

Winter 2025 Schedule

February 4 – March 18 Class Listing

Register Now!



Never. Stop. Learning.

Lifelong Learning
for Older Adults



SOAR Lifelong Learning Institute presents..

Shades of Ireland

with Optional 3-Night London Pre Tour Extension
with Optional 3-Night Edinburgh Post Tour Extension

September 7 – 16, 2025



For more information contact
Debra Yamstein
SOAR Lifelong Learning Institute
(248) 626-0296
debray@soarexplore.com

collette

Register by March 1, 2025 to guarantee your spot.

Route 66

Welcome from Debra Yamstein, SOAR LLI Executive Director

Welcome to our Winter 2025 Term! This is SOAR's 15th year of producing a thematic Winter Term and our fifth year of an all-virtual program.

Thanks to the hard work of the Winter Program Committee, this year's theme, Route 66, is going to be an especially interesting term. From the road songs that celebrate the Route, to the lodging, stories, and impact on indigenous and African American communities, the "Mother Road" impacted so much of American life in the early 20th century. I think you'll truly enjoy this road trip.

There are so many benefits to our all-virtual Winter program: the classes can be enjoyed whether you're a committed Winter-loving Michigander or you choose to escape the snow and go somewhere warm. Most of the lectures in the virtual program are recorded (with instructors' permission) so you can enjoy them on your own schedule; and there are no cancellations for snow!

New this term, if you are a person that would rather get out of your house in the Winter, you can now come by the office to watch the classes. However you enjoy the classes, I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity.

This Winter Term we will continue to offer an option for a two-person household membership. SOAR averages about 400 registered members for both Spring and Fall terms, but only 200 for Winter. This has a large impact on our budget. We ask members that are sharing a screen to please choose the two-person membership option.

New this term, we will offer a single class option for our Winter classes separate from our regular bundled rate. Each individual class will cost \$20.

Once again, join me in sending a big thank you to the committee for their dedication to this endeavor and to all of the instructors who give so generously of their time.

I look forward to seeing you all on Zoom and to the Spring when we can be together in person.

Best,

Deb

On the Cover

This collage of remembrances from Route 66 was created by MS CoPilot AI generator, and inspired by SOAR's Fall Term class "How AI is Impacting Our Lives."



29995 W. 12 Mile, 3rd Floor
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

☎ 248-626-0296

✉ info@soarexplore.com

🌐 www.soarexplore.com



Debra Yamstein, SOAR LLI Executive Director

SOAR Board of Directors

Joseph Kwapisz - Chair

Mel Chudnof - Vice Chair &
Curriculum Committee Chair

Wilma Fellman - Secretary

Jerry Breuer - Treasurer

Randy Bruce

Jon Buyle

Mina Feldman

Susan Greenfield

Dan Harmon - Governance
Committee Chair

Diane Henderson

Elaine Yaker - Special Events
Committee Chair

Emeritus

RoseMarie Battey
Fieldtrip Committee Chair

Martin Herman

Sharon O'Brien

Ralph Stromberg

SOAR Staff

Deb Yamstein - Executive Director

Constance Bush - Program Assistant

Winter Term Committee

Ralph Stromberg - Chair

Peggy Fowler

Susan Genden

Joe Kwapisz

Marilyn McKinney

Elaine Yaker

Route 66

A History of U.S. 66

To kick off our Winter term, this class provides an overview of the beginning of U.S. 66 to its heyday, then to its closure and beyond. The class explores why highways such as Route 66 came about and how they changed over time. Attendees will learn about the highway celebrated worldwide, in literature and song, about unique aspects of the “Mother Road” and what can be experienced today. Finally, attendees will hear about efforts to keep Route 66 available for current and future generations to enjoy.

Dwight M. Cannon is the president of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. He traveled the road with his family to visit his grandparents and has been fascinated by old roads, Route 66 in particular, ever since. Cannon has lived at both ends of Route 66, growing up in Southern California and currently residing outside Chicago, as well as in the middle, living right on Route 66 in Joplin, Missouri. He frequently travels Route 66, both in his position as president, as well as just for the fun of it.



Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Stopping for the Night: The Development of Roadside Lodging from Motor Camping to Motel Chains

This presentation will discuss where automobile travelers stopped for the night, examining the progression of roadside lodging starting with the motor camping movement of the 1920s, taking a look at what equipment was carried and the development of roadside camps. The transition to quaint roadside cabin courts will follow, with that era being examined in terms of architectural styles as well as the amenities these enterprises offered. The subsequent transition from cabin courts to more modern motels will then be discussed, wrapping up with a look at some early motels and the post-war roadside business model of the motel chains.

For nearly five decades, Daniel Hershberger has been involved in the research of the American roadside. He has taught roadside history courses at colleges, universities and for the Henry Ford Museum. Over the years, he has made many

presentations at conferences, museums, and the centennial celebrations of both the Lincoln Highway Association and the Tin Can Tourists. Hershberger once served as President of the Society for Commercial Archeology, the oldest national organization devoted to the commercial-built environment, and in 2010 he was inducted into the Tin Can Tourists' Hall of Fame.



Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Road Songs Inspired by Route 66

To many of us, “Route 66” is one of the most iconic and popular songs ever. Using the premise there really is only one Route 66 song, this presentation is going to include other “road” songs inspired by “Route 66.” Songs such as “On the Road Again,” the “Theme from the Route 66” television show, “I’ve Been Everywhere,” “Country Roads,” and “I’m a Truck Drivin’ Man.” We will listen to and watch videos of “Maybelline,” “Born to be Wild,” and “Ventura Highway.” And look for a few surprises!

Stuart Johnson has been giving lectures for SOAR since 2008, with over 30 lectures on all types of popular and jazz music topics. He has given presentations throughout Metro Detroit, from Armada to Hamburg and beyond, University of Detroit Mercy, and the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors.



Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Road Pictures: Route 66 in Movies

This fun lecture covers an overview of films shot or containing scenes on the famed Route 66, from John Ford’s *Grapes of Wrath*, through *Easy Rider*, to more recent films including 2010’s *Beneath the Dark*. The class will explore uniquely American landscapes and themes associated with this iconic highway: personal freedom, the counterculture and small-town life. Locations along Route 66 have inspired films in every genre: drama, comedy, suspense and even science fiction.

Aida Muñoz is a professional actor and filmmaker who runs an acting studio called The Actor’s Workshop. Currently at work on a new film production, Muñoz has also produced countless

stage plays. A film lover, she enjoys sharing her cinematic passions with willing listeners. In addition, she strives to bring opportunities in independent film to newcomers of all ages.

Thursday, February 13, 2025
10:00 AM-11:30 AM



Courageous Motorists: African Americans on Route 66

Between the 1920s and the 1960s, Route 66 was a popular route taking Americans from the Midwest to Southern California. For African Americans, however, the trip west was fraught with difficulties and challenges. This presentation describes what it was like for African Americans to take the “Mother Road” to California during the days before civil rights legislation leveled the playing field.

Frank Norris lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His National Park Service career included postings in Montana, Alaska, and New Mexico. For several years, he worked in the National Park Service’s trails office, where he became intrigued with Route 66 history. He is currently writing a book on the route’s early history, between 1926 and 1946.



Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Early 20th Century New Mexico Art Colonies

The route of the “Mother Road” through New Mexico highlights the artists that lived and settled there. This class will serve as an introduction to Southwest Art History, including the Taos Society of Artists, Cinco Pintores of Santa Fe, and Mabel Dodge Luhan. The early days of New Mexico and its allure for American artists will be examined and artists such as O’Keeffe, Couse, Sharp, Shuster, and more will be highlighted.

Sarah Zurick is an art educator with 15-plus years of experience in the museum profession in New Mexico. She worked as education program manager for 12 years at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, and now shares her expertise in the field with the New Mexico Museum of Art.



Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

The Dust Bowl

The Dust Bowl of the 1930s is among the most significant economic, social, and environmental disasters in U.S. history. This class will examine the combination of environmental, economic, and agricultural factors that contributed to the Dust Bowl. It will also explore how the plight of Oklahomans came to epitomize the disaster in popular culture and memory.

Dr. Matthew Pearce is State Historian for the Oklahoma Historical Society. He received a Ph.D. in History from the University of Oklahoma in 2014. His research specialties include American environmental history, the history of the American West, Oklahoma history, and historic preservation.



Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Travel Route 66 with the Joad Family: The Grapes of Wrath

Did you know that Route 66 was the road traveled by the Joad family in *The Grapes of Wrath* as they worked to escape Oklahoma in the draught, the Dust Bowl, and the Great Depression to build a new life in California? This classic novel by John Steinbeck won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for 1939 and was also the best-selling book of the year. Join fellow SOAR members for a discussion of the story of the Joad’s powerlessness, perseverance, and resistance, as they rely on family, friendships, and community in their efforts to create their new life.

*Diane Henderson is a long-time SOAR member who really wanted to be an English professor, but never got there. Instead, she is an avid reader who loves to discuss books. (You may know her for *The History and The Literature* classes she teaches for SOAR with her husband, Stan). She has led countless discussions in book groups, for the Friends of the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, and over lunches with other reading friends! Please be sure to read *The Grapes of Wrath* before the class.*



Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

American Indians and Route 66

This class will explore the historical and cultural impact of Route 66 on the Cherokee Nation, highlighting its significance in shaping the region's identity. The efforts of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) to promote Indigenous tourism through two Route 66 Familiarization (FAM) Tours in 2025 will be discussed, and the presentation will emphasize collaboration and sustainable tourism to support cultural preservation and economic growth.

For almost two decades, Travis Owens has been dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich history and culture of Cherokee people. As vice president of Cultural Tourism, Owens oversees all of the Cherokee Nation's cultural tourism offerings, which includes a robust portfolio of museums, cultural collections, welcome centers, gift shops, the newly developed Cherokee National Research Center, and a number of award-winning cultural events.



Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

The Women of Route 66

Get your kicks on Route 66, as we take a trip down memory lane and meet some of the famed highway's most fascinating women. These women helped shape not only Route 66, but American travel, car culture and eateries throughout the road's golden age. It will be a true blast from the past! Please join us!

Hadley Meares is a historical journalist and teacher based in Los Angeles. She is a frequent contributor to Vanity Fair, The Hollywood Reporter, and other outlets. Her first book The Mad Monk's Daughter comes out in 2027. She also often appears as an expert on shows including "Mysteries of the Abandoned."



Thursday, March 6, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Will Rogers America

The "Will Rogers Highway" is one of the common nicknames for Route 66. In this class the life and times of one of America's greatest humorists, entertainers, movie stars and political commentators will be explored. Attendees will be provided with a unique way to see the world

through the Will Rogers' lens. Through this unique lecture you will be able to identify the impact of Will Rogers's life on American history and explain who he was, his impact and how he is still relevant in today's society.

Bart Taylor is a 2-time Oklahoma Museum Association Award Winning educator from Claremore, Oklahoma. He is currently the Will Rogers Interpreter for the Will Rogers



Memorial Museum and an Adjunct Professor at Rogers State University in Claremore, Oklahoma. Taylor has been a Park Ranger at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park in Prairie Grove, Arkansas, has taught 7th grade social studies for two years, and has run the Gilcrease on Wheels program for the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Taylor has an MA in History from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Thursday, March 13, 2025 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Restoring a 1929 Route 66 Motor Court

Follow along on the five-year, multi-phased restoration project of Phyllis Ferguson and Tim Phillips as they restore a 90-plus year-old rock motor court on Route 66 in Springfield, Missouri. The Rockwood Motor Court now operates as a tourist court for visitors from all over the world and is the oldest operating court/motel on Route 66.

Phyllis Ferguson is a long-time historic preservation and neighborhood revitalization advocate. Representing one of the oldest residential and commercial areas of Springfield as a City Council member, historic preservation and neighborhood revitalization have long been her passions. Born in St. Louis, Missouri; she has lived in Springfield, Missouri since 1976. Ferguson has served on state and local historic preservation boards and has completed several local restoration projects, including her former pre-Civil War residence. She and her husband, Tim Phillips, own and operate Rockwood Motor Court on Route 66.



Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Shared Interest Groups or SIGs

Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) are a way for SOAR members to take a deep dive into areas of common interest. SIG small groups are hosted by a SOAR volunteer and typically meet once a month on Zoom to discuss a book, film or issue. More information can be found under the Programming tab on our website.

SOAR's Book Club

Award-winning fiction and non-fiction books are selected by members of the SOAR Book Club who take turns moderating discussions.

History Book Group

The books read by this group focus on literary, nonfiction books which highlight a particular historic event or era.

SOAR's Literary Society

This book club delves into the author's and the book's themes, styles, and messages.

The Detective Novel Club

This SOAR book club explores the many types of detective novels.

First Friday Movie Group

Films that lend themselves to robust discussion and discovery are watched independently, in advance, and discussed at the meeting.

Great Decisions

This SIG explores the ramifications of decisions made related to a topic from current events.

The Roaring Twenties

This new SIG will explore the literature, art, and music of the years 1919 to 1929.

Have an idea for a new SIG that you'd like to lead? Reach out to Sharon O'Brien or the office to discuss it.

Teach for SOAR. Volunteer for SOAR

SOAR is powered by volunteers. All of SOAR's faculty members are volunteers, all of SOAR's committees are comprised of volunteer leaders and members. SOAR simply could not exist without the brilliant minds and dedicated hands of the men and women who spark ideas and action. Please consider becoming a SOAR volunteer.

Home Happens Here

Guiding your next move with expertise, integrity and care



Megan Bergmann
SRES Realtor

Cell 716-319-7809
MeganBergmann@HowardHanna.com



Office 248-283-8700
555 S Old Woodward Avenue, Suite 22U
Birmingham, MI 48009



adults **50**
& better

An active
life is a
good life.

Embark on a journey
of enrichment and
well-being today!

Bike Club, Book Club, Conway Café, Clubs, Exercise Classes,
Pool, Line Dance, Movies, Gift Shop, Pickleball, Speaker Series,
Special Events, Support Groups, Travel, Volunteer
Opportunities, Yoga and more!

Get updates in The Messenger newsletter
Find it at www.fhgov.com

Costick Activity Center
28600 Eleven Mile Rd Farmington Hills
248-473-1830

How to Register for Classes

The Winter 2025 Term is completely virtual (on Zoom). The term fee is \$80 for a single-viewer household and \$130 for a double-viewer household. This fee includes access to all of the Zoom classes; along with access to any recordings of those classes so you can watch them on-demand, at your convenience.

*New this term-SOAR will offer a single class option for Winter term. Single class registration is available only online. Registration for the Winter 2025 Program is open and classes begin on Tuesday, February 4th. There are two ways to register for the Winter Program:

Online at www.soarexplore.com (preferred method)

From the soarexplore.com website, click on the "Registration" button.

Prior members, log in to your account and follow the steps below. New users will need to set up a user account first and then follow the steps below.

Our Winter Program is bundled, which means **ALL CLASSES ARE INCLUDED FOR ONE PRICE**. Simply select "MEMBERSHIP" on the main registration page:

- Click on either "2025 Winter Two Person Household Membership" or "2025 Winter Single Household Membership" depending on your situation.
- Scroll down and look for the "Accept Terms" button at the bottom of the screen. After reading the terms don't forget to click on the box to accept the terms.
- Complete the "Check Out" process (a credit card will be required for payment), and you are done!

EACH ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT THE DAY BEFORE THE CLASS.

To view each course description

- Click "Search" at the top of the screen.
- Scroll down to "Search Options" and select Winter 2025 Program" from the drop-down menu.
- Click on a class to view the description.

If you choose this option, you do not need to register for individual classes.

Location

The Winter 2025 term is completely virtual so you can enjoy the classes from the comfort of your own home or wherever you spend the Winter. If you prefer, the classes will also be shown on the monitor in the SOAR office. Zoom registration links will be sent to all registered members on the day before the scheduled class.

Program registrants will also receive an email at the end of each week with links to the recorded classes so you can watch them again or for the first time at your convenience.

Withdrawal/Refund Policy

Requests for withdrawals and refunds must be made in writing or by email. Requests must be received no later than 5 PM on January 24 to be processed. No refunds will be made after that date and time. There are no refunds for special events or field trips. There are no refunds for single classes after the class link has gone out. There will be a \$10 administrative fee for the processing of all refunds.

***New this term-Single Class Option** – once you are logged in (see steps above), follow the steps below:

- Click "Membership" at the top left side of the screen
- Select 'Single Class Option-Winter 2025,' then follow the prompts
- Click "Search" at the top of the screen
- Go to "Search Options" menu at the middle, left side of the screen and click on "Select Semester"
- Select "Winter 2025 Term" from the drop-down menu
- Click "Search," then click "Register" to add courses to your cart
- Click on the Shopping Cart icon at the top right side of the screen to complete the "Check Out" process
 - Enter your payment information
 - Single class costs = \$20 each class
 - Scroll down and look for the "Terms of Use" box at the bottom of the screen
 - After reading the terms, click on the box to accept
 - Click "Submit"

Mail-in Registrations

To register by mail, complete the Winter 2025 registration form included in the class schedule and mail with a check or your credit card information to the SOAR office. The term fee for a single person is \$80. If both you and your spouse/partner/housemate are registering, simply include both names on the form and include one check for \$130.

Walk-in registrations are not accepted but assistance is available for those wishing to register in person. Please call the office to make an appointment with our staff, we're happy to help.

Classes by Date - Classes begin at 10:00 AM except as noted.

Class Date and Time	Class Title	Instructor
Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	A History of U.S. 66	Mr. Dwight M. Cannon
Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Stopping for the Night: The Development of Roadside Lodging from Motor Camping to Motel Chains	Mr. Daniel Hershberger
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Road Songs Inspired by Route 66	Mr. Stuart Johnson
Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Road Pictures: Route 66 in Movies	Ms. Aida Muñoz
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Courageous Motorists: African Americans on Route 66	Dr. Frank Norris
Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Early 20th Century New Mexico Art Colonies	Ms. Sarah Zurick
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	The Dust Bowl	Dr. Matthew Pearce
Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Travel Route 66 with the Joad Family: <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Mrs. Diane Henderson
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	American Indians and Route 66	Mr. Travis Owens
Thursday, March 6, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM	The Women of Route 66	Ms. Hadley Meares
Thursday, March 13, 2025 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM *	Will Rogers America	Mr. Bart Taylor
Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Restoring a 1929 Route 66 Motor Court	Mrs. Phyllis Ferguson

* Note the different time for this class

SOAR Class Mail-In Registration Form: Winter 2025

Complete the form below to register by mail. Please note: an email with the class link will be sent to all paid members the day before each class. If you do not receive an email with the link, please email the SOAR office at info@soarexpire.com or call (248) 626-0296.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____ This contact information is new or updated.

On the line above, please provide a local emergency contact name and phone number.

Are you new to SOAR? No, I am a returning member Yes! – How did you hear about SOAR?

Enclosed is my check for \$80 single-person household } I understand that my Winter 2025 Program
 \$130 two-person household } fee includes Zoom links to all 12 classes.

Credit card information (please circle): Mastercard AMEX Visa Discover

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Security Code _____

Please accept this additional donation of \$ _____ as my gift to SOAR.

Financial Assistance:
 SOAR believes all people should have access to SOAR's programs and classes. A limited number of scholarships are available for those requiring financial assistance. Please call or email our office for more information.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____ Postmark Date _____ Opened by: _____

Check # _____ Check Date: _____ Check Amount: _____

RETURN THIS FORM BY MAIL ONLY TO:
 SOAR c/o The Hawk Community Center
 29995 W. 12 Mile Road
 Farmington Hills, MI 48334

CLIP AND MAIL YOUR COMPLETED SOAR: WINTER 2025 REGISTRATION FORM.



COLLENS ESTATE LAW

Effective Estate Solutions
Lasting Confidence

- Probate Estate & Trust Litigation
- Probate Estate & Trust Administration
- Guardianship & Conservatorship
- Estate Planning
- Elder Law

248.545.2500 | CollensEstateLaw.com

26075 Woodward Avenue, Suite 200 • Huntington Woods, Michigan 48070



September 20 - October 5



December 6 - December 21



February 7 - February 22



April 25 - May 18



THE
FARMINGTON
PLAYERS

farmingtonplayers.org

2024-2025 Season



248.553.2955



boxoffice@farmingtonplayers.org

Individualized Hearing Solutions in a Pressure-Free Environment.

- Comprehensive hearing evaluations at no charge.
- Two-week hearing aid test drive risk free, commitment free.
- Custom products including noise, swim, hunting & musician ear plugs.
- Hearing aid repairs and modifications with onsite lab.

To do your best, you need to hear your best.



Nina Lopatin, MA, CCC-A
Audiologist/Owner

DH
Direct Hearing
Audiology & Hearing Aid Services

6960 Orchard Lake Rd.
Suite 200
West Bloomfield
DirectHearing.biz
248.657.4327



Your New Home Awaits!

OPENING LATE 2024!

Our independent living features exceptional services and amenities, maintenance-free living, wonderful dining, and comfortable spaces to gather with friends and family. Plus, the gracious, helping hand of assisted living and memory care is available whenever you need it, all under the same roof. Now that's a retirement life you can love—and that's the singular vision of senior living Edward Rose and Sons brings to every one of our communities.

Call 248-850-1351 to Schedule an Appointment and View Our New Community!



Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care

28800 West Eleven Mile Road • Farmington Hills, MI 48336
 FarmingtonHills.RoseSeniorLiving.com | (248) 850-1351

Managed by  Life Care Services®

