

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AQUINAS COLLEGE

COURSE CATALOG  
**SPRING 2026**  
APRIL 7 — JUNE 26

REGISTRATION OPENS **MARCH 25, 2026**



AQUINAS  
COLLEGE

Cover Art:  
OLLI Member **Kim Ives**  
*Goldfinch in Wildflowers*, 2023  
Digital Photograph

# GETTING STARTED

## ARE YOU AN OLLI MEMBER?

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

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

Prorated OLLI Membership Rate (now through June 30, 2026):

**\$30.00 per person**

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

## REVIEW THE COURSE CATALOG

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

**Fall:** September – December

**Winter:** January – March

**Spring:** April – June

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

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

Spring 2026 Course Registration opens  
**WEDNESDAY, March 25, 2026, at 9:00am**

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

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

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

Register carefully as there are **NO MONETARY REFUNDS** for courses you later cannot attend. If you need to cancel, please notify the OLLI office **48 hours** prior to the scheduled session time to receive a coupon code redeemable for any future session in the 2025-2026 year. Courses canceled or rescheduled by OLLI are also eligible for course credit via coupon codes. Existing coupon codes from previously canceled or rescheduled sessions may be entered at the bottom of the registration page. When done, select "SAVE REGISTRANT" to register another person or to continue to the "Billing" section.

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

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

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

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

# GETTING STARTED

## EXPLORING THE CATALOG

**Course Dates and Times.** Courses are listed chronologically based on their first session date. Courses are 90 minutes in duration, and offered at 9:30am, 11:30am, or 1:30pm, unless otherwise specified.

Explore the full term calendar on **Pages 14 and 15**. A summary of all course offerings is provided on **Page 27**.

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

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

**VIRTUAL** — Offered online only via the **Zoom**-based OLLI Virtual Classroom. The same access link is used for all virtual offerings. *Individual links are no longer emailed prior to a virtual session.*

**ACCESS LINK:** [www.aquinas.edu/olli-virtual](http://www.aquinas.edu/olli-virtual)

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

*Miss a session?* Most **VIRTUAL** and **HYFLEX** courses are recorded. Email [olli@aquinas.edu](mailto:olli@aquinas.edu) to request a recording.

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

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

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

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

**OLLI EXPERIENCES** are interactive, limited-enrollment opportunities that may feature non-standard pricing.

## PANTLIND SERIES

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

# PANTLIND SERIES: THE SEVEN ARTS

SPRING 2026

FEATURING:

- **A Camino Pilgrimage with Vox GR**
- **Damage and Discovery: The Art of Painting Conservation**
- **Classical Sculpture Techniques**

...AND MORE!

**Art is what makes us human.** The Seven Arts—architecture, sculpture, painting, music, literature, performance, and film—shape how we see the world and how we see ourselves. This series explores how each art form expresses our fears and hopes, preserves memory, spreads joy, challenges power, and sparks imagination. From clay and canvas to stage and screen, discover how the arts do more than decorate life—they define it.



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

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### The World in Crisis

Presented by: Roger Durham, PhD, et al.

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

**Apr 7, 2026: Setting the Global Stage** – Explore major current events in international affairs including the US intervention in Venezuela, protests at home and abroad, major combat operations in Iran, and ongoing armed conflicts around the world. (Durham)

**Apr 14, 2026: When Nature Calls** – Most refugees have international legal protections, but what happens when people are forcibly displaced by the impacts of climate change? Identify the causes of climate-related displacement and consider the proposed legal solutions to safeguard affected populations. (Rohrer) Then, see how wild gorilla conservation became an unexpected diplomatic tool after the Rwandan Genocide—strengthening national unity, rebuilding trust, attracting global support, and reshaping Rwanda's international reputation. (Perez)

**Apr 21, 2026: Are You With Us, or Against Us?** – As Japan faces mounting economic and social strain, nationalist and far-right voices—including Japan's own “Iron Lady,” Sanae Takaichi—have gained increasing influence. This session traces the historical roots and analyzes the modern conditions that perpetuated this political shift. (Butler) Next, the war in Ukraine resulted in the coalescence of the NATO alliance to a level not seen in decades, including the dual applications of Finland and Sweden. Examine the foreign policies of both states, their perceived threats, and the intricacies of NATO membership. (Tennant)

**Apr 28, 2026: What's Next?** – And to close this series, identify macro patterns of behavior that define the current state of the world, and measure the effectiveness—or ineffectiveness—of hard and soft power wielded upon the international order. (Durham)

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

**Aiden Butler** is a senior at Aquinas College studying political science and philosophy. In the summer of 2024, Butler interned with the US State Department. Following graduation, he is off to law school to pursue a career in international humanitarian law.

**Alexa Perez** is a third-year Aquinas student majoring in political science and international studies. She serves as a student ambassador and as president of the Multicultural Club. Perez is a passionate advocate for animal rights, immigration, and human trafficking protections.

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

**Ethan Tennant** is a senior at Aquinas College graduating in May with a double major in political science and history. A current student ambassador, he plans to attend graduate school in the fall.

Dates: **TUE, Apr 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026** (4 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
 Location: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### The Life of a Star

Presented by: Dave DeBruyn

Trace the life and death of stars, from the sun’s nuclear heart to dazzling stellar evolution across the cosmos. See how centuries of observations, theories, and breakthroughs uncovered the forces that power stars and determine their destiny.

**Apr 8, 2026: The Star of Life** – The sun was once thought to be totally reliable, but science has proven it will eventually cease to shine. How could astronomers confidently know of the sun’s finite lifetime? This session chronicles the discovery that nuclear fusion powers the sun, and that replicating and harnessing that unlimited power could both save and destroy the planet.

**Apr 15, 2026: Stars Are Not Forever** – Once astronomers understood how the sun shines, they saw that while stars share many properties, puzzling differences challenged existing theories of stellar evolution. At Harvard University, a group of brilliant women—known as the Harvard Computers—tackled these inconsistencies with remarkable dedication, producing insights that form the foundation of modern astronomy. Today, it is known that stars emerge from nebulous clouds, shine steadily for billions of years, and eventually fade—some peacefully, others in colossal explosions. The question remains: *What fate awaits our own Star of Life?*

*OLLI member Dave DeBruyn is curator emeritus of the Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan. DeBruyn co-founded the Great Lakes Planetarium Association and has served as president of the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association.*

Dates: **WED, Apr 8 and 15, 2026** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

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

Facilitated by: Dave Kampfschulte, MEd

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

*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.*

	This Is Where I Stand	The BIG Questions
Dates:	<b>WED, Apr 8, 15, and 22, 2026</b> (3 sessions)	<b>WED, Jun 3 and 10, 2026</b> (2 sessions)
Time:	<b>11:30am – 1:00pm</b>	<b>11:30am – 1:00pm</b>
Modality:	<b>IN-PERSON   Hauenstein Library</b> [Limit 20]	<b>IN-PERSON   Hauenstein Library</b> [Limit 20]
Course Fee:	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

Presented by: Ilaria Panzeri, PhD

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

*Ilaria Panzeri is a research scientist at the Van Andel Institute where she investigates how early-life environmental and metabolic factors shape cancer risk later in life. She earned a PhD in translational and molecular medicine from the University of Milano-Bicocca in Italy. Dr. Panzeri is passionate about making cutting-edge epigenetics research accessible to broad audiences.*

Date: **THU, Apr 9, 2026 (RESCHEDULED FROM FALL 2025!)**  
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Solving Family Mysteries with Genetic Genealogy

Presented by: Jessica Riley, JD

Genetic genealogy uses DNA testing to trace ancestry, identify living relatives, and uncover the stories hidden in our genetic code. By combining DNA results with traditional genealogical research, anyone can gain insights into family history, ethnicity, and connections across generations.

**Apr 9, 2026: The Basics** – This session introduces the fundamentals of genetic genealogy, including the types of commercial DNA tests available, how to choose the right test, and strategies for interpreting results.

**Apr 16, 2026: Practical Use of DNA Results** – Building on the basics, this session demonstrates how to apply DNA results in real-world research. Using a case study, participants will see how a DNA match list can solve long-standing genealogy puzzles and break through “brick walls” in family history research.

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

Dates: **THU, Apr 9 and 16, 2026** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

## PANTLIND SERIES

### Talkies Film Series: A Tribute to Rob Reiner

Presented by: Ian MacNeil

Lights, camera, ACTION! This series features screenings of classic movies curated from the prolific filmography of the late director Rob Reiner, followed by guided discussions that analyze characters, story, themes, and technical elements.

**Apr 10, 2026, AM: Stand By Me (1986)** – First up in a Stephen King adaptation double feature, a writer recounts a childhood journey with his friends to find the body of a missing boy.

[Rated R for pervasive language]

**Apr 10, 2026, PM: Misery (1990)** – After a famous author is rescued from a car crash by a fan of his novels, he comes to realize that the care he is receiving is only the beginning of a nightmare of captivity and abuse.

[Rated R for strong violence and language]

**May 15, 2026: This Is Spinal Tap (1984)** – In Reiner’s debut film, a budding filmmaker sets out to document a behind-the-scenes look at Spinal Tap, a struggling metal band desperate for success.

[Rated R for pervasive language, drug references, and sexual content]

**Jun 12, 2026: When Harry Met Sally... (1989)** – Can men and women truly just be friends, or does sex always get in the way? Harry and Sally test their friendship in the quintessential romantic comedy.

[Rated R for sexual content and 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, Apr 10, May 15, and Jun 12, 2026** (4 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am – 12:00pm AND 1:30pm – 4:00pm** (Apr 10 ONLY)  
 Location: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



# OLLI COURSES

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

## How Demography Is Shaping Our World

Presented by: Paul Morland, PhD

Is a population calamity unfolding before our eyes? A basic understanding of population trends—births, deaths, and migration—provides great insight into our world. Demography is the hidden hand of human history that continues to shape politics, economics, and global stability. This course will outline the main dynamics of demography and demonstrate how understanding them is essential for anyone who wants to grasp why major world events happen and how societies are evolving.

*Paul Morland is a British demographer, former associate research fellow at Birkbeck, University of London—where he earned a PhD in political demography—and a former senior member of St Antony’s College, University of Oxford. Described as “one of the world’s pre-eminent demographers,” Morland is an author of four books, commentator, magazine contributor, broadcaster, and podcaster.*

Date: **MON, Apr 13, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**



**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

## Navigating the Vaccine Landscape

Presented by: Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MD, MPH

The current vaccine environment is shaped by growing hesitancy, shifting public trust, and the concerning reemergence of vaccine-preventable diseases—like measles—once nearly eliminated. This course examines the drivers behind today’s more mainstream skepticism and its impact on community health, policy, and public opinion. From COVID-19 to Hepatitis B, how can you separate fact from fiction and strengthen confidence in evidence-based immunization practices?

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

*Natasha Bagdasarian is the chief medical executive for the State of Michigan. She is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. She earned an MPH from the University of Michigan—where she also holds an adjunct faculty appointment—and an MD from Wayne State University. Dr. Bagdasarian is a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, she chairs Michigan’s Public Health Advisory Council, and she serves as a member of Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s Cabinet.*

Date: **MON, Apr 13, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Donnelly Center**  
 Course Fee: **FREE**

**ARTS & CULTURE**

## What’s Happening in Downtown Grand Rapids?

Presented by: Mark F. Miller, MArch, AIA, AICP

Downtown Grand Rapids is dramatically changing—shifting from a 9-to-5 business district into a vibrant, around-the-clock neighborhood. With bold investments in riverfront trails, live music, pro sports, and dynamic public spaces, the city center is becoming a true regional destination. Discover how the Grand River Greenway, the Acrisure Amphitheater, the Amway soccer stadium, and exciting public space upgrades are transforming Grand Rapids into a place where people don’t just work—they gather, play, and stay.

*Mark F. Miller is the managing director of planning and design for Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. He earned a Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan and spent more than twenty years in the private sector as an architect, city planner, writer, and urban designer. Miller previously served as chairman of the City of Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission.*

Date: **TUE, Apr 14, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ The Acrisure Amphitheater will open on May 15, 2026.

# OLLI COURSES

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### OLLI's Supper Club

Facilitated by: Charlie Hoven, Chef Marianna "Nan" Plumstead, and Amy Sherman

Dinner's on! The Midwestern supper club is back—with a twist. In this deliciously immersive OLLI experience, savor the history and hospitality of these beloved gathering spots, where signature drinks, hearty meals, and good conversation turned dinner into an event. Come hungry and ready for a dash of nostalgia with an afternoon that reimagines home-style cooking with the best of friends.

**Apr 15, 2026: Traditional Wisconsin** – Break out the relish tray! Enjoy a multi-course meal featuring garlic bread, wedge salad with bleu cheese vinaigrette, prime sirloin steak with a Michigan cherry port wine sauce, crispy mashed potatoes, broiled tomatoes au gratin, and desserts like key lime pie and chocolate molten lava cake. Yum!

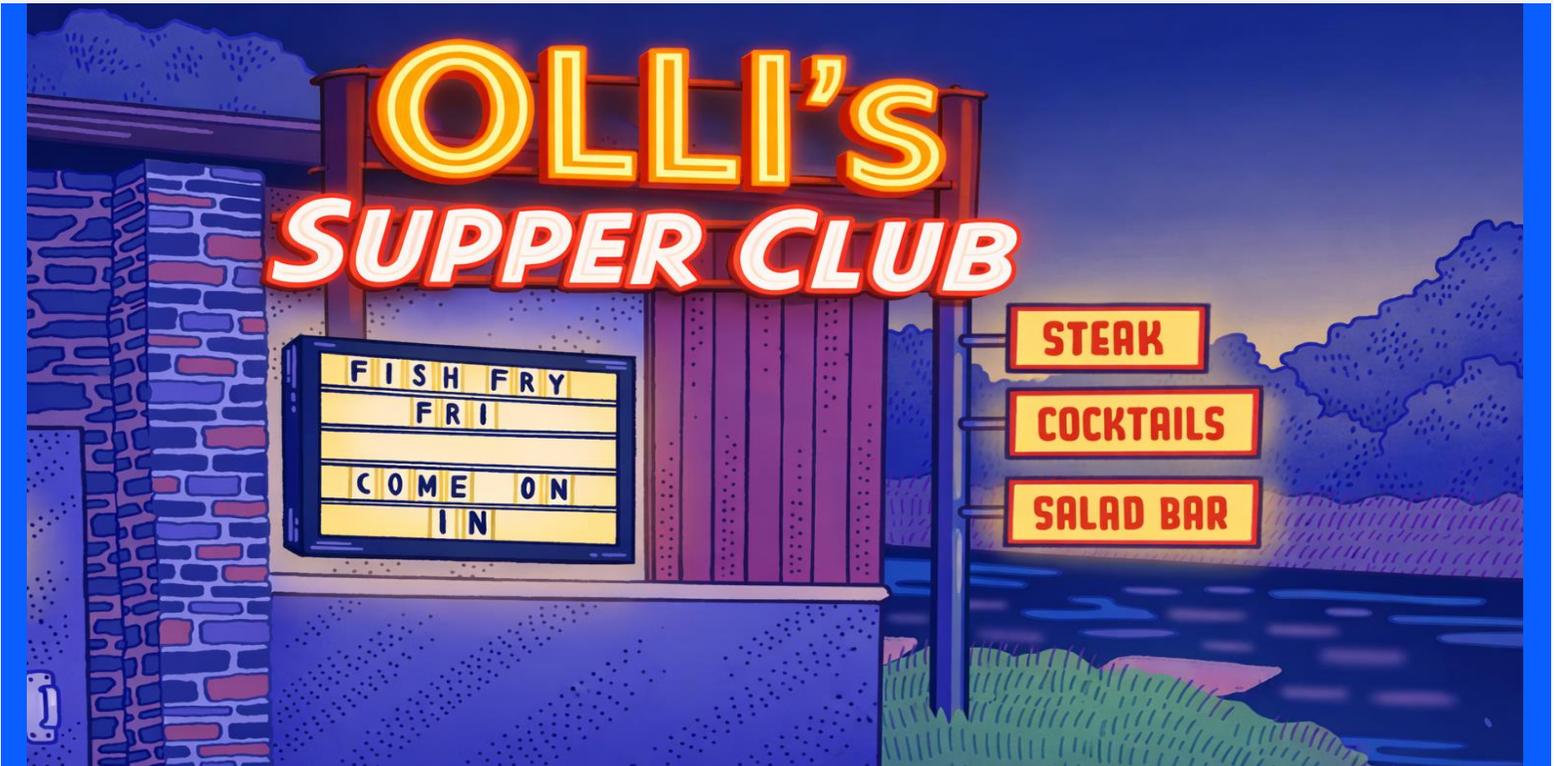
**Jun 3, 2026: Farm-Fresh Food Surprise** – Pull up a chair for a farm-to-table feast crafted by local chef Amy Sherman, showcasing the freshest seasonal ingredients straight from nearby fields and markets. Each course is a delicious reveal—vibrant produce, thoughtfully prepared proteins, and sweet finishes that celebrate the harvest. Along the way, Amy will share her favorite kitchen tips and tricks so you can bring a taste of the farm back to your own table.

**Charlie Hoven** is the catering manager at Aquinas College. While earning a BA in management from Luther College (Iowa), he joined a food service work-study program that launched a long career in hospitality and catering across higher education, hotel, and corporate dining industries. Raised on traditional Midwestern supper clubs, Hoven brings his signature flair to events of all sizes.

**Chef Marianna "Nan" Plumstead** is the executive chef at Aquinas College. A graduate of Smith College, her culinary career has featured roles in both senior living communities and higher education institutions.

**Amy Sherman** is a chef, writer, cooking instructor, and culinary travel guide with more than twenty years of experience in the food and catering industry. A graduate of Aquinas College, her career has taken her to kitchens and breweries around the world. She is the co-host of Behind the Mitten, Michigan's premier travel radio show and podcast. Amy and her husband also own and operate West Michigan FarmLink, an online marketplace connecting local buyers with local food producers.

Dates: **WED, Apr 15 and Jun 3, 2026** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **2:00pm - 4:00pm\***  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Wege Student Center** [Limit 20]  
 Course Fee: **\$50.00** per session



# OLLI COURSES

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**Are Pit Bulls Really More Dangerous?**

Presented by: Lana Carson

It's time to settle the long-standing debate around pit bulls and perceived danger. Unpack what "pit bull" actually means, examine the science of canine aggression, analyze bite statistics and breed-specific laws, and explore how history—from dogfighting to media narratives—has shaped public perception. What truly predicts risk? Is it actually the breed? Is it environment, training, owner behavior, or something else entirely? See how local shelters are working to promote both public safety and animal welfare.

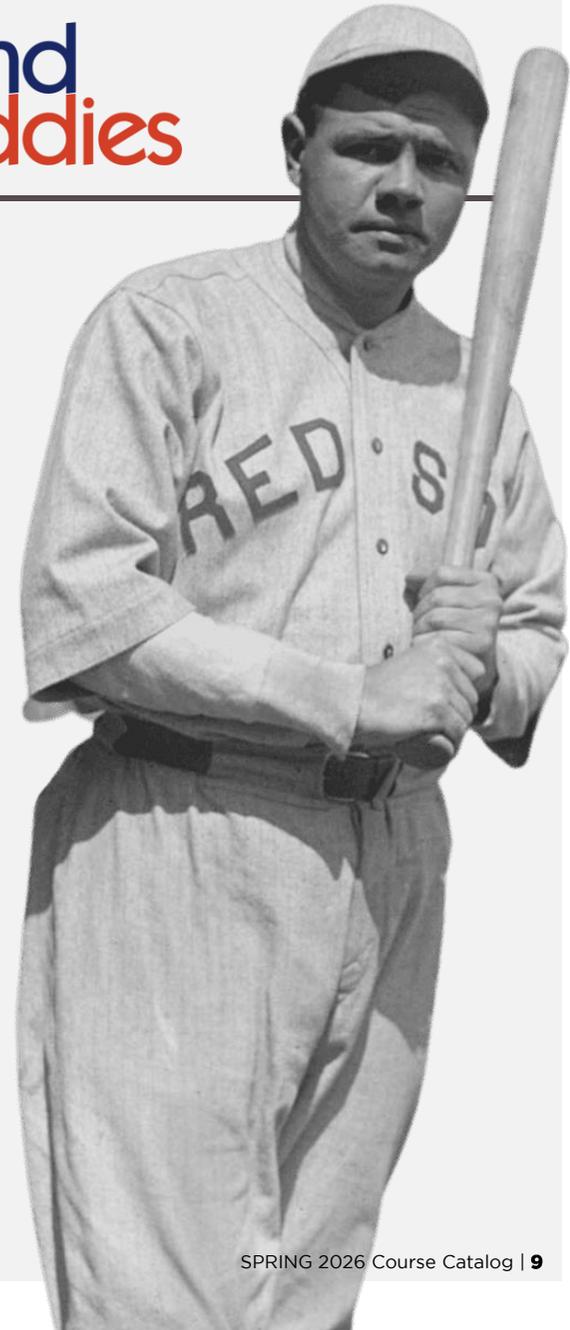
*Lana Carson is the executive director of Pound Buddies community pet center and adoption agency. Pound Buddies serves as the primary animal shelter and animal control partner for Muskegon County. Carson is a fierce advocate for animals who have been abused, neglected, or exploited. She is joined by her trusty sidekick, Cinnabon.*

Date: **MON, Apr 20, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



▲ "Pit bull" is an umbrella term for any bull-type terrier.

**pound  
buddies**



**ARTS & CULTURE**

**The Life and Times of Babe Ruth: America's First Superstar**

Presented by: Michael Stevens, PhD

Also known as the Sultan of Swat, the King of Crash, the Colossus of Clout, and the Great Bambino, few figures loom larger in American sports history than Babe Ruth. This course traces his remarkable journey from a troubled childhood to mythic superstardom with the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees, before examining the difficult final chapter of his life and career.

**Apr 20, 2026: The Young Babe** - Begin with an in-depth look at the problematic circumstances of Babe Ruth's childhood in Baltimore, his eventual removal to St. Mary's Reformatory, and the pivotal influence of the priests there, who steered him toward baseball as a constructive life choice.

**Apr 27, 2026: The Rise to Glory** - This session will cover the contours of Babe's professional career, from ace pitcher on the World Series champion Red Sox to a hitter of otherworldly statistical and cultural impact on the Yankees of the Roaring Twenties.

**May 4, 2026: A Series of Endings** - Explore the struggles Babe Ruth faced while trying to end his career on his own terms back in Boston, his scuffling to find coaching work within professional baseball, and finally, the poor health and low confidence that characterized his twilight years.

*Michael Stevens is a literature and composition teacher at Trinitas Classical School. He holds an MA in liberal studies from St. John's College and a PhD in literature from the University of Dallas. Stevens' research interests include American literature, history, and folklore—specifically the history of baseball in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.*

Dates: **MON, Apr 20, 27, and May 4, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Persuasive Images: Propaganda Posters in the Two World Wars

Presented by: Gary Stark, PhD

During both WWI and WWII, governments undertook massive publicity campaigns to “advertise” the war effort. These campaigns, adapted from peacetime commercial advertising, tried to convince citizens of the need for the war, to recruit soldiers, to sell war bonds, to boost civilian morale, to save food, and more. This course examines how nations involved on all sides of the two World Wars used posters—which combined art with propaganda—as an effective means of mass persuasion.

*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: **WED, Apr 22 and 29, 2026** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### The Lake Huron Mermaid: Poetry, Art, and the Healing Powers of the Great Lakes

Presented by: Linda Nemec Foster, MFA

*The Lake Huron Mermaid*—a companion book to *The Lake Michigan Mermaid*—marks the second collaboration between authors Linda Nemec Foster and Anne-Marie Oomen featuring the contemporary myth of a Great Lakes mermaid. Fully illustrated with luminous watercolors by Meridith Ridl, *The Lake Huron Mermaid* unfolds entirely in poetry, weaving art and narrative into a single immersive experience. It tells the story of a family navigating the COVID pandemic, focusing on the unwavering bond between two sisters. This course explores the creative journey behind this “tale told in poems” and celebrates the words and art that bring it to life.

*OLLI member Linda Nemec Foster is an award-winning, Pulitzer Prize-nominated author of fourteen poetry collections. A graduate of Aquinas College—where she later founded the Contemporary Writers Series—she earned an MFA in creative writing from Goddard College in Vermont. Foster served as the inaugural Poet Laureate of Grand Rapids, and her work has appeared in more than 400 magazines, journals, and anthologies.*

Date: **THU, Apr 23, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### Migratory Spring Birds in West Michigan

Presented by: Daniel Goldberg, PhD

Each spring, more than 250 species of birds pass through West Michigan on the way to their summer breeding grounds. This outdoor, interactive course will help you spot them while discussing why these birds are here, their changing color and appearances, their behavior, and their important ecological roles within our natural environments.

**NOTE:** Participants should expect walking on uneven terrain. Please wear clothes and footwear that are appropriate for the weather. If possible, please bring your own binoculars and field guides, as only limited quantities are available.

*Daniel Goldberg is an assistant professor of biology at Grand Valley State University. He has a PhD in biology from Illinois State University. Professor Goldberg is a lifelong nature lover, ornithologist, and member-at-large of the Grand Rapids Audubon Club.*

Dates: **TUE, Apr 28, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **(A) IN-PERSON | Remington Park [Limit 20]  
 2310 Reeds Lake Blvd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

**TUE, May 5, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **(B) IN-PERSON | Huff Park [Limit 20]  
 2399 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505**



# OLLI COURSES

**ARTS & CULTURE**

**OLLI Readers Series**

Facilitated by: Barbara Carvill, PhD, Mary VanderGroot, PhD, Sue Jeffery, and Darlene Kaczmarczyk, 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.

**Apr 29, 2026: *Orphan Children of Bethany (2025)* by Marylène Schultz** – An eye-opening memoir left by a woman who lived for six decades in the Occupied Territories just outside Jerusalem. Beginning with the Six-Day War, her remarkable story of courage and empathy is also the story of the orphaned Palestinian children for whom she created a home. Schultz’s commitment to non-violence and justice in the midst of a fractured world makes this book particularly relevant today. (Carvill and VanderGroot)

**May 27, 2026: *Trust (2022)* by Hernán Díaz** – This Pulitzer Prize-winning book recounts the life of a secretive Wall Street tycoon and his wife through four competing texts: a bestselling novel, an unfinished autobiography, a memoir, and a diary. Each offers conflicting versions of their marriage, their fortune, and the forces behind their success. As the narratives overlap and contradict one another, *Trust* reveals how wealth, power, and storytelling itself shape what we accept as truth. (Jeffery)

**Jun 24, 2026: *Parable of the Sower (1993)* by Octavia E. Butler** – Set in a dystopian 2024 Los Angeles, this novel follows Lauren, a Black teenager documenting her life in a journal as society collapses under climate change, social inequality, civil unrest, and corporate greed. After the death of her family, Lauren is forced to leave home, gathering a ragtag group of supporters and discovering her own strengths along the way. (Kaczmarczyk)

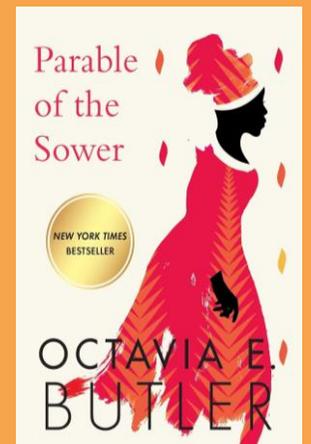
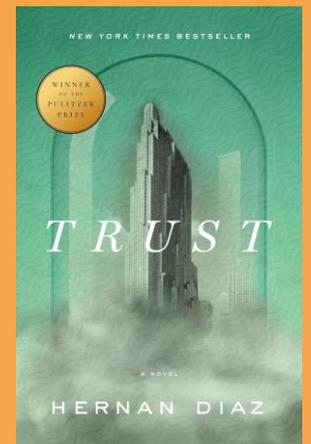
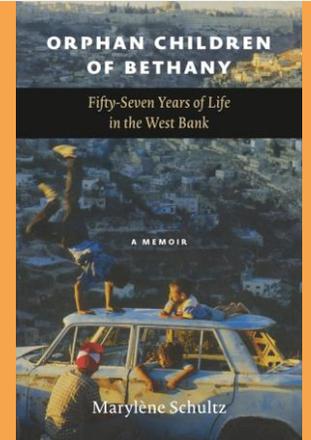
*Barbara Carvill is a professor emerita of German at Calvin University. Born in Nazi Germany, she later received an MA in French and German from the University of Hamburg and a PhD from the University of Toronto before relocating to Grand Rapids in 1978.*

*Mary VanderGroot is a licensed psychologist and marriage and family therapist. A graduate of Calvin University, she later earned her MA and PhD in psychology from Princeton University. VanderGroot is the author of three novels.*

*OLLI member Sue Jeffery is a retired marketing executive from Amway Corporation. She earned a BA from Spring Arbor University. An avid reader, she has been a member of the OLLI at Aquinas College community since 2007.*

*OLLI member Darlene Kaczmarczyk is a professor emerita of photography at Kendall College of Art of Design of Ferris State University. She received an MA in photography from Columbia College Chicago. After encountering numerous references to Octavia E. Butler’s novel, Professor Kaczmarczyk overcame her prejudice against science fiction and is now a fan.*

Dates: **WED, Apr 29, May 27, and Jun 24, 2026** (3 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]



## 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.

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*Thank you!*



# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Tales From the Truck

Presented by: Kate Dernocoeur

What's it like to drive a fire engine? (Spoiler alert: It's fun!) What actually happens when you call 9-1-1? In this course, real-life stories from a first responder help separate Hollywood myth from reality, outline what to expect in an actual emergency, and identify simple steps you can take to protect yourself in a life-or-death situation.

**Kate Dernocoeur** is an adventurer, writer, and public speaker. Throughout her illustrious career, she has worked as a paramedic, an EMT-firefighter, and a medical examiner investigator. Dernocoeur currently serves with the Kent County Search and Rescue's K9 Unit and on the board of the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority.

Date: **TUE, May 5, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



## PANTLIND SERIES

### So You Thought Robert Frost Was a Kindly Old Gentleman?

Presented by: Becky Knack, MA

Think again! Read and analyze selected poems by Robert Frost to uncover the surprising complexity beneath the familiar New England voice. Frost may look like a gentle sage from a snowy postcard, but his poetry often carries sharp turns, dark humor, and bold questions. Revisit the road less traveled—and perhaps leave with an entirely new view of the poet you thought you knew.

OLLI member **Becky Knack** is a retired English teacher, theatre director, and debate coach. She has a BA in English from Rhodes College (Tennessee) and an MA in linguistics from the University of Michigan. Since her over 20-year career in public education, she has served on numerous community organization boards including her current tenure on the OLLI Advisory Council.

Dates: **WED, May 6 and 13, 2026** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

## PANTLIND SERIES

### Damage and Discovery: The Art of Painting Conservation

Presented by: Julianna Ly, MS

For nearly fifty years, Pintoricchio's *Virgin and Child* remained in storage at the Cleveland Museum of Art, its original paint layers obscured by heavy restoration and conservation treatments from the early 1900s that rendered it unsuitable for public display—until now. Drawing on historical research, scientific analysis, and cutting-edge technology, this course explores the strategies, materials, and ethical considerations that guide the conservation of damaged masterpieces. Discover how today's "art scientists" balance transformation and transparency while working to understand—and safeguard—an artist's original intent.

**Julianna Ly** is the associate conservator of paintings at the Cleveland Museum of Art. She received an MS from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC). Ly has previously worked at the Yale University Art Gallery, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis in the Hague, Netherlands.

Date: **THU, May 7, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**



▲ Conservator Julianna Ly reconstructs a large area of damage on Pintoricchio's *Virgin and Child*.

# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Tiny Hippos, Huge Hearts: Caring for Pygmy Hippos and Protecting Their Future

Presented by: Nick Milbratz and Tim Sampson

Hugo, the baby pygmy hippo born in September 2025 at the John Ball Zoo, didn't just capture hearts—he splashed right into them! But behind all those adorable TikTok posts and viral moments is something even bigger. With fewer than 3,000 pygmy hippos left in the wild, Hugo's birth was an important milestone for his species.

**May 7, 2026:** This first session highlights the comprehensive animal care practices, from husbandry to veterinary care, that support the pygmy hippos' physical and behavioral wellbeing. Then, explore the collaborative breeding program—the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan—helping ensure a bright future for pygmy hippos everywhere.

**May 14, 2026:** Go onsite to tour John Ball Zoo and discover how the pygmy hippo exhibit—and its complex water filtration system—blends conservation science and sustainable habitat design to protect one of the world's most elusive species.

*Nick Milbratz is the education manager of guest programs at John Ball Zoo. He works to connect all guests to conservation through engaging experiences including Wildlife Exploration days, Daily Animal Programs, and behind the scenes activities.*

*Tim Sampson is a long-term area curator and animal care supervisor at John Ball Zoo, overseeing the team responsible for large cats, hippos, hoofstock, river otters, and more. Sampson contributes to safety programs, conservation strategy, and research plans.*

Dates: **Session 1**  
**THU, May 7, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**  
 Course Fee: **\$10.00**

Dates: **Session 2**  
**THU, May 14, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | John Ball Zoo [Limit 40]**  
**1300 Fulton St W, Grand Rapids, MI 49504**  
 Course Fee: **\$30.00**

▼ Born at just 11 pounds, Hugo spent his first month behind the scenes at John Ball Zoo learning to swim, hold his breath, and follow his mom, Penelope.



## ARTS & CULTURE

### The Papacy of Pope Leo XIV... So Far

Presented by: Michael Ingram, MA

As white smoke billowed from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel on May 8, 2025, the Church—and the world—marked the beginning of a new era under Leo XIV. This course explores how a pope's first year reveals his vision in action. Through close reading of his early homilies, audiences, and major writings, uncover the theological themes and pastoral priorities shaping the new pontiff's leadership.

*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.*

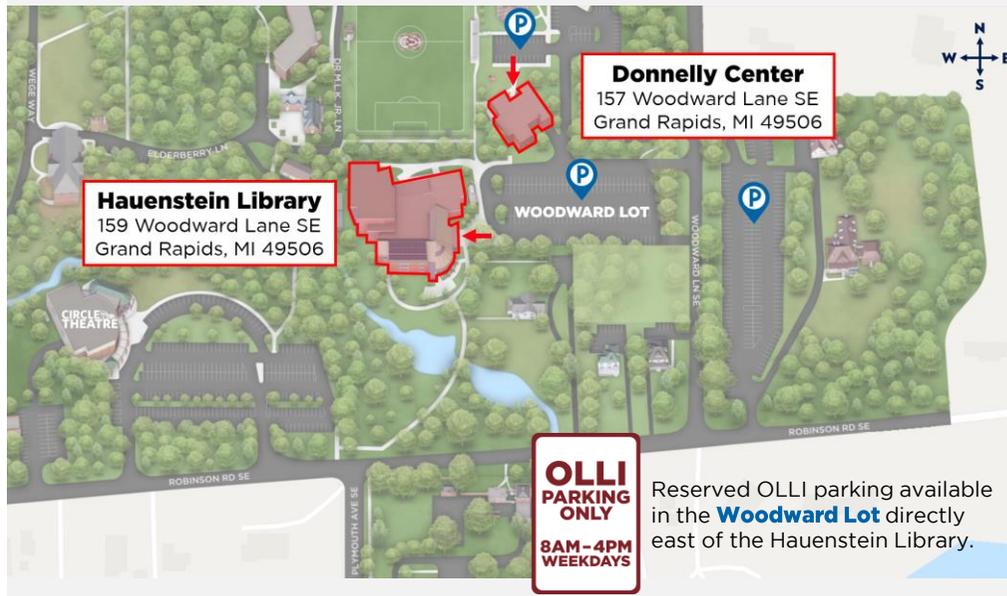
Date: **FRI, May 8, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

# SPRING 2026 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>23 - MARCH</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>30</b>  <b>3:00pm - Osher Online</b> Presidential Speeches	<b>31</b>  <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> Scopes Monkey Trial	<b>1 - APRIL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b> GOOD FRIDAY
<b>6</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b> EASTER MONDAY  <b>3:00pm - Osher Online</b> Presidential Speeches	<b>7</b>  <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> Scopes Monkey Trial <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> World in Crisis (p. 4)	<b>8</b>  <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Life of a Star (p. 5) <b>11:30am - Library</b> This Is Where I Stand (p. 5)	<b>9</b>  <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Hot Topic: Epigenetics (p. 5) <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> A Beautiful Brain <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Genetic Genealogy (p. 6)	<b>10</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Talkies Film Series (p. 6) <i>Stand By Me</i> <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Talkies Film Series (p. 6) <i>Misery</i>
<b>13</b>  <b>9:30am - Zoom</b> Demography (p. 7) <b>1:30pm - Donnelly</b> Vaccine Landscape (p. 7) <b>3:00pm - Osher Online</b> Presidential Speeches	<b>14</b>  <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Downtown Grand Rapids (p. 7) <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> Scopes Monkey Trial <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> World in Crisis (p. 4)	<b>15</b>  <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Life of a Star (p. 5) <b>11:30am - Library</b> This Is Where I Stand (p. 5) <b>2:00pm - Wege Student Center</b> OLLI's Supper Club (p. 8)	<b>16</b>  <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> A Beautiful Brain <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Genetic Genealogy (p. 6)	<b>17</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>20</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Are Pit Bulls Dangerous? (p. 9) <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Babe Ruth: Superstar (p. 9) <b>3:00pm - Osher Online</b> Presidential Speeches	<b>21</b>  <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> Scopes Monkey Trial <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> World in Crisis (p. 4)	<b>22</b>  <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Propaganda Posters (p. 10) <b>11:30am - Library</b> This Is Where I Stand (p. 5)	<b>23</b>  <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> A Beautiful Brain <b>1:30pm - Library</b> <i>Lake Huron Mermaid</i> (p. 10)	<b>24</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>27</b>  <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Babe Ruth: Superstar (p. 9) <b>3:00pm - Osher Online</b> Presidential Speeches	<b>28</b>  <b>9:30am - Remington Park</b> Migratory Spring Birds A (p. 10) <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> Scopes Monkey Trial <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> World in Crisis (p. 4)	<b>29</b>  <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Propaganda Posters (p. 10) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> OLLI Readers Series (p. 11) <i>Orphan Children of Bethany</i>	<b>30</b>  <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> A Beautiful Brain	<b>1 - MAY</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>4</b>  <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Babe Ruth: Superstar (p. 9) <b>3:00pm - Osher Online</b> Presidential Speeches	<b>5</b>  <b>9:30am - Huff Park</b> Migratory Spring Birds B (p. 10) <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> Scopes Monkey Trial <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Tales From the Truck (p. 12)	<b>6</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Robert Frost (p. 12)	<b>7</b>  <b>9:30am - Zoom</b> Painting Conservation (p. 12) <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> A Beautiful Brain <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Pygmy Hippos (p. 13)	<b>8</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Pope Leo XIV... So Far (p. 13)
<b>11</b>  <b>9:30am - Zoom</b> European Populism (p. 16) <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Hearing Technology (p. 16)	<b>12</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Hitting the Road (p. 17) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Hitting the Road (p. 17) <b>6:30pm - Performing Arts Center</b> Circle 360 (p. 17) <i>Forever Plaid</i>	<b>13</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Robert Frost (p. 12)	<b>14</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Pilgrimage with Vox GR (p. 18) <b>11:00am - Osher Online</b> A Beautiful Brain <b>1:30pm - John Ball Zoo</b> Pygmy Hippos (p. 13) <b>7:30pm - First United Methodist</b> Pilgrimage with Vox GR (p. 18)	<b>15</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Talkies Film Series (p. 6) <i>This Is Spinal Tap</i>
<b>18</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> A Forager's Plant Walk (p. 18)	<b>19</b>  <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Autism Spectrum (p. 19) <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Catholic Legal System (p. 19)	<b>20</b>  <b>9:30am - Library</b> Fashioning Public Grief (p. 19)	<b>21</b>  <b>9:30am - Blytheheld</b> Meijer LPGA Classic (p. 20) <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Cannabis in America (p. 21)	<b>22</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>

# SPRING 2026 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>25</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b> MEMORIAL DAY	<b>26</b> <b>9:30am - Library</b> Boarding School Stories (p. 22) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Creativity and the Brain (p. 22)	<b>27</b> <b>9:30am - Ferris Coffee &amp; Nut Co.</b> Ferris Coffee & Nut Co. (p. 23) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> OLLI Readers Series (p. 11) <i>Trust</i>	<b>28</b>  <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Cannabis in America (p. 21)	<b>29</b> <b>9:30am - Library</b> Making of a Denver Diva (p. 23)
<b>1 - JUNE</b>  <b>1:30pm - Zoom</b> 125 Years of Oz (p. 23)	<b>2</b> <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Alexander McColl (p. 24) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Creativity and the Brain (p. 22)	<b>3</b>  <b>11:30am - Library</b> The BIG Questions (p. 5) <b>2:00pm - Wege Student Center</b> OLLI's Supper Club (p. 8)	<b>4</b>  <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Cannabis in America (p. 21)	<b>5</b> <b>9:30am - Library</b> Festival of the Arts (p. 24)
<b>8</b>  <b>1:00pm - Beem Home</b> 125 Years of Oz 2A (p. 23) <b>3:00pm - Beem Home</b> 125 Years of Oz 2B (p. 23)	<b>9</b> <b>9:30am - Ghosthouse Art Studio</b> Sculpture Techniques (p. 24) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Creativity and the Brain (p. 22) <b>6:30pm - Performing Arts Center</b> Circle 360 (p. 17) <i>Lend Me A Tenor</i>	<b>10</b> <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> National Parks (p. 25) <b>11:30am - Library</b> The BIG Questions (p. 5)	<b>11</b>  <b>1:30pm - Library/Zoom</b> Cannabis in America (p. 21)	<b>12</b> <b>9:30am - Library</b> Talkies Film Series (p. 6) <i>When Harry Met Sally...</i>
<b>15</b>  <b>1:00pm - Beem Home</b> 125 Years of Oz 2C (p. 23) <b>1:30pm - Zoom</b> Politics of World Soccer (p. 25) <b>3:00pm - Beem Home</b> 125 Years of Oz 2D (p. 23)	<b>16</b> <b>9:30am - Ghosthouse Art Studio</b> Sculpture Techniques (p. 24) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Federal Law Enforcement (p. 26)	<b>17</b> <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> National Parks (p. 25) <b>1:30pm - Zoom</b> Politics of World Soccer (p. 25)	<b>18</b> <b>9:30am - Blytheheld</b> Meijer LPGA Classic (p. 20)	<b>19</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b> JUNETEENTH
<b>22</b>  <b>9:30am - Ghosthouse Art Studio</b> Sculpture Techniques (p. 24) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Federal Law Enforcement (p. 26)	<b>23</b> <b>9:30am - Ghosthouse Art Studio</b> Sculpture Techniques (p. 24) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> Federal Law Enforcement (p. 26)	<b>24</b> <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> National Parks (p. 25) <b>1:30pm - Library</b> OLLI Readers Series (p. 11) <i>Parable of the Sower</i>	<b>25</b> <b>9:30am - Library/Zoom</b> Pauli Murray (p. 26)	<b>26</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>
<b>29</b>  <b>MEMBERSHIP 2026-2027 RENEWAL OPENS 9:00am</b> <a href="http://aquinas.edu/olli-membership">aquinas.edu/olli-membership</a>	<b>30</b>  <b>MEMBERSHIP 2026-2027 RENEWAL OPENS 9:00am</b> <a href="http://aquinas.edu/olli-membership">aquinas.edu/olli-membership</a>	<b>1 - JULY</b>  <b>MEMBERSHIP 2026-2027 RENEWAL OPENS 9:00am</b> <a href="http://aquinas.edu/olli-membership">aquinas.edu/olli-membership</a>	<b>2</b>  <b>MEMBERSHIP 2026-2027 RENEWAL OPENS 9:00am</b> <a href="http://aquinas.edu/olli-membership">aquinas.edu/olli-membership</a>	<b>3</b>  <b>OLLI CLOSED</b>



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CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### The Czech Republic, the European Union, and the Rise of Populism

Presented by: Martin Nekola, PhD

Could the Czech Republic be a harbinger of broader non-democratic trends in Europe? Nestled at the heart of Europe, this small nation has long served as a crossroads between East and West—and today reflects some of the EU's most pressing challenges. This course examines how Brexit (and general Euroscepticism), the refugee crisis, the war in Ukraine, and rising populist movements are shaping the Czech Republic, while also exploring implications for Central Europe and the future of democracy in the region.

**Martin Nekola** is an author and independent scholar. He received a PhD in political science from Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Nekola's research is focused on non-democratic regimes and the era of Communism. He is a member of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) and project coordinator of The Czechoslovak Talks.

Date: **MON, May 11, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

▼ The Czech Republic joined the European Union in 2004, but as far right populism gains influence, talk of a possible "Czexit" has reignited.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Restoring Connection: Hearing Technology and Improved Quality of Life

Presented by: Steve Ashmead, MD, Shawn Castillo, AuD, and Jennifer L. Smart, PhD

There are many factors that impact how we hear—including the aging process—and hearing loss can negatively affect connection, communication, and daily life. This course explores how hearing works and what happens to it over time. Supported by a seasoned hearing aid user's lived experience, explore the recent advances in hearing loss treatment and rehabilitation that can improve one's quality of life.

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

**Shawn Castillo** is a practicing audiologist and member of the clinical affiliate faculty in the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Grand Valley State University, where she has developed an evidence-based curriculum for aural rehabilitation. She holds a Doctor of Audiology from Salus University and a certificate of clinical competence in audiology (CCC-A).

**Jennifer L. Smart** is an associate professor and director of the Doctor of Audiology program in the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Grand Valley State University. She earned her PhD in clinical audiology from James Madison University. Professor Smart is committed to the advancement of the field of audiology through research, publishing, teaching, and service.

Date: **MON, May 11, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Hitting the Road

Presented by: Jim Craft, MA

As summer approaches, are you looking to get away? The concept of “vacation” is largely a product of the industrial revolution—but as automobiles became a primary means of transportation, was national infrastructure prepared for an influx of travelers? This course explores how leisure and mobility transformed the American landscape.

**May 12, 2026, AM: The Rise of Leisure** – The wealthy have enjoyed leisure time since the dawn of civilization, but the modern idea of vacation took hold in America during the early 19th century. At first, only the wealthy and middle classes could afford time away, but by the early 20th century, many working-class Americans had enough disposable income to enjoy it too. Taking time to relax and travel soon became a widely expected part of life. What caused this shift, and how did Americans spend their time off?

**May 12, 2026, PM: The Good Roads Movement** – In 1890, America’s roads were among the worst in the developed world—muddy and impassable for months, dusty and rutted the rest of the year, and largely local in function. By the mid-1920s, a well-funded, coordinated network of local, state, and federal roads transformed travel across the country. Focusing on Michigan, this session explores why road conditions were so bad, what spurred change, and how the system relied on today was first constructed.

*Jim Craft is an independent historian with diverse experience as a teacher, author, researcher, lecturer, curriculum designer, curator, and historical commissioner. He has a BA in history from Oakland University and an MA in history from Wayne State University.*

Date: **TUE, May 12, 2026** (2 sessions)  
 Times: **9:30am – 11:00am AND 1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



▲ The League of American Bicyclists was a prominent advocacy group for the improvement of muddy roads in the United States long before the advent of the automobile.

## PANTLIND SERIES

### Circle 360

Facilitated by: Circle Theatre

Curtain up! Join Circle Theatre for a sneak preview of two of this season’s fantastic live shows. Sit down for a casual, catered reception with appetizers, trivia, and an open Q&A session with members of the show’s creative team before a dress-rehearsal performance of the show’s first act.

**May 12, 2026: Forever Plaid** – Four aspiring singers form a close-harmony group inspired by their idols, only to meet a tragic end on the way to their first big gig. Their story begins in the afterlife, where they charm audiences with boyish antics, over-the-top choreography, and a nostalgic, toe-tapping program of 1950s pop hits.

**Jun 9, 2026: Lend Me A Tenor** – This screwball comedy follows a series of outrageous mix-ups when world-famous tenor Tito Merelli arrives late to a one-night-only performance, gets accidentally tranquilized, and is mistaken for dead. In a frantic bid to save the show, an unsuspecting assistant dons Merelli’s costume—setting off a hilarious chain of mistaken identities, romantic chaos, and non-stop laughs.

Dates: **TUE, May 12 and Jun 9, 2026** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **6:30pm – 9:00pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Aquinas College Performing Arts Center [Limit 20]**  
**1703 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**  
 Course Fee: **\$20.00** per performance



# OLLI COURSES

## PANGLIND SERIES

### A Camino Pilgrimage with Vox GR

Presented by: Christopher Mason, DMA, and Dave Weinandy, PhD



Journey to the “western edge of the world” with Vox GR, West Michigan’s premier professional choral ensemble. Inspired by the Camino de Santiago, this uplifting OLLI experience explores how music moves the heart, clears the mind, and connects us in harmony.

**May 14, 2026, AM:** Begin with a lively Q&A featuring Christopher Mason, artistic director of Vox GR, in conversation with board president Dave Weinandy. Discover the ensemble’s origins, the creative vision shaping its sound, and how professional choral music resonates throughout the community. Then enjoy a reflective walk to Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel for an intimate quartet performance, concluding with a symbolic Camino-inspired release—letting go of a worry or burden as the final notes fade.

**May 14, 2026, PM:** Later that evening, enjoy reserved seating for a full Vox GR performance featuring works by Sydney Guillaume, Johann Sebastian Bach, Stephen Paulus, and “To the Field of Stars” by Gabriel Jackson. This sweeping program traces themes of seeking, travel, and transformation through radiant choral sound. Stay after the concert for an exclusive, festive reception with the performers and artistic team.

**Christopher Mason** is the founding artistic director of Vox GR. He earned a DMA in choral music at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Mason also serves as an assistant professor and director of choral activities at the University of Minnesota Duluth where he directs the flagship University Singers and teaches secondary choral methods, conducting, and ear training.

**Dave Weinandy** is an award-winning professor of communication at Aquinas College. He has an MA in college student personnel and PhD in interpersonal communication from Bowling Green State University. Professor Weinandy is a popular communication consultant and speaker. He also serves as president of the Vox GR Choral Ensemble Board of Directors.

Date: **THU, May 14, 2026**  
 Times: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**  
 Course Fee: **\$20.00**

Date: **THU, May 14, 2026**  
 Times: **7:30pm – 9:30pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | First United Methodist Church  
 227 Fulton Street E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**  
 Course Fee: **\$30.00**



## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### Spring Awakening: A Forager’s Plant Walk

Presented by: Lea Sevigny

Meet the first edible, wild greens of the season! In this interactive, outdoor experience, take a walk around the campus of Aquinas College, locate and identify safe and useful plants for harvest, sample foraged food (“weeds” can be delicious with the right preparation), and take home simple recipe ideas to transform your spring menu.

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

**Lea Sevigny** is a certified environmental educator and founder of Joyful Wildcrafting. A Master Naturalist with years of land stewardship experience, she is a member of Wild Ones, the Native Plant Guild, and the West Michigan Conservation Network. Sevigny has recently expanded her wildcrafting skills through an apprenticeship and intensive herbal studies program.

Date: **MON, May 18, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library [Limit 30]**

# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Beyond Awareness: Life on the Autism Spectrum

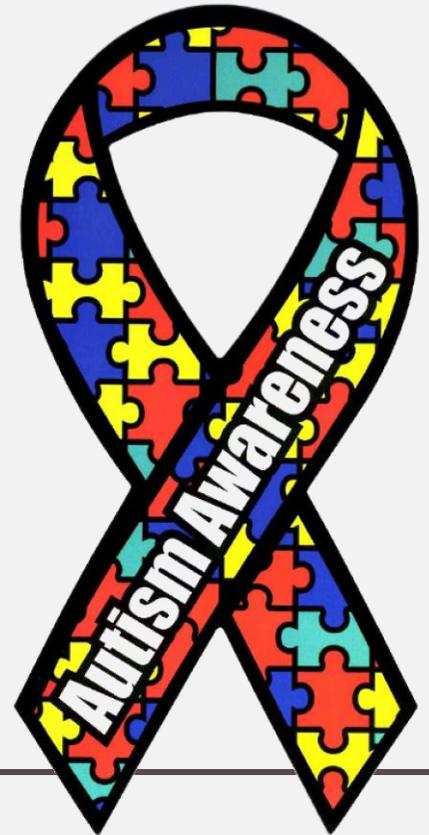
Presented by: Dr. Megan Quist, MD, and Autumn Wilson, RN

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, encompasses a range of neurodevelopmental conditions affecting social skills, behavior, speech, and nonverbal communication. What causes autism? How is it diagnosed? Is it becoming more common? And how can you best support an autistic friend or family member? This course goes beyond myths, media, and junk science to explore autism from both lived, maternal experience and an evidence-based, clinical perspective. Through personal stories and community-based work, discover how sensory-friendly environments, inclusive programming, and informed support can make a real difference for individuals with autism and their families.

**Megan Quist** is a board-certified developmental-behavioral pediatrician at Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital—where she completed her residency. She earned an MD at Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine before completing a pediatric fellowship at the University of Michigan. Dr. Quist is a specialist in autism spectrum disorder.

**Autumn Wilson** is the owner of We Rock the Spectrum Kid's Gym (WRTS)-Grand Rapids—an inclusive, sensory-friendly play space designed to support children of all abilities. With a background in critical care nursing—and as the parent of a child with autism—Wilson is a passionate advocate for accessible, empowering, and developmentally supportive play spaces.

Date: **TUE, May 19, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



## ARTS & CULTURE

### The Legal System of the Roman Catholic Church

Presented by: Very Rev. Kevin Niehoff, OP, JCL

Did you know the Catholic Church has its own legal system? It includes a formal code of laws—called canons—that guide Church operations and the lives of its faithful. See what canon lawyers do, who serves as judge, which types of cases these courts hear (such as annulments and excommunications), and how the Church's inquisitorial system compares with the adversarial civil law system.

**Fr. Kevin Niehoff, OP**, is the judicial vicar for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. He earned a Licentiate of Canon Law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. Fr. Kevin has twenty-five years of ecclesiastical tribunal experience.

Date: **TUE, May 19, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Fashioning Public Grief: Victorian Mourning Clothing and Practices

Presented by: Suzanne Eberle, PhD

In mid-late 19th century Britain, the process of mourning became much more visible and public than in previous times or places. Explore how and why Victorian funerary practices, artifacts, and mourning fashion grew in popularity and provided a controlled, community framework in which to safely grieve personal loss.

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.

Date: **WED, May 20, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

# OLLI COURSES

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### Making the Cut: The Meijer LPGA Classic

Presented by: Cathy Cooper and Allison Duncan

Tee it up and go behind the ropes at one of West Michigan's premier sporting events, the Meijer LPGA Classic. As the tournament returns June 18–21, 2026, this course offers an inside look at what it takes to bring a world-class event to fruition.

**May 21, 2026: The Preparation** – Before the players and galleries arrive, there's plenty of work behind the scenes. Hear from tournament leadership, a former LPGA player, and a representative from Blythefield Country Club about how the event comes together. See how players and caddies prepare to stay under par, how the course is conditioned for championship play, and how the tournament drives a major impact in the local community.

**Jun 18, 2026: The Tournament** – Then, step onto the grounds with a ticket to the opening round at Blythefield Country Club. Walk the course as a patron, follow featured groups, and watch many of the world's best golfers chase a place atop the leaderboard.

**NOTE:** The tournament grounds are wheelchair accessible, but participants should expect walking on uneven terrain. Please wear clothes and footwear that are appropriate for the weather. Complimentary parking and shuttle service to the venue is available at Rockford High School (4100 Kroes Street NE, Rockford, MI 49341). Participants may determine their own departure time.

**Cathy Cooper** is the executive director of the Meijer LPGA Classic. She has a BA in business management and marketing from Alma College. Cooper spent forty-one years with Meijer, including over twenty-five years as senior director of community partnerships and giving, where she oversaw the company's philanthropic giving, sponsorships of collegiate and professional sports, and the development of the Meijer LPGA Classic.

**Allison Duncan** is a former LPGA Tour player whose best finish was tied for second at the 2008 Michelob ULTRA Open behind legend Annika Sorenstam. A Grand Rapids native, she was an All-American at Michigan State University, where she was a member of the 2002 Big Ten Women's Golf Championship team. Since retiring from the LPGA, Duncan has served on the boards of the LPGA and USA Golf while consulting on large-scale capital projects in the public and private sector.

Dates: **THU, May 21, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Blythefield Country Club**  
**5801 Northland Drive NE, Belmont, MI 49306**  
 Course Fee: **\$15.00**

Dates: **THU, Jun 18, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - TBD**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Blythefield Country Club**  
**5801 Northland Drive NE, Belmont, MI 49306**  
 Course Fee: **\$10.00**

▼ Carlota Ciganda of Spain won the 2025 Meijer LPGA Classic at Blythefield Country Club.



# OLLI COURSES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Cannabis in America

Presented by: Lesley Cremeans, PhD, Will Furtado, JD, Emily Horvath, JD, Casey Kornoelje, and John Lipford, JD

With federal rescheduling efforts keeping marijuana in the headlines and a majority of US states now permitting some form of legal use, cannabis sits at the crossroads of science, policy, business, and public health. This course equips participants with research-based insight into how cannabis works, how it is regulated, who it affects, and where the industry may be headed next.

**May 21, 2026: The Plant** – What is cannabis? How is it grown? This introductory session examines the hemp plant through the lens of horticulture and botany, highlighting its anatomy, genetics, and chemistry—including the differences between THC and CBD. Follow cannabis from cultivation and testing to processing and safety within today’s seed-to-shop system. (Cremeans, Horvath, and Kornoelje)

**May 28, 2026: The Body** – Next, examine how cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system shape how cannabis affects the human body. With a focus on wellness and practical public health guidance for reducing harm, explore common uses, methods of consumption, dosing, risks, and both short- and long-term health impacts. (Cremeans, Horvath, and Kornoelje)

**Jun 4, 2026: The Law** – This session traces the arc of cannabis prohibition and legalization, from the Controlled Substances Act and drug scheduling to the evolving landscape in the US and abroad. Examine the tensions between federal, state, and local laws; the regulation of growing, possession, sale, and personal use; and ongoing debates over crime, expungement, taxation, interstate commerce, and the broader merits and criticisms of legalization. (Furtado)

**Jun 11, 2026: The Culture** – Finally, examine the cultural history of cannabis. Analyze stigma, media narratives, and generational attitudes compared to those of alcohol and tobacco industries. Is cannabis profitable—and who is benefiting? Consider impacts on marginalized communities, market consolidation, ongoing research and education efforts, and the expansion of cannabis tourism. (Lipford and Kornoelje).

**Lesley Cremeans** is a passionate “herb nerd” with over ten years of higher-educational teaching experience. She has a PhD in education from Texas Tech University and a Master of Cannabis certification. Cremeans is also the assistant director of the Teaching and Learning Center at Cooley Law School.

**Will Furtado** is an attorney and owner of Furtado Law, PLLC, a Grand Rapids firm focused on regulatory compliance for the cannabis industry. He has a JD from Indiana University and a Certificate in Cannabis Business from Northern Michigan University. Furtado is a member of the State Bar of Michigan’s Cannabis Law Section and serves on the board of the West Michigan Cannabis Guild.

**Emily Horvath** is a cannabis educator and founder of Herban Style, LLC, where she leverages over twenty years of teaching experience to help consumers and budtenders expand their knowledge. She holds a JD from the Michigan State University College of Law and a Master of Cannabis certification.

**Casey Kornoelje** is the founder and CEO of Pharmhouse Wellness, Grand Rapids’ only 100% locally-owned, licensed cannabis retail, cultivation, and social equity company. He has a BS in finance and economics from Grand Valley State University. With early experience in medical marijuana, Kornoelje is a member of the West Michigan Cannabis Guild Board of Directors.

**John Lipford** is a senior affiliate professor of instruction in Grand Valley State University’s Hospitality and Tourism Management program where he developed the first cannabis-based tourism course in the United States, as well as stackable credentials in cannabis and community operations. He received an MEd in adult learning and higher education from Grand Valley State University and a JD from the Michigan State University College of Law.

Dates: **THU, May 21, 28, Jun 4, and 11, 2026** (4 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



# OLLI COURSES

## ARTS & CULTURE

### A Home Away from Home: Our Boarding School Stories

Presented by: David Howard and Eve Ricketts

What happens when school isn't just where you learn—but where you live? Two “products” of boarding schools share what it's like when classrooms become living rooms, teachers become parents, and friendships forged are lifelong. Discover how boarding schools in different countries compare—where traditions differ, where experiences overlap—and hear personal stories of growth, camaraderie, and thriving in a home away from home.

*OLLI member **David Howard** attended a boarding school in England and then studied at Oxford University—after which he taught at a boarding school in West Africa. He recently retired from a career in the insurance industry.*

*OLLI member and long-time educator **Eve Ricketts** attended boarding school in South India and later taught at boarding schools across India for over twenty years. She recently retired after teaching high school math in Grand Rapids for another two decades.*

Date: **TUE, May 26, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Creativity and the Aging Brain

Presented by: Gail Haebich and Scott Haebich

Research shows that engaging in creative activities can boost cognitive function, improve mood, and strengthen memory. In this hands-on course, explore your own creative potential—and exercise your brain—through art, storytelling, and crafting.

**May 26, 2026: Your Brain on Scribble Art** – See where the lines lead you! Start this creative journey by making your own two-dimensional scribble masterpiece while listening to relaxing music. No prior art experience is required.

**Jun 2, 2026: Let's Go to a Garage Sale!** – Trash or treasure? Using real (and delightfully random) garage sale finds as inspiration, participants will write a short story based on whatever the item sparks in their imagination. Let your creativity run wild—no need to worry about grammar or spelling. This is about ideas, not edits!

**Jun 9, 2026: Build A Book** – In the final session, see how working with your hands stimulates the brain. Create a lotus-style book to take home for decoration or gifting. All necessary materials will be provided.

*OLLI member **Gail Haebich** is a former librarian and administrator. A graduate of Butler University, she later earned an MLIS from Dominican University (Illinois). Now retired, Haebich enjoys crafting, writing, and teaching.*

*OLLI member **Scott Haebich** is a longtime glassblower who spent his career in retail and publishing for the art glass industry.*

Dates: **TUE, May 26, Jun 2, and 9, 2026**  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

## 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](mailto:skk003@aquinas.edu).

### HIKING



### FIBER ARTS



### GARDENING



# OLLI COURSES

## OLLI EXPERIENCES

### Tour and Tasting Experience at Ferris Coffee & Nut Co.

Facilitated by: Ferris Coffee & Nut Co.

Follow the rich aroma of freshly roasted coffee behind the scenes at Ferris Coffee & Nut Co. Enjoy a guided tour of their coffee roastery and nut operations before sampling a variety of coffees in a comparative tasting.

**NOTE:** All visitors must wear long pants, leggings, or dresses (no bare legs) and closed-toed shoes (no sandals). Additional safety and sanitary guidelines will be shared prior to the scheduled date. Free parking is available onsite.

Date: **WED, May 27, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Ferris Nut & Coffee Co.** [Limit 30]  
**839 Seward Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49504**  
 Course Fee: **\$25.00**



▲ Ferris Coffee & Nut Co. has been family-owned since 1924.

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Grit, Grace, and Grandeur: The Making of a Denver Diva

Presented by: Maggie Murphy, MA

In 1896, Gladys Hagee was born prematurely on the outskirts of Denver, CO, and survived in a makeshift incubator. While later studying at the University of Colorado, she met her future husband, Steere de Montfort Mathew, a descendent of the British gentry. The couple later settled in New York City where Gladys built an international opera career and performed alongside the “who’s who” of the 1920s-40s music scene. As told by her great-grandniece, Gladys’ remarkable story is one of survival, musical excellence, hidden treasures, and historical preservation.

**Maggie Murphy** is a writer, educator, musician, and lifelong Michigander. She has a BA in history from Hillsdale College and an MA in adult and higher education from Grand Valley State University. Murphy currently works at Kellogg Community College.

Date: **FRI, May 29, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



## ARTS & CULTURE

### 125 Years of Oz

Presented by: Jane Albright and Bill Beem

“There’s no place like home.” From page to stage to screen and back, L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* has captured our collective imagination for more than a century.

**Jun 1, 2026:** The first session shares familiar and obscure film clips, examples of the story’s impact on popular culture, and a look into the community of fans and collectors that have kept America’s own fairytale alive for generations. (Albright)

**June 8 or 15, 2026:** In small groups, tour the impressive collection of memorabilia of a local Ozian. (Beem) **NOTE:** Four options available.

**Jane Albright** is a former president of the International Wizard of Oz Club. She’s attended Oz events, conferences, productions, and exhibits around the country regularly for more than fifty years. Albright has amassed an Oz collection that ranges from antiquarian books, original artwork, and ephemera to children’s playthings, posters, and housewares.

**Bill Beem** has served as a member-at-large and recording secretary of the International Wizard of Oz Club’s Board of Directors. He has chaired national Oz conventions and prepared many public exhibitions, drawing from his vast and ever-expanding personal collection of esoteric Oz collectibles and publications.

Dates:	<b>MON, Jun 1, 2026</b>	<b>MON, Jun 8, 2026</b>	<b>MON, Jun 15, 2026</b>
Times:	<b>1:30pm - 3:00pm</b>	<b>(2A) 1pm - 2:30pm or (2B) 3pm - 4:30pm</b>	<b>(2C) 1pm - 2:30pm or (2D) 3pm - 4:30pm</b>
Modality:	<b>VIRTUAL   Zoom</b>	<b>IN-PERSON   Beem Home</b> [Limit 4 each]	<b>IN-PERSON   Beem Home</b> [Limit 4 each]

# OLLI COURSES

## PANTLIND SERIES

### The Extraordinary Design Portfolio of Grand Rapids Architect Alexander McColl

Presented by: Pam VanderPloeg, MLS

Grand Rapids architect J. Alexander McColl designed over 325 homes and buildings across Michigan from 1920 to 1968, most of which remain standing. Although a rather quiet figure in the city's history, McColl was known for his historic Tudor and Colonial revival styles, stunning stone and brick exteriors, and wood-paneled interiors, which later evolved into International-style and mid-century modern designs. Open a window into this prolific and multi-talented designer whose legacy may be right next door.

*OLLI member Pam VanderPloeg is an award-winning historian and author. A former assistant director of the Kent District Library, she earned an MLS from Indiana University Bloomington and an MM from Aquinas College. Aided by the architect's family, VanderPloeg compiled years of research into the forthcoming catalog of Alexander McColl-designed homes and buildings.*

Date: **TUE, Jun 2, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library and Zoom**

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Festival of the Arts: An Insider's Story

Presented by: Gina Bivins

Following an urban renewal campaign and the 1969 installation of Alexander Calder's *La Grande Vitesse*, the first Festival of the Arts—colloquially known as “Festival”—was held as a celebration of the arts in West Michigan. It soon became Grand Rapids' biggest street party and the official kick off to summer. Festival provided access to everyone by making all performances and activities free. Thousands volunteered over the years, some for decades. This is the story of Festival, now defunct, from the perspective of a long-time member of the Festival family.

*Gina Bivins is the president of the Grand Rapids Historical Society Board of Trustees. She spent over forty-five years volunteering for the Festival of the Arts in numerous capacities—even chairing the event in 1991. A lifelong resident of Grand Rapids, Bivins now volunteers at the Grand Rapids Public Museum where she worked for over three decades.*

Date: **FRI, Jun 5, 2026**  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



## PANTLIND SERIES

### Classical Sculpture Techniques

Presented by: Alec Zemper

Before marble meets chisel, it all begins in clay. This interactive, 3-week course introduces the classical techniques that have shaped masterworks for centuries. Working from traditional plaster casts as reference, participants will build, shape, and refine with additive and subtractive methods that define the basics of proportion, structure, and volume. With professional-grade Chavant Le Beau Touché oil-based clay in hand, you won't just study classical sculpture—you'll practice it.

**NOTE:** No artistic experience is necessary. All supplies are provided. Participants should wear comfortable clothing or aprons that can get messy. Limited free parking is available onsite with paid metered parking available on Fulton St E.

*Alec Zemper is the owner and director of Ghosthouse Fine Art Studio in Grand Rapids. A self-taught artist, his work focuses on exploring experiences and impressions of others through portraiture, figurative drawings, and paintings. Zemper also serves as a mentor and instructor of advanced painting at Interlochen Center for the Arts.*

Dates: **TUE, Jun 9, 16, and 23, 2026** (3 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Ghosthouse Fine Art Studio** [Limit 14]  
**929 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**  
 Course Fee: **\$65.00**

**GHOSTHOUSE**  
 FINE ART STUDIO

# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### The History of US National Parks (Part II)

Presented by: Will De Man

America's national parks did not simply appear—they were imagined, fought for, and fiercely debated. In this continuing series, we explore the people and pivotal moments that shaped the system known and loved today, from passionate advocates like John Muir to the presidents who championed preservation. Then, examine the often-overlooked tensions within the US Department of the Interior, including clashes between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, revealing how competing visions of land use helped define the parks' past—and continue to shape their future.

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

Dates: **WED, Jun 10, 17, and 24, 2026** (3 sessions)  
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**  
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### The History and Politics of World Soccer

Presented by: Andre Wakefield, PhD

GOOOOOAL! From the madness of medieval “folk football”—basically, a no-holds-barred street fight—to the bright lights of the 2026 World Cup, trace the rich and surprising story of the world's most popular sport while examining its powerful role in nation-building, international politics, and global economics. Did you know that Mussolini promoted football—*calcio* in Italian—as a key propaganda tool to promote Italian fascism and nationalism? Did you know a 1969 war between El Salvador and Honduras was briefly linked to tensions surrounding a World Cup qualifying match? Hit the pitch as the US, Mexico, and Canada host the world's biggest sporting spectacle.

**Andre Wakefield** is an author and professor of history at Pitzer College in Claremont, California. He received an MA and PhD in history from the University of Chicago. Professor Wakefield's research interests include sports history, for which he has been an invited speaker around the world.

Dates: **MON, Jun 15 and WED, Jun 17, 2026** (2 sessions)  
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
 Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

▼ In a triumph for Mussolini's fascist agenda, host nation Italy won their first FIFA World Cup in 1934, defeating Czechoslovakia 2-1 in extra time.



# OLLI COURSES

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Behind the Badge: Federal Law Enforcement in Action

Presented by: Amy Webber, MA

On January 20, 2025, the first day of his second term, President Trump signed Executive Order 14159, *Protecting the American People Against Invasion*, directing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prioritize immigration enforcement, expand detention infrastructure, and accelerate the removal of undocumented immigrants. But how does that directive translate into action—and who is responsible for carrying it out? This course offers a clear, practical look at the structure, responsibilities, and real-world challenges of US federal law enforcement.

**Jun 16, 2026: The Roadmap** – Begin with an overview of the various federal law enforcement agencies and their specific roles. A recently retired officer will join for a moderated discussion on training protocols, jurisdictional limits, interagency coordination, and the difficulties of policing in a polarized political environment.

**Jun 23, 2026: The Road** – Zoom in on DHS, specifically focusing on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A veteran federal agent will go beyond the headlines to share firsthand perspectives on recent surge staffing, deployments, and the logistical and legal complexities that shape immigration enforcement today.

**Amy Webber** spent two decades as both a federal government contractor and employee including terms at the US Departments of Defense, Housing and Urban Development, State, Justice, and Commerce. She holds an MA in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Memphis. Webber now serves as the director of the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP) at Hope College.

Dates: **TUE, Jun 16 and 23, 2026** (2 sessions)  
Time: **1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



▲ ICE has two primary and distinct law enforcement components: Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO).

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Pauli Murray: A Hidden Architect of Civil Rights

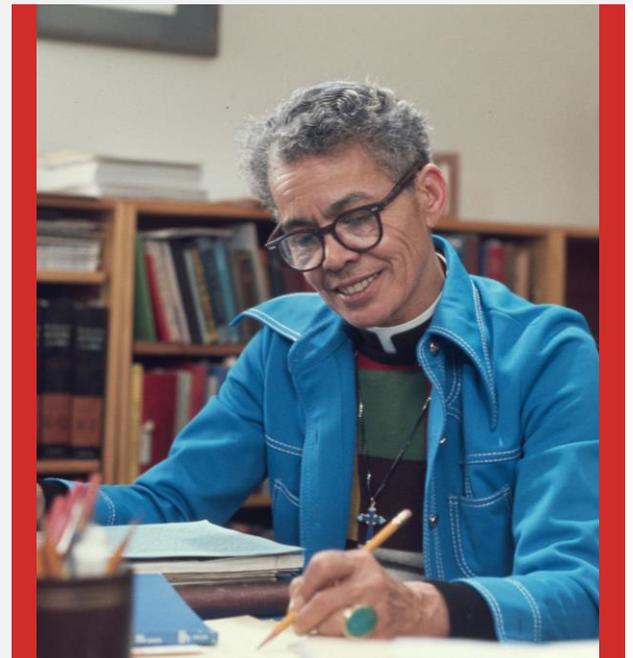
Presented by: Judy Whipps, PhD, and April Williams

Discover the remarkable life of Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray—human rights activist, professor, lawyer, author, labor organizer, poet, feminist, and Episcopal priest. Raised by an aunt in the Jim Crow South, Murray overcame many challenges, went on to law school, and became a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt. Praised by Thurgood Marshall, Murray's behind-the-scenes legal work helped shape *Brown v. Board of Education* and modern equality movements.

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

**April Williams** is an experienced administrator with a career spanning healthcare, hospice, and higher education sectors. As a lifelong learner, she has a deep passion for exploring the lives of African Americans and women whose tremendous contributions to the advancement of society have gone largely unrecognized.

Date: **THU, Jun 25, 2026**  
Time: **9:30am – 11:00am**  
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library and Zoom**



▲ Pauli Murray was a legal trailblazer whose ideas influenced and transformed American history.

# SPRING 2026 SUMMARY

COURSE	SESSIONS	DATES / TIMES	LOCATION	FEE	PAGE	INTEREST?
World in Crisis	4	TUE, Apr 7, 14, 21, and 28, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$40	4	
Life of a Star	2	WED, Apr 8 and 15, 9:30am	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$20	5	
This Is Where I Stand	3	WED, Apr 8, 15, and 22, 11:30am	Library	\$30	5	
The BIG Questions	2	WED, Jun 3 and 10, 11:30am	Library	\$20	5	
Hot Topics: Epigenetics	1	THU, Apr 9, 9:30am	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	5	
Genetic Genealogy	2	THU, Apr 9 and 16, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	6	
Talkies Film Series	4	FRI, Apr 10, May 15, and Jun 12, 9:30am/1:30pm	Library	\$40	6	
Demography	1	MON, Apr 13, 9:30am	<b>Zoom</b>	\$10	7	
Vaccine Landscape	1	MON, Apr 13, 1:30pm	Donnelly Center	FREE	7	
Downtown Grand Rapids	1	TUE, Apr 14, 9:30am	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	7	
OLLI's Supper Club	2	WED, Apr 15 and Jun 3, 2:00pm	Wege Student Center	\$100	8	
Are Pit Bulls Dangerous?	1	MON, Apr 20, 9:30am	Library	\$10	9	
Babe Ruth: Superstar	3	MON, Apr 20, 27, and May 4, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$30	9	
Propaganda Posters	2	WED, Apr 22 and 29, 9:30am	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$20	10	
<i>Lake Huron Mermaid</i>	1	THU, Apr 23, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	10	
Migratory Spring Birds	1	(A) TUE, Apr 28 OR (B) May 5, 9:30am	Remington/Huff	\$10	10	
OLLI Readers Series	3	WED, Apr 29, May 27, and Jun 24, 1:30pm	Library	\$30	11	
Tales From the Truck	1	TUE, May 5, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	12	
Robert Frost	2	WED, May 6 and 13, 9:30am	Library	\$20	12	
Painting Conservation	1	THU, May 7, 9:30am	<b>Zoom</b>	\$10	12	
Pygmy Hippos	2	THU, May 7 and 14, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b> /Zoo	\$40	13	
Pope Leo XIV... So Far	1	FRI, May 8, 9:30am	Library	\$10	13	
European Populism	1	MON, May 11, 9:30am	<b>Zoom</b>	\$10	16	
Hearing Technology	1	MON, May 11, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	16	
Hitting the Road	2	TUE, May 12, 9:30am AND 1:30pm	Library	\$20	17	
Circle 360	2	TUE, May 12 and Jun 9, 6:30pm	PAC	\$40	17	
Pilgrimage with Vox GR	2	TUE, May 14, 9:30am AND 7:30pm	Library/FUMC	\$50	18	
A Forager's Plant Walk	1	MON, May 18, 9:30am	Library	\$10	18	
Autism Spectrum	1	TUE, May 19, 9:30am	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	19	
Catholic Legal System	1	TUE, May 19, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	19	
Fashioning Public Grief	1	WED, May 20, 9:30am	Library	\$10	19	
Meijer LPGA Classic	2	THU, May 21 and Jun 18, 9:30am	Blythefield	\$25	20	
Cannabis in America	4	THU, May 21, 28, Jun 4, and 11, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$40	21	
Board School Stories	1	TUE, May 26, 9:30am	Library	\$10	22	
Creativity and the Brain	3	TUE, May 26, Jun 2, and 9, 1:30pm	Library	\$30	22	
Ferris Coffee & Nut Co.	1	WED, May 27, 9:30am	Ferris Coffee & Nut Co.	\$25	23	
Making of a Denver Diva	1	FRI, May 29, 9:30am	Library	\$10	23	
125 Years of Oz	2	MON, Jun 1, 1:30pm, AND Jun 8 OR 15, 1pm/3pm	<b>Zoom</b> /Beem Home	\$20	23	
Alexander McColl	1	TUE, Jun 2, 9:30am	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	24	
Festival of the Arts	1	FRI, Jun 5, 9:30am	Library	\$10	24	
Sculpture Techniques	3	TUE, Jun 9, 16, and 23, 9:30am	Ghosthouse Art Studio	\$65	24	
National Parks	3	WED, Jun 10, 17, and 24, 9:30am	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$30	25	
Politics of World Soccer	2	MON, Jun 15 AND WED, Jun 17, 1:30pm	<b>Zoom</b>	\$20	25	
Federal Law Enforcement	2	TUE, Jun 16 and 23, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	26	
Pauli Murray	1	THU, Jun 25, 1:30pm	Library/ <b>Zoom</b>	\$10	26	

REGISTRATION OPENS **WED, MAR 25, 2026, AT 9:00am**

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# CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.

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**Ian MacNeil**, Director

**Corey Boehm**, Program Administrator

**Susan Kohloff**, Program Administrator

## SPRING 2026

APRIL 7 - JUNE 26

REGISTRATION OPENS **MARCH 25, 2026**

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