—and first female—mayor from 2016 to 2025. She now serves as assistant dean and chief external relations officer for the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Bliss earned bachelor's degrees in psychology and criminal justice from the University of South Alabama and a MSW from Michigan State University.*

Date: **TUE, Oct 14, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ Rosalynn Bliss served as the first female mayor of Grand Rapids from 2016-2025.

HISTORY & POLITICS

Trump and the Courts

Presented by: Jon VanderPloeg, JD, and David Ryden, PhD

Few modern presidencies have tested the boundaries of American governance as forcefully as Donald Trump's. This course offers a timely examination of the high-stakes legal battles redefining questions of authority, accountability, and the durability of democratic guardrails. How might this barrage of courtroom confrontations reshape the balance of power in Washington and beyond?

Oct 20, 2025: The Federal Courts – Attorney Jon VanderPloeg will break down how the federal court system works, its geographical jurisdiction, and the legal mechanisms surrounding nationwide injunctions and enforcement. This session will also analyze recent threats to ignore court rulings and the implications such defiance poses for the rule of law.

Oct 27, 2025: The Challenges – Professor David Ryden will analyze the ever-growing catalogue of constitutional questions raised by the Trump administration's first year blitzkrieg of executive action. Discussion topics will include the president's pardoning power, far-reaching executive orders across a range of policy areas (i.e. DEI, immigration enforcement, and trans issues), impoundment of congressionally authorized funds, unilateral presidential levying of tariffs, and institutional fights picked with elite universities, law firms, and "blue" cities—just to name a few.

Nov 3, 2025: The Scorecard – How are President Trump's policy initiatives faring across the federal judiciary, and how are the courts holding up in the face of the onslaught of litigation surrounding them? How might citizens and legal practitioners alike work to restore constitutional norms and practices amongst their steady erosion which has seemingly reached its apotheosis under Trump.

*OLLI member **Jon VanderPloeg** is a lawyer with fifty years of appellate practice in the Michigan Court of Appeals, the Michigan Supreme Court, and the Federal 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. He received a JD from Indiana University Bloomington. VanderPloeg currently serves as of counsel at Hilger Hammond, PC.*

***David Ryden** is a professor of political science at Hope College. He earned a BA from Concordia College, a JD from the University of Minnesota Law School, and a PhD from The Catholic University of America. Professor Ryden is the author of numerous books and articles on the Supreme Court, political parties, and constitutionalism, including The U.S. Supreme Court and the Electoral Process.*

Dates: **MON, Oct 20, 27, and Nov 3, 2025** (3 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

Perspectives on Just War Theory

Presented by: Fr. Robert Keller, OP, and Roger Durham, PhD

Can war ever be truly just? Can a just war be waged unjustly? These questions lie at the heart of Just War Theory—a framework that has shaped ethical, moral, and political debates about conflict for centuries. From ancient theology to modern geopolitics, this course examines how and why societies justify war, the moral limits of warfare, and whether these ideas still hold power in the 21st century. How enduring is Just War Theory, and what does it offer in today's age of drone strikes, hybrid warfare, and civilian displacement?

Oct 21, 2025: Origins – This session explores the religious and philosophical foundations of Just War Theory, with particular focus on the contributions of St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. Examine two key components: *jus ad bellum* (the justification for going to war) and *jus in bello* (the ethical conduct during war). Discussion will include criteria such as just cause, right intention, proportionality, last resort, and legitimate authority.

Oct 28, 2025: When the Guns Fall Silent – What happens after a war ends? This session addresses *jus post bellum*—the moral and political responsibilities of states and actors *after* armed conflict. Topics include post-war justice, reconciliation, reconstruction, and how the concept of proportionality plays out beyond the battlefield. Examine the role of international institutions (i.e. United Nations, International Criminal Court, etc.) and peace agreements to see how realistic or idealistic Just War Theory is when it comes to healing divided societies.

Nov 4, 2025: Just War in a Modern World – How do the ideals of Just War Theory stand up in today's complex conflicts? In this final session, analyze current events in places like Gaza and Ukraine—as well as the War on Terror—through the lenses of *jus ad bellum*, *jus in bello*, and *jus post bellum*. Discuss how war is “sold” to citizens, proxy warfare, and the ethics of intervention. Are democracies, due to their structures and norms, inherently more peaceful? What is the future of armed conflict as democracies fall?

Fr. Robert “Bob” Keller, OP, is a chaplain and adjunct professor of theology at Aquinas College. He has an MA in theology from the Aquinas Institute of Theology and a PhD in sociology of religion from the Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, CA). Fr. Bob has served as a campus minister for over twenty years.

Roger Durham is the Palmatier Endowed Professor and chair of political science and international studies at Aquinas College. He earned an MA and PhD in political science from the University of Oregon. Professor Durham is a popular panelist, lecturer, and consultant on international law.

Dates: **TUE, Oct 21, 28, and Nov 4, 2025** (3 sessions)
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ A member of the Ukrainian National Guard carries a mortar shell.

ARTS & CULTURE

A Rabbi Considers the Origins of the Trinity

Presented by: Rabbi Albert M. Lewis, PhD

Why is the number three so powerful—and how did it become central to the Christian idea of the Trinity? Join Rabbi Albert M. Lewis for a mindful exploration of the mystery of the Trinity through its Jewish and Greco-Roman origins while also asking the questions: Why not two or five? Why do we teach children 123s and ABCs? Does 1+1 equal 3—or just maybe, 1?

OLLI member **Rabbi Albert M. Lewis** is rabbi emeritus of Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids. Ordained at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), he holds a PhD in Hebrew literature. A prolific author, Rabbi Lewis was the founding president of Hospice of Grand Rapids and the Western Michigan chapter of the Michigan Society for Gerontology. He is also a member of the Aquinas College Hall of Fame and a past director of the Emeritus College (now OLLI at Aquinas).

Date: **TUE, Oct 21, 2025**
Time: **1:30pm - 3:30pm***
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Gordie Howe International Bridge Project

Presented by: Stephanie Campeau

It's no small feat to build a bridge that's 1.5 miles long, spans an international border, diversifies trade and commuter routes, and carries the weight of both regional economies and political expectations. Named for the famed Detroit Red Wings captain, construction on the Gordie Howe International Bridge officially began in 2018, and over the last seven years, the transformation has been nothing short of monumental. As the project nears completion, this course will detail the history of this complex undertaking as well as the private-public partnership which coordinates the financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of this new infrastructural behemoth.

Stephanie Campeau is the associate vice president of stakeholder and community relations for the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA). She holds a BA in communication studies from the University of Windsor. Prior to joining WDBA, Campeau's 20+ year career as a professional communicator spanned post-secondary education, automotive, and utility industries.

Date: **WED, Oct 22, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

HISTORY & POLITICS

Edmund Fitzgerald: The Stories, the Song

Presented by: Mike Fornes

"The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down..." To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the tragic sinking of the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald*, this course presents a powerful live musical tribute to the lost ship, its 29-member crew, and the unforgettable song that immortalized their haunting tale. Through vivid storytelling and moving performance, discover the lives behind the legend, the storm that sealed their fate, and the ironies surrounding the Great Lakes' most well-known maritime disaster. With an authentic portrayal of Gordon Lightfoot, explore the writing and recording of his iconic ballad, "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald."

Mike Fornes is an author and retired radio and television sports broadcaster. Channeling his passion for folk rock music, the Great Lakes, and the North Country, he has portrayed Gordon Lightfoot on stage for nearly twenty years. His authentic performances are born of his interactions with surviving family members of those lost on the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald*, and *Lightfoot* himself.

Date: **WED, Oct 22, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



OLLI EXPERIENCES

Michigan Made: Art and Architecture in Muskegon

Travel to the "Port City" for a self-guided tour of the recently renovated (and expanded) Muskegon Museum of Art exhibiting both *Art Nouveau: Age of Elegance* and the 96th Michigan Contemporary Art Exhibition—a juried show celebrating the painting, sculpture, ceramics, and textiles of modern Michigan artists. Then step back in time with a docent-led tour of the Hackley & Hume Historic Site, where the beautifully restored homes of two lumber-era giants reveal the elegance and ambition of Muskegon's Gilded Age.

NOTE: The event fee includes venue admission. Participants should be prepared for considerable walking, standing, and some stair climbing. Carpooling is encouraged. Lunch will be on your own at one of the many restaurants in downtown Muskegon.

Date: **THU, Oct 23, 2025**
 Time: **10:00am - 5:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Muskegon Museum of Art, Hackley & Hume Historic Site**
 Event Fee: **\$20.00**

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

The Group: From Idealism to Authoritarian Reality

Presented by: Judy Whipps, PhD

1969 was a time of cultural crisis. Between race riots, political assassinations, and the drafting of friends for the Vietnam War, OLLI member Judy Whipps needed to find a way to either change the world, or leave it. When she joined a group of enthusiastic people at a local church, she didn't know it would spark a fifteen-year immersion in an authoritarian cult that controlled every aspect of her life and even endangered her survival. Influenced by today's resurgence of cult-like thinking—both politically and culturally, this revealing course will take you back to 1969, and examine the historic appeal of authoritarianism through one woman's idealistic quest for belonging, and her brave choice to leave.

*OLLI member **Judy Whipps** is a professor emerita of philosophy and interdisciplinary studies at Grand Valley State University. She has an MA in divinity studies from the University of Chicago, and a PhD in philosophy from the Union Institute and University (Ohio). Professor Whipps is the author of over three dozen articles and books.*

Date: **MON, Oct 27, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

OLLI EXPERIENCES

The Healing Power of “Forest Bathing”

Presented by: Katie Venechuk

Open your heart and mind to nature with a guided “forest bathing” experience on the beautiful campus of Aquinas College. This course introduces the wellness practice of Shinrin-yoku—an internationally recognized, natural approach to stress-relief that goes far beyond a simple walk in the woods. Enjoy a peaceful morning of guided meditation, mindful breathing, and nature-based reflection designed to calm the mind, balance the body, and foster meaningful connection.

NOTE: Participants should expect walking on uneven terrain. Please wear weather-appropriate footwear and clothing.

***Katie Venechuk** is the founder of In Your Element Wellness, a local organization providing nature-centered wellness programs. A graduate of Michigan State University (MSU), she began her career as an environmental engineer. Venechuk is an Association of Nature and Forest Therapy-certified forest therapy guide, and an MSU Extension-certified Michigan Master Naturalist.*

Date: **WED, Oct 29, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 15]

PANTLIND SERIES

Desdemona's Neighbors: The Pioneering Women of Grand Rapids

Presented by: Carol R. Dodge

The Sweet House—the now 160-year-old Italianate mansion on the southwest corner of Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue—was the home of Grand Rapids Mayor Martin Luther Sweet and his wife Desdemona. It was also the center of the city's social and political life. Take a seat at Desdemona's table alongside five incredible women whose remarkable contributions shaped Grand Rapids history: Lucy Ball (the city's first professionally trained librarian, and youngest daughter of John Ball), Sophie Campau (wife of Grand Rapids founder Louis Campau), Anna Bissell (the first woman CEO in the United States), Hattie Guild Burton (the city's earliest settler), and Lucinda Pike (wife of fur trader and Native American advocate, Abram Pike).

***Carol R. Dodge** is an author, historian, docent, and founding member of the Sweet House Foundation. A Grand Rapids native, she has been an active member of the Women's City Club for over forty years, once serving as the organization's president.*

Date: **WED, Oct 29, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

Economic Headlines, Explained

Presented by: Dave Hebert, PhD

How much do we actually learn from scrolling chyrons or clickable, attention-grabbing headlines? The national debt, international competition, and battles over the minimum wage 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.

Oct 30, 2025: National Debt – The national debt represents the total amount the federal government owes its creditors. Is it a sign of a looming crisis, or a necessary tool for economic growth? What's the difference between debt and deficit—and who actually holds the debt? Explore how it's financed, what risks it poses, and why politicians can't seem to agree on what to do about it.

Nov 6, 2025: International Competition – What does it mean to say the United States is “falling behind” China or Europe? Is the race for dominance in technology, manufacturing, and energy winnable—or even measurable? This session breaks down the real economics behind geopolitical rivalry.

Nov 13, 2025: Minimum Wage – The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Unpack the economic theories, political arguments, and lived realities behind this national policy. How was a federal wage floor first implemented, how does it compare to state and local wages, and what is the data saying about its effect on jobs, inflation, and inequality?

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: **THU, Oct 30, Nov 6, and 13, 2025** (3 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Location: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

HISTORY & POLITICS

Thou Shalt Not Suffer a Witch to Live: The Salem Witch Trials

Presented by: Jessica Riley, JD

They called it justice, but history calls it a cautionary tale. The witch hysteria of 1692 started in Salem, Massachusetts, and spread quickly to other nearby towns and villages. By its end a year later, over 200 people were accused of witchcraft and twenty were horrifically executed. When fear ruled and reason vanished, neighbors became enemies, and an entire community came undone.

Oct 30, 2025: Fertile for Fear – Colonial life in 17th-century New England was brutal. This session explores how that volatile environment—marked by political instability, social tension, and religious extremism—set the stage for the Salem Witch Trials. When four young girls began to exhibit strange behavior and leveled accusations of witchcraft, their claims ignited a wave of paranoia that quickly engulfed the region, blurred the line between superstition and reality, and plunged a tight-knit Puritan community into chaos.

Nov 6, 2025: Spectral Evidence – As the list of the accused grew, jails overflowed, and ad hoc courtrooms accepted unconventional, and deeply controversial, evidence as proof of guilt. This session explores how the legal process unraveled as public displays of possession by the so-called afflicted girls—screaming, convulsing, and speaking in tongues—lent dramatic weight to the accusations.

Jessica Riley is the president of the Western Michigan Genealogical Society, contributor to the Grand Rapids Historical Society, and helps adoptees identify birth families through DNA testing. She earned a BA in history from St. Norbert College (De Pere, WI) and a JD from Michigan State University. Riley is the owner of a small, fair-trade business.

Dates: **THU, Oct 30 and Nov 6, 2025** (2 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



▲ *Examination of a Witch* (1853) by T. H. Matteson, inspired by the Salem trials.

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

On the Road: Photographing America in 1955

Presented by: Rodney Martin, JD

In 1955, photographers Robert Frank and Todd Webb were each awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to travel and document America—Frank by car, and Webb on foot, by bicycle, and by skiff. Frank's journey produced *The Americans*, a landmark book that helped shape a new photographic aesthetic, while Webb's images remained largely unseen until their rediscovery in 2016. This course revisits both projects to see what they reveal about photography and American life in the mid-1950s.

OLLI member Rodney Martin is a retired attorney. He has a BA in political science and economics from Kalamazoo College and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School. Martin is an amateur photographer whose published and publicly exhibited work principally concentrates on landscape and nature photography.

Date: **MON, Nov 3, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ *Parade—Hoboken, New Jersey (1955)*, a gelatin silver print by Robert Frank.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Speaking Without Words

Presented by: David Weinandy, PhD

What we don't say often speaks louder than what we do—and this ear-opening course will help you harness that silent language. Whether you're navigating relationships or building confidence, identify and implement practical tools to take control of the unspoken signals you send and receive every day. Explore the not-so-hidden world of facial expressions, gestures, tone of voice, eye contact, and more—even the subtle cues often linked to deception. If you've ever wondered what your body is really saying, this is your chance to find out and become a more powerful, perceptive communicator—without saying a word!

David Weinandy is an award-winning professor of communication at Aquinas College. He earned a BA in psychology, a BS in social work, an MA in college student personnel, and PhD in interpersonal communication, all from Bowling Green State University. Professor Weinandy is a popular communication consultant and public speaker.

Date: **WED, Nov 5, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

ARTS & CULTURE

History in 20 English Words

Presented by: Gary Eberle, MA

The English language is a layer cake of delights thanks to waves of invasion, immigration, and emigration. This course will take twenty (or so) English words as entry points into the fascinating history of the language that had its beginnings before the 5th century and shows no signs of being near its end. The choice of words will be eclectic—if not, weird—and you may find yourself saying, "I didn't know that," more than once each session.

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 former 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: **MON, Nov 10 and 17, 2025 (2 sessions)**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

Buster Keaton's Comedic Genius

Presented by: Robert Edwards, MM

Comedy great Buster Keaton grew up on the road as a member of a travelling vaudeville family, but he always said that Muskegon, Michigan—where he spent summers at an actor's camp—was the closest he came to feeling at home. In this lively retrospective, explore Keaton's comedic brilliance through a selection of films spanning different periods of his life and career. Pianist Robert Edwards will provide live musical accompaniment using his own period-inspired scores, bringing Keaton's silent masterpieces to life. Enjoy Keaton's dry, deadpan humor, inventive gags, clever storytelling, and physical athleticism in a celebration of one of cinema's true geniuses.

Robert Edwards is an accomplished pianist, teacher, accompanist, and composer. He earned a BM and an MM in classical piano performance from the University of North Texas. An avid performer, Edwards is regularly involved in solo work, chamber music, singing, and educating students of all ages.

Dates: **MON, Nov 10 and 17, 2025** (2 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Donnelly Center**



HISTORY & POLITICS

VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM: A Veteran's Return to Vietnam

Presented by: Sgt. Cliff Tholen

On March 1, 1969, Sgt. Cliff Tholen watched in horror as the body of a fellow American soldier killed in action fell from a Chinook recovery chopper during a chaotic extraction in Quang Ngai province, south of Da Nang. Just one week later, Tholen himself was seriously wounded and evacuated from Vietnam, never expecting to return. But, nearly five decades later, he was invited to take part in a rare joint US-Vietnamese recovery mission, coordinated by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), to locate and repatriate the remains of that fallen soldier. Retrace Tholen's steps through war-torn memories and the modern Vietnamese landscape with his firsthand account of the emotional tolls and diplomatic efforts that continue long after the fighting ends.

Army Sgt. **Cliff Tholen** served as a combat infantry squad leader with the Americal Division's 11th Light Infantry Brigade from October 1968 until he was wounded in March 1969. Sgt. Tholen later earned both a BS and MBA from Wayne State University.

Date: **TUE, Nov 11, 2025**
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

Broadway Divas

Presented by: Sam and Candy Caponegro

What makes a true Broadway diva? Is it the voice, the attitude, the sparkle—or all of the above? This dazzling course celebrates the unforgettable and gloriously over-the-top performers who've defined the Great White Way. Through clips and lively discussion, explore the lives, talents, and backstage stories of showstopping stars like Zero Mostel, Carol Channing, Barbra Streisand, and many more. From the golden age to the modern stage, examine what it really means to command the spotlight.

Nov 12, 2025: Early Broadway Divas – Meet the original scene-stealers like Al Jolson, Fanny Brice, Eddie Cantor, and Ethel Merman.

Nov 19, 2025: One-Named Wonders – Sometimes all a diva needs is one name. Witness the brilliance of Judy, Liza, Chita, and Barbra.

Dec 3, 2025: Battling Divas – Explore the rivalries, feuds, and relationships of Patti LuPone, Glenn Close, Mary Martin, and more.

Dec 10, 2025: Broadway Divas Today – From Bernadette Peters and Bette Midler to Sutton Foster and Hugh Jackman (yes, he counts!), discover which stars are carrying the “diva torch” into the present.

Sam and Candy Caponegro are lifelong theatre fans and educators. Hailing from New Jersey, they met while performing in a musical and have been acting, directing, and teaching together for over forty years.

Dates: **WED, Nov 12, 19, Dec 3, and 10, 2025** (4 sessions)
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

A Journey to the French Riviera

Presented by: Judy Cotner, MEd

Escape to the sun-drenched southern coast of France in this visually rich, armchair travel experience through the enchanting French Riviera. From sparkling Mediterranean views to charming hillside villages, immerse yourself in the region's vibrant culture, iconic landmarks, and world-renowned art and cuisine.

Nov 13, 2025: Nice and Monaco – Begin the journey in Nice, where the Alps meet the sea in a breathtaking display. Wander through the colorful Old City and its famed flower market, visit the inspiring art museums of Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse, and admire the exotic gardens of the opulent Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Experience the glamour of Monaco—watch the Changing of the Guard at the Royal Palace, marvel at the Monte Carlo Casino, and cruise along the legendary Grand Prix race track. End your day in the picturesque fishing village of Villefranche-sur-Mer, where evenings glow with coastal charm.

Nov 20, 2025: Provence – Travel inland to the “City of a Thousand Fountains,” Aix-en-Provence, which was the home of artist Paul Cézanne. Discover its sunlit streets, historic water features, and café-lined squares. Then venture into the surrounding countryside, a patchwork of lavender fields, vineyards, medieval castles, and hilltop villages like Roussillon, lined with ochre-pigmented stucco homes. Conclude your trip in the coastal city of Arles, a destination and artistic muse of Vincent Van Gogh.

***Judy Cotner** is a retired elementary school teacher. She received her teaching certification from Michigan State University and an MEd in early childhood education from Grand Valley State University. Cotner has traveled the world, and her stunning photo presentations are told in a personal journalistic style.*

Dates: **THU, Nov 13 and 20, 2025** (2 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

ARTS & CULTURE

Welcome to an Artist's Mind

Presented by: Carolyn Stitch

It's time to find your inner artist! Tap into the carefree joy of painting with acrylics in this hands-on course designed for beginners. With a little curiosity and a splash of color, you'll surprise yourself with what you can create. Each week brings a new technique, a new challenge, and a lot of fun!

Nov 18, 2025: What with What Makes What? – Mix it up—literally! Explore primary colors, create your own color wheel, and paint using only the colors you've blended yourself.

Nov 25, 2025: Where is That Light Coming From? – Play with highlights, color values, and shadows as you learn how to give your paintings depth and dimension.

Dec 2, 2025: Put the Brush Down! – Who needs brushes? Discover the bold, textured world of palette knife painting and get messy in the best way.

Dec 9, 2025: Wow! Did I Really Paint That? – Bring it all together in a final painting that shows off your new skills—and your unique creative spark!

***Carolyn Stitch** is an award-winning artist, illustrator, and owner of Carolyn Stitch Studio in Holland, Michigan. Painting in a vibrant, colorful style for more than twenty years, her work has been commissioned around the world, and she has twice won the Tulip Time poster competition.*

Dates: **TUE, Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, and 9, 2025** (4 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**
Course Fee: **\$50.00**



▲ Artwork by Carolyn Stitch.

Carolyn Stitch

OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hot Topics: How Heat and Epigenetics May Be Shaping Your Biological Clock

Presented by: Ilaria Panzeri, PhD

Epigenetics is the science of how our genes are regulated without changing the underlying DNA code—and it plays a crucial role in how we age, how we respond to our environment, and how diseases like cancer develop. This introductory course will explore how external factors such as heat, diet, and stress can alter the “biological clocks” embedded in our cells. With a particular focus on molecular marks that record our environmental history, identify what “biological age” really means, how it can be measured, and what new research is revealing about how to stay healthier longer.

Ilaria Panzeri is a research scientist at the Van Andel Institute. She earned a PhD in translational and molecular medicine from the University of Milano-Bicocca in Italy. Dr. Panzeri investigates how early-life environmental and metabolic factors shape cancer risk.

Date: **THU, Nov 20, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

White Smoke: Inside the Papal Conclave

Presented by: Michael Ingram, MA

“Habemus papam!” What really happens behind the closed doors of the Sistine Chapel when the world’s most secretive election begins? This timely course pulls back the veil on the sacred traditions and modern-day procedures that end with a puff of white smoke.

Nov 24, 2025: Choosing Popes – From Peter to the papal ballot, explore the origins of the papacy and uncover the twists, turns, and politics behind the evolution of papal elections—from open acclamation to locked-door conclaves.

Dec 1, 2025: The Modern Papal Election – This session opens the Vatican’s official texts—both practical and spiritual—that dictate every step of a modern conclave. Discover what is known and not known about this mysterious ritual.

Dec 8, 2025: Reenacting a Conclave – Put your new knowledge into practice in an interactive simulation of a papal election. Step into the shoes (or red hats) of a cardinal-elect and experience the traditions, ballots, and secrecy of a modern-day conclave.

Michael 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.

Dates: **MON, Nov 24, Dec 1, and 8, 2025** (3 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bullfighting in Life and Business

Presented by: John V. Petrocelli

Bullsh*t (BS)—communication delivered without regard for truth or evidence—should be treated with the same skepticism as outright lies, despite people’s tendency to judge it more leniently. Research demonstrates that BS can be more persuasive and harmful than direct lies because it creates ambiguity that makes false claims harder to dismiss, produces stronger “sleepier effects” over time, and degrades our collective ability to distinguish meaningful information from nonsense. This course provides practical strategies for recognizing and combating BS, including requesting plain language explanations, probing for specific evidence, and modeling evidence-based reasoning to create environments where substance is valued over empty rhetoric.

*John V. Petrocelli is an experimental social psychologist and professor of psychology at Wake Forest University. He earned an MA in community psychology from Slippery Rock University (Pennsylvania) and a PhD in psychology from Indiana University Bloomington. Petrocelli is journal editor and the author of The Life-Changing Science of Detecting Bullsh*t.*

Date: **MON, Nov 24, 2025**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

Facilitated by: Dave Kampfschulte, MEd

Creativity can open doors that conversation alone cannot. In this hands-on, discussion-based workshop, use simple drawings and pipe cleaner art to explore social topics, deepen understanding, express emotion, spark insight, and connect more deeply with yourself and others. No art experience is needed. You may just be surprised by what your own creativity can reveal.

*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.*

Dates: **WED, Dec 3 and 10, 2025** (2 sessions)
 Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
 Course Fee: **\$20.00**

HISTORY & POLITICS

Vintage Views of Leelanau County

Presented by: M. Christine Byron and Thomas R. Wilson

Take a visual journey through scenic Leelanau County with a collection of historic photos, postcards, maps, and vintage advertisements inviting you to explore the “Land of Delight.” From beautiful lakes and rivers to towering sand dunes, charming towns, and quaint hotels and resorts, capture the region’s timeless appeal. Climb mainland and Manitou Islands lighthouses, visit early life-saving stations, hike state parks, and discover how Sleeping Bear Dunes earned its place as a National Lakeshore.

*OLLI members **M. Christine (Chris) Byron** and **Thomas R. (Tom) Wilson** share a love and fascination of Michigan and Great Lake State tourism. Award-winning historians and authors, their published books and articles are inspired by their large collection of vintage travel brochures, booklets, maps, and other ephemera.*

Date: **THU, Dec 4, 2025**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

PANTLIND SERIES

African Americans in Early Grand Rapids

Presented by: Ruth Van Stee

Positioned between the cultural hubs of Chicago and Detroit, Grand Rapids has built a distinct and powerful Black history of its own. This course highlights the African American families, churches, organizations, and businesses who laid the foundation for Black life in the city—from the earliest residents before the Civil War to the dramatic population growth brought by the Great Migration.

Dec 4, 2025 – By 1900, more than 600 Black residents in Grand Rapids had established a strong, close-knit community anchored by institutions such as the Messiah Baptist Church (founded in 1890), the Grand Rapids Study Club, the Nineteenth Century Club, James Craig’s successful barber shop, and a local NAACP chapter chartered in 1919—all serving as platforms for social and political influence in the face of persistent racism.

Dec 11, 2025 – In the 1920s and 1940s, waves of Black migrants from the South brought new energy to Grand Rapids’ African American community, even as discriminatory practices continued to limit employment and housing opportunities. This session introduces Dr. Emmett Bolden’s groundbreaking 1927 court case that challenged segregation in Michigan, Club Indigo, and key “firsts” in city government and law enforcement.

***Ruth Van Stee** is an award-winning historian and retired librarian. She is an active presenter and member of the Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council and the Grand Rapids Historical Society.*

Dates: **THU, Dec 4 and 11, 2025** (2 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

OSHER ONLINE

All **Osher Online** courses are six sessions in length and available for just **\$60.00** per person. Space is limited, and **registration closes TUE, Sep 22, 2025**. To participate, all registrants must attend a virtual Osher Online orientation on **MON, Sep 30, 2025**, at **2:00pm EST**.

HISTORY & POLITICS

American History in Six Songs (Approximately)

Presented by: Matt Jennings, PhD

Whether you're in Macon, Memphis, Muscle Shoals, or Massapequa, music matters, and our varied musical heritage is one of the best ways to understand crucial moments in American history. This course explores Indigenous expressions, colonialism, forced African migration, and the cultural shifts of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Through the interplay of genres and traditions, examine how music captures the evolving American experience.

Matt Jennings is an author and professor of history at Middle Georgia State University. He earned a MA and PhD in history from the University of Illinois. While Professor Jennings specializes in Native American history, his passion for American music history manifests in his sporadic and sophomore efforts on the guitar, mandolin, and banjo.

Dates: **TUE, Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, and 18, 2025** (6 sessions)

Time: **5:00pm - 6:30pm**

Modality: **VIRTUAL | Osher Online** [Limit 12]

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

In Darwin's Footsteps: A Journey to the Galapagos

Presented by: Eric Simon, PhD

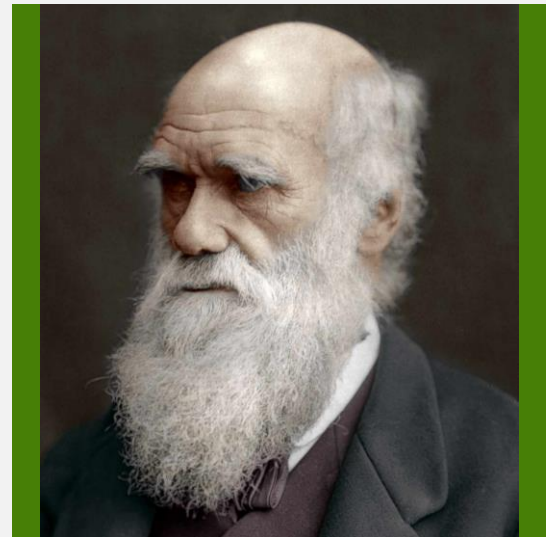
From 1831-1836, Charles Darwin circumnavigated the globe aboard the HMS *Beagle*. In the Galapagos Islands and elsewhere, Darwin collected data that, after decades of study and reflection, formed the basis for his publication *On the Origin of Species*. The ideas presented in that volume remain the foundation of all modern biological thought. Drawing upon original source materials and photos, this course provides historical and cultural context of Darwin's era, retraces the five-year journey, discusses how Darwin came to his conclusions, and explains his theories in detail.

Eric Simon is a professor of biology at New England College. He received an MA in biology from Wesleyan University and a PhD in biochemistry from Harvard University. An avid traveler and award-winning nature photographer, Professor Simon leads educational trips to destinations around the world.

Dates: **THU, Oct 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, and 20, 2025** (6 sessions)

Time: **11:00am - 12:30pm**

Modality: **VIRTUAL | Osher Online** [Limit 12]



▲ Evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin.

ARTS & CULTURE

Graceful Exits: Exploring the Economics, Ethics, and Ethos of Death With Dignity

Presented by: Aleen Bayard, PhD

It's one of the most profound and debated issues of our time—death with dignity. This thought-provoking course takes you inside the history, ethics, and legal frameworks surrounding assisted suicide and physician-assisted euthanasia. From the provocative legacy of Dr. Jack Kevorkian to today's shifting policies and cultural attitudes, examine how society continues to grapple with end-of-life choices. Through guided discussion and critical reflection, unpack the moral, medical, and legal complexities of choosing how we die.

Aleen Bayard is an adjunct faculty member at Northwestern University, teaching leadership and change management. She holds degrees from Stanford University, Columbia University, and Northwestern University, and earned a PhD from Benedictine University. Through her consulting practice, she develops programs on leadership, employee engagement, and team performance.

Dates: **MON, Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2025** (6 sessions)

Time: **5:00pm - 6:30pm**

Modality: **VIRTUAL | Osher Online** [Limit 12]

FALL 2025 SUMMARY

COURSE	SESSIONS	DATES / TIMES	LOCATION	FEE	PAGE	INTEREST?
Pardon and Disclosure	1	MON, Sep 8, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	6	
Ranked Choice Voting	1	MON, Sep 8, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	6	
Memoir Writing	4	TUE, Sep 9, 16, 23, and 30, 9:30am	Library	\$40	6	
Christians of the Middle East	4	TUE, Sep 9, 16, 23, and 30, 1:30pm	Library	\$40	7	
History of Fashion	4	WED, Sep 10, 17, 24, and Oct 1, 9:30am	Library	\$40	7	
This Is Where I Stand: Part 1	3	WED, Sept 10, 17, and 24, 11:30am	Library	\$30	7	
This Is Where I Stand: Part 2	3	WED, Oct 8, 15, and 22, 11:30am	Library	\$30	7	
A Walk Through History	2	THU, Sep 11, 9:30am, WED, Dec 10, 6:00pm	St. Mark's / Montessori	\$20	8	
Gilded Age Politics	3	THU, Sep 11, 18, and 25, 1:30pm	Library	\$30	8	
Wildcrafting	1	MON, Sep 15, 9:30am	Library	\$10	9	
OLLI Readers Series	3	WED, Sep 17, Oct 15, and Nov 12, 1:30pm	Library	\$30	9	
Toy Cryptocurrency	2	THU, Sep 18 and 25, 9:30am	Library	\$20	10	
Lowe and Behold	1	FRI, Sep 19, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$0	10	
Sikhism	2	MON, Sep 22 and 29, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$20	11	
Medicare 101	1	MON, Sep 22, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	11	
Global Solidarities	1	WED, Sep 24, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	11	
Saving Sullivan Field	1	FRI, Sep 26, 9:30pm	Sullivan Field	\$10	12	
Vatican II Treasures	1	WED, Oct 1, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	12	
Exploring Eastown	2	THU, Oct 2, 9:30am AND 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$25	13	
Talkies Film Series	3	FRI, Oct 3, Nov 7, and Dec 5, 9:30am	Library	\$30	14	
Mickey Mouse Club	3	MON, Oct 6, 13, and 20, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$30	14	
Liberty and Loyalty	2	TUE, Oct 7 and 14, 9:30am	Zoom	\$20	15	
Pantlind Hotel	2	WED, Oct 8 and 15, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom / Amway	\$35	15	
Actor's Theatre	1	THU, Oct 9, 9:30am	Spectrum Theatre	\$10	18	
How Amazon Works	1	THU, Oct 9, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	18	
London Past and Present	4	FRI, Oct 10, 17, 24, and 31, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$40	19	
Smart Salads	1	MON, Oct 13, 11:30am	Donnelly	\$25	19	
Mayor Rosalynn Bliss	1	TUE, Oct 14, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	20	
Trump and the Courts	3	MON, Oct 20, 27, and Nov 3, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$30	20	
Just War Theory	3	TUE, Oct 21, 28, and Nov 4, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$30	21	
Rabbi Considers the Trinity	1	TUE, Oct 21, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	21	
Gordie Howe Bridge	1	WED, Oct 22, 9:30am	Zoom	\$10	22	
Edmund Fitzgerald	1	WED, Oct 22, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	22	
Michigan Made	1	THU, Oct 23, 10am	Muskegon Art	\$20	22	
The Group	1	MON, Oct 27, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	23	
Forest Bathing	1	WED, Oct 29, 9:30am	Library	\$10	23	
Desdemona's Neighbors	1	WED, Oct 29, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	23	
Economic Headlines	3	THU, Oct 30, Nov 6, and 13, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$30	24	
Salem Witch Trials	2	THU, Oct 30 and Nov 6, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	24	
Photographing America	1	MON, Nov 3, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	25	
Speaking Without Words	1	WED, Nov 5, 9:30am	Library	\$10	25	
20 English Words	2	MON, Nov 10 and 17, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$20	25	
Buster Keaton	2	MON, Nov 10 and 17, 1:30pm	Donnelly	\$20	26	
Return to Vietnam	1	TUE, Nov 11, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	26	
Broadway Divas	4	WED, Nov 12, 19, Dec 3, and 10, 9:30am	Zoom	\$40	26	
French Riviera	2	THU, Nov 13 and 20, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	27	
An Artist's Mind	4	TUE, Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, and 9, 1:30pm	Library	\$50	27	
Hot Topics: Epigenetics	1	THU, Nov 20, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	28	
Papal Conclave	3	MON, Nov 24, Dec 1, and 8, 9:30am	Library	\$30	28	
Bullfighting	1	MON, Nov 24, 1:30pm	Zoom	\$10	28	
A Thousand Words	2	WED, Dec 3 and 10, 11:30am	Library	\$20	29	
Leelanau County	1	THU, Dec 4, 9:30am	Library	\$10	29	
African Americans in GR	2	THU, Dec 4 and 11, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	29	
History in Six Songs	6	TUE, Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, and 18, 5pm	Osher Online	\$60	30	
In Darwin's Footsteps	6	THU, Oct 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, and 20, 11am	Osher Online	\$60	30	
Graceful Exits	6	MON, Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, and 24, 5pm	Osher Online	\$60	30	



AQUINAS
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**1700 Fulton Street E
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CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.

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Ian MacNeil, Director

Susan Kohloff, Program Administrator

Corey Boehm, Program Administrator

FALL 2025

SEPTEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 12

REGISTRATION OPENS **AUGUST 27, 2025**



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