

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Bradley University

EXPLORE | CONNECT | LEARN

OLLI

FALL 2026



FALL REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK
AUGUST 3 - 7

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COME FOR A VISIT. STAY FOR A LIFETIME.

Your Guide to OLLI at Bradley

We invite you to become part of the OLLI at Bradley lifelong learning community.

Who Are OLLI Members?

We are 1,300+ people in the Peoria area and beyond who enjoy OLLI programming geared toward age 50+, but everyone is welcome ... whether you're a Bradley alum or not.

What is OLLI?

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a program of Bradley University's Division of Continuing Education and Professional Development, and is strongly supported by Bradley as a standard of excellence in lifelong learning. OLLI is also twice endowed by the Bernard Osher Foundation, which seeks to improve the quality of life through its support of education and the arts.

OLLI offers many options to explore, connect, and learn:

Classes meet at Bradley University on Wednesdays in April and October, and Zoom classes are also available in January and February. Classes cover a wide range of topics including science, technology, arts, literature, environment, history, social/political issues, philosophy, community awareness, and more.

Originals are exclusive talks from the community and beyond. These compelling programs highlight a variety of people, places, and issues.

Study Groups meet off-campus at locations around the area, offer an array of new choices each quarter, and are a great opportunity to investigate topics in a small group setting.

Learning Trips offer behind-the-scenes looks at places and spaces in the Peoria area.

OLLI Online programs are run via Zoom and offer many unique presentations.

Traveling Braves lets our members explore the world. From New Zealand and Ireland to New York and Vietnam, we are ready to go.

HOW TO



WITH OLLI

Phone: (309) 677-3900
Address: Westlake Hall, Suite 104, 
Glenwood Ave./Tobias Lane
Mailing Address: 1501 W. Bradley Ave.
Peoria, IL 61625
Email: olli@bradley.edu
Website: bradley.edu/olli

BECOMING AN OLLI MEMBER IS EASY!

- Membership is just \$5 per quarter, granting you access to any program.
- All programs are available a la carte.
- Set up your account and register online at bradley.edu/olli.
- Or, if you'd prefer, just give us a call, and we'll take care of the rest.

FREE MEMBER PERKS

1. Rock Island Trail, p. 21
2. *Miracle on 34th Street*, p. 24
3. Reel Psychology, p. 25



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Wednesday, September 9
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Peoria Next | 801 W Main, Peoria
Please RSVP to olli@bradley.edu
or call (309) 677-3900



If you don't have time for OLLI during the day, check out our "OLLI After Work" offerings!

CREW309, p. 8

Gander's Ripple Effect: 9/11 and Come From Away, p. 21

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KEY REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK DATES

Fall 2026 Registration Begins

Monday, August 3 - Friday, August 7

Winter 2027 Registration begins:

Monday, November 2 - Friday, November 6

Spring 2027 Registration begins:

Monday, February 1 - Friday, February 5

Quarterly catalogs are mailed prior to each registration

and are also available online approximately two weeks

before each registration period begins.



Meet the OLLI 2026-27 Executive Committee (front left) Deb Clay, Laurie Bailey, Chris Esken, Denise Hocker, Roberta Koscielski, John Amdall, Paul Buck, Gary Nelson, Shelley Epstein, Steve Garrison. (Not pictured Diane Rock and Lynn Highfill)

Fall 2026, Issue No. 122 The OLLI catalog is published four times annually in January, May, July and October by the Division of Continuing Education at Bradley University, 1501 W. Bradley Avenue, Peoria, IL 61625.

OLLI-Palooza

10TH ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Friday, August 14 • 6:00–9:00 p.m. • Hayden-Clark Alumni Center

Last Chance to Save Your Seat!

Get ready to celebrate a decade of laughter, learning, and lively competition at OLLI's 10th Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser.

This year's theme is OLLI-Palooza, our playful take on the summer music festivals where we gather for great energy, great company, and memorable moments. For one night only, the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center becomes OLLI's own festival grounds, with seven rounds of fast-paced trivia, creative table themes, and plenty of OLLI spirit.

Lean into the theme with festival-inspired table decorations or outfits. Think rock band tees, tie-dye, backstage glam, or your favorite musical era. Not into costumes? No problem. Come as you are and enjoy the show.

The Lineup:

\$55 per person or \$440 for a table of eight includes buffet meal, coffee, tea, a cash/card bar, seven rounds of trivia, and prizes for first place, best decorated table, and best dressed team.

Solo Ticket?

Register individually and we'll match you with a table so you can join the fun while helping raise funds to support OLLI's catalogs, shuttles, audio visual updates, and more.

Get Your Pass:

Register online at bradley.edu/olli by selecting OLLI Registration and scrolling to 2026 Trivia Registration, or call our office at (309) 677-3900.



Dan DiOrio and Greg Batton of WMBD 1470 return as trivia night emcees, joined by Yvonne Greer.

Join us for A Taste of

LLI

- **Explore** Fall programs
- **Connect** with friends
- **Learn** all about OLLI
- Featuring a presentation by Laura Cullinan of

CHOOSE GREATER
PEORIA



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Wednesday, July 29
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Michel Student Center
Ballroom
915 Elmwood, Peoria IL

FREE | Open to the public | Free parking
309-677-3900 or OLLI@bradley.edu to register

AARP[®]
Illinois

OLLI 2026 Legislative Breakfast Friday, August 21, 7:30 a.m.

Westlake Hall, Bradley University
Scan the QR code or call
(309) 677-3900
for more information.



TEDx Bradley University

TEDxBradley University 2026 Transforming Communities & Culture Through AI

Wednesday, September 30, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.





VOICES  VISIONARIES

EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY

Inside the Presidency with Pete Souza

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, 6:30 p.m. | Renaissance Coliseum at Bradley University

As the only photographer to serve as Chief Official White House Photographer for both Presidents Barack Obama and Ronald Reagan, Pete Souza offers a rare behind-the-scenes look at the presidency through the lens of his camera. Over decades in the White House, he captured defining moments of leadership, crisis, and humanity, many of which have become iconic images in modern American history.

This special event is part of OLLI's Voices and Visionaries series, bringing influential voices and extraordinary experiences to our community.



SCAN TO REGISTER

bradley.edu/Souza

Free Admission and Parking • Registration Required

VOICES & VISIONARIES

7

Learning Trips

Learning trips are educational travel experiences that enable you to interact with experts who offer behind-the-scenes looks at area businesses, regional attractions, and multi-day domestic/international destinations.

A detailed itinerary will be emailed to you, typically one week prior to the trip.

To make your trip even more enjoyable, please note:

- All learning trip times in this brochure are approximate and subject to change. Please refer to your itinerary email for specific departure, tour, and arrival times.
- All participants must wear closed toed shoes on all trips to ensure safety and respect our hosts' regulations.



PARKING

All trips depart from CampusTown Shopping Center, 1200 W. Main, near Bradley's campus. We reserve parking for participants on trip days between the entrance of CampusTown and the 76 gas station.



ACTIVITY LEVELS

Entry

Basic

Intermediate

Advanced



ACTIVITY LEVELS

Before you register, make sure the activity level matches your abilities. This will ensure an enjoyable trip for you and those who travel with you.

Activity Level 1

All trips listed in this section require participants to enter/exit shuttle with minimal assistance, climb some stairs, and walk a few blocks indoors or out.

CREW309: Rowing on the River

Tuesday, September 15

2:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Learn how exercise, teamwork, and perseverance come together during a visit with CREW309, an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the recurrence of cancer through exercise. CREW309 members include breast cancer survivors and “previvors” who gain mutual support through rowing and fitness training. One of the organization’s founders, Lindsay Vlaininck, will share the history and mission of the group, which began in 2017. We’ll visit the Water Street indoor practice facility to learn about the year-round training program and have an opportunity to try the rowing machines, known as ergs. Afterward, we’ll travel to East Port Marina for refreshments on the Storm Shelter patio while watching the crew prepare their boat and participate in an on-water practice on the Illinois River just before sunset. \$45 – includes guided presentation, refreshments, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28



Phyllis Baylor shares a smile with Honest Abe during a recent OLLI trip to Bloomington.

OLLI at the Theatre: Come From Away ◆◆◆◆

Thursday, September 17

5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Experience the power of live theatre at Peoria Players Theatre as we attend the award-winning musical *Come From Away*. Based on the remarkable true story of 7,000 airline passengers stranded in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, following the events of September 11, 2001, this uplifting production celebrates kindness, resilience, and the extraordinary connections that can emerge during challenging times. Before the performance, enjoy dinner with fellow OLLI members, and following the show, participate in an exclusive discussion and behind-the-scenes experience with members of the production team to learn more about bringing this inspiring story to the stage.

\$65 – includes theatre ticket, dinner, gratuities, behind-the-scenes discussion, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28



Operation Christmas Child ◆◆◆◆

Wednesday, September 30

8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Each year, Operation Christmas Child delivers millions of shoebox gifts to children around the world, sharing hope with families facing challenging circumstances. During this meaningful hands-on experience, we'll go behind the scenes to learn how volunteers make this global effort possible. Jeanne Barclay, who has served in Operation Christmas Child leadership roles in Central Illinois for more than 15 years, will share firsthand stories and videos from her experiences participating in gift distributions in Madagascar, India, and the Philippines. After the presentation, we'll move into the packing area and fill as many shoeboxes as possible from a large inventory prepared by Northwoods Church volunteers. This inspiring experience offers an opportunity to learn, serve, and see how a simple gift can make a powerful difference.

\$40 – includes guided presentation, hands-on shoebox packing experience, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

J Draper Glass Blowing ◆◆◆◆

Friday, October 2

9:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

We'll marvel at the beauty and artistry of hand-blown glass during a special visit with renowned glass artist Jeremie Draper of J Draper Glass. Housed within Studios on Sheridan, a former bakery transformed into a vibrant 22,000-square-foot creative space, this unique destination showcases the work of talented local artists while providing studio space for artistic creation. During our visit, Jeremie will present a private glassblowing demonstration and discuss the evolution of hot glass as a studio art movement in America. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the skill, creativity, and craftsmanship involved in shaping molten glass into works of art.

\$70 – includes private glassblowing demonstration, guided presentation, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Raber Packing Company ◆◆◆◆

Monday, October 5

11:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Go behind the scenes at Raber Packing Company and learn how this longtime local business rebuilt and expanded after its original West Peoria facility was destroyed by fire in 2018. During our visit, owner Henry "Buddy" Courdt will share the company's history, family story, rebuilding process, and insight into Raber Packing's meat-processing operations. We'll explore the Farmington Road location, which was designed to increase production capacity while offering a significantly larger retail space, a banquet hall, and a lunch counter. Following the tour and presentation, we'll enjoy lunch on site featuring pulled pork barbecue, buns, baked beans, potato salad, chips and dip, cookies, lemonade, tea, and water.

\$40 – includes guided tour, presentation, lunch at Raber Packing, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28



Carol Davis is happy to try her hand as judge during an OLLI visit to the Peoria City Courthouse.

The Dirksen Congressional Center ◆◆◆◆

Thursday, October 22

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Learn about the latest developments at The Dirksen Congressional Center with Executive Director Tiffany White and historian Chris Kaergard. Named for Everett McKinley Dirksen (1896–1969), the Pekin-based nonprofit, nonpartisan organization promotes research and scholarship about the U.S. Congress. We'll learn about Senator Dirksen's legacy while marking the 60th anniversary of his work in passing the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the 50th anniversary of The Dirksen Congressional Center. Our behind-the-scenes visit will include a presentation, light refreshments, time to explore the Center's main exhibits, and a tour of the archive space. Participants will have an opportunity to view rarely seen artifacts, including a signed copy of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and correspondence with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders. We'll also learn about a new project designed to make the Center's archives more accessible to the public.

\$40 – includes guided presentation, exhibit and archive tour, light refreshments, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

OLLI Member Tina Allen poses with Alan Knobloch, owner of Alamar Acres, which breeds some of the world's top Clydesdales..

Mabuhay Leather Craft ◆◆◆◆

Friday, October 23

9:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Delve into the world of handcrafted leather during a visit to Mabuhay Leather Craft. Owner and master leathersmith Abegail Alms will guide us through the creative process and share an insider's look at the techniques, tools, and business model behind her work. Mabuhay Leather Craft creates a wide range of customized pieces, including cosplay armor and accessories, slings, vests, holsters, pouches, cases, wallets, bags, belts, notebook covers, board games, flowers, and more. During this hands-on experience, participants will complete a leathercraft project while learning how raw materials are transformed into functional and artistic creations.

\$65 – includes guided presentation, hands-on leathercraft project, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Whiskey Capital of the World Tour ◆◆◆◆

Tuesday, November 17

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Discover why Peoria was once known as the whiskey capital of the world, from the Civil War through Prohibition. On this OLLI trip, led by Bernie Drake, former Peoria Historical Society President and expert on Peoria's whiskey history, we'll explore the city's fascinating whiskey history, learn about the legendary whiskey barons, and see their impressive mansions. During the tour we'll also learn more about Peoria's economic importance as the whiskey capital of the United States and how that helped finance the U.S. government during the Civil War.

\$50 – includes guided presentation, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 27



Activity Level 2 ♦♦♦♦

All of Level 1 requirements plus be able to stand for over an hour, climb some flights of stairs, and walk on uneven surfaces.

The Brotherton Museum ♦♦♦♦

Thursday, September 10

9:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Discover one of Central Illinois' hidden treasures during a visit to the Brotherton Museum in Pekin. Housed in the historic former Franklin School building, this remarkable private museum showcases an extensive collection of local and national history, memorabilia, antiques, and unique artifacts gathered over a lifetime of collecting. We'll explore exhibits highlighting Pekin's rich heritage, vintage toys and games, historic photographs, transportation artifacts, military memorabilia, and fascinating displays that capture everyday life from generations past. Museum founder Roger Brotherton's passion for preserving history is evident throughout the museum, where every room offers new stories, surprising discoveries, and a nostalgic journey through time.

\$45 – includes guided tour, lunch, gratuities, museum admission, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Mother Road Route 66 ♦♦♦♦

Wednesday, September 16

8:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Cruise into nostalgia during a Historic Route 66 tour to Springfield, filled with classic roadside charm and Americana during the Mother Road's 100th anniversary year. Our day will begin at the Route 66 Experience, where immersive exhibits bring the legendary highway to life, followed by a visit to the Ace Sign Museum to explore its vibrant collection of vintage signs and neon displays. We'll enjoy lunch at Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, located in the iconic former Stuckey's building, and drive past Bill Shea's Filling Station and the legendary Cozy Dog Drive In, known as the birthplace of the corn dog on a stick. OLLI class instructor Paul Buck will join us to share his knowledge of this iconic road, creating a fun, fast-paced day of history, food, and unforgettable Route 66 spirit.

\$65 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Advanced Medical Transport ♦♦♦♦

Tuesday, October 27

8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Get an inside look at the people, technology, and training behind emergency medical services during a visit to Advanced Medical Transport (AMT). This private, not-for-profit organization serves more than 60 communities throughout Central Illinois. On this trip, we'll divide into smaller groups to explore AMT's operations and gain a closer look at the state-of-the-art equipment used to dispatch ambulances, step inside an ambulance, and visit one of the area's most advanced classrooms for emergency medical training. We'll also learn how AMT's nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and dispatchers provide essential services to fire protection districts, townships, municipalities, counties, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, physicians' offices, and public events. \$40 – includes guided tour, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Peoria City Hall with Mayor Ali ♦♦♦♦

Tuesday, September 22

8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Discover the history, architecture, and civic leadership of one of Peoria's most iconic landmarks. Peoria City Hall, once voted the most beautiful city hall in America, is renowned for its stunning art, architecture, and rich history. Guided by Stacy Peterson, Strategic Communications Manager for the City of Peoria, we will enjoy a private tour of this Flemish Renaissance-style building while learning about the vision, planning, politics, and community leaders who helped bring it to life. Highlights include the building's Italian marble wainscoting, copper cupola bell tower, ornamented stepped gables, and dramatic open atrium rotunda crowned by a stained-glass skylight. We'll also visit the City Council Chambers and enjoy a special visit with Mayor Rita Ali and members of the City of Peoria staff, who will provide additional insight into local government and the work being done to shape Peoria's future.

\$45 – includes guided tour, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Illinois American Water Company ♦♦♦♦

Thursday, October 15

8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Learn how clean, reliable drinking water reaches homes and businesses throughout the community during a private tour of Illinois American Water Company. At the treatment plant just north of the McCluggage Bridge, we'll explore the company's water production and distribution methods while learning how water is treated, tested, and prepared for everyday use. Our visit will also include a look at laboratory equipment, historical architecture, and a museum housed within the facility's 119-year-old red sandstone pumping station. The museum features displays, instruments, and a replica of an early laboratory, offering a fascinating glimpse into the history and evolution of water treatment in Central Illinois.

\$40 – includes guided tour, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Midwest Food Bank (Peoria Location) ♦♦♦♦

Monday, October 19

10:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Learn how food donations are transformed into meaningful support for families and nonprofit organizations throughout the region during a visit to Midwest Food Bank's Peoria location. Founded in 2003, Midwest Food Bank is a faith-based nonprofit organization that distributes food and disaster-relief supplies through a growing network of locations in the United States and abroad. During our guided tour, we'll explore the Peoria facility and learn how donated food is received, sorted, stored, and distributed to community partners. We'll also hear how volunteers play an essential role in helping the organization serve individuals and families facing food insecurity. This behind-the-scenes experience offers an inspiring look at the logistics, partnerships, and generosity that make Midwest Food Bank's work possible.

\$40 – includes guided tour, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

America 250 at the Peoria Riverfront Museum ♦♦♦♦

Thursday, October 29

9:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Join us for a monumental exploration of American history at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. During

this special visit, we'll experience *America 250*, an ambitious exhibition celebrating the United States' semiquincentennial. Zac Zetterberg, the museum's Curator of Art and Exhibitions, will lead a private guided gallery tour highlighting rare documents, founding artifacts, and historical treasures that offer a deeper look at the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the nation over the past two and a half centuries. Following the guided tour, members will have time to explore additional museum galleries and exhibits at their own pace, including selections from the museum's art, science, history, and achievement collections. This exclusive experience provides a meaningful opportunity to reflect on America's history while discovering more of the museum's diverse offerings.

\$45 – includes private guided gallery tour, museum admission, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

WEEK-TV Studio ♦♦♦♦

Thursday, October 8

9:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

On this trip, we'll take a private one-hour tour of the WEEK-TV studio in East Peoria, which has been remodeled (all while remaining in production). We'll view editing bays and the control room, and have an opportunity to see reporters and anchors at work. In addition, our tour will include a peek behind the scenes to view the midday news broadcast and a question-and-answer session to learn more about the station. Depending on the broadcast schedule, we may also have a chance to talk with the midday anchors.

\$40 – includes guided tour, lunch at local restaurant, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Activity Level 3 ♦♦♦♦

Be able to stand and walk for over 2 hours with minimal chance for sitting, plus all Level 1 and 2 requirements.

Wheels O' Time Museum ♦♦♦♦

Thursday, September 3

11:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Step back in time with a visit to Wheels O' Time Museum, one of Central Illinois' most unique collections of transportation, technology, and local history. During our private guided tour, we'll explore six exhibit buildings filled with antique

automobiles, vintage farm equipment, Caterpillar machinery, trains, clocks, musical instruments, and artifacts that tell the story of the region's industrial heritage. Highlights currently on display include the beautifully restored 1931 Ahrens Fox Fire Truck, the LeTourneau Steel House, military exhibits, model railroads, the historic 1907 Hinners pipe organ, and a variety of rotating special exhibits. Knowledgeable guides will share the stories behind these remarkable collections while bringing the past to life through interactive displays and demonstrations.

\$50 – includes guided tour, lunch, gratuities, museum admission, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Tanners Orchard ♦♦♦♦

Thursday, September 24

11:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate the arrival of autumn with a visit to Tanners Orchard, a beloved family-owned destination that has welcomed visitors to Central Illinois for more than 60 years. Nestled among rolling orchards in Speer, Tanners Orchard is known for its beautiful countryside setting, delicious bakery treats, farmer's market, and rich agricultural heritage. We'll enjoy a guided tour to learn about the orchard's history, growing practices, and family traditions. Participants will have plenty of free time to explore the grounds, browse the market, visit the bakery, and stroll through the orchards. Those who wish may pick apples or pumpkins to take home while enjoying the sights, scents, and flavors of the fall harvest season. Of course, no visit would be complete without enjoying Tanners' famous apple cider and fresh cider donuts.

\$50 – includes guided tour, lunch, cider and donut, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Caterpillar's Track-Type Tractor Assembly



Tuesday, September 29

10:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Go behind the scenes at Caterpillar's Track-Type Tractor Assembly facility for an exclusive look at one of the world's leading manufacturing operations. This state-of-the-art facility utilizes flexible manufacturing systems and advanced computer-based technology to build some of Caterpillar's most powerful machines. We'll learn how track-type tractors ranging from the versatile D6 to the rugged D11 Carrydozer are assembled,

tested, and painted before being shipped around the globe. We will also gain insight into the innovation, engineering, and precision that drive Caterpillar's manufacturing process while seeing firsthand how these iconic machines are built to perform in some of the toughest working conditions in the world.

\$45 – includes guided tour, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Miller Park Zoo ♦♦♦♦

Friday, October 9

7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy a morning at Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington as we learn more about the animals, habitats, and conservation efforts that make this local attraction a favorite destination for visitors of all ages. We'll begin with a guided tour focused on two featured areas of the zoo. Afterward, we'll have time to continue exploring the zoo's indoor and outdoor habitats at our own pace. Some of the highlights include flamingos, river otters, red pandas, lemurs, Galapagos tortoises, bald eagles, Pallas' cats, snow leopards, gibbons, and red wolves. The zoo also features other engaging spaces such as the Tropical America Rainforest, ZooLab, Katthoefer Animal Building, and more.

\$55 – includes guided zoo tour, admission, lunch, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28

Forest Park Nature Center Hike:

The Science of Fall Colors ♦♦♦♦

Tuesday, October 13

12:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Experience the beauty of autumn while uncovering the science behind the season's changing colors during a guided hike at Forest Park Nature Center. As we explore the trails, a naturalist will explain how shorter days, cooler temperatures, and changes within leaves create the brilliant reds, oranges, yellows, and golds that make fall in Central Illinois so spectacular. Along the way, we'll learn how to identify common trees, observe seasonal changes in the forest, and gain a deeper appreciation for the natural processes taking place all around us. This outdoor learning experience offers the perfect opportunity to enjoy the crisp fall air, beautiful scenery, and fascinating ecology of the forest.

\$45 – includes guided nature hike, refreshments, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

Seats available: 28



OLLI

BRADLEY
UNIVERSITY

Traveling Braves 

Travel the World with OLLI!

Spotlight on New York City November 12 – 16, 2026

Experience the best of the "Big Apple" in this spectacular tour. From Rockefeller Center to Greenwich Village, New York City is a destination that will dazzle even the most seasoned traveler. Spend four nights in the heart of Midtown close to Central Park and Times Square. Take your seat and watch the curtain rise for two exciting Broadway shows. Visit The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the poignant 9/11 Museum and 9/11 Memorial. Enjoy free time to explore this fabulous city on your own. Get ready to "start spreading the news!"

Double \$3,798*

Single \$4,598*

**Call for final pricing due to possible air increase*

Includes: 4 nights in hotels, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 2 Broadway shows, tours, museum admissions, round trip flights from Chicago, round trip charter coach from Bradley, tour manager, local guides, Bradley staffer, and cancellation insurance.

To register and see the detailed itinerary visit
<https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1407732>



OLLI Talks Travel

**Tuesday August 25, 3:30 p.m.
Industry Brewing
8012 N Hale Avenue, Peoria**

Join fellow travel enthusiasts for travel conversation, tips, inspiration, and connection. We'll discuss destinations, share travel experiences, exchange practical advice, and explore ideas for future adventures.

Whether you travel with OLLI, travel independently, or simply enjoy learning about new places, you're welcome to join us.

RSVP to olli@bradley.edu or call (309) 677-3900 so we know how many to expect.

Open to anyone interested in travel; participation in OLLI travel programs is not required.

Highlights of Vietnam: Hanoi, Ha Long Bay & Saigon 12 days | February 17 – 28, 2027

See Vietnam's unique makeup unfold before your eyes as you tour Hanoi's prismatic French, Chinese, and Southeast Asian heritage before cruising between the colossal cliffs of Hạ Long Bay. You'll experience the timeless charm of Vietnam in Huế and Hội An, where ancient imperial grandeur meets lantern-lit streets, offering a journey through history and culture. Trace the steps of Vietnamese independence in Hồ Chí Minh City—Vietnam's largest city—still known as Saigon to locals and travelers. Along the way, you'll examine Vietnam War era sites, traverse verdant rice fields, and learn about Vietnamese traditions—like pearl farming—all while treating your taste buds to the spicy, tangy, sweet, and herbal complexity of Vietnamese cuisine.

Double \$6,416*

Single \$7,006*

**Call for final pricing due to possible air increase*



Includes 10 nights in hotels, breakfast, 6 dinners, 6 lunches, demonstrations, tours, tour manager, local guides, Bradley staffer, round trip flights, 2 on-tour flights, and all transfers.

To Register call EF/Go Ahead Travel at 1-800-438-7672



Gems of Greece: Athens, Naxos & Crete September 18 – October 1, 2027

Dive deeper and engage with local life on this tour designed for small groups. Maximum is 24 participants.

On an immersive journey through Greece, discover its ancient roots, iconic landmarks, and welcoming culture, from Athens to the islands of Naxos and Crete. Visit the iconic Acropolis and get to know Athens' lively neighborhoods. Ferry to Naxos and dive into Greek island life and culture during a three-night stay. Explore Crete's treasures from Heraklion and Chania, including Knossos Palace, the pottery village of Margarites, Chania's old Venetian Harbor, and more. Delve into the traditions, flavors, and history of Greece, exploring unique corners of the country and meeting locals along the way.

Double \$9,299 | Single \$11,099 | Registration Opens August 27

Informational meeting

DATE: Wednesday, August 26

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Peoria Next, 801 West Main Street

Please call (309) 677-3900 or email
olli@bradley.edu for more information.

TRAVELING BRAVES

15

Study Groups

Study Groups offer an opportunity to investigate topics in depth. Most study groups typically meet once a week for four to eight weeks.

IMPORTANT! To participate in most study groups, an active email account and internet access is necessary.

Christian Nationalism: The Integration of Faith and National Identity

Tuesdays, September 1 – 29

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Explore the relationship between American national identity and Christian faith, with a focus on Christian Nationalism—a controversial perspective on the connection between Christianity and government. Beginning with the belief that America was founded as a Christian nation, Christian nationalists argue that the country has strayed from its roots and should reestablish itself as a Christian nation. Together, we will examine the cultural, religious, and political origins of these ideas and why they have become especially prominent today. Discussion topics will include the range of views within Christian Nationalism, the relationship between church and state, and the connection between religious conviction and patriotism.

\$45 – Facilitated by Frank Wheeler, a retired professor of biblical and religious studies and frequent OLLI instructor.

Seats available: 12

Getz Fire Equipment gave OLLI an in depth tour of their company which has been in the Peoria area over 65 years.



Hollywood Goes to War!

A Look at 5 Movies about WWII

Tuesdays, September 1 – October 6

(no session on 9/15)

12:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Since its inception, Hollywood has often turned to war as a central theme, beginning with *Wings*, the first film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture. In this study group, five OLLI film enthusiasts will lead discussions on films set during World War II, examining how these movies portray war and its impact on those caught in it. Schedule of films in order include: *Hacksaw Ridge*, Denise Hocker; *Flags Of Our Fathers*, Randy Wilson; *Das Boot*, Reid Hansen; *Midway*, Rich Henz; *Patton**, Gary Nelson. **Patton* will be shown on the big screen at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Members enrolled in this study group are automatically enrolled for the movie screening. All films are available through Amazon Prime, other streaming services, or on DVD at your local library.

\$45 – Our experienced OLLI facilitators are listed above.

Seats available: 20

What is Goodness and Why Should We Be Good?

A Reading of *The Mencius*

Tuesdays, September 1 - October 20

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Peoria Public Library, Main Branch, 107 NE

Monroe Street, Peoria

(Parking is free in the Library lot.)

The classical Chinese text *The Mencius*, named after the fourth-century BCE thinker Mencius, is one of the most influential philosophical and literary works in Chinese history. Expanding on the foundational ideas found in *The Analects*, a collection of sayings from the founder of the tradition known as Confucianism, *The Mencius* gives depth and substance to early Confucian thought. The text advances a vision of moral reasoning commonly described as virtue ethics, which is closely associated with Aristotle, a historical contemporary of Mencius. We will be reading the following version of the text: *Mengzi: With Selections from Traditional Commentaries* (Hackett Classics, 2009), translated by Bryan W. Van Norden 2009; ISBN 978-1624665844 (Kindle edition acceptable).

\$45 – Facilitated by Daniel Getz, an emeritus professor, retired from Bradley University's Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Seats available: 20

Mah Jongg for Novices

Tuesdays, September 1 – October 20

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

American Mah Jongg is a fascinating game of skill and chance, with a little luck rolled in. We will start with the basics of the game – identifying the tiles, understanding the rules, reading the card – and move on to actual game play with plenty of oversight and support. This course is for the beginner starting from scratch, but we'll have you tossing tiles with the best of them by the end of the group. Join Dan Stanley, a 22-year Mah Jongg enthusiast who has taught many opera singers to play while waiting for a call to the stage (but you don't have to be able to sing to learn to play), and Gail Gordon, retired teacher and Peoria Mah Jongg maven, in mastering the basics of this challenging game.

\$45 – Facilitated by Dan Stanley, Continuing Education staff member, and Gail Gordon, retired teacher and Peoria Mah Jongg maven.

Seats available: 13

The Insect World: Hidden Lives in Central Illinois

Thursdays, September 3 – October 1

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center (Sept 3 only)

Various locations (Sept 10 - Oct 1)

Curious about the diverse and vibrant world of insects? Join us as we explore, including prairie and forest habitats rich with insect life at Forest Park Nature Center and Tawny Oaks/Singing Woods. Along the way, we'll examine a variety of microhabitats and ecosystems just off the beaten path. Supplemental materials from InsectsMatter.net will be available before and after each field trip, and optional readings from *How Insects Work* will help us better understand why insects have thrived for hundreds of millions of years. Our first session will be held at Peoria Next, and the following sessions will be held at various field locations listed above. Transportation is not provided, members will meet the group there. \$45 – Facilitated by Mark DuBois, retired professor and dedicated entomologist recently recognized as a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

Seats available: 20

How Britain Changed the World

Tuesdays, September 8 – October 6

1:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Has any nation shaped the modern world more profoundly than Britain? Often described as the world's first modern society, Britain transformed global ideas about law, government, religion, industry, and technology while consistently "punching above its weight." This study group explores five defining moments in British history: the Norman Conquest, Magna Carta, the English Reformation, the Industrial Revolution, and the vital role that the people at Bletchley Park played in the infiltration of Axis intelligence and the seminal role their work played in the birth of modern computing. Along the way, we will examine the special relationship between Britain and the United States and explore what Britain's history teaches about innovation, leadership, personal sacrifice, national identity, and the resilience of democratic institutions.

\$45 – Facilitated by Tim Burns, a longtime Anglophile with a deep interest in British history, culture, and political leadership.

Seats available: 22

Advanced Trailblazers

Thursdays, September 10 – October 8

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Various locations

Join our hike leaders to explore a variety of local trails. Each hike will cover approximately 3–4.5 miles, with some routes including significant elevation changes. Trails may be uneven, rocky, or include water crossings, and the pace may be brisk. Please consider your physical abilities and register only if you are an experienced hiker. Hiking poles are optional, and the AllTrails app will be used. Planned hikes include Robinson South, Springdale Cemetery, and other area trails.

\$45 – Facilitated by Stacey DelVecchio, Diane Rock, Jeanne Barclay, Rob Parks, Denise Hocker, Chris Esken and Paul Miller.

Seats available: 18

Falling Once Again for a Great Short Novel!

Thursdays, September 10 – November 19 (every other week)

1:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Peoria Public Library, Main Branch, 107 NE Monroe Street, Peoria

(Parking is free in the Library lot.)

What could be better than settling in with a good book as the seasons change? Our experienced OLLI literature enthusiasts have selected favorite short novels for participants to read independently and discuss together. Participants should purchase the books or borrow them from the library and must have internet access and an email address to receive discussion questions. Titles, in order of discussion, are: *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng; *9/24: In Country* by Bobby Ann Mason; *The Story of Lucy Gault* by William Trevor; *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines; *Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro; and *Plain Song* by Kent Haruf.

\$45 – Facilitated by John Brady, Roger French, Jane Hense, Roberta Koscielski, Gary Nelson, and Paul Resnick, all literature lovers and experienced OLLI facilitators.

Seats Available: 18

All's Fair in Love and War - Or Is It?

Mondays, September 14 – October 12

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Is war, like love, a “no holds barred” contest in which no behavior is immoral and no battlefield tactic unethical? Can a nation defeat an enemy by any means necessary? Throughout history, religious traditions, international conventions, and military protocols have attempted to define the moral limits of warfare. In 2026, is the idea that morality should guide modern warfare simply outdated? Through discussion and research, we will examine religious and philosophical perspectives, historical examples, and pre-1960 war scenarios to explore the question at the heart of this study group, while leaving the “love” part for another day. Research and readings from the Internet will be required, so Internet and email access will be necessary.

\$45 – Facilitated by John Brady, a semi-retired attorney. Even after 80 years, he is still looking for the answers to life's big questions.

Seats available: 18

Fever in the Heartland:

The Ku Klux Klan in the Midwest

Fridays, September 25 – October 16

9:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Back by popular demand! We'll explore the chilling rise of the Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Indiana through Timothy Egan's book, *A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America*. We will examine the Klan's three major eras in American history, explore its political influence and corruption, and discuss connections to white supremacy in America today. Participants should obtain and read *A Fever in the Heartland* before class. The book is available online, through local booksellers, and at libraries. There may also be supplementary reading materials.

\$45 – Facilitated by Rob Parks, retired fundraiser and Chamber of Commerce Executive, and Glen Collier, retired judge.

Seats available: 20



OLLI members had the opportunity for a private tour of the America 250 exhibit at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

Angelica - For Love and Country in a Time of War

Thursdays, October 1 – 22

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Angelica Schuyler Church was an intelligent, vibrant woman from a wealthy colonial family during the American Revolution. Using her social status and spirited personality, she cultivated influential friendships in the Colonies, London, and Paris. Through these connections, she gathered political insights that she shared with leaders such as Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. Across cultures, languages, and national borders, Angelica used her network of relationships to support the Colonists' pursuit of victory and peace. Her story highlights the important role women could play in politics and social issues during a largely male-dominated era. Participants are expected to obtain and read *Angelica* by Molly Beer.

\$45 – Facilitated by frequent OLLI instructors and facilitators Missy Salata and Tim Bailey.

Seats available: 20

The Fall of Roe: The Rise of the New America

Mondays, October 5 – 26

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Consider the inside story behind the effort to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that established a constitutional right to abortion. This study group will examine the strategies and processes used by advocates seeking to reverse *Roe v. Wade*. Personal opinions on abortion will not be part of the

discussion. Participants will work in small groups each week to explore the consequences of the fall of *Roe* for American women and their families. Participants are expected to obtain and read *The Fall of Roe: The Rise of a New America* by Elizabeth Dias and Lisa Lerer.

\$45 – Facilitated by Dr. Becky Sisk, retired nurse educator, and Dr. Jenny Tripses, professor emerita at Bradley University.

Seats available: 20

How to Make Your Brain Your Best Friend

Thursdays, October 8 – 29

1:00 – 3:20 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Discover how to unlock the full potential of your mind with *How to Make Your Brain Your Best Friend* by neuroscientist Rachel Barr. This engaging guide combines science and practical strategies to help readers understand how the brain adapts, protects, and recovers. Together, we will explore techniques for building resilience, improving emotional balance, and supporting everyday mental wellness. Join us as we explore how understanding the brain can help us live healthier, happier, and more connected lives.

\$45 – Facilitated by Steve and Jayne Richards, frequent OLLI facilitators and instructors.

Seats available: 18

Writing the Stories of Your Life

Fridays, October 16 – November 20

10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Peoria Public Library, Main Branch, 107 NE Monroe Street, Peoria

(Parking is free in the Library lot.)

Hello—this is your life, and no one can tell its stories quite like you. No one remembers or understands your experiences the way you do, so this is your opportunity to write them in your own voice. Join us to explore memories and observations through writing, whether for yourself, your family, or to share with the group. Bring a notebook or tablet for in-class writing and discussion. Each week, optional prompts will inspire a short piece of about 700 words. Sharing your writing is always optional, but many participants find it rewarding. No previous writing experience is necessary.

\$45 – Facilitated by Jane Hense and Gary Nelson, both experienced OLLI Study Group facilitators.

Seats available: 16

Women Painters - Challenges, Triumphs, and Untold Stories
Tuesdays, October 20 – November 17
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Da Vinci, Picasso, Van Gogh—we can all name great male artists. But what about the women? This group will explore the lives and work of women painters throughout history who overcame societal barriers to leave a lasting mark on the art world. Together, we will examine the challenges these artists faced, including limited access to formal training, exhibition opportunities, and recognition in male-dominated studios and institutions. Following an introduction to major art movements and historical gender barriers, each participant will present the life and work of a selected female artist. By blending art history, social context, and inspiring personal stories, we will bring these overlooked artists to light and deepen our understanding of how gender, history, and creativity shaped the visual arts.

\$45 – Facilitated by Coke Mattingly, Art enthusiast, fine art photographer, and frequent Art instructor.

Seats available: 20

Trailblazers Light

Tuesdays, November 3 – 24

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Various Locations

This hiking group is ideal for those new to hiking or returning after a break. Each hike will cover approximately 2 to 2.5 miles on gentle terrain with minimal elevation gain, making it more accessible than our Advanced Trailblazers group. Whether you are just getting started or easing back into hiking, this group offers a relaxed and enjoyable way to explore the outdoors with others. All hikes will take place in the tri-county area, and participants will meet directly at the trailhead. \$45 – All facilitators are OLLI members and frequent hikers.

Seats available: 18



Marianne and Shelley Epstein take the opportunity to chat with Coke Mattingly during our Mix & Mingle at Cyd's in the Park.

Mary Magdalene Revealed

Tuesdays, November 3 – December 1

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Discover the transformative message at the heart of Meggan Watterson's *Mary Magdalene Revealed*. Together, we will explore themes of courage, love, and goodness while rediscovering Mary Magdalene not as a silent figure, but as a teacher and spiritual leader. Join us as we consider the idea that our deepest spiritual authority comes from within. Through discussion and reflection, participants will engage with Watterson's insights and the enduring relevance of Mary Magdalene's story. *Mary Magdalene Revealed* is available through local booksellers. *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* by Jean-Yves Leloup is recommended, but not required. \$45 – Facilitated by Denise Hocker, frequent OLLI facilitator, and Tiffany White, Executive Director of the Dirksen Congressional Center, who has a background in political science, speech communication, nonprofit leadership, and American religious studies.

Seats available: 20

Originals are exclusive talks with local leaders and businesses from the community and beyond.

History of the Rock Island Trail

Tuesday, September 8

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Dunlap Public Library

302 1st St., Dunlap

Join Jim David for a presentation on the history of the Rock Island Trail, based on his book exploring the trail's story and significance. Hosted at the Dunlap Public Library, located right along the trail, this free OLLI Original will highlight the people, places, and history connected to this well-known local pathway. Weather permitting, participants will take a walk on the trail following the program.

Free Member Perk!

Includes presentation and treats. Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 30



Gander's Ripple Effect: The 9/11 Story Behind Come From Away

Thursday, September 10

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Garrett Cultural Center

While 9/11 was a tragic day for the U.S., it also affected the entire world. Gander, Newfoundland, a town of 9,000, was turned upside down when 38 planes carrying 7,000 passengers were forced to land there as U.S. air space closed. The compassionate way the frightened, confused "plane people" were treated created a ripple effect extending outward in a myriad of ways. One was the creation of an award winning musical that weaves together stories of the many extraordinary kindnesses shown. *Come From Away* premiered on Broadway in 2017, toured the U.S. and beyond, and is now being performed in regional theaters including Peoria Players. Join us for this informative presentation for a better understanding and appreciation of the ripple effect created by Gander and how it became a unique theatrical experience.

\$15 – includes presentation and snacks.

Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 100



Peoria Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle **Fridays, September 11 and October 2**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Peoria Public Library: Lakeview Branch

1137 W. Lake Ave., Peoria

In collaboration with the Peoria Women's Club, OLLI invites you to join the Peoria Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle part of the oldest continuous book club in the United States, founded in 1878. Lynette Steger, professional educator and board member for Peoria Women's Club will moderate each session. This fall marks our fourth year in the national program, and we're celebrating a milestone: our first class graduated in August 2026! We'll read two books from the Chautauqua Institution's annual selections: *Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Human Evolution*, Cat Bohannon and *Bog Queen: A Novel*, Anna North. Books may be obtained independently or Location: Due to ongoing historic restoration at the Peoria Women's Club, meetings will be held at Lakeview Library. \$20 – includes both sessions and treats.

Transportation not provided, meet us there!

Seats available: 40



OLLI member Nena Peplow focuses on her technique during a recent golf clinic with former Bradley golf coach Halley Morell.

WTVP Now: Building the Future of Public Media in Central Illinois

Wednesday, September 16

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

101 State St., Peoria

WTVP invites OLLI to experience the magic of central Illinois' only locally owned broadcasting station. You'll hear directly from the station CEO, Jenn Gordon, on the future of public media - and how WTVP is leading the way for small PBS stations across the country, to create community within our communities through the power of public media. This session will also include a panel conversation with WTVP executive leadership and a time for open Q&A. Come ready to be inspired and to learn about the future of this beloved community resource.

\$10 – includes presentation with WTVP staff.

Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 30

Wildlife Prairie Park: Birding 101

Thursday, October 1

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wildlife Prairie Park

3826 N. Taylor Rd., Hanna City

Whether you are brand new to birding or simply want to feel more confident identifying birds in your own backyard, this program will introduce the basics of birdwatching. We will learn what to look and listen for, how to use simple tools and observation skills, and how to better recognize common birds in our area. This program is curated and hosted by Patrick Menke, Wildlife Prairie Park's Education Lead.

\$40 – Includes presentation, tour, and treats.

Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 40

Freedom Paws Service Dogs Foundation

Thursday, October 8

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Garrett Cultural Center

Join Brenda Olson, Vice President of Freedom Paws Service Dogs Foundation, for a look at how service dogs can change the lives of veterans and first responders. Based in Chillicothe, Freedom Paws provides trained service dogs to those who benefit from additional support, independence, and companionship. Brenda will share how the organization began, how dogs are selected and trained, and what goes into building a successful

service dog partnership. Participants will learn about the time, care, and community support required to prepare each dog for this important work. This program will also highlight the impact these partnerships can have on daily life, confidence, and connection. Come learn more about a local organization making a meaningful difference for those who have served our communities.

\$15 – includes presentation and treats.

Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 100

Inside FOLEPI:

The Making of East Peoria's Festival of Lights

Wednesday, November 4

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Festival of Lights Warehouse

2200 E. Washington St., East Peoria

Go behind the scenes of one of East Peoria's most beloved traditions with a tour of the Festival of Lights workshop. Led by the Festival of Lights Chairman, Kory Brown, this OLLI Original will give participants an up-close look at multiple Festival of Lights Floats and displays and the work that goes into bringing FOLEPI to life each year. Along the way, participants will learn more about the history of the festival and the lasting impact it has had on East Peoria and the surrounding area along with what they plan to implement in years to come. Come take a look and learn more about East Peoria's historic Festival of Lights tradition.

\$10 – includes presentation and tour.

Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 40

Autonomous Cars: The Road Ahead

Wednesday, November 11

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Garrett Cultural Center

Autonomous cars are no longer just a futuristic idea. They are already reshaping conversations about transportation, safety, technology, and public policy. In this OLLI Original, frequent OLLI presenter Shawn Weck will explore how self-driving vehicles work, where the technology stands today, and what challenges remain before autonomous cars become part of everyday life. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the promise, limitations, and real-world questions surrounding this rapidly developing field.

\$15 – Includes presentation and treats.

Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 100

Invented in Peoria
Thursday, November 12
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Garrett Cultural Center

Join longtime OLLI member Bernie Drake for a look at the surprising role Peoria has played in the history of invention and innovation. This program will explore people, ideas, and creations with local connections, showing how Peoria has contributed to more than many may realize. From familiar names to lesser-known stories, participants will discover how invention often starts closer to home than expected.

\$15 – Includes presentation and treats.

Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 100

Whiskey Tasting 101
Monday, November 30
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Peoria NEXT Innovation Center

Discover the world of whiskey in this engaging, flavor-filled afternoon. Explore Canadian, Bourbon, Tennessee, Irish, and Scotch styles while learning how to observe, nose, and taste like a pro. Guided sipping samples are included. Your host, Steve Richards, is a former professional taster for the Hiram Walker Distillery in Peoria and brings a unique blend of scientific insight and practical know-how to every pour. A perfect session for both whiskey lovers and the simply curious, come enjoy the “water of life” in good company.

\$40 – includes presentation, snacks, whiskey.

Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 20

OLLI MIX & Mingle

The OLLI Mix & Mingle is a great way to meet new people in a casual environment.

Participants will purchase their own drinks and snacks. Each event will be hosted by OLLI volunteers and a Bradley staffer. We have reserved a few tables at area restaurants so we can mix and mingle, OLLI style. Registration is required, but if you'd like to bring a friend who is new to OLLI just call the office and let us know so we can add them to the count.

Each Mix and Mingle is free, but registration is required to enable accurate counts for our hosts. Transportation is not included - meet us there!



Last Chance Bar & Grill
2713 W. Second St., Peoria
Wednesday, September 23
4:00 p.m.

Seats available: 40

Pour Bros Taproom
4450 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights
Tuesday, October 6
4:00 p.m.

Seats available: 40

CXT Coffee Campustown
1200 W. Main St., Peoria
Wednesday, December 16
10:00 a.m.

Seats available: 40



OLLI's Traveling Braves enjoy a tour of the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, Ireland.

OLLI at the Movies

at Peoria Riverfront Museum

Meet Us at the



WHAT IS MEET US AT THE MOVIES?

Before each OLLI at the Movies screening, members are invited to arrive about 30 minutes early for Meet Us at the Movies.

This casual gathering gives you time to grab popcorn or snacks from concessions, chat with other OLLI members, and maybe even learn more about OLLI before the pre-film discussion and screening begins. Everyone is welcome; just come early and join the conversation.

Transportation not provided, meet us there.
All films \$5 – Includes admission and moderated discussion prior to the start of screening.

Seats available: 190

How Green Was My Valley

Thursday, September 17

Social: 11:30 a.m. | Screening: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Set in a Welsh mining village, *How Green Was My Valley* follows the Morgan family as they navigate work, family, faith, and social change.

The film explores the human cost of economic transformation — not just in terms of labor, but also family, identity, and community. Experience the awesome cinematography of John Ford's film on the big screen Prior to the film Tim Burns will share his insights on this 1941 Best Picture Winner.

Patton

Friday, October 2

Social: 12:30 p.m. | 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Patton offers a dramatic portrait of General George S. Patton, one of the most complex and controversial military leaders of World War II. Anchored by George C. Scott's Academy Award-winning performance, the film examines leadership, ambition, discipline, and legacy. Gary Nelson, is one of the facilitators in the study group on movies about WWII this fall, and hear his remarks before the screening.

Miracle on 34th Street

Wednesday, November 18

Social: 11:30 a.m. | Screening: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

A holiday classic, *Miracle on 34th Street* tells the story of a department store Santa who claims to be the real Kris Kringle and the people whose lives are changed by his kindness and conviction. Blending warmth, humor, and a little courtroom drama, the film explores belief, generosity, and the spirit of the season. Denise Hocker, one of OLLI's favorite film buffs, will get us in the mood for this holiday classic before the show by sharing some history and insights.

FREE MEMBER PERK



9 to 5

Thursday, December 3

Social: 10:30 a.m.

Screening 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This sharp workplace comedy follows three office employees who team up to take control after growing tired of their sexist, egotistical boss. Starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and Dolly Parton, *9 to 5* mixes humor with a pointed look at workplace culture, gender expectations, and the changing role of women in the workforce. Presented as part of OLLI's Dallinger series, A Celebration of Women's Voices and Empowerment, this beloved classic explores issues that continue to resonate today. Laurie Bailey will provide a brief introduction highlighting the film's connection to the series theme.



Reel Psychology with Margie Getz
Tuesdays, September 15, October 20, November 17
1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Methodist College
7600 N. Academic Dr., Peoria



Margie Getz and Methodist College present *Reel Psychology*, a film discussion series that uses movies and documentaries to explore human behavior, relationships, resilience, and the way personal experiences are portrayed on screen. Films to be screened include: *Silent Friend* follows three interconnected stories across different eras, centered around a university botanical garden and the quiet connections between people, plants, and the natural world. *Flow* is a dialogue-free animated film follows a cat and a group of animals working together to survive after a devastating flood changes their world. *The Banshees of Inisherin* follows two lifelong friends on a remote Irish island whose relationship suddenly falls apart, raising questions about loneliness, conflict, identity, and connection.

Free Member Perk! Includes film screening discussion, and treats. Transportation not included, meet us there!

Seats available: 13

CANCELLATION POLICY

OLLI's cancellation policy was designed to encourage our members to carefully consider their personal availability for events. This thoughtful scheduling will allow peers who wish to participate a chance to do so. Extenuating circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Membership fees are non-refundable.

Classes

- \$10 minimum cancellation fee per person.
- The remainder of your class fees will be refunded if you cancel before first day of classes. No refunds will be processed if cancellations are made after the start of classes. Extenuating circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Learning Trips

- \$10 minimum cancellation fee.
- If you cancel the day before or day of trip, entire fee forfeited.
- Local trips: if you cancel and your spot is filled from waitlist, remainder of fee refunded. If you cancel and your spot cannot be filled, entire fee forfeited
- Regional trips: partial refunds may be given, less any expenses prepaid by OLLI.
- Multi-day trips will abide by their own cancellation schedule, given at the time of payment.

OLLI Originals and OLLI Online

- OLLI Originals and OLLI Online over \$15 will follow the learning trip cancellation policy. There are no refunds for programs \$15 or under.

Study Groups

- \$10 minimum cancellation fee.
- \$35 will be refunded if you cancel at least 7 days before the start of your group.
- Entire fee will be forfeited if you cancel less than 7 days before the start of your group.

INFORMATION DISCLAIMER:

Opinions expressed in classes, trips, and study groups are those of the presenter and not necessarily those of Bradley University or OLLI. Information provided in OLLI programs is for educational and informational purposes only. In no way should OLLI be considered as offering legal advice, investment advice, health advice, or any related advice on behalf of Bradley University.



OLLI visits Springfield to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Route 66.

Each class consists of four 1-hour sessions and will meet each Wednesday in October. With our a la carte option, you may choose how many classes to take - 1, 2, 3, or all 4. Most classes meet at Bradley University's Michel Student Center. For eight of our classes (shaded in gray), you can choose to attend in person or remotely via Zoom. (If you would like to register to take the class via Zoom, go to the **OLLI Online** section when registering.)

WEDNESDAYS

October 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026

Coffee 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

● **9:00 – 10:00 a.m.** _____

50 Years in Peoria Broadcasting

Join Chuck Collins, retired meteorologist and well-known radio and television personality who spent nearly all of his 50-year broadcasting career in Peoria. He'll share stories and experiences from a remarkable broadcasting career spanning the 1970s through the 2020s. We'll explore how radio and television have evolved over five decades, from local programming and weather forecasting to changing technology and audience habits. Along the way, we'll reminisce about memorable moments, and share memories of days gone by in Peoria radio and TV.

\$30 – Class instructor Chuck Collins is a retired meteorologist and past OLLI class instructor.

**Your Choice
IN PERSON
OR ONLINE**

Discover the World of Native Plants

Native plants are all around us—in our neighborhoods, gardens, and even on our plates, from squash and blueberries to raspberries. These plants have evolved over thousands of years and are naturally adapted to local soil, climate, and wildlife. As a result, they play a vital role in supporting pollinators and other species that are essential to healthy ecosystems. This class will explore the many types of native plants, from trees and shrubs to grasses and wildflowers. Learn how to create a native plant garden, select plants for seasonal interest, and find local sources. Discover the benefits of native landscaping, including water conservation, erosion control, wildlife

habitat, and low maintenance. Fall is an ideal time to plant native trees, shrubs, grasses, vines, and perennials.

\$30 – Class instructor is Patricia Melaik, Peoria County Master Gardener and frequent OLLI class instructor.

Exercise as Medicine: Movements to Maintain Mobility and Prolong Lifespan

Mobility is a key factor in maintaining independence, health, and quality of life as we age. Any illness, injury, or medical event can become more challenging when accompanied by a baseline low level of mobility. In this class, participants will learn the essential movement patterns needed for everyday activities such as moving in bed, standing, walking, and getting up from the floor. We will explore practical exercises that strengthen these movements and discuss strategies for building a sustainable routine that supports long-term function, independence, and healthy aging.

\$30 – Class instructor is Taylor Leontios, physical therapist at Lion Concierge Physical Therapy Services.

Exploring the Universe with the James Webb Space Telescope

Discover the story behind the largest and most powerful telescope ever launched into space. Explore why it was built, how its remarkable technology works, and what it is uncovering about our strange and mysterious universe. Along the way, you'll marvel at some of the most breathtaking images of the cosmos ever captured, offering a stunning glimpse into the wonders of deep space.

\$30 – Class instructor is Nick Rae, senior planetarium educator at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

Leonardo da Vinci: Man, Myth, or Miracle?

Fewer than 20 paintings by this Renaissance artist survive, and half of those are incomplete, but 7,200 pages of an estimated 13,000-page notebook pages did survive. Disorganized, in mirror writing, and filled with breathtaking sketches, they reveal intense curiosity and deep

**Your Choice
IN PERSON
OR ONLINE**

thinking about anatomy, botany, astronomy, engineering, architecture, warfare, philosophy, and painting. You will learn about his life as a bastard son, a gay man, and a distractible perfectionist. The class presents excerpts from Isaacson's biography, Ken Burns' Leonardo series, Leonardo's notebooks, and the instructor's photos of his last home and grave site. Man, myth, genius? Or is it all just marketing? You decide.

\$30 – Class instructor is Judy Harris Helm, Ed.D., a frequent OLLI presenter who recently completed the Smithsonian World Art History Certificate Program.

Remember the Ladies:

Women in the American Revolution

The historic record of the American Revolution is brief concerning the plight of women in the colonies. Yet the revolutionary years were challenging for women, as well as for men. In this class, we will compare the plight of four different groups of women, each of whom experienced the revolution through a different lens. Patriot, Loyalist, free and enslaved African, and Native American women alike faced existential challenges about their place in America, either pulled toward the English throne or pulled forward into a new American government. Whether most of them had independence for women on their minds is unclear; the supremacy of men wasn't questioned. However, their stories document the women's issues that are addressed many years in the future.

\$30 – Class instructor is Becky Sisk, PhD, RN, CNE, nurse educator, and frequent OLLI instructor.

Travel Photography for Everyday Explorers

This class is designed to help passionate travelers capture stunning images, even without a professional background. We'll discuss practical tips for shooting while on tour groups, focusing on how to navigate crowds, make the most of limited time, and quickly capture memorable moments. You'll also learn essential editing techniques to enhance your photos with beginner-friendly tools, bringing out the best colors and details effortlessly. Finally, we'll cover creative ideas on what to do with your images once you get home, from organizing and sharing them in albums or social media to creating your photos as artwork that preserve and showcase your travel memories beautifully.

\$30 – Class instructor is Don Samford, a frequent OLLI instructor and tour group traveler.

● **10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

American Music?

Exploring a Musical Melting Pot

America is often described as the "melting pot" for people who have settled here from throughout the world. Perhaps one can refer to the music we hear today as being from a "musical melting pot." Musical creativity in America begins before the colonial times and continues today. The result of this creativity is an amazing and wonderful body of work including every type of music imaginable: songs, keyboard pieces, symphonies, concerti, film music, electronic music, and more! We'll examine the sources of our music and find out if there is such an entity as "American Music." Surely, there must be!

\$30 – Class instructor is Michael Dicker, Emeritus Professor of Bassoon, Illinois State University, and frequent OLLI instructor.

Electric Dreams vs. Diesel Reality:

CityLink's Fleet Transition

Join CityLink for an honest conversation about the real challenges of switching to an electric fleet in Peoria, and why our diesel fleet continues to dominate. The transition of the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (CityLink) from a legacy diesel fleet to battery-electric buses marks a major shift in public transit. While "electric dreams" provide immense ecological advantages, they must balance against the "diesel realities" of capital costs and infrastructure overhauls among other factors. We'll talk about charging issues, battery setbacks, mechanic training hurdles, and reliability struggles. We will also cover what's worked well with our diesel and hybrid buses, their dependability, easier maintenance, and consistent performance. This balanced discussion explores the practical trade-offs of going electric and there will be plenty of time for questions and local insights.

\$30 – Class instructors are Kofi Kisseh, City Link General Manager; Ken Boddie, Director of Technical Operations; ShamRA Robinson, Assistant Director of Operations; and Steve Risch, General Foreman.

Hockey: History, Rules, and the Peoria Connection

Whether you're new to hockey or a longtime fan looking to deepen your understanding of the game, this class will provide an inside look at one of the world's fastest sports. Explore the history of hockey, the evolution of equipment, and the development of the modern game. Learn the basic rules and strategies that will make watching hockey more enjoyable, along with lesser-known aspects of the sport that many fans never fully understand. Drawing on decades of coaching, leadership, and involvement in Illinois hockey, instructor Brad Windsor will share insights into player development, game strategy, and the growth of hockey in Central Illinois. The class will feature on-site demonstrations, discussions of major rules and regulations, and guest speakers including Bart Rogers, owner of the Peoria Rivermen, and Guy Trudel, Rivermen Head Coach. Participants will also receive a group ticket to a Rivermen game, where questions can be discussed and answered during live game action. \$30 – Class instructor is Brad Windsor, a Level 4 USA Hockey Certified Coach, longtime leader in Illinois amateur hockey, and past president of the Central Illinois High School Hockey Association.

Inside the 2026 Midterms: What's at Stake

With the midterm elections just weeks away, this is an ideal opportunity for OLLI members to hear from leading voices about the stakes and significance of the upcoming vote. OLLI has assembled an exceptional panel of political experts, journalists, and elected officials to discuss the importance of the November 2026 election, the key issues shaping the campaigns, the strengths and challenges facing both Republicans and Democrats, and what the election results could mean for the nation's future and the 2028 presidential race. Featured speakers include former congressman and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood; Brad McMillan, executive director of the Institute for Principled Leadership in Public Service at Bradley University; State Senator David Koehler; State Representative Ryan Spain; and New York Times national political correspondents Lisa Lerer and Reid J. Epstein. \$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

Your Choice
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Innovations and Discoveries in Agriculture: National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (the Ag Lab).

Discover how agricultural research is shaping the future of food, health, sustainability, and energy. Scientists from the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (The Ag Lab) will share their work and explore how discoveries made from plants and other agricultural resources are leading to innovations that impact our everyday lives.

October 7: Plant Proteins with Zi Teng - Explore the science behind plant proteins, including their properties, uses, and growing role in the foods we eat.

October 14: Natural Products and Pediatric Cancer Research with Korey Brownstein - Learn how compounds derived from natural sources are being studied for their potential activity against pediatric cancer cells.

October 21: Biobased Products from Plant Oils with DeMichael Winfield - Discover how plant oils are being transformed into sustainable products that can replace petroleum-based materials.

October 28: Bioenergy Applications with Bruce Dien - Examine how agricultural resources can be converted into renewable energy and the role bioenergy may play in a more sustainable future. \$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

Outsmarting Scammers: Fraud Prevention in the Digital Age

Scammers are constantly finding new ways to target individuals through phone calls, email, text messages, social media, and even artificial intelligence. Each week will help you recognize common scams, protect your personal and financial information, and learn practical strategies to avoid becoming a victim of fraud.

October 7: Introduction to Fraud with Aimee Shinall, Peoria County Sheriff's Department Learn about common scams, warning signs of fraud, and ways to protect yourself.

October 14: Operation Boomerang with Dave Johnson, Pearl Technology

Explore online safety, cybersecurity basics, identity theft prevention, and emerging AI-driven scams.

October 21: Banking Scams with Tim Sweeso, Commerce Bank Understand common banking fraud schemes and how to safeguard your financial accounts.

October 28: Computer Scams with Colleen Zachman, CEFCU Learn how to identify computer scams, phishing attempts, and other digital threats. \$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

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People Helping People:

Making a Difference in Central Illinois

Discover how local organizations and volunteers are making a difference throughout Central Illinois. This inspiring series highlights the power of service, advocacy, and community engagement, and the many ways individuals can create a lasting impact.

October 7: Children's Home Association of Illinois with Katie Cox

Learn how the Children's Home Association has evolved over 160 years to meet the changing needs of children and families in Central Illinois. Learn about the organization's legacy of care and discover how the programs serve thousands every single month.

October 14: From Lifelong Learning to Lifelong Impact with Melinda Huett, Peoria Park District

Explore how volunteering supports parks, programs, and community events while providing opportunities to stay active, connected, and engaged. Learn how sharing your time and talents can enrich lives across generations.

October 21: Advocating for Children with CASA and Pamela Perilles

Discover how Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) give children who have experienced abuse or neglect a consistent voice in the court system. Learn how trained volunteers help improve outcomes for vulnerable youth and strengthen families.

October 28: How One Book Can Change a Child's Life with Janet Roth and Stan Butler

Learn how Look. It's My Book! provides thousands of children with books of their own each year, fostering literacy, confidence, and a love of reading. Hear how this local volunteer-led organization is helping build brighter futures, one book at a time.

\$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

Sometimes It's Right . . . Sometimes It's Wrong . . . But It's Always The Supreme Court

Since the days of our founding as a nation, the United States Supreme Court has been interpreting America's laws, but also doing much more in the process. Throughout its history -- and as various individual justices have come and gone -- the Court's decisions have actively defined rights, influenced politics, and altered daily life -- and the Court has itself been changed by these same forces. From slavery to civil rights, economic regulation to free speech and beyond, sometimes the Court has led social change, and sometimes it has resisted it. But its nine justices have always

helped shape and define America's character and direction. This class will study the path that the Court has traveled.

\$30 – Class instructor is John T. Brady, semi-retired attorney and frequent OLLI instructor.

● **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Buffet Lunch Choices

During the lunch hour, you can dine at one of our neighborhood restaurants, the Student Center Marketplace, bring a sack lunch, or enjoy OLLI's convenient lunches in the ballroom. You must register for each week's lunch in advance. The cost for each weekly lunch is **\$14.50**.

October 7: Turkey wrap with cranberry jam, housemade chips with dip

October 14: Grilled chicken breast, roasted mushrooms, green beans, mashed potatoes

October 21: Soup and salad bar

October 28: Oven roasted pork, mac and cheese, fingerling potatoes

● **12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Energy: Challenging Times Ahead and Their Potential Solutions

Join our journey through the rapidly-changing world of energy and how it impacts our daily lives. We'll start with the transitions from carbon based electrical generation to greener options. We'll show how electricity is generated today and the cutting-edge ways we now store that power to keep our grid resilient. We'll take a look at the modern digital landscape, discussing the massive impact of data centers on our energy supply. We'll then dive into transportation and the transition toward electric vehicles (EVs) and their all-important battery innovations. Looking further ahead, we'll explore the next frontier of transit – from wind-assisted shipping to the arrival of autonomous flying drone taxis. Finally, we will take a practical look at your residential electricity options, empowering you to make informed choices about how you power your own life.

\$30 – Class instructor is Richard Radochia, a returning OLLI instructor, former career in constructing and maintaining energy producing facilities.

From Peoria to Pots Stills:

The History of American Whiskey

Explore the science, history, and craft of American whiskey in this engaging overview of one of the nation's most iconic spirits. We'll examine different whiskey types, how they derive their signature flavors, and the production methods behind them. We'll also discuss pivotal moments in whiskey history, including Peoria's rise as the "Whiskey Capital of the World," its eventual decline, and the modern resurgence of craft distilling across the United States.

\$30 – Class instructor is Dr. Daniel Moon, Bradley University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Healthy Minds, Informed Choices: Brain Health & Alzheimer's

Your brain health affects how you live, how independent you remain, and how prepared you are for the future. In this class, we will learn how to take an active role in protecting and understanding our cognitive health. We'll explore what truly supports a healthy brain, how Alzheimer's and other dementias develop, what current research is revealing, and how to recognize the 10 warning signs that should never be ignored. We'll discuss how to ask better questions, make informed decisions, and respond with confidence - whether for ourselves or for those we care about.

\$30 – Class instructors are Cassandra Anderson and Peggy Peryam, Alzheimer's Association Community Educators.

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Literary Lions:

Insights Into the Lives of Four Authors

Join us as we delve into the lives of four well-known authors and examine what shaped their lives and their work:

October 7: Percival Everett, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *James* - presented by Roberta Koscielski.

October 14: Carl Sandburg, Illinois' own poet, songwriter, historian - presented by John Brady.

October 21: Jane Austen, beloved author of *Pride And Prejudice* and many others, 250 years after her birth - presented by Denise Hocker.

October 28: F. Scott Fitzgerald, renowned author of *The Great Gatsby* and Jazz Age bad boy - presented by Gary Nelson.

\$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

Look What I Did

October 7: How Fruit Wine is Made

Valerie Wiest shares the art and tradition of fruit winemaking, a craft she learned over a decade ago from her father. Building on family recipes, she has continued to refine the process through years of personal experience and experimentation. We will also have the opportunity to sample a selection of handcrafted family wines.

October 14: Drones for Hobby and Small Businesses

Kent Kowalske introduces the fundamentals of drone use for both recreational flyers and small business applications. Topics include getting started with drones as a hobby, understanding where and how drones can be safely and legally flown, and exploring practical business uses across different industries. As well as his credentials as a licensed private pilot and drone pilot, Kowalske also shares real-world examples from his own drone work.

October 21: Investing in What Matters Most: Strengthening Family Relationships Across Generations

This inspiring talk explores the importance of prioritizing what matters most: family. Through personal stories and practical observations, discover simple ways to strengthen relationships, cherish time together, and build a legacy of love, faith, and connection across generations. Bradley University alumni Michael and Rosemary Greene, retired former owners of a technology company, will share insights from their book *Grandma and Grandpa Camp: Inspiring Stories to Strengthen Generational Bonds*.

October 28: How I Survived Being Luciano Pavarotti's Rehearsal Accompanist

From 1994 to 2005, Edie Barnard lived on the Caribbean island of Barbados. During that time, she became a citizen, taught island students about Harriet Beecher Stowe, learned to eat mangoes in the sea, and met a range of fascinating people—including, most memorably, Luciano Pavarotti. Serving as Pavarotti's rehearsal accompanist led to a series of challenging, humorous, and sometimes intimidating experiences. Learn how she navigated the terrifying, yet rewarding, rehearsals without losing her sanity.

\$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

More Male Singers - Their Lives and their Music

Part 2 is here, but no need to have attended the first session—this class stands on its own. We continue exploring some of the most influential male vocalists in popular music history. This session turns up the volume with legendary artists like Billy Joel, Phil Collins, Elton John, Rod Stewart, Roy Orbison, James Brown, James Taylor, and many more. We'll listen to key selections and learn what shaped these artists and their lasting impact on music.

\$30 – Class instructor is Don Baker, disc jockey and frequent OLLI instructor.

The Medici -

Renaissance Italy's Premier Power Brokers

From peasants, to wool merchants, to bankers, to politicians, to wealthy patrons of the Arts, to grand dukes and queens, to popes, to obscurity, the Medici presided over the Renaissance in Italy and even ascended the throne of France – twice. Join Stan Ransom as we explore the most notable people and events associated with this famous/infamous family. We will see the immense artistic and architectural treasures that remain as reminders of the dynasty's private and public empire.

\$30 – Class instructor is Stan Ransom, retired educator and frequent OLLI instructor.

Tazewell County's Historic Congressman

Since 1827, Tazewell County has been represented in Congress by a remarkable group of national leaders whose influence helped shape both state and country. This series explores those individuals across four historical eras, highlighting their service, impact, and legacy. We'll begin with the early foundations of representation, from the pre-Civil War era through World War I, featuring Shelby Cullom, Adlai Stevenson I, Dietrich Smith, and Joseph Graff. We'll continue through the Civil War era into World War I and beyond, including figures such as William Hull, Everett Dirksen, Harry Mason, and Harold Velde. Next we'll follow leadership through World War I into the post-World War II period, again highlighting key transitional figures who helped shape modern governance. The series concludes with the post-World War II era to the present day, featuring Robert Michael and Ray LaHood, offering a look at more recent congressional leadership and its continuing influence.

\$30 – Class instructor is John C. Ackerman,

Tazewell County Clerk, with guest speakers Chris Kaergard, Everett Dirksen Center, and Ray LaHood, Former United States Secretary of Transportation.

● **2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

America's Sports Car: The Corvette Journey

This class explores the history of the Chevrolet Corvette, America's longest-running sports car, from its 1953 debut to today. We will look at all eight generations (C1-C8) and see how the Corvette's style, performance, and identity have changed over time, and speculate what the next generation C9 might be. We'll highlight key innovations that helped transform it from an early roadster into a world-class sports car, including improvements in speed, handling, and design. The class also introduces the people behind the Corvette, from early designers to later engineers who shaped its direction and reputation. Their ideas and decisions will be explored in the context of the times in which they worked. Gain a deeper understanding of the Corvette and what it represents - not just as a car, but as a reflection of changing technology, culture, and American ambition.

\$30 – Class instructor is Paul Buck, current OLLI Curriculum Committee Co-Chair, and longtime member of Mid-Illinois Corvette Club.

Bloody April!

When in 1862 it Got Serious

Explore the Battle of Shiloh—how it came to be, the intensity of the ferocious fighting, and Illinois' significant role in the conflict. We'll examine the development of battlefield markers, monuments, and memorials, including how they are used and sometimes misunderstood. Drawing from a three-day visit to the Shiloh battlefield in June 2025, instructor Peter Barclay combines firsthand observation with insights gained from local historians and National Park Service staff to better understand the scale and significance of Shiloh.

\$30 – Class instructor Peter Barclay is an amateur historian and frequent OLLI instructor.

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The Illinois Property Tax Cycle and the County Government Offices Responsible for the Work

This course provides an introduction to how local government property taxation and assessment functions operate within the county. The program begins with a basic overview of the property tax system and its key components. It then examines the role of the Supervisor of Assessments Office, including its oversight of township assessors and the process used to determine property values. We'll explore the County Clerk's Office, focusing on how budgets and revenue requests from taxing bodies are compiled to establish tax rates, as well as the procedures for managing delinquent property taxes.

\$30 – Class instructor is John C. Ackerman, Tazewell County Clerk, with guest speakers Nicole Jones, Tazewell County Supervisor of Assessments, and Hannah Clark, County Treasurer.

Viral Infectious Disease in a Changing World: Updates, Emerging Threats, and Public Health Perspectives

Join faculty members from the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, all of whom are infectious disease specialists, as they explore the rapidly evolving world of viral infections. Participants will gain an up-to-date understanding of major respiratory viruses, emerging infectious threats, advances in prevention and treatment, and the complex relationship between science, public policy, and media.

October 7: Respiratory Viral Update 2026

Denise Marie A. Francisco, MD
Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases

This session will review current trends in COVID-19, RSV, influenza, and other respiratory viruses, highlighting recent developments in surveillance, prevention, treatment, and public health response.

October 14: Emerging Viral Infections 2026

Sharjeel Ahmad, MD
Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases

Gain an overview of emerging and re-emerging viral diseases, including measles, hantavirus, Ebola, and other infections that continue to shape global health concerns.

October 21: Modern Strategies for Preventing & Treating Viral Infections

Nitin Das Kunnathu Puthanveedu, MD
Department of Internal Medicine

Explore current approaches to antiviral therapies, vaccination, diagnostic testing, infection prevention and control, and public health strategies for managing viral diseases.

October 28: Viral Infections, Media, and Government

Salvador Fernandez, MD
Infectious Disease Specialist

Examine how social media, public policy, government agencies, and evolving healthcare guidance influence public understanding, decision-making, and the management of viral diseases.

\$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

The Magic of Fuels and Oils

Such ubiquitous products! You can find gasoline and diesel fuels at almost every corner globally. They are a critical part of our daily life and they propel economies everywhere. This class will present the fuels' chemical makeup, availability, quality controls, and explore potential alternatives to reduce the fuels' impact on the environment. Oils, the blood line of all engines, machines, and moving components, are a complex mix of chemicals, yet precise in composition, effective, and continuously evolving. We will debunk the mysteries of oils and how they work. The presentation will also discuss paths to reducing the environmental impact of these petroleum products.

\$30 – Class instructor is Hind Abi-Akar, she's been directly involved in the fuel and lubrications industry for many years.

Two Midterm Elections that Drew the Nation to Peoria

As voters prepare for the November midterm elections, we'll revisit two campaigns that thrust Peoria into the national spotlight. In both races, prominent leaders of the incumbent president's party found themselves in the political crosshairs: Everett Dirksen's successful 1950 challenge to Senate Majority Leader Scott Lucas of nearby Havana, and young attorney Doug Stephens' 1982 campaign against House Minority Leader Bob Michel during the economic malaise of the early Reagan years.

\$30 – Class instructor is Chris Kaergard, historian for the Dirksen Congressional Center and frequent OLLI instructor.

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OLLI Online programs are run via Zoom and can include Classes, Originals, Study Groups, and Zoom training.

ONLINE Classes

Eight of our fall classes will be held in the new hybrid learning rooms. Participants can choose to attend remotely via Zoom. The Classes listed below have been selected to be online (as well as in person). See full descriptions on pages 26-32. \$30 per person.

9:00 a.m. – 50 Years in Peoria Broadcasting

9:00 a.m. – Leonardo da Vinci:
Man, Myth, or Miracle?

10:30 a.m. – Outsmarting Scammers:
Fraud Prevention in the Digital Age

10:30 a.m. – Inside the 2026 Midterms:
What's at Stake

12:30 p.m. – Healthy Minds, Informed Choices:
Brain Health & Alzheimer's

12:30 p.m. – Look What I Did

2:00 p.m. – Bloody April:
When in 1862 it Got Serious!

2:00 p.m. – Two Midterm Elections that Drew the
Nation to Peoria

ONLINE Study Groups

Using AI Tools

Thursdays, October 1 – November 5

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

We hear that AI is everywhere and can do almost anything—but what can it really do? This group will meet weekly via Zoom. Between meetings, participants will spend 2–3 hours exploring free AI tools and practicing skills with chatbots, image creation, video creation, and more. During weekly discussions, participants will share experiences, demonstrate results, and exchange tips by sharing screens and examples. By the end of the course, everyone will have explored at least ten AI tools and learned about many others through the group. A discussion forum will be available for questions, comments, and support. Participants should try ChatGPT and Google Gemini before the first meeting.

\$45 – Facilitated by Walter Urbaniak, a retired computer network engineer and information security architect.

Seats available: 24

Beyond the Beatles: The Untold Story of the 1970s and Beyond!

Mondays, October 5 – 26

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Discover what happened after the world's greatest band stepped off the Apple rooftop. This four-session study group explores the solo careers, creative achievements, and evolving relationships of John, Paul, George, and Ringo after the 1960s. Topics include The Breakup and First Blasts (1970–1971), Chart Toppers and Plastic Icons (1972–1975), Tragedies, Comebacks, and Collaborations (1976–1989), and The Living Legacy and Anthology (1990–Present). Through music, discussion, and cultural context, participants will examine how each former Beatle shaped popular music and maintained a lasting influence long after the band's breakup. \$45 – Facilitated by Bob Yonker, experienced OLLI Study Group facilitator.

Seats available: 16

ONLINE Originals

Pundits, Polls & Politics! The 2026 Mid-term Election!

Monday, September 14

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Join Doug Stowell with Market Resource Associates for a look at the upcoming mid-term elections. On November 3, all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 seats in the Senate will be up for re-election, along with hundreds of local and state offices and issues. Turnout in presidential elections is usually around 60 percent, while midterm turnout is often closer to 40 percent. This mid-term may be more consequential than many recent elections, so we'll dig into the national issues shaping the races and look at how those issues rank by party affiliation, generation, and region. We'll also review some of the better election forecasts, conduct our own online in-class polls, and forecast party-level House and Senate results. \$10 – Zoom links will be sent the morning of the event.

Seats available: 200

Zoom Training

OLLI offers free, training sessions to help members become more comfortable with Zoom. Call (309) 677-3900 for more information.

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Member Perk

Osher Online™

This program will provide Osher members across the country with a means to connect with each other and learn together while maintaining membership at their local institute.

Online Fees and Details:

- National Osher Online \$65 per class.
- Each class consists of six 90-minute sessions which meets six consecutive weeks.
- These are live lectures via Zoom and are NOT recorded.
- The Osher NRC manages the courses and will communicate directly with registrants. You will receive an email that will include an Osher Online username and password as well as a link to the Osher Online Website, through which you will access your classes.
- Space is limited per Osher Institute – be sure to register early.

Seats available for all Osher Online: 10

Great Artists in American Roots Music Mondays, September 28 – November 2 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

From its emergence in the early 20th century, country music has resonated with those navigating a rapidly changing world. A key genre of American roots music, it expresses hardship while evoking emotion. This course explores the history of country and American roots music through the stories and artistic developments of key figures including the Carter Family, Bill Monroe, Hank Williams, and Dolly Parton.

\$65 – Taylor Ackley, PhD, is a scholar, composer, and performer of American Roots music

Art Detectives: Forgery, Provenance, and the Science of Authentication Mondays, September 28 – November 2 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

The art world may appear glamorous, but deception often lies beneath the surface. After weapons and drugs, art is the third most lucrative illicit trade, with reports suggesting

that more than half of artworks are fake or misattributed. In this course, we will ask: When is a copy simply a copy, and when is it a forgery? What techniques do master forgers use? What can science tell us about art authenticity? We will uncover riveting stories of criminal art activity and master forgeries.

\$65 – Christine Maasdam, trained in art crime investigation, is a member of the International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection and holds Sotheby's certifications in art law and appraisal.

The British Family in Film: Heavy is the Head That Wears the Crown Mondays, September 28 – November 2 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

This course examines royal succession through acclaimed British films that explore power as a moral and political crisis. We will trace the monarchy's evolution from personal rule to institutional authority. We will cover the Plantagenet struggles in *Becket* and *The Lion in Winter*; the moral costs of kingship and the performance of national leadership through *Chimes at Midnight* and *Henry V*; the Tudor rupture through *A Man for All Seasons*; and the consolidation of legitimacy in *Elizabeth*.

\$65 – Butch Epps, MFA from the UCLA School of Film and Television's graduate Producers Program

A Cosmic Grand Tour: The Realms of the Universe Tuesdays, September 29 – November 3 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

In this course, we will explore the three fascinating realms of the cosmos: nearby planets and moons; the stars; and the galaxies (the great island of stars that turn out to be the building blocks of the universe.) Our discussion will be in everyday language, without any math, and will be accompanied by remarkable color images from the latest space probes and the world's largest telescopes, including the latest breathtaking images from the James Webb Space Telescope.

\$65 – Andrew Fraknoi, retired chair of the astronomy department at Foothill College, is lead author of OpenStax Astronomy, the most frequently-used, introductory astronomy textbook in North America.

The Birth of the Beat Generation
Tuesdays, September 29 – November 3
8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

In this course, we will examine the dramatic circumstances that gave rise to the Beat Generation in the 1940s. Together, we will examine three famous Beat works: *Howl and Other Poems* by Allen Ginsberg, *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac, and *Naked Lunch* by William S. Burroughs. We will focus on historical events involving Beat writers, important passages of Beat literature, and the literary movement that spawned the 1960s counterculture. \$65 – Kurt Hemmer is the editor of the Encyclopedia of Beat Literature and has published extensively on Beat writers.

Tracing Our Roots: DNA, Family History, and the Politics of Identity
Wednesdays, September 30 – November 4
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

How does DNA reshape our understanding of ancestry and identity in the Americas? In this course, we will explore genetic genealogy through early contact between European and Indigenous peoples, using the New Mexico DNA Project as a case study. We will examine Y-DNA, mitochondrial DNA, Indigenous haplogroups, and the Spanish castas system. We will consider the ethical and political implications of DNA testing and the limits of what genetic evidence can and cannot tell us about race and belonging. \$65 – Angelo Cervantes is an anthropological genetic genealogist and founded the Iberian Peninsula DNA Institute.

Sacred Mountains of the World
Mondays, October 5 – November 9
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Across cultures and throughout history, mountains have held powerful symbolic meaning. In this course, we will explore how the Buddhists of the Himalayas, the Inca of the Andes, the Inuit of the far north, and European Romantics understood and approached these landscapes. Through an interdisciplinary lens, we will examine the beliefs, traditions, and mythologies inspired by the world's mountains. \$65 – Jonathan Duncan is a photojournalist, writer, teacher, and public speaker.



The History and Experience of Route 66
Mondays, October 5 – November 9
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Route 66 is as much an idea as it is a place. Since 1926, it has evolved from a busy highway into a symbol of nostalgia, travel, and the American road. Today, it serves as a kind of pilgrimage route, marked by neon signs and preserved roadside landmarks. In this course, we will explore its history, cultural meaning, rise and decline, revival, and preservation, while considering the future of this iconic American highway. \$65 – Peter B. Dedek, PhD is the author of *Hip to the Trip: Route 66 Centennial Edition* and *The Cemeteries of New Orleans: A Cultural History*.



Cults and New Religious Movements in America
Tuesdays, October 6 – November 10
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

America has long been fertile ground for new and alternative religions. We will examine New Religious Movements, often labeled “cults”, within the US context. We will explore why some became accepted, others faded, and some led to controversy or tragedy. We will consider both insider perspectives and outsider views while analyzing their history, beliefs, and practices. Focusing on the 18th and 19th centuries, we will work to better understand these movements and challenge common misconceptions. \$65 – Kate Davis, PhD crosses between the fields of Religious Studies, Digital Humanities, and Gender Studies with a focus on North American religions.

The 60's Through the Great Speeches
Fridays, October 9 – November 13
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The 1960s is a decade wrapped in myth and misunderstanding. In this course, we will cut through that haze by turning to something powerful and concrete: the speeches of the era. The times and the conditions demanded these significant speeches. Together, we will listen to the voices that moved a nation and shaped history. With recordings preserved through television, video, and YouTube, we will discover what these speeches still have to teach us today. \$65 – Buck Benedict is a former lecturer at Wharton and the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.

President's Letter

It is great news that we have the highest membership in the history of OLLI at Bradley.

We have over 1,350 members!

Which shows there is something for everyone. We all have our favorite ways to participate with OLLI. Some people only go on trips, some do only study groups, and some only classes. Then there is the Mix and Mingle and movie offerings as well.

Also, you have OLLI originals for that one-time special offering that lots of people can go to. Then there are people who participate in everything.

As always, the committees have come through again with a wide variety of opportunities of learning for us to choose from. They deserve a lot of credit and appreciation! No wonder our membership is the highest yet!!

Hope you sign up for what interests you and maybe pick something outside your comfort area to try something new.

Congratulations to all of our 1,350 plus members for making OLLI at Bradley what it is.



Laurie Bailey
Laurie Bailey, OLLI President

2025-2026 Fundraising Results: Strong Support, Strong Momentum



FY26 was an exceptional fundraising year for OLLI. Our goal was \$55,000 with 41% donor participation. We finished the year with \$107,855 in donations, 47% participation, and an additional \$26,700 in Caterpillar matching gifts.

We also received \$172,000 in designated gifts for specific, donor-directed projects. Those gifts are deeply meaningful and allow us to pursue special opportunities, but they are separate from the annual operating support that keeps OLLI running year after year.

That distinction matters. Annual and unrestricted gifts support our core operations, including catalogs, communications, program technology, transportation needs, staffing support, and the continued development of high-quality programs. Designated gifts help fund special projects. Both are important, but they serve different purposes.

For FY27, our goal is \$65,000 in annual support and 45% donor participation. This goal builds on our FY26 momentum while keeping our focus on sustaining the strong culture of giving that makes OLLI possible.

To make a gift, please visit: bradley.edu/supportOLLI

OLLI VOLUNTEERS: THEY GET THE JOB DONE!

OLLI volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization – thank you all very much!

Officers 2026 - 2027

President
Laurie Bailey

Vice President
Steve Garrison

Past President
Shelley Epstein

Secretary
Roberta Koscielski

Member-at-Large
Chris Esken

Curriculum Committee

John Amdall,
Co-Chair
Paul Buck, Co-Chair
Jim Anstett
Sharon Amdall
Al Audo
Laurie Bailey
Tim Bailey
Bob Balagna
Peter Barclay
Jennifer Bass
John Brady
Rick Burritt
Ben Camacho
Deb Clay
Ralph Dalton
Melody Delzell
Mary DeVries
Randy Domenighini
Bernie Drake
John Dust
Joe Emanuel

Roger French
Steve Garrison
Rick Gentry
Rae Anne Hamp
Kay Henz
Rich Henz
Sherry Hillman
Denise Hocker
Fran Kepler
Bev Ketel
Lee Maki
Janene Mattingly
John McCabe
Janet McGrath
Chris Miller
Gary Nelson
Jackie Orren
Diane Rock
Mike Salata
Don Samford
Becky Sisk
Mark Stanard
Mary Jane Sterling
David Tegg
Larry Trollope
Frank Wheeler

Study Group Committee

Denise Hocker, Co-Chair
Gary Nelson, Co-Chair
Jennifer Bass
Phyllis Baylor
Anne Bergstrom
Becky Carlson
John Cummins
Ralph Dalton
Shelley Epstein
Jane Hense
Denise Hocker
Roberta Koscielski

Jack Huggins
Kay Koch
Kathleen Kowal
Lee Maki
John McCabe
Doug McCarty
Patricia Melaik
Cindy Miller
Gary Nelson
Rob Parks
Ruth Rademaker
Diane Rock
Don Samford
Mark Stanard
David Tegg
Jenny Tripses
Bob Yonker

Learning Trip/Originals Committee

Lynn Highfill, Chair
Dave Allan
John Amdall
Sharon Amdall
Bob Balagna
Jennifer Bass
John Brady
Deb Clay
Randy Domenighini
Barb Drake
Bernie Drake
Joe Ernst
Rae Anne Hamp
Don Hartshorn
Paul Kluber
Lee Maki
Bonnie Martin
Mary McCarty
Gloria Smith-Duryea
Larry Trollope
Sue Woodruff

Your Time Can Make a Big Difference!

*Kathleen Kowal volunteers as OLLI's
Study Group Host Coordinator.*

Membership Committee

Diane Rock, Chair
Laurie Bailey
Phyllis Baylor
John Brady
Dotty Drake
Roberta Herbst
Denise Hocker
Gary Nelson
Jackie Orren
Rich Racochia
Marguerite Ross
Barney Shultz

Volunteer Committee

Deb Clay, Chair
John Amdall
Roger French
Roberta Koscielski
Ron Little
Dave Woodruff

Sponsorship Committee

Rob Parks, Chair
Ralph Dalton
Phil Jordan
Paul Kluber

John McCabe
Gary Nelson
Diane Rock
Lynette Steger
Larry Trollope

Continuing Education Staff

Michelle Riggio
Executive Director
Catherine Lawless
Associate Director
Lanada Cunningham
Program Director
Gwen Howarter
Program Coordinator
Bonnie Davis
Program Coordinator
Jake Bowers
Event Operations
Assistant
Dan Stanley
Administrative Support
Leona Reedy
Administrative Support



*OLLI honored their Volunteer Pin Award recipients
for 2026: Becky Carlson, Don Baker, Michael
Dicker, Judy Helm, Gene Olson, Chris Kaergard,
Walter Urbaniak (not pictured Sarah Allen, Lynn
Highfill, Phil Jordan, Ruth Rademaker, Nick Rae)*

Great Programs Happen Because of Great Ideas

You're invited to attend our committee meetings.

Learning Trip Committee Spring 2027

Peoria Next/Zoom hybrid meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 9:00 a.m.

Study Group Committee

Spring 2027 Peoria Next/Zoom hybrid meeting
Thursdays, October 15, 22 and
November 19, 11:30 a.m.

Winter 2027 Peoria Next/Zoom hybrid meeting
Thursday, July 23 & August 13

Curriculum Committee

Winter 2027 Peoria Next/Zoom hybrid meeting
Wednesdays, August 12 and 26, 9:00 a.m.

Spring 2027 Peoria Next/Zoom hybrid meeting
Wednesdays, November 4, 18, and
December 2, 9:00 a.m.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES

Assistive Listening Devices are available for all programs. Please call (309) 677-3900 for details.

PARKING

We offer a “park-and-ride” option so you can park in large lots near campus and enjoy drop-off service at the front door of the Michel Student Center. You may choose to park at Shea Stadium, located near the Ag Lab at the corner of University and Nebraska avenues or Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1420 W. Moss Avenue, and the OLLI shuttle will transport you to and from campus. OLLI provides park-and-ride service, because OLLI members are not allowed to park anywhere on campus, including the Visitor’s Lot. If you park on campus and receive a ticket, you will not be eligible for an appeal and will be required to pay the fine.

CLASS PARKING PERMITS

For our members taking classes who have state-issued handicapped placards or license plates AND are physically unable to utilize our door-to-door shuttle service from Shea Stadium and Westminster Church, we have a very limited supply of handicapped-accessible parking permits for use during classes. At a cost of \$10 each, these permits allow you to park in a handicapped or white-lined space on campus for all four class dates. All requests must be made via telephone to (309) 677-3900 three weeks prior to the first day of in-person classes.

DRIVING ON TRIPS

We encourage all of our trip participants to use OLLI’s shuttle transportation, as many of our trip sites have limited parking and require the group to arrive at one time. Plus, traveling as a group allows for more socializing!

Sláinte! Sisters Sherri Burritt and Mary Venzon raise a pint of Guinness during our Ireland adventure.

GUESTS/INVITE A FRIEND

If you have a friend who has never been to OLLI classes and would like him or her to attend as your guest for one free session, please contact our office at (309) 677-3900 at least one day in advance so we can have a list of available classes prepared for the visit. It is important to reserve this privilege for those who haven’t yet experienced OLLI classes.

SCHOLARSHIPS

OLLI class scholarships are available for persons who cannot afford membership fees, but who have an interest in learning and wish to participate. To request a confidential scholarship application, please contact Catherine Lawless, Associate Director of Continuing Education at clawless@bradley.edu or call her at (309) 677-3900.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs are taken during all OLLI programs. Your registration gives consent for any such photographs to be used for advertising and publicity purposes by Bradley University, its licensees, and/or member organizations, and you waive all claims for compensation for such use or for damages.

WAITLISTS

Many of our programs, especially learning trips, fill quickly. If you find a program full at the time of your registration, please ask to be placed on a waitlist so you can be called when another member cancels or if we are able to increase the program’s seating capacity.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 SG Christian Nationalism 10a-12p SG Hollywood Goes to War 12:15-2:30p SG What is Goodness? 1-3p SG Mah Jongg for Novices 3:30-5:30p	2	3 SG The Insect World 9:30-11a LT Wheels O' Time 11:15a-3:30p	4
7	8 SG Christian Nationalism 10a-12p SG Hollywood Goes to War 12:15-2:30p SG What is Goodness? 1-3p SG How Britain Changed the World, 1-3:15p OO Rock Island Trail, 1-3p SG Mah Jongg for Novices, 3:30-5:30p	9 New Member Orientation 12- 2p	10 SG Advanced Trailblazers, 9-11a SG The Insect World, 9:30-11a LT Brotherton Museum, 9:45a-2:30p SG Great Short Novel, 1-3:15p OO Gander's Ripple Effect, 5-7p	11 OO Chautauqua 10-11:30a
14 SG All's Fair in Love & War 10-11:30a	15 SG Christian Nationalism 10a-12p SG What is Goodness? 1-3p SG How Britain Changed the World, 1-3:15p OO Reel Psychology 1:30-4p LT CREW309, 2:30-6:30P SG Mah Jongg for Novices 3:30-5:30p	16 LT Route 66 8:45a-3:45p OO WTVP Now 10-12p	17 SG Advanced Trailblazers, 9-11a SG The Insect World 9:30-11a OLLI Movies <i>How Green Was My Valley,</i> 12p LT Come From Away 5-10p	18
21 SG All's Fair in Love & War 10-11:30a	22 LT Peoria City Hall, 8:45a-2p SG Christian Nationalism 10a-12p SG Hollywood Goes to War 12:15-2:30p SG What is Goodness? 1-3p SG How Britain Changed the World, 1-3:15p SG Mah Jongg for Novices 3:30-5:30p	23 Mix & Mingle Last Chance 4p	24 SG Advanced Trailblazers 9-11a SG The Insect World 9-11a LT Tanners Orchard 11:15a-4:30p SG Great Short Novel 1-3:15p	25 SG Fever in the Heartland 9-11:15a
28 SG All's Fair in Love & War 10a-11:30a	29 SG Christian Nationalism 10a-12p LT CAT's Track-Type Tractor Assembly, 10:15a-2:30p SG Hollywood Goes to War 12:15-2:30p SG How Britain Changed the World, 1-3:15p SG What is Goodness? 1-3p SG Mah Jongg for Novices 3:30-5:30p	30 LT Operation Xmas Child 8:45a-1:30p	OCT 1 SG Angelica - For Love and Country, 9-11a SG Advanced Trailblazers, 9-11a SG The Insect World 9:30-11:00a OO Birding 101 10-1p OSG AI Tools (ZOOM) 1-3:30p	OCT 2 SG Fever in the Heartland 9-11:15a LT J Draper Glass Blowing 9:45a-2:30p OO Chautauqua 10-11:30a OLLI Movies <i>Patton</i> 1-4p

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 SG All's Fair in Love & War 10–11:30a LT Raber Packing Co 11:15a–2:30p OSG Beyond the Beatles (ZOOM) 12–2p SG The Fall of Roe, 1–3:30p	6 SG Hollywood Goes to War 12:15–2:30p SG How Britain Changed the World, 1–3:15p SG What is Goodness? 1–3p SG Mah Jongg for Novices 3:30–5:30p Mix & Mingle, Pour Bros 4p	7 OLLI CLASSES Day 1	8 SG Angelica - For Love and Country, 9–11a SG Advanced Trailblazers, 9–11a LT WEEK TV 9:45a - 2:15p OO Freedom Paws, 1–3:00p SG Great Short Novel 1–3:15p SG Make Brain Best Friend, 1–3:20p OSG AI Tools (ZOOM) 1–3:30p	9 LT Miller Park Zoo 7:30a–2p SG Fever in the Heartland 9–11:15a
12 SG All's Fair in Love & War 10–11:30a OSG Beyond the Beatles (ZOOM) 12–2p SG The Fall of Roe, 1–3:30p	13 LT Forest Park Nature Hike 12:30–4:45p SG What is Goodness? 1–3p SG Mah Jongg for Novices 3:30–5:30p	14 OLLI CLASSES Day 2	15 LT IL American Water 8:45a–1:30p SG Angelica - For Love and Country, 9–11a SG Make Brain Best Friend, 1–3:20p OSG AI Tools (ZOOM) 1–3:30p	16 SG Fever in the Heartland 9–11:15a SG Stories of Your Life 10a–12:15p
19 LT Midwest Food Bank 10:45a–3:15p OSG Beyond the Beatles (ZOOM) 12–2p SG The Fall of Roe 1–3:30p	20 SG Women Painters 9:30–11a SG What is Goodness? 1–3p SG Mah Jongg for Novices 3:30–5:30p OO Reel Psychology 1:30–4p	21 OLLI CLASSES Day 3	22 LT Dirksen Center 8:30a–1:30p SG Angelica - For Love and Country, 9–11a SG Great Short Novel 1–3:15p SG Make Brain Best Friend, 1–3:20p OSG AI Tools (ZOOM) 1–3:30p	23 LT Mabuhay Leather 9:15a–2:30p SG Stories of Your Life 10a–12:15p
26 OSG Beyond the Beatles (ZOOM) 12–2p SG The Fall of Roe 1–3:30p	27 LT Adv Medical Transport 8:45a–1:30p SG Women Painters 9:30–11a	28 OLLI CLASSES Day 4	29 LT America at the PRM 9:45a–2p SG Make Brain Best Friend, 1–3:20p OSG AI Tools (ZOOM) 1–3:30p	30 SG Stories of Your Life 10a–12:15p

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 SG Women Painters 9:30–11a SG Trailblazers Light 1–2:30p SG Mary Magdalene 1–3p	4 OO Inside FOLEPI 4–5p	5 SG Great Short Novel 1–3:15p OSG AI Tools (ZOOM) 1–3:30p	6 SG Stories of Your Life 10a–12:15a
9	10 SG Women Painters 9:30–11a SG Trailblazers Light 1–2:30p SG Mary Magdalene 1–3p	11 OO Autonomous Cars 1–3p	12 OO Invented in Peoria 1–3p	13 SG Stories of Your Life 10a–12:15p
16	17 SG Women Painters 9:30–11a LT Whiskey Capital 10a–2p SG Trailblazers Light 1–2:30p SG Mary Magdalene 1–3p OO Reel Psychology 1:30–4p	18 OLLI Movies <i>Miracle on 34th St</i> 12–2p	19 SG Great Short Novel 1–3:15p	20 SG Stories of Your Life 10a–12:15p
23	24 SG Trailblazers Light 1–2:30p SG Mary Magdalene 1–3p	25	26	27
		Bradley Campus Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday		
30 OO Whiskey Tasting 101 1–4p	DEC 1 SG Mary Magdalene 1–3p	DEC 2	DEC 3 OLLI Movies 9 to 5 11a–1 p	DEC 4
DEC 7	DEC 8	DEC 9	DEC 10	DEC 11
DEC 14	DEC 15	DEC 16 Mix & Mingle CXT Campustown 10a	DEC 17	DEC 18

Fall 2026 Registration

REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK: MONDAY, AUGUST 3 at 8 a.m. through FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 at 4 p.m.

Instead of immediate registration, you will request programs at any time throughout the Registration Request week, and later pay for those for which you've been registered.

NO Payment due during registration request week!

Six Steps to a Smooth Registration

- 1 Select ONLY the programs you PLAN to participate in.
- 2 Check selected programs on the OLLI calendar to make sure they don't conflict. **Note: Osher Online programs are not reflected on the calendar.*
- 3 Prioritize your Programs in order of your top choice across all programs: first as #1, second as #2, and so on. Add your programs to your cart in that order.
- 4 Register your way: online, in person, drop off/mail in, or via phone.
- 5 **IMPORTANT! You must receive a Registration Request confirmation via email to ensure your registration requests have been received.** This email will come from Bradley Cont Ed: continue@continuing.bradley.edu. If you do NOT receive an email, please contact olli@bradley.edu by at least 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7 to confirm your registration has been processed.
- 6 On Tuesday, August 11 at 4:00 p.m. you may go to your account to see what you are enrolled in, what you are waitlisted for, and to pay your account balance.



Fall 2026 Registration

REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK:
MONDAY, AUGUST 3 at 8 a.m. through
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 at 4 p.m.



Register Your Way

1. Online

IMPORTANT: When registering online, the order in which you request programs and place them in your cart will determine their priority.

- Visit bradley.edu/olli
- Click the red **REGISTER FOR OLLI** button
- Click to Sign In or Create New Account
- First request quarterly membership
- Add program requests to your cart in order of priority by clicking "**Request Program**"
- Review your choices, then click "**Check Out**"
- No payment is due during Registration Request Week
- You will soon receive an email confirmation that your requests have been received
- To review or change your priorities before August 7 at 4 p.m.:
 - Sign in to your account
 - Click "**Account**"
 - Click "**Course Priorities**" and remove/reorder programs

2. In-Person

No appointment needed! Staff will be available to help you register online!

- **Monday, August 3 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
- Peoria Next located at 801 W Main Street.

There is a large parking lot, accessible entrance, and no appointment needed to get registration help.

You may also make an appointment to visit our Continuing Education office in Westlake Hall on **Tuesday, August 4, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

3. Mail-in or Drop-off

- All mailed or dropped-off forms **MUST** be received by **Friday, August 7, at 4:00 p.m.**
- Forms received after that date will be processed after prioritization on August 12.
- **Mail-in** pages 44-46 to:
Bradley University
Continuing Education, Attn: OLLI
1501 W. Bradley Ave., Peoria, IL 61625
- **Drop-off:**
Westlake Hall, Suite 104
Glenwood Ave./Tobias Lane

4. Phone Support

- 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 5
- Thursday, August 6
- Friday, August 7

Due to the increasingly high volume of calls, we ask that you only call during these times if you require phone-only assistance. This enables our staff to process your requests as efficiently as possible.

Notification and Payment

You will receive an email confirmation on **Tuesday, August 11** with your enrollment status (registered or waitlisted) and the amount owed.

Need to drop a requested program? Contact our office BEFORE paying so we can adjust your total. You won't be able to remove the program until then.

Preferred Payment Process

- Visit bradley.edu/olli
- Click "**Sign In**" to Your Account
- Click "**Account**" in the top red bar
- Click "**Make a Payment**" at left, then click "**Pay**" and choose "**Credit Card**"
- Click "**Add Payment**"
- Verify your billing address, enter your payment details, click "**Pay**" to complete your transaction
- If paying by check, make it payable to Bradley University and mail to address listed in step #3.

Important Reminders

- You must receive a Registration Request confirmation via email to ensure your registration requests have been received.
- You will receive an email on August 11 regarding your program status and payment.
- Payments must be received by **Thursday, August 27 to secure your registration.**
- Contact the staff for assistance (309) 677-3900 or olli@bradley.edu

IMPORTANT: Mail delivery delays may affect your submission. Your registration is only confirmed once you receive an email confirmation or verify with the office.

Fall 2026 Registration

ONE REGISTRATION FORM
PER PERSON

Step 1: RANK YOUR PROGRAMS

Rank all of your program choices in order of priority #1, #2 #3 etc in the first column. **Reminder, there can only be one #1 across all programs.**

Step 2: CHOOSE HOW TO REGISTER

See page 43 for details.

DEADLINE: Registration Request Week forms must be in the office by **4:00 pm on Friday, August 7.**

For registration on or after Wednesday, August 12, mail in your forms anytime.

Step 3: REGISTRANT INFO

Preferred First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Primary Number (check one) ☐ Home ☐ Cell

Email _____

Are you a Bradley alum? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*By registering for fall programs we will automatically add you to OLLI's weekly email and the mailing list for our quarterly catalog.

Step 4: PAYMENT INFORMATION



NO payment due during Registration Request Week! See Page 43 for details.

For those registering August 12 or after:

Learning Trips.....	\$ _____	+
Study Groups.....	\$ _____	+
Originals.....	\$ _____	+
Mix and Mingles.....	\$ _____	+
Movies.....	\$ _____	+
Classes.....	\$ _____	+
Lunches.....	\$ _____	+
OLLI Online.....	\$ _____	+
Osher Online.....	\$ _____	+
OLLI Quarterly Membership Fee*.....	\$ <u>5.00</u>	=

*Paid only once in Sept-Dec TOTAL DUE = \$ _____

Payment Information for those registering August 12 or after:

☐ Check (Payable to Bradley University)

DO NOT SEND A CHECK with your initial registration. We will contact you via phone or email with the amount owed after your registration has been processed.

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Print name as appears on card _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Card billing address _____

To speak with staff about your payment: (309) 677-3900

Step 5: READ & SIGN WAIVER

Photographs are taken during all OLLI programs. Your membership gives consent for any such photographs to be used for advertising and publicity purposes by Bradley University, its licensees, and/or member organizations, and you waive all claims for compensation for such use or for damages.

All OLLI participants are required to read and sign this assumption of risk, release, and waiver. Your signature confirms that you have read and agree to the cancellation policy, meet the activity level requirements, agree to abide by the safety guidelines of Bradley University staff and each host organization, and recognize and accept the risks and conditions of the classes, study groups, and trips. You acknowledge that participation involves some personal risk. For each trip, you will wear closed-toed shoes and agree to use any other safety equipment required by the host site (including any COVID protocols in place). You will assume the risks and responsibilities regarding your participation and hold Bradley University and its agents harmless.

Signature _____

Date _____



Enjoying this catalog?

This publication is made possible by OLLI donors. Thank you for your support.



Fall 2026 Registration

Step 1: SELECT & RANK YOUR PROGRAMS

IMPORTANT: Rank ALL of your program choices in order of priority – #1, #2, #3, etc. Put your priority rank # in the first column.

Overall, there can only be ONE #1, ONE #2, etc. across ALL programs you choose below.

Priority #	Program	Date/s	Fee	Seats
LEARNING TRIPS				
Activity Level 1				
	CREW309	9/15	\$45	28
	<i>Come From Away</i>	9/17	\$65	28
	Operation Christmas Child	9/30	\$40	28
	J. Draper Glass Blowing	10/2	\$70	28
	Raber Packing Company	10/5	\$40	28
	Dirksen Congressional Ctr.	10/22	\$40	28
	Mabuhay Leather Craft	10/23	\$65	28
	Whiskey Capital	11/17	\$50	27
Activity Level 2				
	The Brotherton Museum	9/10	\$45	28
	Mother Road Route 66	9/16	\$65	28
	Advanced Medical Transport	10/27	\$40	28
	Peoria City Hall/Mayor Ali	9/22	\$45	28
	Illinois American Water Co.	10/15	\$40	28
	Midwest Food Bank	10/19	\$40	28
	America 250 at PRM	10/29	\$45	28
	WEEK TV Studio	10/8	\$40	28
Activity Level 3				
	Wheels O' Time Museum	9/3	\$50	28
	Tanners Orchard	9/24	\$50	28
	Caterpillar's Track-Type...	9/29	\$45	28
	Miller Park Zoo	10/9	\$55	28
	Forest Park Nature Center	10/13	\$45	28

STUDY GROUPS				
	Christian Nationalism	9/1 - 9/29	\$45	12
	Hollywood Goes to War!	9/1 - 10/6	\$45	20
	What is Goodness	9/1 - 10/20	\$45	20
	Mah Jongg for Novices	9/1 - 10/20	\$45	13
	The Insect World	9/3 - 10/1	\$45	20
	Britain Changed World	9/8 - 10/6	\$45	22
	Advanced Trailblazers	9/10 - 10/8	\$45	18
	...Great Short Novel	9/10 - 11/19	\$45	18
	All's Fair in Love and War?	9/14 - 10/12	\$45	18
	Fever in the Heartland	9/25 - 10/16	\$45	20
	Angelica	10/1 - 10/22	\$45	20
	The Fall of Roe	10/5 - 10/26	\$45	20
	Make Brain Best Friend	10/8 - 10/29	\$45	18
	Writing Stories of Life	10/16 - 11/20	\$45	16
	Women Painters	10/20 - 11/17	\$45	20
	Trailblazers Light	11/3 - 11/24	\$45	18
	Mary Magdalene Revealed	11/3 - 12/1	\$45	20
ORIGINALS				
	History of Rock Island Trail	9/8	FREE	30
	Gander's Ripple Effect	9/10	\$15	100
	Peoria Chautauqua	9/11	\$20	40
	Reel Psychology w/M. Getz	9/15	FREE	13
	WTVP Now	9/16	\$10	30
	Wildlife Prairie Park: Birding	10/1	\$40	40
	Freedom Paws Service Dogs	10/8	\$15	100
	Inside FOLEPI	11/4	\$10	40
	Autonomous Cars	11/11	\$15	100
	Invented in Peoria	11/12	\$15	100
	Whiskey Tasting 101	11/30	\$40	20
MIX AND MINGLES				
	Last Chance Bar & Grill	9/23	FREE	40
	Pour Bros Taproom	10/6	FREE	40
	CXT Campustown	12/16	FREE	40
MOVIES				
	<i>How Green Was My Valley</i>	9/17	\$5	190
	<i>Patton</i>	10/2	\$5	190
	<i>Miracle on 34th Street</i>	11/18	FREE	190
	<i>9 to 5</i>	12/3	\$5	190

Fall 2026 Registration

Seat Availability is not listed for classes since they do not usually fill up, we suggest putting other programs like trips and study groups as a higher priority.

CLASSES: October 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026 \$30 per class; Choose 1, 2, 3, or all 4 times slots.	
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	\$30
50 Years in Peoria Broadcasting	
Discover the World of Native Plants	
Exercise as Medicine	
Exploring the Universe with James Webb Telescope	
Leonardo da Vinci: Man, Myth, or Miracle?	
Remember the Ladies: Women in American Revolution	
Travel Photography for Everyday Explorers	
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	\$30
American Music? Exploring a Musical Melting Pot	
Electric Dreams vs. Diesel Reality: CityLink	
Hockey: History, Rules, and the Peoria Connection	
Inside the 2026 Midterms: What's at Stake	
Innovations and Discoveries in Agriculture	
Outsmarting Scammers: Fraud Prevention	
People Helping People: ... in Central Illinois	
...But It's Always The Supreme Court	
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	\$30
Energy: Challenging Times Ahead/Potential Solutions	
From Peoria to Pots Stills: History of American Whiskey	
Healthy Minds, Informed Choices: Brain Health	
Literary Lions: Insights Into the Lives of Four Authors	
Look What I Did	
More Male Singers - Their Lives and their Music	
The Medici - Renaissance Italy's Premier Power Brokers	
Tazewell County's Historic Congressman	
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	\$30
America's Sports Car: The Corvette Journey	
Bloody April! When in 1862 it Got Serious	
The Illinois Property Tax Cycle...	
Viral Infectious Disease in a Changing World	
The Magic of Fuels and Oils	
Two Midterm Elections that Drew the Nation to Peoria	

LUNCHES DURING CLASS DAYS			
	Turkey wrap with cranberry jam, housemade chips with dip	10/7	\$14.50
	Grilled chicken breast, mushrooms, green beans, mashed potatoes	10/14	\$14.50
	Soup and salad bar	10/21	\$14.50
	Oven roasted pork, mac and cheese, fingerling potatoes	10/28	\$14.50

ONLINE CLASSES: October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2026 \$30 per class; Choose 1, 2, 3, or all 4 times slots.

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	\$30
50 Years in Peoria Broadcasting	
Leonardo da Vinci: Man, Myth, or Miracle	
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	\$30
Outsmarting Scammers: Fraud Prevention	
Inside the 2026 Midterms: What's at Stake	
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	\$30
Healthy Minds, Informed Choices: Brain Health	
Look What I Did	
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	\$30
Bloody April - When in 1862 it Got Serious	
Two Midterm Elections that Drew the Nation to Peoria	

OLLI ONLINE

	Pundits Polls	9/14	\$10	200
	Using AI Tools	10/1 - 11/5	\$45	24
	Beyond the Beatles	10/5 - 26	\$45	16

OSHER ONLINE

	Great Artists in American Roots	9/28 - 11/2	\$65	10
	Art Detectives	9/28 - 11/2	\$65	10
	The British Family in Film	9/28 - 11/2	\$65	10
	A Cosmic Grand Tour	9/29 - 11/3	\$65	10
	The Birth of the Beat Generation	9/29 - 11/3	\$65	10
	Tracing Our Roots	9/30 - 11/4	\$65	10
	Sacred Mountains of the World	10/5 - 11/9	\$65	10
	History and Experience of Rt. 66	10/5 - 11/9	\$65	10
	Cults and Religious Movements...	10/6 - 11/10	\$65	10
	The 60's - the Great Speeches	10/9 - 11/13	\$65	10

IMPORTANT

Reminders from OLLI

DEADLINES

- **Friday, August 7** Registration Request forms **DUE** in our office. Registration requests are only confirmed once you receive an email confirmation or verify with the office.
- **Thursday, August 27**
Registrations not paid by this date may be cancelled.



REGISTRATION SUPPORT

- **Monday, August 3:** In-person registration assistance at Peoria Next 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, August 4:** By appointment assistance at our Westlake Hall office
- **Wednesday, August 5 – Friday, August 7:** Phone support

Due to high call volume, phone assistance is only available August 5 – 7. We encourage members to take advantage of earlier in-person support options if possible.

ALERT! COMMUNICATION COMES BY EMAIL

All confirmations, reminders, updates, and itinerary revisions are sent via email. Program details, including meeting locations and times, will be shared in advance of each event.



To stay up to date, please check your inbox regularly and add olli@bradley.edu and continue@continuing.bradley.edu to your email contacts to ensure our messages are delivered to your inbox rather than your junk or spam folder.

SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION REMINDER

To help ensure a smooth experience for everyone, participants are strongly encouraged to ride the OLLI shuttle transportation provided for learning trips. If you are unable to ride the shuttle and need to drive separately, please notify the OLLI office at least 10 days in advance so accommodations can be reviewed and coordinated with trip staff and hosts.





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Fall Registration
Request Week
August 3 - 7



See page 4
for details!

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