

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT AQUINAS COLLEGE

COURSE CATALOG
WINTER 2026
JANUARY 13 — MARCH 27

REGISTRATION OPENS **JANUARY 7, 2026**



AQUINAS
COLLEGE

Cover Art:
OLLI Member **Chris Williams**
Grand Haven, 2022
Digital Photograph

GETTING STARTED

ARE YOU AN OLLI MEMBER?

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

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

Prorated OLLI Membership Rate (now through March 15, 2026):

\$60.00 per person

Annual memberships may be purchased by visiting aquinas.edu/olli-membership or calling **616.632.2430**.

REVIEW THE COURSE CATALOG

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

Fall: September – December

Winter: January – March

Spring: April - June

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

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Winter 2026 Course Registration opens
WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2026, at 9:00am

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GETTING STARTED

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 12 and 13**. A summary of all course offerings is provided on **Page 23**.

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

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 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: WEATHER WINTER 2026

FEATURING:

- **Wait Five Minutes: Michigan Weather, Explained**
- **The Evolution of Broadcast Meteorology**
- **Waves and Warnings**

...AND MORE!

Discover the science behind the skies. The daily forecast dictates our clothing choices, travel plans, and healthcare needs. This series invites you to analyze weather patterns, chase Aurora phenomena, navigate the weather-industrial complex, measure the impacts of climate change, trace the evolution of meteorological technology, and just maybe, predict the unpredictable.



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

OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

The Declaration of Independence: America's Birth Certificate

Presented by: Richard Bell, PhD

The Declaration of Independence is a peculiar thing. It's a literary masterpiece that was written jointly by a committee of fifty people. It's short and punchy, but still somehow daunting and difficult to grasp. And what is it exactly? Is it a birth certificate announcing happy news, a petition for divorce full of grievance and score-settling, or something else? Who is the target audience? Was it the first of its kind, or an imitation of a genre already well established? This course explores the fascinating origins, misunderstood purpose, and extraordinary global legacy of America's founding document.

Jan 13, 2026: Time to Part - Trace the remarkable journey of the Declaration of Independence since 1776, including its survival during the 1814 Burning of Washington, its role in the 1876 Centennial, and its protection at Fort Knox during WWII. Roll back the clock to define the crisis of empire in the early 1770s that culminated in a motion in Congress to declare independence.

Jan 20, 2026: These Truths - This session dissects the work of the five-person committee appointed to draft the declaration in June 1776. Deconstruct Jefferson's celebrated preamble—tracing its roots to the writings of John Locke, George Mason, and others—and see how he distilled complex Enlightenment ideas into simpler, more forceful sentences loaded with meaning.

Jan 27, 2026: He Has... - Examine the Declaration's central list of grievances which provide the essential motive for independence. Then, review the momentous events that unfolded when Congress finally opened debate on the question of independence and approved the motion on July 2.

Feb 3, 2026: All the People Say Amen - Congress intensively edited Jefferson's draft declaration on July 2, 3, and 4. The delegates made 86 changes and cut the text by a quarter, resulting in a sharper, more persuasive document. First proclaimed in public on July 8, it spread rapidly across the colonies, sparking public celebrations and sharp rebuttals.

Feb 10, 2026: Little or No Notice - As it turns out, the Declaration was crafted not only to justify breaking from Britain but to attract foreign allies, leading to its immediate translation into French and Benjamin Franklin's mission to Paris. How did the document's reception in Britain—where pamphleteers took it apart point by point—compare to its reception across the rest of Europe?

Feb 17, 2026: A New Birth of Freedom - How has the Declaration's bold assertion of sovereignty inspired 100+ similar documents worldwide and fueled independence movements against empires? This session demonstrates how, here at home, the Declaration's soaring language became a touchstone for struggles from abolition and women's suffrage to civil rights.

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

Dates: **TUE, Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb 3, 10, and 17, 2026** (6 sessions)

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

Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

▼ The Declaration of Independence was adopted unanimously by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.



OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

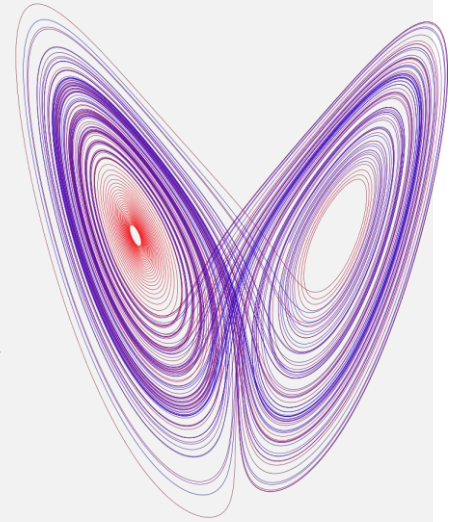
Forecasts and Formulas: How Mathematicians Untangled the Weather

Presented by: Michael McDaniel, PhD

You don't need a mathematician to tell you the weather is crazy—but you'll get three of them in this course anyway. In the 1950s, MIT mathematician and meteorologist Edward Lorenz fashioned equations using temperature, pressure, and humidity as inputs to predict the weather. He discovered that tiny changes in the atmosphere can lead to big, unexpected outcomes—the foundation of chaos theory and the famous “butterfly effect.” Decades later, Joan Birman and Ken Williams asked whether this seeming randomness hides any structure. They found that the looping paths inside Lorenz’s model actually form intricate knots, like tangled pieces of string. See how mathematicians uncovered surprising order within chaos, and helped generate the first computerized weather models.

Michael McDaniel is a professor emeritus of mathematics at Aquinas College, where he spent twenty-seven happy years teaching and publishing primarily in geometry. A relic from the days when a math PhD guaranteed steady employment, McDaniel earned both an MS and PhD in mathematics from George Washington University. Do not get him going about ferrets.

Date: **MON, Jan 19, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Can Sound Waves Fight Cancer?

Presented by: Dr. Clifford S. Cho, MD

Histotripsy is a novel, non-invasive cancer treatment that uses focused ultrasound waves to liquify tissues and disrupt tumors. Over the past two decades, this procedure has transitioned from engineering discovery to clinical reality. In this course, one of the pioneers of histotripsy will describe this disruptive new technology, highlight its unique biological effects, and consider how these effects could transform future cancer therapy.

Clifford S. Cho is a surgeon-scientist with joint appointments as the C. Gardner Child Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan, professor of cell biology at the Van Andel Institute, and chief medical officer at University of Michigan Health-West. He is a graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Cho led the clinical trial that expedited FDA approval of histotripsy. His research and clinical focus is on the surgical management of liver and pancreatic cancers, cancer immunology, and immunotherapy.

Date: **TUE, Jan 20, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI EXPERIENCES

Cardio Drumming

Facilitated by: Bobbie Firman

Cardio drumming is a full-body workout that combines rhythmic drumming with aerobic exercise. This joyful, music-filled movement course offers an inviting and energizing experience for participants of all physical readiness levels. Using colorful pool noodles as “drumsticks,” participants tap, twist, and groove—seated or standing—to memorable hits from years past. It’s a lively way to support heart health, coordination, and confidence while sharing plenty of smiles and fun along the way.

Bobbie Firman is a wellness assistant at Beacon Hill at Eastgate, where she leads a wide range of engaging exercise classes across multiple fitness modalities. She holds a BS in exercise science from Grand Valley State University and specializes in health and wellness instruction.

Dates: **WED, Jan 21 and 28, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Beacon Hill at Eastgate [Limit 20]**
1919 Boston Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Unpacking Protein: The Science Behind the Buzz

Presented by: Dave Evans, MS

Every time you read an article, watch a commercial, or click a link, you find “experts” sharing competing claims about “the best” proteins for brain health, losing weight, an improved immune system, or glowing skin—and it’s easy to get lost in the noise. Cut through the confusion by exploring the fundamentals of protein science: what proteins are, how they function in the body, and why they matter. This course analyzes common misconceptions and marketing myths, offering a clearer, more grounded understanding of one of biology’s most essential building blocks.

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

Dates: **THU, Jan 22 and 29, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

Giants Among Us: Artists Mathias Alten and Armand Merizon

Presented by: Caroline Cook

It’s nearly impossible to step into a prominent building in downtown Grand Rapids without encountering the work of Mathias Alten or Armand Merizon. Their paintings brighten public spaces throughout the city—from the Grand Rapids Public Library and St. Cecilia Music Center to historic churches, hospitals, universities, and galleries. Though their lives overlapped for only eighteen years, these two world-renowned artists made Grand Rapids their home and left an enduring cultural legacy worthy of celebration.

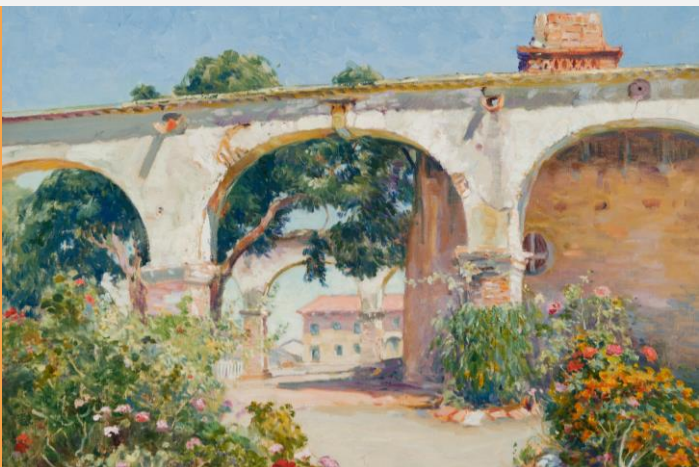
Jan 22, 2026: Mathias Alten - Explore the life and career of Mathias Alten (1871-1938), a German-born American impressionist known as the “dean of Michigan painters.” Alten was nationally recognized for his landscapes, still lifes, and portraits.

Jan 29, 2026: Armand Merizon - A West Michigan native, Armand Merizon (1920-2010) constantly experimented with style, media, brush techniques, and color relationships. This session details how his photo-realistic landscapes evolved into abstraction in the late 1980s when macular degeneration began to blur his vision.

*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, citizen historian, and exercise enthusiast. With a menu of 90+ unique, thematically-organized tours, Caroline has become the local resource for healthy, “burn while you learn” events.*

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

▼ *Mission San Juan Capistrano*, oil on canvas by Mathias Alten, 1934.



▼ *Small Town Life*, acrylic on board by Armand Merizon, 1978.



OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Cooking with Edible Mushrooms

Presented by: Chris Swinson

Dig in to the delicious world of edible mushrooms with an introduction to the basics of cleaning, cooking, and storing them. Discover which species work best in different dishes, and examine their nutritional and medicinal benefits. Sample a variety of sautéed mushrooms and vegetarian, mushroom-based dishes while gaining practical skills and inspiration for everyday cooking.

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

Date: **MON, Jan 26, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
 Course Fee: **\$20.00**

OLLI EXPERIENCES

OLLI Play Reading Group: *Little Women*

Facilitated by: Jon March, JD

Calling all actors and readers! Join the OLLI Play Reading Group for a lively reading of Thomas Hirschak's adaptation of *Little Women* based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved tale of the March sisters. Over three weeks, explore the story and characters, ultimately assigning roles and performing the full script in a dramatic table-read format.

NOTE: Each participant will receive an official production script and is expected to read it in full before the first session. To ensure the best experience for everyone, attendance at all three sessions is strongly encouraged. The final session may run slightly longer to allow for a complete reading.

OLLI member Jon March enjoyed a distinguished fifty-year career as a trial lawyer and mediator at Miller Johnson. Beyond his professional work, he is a seasoned stage actor, known for roles in local productions of To Kill a Mockingbird and All the Way. March currently serves as chair of the OLLI Advisory Council.

Dates: **TUE, Jan 27, Feb 3, and 10, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 14]
 Course Fee: **\$15.00**

HISTORY & POLITICS

Human Trafficking in West Michigan

Presented by: Amanda Colegrove, MA, Becky Diffin, and Sgt. Kailey Gilbert

Human trafficking is a hidden crisis happening in plain sight—even in our own community. Offered during Human Trafficking Awareness Month, this course defines the problem, identifies risk factors increasing vulnerability, explains the warning signs, and highlights the work of the West Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force—a collaborative, survivor-centered initiative led by local law enforcement and community advocates designed to strengthen collective awareness and help end human trafficking.

Amanda Colegrove is the human trafficking task force coordinator for Safe Haven Ministries. A graduate of Aquinas College, she also has an MA in geography from the University of Missouri. Colegrove has worked in the anti-trafficking sector for nearly fifteen years.

Becky Diffin is the community advocacy manager at Safe Haven Ministries. For over a decade, she has helped survivors of human trafficking and domestic and sexual violence. A member of the West Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, Diffin has created and facilitated training sessions for survivors, law enforcement, advocates, and community members.

Sergeant Kailey Gilbert is a law enforcement officer with over a decade of experience with the Kent County Sheriff's Office. She supervises detectives within the Human Trafficking Division, the Family Services Unit, and the Children's Advocacy Center.

Date: **TUE, Jan 27, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

OLLI Readers Series

Facilitated by: Susan Kohloff, MPA, Christina Radisauskas, MLIS, and Amber Holst

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.

Jan 28, 2026: *The Celebrants* (2023) by Steven Rowley – A group of five college friends reunite decades after graduation to honor a pact they made in their youth: to throw one another living “funerals” whenever life becomes too heavy to bear. Through humor, heartbreak, and long-held secrets, they confront aging, grief, and the enduring bonds of chosen family. (Kohloff)

Feb 25, 2026: *Isola* (2025) by Allegra Goodman – Heir to a fortune, Marguerite is orphaned and taken to New France by her volatile guardian, where an illicit friendship leads to her brutal abandonment on a remote island. Forced to survive the elements with no hope of rescue, she discovers inner strength and faith she never knew she possessed. (Radisauskas)

Mar 25, 2026: *This Other Eden* (2023) by Paul Harding – In 1792, a formerly enslaved man and his Irish wife take refuge on Apple Island off the coast of Maine, where they build a life together and establish an interracial community. Their world remains small but relatively safe until 1912, when well-intentioned outsiders—a missionary schoolteacher—and eugenics-minded authorities intervene. (Holst)

Susan Kohloff is a program administrator at OLLI at Aquinas College. In her previous life, she was a senior administrator and deputy warden with the Michigan Department of Corrections. She has a BS from Aquinas College and an MPA from Grand Valley State University.

Christina Radisauskas is the director of the Grace Hauenstein Library at Aquinas College. She holds a BA in English language and literature from Grand Valley State University and a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Wayne State University.

After a forty-year career at John Ball Zoo, OLLI member **Amber Holst** renewed her longtime love of reading. She always has a book in progress and a stack of books waiting to be read.

Dates: **WED, Jan 28, Feb 25, and Mar 25, 2026** (3 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]

PANTLIND SERIES

The Public Health Impact of Climate Change

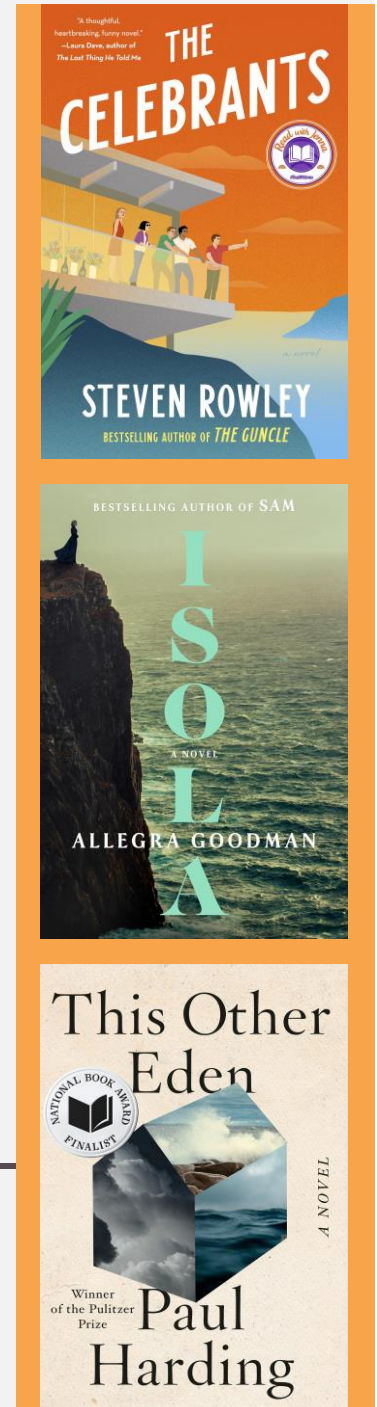
Presented by: Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MD, MPH

Hotter summers, smokier skies, and shifting seasons are reshaping public health in Michigan. This course highlights the key risks of heat-related illnesses, poor air quality, flooding, and water contamination, as well as the growing reach of Lyme disease, West Nile virus, and other zoonotic threats. Which communities are most at risk and what practical strategies can help protect public health as the climate continues to change?

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: **FRI, Jan 30, 2026**
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**
Course Fee: **FREE**

FREE
COURSE



OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

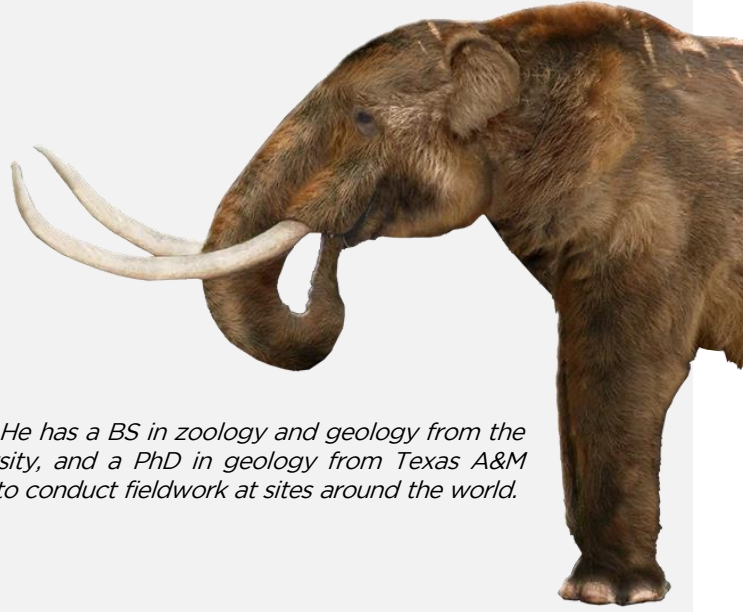
The Clapp Family Mastodon

Presented by: Cory Redman, PhD

Can you dig it? The Clapp Family Mastodon is a juvenile American mastodon (*Mammuth americanum*) skeleton—nearly 70% complete—discovered by a crew working on a drainage project near Kent City, Michigan. It is named after the landowners, Courtney and Michael Clapp, who generously donated the remains to the Grand Rapids Public Museum. This presentation explores the story behind the find—from its unexpected discovery and careful excavation to the preservation and scientific study that followed. See what this rare specimen reveals about Michigan's environment 13,000 years ago during the last Ice Age when mastodons still roamed the earth.

Cory Redman is the science curator at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. He has a BS in zoology and geology from the University of Wyoming, an MS in biology from San Diego State University, and a PhD in geology from Texas A&M University. Dr. Redman specializes in paleontology and has been fortunate to conduct fieldwork at sites around the world.

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



PANTLIND SERIES

Wait Five Minutes: Michigan Weather, Explained

Presented by: Joel Fritsma

It is said that if you don't like the weather in Michigan, just wait five minutes. This highly interactive course invites participants to pose a variety of weather-related questions while exploring the causes of our state's famously unpredictable continental climate. How do the Great Lakes provide a thermal buffer, influencing everything from lake-effect snow to humidity and summer thunderstorms? What do El Niño, La Niña, and the Polar Vortex really mean for seasonal outlooks? And what modern tools, technology, and techniques do meteorologists use to forecast both short-term and long-term trends?

Joel Fritsma is the chief meteorologist of Michigan Storm Chasers, Michigan's #1 and most-trusted source for statewide severe weather coverage, storm chasing, weather education, and daily forecasts. He holds a BS in meteorology and geographic information sciences from Central Michigan University.

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



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Unknot Yourself

Presented by: Amanda Fisher

See how a few intentional movements can start to loosen the knots the body collects over time. This course introduces a guided flexibility and breathing practice designed to support joint health, release tension in muscles and tendons, and enhance mental clarity. Customizable for all fitness levels and abilities, participants will leave with resources to further promote routine daily movement.

NOTE: Participants are encouraged to bring their own yoga or fitness mats to support floor-based exercises.

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

Date: **THU, Feb 5, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Donnelly Center [Limit 20]**

OLLI COURSES

HISTORY & POLITICS

America Has Daddy Issues: The “Founding Fathers” and US Politics

Presented by: Sarah Kornfield, PhD

American politicians daily invoke the metaphor of the “Founding Fathers” when referring to the men who supposedly set the United States on a path to greatness. Likewise, George Washington is known as the “Father of His Country,” while James Madison is called the “Father of the Constitution.” Why are these metaphors repeated constantly—and what effect do they have on policy? How might this rhetorical strategy be linked to the rise of patriarchal white supremacy and Christian nationalism? And how might this language lead to disputes over what kind of nation America is or *should be*?

Sarah Kornfield is a professor of communication at Hope College. She earned an MA in communication from Texas A&M University and a PhD in communication from The Pennsylvania State University. Professor Kornfield analyzes the public persuasion of sexism, specializing in the analysis of television, US politics, and Christian cultures. She recently authored *Invoking the Fathers: Dangerous Metaphors and Founding Myths in Congressional Politics*.

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

PANTLIND SERIES

Chasing the Northern Lights

Presented by: Melissa F. Kaelin

You don’t need to go to Tromsø, Norway to see the aurora borealis—even though the town, more than 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle, is considered one of the best spots to view the natural phenomenon. Despite their rarity, see what it takes to catch an awe-inspiring display of the Northern Lights in your own backyard. This course will take a closer look at solar activity, space weather, geomagnetic storms, and rare sub-auroral phenomena, and explore the tools you need to catch the next powerful show.

Melissa F. Kaelin is the founder of the Michigan Aurora Chasers, a robust community of people who experience and photograph the Northern Lights. She studied journalism at Miami University (Ohio), and currently manages communications for the University of Michigan Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering. She is the author of *Beyond the 45th Parallel: The Beginner’s Guide to Chasing Aurora in the Mid-latitudes*.

Date: **FRI, Feb 6, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

A Visit to Macaronesia

Presented by: Kate Dernocoeur

This Atlantic Ocean travelogue journeys off the northwest coast of Africa to dramatic volcanic archipelagos sprinkled across hundreds of miles. Portugal’s Azores and Madeira Islands, Spain’s Canary Islands, and the independent island country of Cabo Verde—known collectively as Macaronesia—all invite you to explore their fascinating cultures and heritages, volcanic terrain, and historic ports. It’s the best of land and sea!

Kate Dernocoeur is an adventurer, writer, and public speaker. A graduate of Boston University and Aquinas College, she received an MFA in creative writing from Western Michigan University. Her incurable wanderlust has taken her to more than forty countries around the world—including a 3-week excursion to Macaronesia aboard the National Geographic Orion.

Date: **MON, Feb 9, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ Ponta do Sossego is an iconic viewpoint on São Miguel Island in the Portuguese Azores archipelago.

OLLI COURSES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Bonds We Build: The Dynamics of Attachment Theory (Part II)

Presented by: Terry Keller, PhD

Still wondering why we are the way we are? Maybe the answer is in the stories we tell? This continuing exploration of the science of connection puts this theory to the test... literally. See how structured questions within the Adult Attachment Interview (AAI) elicit patterns of how someone thinks, remembers, defends, and talks about important formative relationships. Then, through interactive exercises and guided demonstrations, use the dynamic-maturational model of attachment and adaptation (DMM) to identify how these patterns—such as shifts in language and tone, pauses, emotional reactions, or story structure—highlight different ways individuals adapt to (or protect themselves from) their early childhood experiences.

Terry Keller is the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Aquinas College. A graduate of Aquinas College, he earned an MSW from Saint Louis University, and PhD in social work from Michigan State University. Dr. Keller is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), therapist, and professor whose research interests focus on early interactions between parents and their young children.

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

HISTORY & POLITICS

My German Story: In the Shadow of the Wall

Presented by: Katharina Häusler-Gross, PhD

The Berlin Wall remains one of the most powerful symbols of division, political confrontation, and the struggle for freedom in the twentieth century. While it once represented oppression and separation, it also came to embody the peaceful revolution of 1989, and the reunification of Germany. This course will explore the history and impact of the Wall through a blend of socio-historical analysis and a deeply personal perspective. Drawing on literature, art, travel, and lived experience, examine how the Wall shaped life in East Germany, how its fall continues to influence German society, and how memory and meaning are preserved today—more than thirty-five years after reunification.

Katharina Häusler-Gross is a professor of German studies and the director of grants, compliance, and strategic engagement at Aquinas College. Born in the former East Germany, she came to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar and earned a PhD in German studies from Michigan State University. Through research, teaching, and community engagement, Professor Häusler-Gross continues to explore memory, culture, and lived experience in postwar and post-Wall Germany.

Dates: **WED, Feb 11 and 18, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

▼ East Berlin border guards atop the Berlin Wall in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on November 11, 1989.

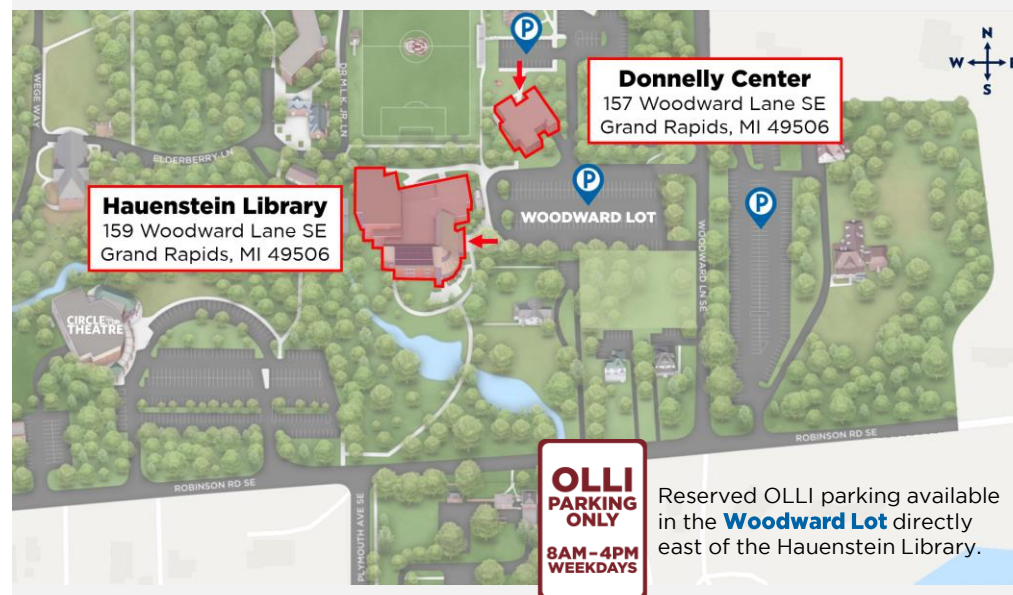


WINTER 2026 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29 - DECEMBER OLLI CLOSED	30 OLLI CLOSED	31 OLLI CLOSED	1 - JANUARY OLLI CLOSED	2 OLLI CLOSED
5	6	7 WINTER 2026 REGISTRATION OPENS 9:00AM aquinas.edu/olli-courses	8	9 OLLI CLOSED
12	13 9:30am — Zoom America's Birth Certificate (p. 4)	14	15	16 11:00am — Osher Online US Immigration System (p. 22)
19 9:30am — Library Forecasts and Formulas (p. 5)	20 9:30am — Zoom America's Birth Certificate (p. 4) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Sound Waves Fight Cancer (p. 5)	21 9:30am — Beacon Hill Cardio Drumming (p. 5)	22 9:30am — Library/Zoom Unpacking Protein (p. 6) 11:00am — Osher Online John James Audubon (p. 22) 1:30pm — Library Artists Alten and Merizon (p. 6)	23 11:00am — Osher Online US Immigration System (p. 22)
26 1:30pm — Library Cooking with Mushrooms (p. 7) 3:00pm — Osher Online American Television (p. 22)	27 9:30am — Zoom America's Birth Certificate (p. 4) 11:30pm — Library OLLI Play Reading (p. 7) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Human Trafficking (p. 7)	28 9:30am — Beacon Hill Cardio Drumming (p. 5) 11:30pm — Library OLLI Readers Series (p. 8) <i>The Celebrants</i>	29 9:30am — Library/Zoom Unpacking Protein (p. 6) 11:00am — Osher Online John James Audubon (p. 22) 1:30pm — Library Artists Alten and Merizon (p. 6)	30 9:30am — Zoom Health and Climate Change (p. 8) 11:00am — Osher Online US Immigration System (p. 22)
2 - FEBRUARY 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Clapp Family Mastodon (p. 9) 3:00pm — Osher Online American Television (p. 22)	3 9:30am — Zoom America's Birth Certificate (p. 4) 11:30pm — Library OLLI Play Reading (p. 7) 1:30pm — Library Michigan Weather (p. 9)	4	5 9:30am — Donnelly Unknot Yourself (p. 9) 11:00am — Osher Online John James Audubon (p. 22) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom America Has Daddy Issues (p. 10)	6 9:30am — Zoom Northern Lights (p. 10) 11:00am — Osher Online US Immigration System (p. 22)
9 9:30am — Library/Zoom Visit to Macaronesia (p. 10) 1:30pm — Library Attachment Theory (p. 11) 3:00pm — Osher Online American Television (p. 22)	10 9:30am — Zoom America's Birth Certificate (p. 4) 11:30pm — Library OLLI Play Reading (p. 7)	11 9:30am — Library In the Shadow of the Wall (p. 11) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 14) 1:30pm — Zoom Disenfranchised Grief (p. 14)	12 9:30am — Library/Zoom Ancient Art (p. 14) 11:00am — Osher Online John James Audubon (p. 22) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Broadcast Meteorology (p. 15)	13 9:30am — Zoom Computer Protection (p. 15) 11:00am — Osher Online US Immigration System (p. 22)
16 9:30am — Library Japanese Art of Temari (p. 15) 1:30pm — Library Attachment Theory (p. 11) 3:00pm — Osher Online American Television (p. 22)	17 9:30am — Zoom America's Birth Certificate (p. 4) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Mardi Gras Indians (p. 16)	18 9:30am — Library In the Shadow of the Wall (p. 11) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 14) 1:30pm — Zoom Disenfranchised Grief (p. 14)	19 9:30am — Library/Zoom Ancient Art (p. 14) 11:00am — Osher Online John James Audubon (p. 22) 1:30pm — Library Cemeteries of Paris (p. 16)	20 11:00am — Osher Online US Immigration System (p. 22)
23 9:30am — Library Japanese Art of Temari (p. 15) 3:00pm — Osher Online American Television (p. 22)	24	25 9:30am — Library/Zoom Beatles Guide to Life (p. 16) 11:30am — Library This Is Where I Stand (p. 14) 1:30pm — Library OLLI Readers Series (p. 8) <i>Isola</i>	26 9:30am — Library/Zoom Ancient Art (p. 14) 11:00am — Osher Online John James Audubon (p. 22) 1:30pm — Library Cemeteries of Paris (p. 16)	27 OLLI CLOSED

WINTER 2026 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 - MARCH 1:30pm — Zoom Freeform Radio (p. 17) 3:00pm — Osher Online American Television (p. 22)	3 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Home Decluttering (p. 17)	4 9:30am — Library/Zoom History of Fashion (p. 18) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Poetry and Civic Life (p. 18)	5 9:30am — Library/Zoom Ancient Art (p. 14) 1:30pm — Library Flourishing by Design (p. 19)	6 9:30am — Library OLLI's Oscar Party (p. 19)
9 1:30pm — Zoom Freeform Radio (p. 17)	10 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Home Decluttering (p. 17)	11 9:30am — Library/Zoom History of Fashion (p. 18) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Poetry and Civic Life (p. 18)	12 1:30am — Library Nobody Asked Me (p. 20) 1:30pm — Library Flourishing by Design (p. 19)	13 9:30am — Library OLLI's Oscar Party (p. 19)
16 9:30am — Library/Zoom Waves and Warnings (p. 20) 1:30pm — Zoom Freeform Radio (p. 17)	17 9:30am — Donnelly Priest, Rabbi, Professor (p. 21) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Home Decluttering (p. 17)	18 9:30am — Library/Zoom History of Fashion (p. 18) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Poetry and Civic Life (p. 18)	19 9:30am — Zoom US Weather Enterprise (p. 21) 1:30am — Library Nobody Asked Me (p. 20) 1:30pm — Library Flourishing by Design (p. 19)	20 9:30am — Library OLLI's Oscar Party (p. 19)
23 9:30am — Library/Zoom Waves and Warnings (p. 20) 1:30pm — Zoom Freeform Radio (p. 17)	24 9:30am — Donnelly Priest, Rabbi, Professor (p. 21) 1:30pm — Library/Zoom Home Decluttering (p. 17)	25 1:30pm — Library OLLI Readers Series (p. 8) <i>This Other Eden</i> SPRING 2026 REGISTRATION OPENS 9:00AM aquinas.edu/olli-courses	26 9:30am — Zoom US Weather Enterprise (p. 21) 1:30am — Library Nobody Asked Me (p. 20) 1:30pm — Library Flourishing by Design (p. 19)	27 OLLI CLOSED
30	31	1 - APRIL	2	3 OLLI CLOSED
6 OLLI CLOSED EASTER MONDAY	7 SPRING 2026 COURSES BEGIN	8	9	10



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CURIOUS PEOPLE WANTED.

OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

This Is Where I Stand Discussion Group

Facilitated by: Dave Kampfschulte, MEd

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

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

Dates: **WED, Feb 11, 18, and 25, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
 Course Fee: **\$30.00**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Disenfranchised Grief

Presented by: Christina Zampitella, PsyD, FT

Disenfranchised grief arises when a loss—whether related to death or other significant life changes—is not recognized, supported, or granted legitimacy by society. When grief is denied this social validation, individuals may feel compelled to “shut down,” mourn in isolation, or question the worthiness of their own pain, which can compound the emotional challenges inherent in loss.

Feb 11, 2026: When Can I Grieve? - This session examines the concept of disenfranchised grief, identifies diverse pathways through which grief becomes marginalized, and illuminates how societal responses can inadvertently contribute to this disenfranchisement.

Feb 18, 2026: How Do I Grieve? - The second session will focus on pathways toward empowerment: addressing ways the bereaved can challenge invalidation, connect with meaningful sources of support, and ultimately foster healing and growth when their grief is acknowledged and honored.

***Christina Zampitella** is a licensed clinical psychologist, fellow of thanatology, and founder of the Center for Grief and Trauma Therapy in Wilmington, Delaware. She earned an MS in counseling psychology from Immaculata University (Pennsylvania) and an MS and PsyD in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP) at Alliant International University. Dr. Zampitella is an internationally recognized professional speaker, adjunct professor, and podcast host of Phoenix Rising with Dr. Z.*

Dates: **WED, Feb 11 and 18, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

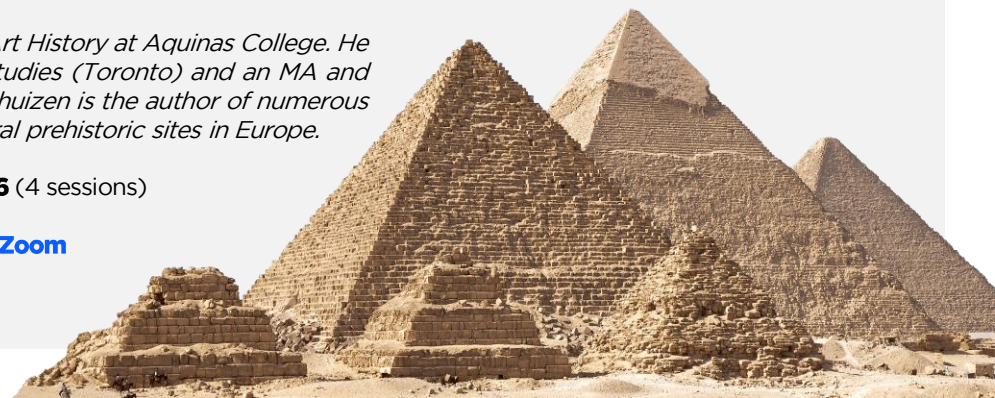
Ancient Art in Mesopotamia and Egypt

Presented by: Henry Luttikhuisen, PhD

Journey into the cradle of civilization to explore the visual cultures of ancient Sumer, Akkad, Assyria, Babylonia, and Egypt. Examine temple architecture, monumental sculpture, palace reliefs, tomb paintings, and ritual objects to identify how art shaped religious, political, and social practices. From Mesopotamian city-states to the splendor of Egypt's New Kingdom, discover how imagery functioned as a powerful cultural language that still captivates us today.

***Henry Luttikhuisen** 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 Luttikhuisen is the author of numerous books and scholarly articles, and he has visited several prehistoric sites in Europe.*

Dates: **THU, Feb 12, 19, 26, and Mar 5, 2026** (4 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



OLLI COURSES

PANTLIND SERIES

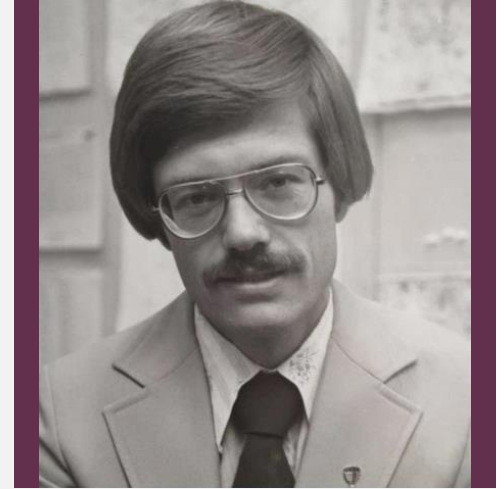
The Evolution of Broadcast Meteorology

Presented by: Bill Steffen

For five decades, West Michigan relied on Bill Steffen for weather forecasts with a signature side of 'stache. At age 15, Bill delivered his first weather forecast as a closed circuit TV test for a Boy Scout show in Winnetka, Illinois. He first came to Grand Rapids in 1974, joining the weather team at WZZM. From the Great Blizzard of 1978 and the deadly 1980 Kalamazoo tornado to the Great Flood of 1986 and the Groundhog Day blizzard in 2011, Bill's seen it all. This course will trace his storied career, and see how broadcast meteorology and technology has changed since he first appeared on screen.

Bill Steffen is chief meteorologist emeritus for WOOD-TV. He earned a BS in atmospheric science and physical geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Steffen split his 50-year, award-winning broadcasting career between WZZM and WOOD-TV.

Date: **THU, Feb 12, 2026**
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ Meteorologist Bill Steffen in 1974.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer

Presented by: Marc-Anthony Arena

Frustrated with your computer? Tired of error messages, freezing screens, or devices that seem to have a mind of their own? You're not alone—and most of these problems are completely preventable. This course demystifies what's really going on inside your computer, your internet connection, and your smart devices. Discuss why antivirus software is obsolete, what new threats are on the horizon, who might be tracking what you say and type, and how to spot scams before it's too late. Get practical tips for how to keep your data safe, your devices running smoothly, and your money in your wallet.

Marc-Anthony Arena is an author, IT expert, and podcaster known as "The Computer Exorcist." He earned a BA in business administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Arena is the author of *How to Protect Yourself from Your Computer*, a plain English guide to the concepts, scams, and scandals of the tech industry.

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

ARTS & CULTURE

The Japanese Art of Temari

Presented by: Mary Beth McDaniel, JD

Few traditional crafts are as stunning—or as delightfully meditative—as temari, the centuries-old Japanese art of embroidered thread balls once exchanged as tokens of friendship and good fortune. In this hands-on workshop, participants will construct their own temari—wrapping, marking, and stitching—with guidance and written instructions from noted temari authors.

NOTE: No experience is needed, and all supplies are provided.

OLLI member **Mary Beth McDaniel** is a retired New York State Police trooper. She has a JD from SUNY Buffalo School of Law. Taught embroidery at an early age, Mary Beth is a lifelong crafter and knitter who recently learned—and developed a passion for—temari.

Dates: **MON, Feb 16 and 23, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
Course Fee: **\$30.00**



OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

Mardi Gras Indians

Presented by: Jon VanderPloeg, JD

Step into the heartbeat of New Orleans to see where music, color, and resistance explode into one of the most dazzling traditions in America. The Mardi Gras Indians aren't just part of the celebration—they *are* the celebration, with revelers weaving centuries of resilience and creativity into every bead, feather, chant, and strut. Historically excluded from mainstream Mardi Gras, Black people created their own festivities which reclaimed masking traditions and blended African, Caribbean, and Indigenous influences. They formed vibrant “tribes”—each one marked by spectacular hand-sewn costumes, powerful street rituals, and a musical legacy that still shapes the culture of The Big Easy.

*OLLI member **Jon VanderPloeg** is a lawyer with 51 years of appellate practice. He earned a JD from Indiana University Bloomington, and he now serves as of counsel at Hilger Hammond, PC. VanderPloeg is a lifelong music fan, record collector, and music historian.*

Date: **TUE, Feb 17, 2026**
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ The Mardi Gras Indians tradition in New Orleans started in the 1800s.

HISTORY & POLITICS

Touring the Historic Cemeteries of Paris

Presented by: Steve Soper, MA

Victor Hugo once wrote, “It is nothing to die. It is frightful not to live.” Nowhere is that spirit more alive than in the four most famous cemeteries of Paris—open-air museums where artistry, memory, and history intertwine. This course invites you to wander among sculpted monuments and stained glass, discover astonishing life stories, and meet (so to speak) some of the most extraordinary figures to ever grace the streets of the City of Light. Though their bodies rest beneath stone and moss, their legacies pulse with creativity, passion, and brilliance—drawing millions of admirers every year.

Feb 19, 2026: Montparnasse, Montmartre, and Passy - Begin with a brief history of Parisian burial practices before stepping into three iconic cemeteries that double as outdoor galleries.

Feb 26, 2026: Père-Lachaise - In the second session, venture into the legendary Père-Lachaise, the world's first and most influential garden cemetery.

*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. After working alongside local historians, Soper published comprehensive guides to more than 3,000 works of art featured in Parisian cemeteries.*

Dates: **THU, Feb 19 and 26, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**

ARTS & CULTURE

Speaking Words of Wisdom: The Beatles Guide to Life

Presented by: Dave Kampfschulte, MEd

The Fab Four started out writing catchy tunes about falling in love, but as their artistry matured, their lyrics transformed into timeless reflections on the meaning of life. Come together to explore how these songs continue to guide and inspire audiences today. Along the way, enjoy some music trivia, sing a verse or two, and get by with a little help from your friends: John, Paul, George, and Ringo.

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

Date: **WED, Feb 25, 2026**
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

Broadcasting Underground: Freeform Radio and the Era of Rock

Presented by: James Pagliasotti

The advent of commercial radio broadcasting in 1920 transformed communication by instantly connecting traditional media with listening audiences—first locally, then nationwide. Radio became the leading source of news, weather, and entertainment for three decades, until it was nearly eclipsed by television. This course details how radio reinvented itself, reclaimed its listeners, and helped shape a generation while ushering in the classic era of rock music.

Mar 2, 2026: Tune In Yesterday - How was radio different from other media? How did it capture the American imagination and become the center of popular culture? What limitations made it susceptible to replacement by television?

Mar 9, 2026: Top 40 Radio - How did Todd Storz, Gordon McLendon, Alan Freed, Dick Clark, and movies like *Blackboard Jungle* cater to a new, youthful demographic by playing the “teenage national anthem?”

Mar 16, 2026: Changing Frequencies - Unlike the rigid playlists of commercial AM radio, “underground,” freeform FM stations played longer album tracks, new genres, and politically charged content—and they did it with superior sound quality. Did this shift give birth to classic rock music?

Mar 23, 2026: It's Only Rock and Roll - How did radio continue to evolve? What is satellite and streaming radio? Who made (and who continues to make) the money? Why are big name acts touring once again?

James Pagliasotti is a writer and business consultant. His varied career includes roles as a columnist for The Denver Post and contributor to Rolling Stone, radio personality, owner of a Native American art gallery, policy director for the State of Colorado, and aerospace policy executive.

Dates: **MON, Mar 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2026** (4 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**



ARTS & CULTURE

Sparkling Joy: A Kickstart to Home Decluttering

Presented by: Mabel Heitmeier

Ready to tackle whole-home organizing, preparing to downsize, or just looking to kickstart spring cleaning? This interactive, room-by-room, KonMari Method™ workshop is designed to help you identify what you value in life and discard the rest.

Mar 3, 2026: Getting Started: Decluttering Your Closet - Craft a clear vision for your ideal lifestyle and practice how to confidently sort and streamline your clothing and accessories using KonMari principles.

Mar 10, 2026: Decluttering Your Office and Library - Discover effective strategies for organizing books, mail, papers, and office materials so only what truly supports your life and goals remains.

Mar 17, 2026: Decluttering the Little Things - Tackle the often-overlooked categories—electronics, personal-care items, décor, and hobby items—to create functional, joyful spaces throughout your home.

Mar 24, 2026: Decluttering Your Kitchen and Sentimental Items - See how to bring order to your kitchen and pantry; and thoughtfully approach sentimental items with clarity and confidence.

Mabel Heitmeier is the founder of Spark Joy in MI and a certified master organizing consultant trained by tidying expert and best-selling author Marie Kondo. Inspired by small space organization since her childhood in Hong Kong and frequent travels around the world, Mabel is passionate about helping people to get organized and live their ideal lifestyle.

Dates: **TUE, Mar 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2026** (4 sessions)
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

The History of Fashion: 1820-1870

Presented by: Suzanne Eberle, PhD

During the mid-19th century, clothing began changing at an unprecedented pace. New technological advances and shifting social norms transformed how garments were made, worn, and bought—even as anxieties about modernity sparked nostalgia for earlier styles and sharpened the divide between men's and women's clothing. In this continuing series, see how fashion is truly a mirror of history.

*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 art history from the University of Detroit Mercy. Professor Eberle also serves on the Art Advisory Committee at 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, Mar 4, 11, and 18, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**

ARTS & CULTURE

Poetry and Civic Life: Lyrical Language in the Public Sphere

Presented by: Michael Stevens, PhD

What happens when poetry—often seen as an intimate, personal art—steps boldly into public life? This course explores how poets from antiquity to the modern age have shaped politics, culture, and collective identity through the power of lyrical language.

Mar 4, 2026: Antiquity - Trace the role of the poet to lionize (and subtly satirize) political power from ancient Greece and Rome through the Middle Ages, to the time of Dante and Chaucer.

Mar 11, 2026: Renaissance - Follow the rise of civic poetry from Elizabethan England to the Victorian era, when writers like Tennyson and Longfellow vied for poetic supremacy and helped define the ambiguous but powerful ethos of the “national spirit.”

Mar 18, 2026: Modern Age - Examine global voices from the 20th and 21st centuries—from Osip Mandelstam in Soviet Russia to Seamus Heaney in embattled Ireland—who wielded poetry as a force for freedom, dignity, and democracy in times of turmoil.

***Michael Stevens** is a long-time English professor, author, and independent scholar. He holds an MA in liberal studies from St. John's College and a PhD in literature from the University of Dallas. Stevens's scholarship focuses on the history of baseball and American literature—specifically the works of his hero, Kentucky poet-farmer Wendell Berry.*

Dates: **WED, Mar 4, 11, and 18, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

Flourishing by Design

Presented by: Debra “Rockey” Rockey, PsyD

This cohort-based workshop invites you to reflect, reimagine, and take action toward a more fulfilling life. Through guided reflection, creative exercises, and supportive discussion, define what “flourishing” means for you—and design practical steps to live it every day.

Mar 5, 2026: Who Am I Now? - Rediscover your values, strengths, life milestones, and unique point of view. Gain clarity on how your life experiences have shaped your current priorities.

Mar 12, 2026: Where Do I Want to Go? - Explore purposeful directions through mindmapping and visioning—turning curiosity into pathways for growth.

Mar 19, 2026: From Ideas to Action - Move from reflection to experimentation. Select ideas worth pursuing and prototype small, meaningful changes that create momentum.

Mar 26, 2026: Becoming and Sustaining - Celebrate progress and explore strategies to sustain new habits. Flow through supportive teams and daily practices, and conclude with a meaningful graduation experience.

Debra “Rockey” Rockey is the director of life design and purposeful living at Beacon Hill at Eastgate. She holds a Master of Health Administration (MHA) from Central Michigan University and a PsyD from The Chicago School. As a board certified executive coach and certified life design coach, Rocky helps others uncover strengths, clarify aspirations, and design lives of meaning and vitality.

Dates: **THU, Mar 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2026** (4 sessions)
 Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 25]
 Course Fee: **\$40.00**

ARTS & CULTURE

OLLI's 12th Annual Oscar Party

Presented by: Ian MacNeil

Roll out the red carpet, grab some popcorn, cast your ballots, and join the discussion of this year's Academy Award nominees. Make your predictions on who *will* win, who *should* win, and who should have been nominated, as films like *Frankenstein*, *Hamnet*, *One Battle After Another*, *Sentimental Value*, *Sinners*, and *Wicked: For Good* compete for the film industry's most coveted accolades.

Mar 6, 2026 - This session will explore the history of the Academy Awards, examine its competitive categories, and profile five of the ten Best Picture nominees.

Mar 13, 2026 - Course participants will profile the remaining five Best Picture nominees, dissect the Academy's preferential voting system, and cast their ballots for OLLI's own Best Picture winner.

Mar 20, 2026 - The final session will review the actual ceremony's results, compare and contrast them with early predictions, discuss broadcast notes, and recognize Oscar history-makers.

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, Mar 6, 13, and 20, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library**



▲ The 98th Academy Awards will be hosted on Sunday, Mar 15, 2026.

OLLI COURSES

OLLI EXPERIENCES

Nobody Asked Me Discussion Group

Presented by: Rev. Howard C. Earle Jr., DMin

Some of life's changes are made for us or happen to us without our consent or input, creating challenges that can feel overwhelming or isolating. Rather than offering "fixes," this series offers a compassionate, judgment-free space for candid conversation about challenges such as relocating to a new home or community, loneliness, navigating age-related physical changes or illnesses, and coping with grief and loss.

Reverend Howard C. Earle, Jr. is the senior pastor of New Hope Baptist Church. He also serves as chaplain and director of spiritual care at Beacon Hill at Eastgate. He earned an MDiv from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a DMin from Western Theological Seminary. Rev. Earle is the author of *God Has a Way: Trusting That God Is Caring for You Even When It Doesn't Feel Like It*.

Dates: **THU, Mar 12, 19, and 26, 2026** (3 sessions)
 Time: **11:30am - 1:00pm**
 Modality: **IN-PERSON | Hauenstein Library** [Limit 20]
 Course Fee: **\$30.00**

PANTLIND SERIES

Waves and Warnings

Presented by: Jim Maczko, MS, and Bob Dukeshner

Red sky at night, sailors' delight. Red sky at morning, sailors take warning. How does the National Weather Service (NWS) protect Michiganders from severe storms and dangerous Great Lakes conditions?

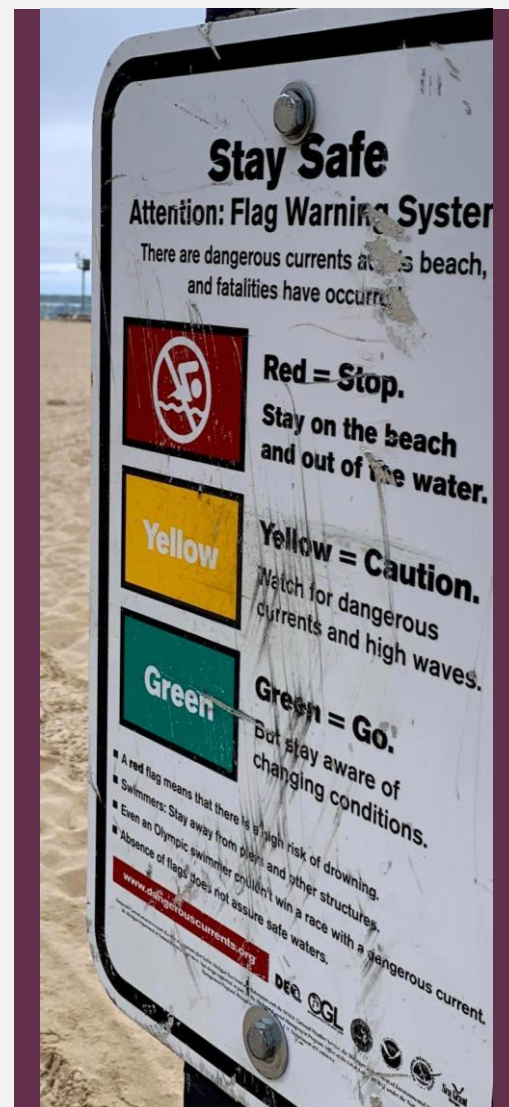
Mar 16, 2026: Weather Warnings and Emergency Communication - To fulfill its mission of protecting lives and property, the NWS must effectively bridge the gap between meteorological science and the communication of critical life-safety information. Hosted during Michigan Severe Weather Awareness Week, this session will focus on the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory program and detail how the NWS collaborates with public safety officials and broadcast media to disseminate vital weather warnings to the public. See how the NWS works directly with Emergency Management to assist communities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural hazards. (Maczko)

Mar 23, 2026: An Expert's Guide to Great Lakes Coastal Dangers - The Great Lakes are vast inland seas, offering both breathtaking beauty and hidden danger. The combination of high population density, popular beaches, and strong winds frequently create conditions for potential drownings. What makes a Great Lakes swim zone dangerous? This session dives into coastal meteorology and water dynamics, providing skills to "read" a Great Lakes beach like an expert—to see the subtle, and often invisible forces that create rip currents, structural currents, and dangerous nearshore waves. (Dukeshner)

Jim Maczko is the warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids. He has a BS and MS in geography from Ohio University. As a Michigan Professional Emergency Manager, Maczko's professional focus is to foster strong relationships and utilize effective communication to enhance emergency preparedness.

Bob Dukeshner is a senior forecaster and marine program leader at the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids. With over thirty years of experience, he issues forecasts and warnings, including those specifically for Lake Michigan. Dukeshner is actively involved in the NWS Beach Hazards program and serves as a board member of the Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium.

Dates: **MON, Mar 16 and 23, 2026** (2 sessions)
 Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
 Modality: **HYFLEX | Hauenstein Library AND Zoom**



▲ The Flag Warning System keeps Michigan beachgoers alert of swimming conditions.

OLLI COURSES

ARTS & CULTURE

A Priest, a Rabbi, and a Professor Walk Into a Coffee Bar...

Presented by: Fr. Robert "Bob" Keller, OP, PhD, Rabbi Albert M. Lewis, PhD, and Gary Eberle, MA

No, this is not the setup to a punchline. It's an invitation to an ongoing conversation—a lively, thought-provoking conversation between friends and community leaders that explores faith, philosophy, and spirituality. No sermons. Just stimulating dialogue, plenty of laughs, and a fresh perspective on the future of religion and how we can meet today's challenges with grace and graciousness.

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

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

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, Mar 17 and 24, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **IN-PERSON | Donnelly Center**

PANTLIND SERIES

Going Private: The Future of the US Weather Enterprise

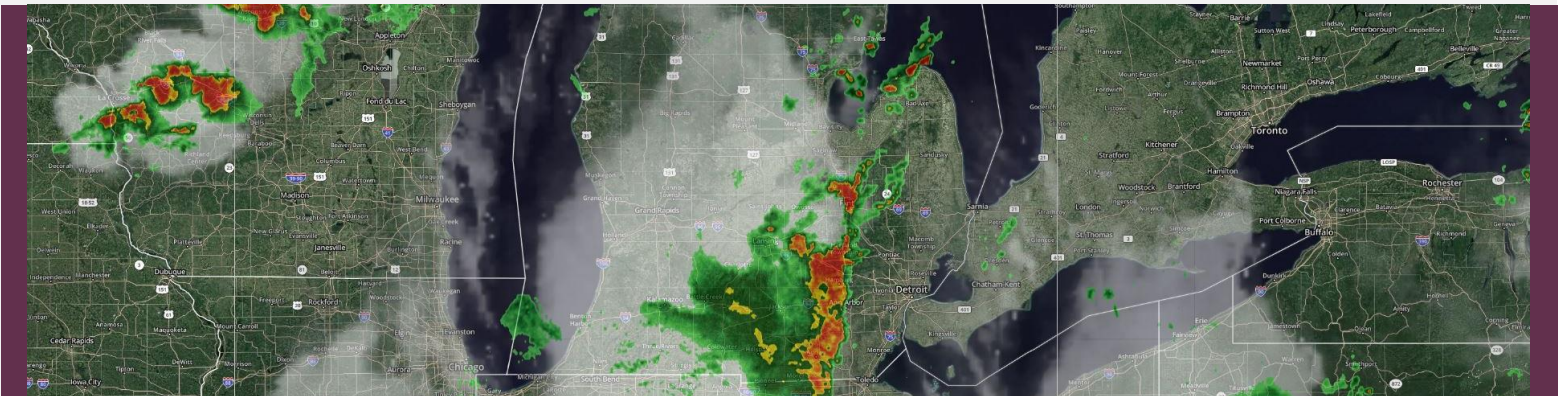
Presented by: Keith Seitter, PhD

Would you pay for your weather forecast? The US Weather Enterprise—long considered the world's gold standard—is a celebrated public-private partnership in which government agencies, universities, nonprofits, and the private sector collaborate to provide weather information. This system has produced extraordinary innovations, from Doppler radar to hurricane modeling, by allowing each sector to do what it does best. Yet as federal resources face increasing pressure and private companies assume a larger role, new opportunities and concerns emerge: Who owns the data? What happens when life-saving information becomes a commodity? And how might this shift reshape the future of forecasting?

Keith Seitter is a distinguished visiting professor of environmental studies at the College of the Holy Cross. He earned his BS in meteorology from The Pennsylvania State University and a PhD in geophysical sciences from the University of Chicago. He is a senior policy fellow and executive director emeritus of the American Meteorological Society (AMS).

Dates: **THU, Mar 19 and 26, 2026** (2 sessions)
Time: **9:30am - 11:00am**
Modality: **VIRTUAL | Zoom**

▼ In a typical year, the US has over 26,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,300 tornadoes, and six Atlantic basin hurricanes.



OSHER ONLINE

More classes are just a click away! Offered by the Osher National Resource Center (NRC), **Osher Online** connects OLLI members nationwide with expert instructors. Whether you're at home or on the go, these curated courses bring vibrant, conversation-centered learning right to your screen. Each Osher Online course is six sessions. Courses are available for just **\$60.00** per person, and must be registered as a complete package. Facilitated by Osher staff and hosted virtually via an exclusive **Zoom** portal, these courses supplement OLLI at Aquinas's regular offerings—giving you even more ways to explore, connect, and grow. Space is limited. **Registration closes THU, Jan 1, 2026.** Registrants are encouraged to attend a virtual orientation on WED, Jan 7, 2026, at 2:00pm EST.

HISTORY & POLITICS

How the US Immigration System (Usually) Works

Presented by: Michele Waslin, PhD

Immigration has always been a complex and emotional issue in US history. This course traces the evolution of the immigration system over centuries and how it works today. Examine key questions about identity, belonging, and national responsibility while engaging in thoughtful, constructive conversations about the future of immigration policy in the United States.

Michele Waslin is an author and the assistant director of the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. She has an MA in international relations from the University of Chicago and a PhD in political science from the University of Notre Dame. Waslin has twenty years of experience in immigration policy analysis focused on global migration, race, and ethnicity.

Dates: **FRI, Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, and 20, 2026** (6 sessions)
Time: **11:00am - 12:30pm**
Modality: **VIRTUAL | Osher Online** [Limit 12]

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

John James Audubon and the Birds of America

Presented by: Eric Simon, PhD

In the 1820s, John James Audubon set out to document every bird species in the US, resulting in *The Birds of America*, a landmark collection of 435 hand-painted prints. This course details Audubon's life, artistic methods, and legacy, highlighting how his work bridges art and science. Examine selected prints and consider his lasting impact on American natural history.

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

Dates: **THU, Jan 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2026** (6 sessions)
Time: **11:00am - 12:30pm**
Modality: **VIRTUAL | Osher Online** [Limit 12]

ARTS & CULTURE

The History of American Television

Presented by: Jim McKairnes, MA

This video-rich course tells the story of American television—from its 1920s origins to today's streaming era. Explore decades of iconic shows, genres, and cultural moments that shaped the medium and its audiences. From sitcoms and dramas to news and sports, discover how TV evolved, adapted, and transformed American culture—one broadcast, cable channel, and streaming service at a time.

Jim McKairnes is an author and former CBS Television executive. He has a BA in journalism from Temple University and an MA in communication and media studies from the University of New England (Australia). A former adjunct professor, McKairnes is the author of *All in the Decade: 70 Things About 70s TV That Turned Ten Years Into a Revolution* (2018).

Dates: **MON, Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, and Mar 2, 2026** (6 sessions)
Time: **3:00pm - 4:30pm**
Modality: **VIRTUAL | Osher Online** [Limit 12]



WINTER 2026 SUMMARY

COURSE	SESSIONS	DATES / TIMES	LOCATION	FEE	PAGE	INTEREST?
America's Birth Certificate	6	TUE, Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb 3, 10, and 17, 9:30am	Zoom	\$60	4	
Forecasts and Formulas	1	MON, Jan 19, 9:30am	Library	\$10	5	
Sound Waves Fight Cancer	1	TUE, Jan 20, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	5	
Cardio Drumming	2	WED, Jan 21 and 28, 9:30am	Beacon Hill	\$20	5	
Unpacking Protein	2	THU, Jan 22 and 29, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$20	6	
Artists Alten and Merizon	2	THU, Jan 22 and 29, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	6	
Cooking with Mushrooms	1	MON, Jan 26, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	7	
OLLI Play Reading	3	TUE, Jan 27, Feb 3, and 10, 11:30am	Library	\$15	7	
Human Trafficking	1	TUE, Jan 27, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	7	
OLLI Readers Series	3	WED, Jan 28, Feb 25, and Mar 25, 1:30pm	Library	\$30	8	
Health and Climate Change	1	FRI, Jan 30, 9:30am	Zoom	FREE	8	
Clapp Family Mastodon	1	MON, Feb 2, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	9	
Michigan Weather	1	TUE, Feb 3, 1:30pm	Library	\$10	9	
Unknot Yourself	1	THU, Feb 5, 9:30am	Donnelly Center	\$10	9	
America Has Daddy Issues	1	THU, Feb 5, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	10	
Northern Lights	1	FRI, Feb 6, 9:30am	Zoom	\$10	10	
Visit to Macaronesia	1	MON, Feb 9, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	10	
Attachment Theory	2	MON, Feb 9 and 16, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	11	
In the Shadow of the Wall	2	WED, Feb 11 and 18, 9:30am	Library	\$20	11	
This Is Where I Stand	3	WED, Feb 11, 18, and 25, 11:30am	Library	\$30	14	
Disenfranchised Grief	2	WED, Feb 11 and 18, 1:30pm	Zoom	\$20	14	
Ancient Art	4	THU, Feb 12, 19, 26, and Mar 5, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$40	14	
Broadcast Meteorology	1	THU, Feb 12, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	15	
Computer Protection	1	FRI, Feb 13, 9:30am	Zoom	\$10	15	
Japanese Art of Temari	2	MON, Feb 16 and 23, 9:30am	Library	\$30	15	
Mardi Gras Indians	1	TUE, Feb 17, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$10	16	
Cemeteries of Paris	2	THU, Feb 19 and 26, 1:30pm	Library	\$20	16	
Beatles Guide to Life	1	WED, Feb 25, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$10	16	
Freeform Radio	4	MON, Mar 2, 9, 16, and 23, 1:30pm	Zoom	\$40	17	
Home Decluttering	4	TUE, Mar 3, 10, 17, and 24, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$40	17	
History of Fashion	3	WED, Mar 4, 11, and 18, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$30	18	
Poetry and Civic Life	3	WED, Mar 4, 11, and 18, 1:30pm	Library/ Zoom	\$30	18	
Flourishing by Design	4	THU, Mar 5, 12, 19, and 26, 1:30pm	Library	\$40	19	
OLLI's Oscar Party	3	FRI, Mar 6, 13, and 20, 9:30am	Library	\$30	19	
Nobody Asked Me	3	THU, Mar 12, 19, and 26, 11:30am	Library	\$30	20	
Waves and Warnings	2	MON, Mar 16 and 23, 9:30am	Library/ Zoom	\$20	20	
Priest, Rabbi, Professor	2	TUE, Mar 17 and 24, 9:30am	Donnelly Center	\$20	21	
US Weather Enterprise	2	THU, Mar 19 and 26, 9:30am	Zoom	\$20	21	
US Immigration System	6	FRI, Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, and 20, 11am	Osher Online	\$60	22	
John James Audubon	6	THU, Jan 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, and 26, 11am	Osher Online	\$60	22	
American Television	6	MON, Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, and Mar 2, 3pm	Osher Online	\$60	22	

ARE YOU RECEIVING OLLI OUTLOOK EMAILS?

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



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Ian MacNeil, Director

Corey Boehm, Program Administrator

Susan Kohloff, Program Administrator

WINTER 2026

JANUARY 13 – MARCH 27

REGISTRATION OPENS **JANUARY 7, 2026**

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