



## SOAR to Explore

*by Barbara Spreitzer-Berent*

As a child at school, Esther Bornstein enjoyed her lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic. Decades later, she's still learning, but her interests have expanded.

As a member of the Society of Active Retirees (SOAR), Esther experiences an array of learning opportunities each year. "I especially love SOAR's classes in art, film, history, literature, legal issues, opera, politics and travel," she says. "They take me out of myself and broaden my view."

SOAR is a non-profit, lifelong learning program affiliated with Wayne State University and the Road Scholar Institute Network. The program is among more than 400 linked with Road Scholar across the country. Billed as "health clubs for the brain," these programs serve audiences who want to keep their minds sharp, learn and grow.

The idea for SOAR was first explored in 1992 by WSU faculty members seeking to serve local retirees. Today the organization is led by a group of dedicated volunteers. It offers as many as 75 low-cost classes each fall and spring serving more than 850 members. Most classes convene at the WSU Oakland campus in Farmington Hills or nearby.

In addition to Esther's favorite topics, SOAR also provides programs in health, natural science, photography, psychology, sports and more. The organization also offers field trips, a film festival, a book club and special events. Course leaders include faculty members from WSU and other area colleges and universities, as well as other qualified subject experts. Experts from the IOG, including Drs. Peter Lichtenberg and John Woodard, are among SOAR faculty members.

While the average age of participants at SOAR is 70, and many members are retired, SOAR membership is open to adults of any age and role in life whose common interest is lifelong learning. "Come to SOAR," says Esther. "You'll love the classes and instructors. You'll make new friends. And you never have to take a test!"

**For more on Lifelong Learning call 248-489-0005  
or visit <http://soarexplore.com>**

You can also find SOAR on Facebook at SOAREXPLORE.

Spring Course Catalogs are distributed in March.

# Transitions

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