

Lifelong Learning for Older Adults

Class Listing

April 14 – May 23, 2025

Classes • Special Events • Field Trips

Priority enrollment begins
Monday, March 10, 2025 at 10:00 am



LIFELONG LEARNING
INSTITUTE

Never. Stop. Learning.

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. SIGs are intimate (limited to 25 active members), hosted by a SOAR volunteer (or team of volunteers) and typically meet once a month on Zoom to discuss a book, film, or issue. SOAR SIGs are a free benefit of SOAR membership and are a wonderful way to connect with other SOAR members and promote friendship and fun! SIG meetings generally last 90 minutes.

Reach out to Sharon O'Brien (aa9938@wayne.edu) for more information or to connect with each SIG's organizer.

SOAR's Book Club

SOAR's first SIG remains one of the most popular. The award-winning fiction and non-fiction books chosen are selected by members of the SOAR Book Club who take turns moderating discussions. The SOAR Book Club meets the third Friday of each month at 1:15 p.m. This SIG is organized by Bonnie Cousens.

History Book Group

Launched in 2020, the books read by this group focus on literary, nonfiction books which highlight a particular historic event or era. Books are nominated by members and the group meets on the second Friday afternoon of each month at 1:30 p.m. This SIG is organized by Sharon O'Brien.

SOAR's Literary Society

Literature lovers unite! Introduced in 2020, this book club delves into the author's and the book's themes, styles, and messages. The group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00p.m. This SIG is organized by Connie Silver.

The Detective Novel Club

This SOAR book club explores the many types of detective novels, from the classics to the pot-boilers, to the novels of today. This SIG meets the second Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. This SIG is organized by Sharon O'Brien.

Interested in participating in a SIG but not taking classes? The Basic Membership is for you!

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.

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First Friday Movie Group

All of the films selected and watched by this SIG lend themselves to robust discussion and discovery and range from classics to contemporary, American blockbusters to independent and foreign films. Films are watched independently, in advance, and discussed at the meeting. This group meets the First Friday of each month at 1:00p.m. This SIG is organized by Ralph Stromberg and Sharon O'Brien.

Great Decisions

Based on the success of the Great Decisions classes, led by Dan Harmon and Al Darold, this SIG identifies and focuses on a topic from current events. Members explore the impact and ramifications of the decisions made related to the subject. This SIG meets once a quarter.

The Roaring Twenties

This new SIG will explore the literature, art, and music of the years 1919 to 1929. This is a period rich in cultural and artistic endeavors; the period F. Scott Fitzgerald coined "The Jazz Age." Participants will read, watch, and listen as we delve into the movements and trends of this fascinating period of American history. This SIG meets the second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. This SIG is organized by Sharon O'Brien.

On the Cover



A Suriname Powder Puff, native to northeastern South America, in full bloom at the Belle Isle Conservatory. Photo by SOAR member Kathleen Morgan.

Welcome from Debra Yamstein, SOAR LLI Executive Director

Welcome to another SOAR Spring Term! I continue to be impressed by the work of the Curriculum Committee, identifying topics, finding, and engaging speakers, gathering the class information; it is no small task. But, they have done another incredible job. This term there are more than 50 individual classes, almost 20 faculty that are new to SOAR (including yours truly), and some truly fascinating topics.

Take Zach Stanton's class, A Hidden History of America's Suburbs. When I came across his Politico article, I was surprised to find that it mentioned, not one, but two SOAR members who were part of the history of housing integration he discussed, Marion Muma and Mary Killeen. Zach, Marion, and Mary are eager to share their story with us, and I am excited to hear this first-hand account.

Or Becky Ridky, from Michigan Senior Olympics, who will share with us how you can get involved. She'll be joined by some Senior Olympians including our own Tom Neal who will be competing in up to four swimming events at this Summer's National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa.

Our community never ceases to amaze me.

Speaking of community, it runs through all of SOAR. From our online SIG communities, our various committees, and our in-person lunches, SOAR continues to work hard to provide opportunities to engage, not only your brain, but also your Self. We do hope you'll take advantage of the opportunities.

In Spring 2024 we began offering hybrid classes and worked through the next couple of terms to get the sound and experience right. What we have found is that it's just not working the way that we had hoped. We have not been able to provide the experience and engagement that you or our faculty have come to expect from SOAR and so, we're trying something different. This term, there will be fewer hybrid options for classes. In place of the Live Broadcast, we plan to record more in-person classes and share them out with our recorded Zoom classes at the end of each week (an **R** by the class in the pull out calendar indicates recording). In this way we hope to be able to provide options for our homebound members while still providing the in-person experience that SOAR members and faculty value.

As SOAR continues to grow and improve, please continue to consider how you might contribute to our success whether through actions or finances. Volunteers are the heart of SOAR, and we could not do it without you. If you are interested in joining a committee, please reach out. And, as always, please share SOAR with your friends and neighbors, it is our number one means of growth.

Here's to April showers and May flowers!

Deb



Debra Yamstein, SOAR LLI Executive Director

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Faith Impacts Life: An Interfaith Conversation

The Education Committee of The InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit's (www.detroitinterfaithcouncil.com) Education Committee with the co-sponsorship of WISDOM presents an interfaith panel discussion representing the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist faiths. Panelists will share personal stories about how their childhood experiences have impacted them, what the most misunderstood parts of their faith tradition are, which religious practices mean the most to them, and how making friends across faith traditions has changed their lives. Please join SOAR for this opportunity to learn and build bridges across communities.



Friday, May 9, 2025; 1:00 PM - Harrison Hall • Admission - \$10

Nicely Theatre Group Presents

Join Nicely Theatre Group (NTG) Founder, David Carroll and Creative Director, Mitch Master as they share stories of NTG's evolution and its lore. NTG is a professional, non-profit theater company, based in Oakland County, that is dedicated to high quality theatrical production for a wide audience.



The group focuses on one performance per year and to date they have mounted productions of ANYTHING GOES, PIPPIN, A CHORUS LINE and others, with its most recent a spectacular version of GUYS AND DOLLS. Nicely Theatre Group's exuberant passion and talent is uncontainable.

See and hear performances by NTG cast members from previous shows as well as a preview of the new 2025 production. This evening of theatre is sure to be a treat!



Wednesday, May 14, 2025; 7:00 PM - Harrison Hall • SOAR members - \$10; Non-SOAR members - \$20

The Central Park Five at Detroit Opera

Anthony Davis, composer of *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*, won the **2020 Pulitzer Prize for Music** for this true story adaptation of systemic discrimination. This gripping opera follows the wrongful convictions of five African American and Latino teenagers in the assault of a white female jogger in Central Park.



Despite racial injustice, resilience and redemption emerge as the five men fight for freedom.



Sunday, May 18, 2025 • Bus will depart from The Hawk at 12:30 PM and return at approximately 6:15 PM
SOAR Members - \$40/ticket + \$10/transportation; Non-SOAR Members - \$50/ticket + \$10/transportation

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory at Belle Isle Tour

In combination with the class to be held on May 19th, SOAR members are invited to a guided tour of the recently reopened, 115 year old Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory at Belle Isle.

Part of the Siegel Art & Exploration Fund Experience.



Tuesday, May 20, 2025 • Bus will depart from the Hawk at 12:15 PM and return at approximately 3:30 PM
SOAR Members - \$10; Non-SOAR Members - \$25

A generous gift in memory of Skip and Beverly Siegel has enabled SOAR to establish **The Lewis "Skip" and Beverly Siegel Art Exploration and Transportation fund**.

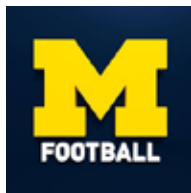
Transportation for the Belle Isle field trip, as well as other SOAR field trips, has been heavily subsidized by the fund. SOAR thanks the Siegel's children for their thoughtful gift.



Michigan Stadium Facility Tour

Tour includes (60-90 minutes):

- Michigan Stadium Field
- Michigan Football Game
- Day Locker Room
- Michigan Stadium Press Box
- Club and Suite Level



Friday, May 23, 2025 • Bus will depart from The Hawk at 12:00 PM
SOAR members-\$30 transportation included; SOAR Guests-\$45 transportation included



Art/Architecture

The Fight Against the Illicit Trade of Ancient Artifacts

To protect our shared heritage and global security, the Antiquities Coalition (AC) is leading the international campaign against cultural racketeering, the illicit trade in ancient art and artifacts. Arose will provide an overview of the AC's work and discuss how the international community, including governments, NGOs, the private sector, etc., can work together to combat this crime.

Helena Arose serves as the Director of Programs at the Antiquities Coalition. In this role, she closely collaborates with representatives from the U.S. and international governments, law enforcement agencies, international partners, academics, and other key stakeholder groups to develop and implement programs to fight the illicit trade in ancient art and antiquities.



Let Me Tell You a Story

Making meaning of the world around us is a basic behavior. Most cultures throughout history have used art to teach essential beliefs and understandings. We explore the many ways visual artists use stories as the source of inspiration for their work. Artists may also influence works of literature, with art as the source of inspiration.

Carlene VanVoorhies has been an Interpretive Programs volunteer (docent) for the DIA since 2010 and has presented more than 4,000 programs and museum tours. The very best part of her job is having the chance to bring the museum's stories to libraries, senior residences, and community centers.



Wednesday, Apr 23, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2502 • Zoom, Recorded  **R**

Friday, April 18, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2501 • Zoom, Recorded  **R**

LEGEND:  IN-PERSON •  VIEW FROM HOME • **R** RECORDED


Notre-Dame de Paris Revisited

In 2021 a presentation was made to SOAR about the fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Historic Preservation alternatives for Restoration. In December of 2024, the restoration of Notre-Dame was essentially complete, and the cathedral was reopened to the public to great fanfare. This presentation will review the main points of the prior presentation and show the final results of the restoration.

Stephen Vogel, FAIA, is Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture and Community Development. During his tenure as dean, he co-founded the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, a university-based center providing professional design services to nonprofit civic and community organizations, as well as creating the Master of Community Development degree program, which emphasizes community engagement and cross-cultural understanding. He is a Richard Upjohn and Louise Blanchard Bethune Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.



Friday, May 9, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2503 • Live (In-Person Only), Recorded  **R**


The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The Met is the 4th largest museum in the world with an encyclopedic collection that spans the globe and the centuries. We'll explore some of its most important works and some lesser-known ones in both the 5th Avenue building and the Cloisters. The images presented will bring back fond memories of artworks familiar to you and give ideas for what to look for in future visits.

Art historian **Wendy Evans** has advanced degrees from Oxford University, England and WSU, Detroit. She taught art history at Wayne State, is a longtime DIA volunteer, and loves to share her passion for art with groups in the metro area and beyond. In the 15 years between 2006 and 2021 Evans gave 55 presentations at SOAR on a wide range of art topics. More information is at www.art-talks.org



Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2504 • Live (In-Person Only) 

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory Structural Repairs

The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, a beloved Detroit landmark at Belle Isle Park in Detroit, reopened in December after two years of extensive renovations. This significant undertaking marks the completion of the final phase of a comprehensive plan to revitalize the upper 60 feet of the 80-foot-tall conservatory dome.


This class is part of the Lewis “Skip” and Beverly Siegel Art and Exploration Experience. Made possible through a generous gift from the Siegel estate, SOAR members will have an opportunity to learn about a topic and then get out and explore it. This class is paired with a tour of the Conservatory on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Amanda Treadwell, PLA, is the Urban Area Field Planner for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division and has been responsible for capital

outlay investment in the MDNR PRD Urban District, Detroit Michigan since 2014. The DNR has collaborated with public agencies, public and private stakeholder groups, and Belle Isle tenants to invest over \$140 million in Belle Isle Park. Federal, state, and private grants have leveraged state funding to address the original \$300 million list of deferred maintenance to stabilize and repair park structures.



Monday, May 19, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2505 • Live (In-Person Only) 

Business and Finance


Overview of the Venture World with a Local Case Study

This lecture-and-discussion formatted class introduces participants to the dynamic and evolving world of ventures, entrepreneurship, and innovation, with a specific focus on integrating venture principles with high tech startups. By blending theoretical insights with real-world applications, attendees will explore key aspects of the venture ecosystem, including startup creation, funding mechanisms, growth strategies, and market adaptation. The case study will focus on a prominent or emerging venture from the local ecosystem.

Dr. Ken Massey is the Senior Director of Venture Development and a Professor of Pharmacology at Wayne State University. He reviews emerging technologies, and assesses patentability, regulatory requirements, and commercial potential. He assists inventors in early product development and company start-ups. Dr. Massey has extensive leadership experience as a scientist, faculty member, and elected official. Dr. Massey is currently the board president of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce and MichBio and has served as a board member and chair of several organizations.



Thursday, May 22, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2506 • Zoom, Recorded  **R**

Current Events


Oak Park: History and Revival of a Unique Detroit Suburb

Oak Park has long been known as Detroit's "Jewish suburb." But few know just how that happened, or how and why the city exploded with vibrance, then declined, and is now on an amazing upswing. Join journalist, historian, and author Jack Lessenberry, who has just completed a book on Oak Park, as he shares the city's secrets and some of its remarkable and utterly unique history.

Jack Lessenberry has been a writer for many publications, including *Vanity Fair* and *The New York Times*. He is a contributing editor and columnist for the *Toledo Blade* and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and is co-author of *The People's Lawyer: The Life and Times of Frank J. Kelley*; and author of *Reason vs. Racism: A Newspaper Family, Race, and Justice*, and *Thinking About the Other Fella: Avern Cohn's Life and the Law*. He lives in *Huntington Woods* and *Charlevoix*, with *Elizabeth* and their *Australian Shepherds, Rusty and Chet*.



Thursday, Apr 24, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2507 • Live (In-Person Only) - Harrison Hall 

The Disappearing Separation of Church and State

While the American population has become more secular, in the last 7 years the law has increasingly privileged religion. In the name of religious freedom, courts have approved government funding for religious institutions, religious exemptions from health regulations, religiously based LGBTQ+ discrimination, and high school football coaches demonstrably praying on the 50-yard line. Some states are reintroducing the 10 Commandments and Bibles into public schools, and authorizing appointment of school chaplains. Notions of Christian nationalism are reappearing. The course will examine these legal developments and survey likely future trends.

Howard Friedman is a retired Professor of Law who taught for many years at the University of Toledo. He has lived in the metro Detroit area for ten years. Prof. Friedman has published numerous books and articles. He currently authors *Religion Clause* blog, an award-winning source for understanding legal developments on church-state separation and religious freedom.



Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2508 • Live (In-Person Only) 



The Chinese Dream: Restoring the PRC's "National Greatness" Before its Centennial in 2049

Since he became China's preeminent leader in 2012, Xi Jinping has pursued an agenda to make the country prosperous, strong, harmonious, and globally influential in advance of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic in 2049. This one-session talk will explore specific policies that the CCP has implemented to achieve this "Chinese Dream," including domestic efforts to eliminate poverty and construct a unified national identity, and global outreach like the Belt and Road Initiative. It considers results to date and challenges that will impact China's drive to cement superpower status over the next quarter century.

LEGEND:  IN-PERSON •  VIEW FROM HOME • **R** RECORDED

A historian of modern Japan with a focus on the Meiji period (1868-1912), **Elizabeth Lublin** taught courses on East Asia at Wayne State for over twenty years. Her early publications examined the reform activism of the Japan Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and her current research explores Japan's tobacco and match industries.




Friday, May 16, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
S2509 • In-Person & Broadcast (Hybrid)  

Master Your Message: Communication Course Workshop

Paula Tutman has been a high-profile broadcast journalist for 42 years. She has also spent the last three decades teaching the Master Your Message Communication Course workshop that deconstructs the basic communication model and teaches skills that will change the way you speak to others in a meaningful dynamic way. Paula will teach two advanced communication tools in a rollicking, interactive workshop and answer questions about her long and storied career.

Paula Tutman has spent more than 42 years in front of the camera as a news reporter. She has had many adventures including competitive sailing, horseback riding, flying an F-16 fighter jet, crashing a motorcycle, performing in an opera, and opening the circus as a clown. Tutman has witnessed the great polar bear migration in the Canadian sub-Arctic and photographed Bushmen in Senegal. Recently retired, she now teaches a workshop that amps up productivity using the powerful tool of communication.



Wednesday, May 21, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
S2510 • Live (In-Person Only) - Harrison Hall 




Making Sense of Afghanistan: Two Generations of U.S. Involvement in Central Asia

This lecture will explore American involvement in Afghanistan, a history which has entered its third generation. From the advent of U.S. support for Afghan fighters in 1979 against the Soviet army to the 2021 withdrawal of forces, American foreign policy in Afghanistan has spanned the Cold War, the attacks and aftermath of 9/11, and the post-Global War on Terror.

Saeed Khan is Associate Professor of Near East & Asian Studies and Global Studies at Wayne State University, where he is also Director of the Center for the Study of Citizenship. He is Co-founder and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, and his latest publications include *Global Studies: A Reader on Issues and Institutions* and the co-authored book, *What's Going On Here? U.S. Experiences of Islamophobia Between Obama and Trump*.



Wednesday, May 21, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM
S2511 • Live (In-Person Only) - Harrison Hall 



Detroit/Michigan

Rust Belt Reporter: A Memoir of Detroit

Veteran Detroit journalist and author John Gallagher presents the lessons he learned while covering Detroit for 32 years with the Detroit Free Press. A witness first to the city's decline and then its remarkable recovery, Gallagher recounts his experiences in his new memoir *Rust Belt Reporter*. Books will be available for purchase and signing after the class.

John Gallagher is a noted journalist and book author who covered Detroit for more than three decades with the Detroit Free Press. Educated at DePaul University and Columbia University, John and his wife still live in Detroit along the east riverfront.



Thursday, April 17, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
S2512 • In-Person & Broadcast (Hybrid)  


The Salt Stories: Detroit

The story of salt in Detroit began some 400 million years ago and continues into the present day. This story of earth, snow, and salt will tell the story of our world...and its need for salt. The class focuses on the history of salt in Detroit, Michigan. Topics explored will involve the geology, geography, and demography of this area as well as a discussion of mining, minerals, and materials that relate to salt.

George Davis is the current Director of Security, Public Safety, and Real Estate at the Detroit Salt Company (DSC), owners and operators of the historic Detroit Salt Mine. Davis directs the public affairs portfolio focused on government, community, and media relations. The public safety group he leads handles DSC's relationships with local law enforcement and fire officials, its Corporate Security teams, and Homeland Security. Certified as a professional miner through the U.S. Department of Labor, George is one very few African American mining executives in the United States.



Wednesday, Apr 30, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2513 • Zoom, Recorded 

A Hidden History of America's Suburbs

In 1967, a Black man and a white woman bought a home in the Detroit suburbs. American politics would never be the same. Journalist Zack Stanton brings you an incredible, true story (with SOAR connections) that had been lost to history: That of the Bailey family in Warren, the allies who supported them, the neighbors who opposed them and the unexpected ramifications for all of American life, all stemming from one house in one neighborhood.

Zack Stanton is the deputy editor of POLITICO's Playbook and a regular contributor to POLITICO Magazine, where he was digital editor from 2016-2021. Prior to joining POLITICO, he was editor of the Wilson Quarterly, and, in a prior career, a speechwriter on Capitol Hill. A native of Macomb County, Michigan, Zack is a graduate of Michigan State University. He lives in Washington, D.C.



Thursday, May 1, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2514 • Live (In-Person Only), Recorded  R


From Faith to Flakes: Fetzer, Kellogg, and Other Early 20th Century Spiritual Seekers of Western Michigan

In the early 20th century, the Midwest was a hotbed of spiritual activity. Western Michigan was ripe with pioneering beliefs in metaphysics, Seventh Day Adventism, and a branch of Mormonism. This class looks at some of the most fascinating players whose impact was felt from Battle Creek to Kalamazoo to what was once the Kingdom of Beaver Island!

Rochelle Forester has had a lifelong love of music, theater, and performance. A member of Actors Equity and SAG, she frequently performed at The Attic Theater, JET Theater, and Michigan Opera (now Detroit Opera). Now retired, Forester enjoys researching and sharing her love of learning with others. In this lecture, she dramatically veers from her usual perch in the world of music to another area of intrigue. Forester is married and has an adult daughter.



Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2515 • Zoom, Recorded  R

Film

Film and Philosophy

This film series will explore how films create (ideal) viewers in and through cinematic techniques like narrative style, plot, editing, scene sequencing, dialogue, and emotional response. Films are powerful means of evoking thought, emotion, and judgement around representations of different social and political issues: legal and political culture, crime, punishment, intimacy, race, identity, gender, sex, sexuality, ethnicity, dignity, and value, e.g. Film has become an essential form of cultural activity that either challenges us to interrogate dominant norms and practices or deepen our uncritical allegiance to them.

LEGEND:  IN-PERSON •  VIEW FROM HOME • R RECORDED

mark wenzel has been in the Wayne State University Philosophy Department since 1998 and holds classes in global ethics, contemporary moral issues, ethics, contemporary moral issues, feminist philosophy, philosophy, and philosophy of arts. He developed a course in Classical Indian Philosophy in the Fall of 2023. mark has twice held classes at the Huron Valley Women's Prison and is currently part of a WSU group working to begin a College in Prison Program at Macomb Correctional Facility.



Small Things Like These
(2024, 98 minutes)

The loving dad works hard delivering coal in the shivering days leading up to Christmas 1985. But a glimpse at what's really going on with the 'loose' girls sent to work in the laundries at the local convent rattles everything he believes in. Adapted from a novella by Irish author Claire Keegan, it's centered on Cillian Murphy as Bill.

Monday, April 14, 2025 12:30 PM-3:00 PM
S2516A • Live (In-Person Only) 🗿

My Cousin Rachel
(2017, 106 minutes)

Philip is a young Englishman who finds his cousin Ambrose dead after traveling to Florence, Italy. He vows revenge against Ambrose's missing wife Rachel, blaming her for his untimely demise. When Philip meets Rachel for the first time, his mood suddenly changes as he finds himself falling for her seductive charm and beauty. As his obsession for her grows, Rachel now hatches a scheme to win back her late husband's estate from the unsuspecting Philip. Rachel Weiss as Rachel!

Monday, April 21, 2025 12:30 PM-3:00 PM
S2516B • Live (In-Person Only) 🗿

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
(1967, 108 minutes)

When Joanna Drayton (Katharine Houghton), a free-thinking white woman, and black doctor John Prentice (Sidney Poitier) become engaged, they travel to San Francisco to meet her parents. Matt Drayton (Spencer Tracy) and his wife Christina (Katharine Hepburn) are wealthy liberals who must confront the latent racism the coming marriage arouses. Also attending the Draytons' dinner are Prentice's parents (Roy E. Glenn Sr., Beah Richards), who vehemently disapprove of the relationship.

Monday, April 28, 2025 12:30 PM-3:00 PM
S2516C • Live (In-Person Only) 🗿

Touch
(2024, 120 minutes)

A romantic and thrilling story between Kristoffer and Miko that spans several decades and continents. "Touch" follows Kristoffer's emotional journey to find his first love who disappeared 50 years ago and to find her before his time runs out.

Monday, May 5, 2025 12:30 PM-3:00 PM
S2516D • Live (In-Person Only) 🗿

The Big Night

The Big Night is a treat for both movie lovers and food lovers. The film deals with two Italian brothers whose superb restaurant is on the brink of bankruptcy. What can save the restaurant from bankruptcy? The film stars Stanley Tucci, Tony Shalhoub, Minnie Driver, Isabella Rossellini, and award-winning star, Ian Holm. The film was both co-written and directed by Stanley Tucci.

Ralph Stromberg is a co-leader of the SOAR First Friday Movie SIG and chairs the SOAR Winter Program. His love of film began at an early age, and he enjoys the opportunity to share and discuss films that he rates highly with SOAR members



Thursday, May 22, 2025 12:30 PM-3:00 PM
S2517 • Live (In-Person Only) 🗿

About SOAR LLI

As a lifelong learning institute, SOAR Lifelong Learning Institute's (LLI) mission is to provide intellectually stimulating, interactive, and entertaining classes, events and social experiences where everyone feels included and welcome. SOAR's programs include a diverse selection of non-credit academic lectures, field trips, special events, shared interest groups, and other activities. Each year, nearly 1,000 individuals from throughout metropolitan Detroit enjoy our programs. SOAR is member and volunteer led and it's goal is to enable its members to experience better cognitive and emotional health while enjoying social connectedness, cultural events, and personal growth.

Health/Medicine


Transgender Life 2025

Transgender people are living their lives amongst us peacefully. Demonized in the 2024 presidential election, they have been the target of scorn for decades. Yet, in many ways they have found better lives than some might expect. Either through migration or hard work wherever they live, they find peace. In the face of unreasonable oppression, they have been able to improve their lives and create community. Join this class for a first-hand account of Transgender life.

***Thora Hanses** was born in the 1950s. She has known since she was a young child that she was not the gender she was assigned at birth. In the 1950s there was no support to be found. Now, at almost 70, she has endured a bumpy late transition and is healthy and at peace. She lives with her dog and her garden.*



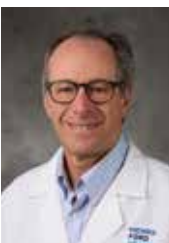
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

S2518 • Live (In-Person Only) Recorded  **R**



The Aging Voice and Other Throat Ailments

This class focuses on the anatomy and physiology of the throat and the voice box. The various conditions that affect these organs as people age will be discussed. Gardner will describe several medical and surgical remedies for the more common conditions that laryngologists see in daily practice.

***Dr. Glendon Gardner** is a Senior Staff Laryngologist in the Department of Otolaryngology with Henry Ford Health. He is a Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology at Wayne State University who regularly cares for touring singers performing with the Michigan Opera Theater, the DSO, and at other local theaters, and voice professionals. Gardner conducts research, lectures nationally and internationally, and publishes regularly on topics related to the larynx and voice. He is the bassist and harmonica player for Klezundheit and the Temple Beth El Shabbat Band.*



Wednesday, Apr 30, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2519 • In-Person & Broadcast (Hybrid)  

History

The Louisiana Purchase: The Most Important Event in American History

The Louisiana Purchase more than doubled the size of the United States and gave the young republic control of the Mississippi River. Learn the surprising story of how the US came to control the most valuable real estate on earth. Full of drama and unexpected plot twists, the Louisiana Purchase would be great material for a mini-series, if only we remembered that it happened. Learn how the future of the United States was secured by a slave revolt in Haiti and an outbreak of yellow fever which frustrated Napoleon's plans to become the major power in North America.

***Leonard Zucker** was the co-founder and CEO of the 1/2 Off Card Shops, a chain of 58 greeting card and party supply stores. He has been passionate about American history his whole life and is now launching a site dedicated to American history titled americanhistoryin3d.com*



Monday, April 14, 2024 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2520 • Live (In-Person Only), Recorded  **R**

The Warsaw Uprising 1944

“The Warsaw Uprising 1944” describes one of the most remarkable, yet tragic, episodes of the Second World War. By the late summer of 1944, as the Western allies advanced eastward through France, the Soviets continued to push Hitler's armies westward. As the Soviet army reached the eastern outskirts of Warsaw, the Home Army, Poland's main resistance force, launched a long-planned battle to liberate the city before the Soviets entered it. The objectives and outcome of the uprising had important strategic and political implications not only for Poland, but for the postwar order in Europe.



Andrew Ladak is a former U.S. Army officer and a Vietnam combat veteran. He was born after World War II in Allied-occupied Germany to Polish parents. The family came to America when he was three. Ladak's father was an officer in the Polish Army and the Polish resistance. His mother fought in the Warsaw Uprising. Her story inspired this presentation. Ladak retired from a career in marketing and corporate communications and has taught at a community college. He is an avid reader, with a particular interest in military history.



Wednesday, April 16, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2521 • Live (In-Person Only)

Enablers of Evil

The traumas of World War II had barely ended when Holocaust deniers began casting doubts that one of the greatest crimes in human history had been a hoax. Their poisonous campaign has continued into the 21st Century. An examination of the history and the impact of this campaign as a first line of defense to do all it is possible to do to, once and for all, silence the deniers.

Dr. Fred L. Johnson III is the Guy Vander Jagt '53 Endowed Professor of History at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Prior to academia, Dr. Johnson served as a Communication-Electronics Officer in the United States Marine Corps and then worked in the automotive, telecommunications, and aerospace industries. Dr. Johnson earned his undergraduate degree from Bowie State College, then earned his Masters and Doctorate degrees from Kent State University. In 2015, Dr. Johnson also completed a Masters of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary.



Wednesday, Apr 16, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2522 • Zoom, Recorded **R**

Lights in the Darkness: Female Anti-Nazi Defiance During the Shoah

Based on her extensive research and firsthand interviews, author, Holocaust educator, and playwright, Joanne Gilbert's class features and celebrates the little-known, indomitable, young Polish Jewish girls who actively — and successfully — risked everything to defy the Nazis and their collaborators. Topics include: Significance of "Light" in Jewish Culture, Impact of the Holocaust on Jewish American Baby Boomers, Types of Resistance, Historic Jewish Female Resisters, and "VOICES OF VALOR!: A Holocaust Education Theatrical Project for Classrooms.

As a baby boomer, born and raised in Detroit and Oak Park, and now residing in Las Vegas, **Joanne Gilbert** was profoundly influenced by her grandmother, Millie Ron, whose family had been murdered in Vilna. Growing up with the stories of the ways that survivors had defied the Nazis, Joanne was inspired to dedicate herself to proving that the Jewish people did not go, "silently like sheep to the slaughter," and that Resistance was not limited by age, size, or gender.



Thursday, Apr 17, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2523 • Zoom, Recorded **R**

Where Even Reindeer Feared to Tread

No one completely understood Japan's reasons for attacking the barren, freezing, windswept islands known as the Aleutians. Even so, after the stunning American victory at the Battle of Midway, June 4-6, 1942, U.S. leaders decided that the Japanese expansion had to be repulsed no matter how difficult the daunting terrain situation or the risks involved.

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Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2524 • Zoom, Recorded **R**

LEGEND: IN-PERSON • VIEW FROM HOME • **R** RECORDED

Diplomacy and Military Strategy 2025 – A Look at the Trump Administration's Direction for National Security

This class will look at what is changing in 2025 with a new administration and a new policy team. With national security challenges all around the world, the lecture will examine the rapidly evolving threats and postures regarding the dynamic U.S. levers of influence. From our military to the State Department to the National Security Council and more...it's a quickly changing environment.

Doug “Odie” Slocum is a retired Air Force Brigadier General with more than 4000 hours as a fighter pilot in F-4, F-16, and A-10 aircraft. He retired as the Commander at Selfridge ANGB in 2009, which included a global mobility core mission. He was also uniquely selected as the first-ever fighter pilot to serve as the Director of Mobility Forces for Korean military exercise “Key Resolve 2018.”



Monday, Apr 28, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2525 • Live (In-Person Only) 🗿

Eisenhower Keeps the Nation on Course

Generals do not necessarily make good presidents. Imagine Patton as President! However, Eisenhower's command responsibilities — a multi-nation coalition — provided excellent training for governing a diverse nation. During his eight years in office, his popularity remained at near-record highs. Maybe he was lucky; post-war Americans relished his “hidden hand” style of leadership. Would it work today?

Since 1983, **Bruce Zellers** has taught history at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor and taught at Oakland University for more than 20 years. His interests range widely in American history, and he lectures frequently on topics from the colonial era to the present. A particular interest has been American military history; his book reviews in this area can be found in *The Journal of Military History*, *the Michigan War Studies Review*, and elsewhere.



Tuesday, April 29, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2526 • Live (In-Person Only) 🗿

When the White House Became a Madhouse

This presentation focuses on the mental illnesses of U.S presidents. Many presidents suffered from psychiatric disorders, including major depression, alcoholism, bipolar disorder, and dementia. Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, and Calvin Coolidge are among a number of presidents who had psychiatric disorders. U.S presidents are frequently required to make decisions that have dramatic and consequential effects. We will explore the impact these disorders may have had on the course of history.

Sidney Heisler, MD, provided psychiatric care for many years to patients in Michigan. Now retired, he has more time to enjoy his lifelong avocation as a history buff. Researching mental illness in the White House gave him the opportunity to use his clinical background to further understand the psyche and the US presidency.



Tuesday, Apr 29, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2527 • Live (In-Person Only) 🗿

Rise Up, Children of the Fatherland: Defining Nationalism and Its Influence

Since the French Revolution, nationalism has been a potent force shaping national and international politics. This class will define this phenomenon and will explore many examples, both positive and negative, of its influence throughout the world. Focal points will include the United States, Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Russia (Slavophilism), and Japan, while exploring challenges in multi-ethnic/linguistic countries like Canada, Belgium, Nigeria, South Africa, and others.

Thomas C. Sosnowski is a native of Detroit with a BA from the University of Detroit and a PhD from Kent State University. After teaching high school French for three years, Sosnowski was a professor of history at Kent State University Stark Campus in Canton, Ohio, for forty-one years. His resume includes numerous articles and presentations on 17th and 18th century France and Ohio history. He was honored by Kent State University with its Distinguished Teaching Award.



Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2528 • In-Person & Broadcast (Hybrid) 🗿 🏠

Law/Politics/Government

What's Happening in the Michigan Legislature?

After a very eventful “lame-duck” session, the Michigan Legislature is back to work with a reversal of fortunes in the House and the Senate holding on to a Democrat majority at least until 2026. Hear from Mallory McMorrow, the current Senate Majority Whip, what really happened during “lame-duck,” what important legislation is in the works, what new laws might be coming, and perhaps even what it’s like to be interviewed on MSNBC. Governing from a split body politic is yet another new experience for our state senator.

Senator Mallory McMorrow, a rising star in Michigan and national politics, is currently the youngest woman ever elected to the Michigan Senate. Following a vicious verbal attack by a GOP colleague, Mallory made an impassioned speech that turned a moment into a movement.



She called out hypocrisy and stood up for her constituents, then raised millions as a result. Mallory’s goal is to build Democratic power in Michigan’s and other state legislatures. McMorrow is a Notre Dame graduate residing in Royal Oak with husband, Ray, daughter, Noa, and Dee, the dog.

Monday, April 21, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2529 • In-Person & Broadcast (Hybrid)  


What Is a Lobbyist. . . Everything You Did Not Tell Your Mother

Class participants will learn the true value and role of a lobbyist in Michigan’s legislative and political arena and how the role and impact has changed over the past several decades with term limits and changes in campaigns and elections. McKinney will share real work experiences to highlight the need for transparency and accountability within our system and the oversized role of fundraising. Finally, there will be a discussion as to basic but key elements on how you can be an effective advocate for your own causes.

Kevin McKinney has more than 44 years of experience in the legislative and political process. McKinney previously worked for the state Senate Majority Leader / Minority Leader and established his own lobbying and consulting firm, McKinney & Associates, in 1991. McKinney was named as one Crain Detroit’s 50 Names to Know in Lobbying 2020.



Monday, May 12, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2530 • Live (In-Person Only) 

Literature/Biographies

The History and the Literature: *The Librarian of Burned Books*

Using *The Librarian of Burned Books* by Brianna Labuskes as the launching point, we will spend the first hour looking at the history of the period covered in the novel. Specifically, we will consider the rise of Hitler and the Nazis. We will also explore the politics of the US in 1944, the penultimate year of the war, from Roosevelt’s campaign for a fourth term and the conservative opposition. The class will also include a look at Armed Services Edition (ASE) books. We will then spend an hour discussing the novel as contemporary literature. Readers and history buffs welcome!

Stan and Diane Henderson

are avid readers. Stan reads history, Diane fiction. In other lives, they would have been history and English professors. Now they team up to share their passions with SOAR.

Pre-retirement, Stan was Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Life at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and Diane an educational program planner/consultant. Both are failing retirement!



Tuesday, April 15, 2025 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

S2531 • Live (In-Person Only), Recorded  **R**

LEGEND:  IN-PERSON •  VIEW FROM HOME • **R** RECORDED

Global Blackness Experience: Black Lives Matter

Global Blackness could be used to address the complex forces shaping the idea of 'becoming global' and in so doing critically deepen the perspectives of Black diaspora. Since its inception in the 2012 murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, Black Live Matter encapsulates the struggles of vulnerable Black people. The murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor sparked the largest protests in U.S. history. 15-26 million people spanning racial, generational, and socioeconomic lines took to the streets to demand justice. Millions more stood in solidarity, from around the globe. This class will examine how Black Lives Matter can continually expand its reach and respond to injustices around the globe.

Dr. Frieda Ekotto is Lorna Goodison Collegiate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, Comparative Literature and Francophone Studies at the University of Michigan.

As an intellectual historian and philosopher with areas of expertise in 20th and 21st-century Anglophone and Francophone literature and in the cinema of West Africa and its diaspora, she concentrates on contemporary issues of law, race and LGBTQIA2S+issues.

Friday, May 2, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2532 • Zoom, Recorded  **R**

Medieval and Renaissance Justice

During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, societies were regulated by an understanding of justice that was quite different from what we think today. Therefore, (1) applying our modern ideas of justice to them is a mistake; (2) we can learn how our justice functions by comparing it to their justice; and (3) given that some modern societies resemble the justice of the Renaissance, we can understand those modern societies better. The class uses literature and philosophy to reach the claims above.




Daniel Lorca taught at Oakland University for 12 years. He was an Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures and also taught Argumentative Writing in English. His specialty is the Renaissance literature of Spain, with emphasis on Cervantes.



Lorca has two PhDs, one from the University of Chicago (Renaissance Literature of Spain, Cervantes) and another from Loyola University at Chicago (philosophy of language with emphasis on metaphor).

S2533A-Monday, May 12, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2533B-Monday, May 19, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2533 • Live (In-Person Only) 

Mapping Detroit in Literature I: Landmarks and Gathering Spaces

In fiction, poetry, and film, Detroit landmarks and gathering spaces become codes for Detroiters' collective experiences and histories. Attendees will examine Belle Isle, Tiger Stadium, Hudson's, and the Eastern Market in poems, short stories, and novels. The climactic Scott Fountain scene in the film *Scarecrow*, directed by Jerry Schatzberg and starring Gene Hackman and Al Pacino, will also be discussed.

Frank Rashid is professor emeritus of English and a founding member of the Institute for Detroit Studies at Marygrove College. He edits the online Literary Map of Detroit and has published essays on the poetry of Emily Dickinson, Robert Hayden, and Lawrence Joseph and on Detroit literature and culture.



Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2534 • In-Person & Broadcast (Hybrid)  

Nature/Environment

The Keweenaw Heartlands Project: Conservation as a Catalyst to Community Resiliency


This session will take you to the Keweenaw Peninsula, an iconic Michigan destination of beauty, ruggedness, nature and wildlife. The Case Study will demonstrate how conservation can play a catalytic role in addressing the challenges of building more resilient rural communities through the Keweenaw Heartlands Project; An innovative collaboration in which The Nature Conservancy,

in collaboration with MDNR, local community members, and partners purchased 32,600 acres of threatened forestland vital to the community's economic base. Michigan's rural communities are home to natural features that draw people here and drive many of the state's top economies (timber, agriculture, tourism), yet they face fundamental challenges in retaining population and building a sustainable future.

Helen Taylor has spent more than 35 years working on Great Lakes protection, policy, and conservation. She joined The Nature Conservancy in 1996 to lead its Great Lakes Program, and since 1999 has served as state director in Michigan. She has led a team that has protected more than 430,000 acres of forest, prairie, wetlands, and lakes, miles of rivers and coastline, and collaborations across working lands to increase sustainable land management practices in timber and agriculture and corporate sustainability goals and practices.



Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2535 • Zoom, Recorded  **R**


How To Get a Glacier Named For You

The Southern Oceans of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean is home to nearly all of the largest icebergs, ice sheets, whales, and birds in the world. We often talk about continents, but the world southern oceans support complex ecosystems unique to earth. Landau has spent decades working to establish long-lasting conservation policies to understand and protect life in the southern hemisphere.

Denise Landau is the President and COO of Friends of South Georgia Island, a Trustee for the South Georgia Heritage Trust (Sub Antarctic), a founding board member of Linking Tourism and Conservation, and the American Polar Society. She has been able to combine her love for adventure, wildlife, and wilderness to develop strategic conservation management policies. Working at both a business and governmental level, Landau has been able to implement ecological policies in the Southern Ocean since 1991. She has a BS from Michigan State University and is also a fellow for the Canadian Royal Geographical Society.



Thursday, May 15, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2536 • Live (In-Person Only) 

Performing Arts/Music/Dance


Between Elvis and The Beatles: A Look into American Pop Music 1958-1964

By the late '50s, many pillars of early rock had left center stage: Elvis was in the Army, Little Richard went back to the Church, Jerry Lee Lewis was up on morals charges and Buddy Holly died in a plane crash. Innovations by Lieber & Stoller, Don Kirshner, Phil Spector and others helped shape the musical vibe of this period. We'll hear how different styles were blended in the unlikeliest of combinations as we listen to artists like; The Shirelles, Del Shannon, The Drifters, Dion, Neil Sedaka, Four Seasons, The Beach Boys, The Everly Brothers and more.

Henry Feinberg is a musician, composer, music educator and a retired music instructor from Oakland Community College. He lectures on many musical topics with a focus on American Roots and Popular music. Henry received his Masters in Music from Oakland University and continues to perform on the piano and harmonica at various Detroit area locations in addition to teaching a roster of private students.



Thursday, Apr 24, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2537 • Live (In-Person Only) – Harrison Hall 

Broadway Musicals: Memorable Moments of the Past 20 Years

Since their origination almost 100 years ago, Broadway musicals have endlessly evolved. In the past two decades, contemporary artists have continued to push the creative envelope. Recent shows have embraced new styles of music and dance, adopted new technologies, and survived challenges like the COVID pandemic. This program explores the artistry, milestones, and enduring impact of modern musical theater.

LEGEND:  IN-PERSON •  VIEW FROM HOME • **R** RECORDED

Barbara Spreitzer-Berent is a noted speaker who draws upon a diverse array of interests and expertise to bring presentations to SOAR and other local audiences. Spreitzer-Berent especially enjoys addressing topics “on the lighter side,” including travel and culture, and always strives to inform and entertain.



Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2538 • Live (In-Person Only) 📍

From Pop to Swing: The Music of the 30s

The 1930s were a transition from the Jazz Age of the 1920s to a more sophisticated style that evolved into what became known as Big Band or Swing. But the popular style of music of the 20s was still around in the early 30s. Attendees will hear songs from artists and musicians like Judy Garland, Woody Herman, and the Boswell sisters. There will even be a surprise or two! Join your fellow SOAR members to explore the music of this important decade.

Stuart Johnson is a past member of the Michigan Jazz Record Collectors (MJRC), a local group of men and women who are dedicated to the preservation of jazz music. In 2007, as an outreach of the MJRC, Johnson began lecturing on jazz throughout the metro area at local libraries; libraries in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Mayville, Wisconsin; senior organizations; the music theatre class at U of D-Mercy; SOAR; MORE; and at a convention of the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors.



Wednesday, May 7, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2539 • Live (In-Person Only) 📍

Philosophy/Religion/Psychology

Lessons from the Land of Oz

Combining knowledge from a 40-year career in child psychiatry with a love of movies, Dr. Jeff London explores one of his favorite films, *The Wizard of Oz*, in a light-hearted manner, for the lessons it teaches us about adolescent development. Some knowledge of the movie will be useful. Attendees may also want to bring your brain, heart, and courage, if you can remember where you placed them.

Jeff London retired after a 40-year career as a psychiatrist, treating children, adolescents, and adults. He grew up in Detroit and, like many SOAR members, watched *The Wizard of Oz* on a yearly basis. London has given many talks in the Detroit area and loves combining his love of movies and music to help his audience down the Yellow Brick Road of learning.



Thursday, May 1, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2540 • Live (In-Person Only) 📍

A Positive Approach to Dementia

Dementia is hard, but it doesn't have to ruin your relationships. When dementia makes it challenging to communicate with your loved one, it doesn't mean that your relationship has to suffer. The Positive Approach to Care is a way to walk with your loved one on their dementia journey while preserving your relationship and making care tasks and communication easier for both of you. This interactive class offers tips, tricks, and a practical Positive Approach to Care to make the journey easier for everyone.

Deb Yamstein is the current Executive Director at SOAR LLI. A certified Positive Approach to Care (PAC) trainer since 2017, Yamstein has presented to dozens of groups about dementia and helped care partners build positive relationships. Yamstein previously was the VP, Senior Adult Services & Community Inclusion and Director of the Brown Adult Day Program, a dementia specific day program at JVS Detroit. Her Dementia Friendly High Holiday Service won a National AJAS award.



Friday, May 23, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2541 • Live (In-Person Only) 📍



Science/Technology

A Roadmap for Nuclear Energy

The future global use of nuclear energy will likely be determined by population growth, urbanization, and rising energy needs in developing countries. The pending retirement of the aging nuclear reactors (from which 60% of the nation's emission-free electricity comes) and projected growth in demand to power new data centers, also presents opportunities for new reactors in the U.S. Major challenges regarding the economics of new builds and spent fuel disposal remain as major obstacles for large scale deployment. This class will examine this important energy sector.

Tanju Sofu is a senior program manager at Argonne National Laboratory. He received his degree in nuclear engineering from University of Tennessee in Knoxville and contributed to computational physics and fluid dynamics projects under various DOE programs during his extensive career. He currently serves as the Deputy National Technical Director for the Nuclear Energy Advanced Modeling & Simulation (NEAMS) program, providing programmatic guidance for multi-laboratory efforts on development of methods and tools for design, analysis, and licensing of innovative nuclear reactor concepts.



Tuesday, Apr 15, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2542 • Zoom, Recorded  **R**

Your New Creative Partner. Understanding Generative AI

This class will explore the basics of generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), from its fascinating capabilities like creating art and writing, to providing personal assistance (Siri! Alexa!). GenAI is already shaping everyday life, providing both opportunities and challenges — its creative potential is matched only by concerns about its future impact. This session will help you to better understand and navigate this transformative innovation. (Note: This class description was written by ChatGPT.)

Karen McDevitt is an Associate Professor of Teaching for Wayne State University's Media Arts and Studies program. She teaches Film Theory, Media Analysis, New Media Practices, New Media Theory, and Introduction to M.A. Studies in Communication. McDevitt currently serves on the Wayne State University Press, Editorial Board of Directors and, for many years, served as an Executive member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Detroit Film Theatre.



Monday, May 5, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2543 • Zoom, Recorded  **R**

Plastics: The Daily Toxic Invasion

Plastics are everywhere in people's homes and lives. Many people think that they are helping to eliminate this problem by recycling or reusing plastic materials. It is a common belief that the numbers on plastic containers ensure proper recycling. These numbers are one of the lies perpetuated by plastic companies. Research explains how these lies and the exponential increase in plastic production endanger the world's environment and human health. The ways individuals can fight this toxic invasion will be presented along with calls to action from the organization Beyond Plastics.

Dr. Rochelle Rubin has spent over 50 years as a science educator. Since retiring, Rubin has worked on a variety of environmental and social justice-related projects and committees, including the Temple Kol Ami and NCJW Green teams. Recently, she has done significant research on the efficacy of recycling practices and the toxicity of plastics in our foods, our water, and our environment.



Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

S2544 • In-Person & Broadcast (Hybrid)  

LEGEND:  IN-PERSON •  VIEW FROM HOME • **R** RECORDED


Sports/Leisure

Michigan Senior Olympics

It's never too late to get in the game!!! Attendees will learn how to get involved with Senior Olympics whether it be as an athlete or a volunteer. Current Michigan Senior Olympians will share their experiences and class participants will walk away motivated and inspired. The Michigan Senior Olympics is a nonprofit organization for athletes aged 50+. Michigan Senior Olympics' vision is to provide all individuals 50 years plus with the programs to enjoy healthy and active lifestyles.

Becky Ridky, Executive Director, has been with the Michigan Senior Olympics since 2011. She holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Oakland University and a bachelor's degree in Sport & Recreation Management from Lake Superior State University. Ridky has served on the National Senior Games Board of Directors as well as many other committees. In her free time, she enjoys attending Detroit sports events, traveling, and coaching youth sports. She currently lives in Sterling Heights with her husband, Jeremy, and daughter, Ellie.



Tuesday, April 22, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
S2545 • Live (In-Person Only), Recorded  **R**



Beyond Pickleball

Sometimes it seems that pickleball and bingo are the only activities available for older adults. This class dispels that myth and outlines why it is important to stay active as you age. Ideas and resources to move beyond the cliches are also provided to give participants a clear path to begin their adventure in exploring new and exciting activities to stay engaged.

Alesha Williams currently serves as the Director of the Prime Time Senior Programs for the City of East Lansing. This robust program for individuals 55 and older, offers a diverse range of classes and activities rooted in the Eight Dimensions of Wellness. Alesha graduated with a degree in Recreation Therapy from Indiana State University in 2005 and maintains certification from NCTRC (National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification).



Williams brings a deep appreciation for the immense value seniors bring to the community and is passionate about sharing this perspective with others.

Friday, Apr 25, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
S2546 • In-Person & Broadcast (Hybrid)  

Al Kaline's Last Bat Boy

Growing up in the Corktown area of Detroit, just one block south of Tiger Stadium, Dennis Clotworthy lived every young boy's dream of becoming a Detroit Tigers bat boy. Not just any bat boy, but "Al Kaline's bat boy" in 1974, Kaline's final season of major league baseball. Clotworthy will present endless stories of becoming friends with many members of the 1968 World Series Championship Team and the memories he treasures as he still pinches himself to this day. The presenter shares what it was like for him, as a teenager, to be in the clubhouse, in the dugout, and on the field. This is an encore offering of a popular class.

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Dennis Clotworthy is the owner and president of Decade Concepts, a printing firm serving businesses and private individuals in southeastern Michigan. He is married to Vickie and has three children, two boys and a girl. He resides in Lexington, MI.



Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2547 • Live (In-Person Only) 📍

Travel/Culture

Promoting Racial Equity and Racial Healing in Our Community

This interactive session is designed to inspire and equip participants with the tools to foster racial equity and healing within their communities. Through discussion, activities, and multimedia resources, participants will explore systemic racism's impact, learn strategies to promote equity,

and engage in practices of racial healing. The session emphasizes actionable steps for individuals and organizations to create more inclusive, equitable, and just environments.



Jay B. Marks, PhD, is a widely respected educator with over 30 years of experience in the field of education. He has served as a classroom teacher for 17 years, as well as an educational consultant in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion on the local and national level. Marks is highly sought after for his work in the areas of racial and social justice. In addition to his work as a consultant, Marks also serves as an Intermittent Lecturer at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in the School of Education.

Thursday, May 8, 2025 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

S2548 • Live (In-Person Only) 📍

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How to become a SOAR member

Any person who registers for a full SOAR term is a SOAR member!

The six-week, Spring 2025 membership fee is \$135. This includes access to all SOAR classes, along with access to all the recorded classes so you can watch them on-demand, at your convenience. SOAR membership also includes the opportunity to participate in our Special Interest Groups (SIGs), at no additional charge and discounted member prices for SOAR Special Events and Field Trips.

*Limited scholarships are available. Contact Deb if you are experiencing a financial hardship.

Important Spring Term Dates

March 10, 2025 - March 16, 2025	Priority Member Enrollment - Learners purchasing a full membership may register for up to 10 in-person classes (zoom classes are included and do not require registration)
March 17, 2025	Open Enrollment - Single class registration is available. Members who took advantage of Priority Enrollment may register for additional in-person classes as space allows
April 14, 2025	Classes Begin

Closed/Full Classes

If an in-person class fills up before a member can register, the member may come to the registration table at the HAWK before the class begins to receive a numbered waiting token. 1-2 minutes before class is scheduled to begin, members will be let into the class in the order of their token numbers until such time as the class is full.

Guest Passes

Members are entitled to two guest passes per term. Guest passes are intended to be used by friends and family members **that have never taken a SOAR class before**. If additional guest passes are desired, contact the office. Please help us share the joy of lifelong learning.

Guest passes are not to be used by single class registrants.

Volunteer for SOAR

SOAR is powered by 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 people who spark ideas and action.** Please consider becoming a SOAR volunteer. Facilitate a class, help plan a term, organize a SIG, join a committee, help check learners in for class, champion SOAR to friends and family.

Location

The SOAR office and classroom are located on the 3rd floor of the Hawk Community Center, on 12 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Roads in Farmington Hills. An elevator is located in the main lobby. Our main classroom, room 391 is equipped with hearing loop technology and multiple screens to ensure all learners can see the presentation without interruption.

SOAR's Values

SOAR is committed to serving all individuals with dignity and respect. SOAR commits to not discriminate against members or guests, based on race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, citizenship, marital status, disability, gender identity/expression or Veteran status. **All are welcome at SOAR.**

How to register for classes

Full SOAR Membership

In order to accommodate all participants, learners who pay the \$135 membership/term fee will be able to enroll in up to 10 in-person classes during Priority Registration. **Beginning on March 17th, all members can enroll in additional in-person classes as space allows.** Learners who purchase a full membership will receive links to all virtual/zoom classes. There are two ways to register for the full term:

Online (Preferred method) at www.soarexplore.com – click on “Register” at the top right corner of the screen. This will take you to the Registration Portal (registration will open at 10 a.m. on March 10).

- Once at the Registration Portal, previous members may begin by clicking “Login.” If you are new to SOAR, click “New User? Start Here” and follow the prompts to set up a new user account. Once you are logged in or have set up a new account, follow the steps below:
 - Click on “Membership” at the top left side of the screen
 - Select the applicable Membership option (new or current member)
 - Enter your payment information
 - 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”
- Once your Membership is paid, you may select your classes by following these steps:
 - 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 “Spring 2025 Term” for classes 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

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,’ 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 “Spring 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
 - 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”

SOAR Basic Membership

The SOAR Basic Membership (\$35/academic year) provides access to Shared Interest Groups as well as discounts on most Special Events and Fieldtrips. The Basic Membership does not include any SOAR classes.

To check your class schedule at any time, login to your account. Click on your name in the upper right-hand corner. Click on “Account” on the left side. Scroll down to the “My Registrations” tab. You will find your registered classes here.

Mail-in Registrations are entered in the order received via postmark, but will not be processed until Monday, March 10th and do not guarantee enrollment in a particular class. The best chance for enrollment in a popular class is through online registration.

Walk-in registrations are not accepted but assistance is available for those who may need it. Please call the office to make an appointment with our team.

Withdrawal/Refund policy - A \$10 service fee will be applied to all refunds. Requests for withdrawals and refunds must be made in writing or by email. Requests must be received no later than 5 PM on March 4, 2025. Refunds for Special Events must be received at least 10 days prior to the event. Field Trips are non-refundable. Single class refunds must be received, in writing, no later than 5 business days before the time of the class.



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SOAR Spring 2025 Mail-In Registration Form

First Name

Last Name

Address

City/State

Zip

Email Address

(____)_____
Phone

Check here if
any information
has changed

If you are a first-time member, how did you hear about SOAR?

Registration \$135: Includes access to all in-person (space permitting) and online classes.

Enrollment for Single Classes, both in-person or on zoom, is only available online beginning March 17, 2025. Check here for virtual only classes

PLEASE READ BEFORE FILLING OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM:

1. SOAR will continue our Priority Enrollment Period (3/10/25-3/16/25) during which members will be able to register for up to 10 in-person classes. During the Open Enrollment Period (3/17/25+), members may register for **additional classes** (more than the original 10), as space allows. Please only register for classes that you plan to attend.
2. Rank your class preferences in order, 1-15, (1) being the **MOST** desired class, (15) being the *least* desired class.

Please list your class selection clearly. (Example: S2501)

Priority Enrollment Class Choices				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Open Enrollment Class Choices				
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.

Please register me for the following Special Events and Field Trips (Please include a separate check – not guaranteed)

I acknowledge that I have read and accept the waiver and release on the reverse side of this form.

Please mail the completed form with a check (payable to SOAR) or include credit card information below to:

SOAR c/o The Hawk Community Center
29995 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Charge registration fees to credit card holder name: _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ / _____ Security Code _____

Society of Active Retirees
Waiver, Release of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement



I, the undersigned, acknowledge the inherent risks involved when using the facilities and attending classes of the **Society of Active Retirees, a Michigan non-profit corporation (SOAR)**, and while engaging in all activities and programs relating thereto, including, but not limited to, field trips, special events, bus trips, meetings and special interest group events, and meetings (collectively, "Activities"). Accordingly, as consideration for being allowed to use the facilities, attend classes, and otherwise participate in the Activities, I agree to and accept the following:

I acknowledge and fully understand that I will be engaging in activities that involve risk of serious injury, which may include permanent disability and even death, and severe social and economic losses which might result not only from my actions, but also from the action, inaction, or negligence of others, or the condition of the premises, or any equipment used in connection with any Activity, and further that there may be risks not known to me or not reasonably foreseeable. I expressly assume all risks of injury, including death, which may occur in connection with my participation in any of the Activities with **SOAR**.

I agree to assume all the foregoing risks and accept full responsibility for my own damages following such injury, permanent disability, or death.

I, for myself and on behalf of my family and estate, release, waive, discharge, and agree not to sue **SOAR**, its owners, volunteers, faculty, respective agents, affiliates, associates, officers, directors, and employees (collectively "Releases") from all demands, losses, or damages on account of any bodily injury, death, or property damage caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by Releases or any other party's actions, inactions, or otherwise, whether or not foreseen by them. I also agree to indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the Releases from any and all third-party claims caused in whole or in part by my actions.

I consent to emergency medical care and transportation in order to obtain treatment in the event of injury to me as **SOAR** may deem appropriate. This Release extends to any liability arising out of or in any way connected with the medical treatment and transportation provided in the event of an emergency. In connection with any Activity, I understand that I may be photographed. I consent to, and **SOAR** has the right to use for any legitimate purpose, any photographs, film or video, sound recordings, or other form of representation of my person or likeness that is taken of me during any of the Activities.

I expressly agree that the terms of release and indemnity contained herein are intended to be as broad and inclusive as are permitted by the laws of the State of Michigan. If any provision of this Waiver, Release of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect as written, such provision shall be automatically modified to the minimum extent necessary to make it enforceable and the provision as so modified shall be enforced, without invalidating the Agreement as a whole.

Signature _____

For Office Use Only

Date Rec'd _____ *Postmark Date:* _____ *Opened By:* _____

Check #: _____ *Check Date:* _____ *Check Amount:* _____

Bank/Financial Institution: _____

SOAR Lifelong Learning Institute – Spring 2025 Calendar

SOAR office is open for lunch daily – Bring your own lunch (BYOL). SOAR will supply the coffee.

































	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
New Member Orientation Friday, April 11, 2025 @ 11:00 AM @ The Hawk	14 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Zucker S2520 History R Lunch in the Office PM 12:30 - 3:00 wenzel S2516A Film	15 AM 10:00 - 12:00 Henderson S2531 Literature/Biographies R PM 1:00 - 2:30 Sofu S2542 Science/Technology R	16 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Ladak S2521 History PM 1:00 - 2:30 Johnson, Fred S2522 History R	17 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Gallagher S2512 Detroit/Michigan PM 1:00 - 2:30 Gilbert S2523 History R	18 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Arose S2501 Art/Architecture R
	21 AM 10:00 - 11:30 McMorrow S2529 Law/Politics/Government Lunch in the Office PM 12:30 - 3:00 wenzel S2516B Film	22 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Ridky S2545 Sports/Leisure R Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Hanses S2518 Health/Medicine R	23 AM 10:00 - 11:30 VanVoorhies S2502 Art/Architecture R PM 1:00 - 2:30 Johnson, Fred S2524 History R	24 Harrison Hall Day AM 10:00 - 11:30 Lessenberry F2507 Law/Politics/Government Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Feinberg S2537 Perf. Arts/Music/Dance	25 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Williams S2546 Sports/Leisure
	28 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Slocum S2525 History Lunch in the Office PM 12:30 - 3:00 wenzel S2516C Film	29 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Zellers S2526 History Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Heisler S2527 History	30 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Davis S2513 Detroit/Michigan PM 1:00 - 2:30 Gardner S2519 Health/Medicine	1 AM 10:00 - 11:30 London S2540 Philosophy/Religion/Psychology Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Stanton S2514 Detroit/Michigan R	2 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Ekotto S2532 Literature/Biographies R

LEGEND: IN-PERSON • VIEW FROM HOME • **R** RECORDED

APRIL

SOAR Lifelong Learning Institute – Spring 2025 Calendar

SOAR office is open for lunch daily – Bring your own lunch (BYOL). SOAR will supply the coffee.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5 AM 10:00 - 11:30 McDevitt F2453 Travel/Culture  R PM 12:30 - 3:00 wenzel S2516D Film 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Taylor S2535 Nature/Environment  R PM 1:00 - 2:30 Spreitzer-Berent S2538 Perf. Arts/Music/Dance 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Clotworthy S2547 Sports/Leisure  Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Johnson, Stuart S2539 Perf. Arts/Music/Dance 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Marks S2548 Travel/Culture  Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Sosnowski S2528 History 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Vogel S2503 Art/Architecture  R
12 AM 10:00 - 11:30 McKinney S2530 Law/Politics/Government  Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Lorca S2533A Literature/Biographies 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Friedman S2508 Current Events  Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Rubin S2544 Science/Technology 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Rashid S2534 Literature/Biographies  Lunch in the Office PM 7:00 Special Event Nicely Theatre Group Presentation	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Evans S2504 Art/Architecture  Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Landau S2536 Nature/Environment 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Lublin F2509 Current Events 
19 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Treadwell S2505 Art/Architecture  Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Lorca S2533B Art/Architecture 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Forester S2515 Detroit/Michigan  R Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Seigel Art & Exploration Belle Isle Field Trip	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Tutman S2510 Current Events  Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Khan S2511 Current Events 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Massey S2506 Business and Finance  R PM 12:30 - 3:00 Stromberg S2517 Film 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Yamstein S2541 Philosophy/Religion/Psychology  Lunch in the Office PM Field Trip University of Michigan Football Stadium Tour
20 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Forester S2515 Detroit/Michigan  R Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Seigel Art & Exploration Belle Isle Field Trip	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Tutman S2510 Current Events  Lunch in the Office PM 1:00 - 2:30 Khan S2511 Current Events 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Massey S2506 Business and Finance  R PM 12:30 - 3:00 Stromberg S2517 Film 	AM 10:00 - 11:30 Yamstein S2541 Philosophy/Religion/Psychology  Lunch in the Office PM Field Trip University of Michigan Football Stadium Tour	23 AM 10:00 - 11:30 Yamstein S2541 Philosophy/Religion/Psychology  Lunch in the Office PM Field Trip University of Michigan Football Stadium Tour

MAY

May 18 -
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 Opera

LEGEND:  IN-PERSON •  VIEW FROM HOME • **R** RECORDED

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