STUDY GROUPS

Study groups offer the opportunity to investigate a topic in depth with like-minded peers. You may work independently outside the group; you may lead the group; or anything in between. Study groups are your connection to studying what you most enjoy with people who share your enthusiasm. The groups meet at convenient locations throughout our community.

Study groups are categorized by the anticipated level of member participation as described below:

- **Discussion-based:** participants may be asked to read material and participate in whole group discussions
- **Participation-based:** participants may be asked to read material, participate in small group breakouts/discussions, do research, and/or make brief oral reports
- **Practice-based:** participants may be asked to learn a skill set and engage in practice between sessions

**DISCUSSION-BASED**

1. Alzheimer’s and Dementia – Is There Hope?
   **Mondays, September 10 – October 1**
   **9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**
   **Peoria Next Innovation Center**
   Minimum 8 participants, register by Wednesday, August 22

Imagine finding a glimpse of hope in a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s, and how that would change the outlook of the five million Americans who suffer from it and other dementias. This study group will explore and discuss the science, prevention strategies, treatment options, and impact on caregivers of all types of dementia. Guest facilitators include Daryl Carlson, manager of education and outreach, Alzheimer’s Association, and Dr. Larry Lindahl, gerontologist and professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine - Peoria. Participants will be required to read the book, *The Spectrum of Hope* by Dr. Gayatri Devi, MD, available from local and online retailers and libraries. Participants will also need internet and email access. $45 – facilitated by Barb Ekstrom, retired nurse and study group committee member. (RF/NG)

2. Four Iconic Women I Have Known in the Theatre
   **Mondays, September 10 – October 1**
   **8:30 – 10:45 a.m.**
   **Heartis Senior Living Village**
   Minimum 8 participants, register by Monday, August 27

You are in for a treat! Join us for this fabulous experience as Helen Engelbrecht, well-known and loved actor in dozens of plays at area theaters, takes us through dramatic portrayals of four women who have shaped our imaginations and honed our understanding of feminine power and passion. We will explore the many facets of the fictional Amanda Wingfield of *The Glass Menagerie* and Martha from *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, and discover tidbits of the historic Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Lion in Winter* and Mary Todd Lincoln in *The Experiment*. $45 – facilitated by Helen Engelbrecht, a Peoria actress who has worked in films, commercials, corporate videos, and theatre. (NF/NG)

3. The Great Rulers of Russia
   **Mondays, September 10 – October 1**
   **9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**
   **Peoria Next Innovation Center**
   Minimum 10 participants, register by Monday, August 27

What makes a ruler “great?” Through short reading assignments, participants will explore the reasons that made various leaders great throughout Russia’s history. We will discuss Yaroslav, Ivan IV, Peter I, Catherine II, Alexander II, and ... Putin. Participants are encouraged to read the brief text, *A History of Russia and the Soviet Union* by John Thompson, or the longer text, *A History of Russia* by Nicholas Riasanovsky, if they have no knowledge of Russia. These books are available and local and online retailers and libraries.

4. The Happiness Curve: Why Life Gets Better After 50
   **Mondays, September 10 – October 15**
   **3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**
   **Methodist College**
   Minimum 6 participants, register by Monday, August 27

The study group will be based on *The Happiness Curve* by Jonathan Rauch, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute. In 2015, Rauch became involved with OLLI when he was invited to speak to a course via Skype on the issue of happiness in later life. He used information from almost 200 interviews with OLLI participants as part of the basis for this book. Co-facilitators for this study group will be students enrolled in Gerontology 300 at Methodist College. Participants in this service learning-based study group can help dispel some of the stereotypes that are associated with older adults and have a great opportunity to learn from each other as we explore the topic of this book.

You’ll Love Class #41

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5. **Famous Peorians: Part Two**  
*Tuesdays, September 11 – October 9*  
9:15 – 11:30 a.m.  
Peoria Next Innovation Center  
**Minimum 10 participants, register by Tuesday, August 28**  
Don’t miss this look into the lives of five famous Peorians. Garry Moore, retired news anchor, will remember the comedian Richard Pryor whom he once interviewed. Gene Olson, director of the Peoria Airport, will tell us about General Wayne Downing, for whom our airport is named. Barb Drake, retired newspaper editor, will share her research into Betty Friedan’s influence on the women’s movement. Frank Mackaman of the Dirksen Congressional Center will provide insight into Everett Dirksen’s political impact, and Bernie Drake will dig into the notorious Shelton Gang, whose bootlegging, gambling, and other “business enterprises” changed Peoria government.  
$45 – facilitated by volunteers as listed above. (RFs/RG)

6. **Pure Land Buddhism**  
*Tuesdays, September 11 – October 30*  
9:30 – 11:45 a.m.  
Michel Student Center, Bradley University  
**Minimum 8 participants; register by Tuesday, August 28**  
When Chinese Buddhists greet each other, they do so with the simple invocation “amituo fo.” This Chinese rendering of the Buddha Amitabha’s name reveals the profound influence that the Buddhist tradition called “Pure Land” has wielded in East Asia. This study group will explore the scriptures, doctrinal interpretations, and historical development of this important form of Buddhism that has received less attention in the West. No prior knowledge of Buddhism or of East Asian culture is assumed for this group. All are welcome. Participants are asked to acquire and read the following books, available from local or online retailers and libraries: *The Land of Bliss, The Paradise of the Buddha of Measureless Light*, translated by Luis Gomez, and *Tannisho: A Shin Buddhist Classic*, translated by Taitetsu Unno.  
$45 – facilitated by Dr. Daniel Getz, professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Bradley University. (RF/NG)

7. **The Gospel of John**  
*Mondays, October 1 – October 29*  
1:15 – 3:30 p.m.  
Goodwill Commons  
**Minimum 12 participants, register by Monday, September 17**  
This study group will entail a full discussion of the *Gospel of John*, often referred to as a Christian classic. From its opening words, it soars to such heights that the author has been dubbed the “divine theologian.” Published at the end of the first century, this story of Jesus is told in a radically different way so as to meet the needs of countless new kinds of thinking prevalent at that time. Often referred to as the greatest theologian next to Paul in early Christianity, the author pulls us into a relentlessly challenging spiritual experience.  
$45 – facilitated by Ted Wolgamot, a psychologist and former Catholic priest. (RF/NG)

*Fridays, October 12 – November 9*  
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  
Peoria Next Innovation Center  
**Minimum 10 participants, register by Friday, September 28**  
The era of the Hollywood Blacklist was contemporaneous with the creation of the movie *High Noon*. The theme of the lone man willing to risk his life even as his friends desert him was written by a man being investigated by the House Un-American Activities Committee while the movie was being made. We will examine the dual stories of betrayal and moral rectitude using Glenn Frankel’s excellent book, *High Noon – The Hollywood Blacklist and the Making of an American Classic*, available at online and retail outlets and local libraries. Randy Wilson and Gary Nelson will be your facilitators for this penetrating look at a dark time in our history.  
$45 – facilitated by Gary Nelson, retired attorney, frequent study group facilitator and OLLI study group chair, and Randy Wilson, retired director of the Parkin-Ingersoll Public Library in Canton and frequent OLLI instructor and facilitator. (RFs/NG)

9. **Scribe to Screen: A Beautiful Mind**  
*Tuesdays, October 16 – November 6*  
12:30 – 4:00 (October 16 only)  
1:15 – 3:30 p.m. (October 23 – November 6)  
Peoria Next Innovation Center  
**Minimum 10 participants, register by Tuesday, October 2**  
This study group will examine the life of Nobel prize-winning mathematician, John Nash, who developed a severe form of schizophrenia, including active hallucinations, delusions, and bizarre behavior. With the help of his wife, Alicia, and supportive colleagues, he was able to cope with this lifelong affliction and have a productive career and successful family life. Participants will be expected to read the book, *A Beautiful Mind*, by Sylvia Nasar, available at online and local retailers and libraries. We will begin with a screening of the 2001 Academy Award winning film, *A Beautiful Mind*, starring Russell Crowe, and view videos on John and Alicia Nash, as well as interviews with their son, who also became a mathematician and developed schizophrenia.  
$45 – facilitated by Jack Schlicksup, LCRC, with 40 years’ experience in the mental health field, Randy Wilson, retired director of the Parkin-Ingersoll Public Library in Canton and frequent OLLI instructor and facilitator. (RFs/NG)
STUDY GROUPS

10. More Great Stories by William Trevor
Tuesdays, October 16 – November 20
2:00 – 4:15 p.m.
W.E. Sullivan’s
Minimum 10 participants, register by Tuesday, October 2
Join us as we again delight in the subtle genius of William Trevor, the Irish-born writer considered “the supreme master of his art.” We will read (newly chosen) selections from The Collected Stories, available from online and local retailers and libraries. Let’s see if we agree that, in Trevor’s comfortable literary style, the short story does indeed “seize in its thimble, all at once, crisis and its crux.” Participants will read all selections assigned and must have access to the internet for updates and commentary.
$45 – facilitated by Murv Pretorius, retired attorney, and Jane Hense, retired English teacher and school administrator, OLLI vice president, and frequent study group facilitator. (RFs/NG)

11. The Art of Quilting
Thursdays, October 18 – November 8
1:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Humana Guidance Center
Minimum 10 participants, register by Thursday, October 4
Quilters have gathered for centuries, their handiwork fending off the chill of winter nights, as they produced treasures of intricate beauty. Across the country today, fabric artists and master quilters display their work in competitions and museums to great acclaim and renewed appreciation. Join award-winning quilter Sue Wozniak and fellow artist-quilters to learn the history of quilting, stories of its social networks, the types of blocks used for traditional and art quilting, details of competition and appraisals, and methods for preserving your keepsake if you’re lucky enough to own a quilt.
$45 – facilitated by volunteers as noted above. (RF/NG)

12. The Prairie: Paint, Poetry, and Prose
Fridays, October 19 – November 9
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants, register by Friday, October 5
Three veteran OLLI facilitators return for this study group related to art, poetry, and literature that uses the prairies and plains of America as theme and setting. OLLI art instructor Jean Griffith will examine works of artists who feature the natural beauty and mood of prairies as art subjects; published poet and long-time OLLI study group facilitator, George Tanner, will read and discuss prairie-themed poetry by a variety of poets; and frequent study group facilitator Vick Steward will present a study of literary works by Annie Proulx, Gretel Ehrlich, Willa Cather, and Lois Phillips Hudson, who often use the prairielands of America as stage for short stories and essays. Internet and email access are required.
$45 – facilitated by Lee Maki, category coordinator for agriculture, gardening, and environment and frequent instructor and facilitator. (RF/NG)

13. Silent Spring – Rachel Carson
Mondays, November 5 – November 26
9:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants, register by Monday, October 22
In 1962, conservationist Rachel Carson published her groundbreaking book, Silent Spring, which shone a light on humankind’s impact on nature. Her research and bold warnings exposed the hazards of the pesticide DDT, eloquently questioned humanity’s faith in technological progress, and helped set the stage for the environmental movement. Participants in this study group will watch the PBS American Experience documentary, Rachel Carson, for an in-depth look at Carson’s life and work and will be expected to read her book, Silent Spring, available at online and local retailers and libraries. Internet access will be required to view related material between sessions.
$45 – facilitated by Lee Maki, category coordinator for agriculture, gardening, and environment and frequent instructor and facilitator. (RF/NG)

Mondays, August 27 – October 1
9:30 – 11:45 a.m.
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Minimum 2 participants; register by Monday, August 13
The book The Year of Living Biblically by A.J. Jacobs is one man’s quest to follow the Bible as literally as possible. It is also the basis of the television series Living Biblically. Through Jacob’s hilarious journey, we encounter the Bible
in a whole new way, asking ourselves what it means to read each of the texts literally and exploring various ways that we read and approach the Bible. Participants should acquire and read *The Year of Living Biblically*, available at online and local retailers and libraries, and bring a Bible to the group meetings.

$45 – facilitated by Bill Dohle, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, and frequent OLLI instructor and facilitator. (RF/NG)

15. Science of Gardening
Mondays, September 10 – October 15
9:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants, register by Monday, August 27
This study group focuses on current, relevant scientific information for developing and caring for home gardens and landscapes. Participants will receive copies of *Great Courses* videos to watch prior to each group meeting. You will be introduced to many of these controversial applied sciences topics that underlie sustainable landscaping and gardening, and scrutinize many gardening products and practices through the lens of science. A science-based approach to gardening allows gardeners to become more sustainable in their practices. Internet access will be needed for viewing selected material relating to the topic.

$45 – facilitated by Lee Maki, category coordinator for agriculture, gardening, and environment and frequent instructor and facilitator. (RF/NG)

16. Understanding the World’s Greatest Structures
Mondays, October 1 – November 5
1:15 – 3:45 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants, register by Monday, September 17
What makes a structure (a building, bridge, or tower) great? Its age, size, beauty, or all three? This study group will not only study the principles of form, function, and structure – the “why;” we will also look at the mathematical and mechanical principles – the “how” – of their construction; after all, the only thing more awe inspiring than seeing a great structure is understanding the complex and beautiful principles behind its construction. We’ll discuss structures from 27th century BC to 2012 AD such as: Egypt’s pyramids, Parthenon, White House, Brooklyn Bridge, Burj Khalifa skyscraper, and more. Internet and email access are required to watch two hours of video per week.

$45 – facilitated by Randy Huber, retired Caterpillar engineer and Trish (Patricia) Melaik, frequent instructor and facilitator. (NFs/RG)

17. Nanotechnology
Thursdays, October 25 – November 29 (Skip November 22)
1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants, register by Thursday, October 11
Nanoscience is the study of how matter behaves when configured on the scale of the nanometer – one billionth of a meter. A grain of sand measures about 1 millimeter; the cells in our body measure about 1 micrometer. A nanometer is 1000 times smaller than that. Nanoscience has enabled nanotechnology, the application of these new ideas in areas as diverse as medicine, sustainable energy, and computing. We’ll learn all about nanotechnology and how nanoparticles detect genetic mutations like cystic fibrosis and cancer and capture sunlight energy. Internet and email access required to watch two hours of video per week.

$45 – facilitated by Bob Pfohl and Bob Yonker, retired Caterpillar engineers and frequent OLLI facilitators. (RFs/RG)

PRACTICE-BASED

18. Artistry In Wood
Tuesdays, September 4 – October 9
1:30 – 3:45 p.m.
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Minimum 6 participants, register by Tuesday, August 21
For 10,000 years, artists have created beautiful images in wood, and every culture has valued the skill and artistry of its wood carvers. This study group will introduce you to several styles of modern wood artists, and allow you to select a project from one of three styles: relief carving, chip carving, and wood burning. We’ll provide materials and tools as needed, and you will select from a variety of designs for your project. No experience needed.

$55 – facilitated by Bill Frerking and Jim Seelye, leaders of the Morton Area Wood Carvers Association. (NFs/NG)

19. iPhone 101 with Bradley University Fellows
Fridays, October 5 - October 26
2:00 - 4:15 pm
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants; register by Friday, September 21
Do you often ask your children or grandchildren for tips on using your iPhone? Do you wonder what you’re missing by not fully utilizing the functions on that phone? Here’s your chance to tap into the knowledge from Bradley University Fellows, undergraduate students who seek to improve their leadership skills and civic responsibility through volunteering! Facilitated by Fellow Sam Kuhlmeier, this group will help you keep up with the

Assistive listening devices are available for all OLLI programs. Call (309) 677-3900 for details.

RF = returning facilitator  
NF = new facilitator  
RG = repeat group  
NG = new group
STUDY GROUPS

younger generation and get the most out of your iPhone. Assisted by several other Fellows, Sam will demonstrate how to take pictures and video, navigate your screen, create a contact list, send and receive calls, set up email, download apps, and more. The only pre-requisite is owning an iPhone!
$45 - facilitated by Sam Kuhlmeyer, Bradley Fellow, YouTube producer, OLLI study group facilitator, and assisted by Bob Yonker, study group STEM category coordinator. (RFs/RG)

20. Becoming Proficient with PowerPoint
Tuesday, October 30 – November 20
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Goodwill Commons
Minimum 5 participants; register by Tuesday, October 16
If you have never used PowerPoint or want to improve your presentations, join Bernie Drake and Janene Mattingly, who have taught OLLI classes and use PowerPoint presentations in them, as we cover the basics of PowerPoint and work on some advanced techniques. Participants should have PowerPoint 7 or higher (PowerPoint 10 or higher preferred). Participants should also have a laptop computer to bring to the study group.
$45 – facilitated by the volunteers as noted above. (RFs/NG)

Mondays, October 8 – November 26
1:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants; register by Monday, September 24
Improve your bridge playing skills with others who are eager to learn. In this study group, we will focus on defensive play. Participants should be familiar with basic bidding and play of the hand. You will learn keys to defensive play, including opening leads versus both no trump and suit contracts; third hand play; second hand play; defensive signals; and developing defensive tricks. Sessions will be interactive, and participants will have the opportunity to put their newly-learned skills into action by playing pre-dealt hands. A text entitled Defense in the 21st Century will be given to each participant without further charge.
$45 – facilitated by Chuck Young, bridge teacher certified by the American Contract Bridge League and frequent OLLI facilitator. (RF/RG)

22. Write Your Life!
Tuesday, October 16 – November 13
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Goodwill Commons
Minimum 12 participants; register by Tuesday, October 2
All of us have stories to tell. In this study group, we will examine how best to put those on the blank page. Through the use of prompts and guided by Bill Roorbach’s excellent book, Writing Life Stories, we will develop scenes from our past and shape our memories into compelling narratives. Writers can expect each session to include “flash” writing opportunities as well as opportunities to read our work for constructive group feedback. There will be additional prompts and exercises to encourage more in-depth writing between sessions. Participants should acquire and read the book, available at online and local retailers and libraries.
$45 – facilitated by Gary Nelson, retired attorney, frequent facilitator, and study group committee chair and Vick Steward, frequent OLLI instructor and facilitator. (RFs/NG)

OLLI STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

In conjunction with Bradley University’s Lewis J. Burger Center for Student Leadership, the generosity of OLLI members, and the leadership of the OLLI Executive Committee, our lifelong learning community annually awards $1,000 to two Bradley students who exhibit exemplary volunteer service. The 2018 award winners are:

Liana Pavese, a junior early childhood major who has volunteered for Paws Giving Independence, Wags For Mags, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and more.

Kelly Wrobel, a senior public relations major who has volunteered for ACBU, the Student Alumni Association, CureSearch, and Student Senate.

Thanks to all the OLLI members who made these awards possible through their generous donations. Given that volunteerism is the heart of OLLI, it is fitting that members support students who are embarking on their own volunteer efforts. Your support is further evidence of the valued connection between OLLI and the Bradley University community!

To learn how you can support the 2019 awards, please refer to our fundraising information on page 17.