

## 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. They meet for two hours a week (plus a 15-minute break for socializing).

Most groups last between 4-8 weeks, and are held at convenient locations throughout our community. Please note that internet and email access is required for all study group participants, as group facilitators communicate mainly via email.

Please be sure to review the three types of categories before registering.

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

All of our facilitators are enthusiastic volunteers with a passion for their subjects. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a facilitator for a future group, please contact OLLI Director Michelle Riggio at (309) 677-3900 or at [mriggio@bradley.edu](mailto:mriggio@bradley.edu).



*Bill Krum, Sal Allan, Dick Marsho, and Bob Yonker share a laugh at OLLI's 25th Anniversary gala.*

## DISCUSSION-BASED

### 1. *Blueprint: The Evolutional Origins of a Good Society*

**Mondays, March 2 – April 6**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Methodist College**

**Minimum 8 participants, register by February 17**

*Blueprint* makes the wonderful and thoughtful case that, despite what we can see, hear, and feel going on around us now, we are transcendentally and inherently good. Nicholas Christakis (both a physician and sociologist) describes, using a very satisfying synthesis from the disciplines of history, philosophy, anthropology, genetics, sociology, economics, epidemiology, and statistics, how complex societies are possible and durable when we are emotionally invested in one another and help one another. Through the process of natural selection, we are wired to be people not just capable of, but prone to, constructive friendships, cooperation and love (from the book preface). Join this study group for a thought-provoking exploration of our necessary connection to others with whom we share our humanity. Participants must acquire the book *Blueprint: The Evolutional Origins of a Good Society*, available at local and online retailers and libraries, and must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Marjorie Getz, a Professor of Arts and Sciences at Methodist College. (RF/NG)

### 2. Conversations with Women Artists

**Tuesdays, March 3 – March 24**

**1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**Minimum 4 participants, register by February 18**

The Peoria area is blessed to be home to many women artists. Each week you will have a fantastic opportunity to meet two local women artists working in different media. They will show examples of their art and talk about their inspiration, career paths, and challenges. This is a chance to have an up-close encounter with an area artist, ask questions, and learn more about their work. Internet and email access is required for this group.

\$45 – facilitated by Kristan McKinsey, Director of the Illinois Women Artists Project. (RF/NG)

**You'll Love  
Class #9**

### 3. *Dr. Strangelove, Fail-Safe and the Cold War*

**Tuesdays, March 3 – March 24**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 8 participants, register by February 18**

Where were you in 1964? Do you remember air raid drills, fallout shelters, or hiding beneath your classroom desk?

All of these are part of the cultural milieu of the Cold War which Stanley Kubrick satirizes in this iconic movie and which forms the background for Eugene Burdick's best-selling novel. Both the movie and the book are influential touchstones for many of us who came of age under the specter of a mushroom cloud. We will recall and discuss the social and political environment of the Cold War and view the movie to compare and contrast its treatment of the era with that of the book. Participants must acquire *Fail-Safe* by Eugene Burdick, available at local and online retailers and libraries, and must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Gary Nelson and Debbie Lewellyn, active OLLI study group participants and movie buffs. (RF/NG)

### 4. *The Electoral College: Does it*

**Protect our Freedoms or  
Impede Them?**

**Thursdays, March 5 – April 2**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 8 participants, register February 20**

In this study group we will examine the history of the Electoral College and hear from those who support protecting it or prefer to end the practice. Speakers will include Ray LaHood, former congressman and secretary of the US Department of Transportation; Peoria native Mike Maibach, a long-time Washington, D.C., lobbyist and founder of the Center for the Electoral College; Rosemary Heilemann of the Deerfield League of Women Voters; and Craig Curtis, political science professor at Bradley University. Various readings will be provided. Internet and email access is required for this group.

\$45 – facilitated by Shelley Epstein, retired deputy opinion page editor, *Peoria Journal Star*, and former Associate Vice-President of Communications at Bradley University.

### 5. *An American Sickness:*

**How Healthcare Became Big Business**

**Thursdays, March 5 – April 9**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Methodist College**

**Minimum 8 participants, register by February 20**

Join us for this study group as we examine the complex and often frustrating American healthcare system from the perspective of Dr. Elisabeth Rosenthal, a physician and journalist (senior editor of *Kaiser Health News*). Dr.

Rosenthal does us the very large favor of diagnosing and suggesting treatments for what ails medicine in America. This book clearly helps the reader to decode medical doublespeak, avoid the pitfalls of the pharmaceuticals racket, and get better care. As a bonus, Dr. Rosenthal puts on her other hat to take the reader inside the doctor-patient relationship. This study group can help make us all more informed patients and advocates for a better healthcare system for all of us. A grant from the National Library of Medicine will provide books for all participants on the first day. Internet and email access is required for this group. \$45 – facilitated by Marjorie Getz, a Professor of Arts and Sciences at Methodist College. (RF/NG)

### 6. *Great Decisions 2020*

**Mondays, March 9 – April 27**

**9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 10 participants, register by February 24**

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:

- Climate Change and the Global Order
- India and Pakistan
- Red Sea Security
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle
- China's Road into Latin America
- The Philippines and the U.S.
- Artificial Intelligence and Data

**Before the start of the group, participants must obtain the 2020 *Great Decisions Briefing Book* (available at [fpa.org/greatdecisions](http://fpa.org/greatdecisions)) 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, the 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)

### 7. *The South of France, Shaped by the Intersection of Medieval Events, Where the Future Forgave the Past*

**Thursdays, March 12 – April 9**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**St Paul's Episcopal Church**

**Minimum 8 participants, register by February 27**

French royalty, the Knights Templar, a crusade, and a lost religion forever changed the course of France. From the king's quest for power to fake news in medieval times, the fast-growing Cathar faith (Albigensians) and the Templars were caught in the crossfire. Come find out how the future forgave the past in the land of the language of Oc and discover how you can see

**You'll Love  
Class #5**



the remnants of this heritage dans le Sud de France! Participants are expected to acquire and read *The Templars, History and Myth Immigration* by Michael Haag, available at local and online retailers and libraries. Internet and email access is required for this group. \$45 – facilitated by Debra and Bryan Lammers, who live part of the year in France and have visited the sites of this subject. (RF/NG)

### 8. An Incredible Life:

**Don't Believe a Word of It**  
**Mondays, March 16 – April 13**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 10 participants, register by March 2**

Renowned American novelist and short story writer Katherine Ann Porter, whose own life was largely fiction, wrote prose noted for its purity, simplicity, and drama.

A southerner who invented her family's past glory and adopted a life of art, travel, and marriages, Porter influenced a generation of writers. Join us to read from *The Collected Stories of Katherine Ann Porter*, which won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

Participants are expected to read selections assigned and share in discussions. Participants must acquire the book, available at local and online retailers and libraries, and must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Jane Hense, a former English teacher, school administrator, and frequent OLLI study group leader. (RF/NG)

### 9. Yosemite National Park: Thanks, John Muir

**Mondays, March 23 – April 20**  
**1:15 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 6 participants, register by March 9**

John Muir was a giant among the early conservationists. He led the effort to save the Yosemite Valley as a national park and persuaded President Theodore Roosevelt to create additional national parks. This study group will discuss the development of the conservation movement and its evolution from a few amateur naturalists to the nation-wide system and the organization we rely on today to protect our natural heritage for our children's children. As we look more closely at what makes Yosemite special and so worth saving, we'll use John Muir's own writings and share video clips from several sources to broaden our discussions. Participants are expected to acquire and read *Yosemite* by John Muir, available at local and online retailers and libraries. Participants may also wish to purchase *Our National Parks* by John Muir. Internet and email access is required for this group.

\$45 – facilitated by Doug McCarty, retired engineer and active naturalist in the Peoria area working to restore prairie remnants and conserve woodland tracts. (RF/NG)

### 10. Scribe to Screen – *The Birds*:

**Hitchcock's Movie and du Maurier's Story**  
**Fridays, March 27 – April 17**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 8 participants, register by March 13**

In this group we will watch the film and read the short story *The Birds*. Hitchcock's film is based on Daphne du Maurier's story of the same name. We will discuss just how loosely that basis is and explore some of her other stories. Participants are expected to acquire *The Birds and Other Stories* published by Virago or use any book of her stories that include *The Birds*, available at local and online retailers and libraries. Internet and email access is required for this group.

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\$45 – facilitated by Pat Pritchard, retired Librarian and film buff. (RFs/NG)

### 11. *The Lottery* and So Much More

**Thursdays, April 2 – April 30 (skip April 9)**

**1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 10 participants, register by March 19**

Will the real Shirley Jackson please stand up? Is she a typical housewife and mother who authored humorous chronicles of childhood? Or the creator of deviant tales that leaves us shocked and bewildered? Join us to explore some of Jackson's finest stories and see if you can figure out this beloved author. Some stories will be provided by the facilitator and others are accessible online. A list of selections will be provided before the sessions begin. Internet and email access is required for this group.

\$45 – facilitated by Rebecca Carlson, a retired Center for Prevention of Abuse caseworker and frequent OLLI study group leader. (RF/NG)

### 12. YouTube

**Tuesdays, April 14 – May 12**

**9:30 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 10 participants, register by March 31**

This study group will explore the content and structure of YouTube. Participants will be asked to watch one hour or so of selected YouTube videos during the week and come to the meetings prepared to discuss their resulting observations with the group. Additionally, as a group we'll activate a single YouTube channel, create a short video, and upload it to join the more than 500 hours of video others upload around the world every minute. Internet and email access is required for this group.

\$45 – facilitated by Greg Peine, Caterpillar retiree, OLLI member, and frequent Study Group Facilitator. (RF/NG)

**You'll Love  
Class #3**

**13. Constitutional Quarrels:  
The Stories and Personalities Behind the  
Supreme Court Opinions that Shaped America**  
Tuesdays, April 21 – May 19  
2:00 – 4:15 p.m.  
W.E. Sullivan's Pub  
Minimum 8 participants, register  
by April 7

You'll Love  
Class #23

Do you know about the “sick chicken” case? How about the case of the miscreant purveyor of scandal? In this study group, we will learn the backstory behind some of the groundbreaking decisions from the nation’s highest court and meet a fascinating cast of characters whose passions, proclivities, and personalities drove the decisions that made America the country it is today. We will discuss how these opinions affect us and whether they were a positive or negative influence on our development as a nation. We will read chapters from the book for each session. Participants must acquire *Quarrels That Have Shaped the Constitution*, edited by John A. Garraty, available at local and online retailers and libraries. Participants must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Gary Nelson and Tim Bertschy, retired attorneys and frequent OLLI facilitators. (RF/NG)

**14. Correcting Corrections**  
Mondays, May 4-18; Wednesdays, May 20-27  
1:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center  
Minimum 12 participants, register by April 20

The correctional system has experienced significant “correcting” at the Peoria County Jail. This study group will present and discuss the role of corrections in the overall criminal justice system, the realities of making changes, the impact of conditions of confinement, and the correcting corrections initiatives of Jobs Partnership Re-Entry Program at the Peoria County Jail. Included in the discussion will be the challenges raised in correcting corrections by current authors and other experts.

Participants will also be invited to witness the Jobs Partnership Re-Entry graduation of offenders at the Peoria County Jail on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Participants must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Ron Budzinski, past president and National Director of Criminal Justice Architecture for PSA-Dewberry Architects, now a full time volunteer for the Jobs Partnership Re-Entry Program at the Peoria County Jail, Cheryl Parks Executive Director - Jobs Partnership, Ted Wolgamot, retired psychologist, writer, blogger, and experienced study group facilitator and Jim Matarelli, retired architect. (RF/NG)

**15. Age of Aquarius: Paint, Poetry, and Prose**  
Thursdays, May 7 – May 28

10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Minimum 8 participants, register by April 23

Three veteran OLLI facilitators return for a retro-look at the art, poetry, and literature that uses the “Age of Aquarius,” an era of disquieted love, light, and humanity as theme and setting. Each will share works by a variety of artists, poets, and authors who emerged during the Age of Aquarius. Participants must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Jean Griffith, retired art instructor at Illinois State University, Eureka College, and Bradley University; George Tanner, published poet and former educator; and Vick Steward, frequent OLLI facilitator. (RF/NG)

### PARTICIPATION-BASED

**16. Trails of Evidence:  
How Forensic Science Works**

Tuesdays, March 3 – April 7

9:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Minimum 8 participants, register by February 18

Who did it? Forensic science has become an extremely popular and pervasive subject in television programs, films, and literature, but real understanding of the science behind forensic evidence and investigations is not that easy. This study group introduces the multidisciplinary field of forensic science, using real casework to illustrate basic principles. You’ll follow the trails of evidence with your peers and become a Sherlock Holmes. Approximately two hours per week of study and videos, along with internet and email access is required for this group.

\$45 – facilitated by Robert Yonker, retired engineer, and Ed Ward, retired program manager. (RF/NG)

**17. The Problem of Evil**  
Mondays, April 6 – May 11

9:30 – 11:45 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Minimum 3 participants, register by March 23

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does evil exist? These questions have been around since the dawn of time, inspiring many deep conversations. In this study group, we will explore the answers many people give. Participants must acquire and read *God and the Problem of: Five Views* by Chad Meister and James K. Dew Jr., available at local and online retailers and libraries. Participants must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Pastor Bill Dohle, pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church. (RF/NG)





*Two OLLI members enjoy making parmesan chips with Chef Becca Hearn during a trip to the UnTamed Chef.*

## PRACTICE-BASED

### 18. Pen, Brush, Ink, and a Touch of Watercolor

**Mondays, March 2 - 30**

**1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Buehler Home**

**Minimum 4 participants, register by February 17**

Explore your creative side with this introductory class to the use of ink in drawing by making one or two small drawings each week. We will use a pen (of choice) to make line drawings, a pointed round brush to make Japanese style Sum-e drawings, and we may be able to mix the two methods in one picture. Just a touch of watercolor will be added to some drawings to add interest. Supplies are not included; a list will be sent to participants. Participants must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Katherine B. Johnson, retired art teacher and member of the Illinois Art League. (NF/NG)

**You'll Love  
Class #7**

### 19. Bridge I

**Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 30; April 20, 27;**

**May 4, 11, 18.**

**1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 8 participants, register by February 17**

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 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, will be provided free of charge. We will cover opening, bids, responses, competitive bids, play of the hand concepts and defensive strategies. Participants must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Chuck Young, Bridge teacher certified by the American Contract Bridge League. (RF/RG)

### 20. Beginning Chess

**Tuesdays, March 3 – April 7**

**9:30 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 8 participants, register by February 18**

Have you always wanted to learn how to play chess but never had the opportunity? OLLI is pleased to offer this new study group, facilitated by Murrel Rhodes, who teaches chess at area schools and coaches some of the best players in the area. Murrel plans to cover the history of chess and the dynamics of chess tournaments. He will also teach participants how to play the game. Chess has been shown to be good for brain health, so join this study group to find out why! Participants must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Murrel Rhodes, President of the Greater Peoria Chess Foundation and winner of the Illinois Chess Coach of the Year award. (NF/NG)

### 21. Beyond Google Search:

**A Look at the Other Google Products You Cannot Live Without**

**Fridays, March 13 – April 17**

**9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

**Minimum 5 participants, register by February 28**

Everyone knows about Google and, in fact, “google” has become a verb (definition: searching the internet). The Google Search is free and is but one of the many other free tools that Google offers to simplify the search for information and provide new ways to manage and share information. The facilitator will share what he has learned about Google products and how to use them for specific applications. A PC or tablet will allow participants to explore these Google tools during the study group. Handouts will be provided. Participants must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by John Amdall, OLLI Vice President. (RF/NG)

**You'll Love  
Class #3**

### 22. Fundraising 101:

**Planning a Fundraising Program for Small Charities and Churches**

**Thursdays, April 2 – April 23**

**1:00 – 3:15 p.m.**

**Goodwill Commons**

**Minimum 5 participants, register by March 19**

Once again we are offering this popular study group for those who'd like to learn more about the steps of successful fundraising. Are you involved with fundraising for a favorite charity, or on a board at your church and want to go beyond your annual rummage sale? One of the challenges of fundraising for small charities and religious institutions is doing more with less. Most are

understaffed by volunteers with limited budgets and little training or experience. Compounding the challenge is the expense involved in attending fundraising symposiums, conferences, and workshops. This study group provides such training to allow the participants practical exercises and insight into the fundraising process. Internet and email access is required for this group.

\$45 – facilitated by Ken Lewis, retired director of planned giving, Northwestern Memorial Hospital. (RF/RG)

### **23. Birding 101**

**Tuesdays, April 7 – 28**

**8:15 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Goodwill Commons**

**Minimum 6 participants, register March 24**

Here is your chance to learn all about birding! The first two meetings will focus on the basics and tools of birding: field guides, optics, internet sources, mobile apps, and more. We will also review identification of many common birds that can be seen in Illinois. The second two meetings will occur at field locations for practice identifying birds by sight and sound. The recommended field guide is *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America: Second Edition Paperback*, available at local and online retailers and libraries. Prior to class, participants should download the free mobile app eBird and set up an account and password. Additionally, the free mobile app Merlin is recommended and will be very helpful for field identification. Participants should bring binoculars and smartphones to all sessions and must have an email address and access to the internet.

\$45 – facilitated by Pete Fenner, current treasurer for Peoria Audubon and Trustee Emeritus for the Nature Conservancy of Illinois, who has seen and documented over 1,500 bird species in 18 different countries. (RF/NG)

### **24. Mah-Jongg Anyone?**

**Tuesdays, April 21 – May 26**

**1:00 – 3:15 p.m.**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

**Minimum 16 participants, register by April 7**

Back by popular request, this study group introduces participants to the ancient game of Mah-Jongg. This tile-based game developed in China during the Qing dynasty has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. The game of skill, strategy, and calculation (with a little luck thrown in) has captured the imagination and passion of thousands, maybe millions, of players. Join ardent players and teachers, Louise Rettke and Mary Franck, to experience the phenomenon. Participants must be willing to have fun, learn a new skill, and purchase a 2020 National Mah-Jongg League Card (\$9) from the facilitators on the first day.

\$45 – facilitated by Louise Rettke, retired educator, and Mary Franck, Caterpillar retiree (RF/RG)

### **25. Art of the Cocktail Redux**

**Wednesdays, April 29 – May 20**

**2:00 – 4:15 p.m.**

**Hearth Restaurant**

**Minimum 8 participants, register by April 15**

Once again we are offering a repeat of this popular study group for those of you who have not had the chance to participate. It is for all levels of cocktail lovers, especially those who are intrigued by the creativity of mixology. We will study cocktails that you know (and don't know) and demonstrate how the classics can be easily modified into modern cocktails that are great for entertaining others or enjoying on your own. We will review the history of cocktails, both pre-Prohibition and post-Prohibition, and identify the barware, books, and spirits that any home bar should contain. Of course, we will shake, stir, and taste test together along the way and discuss what appeals to you and why. Our goal is ultimately to freshen your approach to the cocktail hour for you and friends. Participants should have email addresses and access to the internet. Cheers!

\$45 – facilitated by Tim Bertschy, retired as managing partner for Hely Royster Voelker and Allen PC. (RF/RG)



*Bernie Drake leads a group of OLLI members on a tour of sculptures in downtown Peoria.*