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. **Meditations and Lessons for Life**
   - **Fridays, March 1 – April 5 • 9:30 – 11:45 a.m.**
   - **Heartis Senior Living**
   - **Register by Friday, February 15**
   - Join us in discussing *The Magnificent Defeat* and examining what it means to follow Christ, the lessons of Christmas and Easter, the miracles of grace, and “the magnificent defeat” of the human soul by God. We will cover meditations that wrestle with contemporary issues, including the problem of those who would like to believe but cannot. Participants should obtain and read the book *The Magnificent Defeat* by Frederick Buechner, available at local and online retailers and libraries.
   - $45 - facilitated by Rev. Dr. Arvil Bass, an ordained minister and frequent OLLI study group facilitator. (RF/NG)

2. **Great Decisions 2019**
   - **Mondays, March 4 – April 22 • 8:30 – 10:45 a.m.**
   - **Peoria Next Innovation Center**
   - **Minimum 10 participants**
   - **Register by Monday, February 18**
   - America is facing critical issues that bear enormous consequences. Using materials from the Foreign Policy Association, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the following topics:
     • Refugees and Global Migration
     • Middle East: Regional Disorder
     • Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?
     • Rise of Populism in Europe
     • Decoding U.S.-China Trade
     • Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics
     • U.S. and Mexico: Partnership Tested
     • State of the State Department and Diplomacy

   Before the start of the group, participants must obtain the 2019 Great Decisions Briefing Book (available at fpa.org/great_decisions) and read the analysis for each topic as the basis for discussion. Internet and email access is required for this group.
   - $45 – facilitated by Don Samford, Peoria Area World Affairs program and education outreach chair and retired teacher; and Angela Weck, adjunct instructor of international studies at Bradley University. (RFs/RG)

3. **The Fight for Women’s Right to Vote**
   - **Mondays, March 4 – 25 • 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**
   - **Peoria Next Innovation Center**
   - **Minimum 8 participants**
   - **Register by Monday, February 18**
   - One hundred years ago, the final state ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ending a 72-year effort for women’s suffrage. In 1848, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments at the Woman’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, and Frederick Douglass spoke about the importance of women and all citizens getting the vote. Participants should obtain and read *The Woman’s Hour* by Elaine Weiss, available at local and online retailers and libraries, as the basis for discussing the historical, social, and economic factors of women’s suffrage. On the last day of this group, local League of Women Voters president Farrell Davies will speak about the League’s historical connection and current work. Internet and email access is required for this group.
   - $45 - facilitated by Cheryl Budzinski, past president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria, and Janet McGrath, OLLI volunteer. (NFs/NG)

4. **Fly Me to the Moon – The Social and Technical History of Apollo II**
   - **Mondays, March 4 – April 8 • 1:00 – 3:15 p.m.**
   - **Goodwill Commons**
   - **Minimum 8 participants**
   - **Register by Monday, February 18**
   - The 50th anniversary of humankind’s first landing on the moon will be celebrated in July 2019. This study group will investigate the history of Apollo 11 and the turbulent times of the 1960s. The technical achievement of Apollo 11 cannot be told in a vacuum, as NASA’s execution of the Apollo program took place during a decade of searing racial divisions, intense political divisiveness over the Vietnam War, and rapid changes in social norms. Participants should obtain and read the book *Rocket Men: The Epic Story of the First Men on the Moon* by Craig Nelson, available at local and online retailers and libraries. Internet and email access is required for this group.
   - $45 - facilitated by Mark Golden, retired Caterpillar engineer. (RF/NG)
5. **Food: A Cultural Culinary History**  
**Mondays, March 4 – April 8 • 1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**  
**Peoria Next Innovation Center**  
**Minimum 8 participants**  
**Register by Monday, February 18**  
Join us for a walk through culinary history from prehistoric times to the present. Explore the evolution of food to understand what people ate – and why; how early civilizations optimized the use of natural resources; and the technologies used to transform those resources into food. We’ll also learn how the quest for food prompted mass migrations throughout history, and we’ll talk about the ways in which food tells a story about our values, fears, ambitions, religious beliefs, and cultural origins. Internet and email access is required for this group.  
$45 - facilitated by Patricia Melaik, Peoria County master gardener and master naturalist; Sharron Santure, retired teacher; and Roger French, retired information technology professional. (RF& NFs/NG)

6. **Cracker Culture: Celtic Folkways Transplanted to the Old South**  
**Tuesdays, March 5 – April 2 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
**Peoria Next Innovation Center**  
**Minimum 8 participants**  
**Register by Tuesday, February 19**  
Who was the typical Confederate soldier in the American Civil War? Join author Tim Pletkovich to explore one historian’s perspective of the ancestral path of the Scotch-Irish immigrants who populated much of the eighteenth century American South and how their North British influences may have contrasted with their English-immigrant counterparts in the North. This provocative study group will use the book *Cracker Culture: Celtic Ways in the Old South* by Grady McWhiney (available at local and online retailers and libraries) as a guide for what promises to be stimulating, controversial, and entertaining discussions. Internet and email access is required for this group.  
$45 – facilitated by Tim Pletkovich, a former scout for the Chicago Cubs, former teacher at Peoria Public Schools, and the author of two books. (NF/NG)

7. **Conversations with Women Artists**  
**Tuesdays, March 5 – 26 • 1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**  
**St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**  
**Minimum 4 participants**  
**Register by Tuesday, February 19**  
Each week brings the opportunity to meet two local women artists and learn about their inspiration, backgrounds, and work methods. Participants will ask questions and see examples of the artists’ work. At the end of each session, participants will collectively craft a short narrative (or “her story”) on each artist for future publication in promotional materials for the 2019 Citywide Celebration of Women in the Arts.  
$45 - facilitated by Kristen McKinsey, director, Illinois Women Artists Project. (NF/NG)

8. **Ripped from the OLLI Reads List**  
**Thursdays, March 7 – April 18 (every other week)**  
**1:00 – 3:45 p.m.**  
**UnityPoint Health-North**  
**Minimum 10 participants**  
**Register by Thursday, February 21**  
How about some good reading from the OLLI Reads list until spring really does show up? We’ll meet four times, every other week, to allow time for enjoying three books recommended by our members. Jane Hense will start us off with Paulette Jiles’ *News of the World*, followed by Jennifer Bass with Kate Moore’s *The Radium Girls*, then Louise Rettke with Kent Haruf’s *Our Souls at Night*. Participants will read books, available at local and online retailers and libraries, and share in discussion. Internet and email access is required for this group.  
$45 – facilitated by Jane Hense, retired English teacher and school administrator and OLLI vice president; Jennifer Bass, retired teacher and OLLI past president; and Louise Rettke, a retired educator. (RFs&NF/NG)

9. **Invest Like a Girl!**  
**Women and Wealth Management**  
**Tuesdays, March 12 – April 9 • 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**  
**Peoria Next Innovation Center**  
**Minimum 7 participants**  
**Register by Thursday, February 26**  
Women represent more than half of the population and control 51% of all investable assets in the United States. We all know that men and women think differently, and this also applies to the ways they invest. In this study group, we will look at the way women’s temperaments make them better investors as we discuss the basics of investing, estate planning, and long-term care planning. Participants should obtain and read *Warren Buffett Invests Like a Girl: And Why You Should, Too* by LouAnn Lofton, available online and at local retailers and libraries. Internet and email access is required for this group.  
$45 – facilitated by Hirpal Patel Hudson, financial advisor with 10 years of experience. (NF/NG)

10. **She Has Her Mother’s Laugh: A Look at Human Heredity**  
**Thursdays, March 14 – April 18 • 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**  
**Peoria Next Innovation Center**  
**Minimum 6 participants**  
**Register by Thursday, February 28**  
Carl Zimmer’s new book, *She Has Her Mother’s Laugh*, is a journey through the history of the science of human heredity. Zimmer helps us understand the science and personalities behind the breakthrough discoveries with

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RF = returning facilitator  
RG = repeat group  
NF = new facilitator  
NG = new group
storylines woven to illustrate the influence they have on each other. Participants should obtain and read the book, available online and at local retailers and libraries. We will discuss the insights and questions it raises, deepening our understanding of human heredity and our appreciation for the research into the field. Internet and email access is required for this group.
$45 – facilitated by Tom Pilat, retired dean and biology professor from Illinois Central College, and Dr. Beverley Ketel, MD, a retired local surgeon. (RFs/NG)

11. Bottoms Up!
America’s Experiment with Prohibition
Fridays, March 29 – April 26 (skip April 19)
2:00 – 4:15 p.m.
W.E. Sullivan’s Pub
Minimum 10 participants, register by Friday, March 15
Prohibition, known alternatively as America’s noble experiment or America’s ignoble failure, lasted from 1920-1933, but its roots were planted much earlier and its impact lasted much longer. This study group will examine the countervailing forces which gave rise to its passage and led to its fall, as well as the social milieu, the Roaring Twenties, during which it existed. Participants should obtain and read the book Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition by Daniel Okrent, available at local and online retailers and libraries. We will read the book between sessions and use it as the basis for our spirited and illuminating discussion of this unique era of American history. Internet and email access is required for this group.
$45 – facilitated by Tim Bertschy and Gary Nelson, both retired attorneys and American history enthusiasts. (RFs/NG)

12. Great American Short Stories
Tuesdays, April 2 – April 30 • 1:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 9 participants, register by Tuesday, March 19
American writers have authored brilliant short stories through the years. In this study group we will explore some of the best of them, often from writers known primarily for their novels. From the works of Hawthorne and Melville to Hemingway and Cheever, we’ll discuss themes and styles, ranging from Puritan guilt to modern nihilism, tracing the evolution of both American fiction and American life over several centuries. Participants should obtain and read two books: American Short Story Masterpieces, edited by Trowbridge, and Great American Short Stories, edited by Paul Negri, both available at local and online retailers and libraries. Internet and email access is required for this group.
$45 - facilitated by Murv Pretorius, retired attorney and frequent OLLI facilitator. (RFs/NG)

13. The Elusive Truth
Tuesdays, April 16 – May 14 • 9:30 – 11:45 a.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 10 participants; register by Tuesday, April 2
This study group will illustrate some of the ways newspaper columnists, television and radio pundits, politicians, opinion shapers, social theorists, family, friends and acquaintances, and others attempt to influence opinion. We will learn the differences between useful, meaningless, and misleading information, remembering that the line between the true and false is rarely clear-cut and that the truth is often “elusive.” Internet and email access is required for this group.
$45 – facilitated by Don Samford, Peoria Area World Affairs education outreach chair and retired teacher. (RFs/NG)

14. So You Think You Know Planet Earth
Tuesdays, April 16 – May 21 • 1:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants; register by Tuesday, April 2
Come join our documentary series featuring David Attenborough as we celebrate the amazing variety of our natural world. A hundred years ago, there were 1.5 billion people on Earth. Now, over 6 billion crowd our fragile planet. Even so, there are still places barely touched by humanity. Participants will use the epic Planet Earth documentary series, filmed over four years across 64 different countries, to discover the last wildernesses and view the planet and its wildlife as we have never seen them before. A DVD player, internet, and email access is required for this group.
$45 – facilitated by Bob Pfohl, Doug McCarthy, and Bob Yonker, all retired Caterpillar engineers. (RFs/NG)

15. We’ll Always Have Casablanca
Tuesdays, April 23 – May 14 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 10 participants, Register by Tuesday, April 9
Casablanca is one of America’s most beloved and oft-quoted movies. Phrases such as “We’ll always have Paris,” “Round up the usual suspects,” and “Here’s looking at you, kid,” have entered the national lexicon. In this study group we will examine the reasons for the enduring attraction of this movie, as well as the remarkable story of its creation and release during World War II. We will use Noah Isenberg’s book, We’ll Always Have Casablanca: The Legend and Afterlife of Hollywood’s Most Beloved Film, available at local and online retailers and libraries, as a guide. We will also view the film during one of our sessions. Email access is required.
$45 – facilitated by Randy Wilson, retired librarian, and Gary Nelson, retired attorney and OLLI study group chair. (RFs/NG)
16. Jewish Short Stories  
**Thursdays, April 25 – May 16 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
**Peoria Next Innovation Center**  
Minimum 8 participants, register by Thursday, April 11  
Explore a variety of Jewish short stories, from ancient times to present day, in Eastern Europe, Israel, and America. Discover Chelm (the Town of Fools), learn about strong women and pious men (and some definitely not so pious). Each week we’ll read and discuss short stories that are humorous, heartbreaking, and everything in between, representing the vast experiences of the Jewish people. Internet and email access is required for this group.  
$45 – facilitated by Rebecca Carlson, an active member of Peoria’s Jewish community.  
(RF/RG)

### PARTICIPATION-BASED

17. Fall and Redemption in Film  
**Mondays, March 4 – April 8 • 9:30 – 11:45 a.m.**  
**St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**  
Minimum 6 participants  
Register by Monday, February 18  
What do Harry Potter, Luke Skywalker, and even the White Witch of Narnia have in common? How do they relate with the timeless stories we read in the Bible? At the heart of everything is the simple, powerful story of fall and redemption. Join us these six weeks as we explore this theme through the films of today. In our time together, we will watch excerpts from films like The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Star Wars, Harry Potter and others to discover and discuss this theme of fall and redemption so integral to religion today.  
$45 – facilitated by Bill Dohle, pastor serving St. Paul Lutheran Church in Peoria.  
(RF/NG)

18. The Age of American Impressionism  
**Fridays, March 8 – April 5 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
**Peoria Next Innovation Center**  
Minimum 10 participants, register by Friday, February 22  
Did you know that John Singer Sargent and James McNeill Whistler were considered American Impressionists? Join us as we discover more American Impressionists, including Winslow Homer, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase, Childe Hassam, Maurice Prendergast, Theodore Robinson, and John Henry Twachtman. Internet and email access is required for this group.  
$45 – facilitated by Jean Griffith, published poet and frequent OLLI volunteer.  
(RF/RG)

19. The Paris Peace Conference of 1919  
**Tuesdays, March 12 – April 2 • 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**  
**Goodwill Commons**  
Minimum 4 participants  
Register by Tuesday, February 26  
This study group is based on the book Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World by Margaret McMillan. Participants should obtain and read the book, available at local and online retailers and libraries. The group will begin by viewing the documentary Paris 1919, and participants will discuss the peace conference and the five treaties that resulted. Participants will be encouraged (but not required) to give short reports on parts of the book.  
$45 – facilitated by Bernie Drake, local historian, former President of the Peoria Historical Society, and past OLLI president.  
(RF/NG)

20. Exploring the Prairie, Forest, and Wetland Ecosystems  
**Thursdays, April 18 – May 16**  
**Tawny Oaks Visitors Center and various outdoor sites; Minimum 6 participants, register by Thursday, April 4**  
Back by popular demand! Join us as we explore unique natural sites throughout the Peoria area. Several on-site experts will join us to provide insight as we study the challenges ecologists face in maintaining diversity in our fragmented landscape. We will also discuss how everyone can be involved in stewarding and restoring our natural habitat. All participants must be able to enter/exit vehicles, walk for at least an hour, and navigate uneven and sometimes rugged terrain.  
$45 – facilitated by Doug McCarty, retiree engineer, master naturalist, and frequent study group facilitator.  
(RF/RG)

### PRACTICE-BASED

21. Beginning Bridge I  
**Mondays, April 1 – May 20 • 1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**  
**Peoria Next Innovation Center**  
Minimum 8 participants, register by Mon., March 18  
Bridge is an excellent way to stimulate your mind, enjoy a social environment, and learn to play a fun game. This group will follow the American Contract Bridge League’s foundational curriculum of hand evaluation, bidding, and card play. Beginners will learn the basics of the game and get ready to play with friends and relatives. We will play hands during each session. The text, Bidding in the 21st Century, will be provided free of charge. We will cover opening bids, responses, competitive bids, play of the hand concepts, and defensive strategies.  
$45 – facilitated by Chuck Young, bridge teacher certified by the American Contract Bridge League and frequent OLLI facilitator.  
(RF/RG)