

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AQUINAS COLLEGE

COURSE CATALOG
FALL 2026
SEPTEMBER 8 – DECEMBER 11

REGISTRATION OPENS **AUGUST 26, 2026**



AQUINAS
COLLEGE

GETTING STARTED

WHAT IS OLLI?

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Aquinas College is a member-driven lifelong learning community where intellectually curious adults learn, connect, and grow through engaging educational experiences.

OLLI at Aquinas College is one of 124 similar programs endowed by Bernard Osher and supported by the Osher National Resource Center at Northwestern University.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Membership is required to participate in OLLI courses, programs, and events. The OLLI membership year runs from July 1–June 30, and annual memberships are valid from the date of purchase through June 30. Membership is **\$75** per person through November 15, after which dues are prorated. One universal membership plan gives all members access to register for any OLLI offerings—you only pay for the courses and events you choose to attend. Visit www.aquinas.edu/olli-membership to join or renew, or contact OLLI at **616.632.2430** to confirm your status.

HOW DO COURSES WORK?

OLLI courses are offered in three terms:

Fall:	September–December
Winter:	January–March
Spring:	April–June

Most courses are 90 minutes long and begin at **9:30am**, **11:30am**, or **1:30pm**, unless otherwise noted.

OLLI courses are offered in three formats:

IN-PERSON ONLY – Held primarily in the OLLI classroom on the second floor of the Grace Hauenstein Library at Aquinas College. Some courses may take place at offsite locations, with parking and other details provided.

VIRTUAL ONLY – Offered online through the OLLI Virtual Classroom on [Zoom](#). A single access link is used for all virtual courses:

ACCESS LINK: www.aquinas.edu/olli-virtual

HYFLEX – Attend in person or virtually! HyFlex courses are held in the OLLI classroom and simultaneously streamed through Zoom.

Miss a session? Most VIRTUAL and HYFLEX courses are recorded. Email olli@aquinas.edu to request a recording.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR COURSES?

Please read course 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. Course fees are **\$10 per session**, unless otherwise noted.

Fall 2026 Course Registration opens
WEDNESDAY, August 26, 2026, at 9:00am

All course registrations are completed online at www.aquinas.edu/olli-courses. This registration page is also linked in each weekly OLLI Outlook digital newsletter. The registration page will remain open throughout the term so you can register for additional open courses at any time.

To register, enter your contact information, review the instructions, follow the prompts, and select your courses. Registration is complete once payment is submitted and you receive an email confirmation.

Course capacity limits are listed with each offering. If a course cannot be selected, it has likely reached capacity. To join a waitlist, email olli@aquinas.edu. If space becomes available due to cancellations or a larger venue has been arranged, OLLI will contact those on the waitlist.

Please register carefully. **Course fees are non-refundable.** If you need to cancel, notify the OLLI Office at least 48 hours before the scheduled session to receive a coupon code redeemable for a future session during the current membership year. Courses canceled or rescheduled by OLLI are also eligible for course credit.

Need help registering? Contact the OLLI office or visit us in person. *Please do not email course registrations.*

HOW DO I CONTACT OLLI?

Phone: **616.632.2430**
Email: olli@aquinas.edu
Mailing Address: **1700 Fulton St E
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Location: **Grace Hauenstein Library
159 Woodward Ln SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Office Hours: **MON - THU: 9:00am - 4:00pm
FRI: 9:00am - 12:00pm**

OLLI's GIVE2GROW HARVEST PARTY

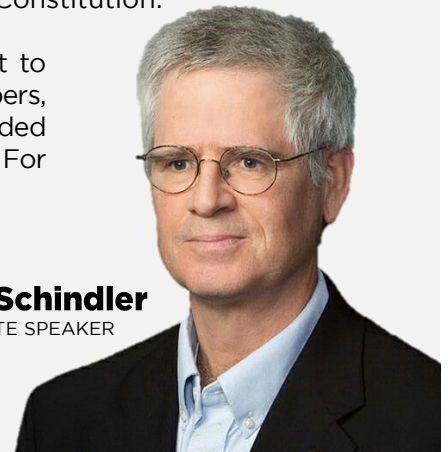


You're invited to **OLLI's GIVE2GROW Harvest Party**—a festive fall evening filled with fun, friends, and fundraising! Join us for an evening of community and celebration featuring entertainment, silent auction, door prizes, and games. This year's event welcomes OLLI presenter, commentator, distinguished emeritus professor, and State Supreme Court litigator **Devin Schindler** for a keynote presentation titled, "How to Heal a Bruised Constitution."

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 and scholarships. This event is sponsored by the OLLI Advisory Council. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.aquinas.edu/olli-harvest.

Date: **THU, Oct 15, 2026**
Time: **5:30pm – 8:30pm**
Location: **Wege Student Center Ballroom**
Ticket Fees: **1 for \$35 / 2 for \$60**

Devin Schindler
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



GIVE TO HELP US GROW!

For over 50 years, OLLI at Aquinas College has been a source of social connection, renewed purpose, and continuous growth for lifelong learners in our community and beyond. We invite you to invest in that legacy through our **GIVE2GROW** annual campaign because a gift of any size can truly make a difference in the sustainability and growth of our program. Your generosity can expand access to lifelong learning for everyone through the OLLI scholarship fund, provide the simple joys of coffee and cookies, and bring dynamic presenters and engaging courses to our classrooms—including more experiential learning opportunities and exciting field trips.

GIVE TODAY!

Scan the QR code
with your phone ►

or call **616.632.2430**

Thank you!



GENERATION SWAP

Boomers, meet Zoomers! The Generation Swap program offers **FREE** monthly opportunities for co-generational connection through informal classes and discussion between OLLI members and Aquinas College students. Generation Swap is jointly sponsored by OLLI, First Year Experience (FYE), and TRIO/Student Support Services. For more information, please contact **Gary Eberle** at eberlgar@aquinas.edu.

SAVE THE GENERATION SWAP DATES:

FRI, Sep 25, 2026, 10:00am – 11:00am
FRI, Oct 23, 2026, 10:00am – 11:00am
FRI, Nov 20, 2026, 10:00am – 11:00am

OSHER ONLINE

More classes are just a click away! Osher Online connects OLLI members across the country through engaging virtual courses taught by expert instructors. These six-session courses are available for **\$60** per person, and each course must be registered as a complete package. These courses complement OLLI at Aquinas's regular offerings—giving you even more ways to learn, connect, and grow. Registrants are encouraged to attend a virtual orientation on TUE, Sep 22, 2026, at 2:00pm. **Registration closes SUN, Sep 13, 2026.**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Biology and Society

Presented by: Eric Simon, PhD

How does biology affect our lives, and how should society respond to the social, ethical, and legal consequences of new biological advances? Designed for non-scientists with little or no recent college-level science experience, this course encourages discussion of and reflection on topics at the leading edge of scientific discovery including evolution, cancer biology, and DNA profiling.

Eric Simon is an author and 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 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and Nov 5, 2026** (6 sessions)
 Time: **11:00am – 12:30pm**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Osher Online** [Limit 13]

ARTS & CULTURE

Cults and New Religious Movements in America

Presented by: Kate Davis, PhD

America has provided fertile ground for new and alternative religions to sprout and grow. Some prosper and eventually become accepted as part of the normal religious landscape, some wither away and are forgotten, and some detonate, creating public scandal—and in the worst cases—national tragedy. This course examines the New Religious Movements (NRMs), popularly known as "cults," of 18th and 19th century America. Through insider perspectives and outsider perceptions, analyze the history, practices, and beliefs of these organizations to better understand them and deconstruct common misconceptions.

Kate Davis is an intersectional scholar whose work connects religious studies, gender studies, and digital humanities. She is an oral historian and visiting professor of theology at Alvernia University in Pennsylvania. Professor Davis holds a PhD in religious studies from Claremont Graduate University. Her forthcoming book is an ethnographic study of Mormon and Evangelical influencers.

Dates: **TUE, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, and 10, 2026** (6 sessions)
 Time: **3:00pm – 4:30pm**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Osher Online** [Limit 13]

HISTORY & POLITICS

The 60s Through Great Speeches

Presented by: Arthur "Buck" Benedict

The 1960s is a decade wrapped in myth and misunderstanding. In this course, cut through that haze by turning to something powerful and concrete: the speeches of the era. The times and the conditions demanded these significant speeches. With recordings preserved through television, video, and YouTube, listen to the voices that moved a nation and shaped history.

Arthur "Buck" Benedict is an award-winning former lecturer at the Wharton School and the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught public speaking. He is also an experienced speechwriter and instructional designer.

Dates: **FRI, Oct 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, and 13, 2026** (6 sessions)
 Time: **11:00am – 12:30pm**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Osher Online** [Limit 13]



▲ Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963.

PANTLIND SERIES



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.

Éirinn go brách—Ireland forever. From Dublin to Galway and Belfast to Cork, Ireland is an island nation known for its resiliency, vibrant culture, and dramatic landscapes. As OLLI prepares for its 2027 Irish hiking adventure, this series explores the history, language, literature, industry, music, sport, and traditions that define Ireland's identity.

FEATURING...

Made in Dunmurry: DeLorean Motor Company

The Irish Language Revival

Hurling... Not Curling! Ireland's National Sport

Irish Whiskey Tasting Experience

Conflict in Northern Ireland

...AND MORE!



HIKING IN IRELAND

APR 24 - MAY 2, 2027

Venture to the beautiful, rugged landscape of the Connemara region in County Galway as part of an exclusive, 7-day OLLI hiking excursion to the west of Ireland. For over 50 years, Aquinas College has forged a close relationship with the people and places of this remote countryside, and this exclusive trip offers an opportunity to experience—on foot—some of the most beautiful and historic sites in all of Ireland. This trip is open to hikers and travelers of all levels of experience.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Daily 3-5-mile hikes through stunning landscapes
- ✓ Meet and engage with local residents
- ✓ Visit the iconic Kylemore Abbey
- ✓ Panoramic Atlantic views of Clifden Bay and islands
- ✓ Experience traditional Irish pubs, music, and cuisine
- ✓ Bus tour to Aasleagh Falls
- ✓ Shop in historic Letterfrack

For more information, or to register, attend the informational "Guide to Hiking in Ireland" session on THU, Sep 17, 2026, at 1:30pm, in the OLLI classroom (details on p. 11), or visit www.aquinas.edu/olli-ireland.



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

OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

Our Heritage

Presented by: Caroline Cook

Every city has a story, but no single story tells it all. Explore the people and cultures that have shaped Grand Rapids from its earliest Indigenous inhabitants to the immigrant and African American communities that helped create the city we know today.

Sep 8, 2026: Odawa on the Owashtanong – Before it was called the Grand River, it was known as Owashtanong—"far-flowing water" in the Anishinaabe language. Discover the rich history of the Indigenous peoples who lived along its banks, from early hunter-gatherers to the Grand River Bands of Odawa, and examine how 19th-century land cessions transformed their homeland.

Sep 15, 2026: Grand Rapids Deutsche – Beginning in the late 1840s, thousands of German immigrants made the newly founded Grand Rapids their home. By 1900, they formed the city's third-largest foreign-born community. Examine their journey to West Michigan and the enduring contributions they made to the city's local culture.



▲ Teenager Sarah Nelson's 1856 oil painting of early Grand Rapids viewed from the west side of the Grand River looking east.

Sep 22, 2026: Grand Rapids Polonia – *Sto lat!* Polish immigrants arrived in Grand Rapids during the late 1800s to work in the city's furniture factories and gypsum mines. They built close-knit communities anchored by churches, schools, social halls, and businesses that preserved their ethnic heritage. This session uncovers the lasting visual clues that tell the story of Grand Rapids' historic Polish neighborhoods.

Sep 29, 2026: African American History on the Grand – Finally, trace the history of Grand Rapids' African American community from 1826 to the present through the stories of pioneering residents, community leaders, entrepreneurs, civil rights advocates, and historic touchstones.

OLLI member **Caroline Cook** is the founder and chief tour ambassador of Grand Rapids Running and Walking Tours. Known as the "Docent of Downtown," she is a proud Grand Rapids resident, supreme storyteller, and citizen historian.

Dates: **TUE, Sep 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2026** (4 sessions)
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Everyone's an Expert... or Are They? The Illusion of Expertise in a World Full of Opinions

Presented by: Dan Bergman, PhD

In a world where everyone seems to have a strong opinion—and an equally strong willingness to share it—it's becoming harder to distinguish real expertise from confident guesswork. In this course, explore the Dunning-Kruger effect, a fascinating psychological bias that helps explain why people are often most confident when they know the least. Discover how this phenomenon appears everywhere: from social media debates and classroom discussions to everyday conversations where "I'm pretty sure" is doing a lot of heavy lifting. Along the way, examine how this bias shapes the brain's evaluation of knowledge, confidence, and decision-making.

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

Dates: **TUE, Sep 8 and 15, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**

OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

The Brutalist and the Artists

Presented by: Henry Luttikhuizen, PhD

From bold modernism to artistic masterpieces, experience a remarkable day of culture guided by art historian Henry Luttikhuizen. The trip begins with an architectural tour of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Norton Shores. This church was designed by renowned Jewish-Hungarian architect Marcel Breuer whose remarkable life and work inspired the central character in the 2024 film *The Brutalist*, starring Adrien Brody.

Then, travel to the recently renovated and expanded Muskegon Museum of Art for a curated tour of its exceptional collection. Professor Luttikhuizen will share insights into works by celebrated artists including Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, and John Steuart Curry. Temporary exhibitions also on display for self-guided exploration include *Let's Picnic: The Knop Collection of Herman Miller Posters* and *HerStory of Animation: Mary Blair & Beyond*.

NOTE: Participants are responsible for providing their own transportation; carpooling is encouraged. The event fee includes venue admission. To maximize the time available for tours and exploration, no lunch break will be included—please plan accordingly. Be prepared for considerable standing and walking throughout the day.

Henry Luttikhuizen is the Lena Meijer Professor of Art History at Aquinas College. He received an MPhil from the Institute for Christian Studies (Toronto) and an MA and PhD from the University of Virginia. Professor Luttikhuizen is the author of numerous books and scholarly articles.

Date: **WED, Sep 9, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am – 2:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Muskegon Museum of Art** [Limit 30]
 Event Fee: **\$20**

OLLI EXPERIENCES

Curves, Chrome, and Classic Cars

Presented by: Dom Federico, MD

To Dom Federico, classic cars are like works of art, and you're invited to his private gallery. Featuring more than 30 meticulously maintained vehicles and historical Grand Rapids memorabilia, this collection spans Chevrolets, Cadillacs, BMWs, Fords, Porsches, and more. Explore muscle cars, roadsters, and rare collectibles, each with their own fascinating backstory.

Dom Federico is an automotive expert, classic car collector, and owner of Good Friends Auto. By the age of 3, he could name the make, model, and year of every car on the road. Federico, who spent over 40 years as a Grand Rapids-based OB-GYN, began amassing his collection in 1973.

Date: **THU, Sep 10, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Good Friends Auto** [Limit 40]
2661 29th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bald Eagle: Beyond the Symbol

Presented by: Marcia Huff, MS

Freedom, hope, glory—eagles symbolize so much in our American ethos. The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) appears on official documents, seals, currency, flags, and government buildings. But what makes them so special—and photogenic? Discover the identification, range, habitat, behavior, and comeback of this regal avian creature.

Marcia Huff is an outdoor educator for the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission presenting on nature-related topics including Michigan birds, butterflies, wildflowers, and dune ecology. She has a BS in biology from Oakland University and an MS in ecology from the University of Delaware. A former graphic designer, Huff now spends time as an artist and nature photographer.

Date: **THU, Sep 10, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

***Come From Away* and 100 Years of Civic Theatre**

Presented by: Grand Rapids Civic Theatre

Celebrate a century of storytelling with Grand Rapids Civic Theatre (GRCT), one of the country's largest and oldest community theatres. Featuring stories and memories from the company's former executive and artistic director Bruce Tinker (alongside OLLI member and Civic performer Jon March), see how GRCT has impacted our community for generations through productions, educational programs, summer camps, and volunteerism.

Then, get an inside look at the making of *Come From Away*—the acclaimed musical based on the true story of airline passengers welcomed by the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, following the events of September 11, 2001. Hear from members of the production team and staff during an exclusive Q&A before attending the final dress rehearsal of Civic's centennial debut production.

Date: **THU, Sep 10, 2026**
 Time: **6:00pm - 10:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Grand Rapids Civic Theatre** [Limit 25]
30 Division Ave N, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 Event Fee: **\$20**



100
 GRAND RAPIDS CIVIC THEATRE CENTENNIAL

HISTORY & POLITICS

How 9/11 Changed Air Travel

Presented by: Alex Peric, MLRHR

In less than three hours, more than 4,500 commercial and private aircraft were grounded or diverted as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered an unprecedented nationwide ground stop on September 11, 2001. In the aftermath, the threat of terrorism fundamentally and permanently changed the way we fly. On the 25th anniversary of 9/11, examine the creation of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), sweeping changes to airport, cockpit, and air traffic control procedures, and the ongoing challenge of balancing security, efficiency, and the passenger experience.

Alex Peric is vice president and chief operating officer of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority. He holds a BS in aviation management from Kent State University, a master's in labor relations and human resources from Cleveland State University, an Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) designation, and a private pilot's license.

Date: **FRI, Sep 11, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

ARTS & CULTURE

Let's Play Djembe! A West African Drumming Experience

Presented by: Leah Ivory

Group drumming invites us to connect with ourselves, with one another, and with the world around us. Discover the joy, energy, and connection of traditional West African drumming in this interactive, outdoor, hands-on experience. Drum authentic West African rhythms by rote (without written music) using the same oral tradition that has been passed down through generations. No musical experience is necessary, all skill levels are welcome, and drums will be provided.

Leah Ivory is a certified djembe instructor through the Tam Tam Mandingue Djembe Academy, where she studied under master drummer Mamady Keita. She is a passionate culture bearer of the West African rhythmic tradition and an enthusiastic teacher for all ages and levels of experience. Ivory currently serves as the artistic and executive director of the Grand Rapids Youth Chorus.

Date: **MON, Sep 14, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 30]
 Event Fee: **\$25**



OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

The Cadaver Synod: Putting a Deceased Pope on Trial

Presented by: Alice Chapman, PhD

What happens when a rivalry goes so far that the dead are called to court? In the turbulent world of ninth-century Rome, power struggles, shifting alliances, and church politics culminated in one of history's most bizarre events—the Cadaver Synod. During this extraordinary episode, the body of Pope Formosus was exhumed and placed on trial by his successor's supporters. Examine the coercive forces that fueled this shocking spectacle and discover how its aftermath reshaped papal authority.

Alice Chapman is an author and professor of medieval history at Grand Valley State University. She earned an MA in religion from Yale University and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. Professor Chapman specializes in the religious history of medieval Europe.

Dates: **MON, Sep 14 and 21, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**

ARTS & CULTURE

OLLI Book Club

Facilitated by: Deb Moore, Mary Williams, JD, and Sue VanDuine, MA

In this series, OLLI members and guests 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. Most selections are available at local libraries or through online booksellers.

Sep 16, 2026: *What I Can Do* (2023) by Mary K. Hoodhood – This inspiring autobiography tells the story of Mary K. Hoodhood, who at age 27, faced a life-changing accident that left her paralyzed. Through determination, faith, and a commitment to service, she transformed adversity into action by founding Kids' Food Basket, an organization that now provides millions of meals to nourish our neighbors each year. This discussion will feature a special appearance by the author. (Moore)

NOTE: Copies of *What I Can Do* (2nd edition) may be purchased from OLLI for \$10.

Oct 21, 2026: *The Names* (2025) by Florence Knapp – In the aftermath of the Great Storm of 1987, Cora considers names for her newborn son. Defying her controlling husband means risking everything, yet following family tradition may condemn her son to the same fate. Her split-second decision unfolds across three parallel lives, revealing how one choice can transform the future of an entire family. (Williams)

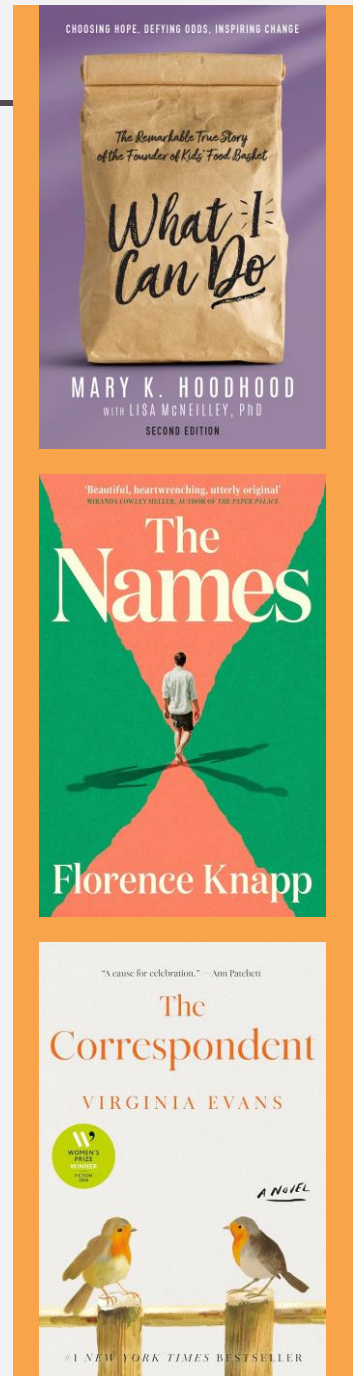
Dec 2, 2026: *The Correspondent* (2025) by Virginia Evans – Told entirely through the letters and emails of a sharp and fiercely independent, 73-year-old retired lawyer, this novel traces her life across a decade. The correspondences reveal a woman confronting past grief, strained family dynamics, and a mysterious accusation that forces her to re-examine her life. (VanDuine)

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.

OLLI member **Mary Williams** is a happily retired attorney. She earned a JD from the University of Notre Dame Law School. An avid reader and traveler, Williams considers books to be portals to wonderful places and adventures.

OLLI member **Sue VanDuine** is a retired special education teacher and consultant. She has an MA in educational psychology from Michigan State University. Passionate about the environment, she is a multi-media artist and active contributor to the OLLI Fiber Arts Group.

Dates: **WED, Sep 16, Oct 21, and Dec 2, 2026** (3 sessions)
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]



OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

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

Facilitated by: Steve Stratton

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?

PART I
 Dates: **WED, Sep 16, 23, and 30, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **11:30am – 1:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
 Course Fee: **\$30**

PART II
 Dates: **WED, Oct 28, Nov 4, and 11, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **11:30am – 1:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
 Course Fee: **\$30**

*Substituting for Dave Kampfschulte, **Steve Stratton** is a mostly-retired neutral labor arbitrator and fact finder. An experienced mediator and facilitator, he previously served as director of labor relations at Ferris State University.*

PANTLIND SERIES

Irish Whiskey Tasting Experience

Presented by: Bill Quinn

Céad míle fáilte—a hundred thousand welcomes! An Irish pub is more than a place to enjoy a drink; it's a gathering place where friendships are forged, stories are shared, and laughter flows freely. Buy a round and join this exclusive Irish whiskey tasting experience at Quinn & Tuite's Irish Pub. Guided by pub owner Bill Quinn and whiskey connoisseur Jimmy "Kilt" Dewald, sample four selections from Quinn & Tuite's impressive collection of more than 100 Irish whiskeys while exploring the history, craft, and character behind each pour.

NOTE: Tasting portions will be provided. Participants are encouraged to drink responsibly, know their personal limits, and arrange safe transportation.

Bill Quinn is co-owner of Quinn & Tuite's Irish Pub. He purchased the bar—then known as Pete Brown's Office—in 1984, and 30 years later, it was named Grand Rapids' best neighborhood bar.

Date: **WED, Sep 16, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Quinn & Tuite's Irish Pub** [Limit 40]
1535 Plainfield Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
 Event Fee: **\$20**



HISTORY & POLITICS

"We the People": The Whos, Whats, and Whys of the U.S. Constitution

Presented by: Lu Paletta, MBA

On September 17, 1787, 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention—including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and James Madison—signed what some thought was a makeshift series of unfortunate compromises that ultimately replaced the Articles of Confederation. But what does the original document really say? How was it developed? Who actually wrote it? (Hint: It wasn't Thomas Jefferson.) Why are there numerous misspellings? Why did only 39 of the 55 delegates sign it? Get answers to these questions and more with this fun look at one of America's most important founding documents.

*OLLI member **Lu Paletta** is a lifelong history buff and trivia enthusiast. A retired financial advisor and former adjunct professor of business at Aquinas College, she holds a BBA and MBA from Western Michigan University. Paletta has written and spoken extensively on the American presidency, First Ladies, and the American electoral process.*

Dates: **THU, Sep 17 and 24, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

We the People

OLLI COURSES

FREE
COURSE

PANTLIND SERIES

A Guide to Hiking in Ireland

Presented by: Jeff Coon

Thinking about joining OLLI's 2027 "Hiking in Ireland" adventure? This informational session is designed for prospective travelers who want to learn more before deciding to sign up, or those who just want to see the beauty of Ireland's west coast from a distance. Explore the trip's itinerary, stunning scenery, daily hikes, accommodations, and unforgettable cultural experiences—from Kylemore Abbey to traditional Irish pubs. Bring your questions, and discover whether this once-in-a-lifetime journey is right for you.

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

Jeff Coon is an Aquinas College alumnus who studied abroad in Tullycross, Ireland, in 1987. A longtime supporter of the AQ Ireland Study Away Program, he returned to the Emerald Isle as an adjunct faculty advisor, organized the program's 50th Anniversary reunion, and chairs the Friends of the AQ Ireland Program alumni group. Coon will serve as the guide for OLLI's 2027 "Hiking in Ireland" trip. He is a geriatric physical therapist in Fort Collins, CO.

Date: **THU, Sep 17, 2026**
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**
Event Fee: **FREE**

HISTORY & POLITICS

Displaced: A Global Humanitarian Crisis

Presented by: Chissey Mueller, MA

What happens when conflicts, natural disasters, or health epidemics suddenly force millions of people to leave everything behind? Using the humanitarian crises in Ukraine, Bangladesh, and Yemen as case studies, this course identifies the immediate, short-, and long-term needs of displaced people—whether they remain within their own country or seek refuge elsewhere. Examine the complex challenges, shifting needs, and collaborative efforts required to support displaced people with safety and dignity.

Sep 21, 2026: Immediate Needs – When people are forced to flee with little or no warning, what do they need first? Examine the critical first days and weeks of a humanitarian crisis. What roles do governments, aid organizations, and local communities play in providing protection, shelter, medical care, and essential resources? What may complicate an emergency response?

Sep 28, 2026: Long-Term Needs – What happens when a temporary crisis becomes a prolonged reality? This session explores how the needs of displaced people evolve over time, from legal protections and access to services to social integration, community attitudes, and long-term safety concerns.

Chissey Mueller spent nearly 20 years with the United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM), managing field operations across thirteen countries that supported millions of people displaced by conflict and natural disasters. An Aquinas College alumna, she also holds master's degrees in international relations from The American University and Ritsumeikan University in Japan.

Dates: **MON, Sep 21 and 28, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**



OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

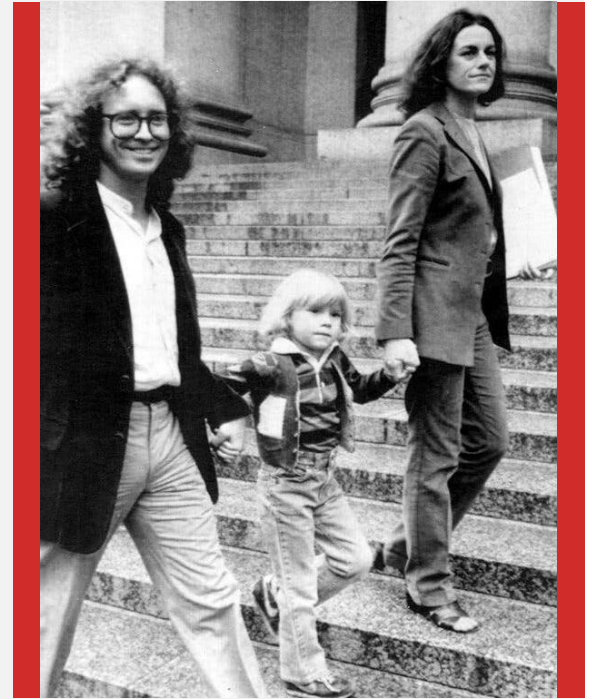
Son of Radicals: A Childhood Underground and on the Run

Presented by: Zayd Ayers Dohrn, MFA

"From my very first memories, I knew that the FBI was chasing us." Zayd Ayers Dohrn spent much of his childhood underground and on the run. His mother, Bernardine Dohrn, was a leader of the 60s radical student group Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), which opposed racism and the war in Vietnam. Along with Dohrn's father, Bill Ayers, she helped found the Weather Underground, a group committed to the revolutionary overthrow of the U.S. government. In this revealing session, gain a child's-eye view of life as a fugitive while exploring the human cost of the Weathermen's militant campaign and what their activism ultimately accomplished.

Zayd Ayers Dohrn is a national bestselling author of the memoir *Dangerous, Dirty, Violent, and Young: A Fugitive Family in the Revolutionary Underground*. A playwright and screenwriter, he received an MFA from New York University, was a Playwriting Fellow at the Juilliard School, and is now the Daniel Hale Williams Professor and Director of the MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage at Northwestern University. Dohrn is the creator, writer, and host of the original documentary podcast *Mother Country Radicals*.

Date: **TUE, Sep 22, 2026**
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Zoom**



▲ Zayd Ayers Dohrn with his parents outside the Federal Court Building in New York, 1982.

HISTORY & POLITICS

The Magicians of the Modern Age

Presented by: Gleaves Whitney, MA

Today we hear well-meaning appeals for civility, bipartisanship, compromise, dialogue, and common ground. Admirable aspirations, these. Every one of them is necessary to the survival of the republic. But there is a proper order that is often lost in our civic discourse. The search for truth must be paramount. Indeed, the search for truth must begin before the quest for common ground. And in that search we must discern who the magicians are, know what card tricks they use, and understand how their tricks work. In this interactive course, discover how critical thinking, skepticism, and intellectual humility can help us become more informed citizens.

Gleaves Whitney is an author and the executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. 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.

Date: **WED, Sep 23, 2026**
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

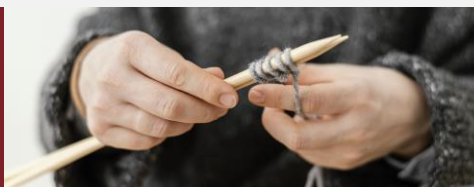
JOIN AN OLLI SHARED INTEREST GROUP

OLLI Shared Interest Groups are FREE, regularly scheduled opportunities to explore interactive learning by and with fellow OLLI students—connecting over topics you love while building community along the way. For more information, or to be added to group communications, please contact **Susan Kohloff** at skk003@aquinas.edu.

HIKING



FIBER ARTS



GARDENING



OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

Happy Birthday, America!

Presented by: Kim Murphy

Continue the celebration of America's semiquincentennial with a journey into the lesser-known corners of U.S. history.

Sep 24, 2026: As American As... – Ready for some tasty tidbits? Test your culinary curiosity with delicious trivia and unexpected stories. Which food was created as the result of a robbery? Which food was inspired by thundering cannons?

NOTE: Bring a baked or store-bought apple pie to share and receive **FREE** registration for this session.

Oct 1, 2026: Lesser-Known Portraits from History – American history is filled with familiar names, but many remarkable individuals have made lasting contributions without receiving the recognition they deserve. Take a figurative stroll through a portrait gallery of these overlooked Americans, and discover the fascinating stories of the people who quietly helped shape our nation's history.

Oct 8, 2026: Americans Created That? – The United States has long been a nation of inventors, tinkerers, and dreamers whose ideas have left an indelible mark on the world. Some innovations were the product of careful planning, while others emerged entirely by accident. Uncover the stories behind America's greatest inventions.

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

Dates: **THU, Sep 24, Oct 1, and 8, 2026** (3 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Living Better with Peripheral Neuropathy

Presented by: Corinne Conry, MSOM

Peripheral neuropathy can cause numbness, tingling, burning pain, balance problems, and weakness in the hands and feet, but what causes these symptoms? While neuropathy can be frustrating and life-limiting, proactive steps may help support nerve health and improve daily function.

Sep 28, 2026: Defining Peripheral Neuropathy – Begin with an overview of peripheral neuropathy, including its causes, how nerve damage develops, why symptoms may progress over time, and the common misconceptions surrounding the condition.

Oct 5, 2026: Taking Action – Discover how circulation, inflammation, movement, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle choices all play a role in nerve healing. Conclude with an encouraging discussion of strategies and emerging approaches that can help improve quality of life.

Corinne Conry is a licensed acupuncturist and the founder of the Acupuncture Center of Grand Rapids. Currently pursuing a doctoral degree, she has a Master of Science in Oriental Medicine (MSOM) from Southwest Acupuncture College in Boulder, CO. Conry has spent more than 12 years helping patients with chronic and complex neurological health conditions.

Dates: **MON, Sep 28 and Oct 5, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

101 Things That Happened on the Mackinac Bridge

Presented by: Mike Fornes

Take a historical trip across the Mighty Mac! Since construction began in 1954 and the bridge opened in 1957, Michigan's iconic 5-mile span of I-75 has endured fierce winds, crushing ice, blinding snowstorms, lightning strikes, and even collisions with an airplane and a ship. Through captivating photographs and fascinating anecdotes, this course chronicles the unforgettable stories of unusual crossings, engineering triumphs, and moments of tragedy.

Mike Fornes is an author and retired radio and television sports broadcaster who covered the Mackinac Bridge for over two decades for several Northern Michigan media outlets, including the Cheboygan Daily Tribune. He broke the story of Leslie Pluhar's Yugo plunging from the bridge in 1989, a report recognized as Michigan's top news story of the year.

Date: **TUE, Sep 29, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**



▲ The Mackinac Bridge's 1958 dedication ceremony featured a fleet of over 100 white Oldsmobile convertibles to ferry dignitaries.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

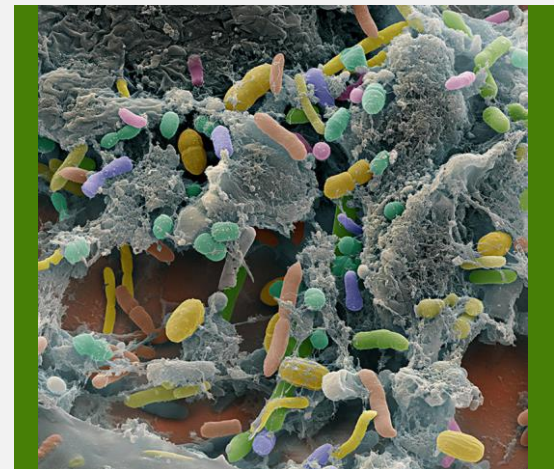
Gut Feelings: The Microbiome, Explained

Presented by: Dave Evans, MS

Your gut is home to a bustling microscopic metropolis! Trillions of bacteria, viruses, fungi, chemicals, and other inhabitants (collectively known as the microbiome) make up a foreign ecosystem living in your digestive tract. Once a topic reserved for scientists, the gut microbiome has become a growing subject of public interest, with new research hailing it as the key to several health benefits. What exactly is it? Why is it important? Is it alive? What does it do? How can you take care of it? And what is all the hype about?

OLLI member Dave Evans is a retired research scientist. He earned an MS in zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and spent 40 years as a protein and molecular biologist.

Date: **WED, Sep 30, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ Beneficial digestive bacteria seen through a scanning electron micrograph (SEM).

HISTORY & POLITICS

Michigan Carnegie Libraries

Presented by: Adam Oster, MLS

Throughout the early twentieth century, dozens of Michigan communities constructed public libraries through funding provided nationwide by industrialist Andrew Carnegie. This course traces the history of the Carnegie library program, its impact in Michigan, and the branches that continue to serve their communities today.

Adam Oster is the community engagement librarian for the Library of Michigan. He holds a BA in history from Grand Valley State University and an MLS from Indiana University. Oster's interests include genealogy and local history research.

Date: **WED, Sep 30, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**



▲ Granted in 1900, the Ironwood Carnegie Library is Michigan's oldest Carnegie library.

OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

The United States as a Business Plan

Presented by: Paul Kiewiet

The American experiment reads remarkably like the strategic blueprint for one of history's most ambitious "startups." This interactive course re-examines the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution through the lens of modern strategic planning, connecting the Founders' philosophical ideas with today's leadership and organizational thinking. Evaluate how the Founders addressed five essential questions that guide successful organizations: What are we building? Why does it exist? What outcomes should we measure? How will it be built? And what work must be done to sustain it?

*OLLI member **Paul Kiewiet** is a retired business leader and strategic consultant with more than four decades of experience in the promotional products industry. A graduate of Western Michigan University, he later advised companies on business planning, leadership development, and strategic growth—themes which he now explores as an author and columnist.*

Date: **THU, Oct 1, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

**FREE
COURSE**

HISTORY & POLITICS

A History of Catholic Central High School

Presented by: Deb Moore

Founded in 1906, Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School (CC) is the oldest coeducational Catholic high school in the United States. Chronicle its 120-year history through stories and photographs highlighting the school's origins, campus, faculty, academics, athletics, notable alumni, and memorable milestones.

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

*OLLI member **Deb Moore** is the archivist for her alma mater, Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School, where she preserves the school's history through documents, photographs, memorabilia, and other artifacts. She led the effort to secure a Michigan Historical Marker for CC in 2023 and currently serves on the Grand Rapids Historical Commission.*

Date: **FRI, Oct 2, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**
 Event Fee: **FREE**



**CATHOLIC CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL**

PANTLIND SERIES

Hurling... Not Curling! A Brief History of Ireland's National Sport

Presented by: Michigan Hurling

It's soccer, lacrosse, and a little bit of chaos. Hurling is widely considered the world's oldest and fastest field game, with roots stretching back thousands of years in Irish history. Explore the origins, evolution, and modern-day traditions of Ireland's national sport, from ancient legends to today's global game. Then, experience the rules, physicality, and excitement firsthand through a live, outdoor demonstration.

***Michigan Hurling** is one of thirteen registered hurling clubs in the Midwest division of the United States Gaelic Athletic Association (USGAA). It formed from members of the disbanded Kalamazoo GAA club and other hurling enthusiasts from across the state.*

Date: **FRI, Oct 2, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**



▲ Hurling's origins can be traced to the Early Middle Ages.

FALL 2026 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
31 – AUGUST	1 – SEPTEMBER	2	3	4 OLLI CLOSED
7 OLLI CLOSED LABOR DAY	8 9:30am – Library Our Heritage (p. 6) 1:30pm – Library Illusion of Expertise (p. 6)	9 9:30am – Muskegon Brutalist and the Artists (p. 7)	10 9:30am – Good Friends Auto Classic Cars (p. 7) 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Bald Eagle (p. 7) 6:00pm – Civic Theatre <i>Come From Away</i> at Civic (p. 8)	11 9:30am – Library How 9/11 Changed Travel (p. 8)
14 9:30am – Library West African Drumming (p. 8) 1:30pm – Library Cadaver Synod (p. 9)	15 9:30am – Library Our Heritage (p. 6) 1:30pm – Library Illusion of Expertise (p. 6)	16 9:30am – Library OLLI Book Club (p. 9) <i>What I Can Do</i> 11:30am – Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 10) 1:30pm – Quinn & Tuite's Pub Irish Whiskey Tasting (p.10)	17 9:30am – Library/Zoom U.S. Constitution (p. 10) 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Guide to Hiking in Ireland (p. 11)	18 OLLI CLOSED
21 9:30am – Library Displaced: Crisis (p. 11) 1:30pm – Library Cadaver Synod (p. 9)	22 9:30am – Library Our Heritage (p. 6) 1:30pm – Zoom Son of Radicals (p. 12)	23 9:30am – Library/Zoom Modern Age Magicians (p. 12) 11:30am – Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 10)	24 9:30am – Library/Zoom U.S. Constitution (p. 10) 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Happy Birthday, America! (p. 13)	25 10:00am – Library Generation Swap
28 9:30am – Library Displaced: Crisis (p. 11) 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Peripheral Neuropathy (p. 13)	29 9:30am – Library Our Heritage (p. 6) 1:30pm – Library Mackinac Bridge (p. 14)	30 9:30am – Library/Zoom Microbiome, Explained (p. 14) 11:30am – Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 10) 1:30pm – Library Carnegie Libraries (p. 14)	1 - OCTOBER 9:30am – Library/Zoom U.S. as a Business Plan (p. 15) 11:00am – Osher Online Biology and Society (p. 4) 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Happy Birthday, America! (p. 13)	2 9:30am – Library/Zoom Catholic Central (p. 15) 1:30pm – Library Hurling: Ireland's Sport (p. 15)
5 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Peripheral Neuropathy (p. 13)	6 9:30am – Library/Zoom Origin of Grand Haven (p. 18) 3:00pm – Osher Online Cults in America (p. 4)	7 9:30am – Library Poetry of the Emerald Isle (p. 18)	8 11:00am – Osher Online Biology and Society (p. 4) 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Happy Birthday, America! (p. 13)	9 9:30am – Library Talkies Film Series (p. 19) <i>Sister Act</i> 11:00am – Osher Online 60s Through Speeches (p. 4) 1:30pm – Library Talkies Film Series (p. 19) <i>Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit</i>
12	13 9:30am – Library/Zoom Drug Use Epidemic (p. 19) 3:00pm – Osher Online Cults in America (p. 4) 4:30pm – Steamboat Park Riverboat Tour (p. 20)	14 9:30am – Library Poetry of the Emerald Isle (p. 18) 1:30pm – Library Sounds of Ireland (p. 20) 7:00pm / 8:00pm – Holmdene Haunted Holmdene (p. 21)	15 11:00am – Osher Online Biology and Society (p. 4) OLLI's GIVE2GROW HARVEST PARTY	16 OLLI CLOSED 11:00am – Osher Online 60s Through Speeches (p. 4)
19 9:30am – Library/Zoom Fascism (p. 21) 1:30pm – Zoom Nutritional Supplements (p. 22)	20 9:30am – Zoom Irish Language Revival (p. 22) 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Disappearing Arts (p. 23) 3:00pm – Osher Online Cults in America (p. 4)	21 9:30am – Library OLLI Book Club (p. 9) <i>The Names</i> 1:30pm – Library Splendor Next Door (p.23)	22 11:00am – Osher Online Biology and Society (p. 4) 1:30pm – Library Women, Agism, Clothes (p. 24)	23 10:00am – Library Generation Swap 11:00am – Osher Online 60s Through Speeches (p. 4)
26 9:30am – Library/Zoom Fascism (p. 21) 1:30pm – Zoom Nutritional Supplements (p. 22)	27 1:30pm – Library/Zoom Disappearing Arts (p. 23) 3:00pm – Osher Online Cults in America (p. 4)	28 9:30am – Library/Zoom History of Fashion (p. 24) 11:30am – Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 10) 1:30pm – Library Splendor Next Door (p. 23)	29 11:00am – Osher Online Biology and Society (p. 4) 1:30pm – Library Women, Agism, Clothes (p. 24)	30 9:30am – Library Monsters in Literature (p. 24) 11:00am – Osher Online 60s Through Speeches (p. 4)

FALL 2026 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 - NOVEMBER 1:30pm - Zoom Nutritional Supplements (p. 22)	3 9:30am - Zoom Right to Vote (p. 25) 1:30pm - Library/Zoom Disappearing Arts (p. 23) 3:00pm - Osher Online Cults in America (p. 4)	4 9:30am - Library/Zoom History of Fashion (p. 24) 11:30am - Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 10) 5:30pm - Van Andel Opera Opera Now (p. 25)	5 11:00am - Osher Online Biology and Society (p. 4) 1:30pm - Library Strength Training Myths (p. 25)	6 9:30am - Library Rise of Drones (p. 26) 11:00am - Osher Online 60s Through Speeches (p. 4)
9 9:30am - Library Printmaking Workshop (p. 26)	10 9:30am - Library Printmaking Workshop (p. 26) 3:00pm - Osher Online Cults in America (p. 4)	11 9:30am - Library/Zoom History of Fashion (p. 24) 11:30am - Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 10)	12 9:30am - Library Conflict in Northern Ireland (p. 27) 1:30pm - Full Strength Strength Training Myths 2A (p. 25)	13 9:30am - Library Talkies Film Series (p. 19) <i>My Big Fat Greek Wedding</i> 11:00am - Osher Online 60s Through Speeches (p. 4)
16 9:30am - Zoom Japanese Incarceration (p. 27) 1:30pm - Zoom Britain in <i>Bridgerton</i> (p. 28)	17 9:30am - Library Remembering Vatican II (p. 28)	18 9:30am - Library/Zoom History of Fashion (p. 24)	19 9:30am - Library Conflict in Northern Ireland (p. 27) 1:30pm - Full Strength Strength Training Myths 2B (p. 25)	20 10:00am - Library Generation Swap
23 9:30am - Zoom Japanese Incarceration (p. 27) 1:30pm - Zoom Britain in <i>Bridgerton</i> (p. 28)	24 9:30am - Library Remembering Vatican II (p. 28) 1:30pm - Library Women of Paris (p. 28)	25 OLLI CLOSED	26 OLLI CLOSED THANKSGIVING	27 OLLI CLOSED
30 9:30am - Zoom Japanese Incarceration (p. 27) 1:30pm - Zoom Britain in <i>Bridgerton</i> (p. 28)	1 - DECEMBER 9:30am - Library Remembering Vatican II (p. 28) 1:30pm - Library Women of Paris (p. 28)	2 9:30am - Library OLLI Book Club (p. 9) <i>The Correspondent</i> 1:30pm - Library/Zoom Restoration in Progress (p. 29)	3 9:30am - Library Cookie Decorating (p. 29) 1:30pm - Zoom DeLorean Motor Company (p. 30)	4 OLLI CLOSED
7 9:30am - Zoom Japanese Incarceration (p. 27) 1:30pm - Zoom Britain in <i>Bridgerton</i> (p. 28)	8 9:30am - Library Remembering Vatican II (p. 28) 1:30pm - Zoom 'Tis the Season (p. 30)	9	10 9:30am - Library I'm Still Standing (p. 30)	11 9:30am - Library Talkies Film Series (p. 19) <i>The Baltimoreans</i>



AQUINAS COLLEGE

616.632.2430
olli@aquinas.edu

1700 Fulton St E
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.

OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

The Origin of Grand Haven: A Mackinac Island Story

Presented by: Wallace “Wally” K. Ewing, PhD

Surprisingly, the story of Grand Haven begins over 200 years ago and more than 200 nautical miles away on Mackinac Island, where newly ordained Presbyterian minister William Montague Ferry established a mission and school for Native Americans. This course explores the 11 years Ferry and his wife, Amanda, spent on the island before leading settlers to the mouth of the Grand River in 1834, where they helped lay the foundation for the community that became Grand Haven.

Wallace “Wally” K. Ewing is an award-winning author and local historian. A graduate of Michigan State University, he earned a PhD in English from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and later served as a college professor and administrator. Ewing has traveled the world, but he continues to research and write about his hometown of Grand Haven, Michigan.

Date: **TUE, Oct 6, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

PANTLIND SERIES

Poetry of the Emerald Isle

Presented by: Jennifer Dawson, PhD

From medieval manuscripts to Nobel Prize-winning works, Irish poetry has long explored the deep connections between people and the land. This course traces the evolution of Irish poetry, introducing influential poets, distinctive poetic forms, and the cultural forces that shaped their work. Through lecture, discussion, and guided readings, participants will engage with poetry firsthand, listening, reflecting, and developing their own interpretations. Why has a relatively small nation produced some of the finest English-language poets in literature? How does their work reveal the beauty of Ireland’s landscape, the richness of its culture, and the complexities of its often violent history?

OLLI member **Jennifer Dawson** is a professor emerita of English at Aquinas College, where she served as faculty advisor for the Ireland Study Away Program. She earned an MA and PhD in English from Michigan State University. Professor Dawson’s academic passions include studying women writers, periodical literature, poetry, captivity narratives, letter writing, science fiction, and comics.

Dates: **WED, Oct 7 and 14, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**



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 9 2026, AM: *Sister Act* (1992) – A nightclub singer hiding from the mob transforms a quiet convent choir with her soulful Motown-inspired style—putting her secret identity at risk.

[Rated PG for mild violence and language]

Oct 9 2026, PM: *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit* (1993) – In this celebrated sequel, “Sister Mary Clarence” tries to save a struggling Catholic school by turning a rebellious group of students into an award-winning choir.

[Rated PG for some mild language]

Nov 13, 2026: *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002) – The Portokalos family worries about their shy, unmarried daughter—until she finds love outside their close-knit Greek traditions, setting the stage for a hilarious clash of cultures.

[Rated PG for sensuality and language]

Dec 11, 2026: *The Baltimoreans* (2025) – On Christmas Eve, a struggling comedian’s emergency trip to the dentist turns into a night of unexpected mishaps and brewing heartfelt connection.

[Rated R for language]

Ian MacNeil is the director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (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 9, Nov 13, and Dec 11, 2026** (4 sessions)
Time: **9:30am – 12:00pm AND 1:30pm – 4:00pm** (Oct 9 ONLY)
Location: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Medical and Legal Perspectives on the Drug Use Epidemic

Presented by: Colleen Lane, MD, and Erin Lane, JD

In 1971, President Nixon declared drug abuse “public enemy number one.” More than 50 years later, the War on Drugs has evolved from public awareness campaigns like “Just Say No” to aggressive military action. But who and what are we fighting? What drugs are actually on the streets? How do myths and misconceptions about substance use increase their danger? How are emerging substances marketed to people of all ages? By the time a drug offense reaches the courtroom, opportunities for prevention and treatment may already have been missed. How can medical and justice professionals work together to address concerns around controlled and non-controlled substances to improve public health and safety?

Colleen Lane is a triple board-certified physician currently serving as the medical director of addiction medicine at Corewell Health. She earned an MD from the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and completed a dual residency in internal medicine and pediatrics. With a clinical background in HIV medicine, and as a board member of the Grand Rapids Red Project, Dr. Lane is passionate about ensuring harm reduction and patient autonomy are central to substance use treatment.

Erin Lane is an attorney at Miller Johnson where she specializes in litigation, tribal law, and medical regulatory affairs and compliance. She holds a JD from the Michigan State University College of Law. A former assistant U.S. Attorney, Lane previously combatted drug trafficking and shaped national drug policy while serving with the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at U.S. embassies in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Honduras.

Date: **TUE, Oct 13, 2026**
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

Grand Lady Riverboat Tour

All aboard the *Grand Lady*, the double-deck, 105-foot steamboat propelled along the Grand River by twin stern paddlewheels. Throughout this two-hour sightseeing tour along a ten-mile section of Michigan's longest river, you will see evidence of logging towns and riverboat landings that dotted the landscape of West Michigan in the 1800s. Near peak fall colors will provide a tranquil backdrop to historical homes, public parks, boaters, and a variety of wildlife like eagles, turtles, deer, and waterfowl. Food and drinks are available for purchase on the cruise. Full steam ahead!

Date: **TUE, Oct 13, 2026**
 Time: **4:30pm – 6:30pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Steamboat Park Campground**
825 Taylor St, Jenison, MI 49428
 Event Fee: **\$25**

▼ The *Grand Lady* riverboat is modeled after 19th-century steam paddlewheelers that historically navigated the Grand River.



PANTLIND SERIES

The Sounds of Ireland

Presented by: Thomas Jayne

Over centuries, Ireland's geographic isolation has shaped distinctive regional styles of traditional music that still echo today. Where did this music come from, and how has it evolved? Through live demonstrations of acoustic guitar and fiddle, transport to a dark, crowded Irish pub session to hear the lively pulse of jigs, the driving rhythms of reels, and the subtle nuances that define Sligo, Donegal, and Cork styles.

Thomas Jayne is University Foundation Professor emeritus of agricultural, food, and resource economics at Michigan State University, where he earned a PhD in agricultural economics. He retired from academia to pursue playing Celtic music in the local bands *Whorled* and *Trillium Irish*. Immersing himself in the culture and history of Irish music, Jayne and his bandmates have qualified for several international music competitions.

Date: **WED, Oct 14, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**



▲ Whorled bandmates Keala Venema (left, fiddle), Thomas Jayne (center, guitar), and Mariko Venema (right, accordion).

OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

Haunted Holmdene

Presented by: Ryan Wendt

Do you believe in ghosts? Join this exclusive “haunted house” experience inside Holmdene Manor, one of Aquinas College’s most historic treasures. Built in 1908 for lumber baron Edward Lowe and his wife, Susan Blodgett Lowe (who actually died on the property in 1940), the mansion has witnessed more than a century of stories, rumors, and unexplained happenings. Could Susan still be residing inside? Explore the history of this remarkable home, hear the legends passed down through generations, and decide for yourself whether Holmdene’s hauntings are fact, folklore, or something in between.

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: **WED, Oct 14, 2026**
 Time: **(A) 7:00pm – 8:00pm** or **(B) 8:00pm – 9:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Holmdene Manor** [Limit 12]
 Event Fee: **\$15**



▲ Holmdene Manor is located in the center of the Aquinas College campus.

HISTORY & POLITICS

Fascism Across Generations

Presented by: Roger Durham, PhD, and Gary Stark, PhD

Fascism shattered Europe a century ago. Are we hearing echoes today? After the defeat of fascist regimes in Italy and Germany in 1945, the movement was widely discredited and seemingly relegated to history. Yet, recently, “fascist-like” movements have resurfaced, gained influence, and in some cases, taken power. Compare and contrast perspectives from a historian and political scientist to examine when the “f-word” is a meaningful warning—and when it’s just another political talking point.

Oct 19, 2026: Historical Fascism – Examine the rise of “historical” fascism, beginning with Mussolini’s National Fascist Party in 1919. What factors contributed to the ideology spreading throughout Europe, and perhaps as far as Japan, Argentina, and even the United States? What set fascism apart from other political movements? Why were some groups (i.e. the Nazis) less inclined to embrace it by name?

Oct 26, 2026: Fascism Today – How do we know fascism when we see it? The answer may lie in the theories of leading scholars such as Robert Paxton, Roger Griffin, Walter Laqueur, and others. What does modern fascism look like? Has ultranationalism, scapegoating, cronyism, and milieu control been modernized in the 21st century? Do we find ourselves in an era of American neo-fascism?

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

OLLI member **Gary Stark** is a professor emeritus of history and former dean of the Division of Arts & Humanities at Grand Valley State University. He received a BA in international studies from Hamline University and a PhD in European history from Johns Hopkins University. A specialist on Germany, Professor Stark is an award-winning educator and author.

Dates: **MON, Oct 19 and 26, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Do Nutritional Supplements Really Work?

Presented by: Rob Pyke, MD, PhD

Vitamins, minerals, and nutritional supplements are everywhere—but do they actually deliver the health benefits they promise? This course consolidates the research behind common supplements and explores how informed choices, healthy habits, and conversations with your healthcare provider can support well-being in three major areas of concern.

Oct 19, 2026: Bone Health – Strong bones are essential to maintaining independence and quality of life as we age. While separating fact from fiction, see how lifestyle factors, along with calcium, magnesium, and other key nutrients, can support bone strength.

Oct 26, 2026: Joint Health – According to the CDC, over 58 million Americans live with arthritis. Why do the source, quality, dosage, and proper use of supplements matter when considering their potential role in managing symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis?

Nov 2, 2026: Brain Health – There is no conclusive medical evidence that honey prevents dementia. There are countless claims about other foods, herbs, and supplements that promise to improve cognitive health, but what does the research actually show?

OLLI member Rob Pyke spent his career as a clinical pharmacologist. He has a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MD from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, specializing in internal medicine. He has authored more than 200 scientific publications. In recent years, Dr. Pyke has applied his laboratory expertise and patient experience to evaluate scientific data on nutritional supplements.

Dates: **MON, Oct 19, 26, and Nov 2, 2026** (3 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



PANTLIND SERIES

The Irish Language Revival

Presented by: John Prendergast, MA

Often mischaracterized as a “dead language,” Irish (Gaeilge) is very much alive. Nearly 1.9 million people in Ireland report that they can speak Irish, while learners worldwide embrace it as a gateway to Ireland’s music, literature, history, and culture. But how can a language survive centuries of suppression and linguistic imperialism? This course details the revitalization efforts, language planning, and public policy that have driven today’s Irish language revival.

John Prendergast is the national advocacy manager for Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League), an organization that promotes the Irish language, culture, and the rights of Irish speakers. He holds an MA in Welsh and Celtic studies from Cardiff University, where he is completing a PhD in Irish language planning and policy. Prendergast has taught internationally through scholarships and invited appointments.

Date: **TUE, Oct 20, 2026**
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Zoom**

An Ghaeltacht

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

The Disappearing Arts and Humanities

Presented by: Gary Eberle, MA

Across the country, colleges and universities are slashing humanities programs and eliminating entire departments in favor of investments in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Small liberal arts colleges are folding as traditional enrollment plunges. Most surviving institutions are reshaping their curricula around workforce demands, increasingly emphasizing career preparation over a broad liberal arts education. Meanwhile, humanities disciplines like history, languages, art, literature, and philosophy—already facing increasing threats from artificial intelligence—continue to lose ground. This wide-ranging course explores the rise and decline of the humanities and examines what education and society might look like without them.

*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: **TUE, Oct 20, 27, and Nov 3, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Splendor Next Door

Presented by: Steve Jessmore

Photographer Steve Jessmore spent nearly 250 mornings on the Reeds Lake boardwalk in East Grand Rapids, capturing over half a million images of birds and other wildlife. Whether you're a bird lover, photographer, conservationist, or simply someone who appreciates the outdoors, this course will inspire you to see familiar places in a whole new way.

Oct 21, 2026: For Nature Lovers – Jessmore shares the philosophy behind his work, exploring how patience, careful observation, and returning to the same place over time can reveal the rhythms and stories of the natural world. But how do you find the right spot? Get inspiration from his award-winning photo collection.

Oct 28, 2026: For Photographers – Hummingbirds can flap their wings over 50 times per second. Peregrine Falcons can dive through the sky at an unparalleled 200 miles per hour. What is a photographer to do? Bring your own devices and questions for a discussion of the technical challenges of bird photography including camera settings, lenses, ISO, f-stops, shutter speeds, and overall approach.

***Steve Jessmore** is a National Audubon Society award-winning photographer and conservation-minded visual storyteller whose work documents birds, freshwater ecosystems, and vanishing habitats throughout the Great Lakes region. A former newspaper photojournalist, he is the creator of the "Birds Doing Stuff" brand. Jessmore is the author of the book The Splendor Next Door.*

Dates: **WED, Oct 21 and 28, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**

▼ Steve Jessmore photographed a Sandhill Crane napping in the filtered late afternoon fall sun.



OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

Own Your Age, Own Your Style: Women, Ageism, and the Clothes We Wear

Presented by: Susan Walborn

What does it mean to truly own your age—and your style? Why do we celebrate youth but often overlook the confidence, wisdom, and individuality that come with age? Through conversation and reflection, this course challenges the assumptions that shape how women see themselves and how they are seen by others.

Oct 22, 2026: Ageism and the Myth of Staying Young – Society often tells women that looking younger is the key to looking better. How does this messaging impact women's mental and physical well-being? How can embracing your age lead to greater authenticity?

Oct 29, 2026: It's Not My Body, It's the Clothes! – Why do so many clothes seem like they weren't made for real women? Examine how the fashion industry's unrealistic standards influence the way we think about fit, beauty, and self-image—and discover new ways to approach personal style with confidence.

***Susan Walborn** is the owner of Yours Truly Galleria, a boutique gift and apparel shop in Eastown designed to suit every personality, style, and season. A former educator, she brings her passion for connection and personal expression to her work in fashion and retail.*

Dates: **THU, Oct 22 and 29, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**

ARTS & CULTURE

The History of Fashion: 1850-1910

Presented by: Suzanne Eberle, PhD

The second half of the 19th century was an era of remarkable innovation in fashion. Advances in machinery, textiles, and chemical dyes transformed how men's and women's clothing were designed, produced, and sold. The rise of department stores, the birth of haute couture, and a growing advertising industry fueled both the accessibility of and appetite for the latest styles. Explore this unprecedented fashion evolution in which changing silhouettes and designs defined the lavish period known as La Belle Époque.

*OLLI member **Suzanne Eberle** is a professor emerita of art history at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University. She earned a PhD in English and 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, Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, and 18, 2026** (4 sessions)
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

Monsters in Literature

Presented by: Jason Stevens, PhD

"It was a dark and stormy night..." This Halloween, step into the shadowy world of British literature's most legendary monsters. Examine what makes a monster, why these eerie characters continue to fascinate readers, what they reveal about the fears and imaginations of their time, and whether the most terrifying monsters are the ones lurking in the shadows or the ones walking among us.

***Jason Stevens** is an associate professor of English instruction at Hope College. A graduate of Aquinas College, he later earned a PhD in literature from the University of Dallas. Professor Stevens specializes in 20th century British and American poetry.*

Date: **FRI, Oct 30, 2026**
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**



OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

“Shall Not Be Denied or Abridged”: The Right to Vote in America

Presented by: Richard Bell, PhD

The familiar story of the right to vote in America describes an electoral franchise that has grown fuller and fairer over time as Americans have fought to build a more perfect union. The truth is much more complicated. See how the powerful promise of the Fifteenth Amendment has been shaped by struggle, compromise, and competing visions of who should have a voice.

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.

Date: **TUE, Nov 3, 2026**
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

Opera Now: Redefining an Elite Art Form

Presented by: Emilee Shen, JD

What does opera look like in the 21st century? More than ever, it is a place where timeless emotions meet contemporary stories, diverse voices, and bold creative expression. In an engaging conversation, see how Opera Grand Rapids—one of North America's leading regional opera companies—is redefining the art form for modern audiences. Then, experience the creative process firsthand during an exclusive dress rehearsal of Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers* with a libretto by Gene Scheer.

Emilee Shen is the executive director of Opera Grand Rapids, where she has championed innovative approaches to the art form. A classically trained pianist, she earned a JD from Vermont Law and Graduate School before later leading environmental advocacy efforts in North Carolina. She is a Michigan Emmy® Award-nominated producer of *Stinney: An American Execution* for PBS.

Date: **WED, Nov 4, 2026**
Time: **5:30pm – 9:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Betty Van Andel Opera Center
1320 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI, 49503**



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Adult Strength Training Myths and Realities

Presented by: Neil Steger, MA

MYTH: “I’m too old to start strength training.”

REALITY: It’s never too late. Research from Tufts University and the CDC shows that people in their 70s, 80s, and even 90s can build muscle, increase bone density, and improve balance through regular resistance training.

MYTH: “Strength training is dangerous for older adults.”

REALITY: The greater risk often comes from inactivity. Weak muscles and fragile bones increase the likelihood of falls and injuries. Strength training, when tailored to your abilities, is safe and protective.

Nov 5, 2026: Debunk these myths and others to see how strength training can support independence, mobility, and longevity. Bring your questions about safely improving your body’s function at any age.

Nov 12 or 19, 2026: Age may change how you approach exercise, but it doesn’t close the door on getting stronger. Walk through a sample strength training workout designed to be adapted for your home or gym routine.

Neil Steger is a personal trainer and the owner of Full Strength LLC. He has an MA in exercise science from Western Michigan University. Steger is a certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist with the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

Dates: **THU, Nov 5, 2026**
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**

(2A) THU, Nov 12, 2026 or (2B) THU, Nov 19, 2026
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Full Strength LLC [Limit 6]
959 Lake Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Eyes in the Sky: The Rise of Drones

Presented by: David Kemp, MS, and Emily Teall

It's a bird. It's a plane. It's a... drone? This course offers an introduction to the fascinating world of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)—commonly known as drones—with a focus on their historical development, current technologies, and emerging future applications. Discuss how drones are regulated, the ethical and privacy questions they raise, and where you may see them next.

David Kemp is a lecturer in the College of Aviation at Western Michigan University, where he earned a BS in aviation maintenance technology. He also has an MS in project management from the University of Southern California. Kemp has professional experience spanning high-volume Army aviation operations and management, defense manufacturing, and UAS research and development.

Emily Teall is a lecturer in the College of Aviation at Western Michigan University. She earned a BS in anthropology from Grand Valley State University. Teall worked as a spacecraft technician, technical writer, project manager, and payload integration engineer at SpaceX, where she supported human spaceflight missions and the launches of hundreds of satellites.

Date: **FRI, Nov 6, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**

OLLI EXPERIENCES

Woodcut Printmaking Workshop

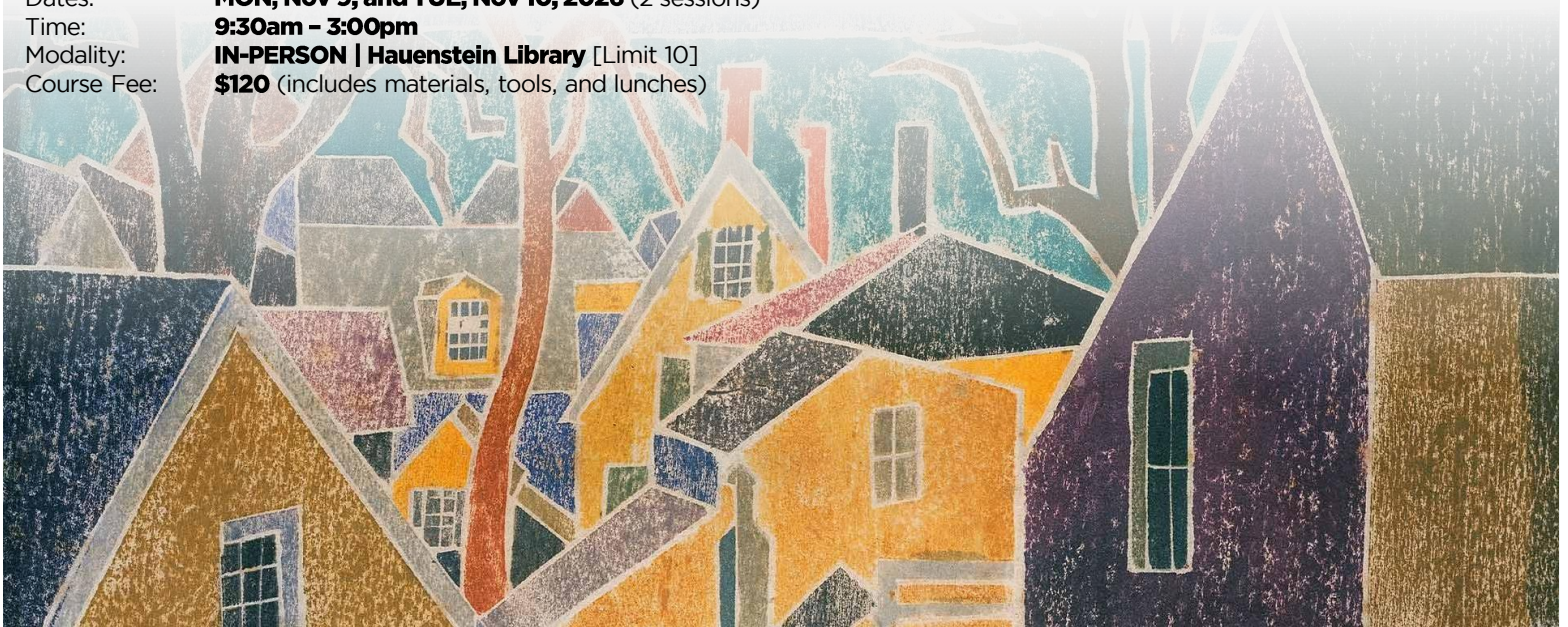
Presented by: Lee Ann Frame, MFA

Create vibrant, one-of-a-kind artwork in this hands-on introduction to white-line woodcut printmaking. Developed by American printmakers in Provincetown, MA, this technique combines the craft of carving with the expressive possibilities of color. Unlike traditional methods that require separate blocks for each color, white-line woodcuts use a single carved block as the canvas for a multi-colored print.

In this 2-day workshop, participants will carve a design into a wooden block, creating raised “islands” that are painted one section at a time. A sheet of paper is then placed over the block and pressed by hand with a wooden spoon, revealing a detailed print with texture, character, and a variety of colors. No prior experience is required. Leave with a finished print created from your own design.

Lee Ann Frame is a nationally-exhibited printmaker, ceramic artist, and owner of Norris Creek Printmaking Studio. She has an MFA in printmaking from Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University. A former adjunct art instructor at Muskegon Community College, Frame is a member of the Society of American Graphic Artists and several printmaking guilds.

Dates: **MON, Nov 9, and TUE, Nov 10, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 10]
 Course Fee: **\$120** (includes materials, tools, and lunches)



OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

Conflict in Northern Ireland

Presented by: Ian Borton, PhD

For nearly three decades, The Troubles brought Northern Ireland nightly images of burning barricades, bomb-damaged streets, military checkpoints, and grieving families. Rooted in generations of political, cultural, and religious divisions, the conflict pitted nationalist and loyalist communities against one another in a struggle over identity, sovereignty, and Northern Ireland's future. How did this conflict arise, and how does it continue to reverberate today?

Nov 12, 2026: Historical Issues – Using conflict theory as a framework for analysis, this session identifies the historical issues and attitudes that led to prolonged decades of unrest.

Nov 19, 2026: Contemporary Challenges – Next, consider Northern Ireland's evolving landscape after the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, including the progress made and challenges that remain. Topics include the impact of Brexit, changing political relationships, and current racial tensions surrounding immigration and cultural identity.

Ian Borton is an author and professor of communication at Aquinas College, where he served as faculty advisor for the Ireland Study Away Program. He earned his PhD in communication from Bowling Green State University and has spent two decades studying, practicing, and publishing in the field of restorative justice. As a member of the Transforming Conflicted Communities Project, Professor Borton helped deliver educational, community, and social service programs in North Belfast.

Dates: **THU, Nov 12 and 19, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

HISTORY & POLITICS

Imprisoned Without Trial: Japanese Incarceration in World War II

Presented by: Denny Kato

During World War II, more than 120,000 Japanese Americans—most of them U.S. citizens—were forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated in camps across the country. This injustice was not a sudden response to wartime fears alone, but the result of decades of racial prejudice and discrimination dating back to the mid-1800s. Its consequences would leave a lasting impact on generations of families. What can be done to ensure it never happens again?

Nov 16, 2026: The Breaking Storm – What happened in the immediate aftermath of the Attack on Pearl Harbor? How did a surge of anti-Asian sentiment and the impulsive decisions of political leaders set the stage for one of the darkest moments in U.S. history?

Nov 23, 2026: Uprooted – Given just one week to pack their belongings and report for indefinite incarceration, Japanese Americans were first sent to temporary “assembly centers” before being transferred to one of ten permanent camps. See how Executive Order 9066 and the massive logistical operation behind these camps upended thousands of lives overnight.

Nov 30, 2026: Life Behind Barbed Wire – What does it mean to build a life inside a prison camp? Beyond the daily hardships, explore how art, music, and sports became acts of survival—and how many found the courage to resist.

Dec 7, 2026: The Long Road Back – On the 85th anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, trace the journey toward justice from the heroism of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team to the landmark *coram nobis* legal battles, and see what remains of the prison sites today.

Denny Kato is a third-generation Japanese American, or Sansei. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati and served in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant in military intelligence. Following a career in restaurant management, Kato began researching Japanese incarceration during World War II—a history that he discovered imprisoned 17 members of his own family.

Dates: **MON, Nov 16, 23, 30, and Dec 7, 2026** (4 sessions)
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Zoom**



▲ Members of the Mochida family of Hayward, CA, wait for their “evacuation” bus in May 1942.

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

Britain in the Age of *Bridgerton*

Presented by: Julie Taddeo, PhD

The popular Netflix series *Bridgerton* transports viewers to the Regency era (1811-1820), presenting a romanticized version of the past—free of racism and populated with only beautiful people. But the reality of this time was far more complex, and equally entertaining. Using *Bridgerton*, Jane Austen adaptations, and other period dramas as a lens, this course will explore the era's political and social realities, including the relationship between the monarchy and the media, the truth behind the “Mad King,” and the story of Britain's first “African Queen.” Analyze what these productions often ignore: the harsh realities of the industrial age, deep class divisions, and the violent expansion of the British Empire. Immerse yourself in the spectacle of the London Season, elitism, fashion, scandal, and the enduring appeal of Regency nostalgia.

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

Dates: **MON, Nov 16, 23, 30, and Dec 7, 2026** (4 sessions)

Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**

Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

Remembering Vatican II

Presented by: Michael Ingram, MA

Do you remember the Latin Mass? The priest facing the altar? Receiving Communion while kneeling at altar rails? More so, do you recall the moment when it all changed? This course revisits the history, development, and significance of the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965), one of the most influential events in modern Catholicism. What is an ecumenical council, and why did Pope John XXIII call one in the first place? How were scripture, liturgy, ecumenism, ministry, and religious freedom debated? Through a close reading of the Council's major documents, analyze what Vatican II tells us about the Church then, where it is now, and where it may be going.

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: **TUE, Nov 17, 24, Dec 1, and 8, 2026** (4 sessions)

Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**

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

HISTORY & POLITICS

From Revolution to the Belle Époque: Women of 19th-Century Paris

Presented by: Steve Soper, MA

Bienvenue à Paris! Throughout the 19th century, the French capital attracted extraordinary women from all over the world. Artists, performers, writers, courtesans, and visionaries found opportunity, challenged convention, and transformed Paris into a cultural epicenter. Some became household names while others deserve to be rediscovered—and now is their time.

Nov 24, 2026: Artistic Icons – Meet figures such as Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, Berthe Morisot, Jane Avril, and Loïe Fuller as this session examines the talent, ambition, and influence behind some of the era's most celebrated cultural icons.

Dec 1, 2026: Writers and Revolutionaries – Meet the authors, scientists, salonnières, and political figures like Charlotte Corday, Marie Bashkirtseff, Juliette Récamier, and Émilie de Lavalette who shaped the intellectual and social life of 19th-century France.

OLLI member **Steve Soper** is a published author, blogger, and independent historian. He has a BA in history from the University of Illinois and an MA in international relations from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. A former resident of France and frequent visitor, he specializes in the art, history, and people of Paris.

Dates: **TUE, Nov 24 and Dec 1, 2026** (2 sessions)

Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**

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

OLLI COURSES

DR. FRED JOHNSON III MEMORIAL LECTURE

Restoration in Progress

Presented by: Richard Nelson

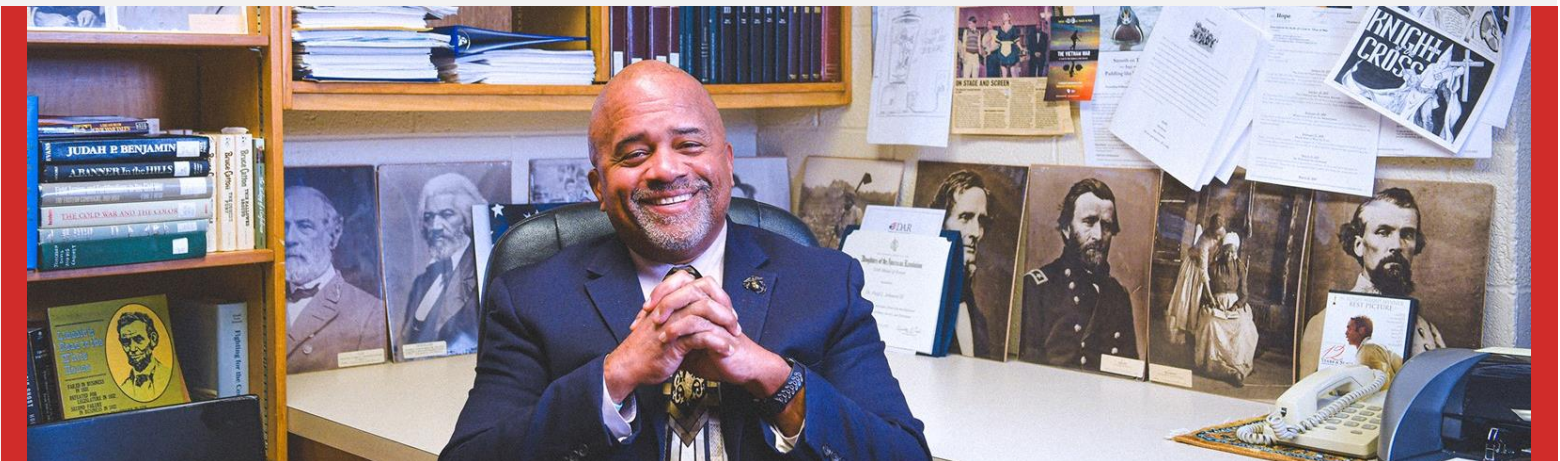
For a decade, Dr. Fred Johnson III was a constant and beloved presence in the OLLI classroom—presenting more than 200 sessions on topics ranging from US history, presidents, and civil rights to the Black Church, space exploration, and the evolution of hip-hop. Since his passing in February 2026, his absence has been deeply felt by our OLLI community. Dr. Johnson was a distinguished scholar, gifted storyteller, and award-winning public speaker. But above all, he was a teacher whose greatest joy was helping learners of all ages engage deeply with history. He believed passionately that understanding the past was essential to ensuring we do not repeat its gravest mistakes. It is in that spirit, scholars of OLLI, that we proudly present the inaugural Dr. Fred Johnson III Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Johnson believed that education could restore dignity, transform lives, and expand the promise of citizenship. As a faculty member in the Hope-Western Prison Education Program, he taught college courses to incarcerated students at the Muskegon Correctional Facility, challenging them to see themselves not as the sum of their past mistakes, but as individuals capable of growth, leadership, and meaningful contribution. To honor this vision, his former student and mentee, Richard Nelson, reflects on Dr. Johnson's legacy while sharing his own journey of advocacy in Michigan's reentry movement.

Richard Nelson is the executive director of *Project Restoration in Progress*, a local organization that educates and mentors incarcerated individuals while supporting their families. He holds a bachelor's degree from Hope College and is currently pursuing an MA in clinical mental health counseling from Western Theological Seminary. Nelson is a board member of the Michigan Consortium of Higher Education in Prison (MiCHEP).

Date: **WED, Dec 2, 2026**
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

▼ Dr. Fred Johnson III was a professor of history at Hope College.



OLLI EXPERIENCES

The Joy of Holiday Cookie Decorating

Presented by: Pam Kryger

Ready to add a little sparkle to your holiday baking? In this sweet, hands-on workshop, learn the secrets behind perfect no-spread sugar cookies, smooth royal icing, and colorful designs. Decorate and take home six festive cookies that are sure to impress Santa.

Pam Kryger is a sugar enthusiast and owner of *Joy of Sprinkles*, a one-stop shop for baking supplies, scratch-made treats, and hands-on baking classes. After a career as a dental hygienist, Pam turned her passion for baking into a business that brings people together through cookies, confections, and creativity.

Date: **THU, Dec 3, 2026**
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 40]
Event Fee: **\$20**



OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

Made in Dunmurry: The Story of the DeLorean Motor Company

Presented by: Matthew Clark

Before it became the iconic time machine in *Back to the Future*, the DMC DeLorean (officially the DMC-12) was the centerpiece of one of Northern Ireland's most ambitious industrial projects. Built in Dunmurry, outside Belfast, the factory brought jobs and renewed hope to a struggling community before the company's dramatic collapse. This course details the rise and fall of the DeLorean Motor Company, the myths that continue to surround it, and the enduring legacy of one of the world's most recognizable automobiles.

Matthew Clark is a London-based graphic designer for film and television. A longtime enthusiast of the DeLorean Motor Company, he has spent years researching its history. In 2018, he purchased his own DMC-12 and has dedicated himself to its restoration.

Date: **THU, Dec 3, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Zoom**



ARTS & CULTURE

'Tis the Season

Presented by: Sam and Candy Caponegro

Get into the holiday spirit with unforgettable songs and dances from Broadway, television, and movie musicals. From *White Christmas* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* to "The Hanukkah Song" and beyond, watch and discuss memorable scenes from beloved holiday classics as well as a few overlooked gems. See how music and storytelling have shaped our favorite holiday traditions. Sip a cup of hot chocolate and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year!

Sam and Candy Caponegro are lifelong theatre fans and educators. They met while performing in a musical and have been acting, directing, and teaching together for over 40 years.

Date: **TUE, Dec 8, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL ONLY | Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

I'm Still Standing: Navigating the Second Half of Life

Presented by: Dave Kampfschulte, MEd

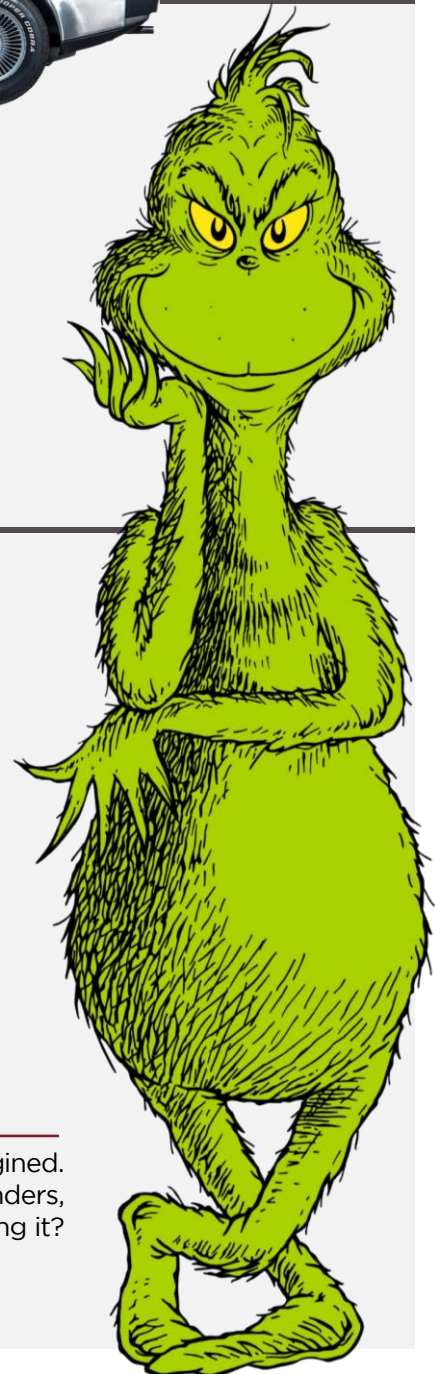
The second half of life brings new opportunities, unexpected challenges, and a chance to see ourselves with greater clarity. In this reflective and engaging course, explore the uncharted waters of our senior years by considering what has shaped our journey, the lessons we have learned about ourselves, and the wisdom and resilience we have gained along the way.

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

Date: **THU, Dec 10, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON ONLY | Hauenstein Library**

ARE YOU RECEIVING OLLI OUTLOOK EMAILS?

The **OLLI Outlook** is our weekly digital newsletter—your Sunday morning paper, reimagined. Delivered via email every Sunday, it features the week's course calendar, reminders, registration and Zoom links, event announcements, and special opportunities. Not receiving it? Contact olli@aquinas.edu or call **616.632.2430** to join the mailing list.



FALL 2026 SUMMARY

COURSE	SESSIONS	DATES / TIMES	LOCATION	FEE	PAGE	INTEREST?
Biology and Society	6	THU, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and Nov 5, 11:00am	Osher Online	\$60	4	
Cults in America	6	TUE, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, and 10, 3:00pm	Osher Online	\$60	4	
60s Through Speeches	6	FRI, Oct 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, and 13, 11:00am	Osher Online	\$60	4	
Our Heritage	4	TUE, Sep 8, 15, 22, and 29, 9:30am	Library	\$40	6	
Illusion of Expertise	2	TUE, Sep 8 and 15, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	6	
Brutalist and the Artists	1	WED, Sep 9, 9:30am	Muskegon	\$20	7	
Classic Cars	1	THU, Sep 10, 9:30am	Good Friends Auto	\$10	7	
Bald Eagle	1	THU, Sep 10, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	7	
<i>Come from Away</i> at Civic	1	THU, Sep 10, 6:00pm	Civic Theatre	\$20	8	
How 9/11 Changed Travel	1	FRI, Sep 11, 9:30am	Library	\$10	8	
West African Drumming	1	MON, Sep 14, 9:30am	Library	\$25	8	
Cadaver Synod	2	MON, Sep 14 and 21, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	9	
OLLI Book Club	3	WED, Sep 16, Oct 21, and Dec 2, 9:30am	Library	\$30	9	
This Is Where I Stand: PART I	3	WED, Sep 16, 23, and 30, 11:30am	Library	\$30	10	
This Is Where I Stand: PART II	3	WED, Oct 28, Nov 4, and 11, 11:30am	Library	\$30	10	
Irish Whiskey Tasting	1	WED, Sep 16, 1:30pm	Quinn & Tuite's Pub	\$20	10	
U.S. Constitution	2	THU, Sep 17 and 24, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$20	10	
Guide to Hiking in Ireland	1	THU, Sep 17, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	FREE	11	
Displaced: Crisis	2	MON, Sep 21 and 28, 9:30am	Library	\$20	11	
Son of Radicals	1	TUE, Sep 22, 1:30pm	Zoom	\$10	12	
Modern Age Magicians	1	WED, Sep 23, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	12	
Happy Birthday, America!	3	THU, Sep 24, Oct 1, and 8, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$30	13	
Peripheral Neuropathy	2	MON, Sep 28 and Oct 5, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$20	13	
Mackinac Bridge	1	TUE, Sep 29, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	14	
Microbiome, Explained	1	WED, Sep 30, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	14	
Carnegie Libraries	1	WED, Sep 30, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	14	
U.S. as a Business Plan	1	THU, Oct 1, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	15	
Catholic Central	1	FRI, Oct 2, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	FREE	15	
Hurling: Ireland's Sport	1	FRI, Oct 2, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	15	
Origin of Grand Haven	1	TUE, Oct 6, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	18	
Poetry of the Emerald Isle	2	WED, Oct 7 and 14, 9:30am	Library	\$20	18	
Talkies Film Series	4	FRI, Oct 9, Nov 13, and Dec 11, 9:30am/1:30pm	Library	\$40	19	
Drug Use Epidemic	1	TUE, Oct 13, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	19	
Riverboat Tour	1	TUE, Oct 13, 4:30pm	Steamboat Park	\$25	20	
Sounds of Ireland	1	WED, Oct 14, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	20	
Haunted Holmdene	1	WED, Oct 14, (A) 7:00pm OR (B) 8:00pm	Holmdene Manor	\$15	21	
Fascism	2	MON, Oct 19 and 26, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$20	21	
Nutritional Supplements	3	MON, Oct 19, 26, and Nov 2, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$30	22	
Irish Language Revival	1	TUE, Oct 20, 9:30am	Zoom	\$10	22	
Disappearing Arts	3	TUE, Oct 20, 27, and Nov 3, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$30	23	
Splendor Next Door	2	WED, Oct 21 and 28, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	23	
Women, Ageism, Clothes	2	THU, Oct 22 and 29, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	24	
History of Fashion	4	WED, Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, and 18, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$40	24	
Monsters in Literature	1	FRI, Oct 30, 9:30am	Library	\$10	24	
Right to Vote	1	TUE, Nov 3, 9:30am	Zoom	\$10	25	
Opera Now	1	WED, Nov 4, 5:30pm	Van Andel Opera	\$10	25	
Strength Training Myths	2	THU, Nov 5, and (2A) 12 OR (2B) 19, 1:30pm	Library/Full Strength	\$20	25	
Rise of Drones	1	FRI, Nov 6, 9:30am	Library	\$10	26	
Printmaking Workshop	2	MON, Nov 9, and TUE, Nov 10, 9:30am	Library	\$120	26	
Conflict in Northern Ireland	2	THU, Nov 12 and 19, 9:30am	Library	\$20	27	
Japanese Incarceration	4	MON, Nov 16, 23, 30, and Dec 7, 9:30am	Zoom	\$40	27	
Britain in <i>Bridgerton</i>	4	MON, Nov 16, 23, 30, and Dec 7, 1:30pm	Zoom	\$40	28	
Remembering Vatican II	4	TUE, Nov 17, 24, Dec 1, and 8, 9:30am	Library	\$40	28	
Women of Paris	2	TUE, Nov 24 and Dec 1, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	28	
Restoration in Progress	1	WED, Dec 2, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	29	
Cookie Decorating	1	THU, Dec 3, 9:30am	Library	\$20	29	
DeLorean Motor Company	1	THU, Dec 3, 1:30pm	Zoom	\$10	30	
'Tis the Season	1	TUE, Dec 8, 1:30pm	Zoom	\$10	30	
I'm Still Standing	1	THU, Dec 10, 9:30am	Library	\$10	30	



AQUINAS
COLLEGE

**1700 Fulton St E
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.

aquinas.edu/olli | 616.632.2430 | olli@aquinas.edu

Ian MacNeil, Director
Ian Martin, Program Administrator
Susan Kohloff, Program Coordinator

FALL 2026
SEPTEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 11
REGISTRATION OPENS **AUGUST 26, 2026**

FOLLOW US ON 

