

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Bradley University

**EXPLORE | CONNECT | LEARN**

OLLI

**SPRING 2026**



**SPRING REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK  
BEGINS FEBRUARY 2-6**

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INSTITUTE  
**OLLI** **BRADLEY**  
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# 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 1,000+ 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 Italy and Iceland to Croatia and the Grand Canyon, we are ready to go.

## HOW TO



## WITH OLLI

**Phone:** (309) 677-3900  
**Address:** Westlake Hall, Suite 104, NEW Glenwood Ave./Tobias Lane  
**Mailing Address:** 1501 W. Bradley Ave.  
**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](http://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. Walk & Wellness Chat with Bradley Students, page 26
2. Mix & Mingles, page 28



## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Wednesday, March 11  
10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

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

# SPRING KICK OFF:

## *Volunteer Thank You & Recognition Event*

Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Bradley's Peplow Pavilion Hayden-Clark Alumni Center  
Cost \$5 | Free parking available in the Main Street deck

Catch up with friends, meet new people, and  
enjoy light appetizers & cash bar

Presentation by the Bradley University Speech Team (BUST),  
a nationally renowned forensics program

## SAVE THE DATE VOICES AND VISIONARIES

OLLI Distinguished Lecture Series - November 10, 2026  
with White House photographer Pete Souza



**May 4 - 8**

Summer  
Registration  
Request Week

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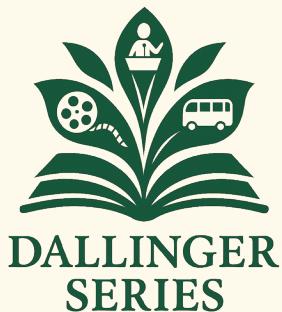


If you don't have time for OLLI during the day,  
check out our evening offerings!

**Dallinger Series, p. 5**  
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Spring 2026, Issue No. 120. 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.

# The Dallinger Series



## HONORING A LEGACY of Lifelong Learning, Community, and Connection

We are honored to launch the **Dallinger Series**, created in memory of longtime member **Kathleen (Kathy) Dallinger**, who left a generous gift in her estate to support our OLLI program. Known for her love of reading, generosity, and community organizing, she was a champion of both local causes and women's empowerment.

Each year the series will celebrate her legacy by featuring a thematic program each quarter. Kathy's gift ensures her spirit lives on through inspiring all to flourish through learning and connecting to others. In addition to the author event below, there will also be a study group to explore this biography on Rankin who was a suffragist, peace activist, and more. See details on p. 16

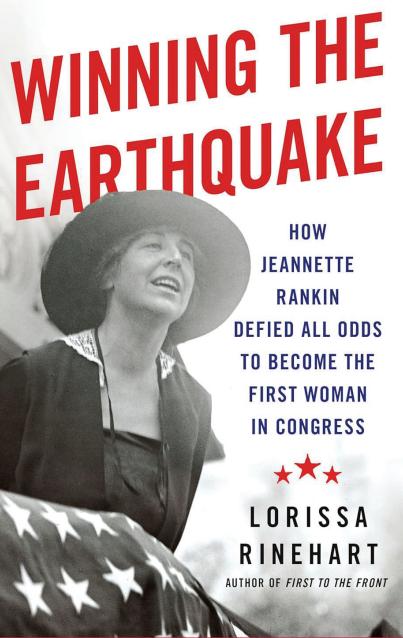
For our inaugural year, our 2026 Dallinger Series theme will be:  
*Honoring Her Legacy: A Celebration of Women's Voices and Empowerment.*



*Kathy Dallinger*

LEARN MORE  
ABOUT ESTATE  
GIVING ON P. 35

## JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST DALLINGER SERIES EVENT: AN EVENING WITH LORISSA RINEHART



Author of *Winning the Earthquake: How Jeannette Rankin Defied All Odds to Become the First Woman in Congress*

**Tuesday, March 24 | 6:00 p.m.  
Bradley University's | Hayden-Clark Alumni Center  
Peplow Pavilion**

Cost: \$10 Registration required

Join us for an inspiring conversation with Lorissa Rinehart as she discusses her new book, *Winning the Earthquake*, which brings to life the extraordinary story of Jeannette Rankin, America's first congresswoman, who defied the odds to change the course of American history. Rinehart will share insights into Rankin's courage, activism, and lasting legacy, which perfectly complements the spirit of the series. A book sale and author signing will take place after the talk.

# Learning Trips

Learning trips are educational travel experiences that enable you to interact with experts who offer behind-the-scenes insights into local 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 Shell 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 the shuttle with minimal assistance, climb some stairs, and walk a few blocks indoors or out.

#### *OLLI at the Theatre: Bright Star* ◆◆◆◆

**Thursday, March 12**

**5:00 – 11:00 p.m.**

Join OLLI for a performance of *Bright Star*, a musical at Peoria Players community theater. Inspired by a true story and featuring the Tony-nominated score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, *Bright Star* tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in 1945-46 with flashbacks to 1923. We'll have the chance to meet with Madison Motyl, the play's director, as she shares insights after the show and gives a short behind-the-scenes tour. We'll also meet with Brayn Blanks, Peoria Players board member and frequent director of local theatre programs.

\$65 – includes tickets to play, talk with the director, dinner at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

#### *Peoria Sculptures and Monuments* ◆◆◆◆

**Thursday, March 26 OR**

**Tuesday, April 7**

**10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

In honor of the late Jim Ludwig, who originally designed this one-of-a-kind experience, OLLI volunteers Bernie Drake and John Amdall will serve as our guides. Ranging from Lydia Moss Bradley to Mother Teresa, from religious figures to a famous agnostic, from silly to serious, we will see a surprisingly rich and varied collection of public sculpture in plain sight but that we don't really notice. We'll drive by dozens, stop at a few, and hear some history and anecdotes about treasures of the community.

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

**Seats available: 13**

## Inside Bradley's New Barton Clinic:

### A PT Experience Tour

**Monday, April 20**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Experience Bradley University's new Glen and Polly Barton Clinic for Fitness and Function, opened in fall 2025. Our tour will be led by Dr. Stacie Bertram, Bradley alum and the first faculty member hired for the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. Discover how the DPT program's exceptional 100% graduation, licensure, and employment rates reflect its strengths in hands-on training, expert mentorship, and real-world clinical practice. The Barton Clinic is a pro-bono facility offering free, evidence-based physical therapy to uninsured and underinsured members of the Peoria community. Staffed by faculty and DPT students, the clinic provides high-quality care and gives students invaluable experience.

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

## Peoria's Past Revealed:

### A Guided History Tour

**Friday, May 1**

**8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Led by longtime Peoria educator and community leader Mike Plunkett, this engaging bus tour uncovers the stories that shaped the city. We'll begin at Trefzger's Bakery, then travel along scenic Grandview Drive to admire its iconic historic homes and sweeping river views. We'll see the Dan Fogelberg Memorial, explore historic High Street, and stop at sites connected to Peoria's past as a once "wide open city," including the location tied to Bernie Shelton's murder. This tour traces Peoria's remarkable transformation from a rough-and-tumble river town into an All-American city.

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

**Seats available: 13**

## Bald Eagles in Tazewell County

**Thursday, May 14**

**9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Hear the heartwarming story of how a Bald Eagle nest brought a neighborhood together in Cincinnati Township. We'll visit the home of local eagle enthusiast Mark Werner for an exclusive chance to observe an active Bald Eagle nest and eagle behavior up close. Over the past three seasons, this nest has successfully fledged four eaglets. Spotting scopes provided by the Peoria Audubon Society will offer excellent views of the

anticipated 2026 arrivals. If you have them, bring your binoculars, and your enthusiasm for this memorable eagle experience

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

## 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.

## EP!C

**Tuesday, March 3**

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

For nearly 75 years, EP!C has been dedicated to enriching the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Join us for an inspiring behind-the-scenes tour to see how this organization fulfills its mission to "Empower People and Inspire Capabilities." We will explore the vibrant EP!Casso Art Studio, where individuals express their creativity through painting and ceramics, and visit the EP!C Harvest Garden and Greenhouse to learn about their unique agriculture and market program. We will also hear about their employment services and community living options that foster independence and dignity for the individuals they serve.

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

## America 250:

### The Nation's Largest Exhibition | PRM

**Thursday, March 5**

**9:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Join us for a monumental exploration of American history at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. We will experience America 250, an ambitious exhibition anticipated to be the largest of its kind in the country celebrating the United States' semiquincentennial. We'll have a private tour with Zac Zetterberg, the museum's Curator of Art and Exhibitions. He'll guide us through a collection of rare documents, founding artifacts, and historical treasures that are rarely seen together. This exclusive look offers a deep dive into the people, events, and ideas that have shaped our nation over the last two and a half centuries.

\$35 – includes curator-led tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

## Welcome to the Circus! Illinois State University



**Friday, March 20**

**10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Join OLLI as we head to Illinois State University, home of the Gamma Phi Circus, the oldest collegiate circus in the nation. From its beginning in 1929, Gamma Phi has established itself as a unique performance troupe, supporting acrobatic and circus arts in higher education, and continuing the legacy of circus history in the state of Illinois. We'll also visit the Circus and Allied Arts Collection – which contains over one million items ranging from books (their oldest circus book dates to the 1500s), performance contracts, cashbooks/ledgers, correspondence, and still images in a variety of formats from glass plate negatives to Kodachrome slides. We will finish our tour with a unique opportunity to observe a practice session to see how collegiate circus performers learn their skills.

\$45 – includes lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

## Proctor Recreation Center and Moonlight Coalition



**Thursday, April 9**

**9:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Travel to the heart of Peoria's South Side to explore the historic Proctor Recreation Center, a cornerstone of the community for over a century. We will tour the facility, which features two gymnasiums, an auditorium, and a swimming pool, and learn about its vital role in providing a safe, engaging environment for youth and families through the Peoria Park District. During our visit, we will also meet with leaders from the Moonlight Coalition for Adult Learning. We will hear about their inspiring mission to break the cycle of poverty by providing free GED instruction, literacy programs, and mentorship to adults in the community. Discover how this unique partnership is transforming lives through education and recreation.

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

*OLLI members are all ears as they learn more about Peoria's iconic City Hall.*

## Getz Fire Equipment Company



**Thursday, April 23**

**11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The Getz family is opening the doors of their Adams Street facility to introduce OLLI to this diversified company and how it has grown into a multi-million dollar business. We'll learn how the company's 125 specialists provide fire protection, first aid and safety supplies, security, and high-pressure cleaning to its residential, commercial, and industrial clients. Our visit to the 30,000 square foot building will include a look at the fire extinguisher pressure test rooms, recharge rooms, and training areas as we learn about the critical science of fire protection.

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

## Peoria County Courthouse



**Friday, May 8**

**8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Go behind the scenes of county government with a visit to the Peoria County Courthouse. Located in the heart of downtown, this hub of judicial and administrative activity serves as the center of county operations. We will be joined by Peoria County Administrator Scott Sorrel, who will provide an insider's overview of how the county is managed, from budget to daily operations. Additionally, we will meet with a sitting judge to gain a unique perspective on the judicial process and the inner workings of the court system. The trip includes a tour of the facility and a discussion on the current challenges and opportunities facing Peoria County.

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**





*It was a beautiful day to pose with the Everett Dirksen statue on our learning trip to the Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin.*

### Saffron Social ◇◇◆◆

**Monday, May 18**

**10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Join owner Travis Mohlenbrink for a tour of Saffron Social. Drawing on his experience with his other successful restaurant ventures including: Cracked Pepper, Cayenne, Industry Brewing, Thyme, and Sugar Wood Fired Bistro—Travis will discuss how his menu and interior design combine to offer guests a unique experience. We will tour the restaurant, then hear first-hand how he transformed the old Block and Kuhl Building in the heart of Peoria's downtown into his latest restaurant adventure. We will indulge in some of Saffron Social's signature offerings as we enjoy lunch at the restaurant.

\$45 – includes guided tour, lunch at Saffron Social, gratuities, 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.

### Forensic Science at Illinois State University

◆◆◆◆

**Tuesday, March 10**

**8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Join Dr. William Lally for a fascinating look inside the world of forensic science at Illinois State University's new crime laboratory. During

this guided tour, Dr. Lally will demonstrate key investigative techniques used in modern crime labs—including fingerprint analysis, ballistics testing, bloodstain pattern interpretation, and trace evidence collection. Please note: some materials and demonstrations may include graphic content. \$45 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

### Camp Wokanda: The Art of Maple Syrup ◇◆◆◆

**Wednesday, March 25**

**9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Travel to the bluffs above the Illinois River for a sweet adventure at Camp Wokanda. Known for its rich history and 316 acres of woodland, the camp transforms each year into a hub for maple syrup production. During this outdoor experience, we will take a guided walk through the "sugar bush" to learn the science and history behind tapping trees. We will visit the sugar shack to see the evaporator in action, watching the fascinating process of boiling clear sap into amber syrup. Of course, we'll finish with a tasting of Camp Wokanda's fresh, pure maple syrup.

\$45 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

### Princeville Clydesdales Breeding Farm ◇◆◆◆

**Tuesday, April 14 OR**

**Tuesday, May 12**

**8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Join us on this visit to a Clydesdale breeding farm in rural Princeville that houses 20-30 adult horses year-round. We should see some young foals as we learn about the complete operation and its partner facility in Canada. Our host, Kendra Knobloch, will explain breeding, foaling, sourcing food, medical care, training to harness, showing, and even what happens to composted manure.

\$45 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

### Tres Rojas Winery ◇◆◆◆

**Thursday, April 16**

**10:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Learn about wine making and wine tasting with this behind-the-scenes look at Tres Rojas Winery, located just west of Washington in Tazewell County. Lisa and Bob Barry, owners of the new vineyard, will guide our private tour of the vineyard

and production area, and talk about the process of winemaking, vine to glass. They will share their story and even offer advice on pruning your backyard grapevines or home wine-making. Our tour will include a tasting of at least five wines. \$45 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

**General Wayne A. Downing  
Peoria International Airport** 

**Friday, April 24**

**9:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Join Director Gene Olson for an exclusive, behind the scenes look at the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport. During our visit, we'll learn how the terminal is able to serve approximately 1 million people annually as we tour the ticket counters, inbound baggage facilities, passenger screening rooms, waiting areas, and jet bridges of this 125,000 square-foot facility.

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

**Malvern Lane in the Spring with  
Dan Callahan** 

**Tuesday, April 28**

**8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Explore early season flora on Malvern Lane, a vestige of Peoria's past located off Moss Avenue. Spring ephemeral wildflowers bloom in abundance on the hillsides flanking this brick

corridor. Catch a glimpse of dogtooth violets, trout lilies, Virginia bluebells, and white violets. The lane remains the most intact connector between the bluff and the valley of the half dozen originally built. We'll also stop by Westminster Presbyterian Church, an architecturally significant house of worship built in 1898 with many innovative features. Don't miss the opportunity to explore this mostly hidden street.

\$35 – includes guided tour, and catered lunch at Westminster Community Center.

**Seats available: 28**

**Springdale Cemetery** 

**Tuesday, May 5**

**8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

In the 1850s Peoria was a growing community and needed a new cemetery. Three gentlemen, who owned land along the river bluffs north of the downtown, felt their land was perfect for a park/garden style of cemetery then popular in the United States. Incorporated in 1855, Springdale Cemetery is the oldest chartered cemetery in Illinois. With over 70,000 burials, Springdale stories tell the history of Peoria. On this OLLI trip you will hear some of that history while also learning about the various styles of burial and cemetery art on display in Springdale. Our guide is Bernie Drake, OLLI member and Peoria Historical Society tour guide.

\$35 – includes lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 27**



*Bradley University physical therapy graduate students joined OLLI on a walk through Bradley Park to talk about wellness and enjoy the outdoors.*

## Root Cemetery with Dave Pittman ◇◇◇

**Tuesday, May 26**

**8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Root Cemetery offers a remarkable opportunity to explore geology, biology, and human history in one quiet, meaningful landscape. Guided by David Pittman, this walking tour invites participants to slow down, observe, and connect across time. Shaped by massive glaciers and catastrophic Ice Age floods, the land reveals evidence of moraines, wind-blown loess soils, and the former path of the mighty Mississippi River. As we walk, Dave will discuss how beneath our feet lies a rare 2.5-acre savanna ecosystem, once common across Illinois, now preserved with native grasses like big bluestem and Indian grass, wildflowers, and butterflies that tell the ecological story of the prairie's past and future. Interwoven with this natural history is the human story: Indigenous peoples, early French and American settlers, and nearly 150 pioneer burials dating back to 1833, including Civil War veterans whose lives shaped early Chillicothe.

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

## Greater Peoria Sanitary and Sewage Disposal District ◇◇◇

**Wednesday, May 27**

**8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The Greater Peoria Sanitary and Sewage Disposal District (GPSD) is a special governmental unit organized in 1927 to treat sewage before it is discharged into the Illinois River. During our visit, we'll learn how wastewater is collected and treated in the 700 miles of pipes, find out how the plant treats an average of 25 million gallons annually\*, and take a look at how the laboratory monitors the treatment process in order to meet the federal requirements.

\$35 – includes guided tour, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and shuttle transportation.

**Seats available: 28**

*OLLI members enjoy their time to socialize over lunch during a recent learning trip.*

## Regional Trip

Spend time with OLLI enjoying travel throughout Illinois and nearby states. The price of each trip varies but includes meal, charter coach transportation, entrance fees, gratuities, snacks, and tour guides. Please note – all times listed are approximate and subject to change.

### Earthmoving Legacy Center in Elkader, Iowa with Pat Sullivan ◇◇◇

**Wednesday, April 29**

**6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Join Peoria's very own Pat Sullivan as we travel to the quaint Midwestern town of Elkader, Iowa where the Irish Kelleher family immigrated in the 1700s. We will begin our tour at the Earthmoving Legacy Center, a 38,000 square foot facility that showcases the rich history of earthmoving. Their collection spans from the 1880's to 1940, focusing primarily on the evolution of the Caterpillar Company and showcases early tracktype tractors from Caterpillar, Holt Manufacturing and C.L. Best Manufacturing. Next, we'll stop at Mobile Track Solutions (MTS) to get a behind-the-scenes look at their construction-grade equipment solutions and learn more about how they design, research, test, produce, and assemble their products all in-house. We will also have the opportunity to meet John Moyna, owner of Mobile Track Solutions.

\$150 – includes guided tour and entry fees, lunch at a local restaurant, gratuities, and Charter Coach transportation.

**Seats available: 44**



# Continuing Education Has Moved



We've officially unpacked and settled into Westlake Hall, right in the heart of campus between the Cullom-Davis Library and Bradley Hall. We'd love for you to stop by! You'll find the staff on the ground floor in Suite 104 and there's a dedicated OLLI visitor parking spot on Glenwood Avenue/Tobias Lane, just behind the building. There is also nearby street parking, of course. If you're in the neighborhood, pop in and say hello. We can't wait to welcome you!

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## NEW DATES!

### A Second Departure Canadian Rockies by Train August 27 – September 6, 2026

Our first trip filled immediately, so we have opened a second departure to explore Canada's Rocky Mountains as you take in the jewel-colored lakes and snowy summits of Banff and Jasper National Parks. Just when you think the scenery can't get any

more spectacular, climb aboard the Rocky Mountaineer to ride the rails for two days through the soaring peaks and twisting valleys of the Coastal Range to Vancouver. With endless dazzling landscapes, this tour will open your eyes to western Canada's gems.



**Cost:** \$8,864

#### Tour package includes:

10 nights in handpicked hotels, breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 4 dinners with beer or wine, 6 sightseeing tours, private deluxe motor coach, two day ride on Rocky Mountaineer train, round trip air from Peoria and transfers, expert tour director, local guides, and full time Bradley staff member.

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

## ● SAVE THE DATES ●

Register for informational meetings on itineraries/pricing. Call 309-677-3900 or email [olli@bradley.edu](mailto:olli@bradley.edu)

New York in November 2026

Thursday, March 12, 11:30 a.m.  
Peoria Next, 801 West Main St

Vietnam in Winter 2027

February 12, 1:00 p.m.  
Peoria Next, 801 West Main St.

# Study Groups

## Study Groups In-Person

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 are necessary.

### *Being Mortal:*

#### Talking About the Hard Stuff

Wednesdays, March 4 – 25

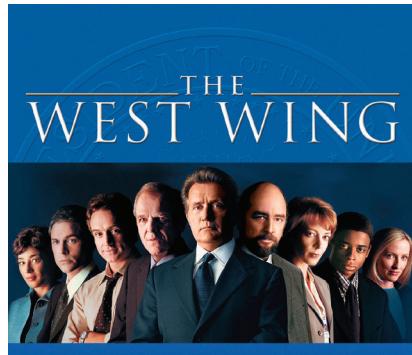
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

#### Methodist College

Perhaps without fully realizing it, we in the United States are fortunate to have many healthcare experts who write clearly and thoughtfully about issues that affect us all. Atul Gawande, MD, a professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, is one of them. In *Being Mortal*, his most recent book, Gawande reflects on an era in which the relationship between doctor and patient is “increasingly miscast in retail terms.” He asks how difficult it is for doctors—trained to solve problems and to succeed—to acknowledge when no cure is possible. Even more poignantly, he asks how many physicians, accustomed to telling patients how to live, are prepared to talk with them about how to die. Our group will meet with students from Methodist College enrolled in a gerontology course to explore *Being Mortal* alongside additional resources to deepen our understanding of the profound intimacy of life’s final stage.

\$45 – Marjorie Getz is a professor at Methodist College and frequent OLLI instructor and facilitator.

**Seats available: 20**



## Apple Insights: Tips & Tricks for iPhone, iPad, iWatch and Mac

Mondays, March 2 – March 23

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

#### Peoria Next Innovation Center

OR

Tuesdays, March 10 – March 31

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

#### Peoria Next Innovation Center

Join us for an engaging and informative group exploring Apple products. Each week, we'll focus on a different device: iPhone, iPad, Mac computer, and Apple Watch. Each session will start with an overview of the featured product, followed by tips, tricks, and hands-on exploration. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned Apple user, you'll uncover new ways to make the most of your devices - like maximizing battery life with smart settings or turning your iPhone into a scanner. Bring your Apple products and your questions, and leave each session with practical skills and fresh insights to enhance your tech experience. \$45 – Facilitated by John Amdall, frequent OLLI instructor.

**Seats available: 20**

## The West Wing Myth and Reality, Part II

Tuesdays, March 3 – March 31

1:30 – 3:45 p.m.

#### Peoria Next Innovation Center

*The West Wing* was an acclaimed American political drama that illustrated thorny political issues, national crises and moral conundrums, such as the limits of executive power, the role of the media and the election process. In each session, we will watch one episode from the second season of the series together to be followed by a wide-ranging discussion on issues raised in that episode. We will analyze whether the issues were presented fairly, how the characters responded and whether real-world policies were reflected in the program's plotlines. Please join us for a fun and thought provoking five weeks!

\$45 – Facilitated by Gary Nelson, retired attorney and OLLI Study Group Committee co-chair.

**Seats available: 20**

## **Dead or Alive? The Battle over the**

**Meaning of the Constitution**

**Wednesdays, March 4 – 25**

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

### **Peoria Next Innovation Center**

The U.S. Constitution is the source of the rights and responsibilities of our government and its citizens. Yet questions about what the Constitution's wording means and how it should be applied have been foundational issues for our country almost from its inception. Can—or even should—the existing Constitution meet the needs of the United States in a world vastly different from that known by the Founders? How has the Supreme Court addressed this issue throughout our nation's history? We'll examine the different theories of constitutional interpretation used by the Court over time - originalism, textualism, pragmatism, progressivism, the concept of a "living document," and others. We'll also discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each, and evaluate how best to keep both the Constitution and the Court relevant while maintaining them as central pillars of the world's premier democratic society.

**\$45 – Facilitated by Timothy Bertschy, retired attorney and previous OLLI facilitator.**

**Seats available: 20**

## **Presidents at War: How World War II Shaped a Generation of Presidents**

**Thursdays, March 5 – April 9**

**1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

### **Peoria Next Innovation Center**

This group will focus on how World War II shaped seven U.S. presidents, from Dwight D. Eisenhower to George H. W. Bush. We will examine the lessons these men took from World War II and how they applied their experiences to Cold War policies that transformed the United States, and the world. The book *Presidents at War: How World War II Shaped a Generation of Presidents* explores the philosophies and legacies of these seven remarkable leaders and suggests that the lessons they learned in the postwar years continue to shape the political landscape that presidents navigate today. Be ready to discuss and reflect the continuing legacies of World War II, examined within the context of current U.S. and global political perspectives.

**\$45 – Facilitated by Missy Salata, a Bradley alumna, and active OLLI member and Rich Henz frequent OLLI instructor and facilitator.**

**Seats available: 24**

## **Table for Two: Stories by Amor Towles**

**Fridays, March 6 – 27 and April 10 (skip April 3)**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

### **Peoria Main Library, 107 NE Monroe, Peoria**

*Table for Two* is the newest book by bestselling author Amor Towles. The Los Angeles Times said of the book: "This may be Towles' best book yet. Each tale is as satisfying as a master chef's main course, filled with drama, wit, erudition and, most of all, heart." You may recognize Towles from his previous three novels, *The Lincoln Highway*, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, and *Rules of Civility*. Join us as we delve into these satisfying short stories and novella during five discussion sessions.

**\$45 – Our fearless facilitators will include Jennifer Bass, Becky Carlson, Barb & Michael Getz, Sheila Hansen, Jane Hense, Bev Ketel, and Roberta Koscielski.**

**Seats available: 20**

## **Plant Intelligence – What a Tree Knows**

**Mondays, March 9 – April 13**

**9:30 – 11:45 a.m.**

### **Peoria Next Innovation Center**

When walking through a forest, do you ever wonder what lies beneath your feet? Besides soil and roots, there is a hidden world where trees and plants are quietly communicating with each other in ways we are only beginning to understand. For the past 30 years, scientists have discovered that plants and trees are part of a communication system utilizing mycorrhizal fungi creating vast networks that link the roots of trees and plants. Through this underground system, trees can send and receive signals, share nutrients, and support each other in time of need. We'll explore the beginnings of this research and the newest findings that detail how trees utilize their senses to communicate with each other. Plan to obtain and read the book *What a Plant Knows* by Daniel Chamovitz, available online, through local libraries, and booksellers.

**\$45 – Facilitated by Patricia Melaik, Peoria County Master Gardener and Master Naturalist and frequent OLLI facilitator.**

**Seats available: 18**

## First, Fearless, and Faithful: Learning from Jeanette Rankin

Mondays, March 9 – 30

1:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Peoria Public Library,  
Lakeview Branch

Jeanette Rankin was a suffragist, peace activist, workers' rights advocate, and champion of democratic reform. She ran for Congress twice as a Republican and was elected 34 years apart—a remarkable achievement. Rankin remained faithful to her beliefs, no matter the personal cost, even while serving within what was then the largest "old boys' club" in America. She was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Rankin voted against U.S. entry into both World War I and World War II; during the latter, she was the only member of Congress to oppose going to war with Japan. During her first term, she introduced legislation that later became the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. We'll learn more about this pioneering woman as we read and discuss *Winning the Earthquake: How Jeanette Rankin Defied All Odds and Became the First Woman in Congress* available online, through local libraries, and booksellers.

\$45 – Facilitated by Roberta Parks, retired Vice-President of UnityPoint Foundation and frequent OLLI facilitator.

**Seats available: 18**



Peoria Riverfront Museum Board Chair Todd Baker relaxes with OLLI Executive Committee members Rob Parks and Gary Nelson prior to last year's inaugural Voices & Visionaries Series.

## Great Decisions 2026: Discuss the Most Critical Issues Facing America Today

Tuesdays, March 10 – April 28

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Goodwill Commons

America is facing critical issues right now that bear enormous consequences. Using materials from the Foreign Policy Association, participants will have the opportunity to discuss these topics: America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy, Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy, U.S.-China Relations, Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation, Ukraine and the Future of European Security, Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order, U.S. Engagement of Africa, The Future of Human Rights and International Law. Participants should plan to read the analysis for each topic as the basis for weekly discussion. The 2026 Great Decisions Briefing Book is available online at: [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org) \$45 – Facilitated by Don Samford, Peoria Area World Affairs Council program chair and frequent OLLI instructor, and Angela Weck, Bradley University Instructor, and frequent OLLI instructor and facilitator.

**Seats available: 20**

## Reel Representation: 50 years of LGBTQ+ Films

Fridays, March 13 – May 22 (every other week)

1:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Peoria Next Innovation Center

Join us for a sampling of films from 1970 to today highlighting the diversity of the LGBTQ+ experience. We'll start with a documentary showing changes in how this community has been depicted in film over time from the silent era on. The films have comedy, drama, romance, the AIDS crisis, activism, & a coming of age story.

1. *The Celluloid Closet* (1995) & *The Boys in the Band* (1970)
2. *The Birdcage* (1996) & *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (1994)
3. *Rafiki* (2018) & *Tár* (2022)
4. *Torch Song Trilogy* (1988) & *Will & Harper* (2024)
5. *Moonlight* (2016) & *Brokeback Mountain* (2005)
6. *Milk* (2008) & *Pride* (2014)

\$45 – Facilitated by frequent OLLI facilitators, Rebecca Carlson, Roger French, Denise Hocker, Wayne Cannon, Jake Bowers - Peoria Proud Treasurer, and guests.

**Seats available: 20**

## Declaring Independence: The Tumultuous Spring of 1776

Mondays, March 23 – April 20

1:30 – 3:45 p.m.

### Peoria Next Innovation Center

Declaring independence from Great Britain in 1776 was not a foregone conclusion. Many colonists hoped to reconcile with the mother country, while others pressed for independence. The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to decide how to proceed. We will investigate the political debates, public agitation, and behind-the-scenes maneuvering that pushed Congress toward declaring independence, highlighting key figures, regional tensions, and the rapidly shifting mood across the colonies—especially during the nine weeks from May 1 to July 4, 1776. We will use the book *Declaration: The Nine Tumultuous Weeks When America Became Independent* by William Hogeland, available from online booksellers.

\$45 – Facilitated by Tim Bailey, frequent OLLI facilitator & instructor and OLLI history buff Debbie Lewellyn.

**Seats available: 20**

## Exploring China Together

Tuesdays, March 31 – May 5

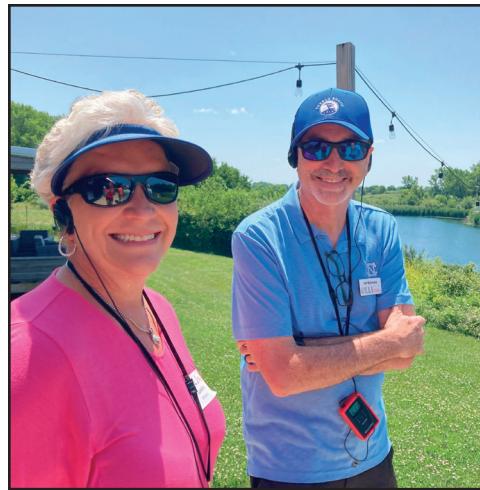
10:00 – 11:45 a.m.

### Peoria Next Innovation Center

Explore the rich tapestry of China's history, language, and culture while gaining insight into its evolving role on the world stage. Together, we'll journey from ancient dynasties and the wisdom of Confucian thought to the rhythms of everyday life expressed through language and tradition. Along the way, we'll examine China's evolving global influence. We will utilize *The Story of China with Michael Wood*, a 6-part BBC series available on YouTube for a small fee, or PBS Passport for free (if you are a member of WTVP). We will also read selected articles and references available on the Internet. Whether you're drawn to historical landmarks, unique cultures, or eager to understand China's evolving role in international affairs, this group will offer a welcoming space to learn, reflect, and share perspectives.

\$45 – Facilitated by Alan and Dawn Dickey.

**Seats available: 20**



*Big smiles, big skies—Jim and Sue Ann Billimack at the OLLI trip to Giant Goose Ranch*

## Trailblazers Light

Thursdays, April 2 – 23

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

### Various locations

This hiking group is perfect for those who are newer to hiking or looking to get back into it. Each hike will cover 2 to 2.5 miles with gentle terrain and minimal elevation gain, making it more accessible than our Advanced Trailblazers group. Whether you're returning to hiking after a break or just starting out, this is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a relaxed group environment. All hikes will take place in the tri-county area, and we'll meet directly at the trailhead.

\$45 – Facilitated by Dave Woodruff, Susan Woodruff, and Denise Hocker.

**Seats available: 20**

## How to Make Your Brain Your Best Friend

Thursdays, April 2 – 23

1:00 – 3:15 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 blends science and practical strategies to help you understand how your brain adapts, protects, and recovers. Together, we'll have fun exploring methods for resilience, emotional balance, and everyday mental wellness. Join us as we learn to build a healthier, happier relationship with our most remarkable organ, the brain, and apply these insights to enrich our lives both individually and collectively.

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

**Seats available: 22**

## Geology of Illinois State Parks

Fridays, April 10 – May 8

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### Peoria Next Innovation Center

The varied landscapes of Illinois state parks showcase a journey through millions of years of Earth's history, shaped by ancient tropical seas, coal forests, and Ice Age glaciers. From the rugged canyons of Starved Rock to the towering bluffs of the Mississippi Palisades to the shifting sands of Illinois Beach, this study group will explore the geologic history of Illinois using the state parks as our guide. Learn about the minerals, rocks, and fossils that make up the bedrock of the parks and the geologic processes that have sculpted the modern terrain. We will discuss the book *Geology Underfoot in Illinois* by Ray Wiggers.

\$45 – Facilitated by Geology Professor Ed Stermer from Illinois Central College and long time OLLI instructor.

**Seats available: 24**

## The Art of the Documentary

Thursdays, April 16 – May 14

9:30 – 11:45 a.m.

### Peoria Next Innovation Center

Do you love documentaries? Then this study group is for you! We will explore five different documentaries, each led by a different discussion leader. All documentaries will be on Netflix or Amazon Prime Video (you may have to rent them on Amazon Prime) and will be watched independently. The documentaries include: *Cameraperson*, led by Denise Hocker; *The Perfect Neighbor*, led by Gary Nelson; *Porcelain War*, led by Paul Resnick; *John Candy: I Like Me*, led by Keith Butterfield; and *Sunday Best*, led by Rob Parks.

\$45 – Facilitated by Denise Hocker, Gary Nelson, Paul Resnick, Keith Butterfield, and Rob Parks.

**Seats available: 20**

## The Indifferent Stars Above - The Harrowing

Story of the Donner Party

Tuesdays, April 21 – May 19

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

### Peoria Next Innovation Center

*The Indifferent Stars Above* by Daniel James Brown is a narrative nonfiction book that tells the story of the Donner Party through the eyes of Sarah Graves, a young bride who joined the ill-fated expedition in 1846. Using this book, we will discuss the Donner Party wagon train as we follow its journey from Springfield, Illinois, to its intended destination at Sutter's Fort, California. We will examine the emigrants who undertook the journey, exploring their personal stories, the hardships of the westward trek, and their harrowing ordeal after becoming stranded in the mountains by heavy snowfall. Each session will also include excerpts from *The Donner Party*, a PBS documentary by Ric Burns, the brother of renowned historian and filmmaker Ken Burns. The book is available through local libraries, bookstores, and online sellers.

\$45 – Facilitated by frequent OLLI facilitators Steve Garrison, retired history teacher and Ruth Rademacker, a descendant of a Donner party emigrant and has been on a guided tour of the trail of the Donner Party.

**Seats available: 22**

## Conversations with Women Artists

Tuesdays, April 28 – May 19

1:00 – 3:15 p.m.

### Peoria Next Innovation Center

Each week we'll meet two local women artists working in different media. They will share their career journeys as visual artists, present examples of their work, and answer questions about their creative processes and their roles in the cultural life of our community. This group is facilitated by Kristan McKinsey, Director of the Illinois Women Artists Project, where she researches and documents women artists active in Illinois, as well as lectures throughout the state.

\$45 – Facilitated by Kristan McKinsey, frequent OLLI facilitator and retired art & history museum curator.

**Seats available: 18**

## The Great Depression and FDR's New Deal:

### A Nation in Crisis

Thursdays, April 30 – May 28

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### Goodwill Commons

What caused the Great Depression, the most severe economic crisis in American history, and how did Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal respond to it? In this group, we will examine the economic, political, and social factors that led to the Great Depression, including financial speculation, structural weaknesses in the economy, and global economic forces. We will then explore the goals, programs, and controversies of the New Deal, considering how FDR's policies reshaped the role of the federal government and affected everyday life for Americans. Through discussion and historical analysis, we will assess both the achievements and the limitations of the New Deal and its lasting impact on American society.

\$45 – Facilitated by John Cummings, former history teacher and frequent OLLI facilitator.

**Seats available: 24**

## OLLI Advanced Trailblazers

Thursdays, May 7 – 28

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

### Various Locations

Join our hike leaders to explore multiple trails in the area. Each hike will be 3 to 4 miles, and some will have SIGNIFICANT elevation changes. Trails will be uneven, rocky, muddy, and may go through water. Be prepared for a challenging experience. The pace may be brisk. Important! Please consider your physical abilities and only register if you are an experienced hiker. Hiking poles are optional. We will be using the "All Trails" app. Hike locations will be in central Illinois and will depend upon the weather.

\$45 – Facilitated by Steve & Jane Richards, Chris Esken & Paul Miller, Holly Teig, Diane Rock, Allan Spangler, Stacey DelVecchio.

**Seats available: 20**

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# OLLI Originals

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

## Inside Precision Planting: Advancing Agricultural Technology Mondays, March 9 and 16 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

### Peoria Next Innovation Center

Precision Planting is a leader in agricultural technology, known for solving real-world farming challenges through practical, retrofit-based innovation. Founded in 1993 in Tremont, Illinois, the company focuses on helping farmers improve planting performance and maximize yields using advanced yet accessible technology. Aaron Herrmann, research agronomist, will explore the history and business model of Precision Planting, highlighting how its approach has influenced modern farming practices. Through photos and videos, we'll see how key products work in the field and learn about some of the company's latest innovations. Aaron will also take a broader look at the current state of agricultural technology and other major players in the field ( pardon the pun). \$20 – includes presentations, snacks, and coffee. Transportation not provided – meet us there!

**Seats available: 35**

## Pickleball for Lifelong Learners: Discover, Watch, and Play Wednesday, March 18 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.

### Markin Center, Bradley University

Curious about pickleball? Join us for a fun, informative session where you'll learn what makes this sport so popular with all generations. We'll cover the basics—rules, equipment, and strategy—in a short demo and Q&A. Then, if you choose, you'll have the opportunity to step onto the court and give it a try with hands-on guidance from volunteer coaches. No experience necessary—just bring your curiosity and comfortable shoes! \$15 – includes presentation, demonstration, and an opportunity to play a short round of pickleball. Transportation not provided – meet us there!

**Seats available: 24**

## Peoria Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Fridays, April 10 and May 1 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

### Peoria Women's Club, 301 NE Madison Ave., Peoria

In collaboration with the Peoria Women's Club, OLLI invites you to join the Peoria Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (CLSC), considered the oldest continuous book club in the United States. Writer and educator Lynette Steger will moderate each meeting that will focus on two of the Chautauqua Institute's annual book selections: *The Tiny Journalist*, by Naomi Shihab Nye; and *Future Tense*, by Martha Brockenbrough.

\$25 – includes presentations, snacks, and coffee. This fee also includes a \$10 annual CLSC membership. Transportation not provided – meet us there!

**Seats available: 40**



## Walk and Wellness Chat with

Bradley Graduate Students

Monday, April 13

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

**Laura Bradley Park, 1314 N. Park Rd., Peoria**

Join Bradley University graduate students in physical therapy for an invigorating walk and wellness chat in lower Laura Bradley Park. The PT students will be on hand to take vitals and walk alongside us, offering a great opportunity for intergenerational connection. We'll explore how we define wellness and dive into some fun, thought-provoking debate questions along the way.

Free Member Perk! Transportation not provided – meet us there!

**Seats available: 25**

## What if It Is Not True?

Thursday, April 16

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

**Garrett Cultural Center, Bradley University, Peoria**

Join John Amdall, a longtime OLLI instructor, for an engaging exploration of the complex and often misunderstood world of conspiracy theories. What exactly is a conspiracy theory? Why do some people find them so compelling? And how can we recognize and avoid them? We'll also "peek behind the curtain" to examine the psychology and appeal behind conspiracy thinking, all while steering clear of controversial subject matter. Along the way, a few lighthearted and entertaining examples will help illustrate key ideas. The goal is not to persuade, but to understand why conspiracy theories persist and how critical thinking can help us navigate an information-rich world more thoughtfully.

\$15 – includes presentation and snacks.

Transportation not provided – meet us there!

**Seats available: 100**

## Bison at Wildlife Prairie Park

Thursday, May 21

10:00 – 11:45 a.m.

**Wildlife Prairie Park, 3826 N. Taylor Road, Hanna City**

Once the most abundant hoofed mammal in North America, bison nearly went extinct in the late 1800s until several organizations stepped in and began one of the most successful conservation movements in the United States. Join our private tour guide, Tim Cundiff, a long time volunteer and board member for Wildlife Prairie Park who has had the opportunity to help raise and train Nakoma the park's ambassador bison. He'll share his insights and experiences with Nakoma, the Bison heard round up, and more. We will also have the opportunity to take a hayrack ride through the Bison paddock.

\$35 – includes presentation and snacks.

Transportation not provided – meet us there!

**Seats available: 45**



OLLI members enjoying a beautiful day at Tawny Oaks Hiking Trails

# OLLI PRESENTS: *Authors in Conversation*

## **Victoria - The Strange Road to Statehood**

**Monday, March 23**

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

Victoria – Suffering to Statehood offers an intriguing exploration of Australian history rarely found in standard accounts. The book weaves together political, social, and economic threads to present a richly detailed narrative, carefully researched and annotated. Local author Michael Rucker, delves into the lives of Victoria's founders, examining their personalities, motivations, and lasting influence. A central focus is placed on the suffering of Australia's First Nations peoples and the unfair, often brutal treatment they endured at the hands of settlers. A world traveler and historian, Rucker developed a deep fascination with Australian history while living in Melbourne.

**\$15 – includes presentation and snacks.**  
**Transportation not provided – meet us there!**

**Seats available: 35**

## **Girls in White Dresses:**

## **Stories from the Fabric of our Lives**

**Friday, April 24**

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Peoria Public Library, Main Branch**

Girls in White Dresses is an illustrated collection of stories—both gathered and imagined—woven from the fabric of women's lives, past and present. The book reveals how women's experiences are intertwined with the garments they made, wore, and cherished. Local author and illustrator Janice Powers will share her

latest creative journey, inspired by stories and photographs of women from her own past, as well as friends, relatives, and even the generations who lived in her 130-year-old home before her. She'll also invite us to reflect on the white dresses from our own lives and the meaningful stories those dresses can tell.

**\$15 – includes presentation and snacks.**

**Transportation not provided – meet us there!**

**Seats available: 100**

## **Brothers in Arms**

## **Author Talk with Kevin M. Callahan**

**Wednesday, May 20**

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Bradley University,**

**Michel Student Center Ballroom**

In *Brothers in Arms*, author and historian Kevin M. Callahan pays a powerful tribute to American brothers who served—and often died—together during World War II. Inspired by visits to overseas American cemeteries, where he noticed brothers buried side by side, Callahan embarked on years of research to uncover and preserve their stories. Join Callahan in person as he discusses his book which honors the sacrifices of more than 70 sets of brothers, bringing their lives to light through meticulous research, historic photographs, and family-shared images. He offers a deeply human perspective on WWII, highlighting brotherhood, service, sacrifice, and remembrance, while ensuring these families' stories are not forgotten.

**\$15 – includes presentation and snacks.**

**Transportation not provided – meet us there!**

**Seats available: 100**

# OLLI at the Movies

at Peoria Riverfront Museum

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

**Seats available: 190**

## 1776

**Wednesday, March 25 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

In honor of America's 250th anniversary, we'll view the film adaptation of the Broadway musical that brings the founding moment to life, following John Adams and Benjamin Franklin as they press Thomas Jefferson to draft the Declaration of Independence amid political deadlock and dire war news. Tim Bailey, a frequent OLLI instructor, will introduce the film with brief reflections on its major themes.

## *Sunday Best, the Untold Story of Ed Sullivan*

**Friday, April 17 | 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

The Ed Sullivan Show made stars of artists like Elvis and The Beatles while quietly challenging Jim Crow-era segregation through radical integration. Sunday Best revisits this legacy with rare performances from legends including Stevie Wonder, James Brown, and The Supremes. Frequent OLLI study group facilitator Rob Parks will offer insights before the screening and guide a short post-film reflection.

## *Brokeback Mountain*

**Friday, May 1 | 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

Exploring love, loneliness, and repression, Brokeback Mountain evokes strong emotions and features acclaimed performances by Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, making it a significant and impactful film. Join longtime film enthusiasts Roger French and Becky Carlson as they share opening remarks and a post-film reflection of the movie.

# 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.

These events are considered "on your own" and give current OLLI members and those that may be interested in learning more about OLLI the chance to get together, socialize, and exchange ideas and tips on all things OLLI and beyond.

**Thursday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.**

**CXT Coffee Campustown**

**1200 W. Main St., Peoria**

Free – please register to enable an accurate count.  
Meet us there!

**Seats available: 40**

**Monday, April 13, 4:00 p.m.**

**Industry Brewing**

**8012 N. Hale Ave., Peoria**

Free – please register to enable an accurate count.  
Meet us there!

**Seats available: 60**

**Tuesday, May 19, 3:30 p.m.**

**Tres Rojas Winery**

**1774 E. Cruger Rd., Washington**

Free – please register to enable an accurate count.  
Meet us there!

**Seats available: 60**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>2</b> <b>SG - Apple Insights I</b> 9-11a	<b>3</b> <b>LT - EP!C</b> 9a-1p <b>SG - The West Wing, Pt. II</b> 1:30-3:45p	<b>4</b> <b>SG - Dead or Alive?</b> 1-2:30p <b>SG - Being Mortal</b> 2-4p	<b>5</b> <b>LT - America 250</b> 9:45a-2p <b>SG - Presidents at War</b> 1:30-3:45p	<b>6</b> <b>SG - Table for Two</b> 10a-12:15p
<b>9</b> <b>SG - Apple Insights I</b> 9-11a <b>SG - Plant Intelligence</b> 9:30-11:45a <b>SG - First, Fearless, Faithful, 1:30-3:45p</b> <b>OO - Precision Planting, 5:00-6:30p</b>	<b>10</b> <b>LT - ISU Forensic Science</b> 8:30a-2p <b>SG - Apple Insights II</b> 9-11a <b>SG - Great Decisions 2026</b> 12:30-2:30p <b>SG - The West Wing, Pt. II</b> 1:30-3:45p	<b>11</b> <b>New Member Orientation</b> 10a-12p <b>SG - Dead or Alive?</b> 1-2:30p <b>SG - Being Mortal</b> 2-4p	<b>12</b> <b>SG - Presidents at War</b> 1:30-3:45p <b>LT - Peoria Players 'Bright Star'</b> 5-10:45p	<b>13</b> <b>SG - Table for Two</b> 10a-12:15p <b>SG - Reel Representation</b> 1:30-3:45p
<b>16</b> <b>SG - Apple Insights I</b> 9-11a <b>SG - Plant Intelligence</b> 9:30-11:45a <b>SG - First, Fearless, Faithful, 1:30-3:45p</b> <b>OO - Precision Planting, 5:00-6:30p</b>	<b>17</b> <b>SG - Apple Insights II</b> 9-11a <b>SG - Great Decisions 2026</b> 12:30-2:30p <b>SG - The West Wing, Pt. II</b> 1:30-3:45p	<b>18</b> <b>SG - Dead or Alive?</b> 1-2:30p <b>SG - Being Mortal</b> 2-4p <b>OO - Pickleball</b> 12-2:30p	<b>19</b> <b>MM - CXT Coffee Campustown</b> 10a <b>SG - Presidents at War</b> 1:30-3:45p	<b>20</b> <b>LT - ISU Circus</b> 10:30a-4p <b>SG - Table for Two</b> 10a-12:15p
<b>23</b> <b>SG - Apple Insights I</b> 9-11a <b>SG - Plant Intelligence</b> 9:30-11:45a <b>OO - Suffering to Statehood, 12-1p</b> <b>SG - First, Fearless, Faithful, 1:30-3:45p</b> <b>SG - Declaring Independence</b> 1:30-3:45p	<b>24</b> <b>SG - Apple Insights II</b> 9-11a <b>SG - Great Decisions 2026</b> 12:30-2:30p <b>SG - The West Wing, Pt. II</b> 1:30-3:45p <b>Dallinger Series</b> 6:00p	<b>25</b> <b>LT - Camp Wokanda</b> 9:30a-2p <b>OO - Movie: 1776</b> 10a-12:30p <b>SG - Dead or Alive?</b> 1-2:30p <b>SG - Being Mortal</b> 2-4p	<b>26</b> <b>LT - Sculptures &amp; Monuments I</b> 10:30a-3p <b>SG - Presidents at War</b> 1:30-3:45p	<b>27</b> <b>SG - Table for Two</b> 10a-12:15p <b>SG - Reel Representation</b> 1:30-3:45p
<b>30</b> <b>SG - Plant Intelligence</b> 9:30-11:45a <b>SG - First, Fearless, Faithful, 1:30-3:45p</b> <b>SG - Declaring Independence</b> 1:30-3:45p	<b>31</b> <b>SG - Apple Insights II</b> 9-11a <b>SG - Exploring China</b> 10-11:45a <b>SG - Great Decisions 2026</b> 12:30-2:30p <b>SG - The West Wing, Pt. II</b> 1:30-3:45p			

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 <b>OLLI CLASSES</b> 9a-3p	2 <b>SG - Trailblazers Light</b> 10-11:30a <b>SG - How to Make Your Brain</b> 1-3:15p <b>SG - Presidents at War</b> 1:30-3:45p	3
6 <b>SG - Plant Intelligence</b> 9:30-11:45a <b>SG - Declaring Independence</b> 1:30-3:45p	7 <b>SG - Exploring China</b> 10-11:45a <b>LT - Sculptures &amp; Monuments II</b> 10:30a-3p <b>SG - Great Decisions</b> 12:30-2:30p	8 <b>OLLI CLASSES</b> 9a-3p	9 <b>LT - Proctor Center</b> 9:15a-1:30p <b>SG - Trailblazers Light</b> 9:15a - 1:30p <b>SG - Make Your Brain</b> 1-3:15p <b>SG - Presidents at War</b> 1:30-3:45p	10 <b>OO - Chautauqua Lit &amp; Sci Circle</b> 9-10:30a <b>SG - Geology of Parks</b> 9:30-11:30a <b>SG - Table for Two</b> 10a-12:15p <b>SG - Reel Representation</b> 1:30-3:45p
13 <b>OO - Walk &amp; Wellness Chat</b> 9-10:30a <b>SG - Plant Intelligence</b> 9:30-11:45a <b>SG - Reel Rep.,</b> 1:30-3:45p <b>SG - Declaring Independence</b> 1:30-3:45p <b>MM - Industry Brewing</b> , 4p	14 <b>LT - Princeville Clydesdales I</b> 8a-3:30p <b>SG - Exploring China</b> 10-11:45a <b>SG - Great Decisions</b> 12:30-2:30p	15 <b>OLLI CLASSES</b> 9a-3p	16 <b>SG - Art of the Documentary</b> 9:30-11:45a <b>SG - Trailblazers Light</b> 10-11:30a <b>LT - Tres Rojas Winery</b> 10:45a-2:30p <b>OO - What if Not True?</b> 12-1:15p <b>SG - How to Make Your Brain</b> , 1-3:15p	17 <b>SG - Geology of Parks</b> 9:30-11:30a <b>OO - Movie: Sunday Best</b> 12-2p
20 <b>LT - Bradley's New Barton Clinic</b> 10a-12p <b>SG - Declaring Independence</b> 1:30-3:45p	21 <b>SG - Exploring China</b> 10-11:45a <b>OO Online - AI w/ Cory Barker</b> , 12-1p <b>SG - Great Decisions</b> 12:30-2:30p <b>SG - Indifferent Stars Above</b> , 1-3p	22 <b>OLLI CLASSES</b> 9a-3p	23 <b>SG - Art of the Documentary</b> 9:30-11:45a <b>SG - Trailblazers Light</b> 10-11:30a <b>LT - Getz Fire</b> , 11a-2p <b>SG - How to Make Your Brain</b> , 1-3:15p	24 <b>SG - Geology of Parks</b> 9:30-11:30a <b>LT - Peoria Int'l Airport</b> , 9:45a-2:30p <b>OO - Girls in White Dresses</b> , 1-2:30p <b>SG - Reel Rep.,</b> 1:30-3:45p
27	28 <b>LT - Malvern Lane</b> , 8:45a-2p <b>SG - Exploring China</b> 10-11:45a <b>SG - Great Decisions</b> 12:30-2:30p <b>SG - Indifferent Stars Above</b> , 1-3p <b>SG - Conversations w/Women Artists</b> 1-3:15p	29 <b>Regional Trip: Earthmoving Legacy Ctr</b> 6a-8p	30 <b>SG - The Great Depression</b> 9:30-11:30a <b>SG - Art of the Documentary</b> 9:30-11:45a	

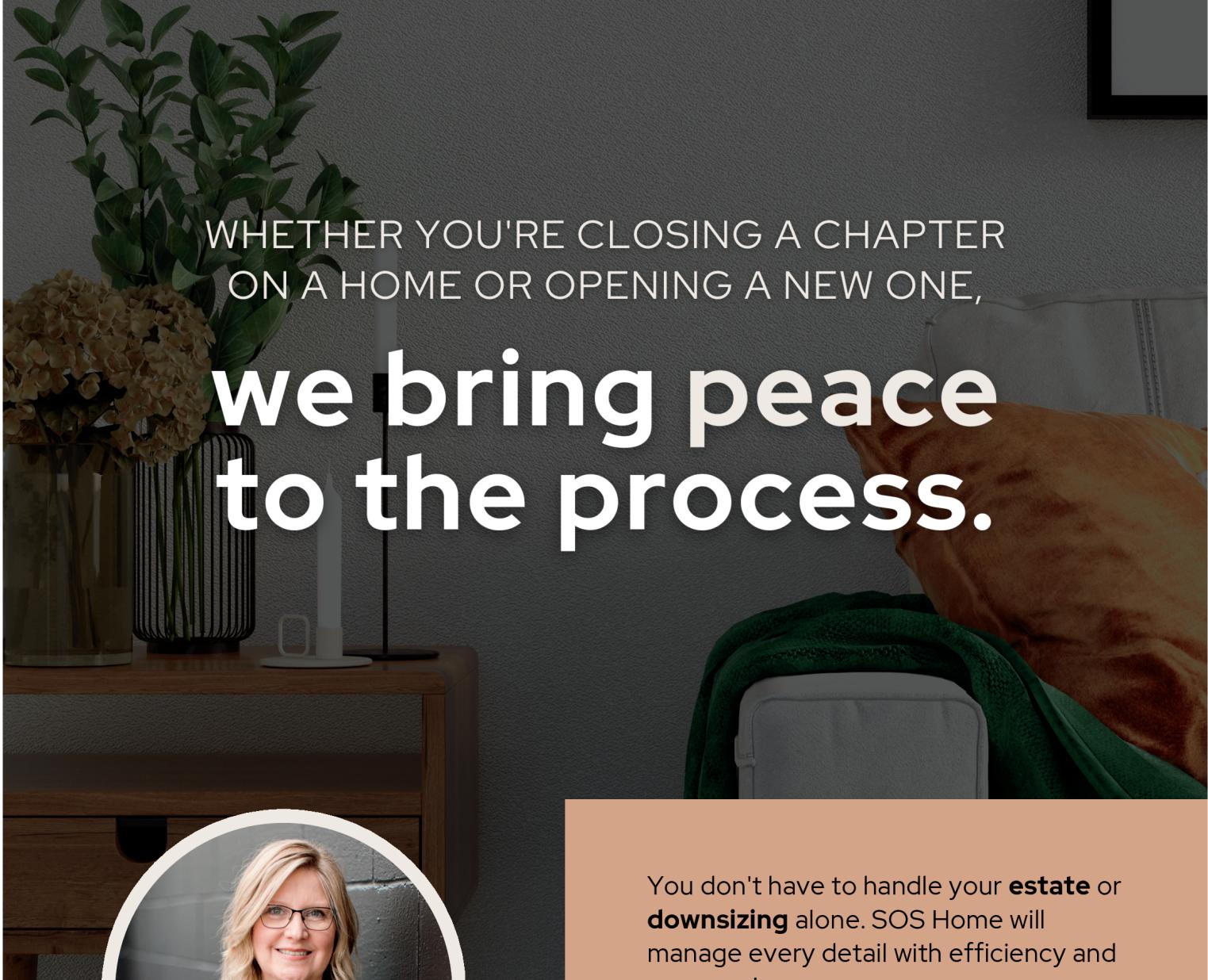
# OLLI At-A-Glance

MAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				<p><b>1</b>  <b>OO - Chautauqua Lit &amp; Sci Circle</b>, 9-10:30a  <b>SG - Geology of Parks</b>  9:30-11:30a  <b>OO - Movie: Brokeback Mountain</b>, 12-2:30p  <b>LT- Peoria's Past Revealed</b>  8:45-2p</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>LT - Springdale Cemetery</b>  8:45a-1:30p  <b>SG - Art of the Documentary</b>, 9:30-11:45a  <b>SG - Exploring China</b>  10-11:45a  <b>SG - Indifferent Stars Above</b>, 1-3p  <b>SG - Conversations w/ Women Artists</b>, 1-3:15p</p>	<b>6</b>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>SG - OLLI Trailblazers</b>, 9-11a  <b>SG - The Great Depression</b>  9:30-11:30a  <b>SG - Art of the Documentary</b>  9:30-11:45a</p>	<p><b>8</b>  <b>LT - Peoria Co. Courthouse</b>  8:45a-1:30p  <b>SG - Geology of Parks</b>  9:30-11:30a  <b>SG - Reel Representation</b>  1:30-3:45p</p>

**SUMMER REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK | MAY 4-8**

<b>11</b>	<p><b>12</b>  <b>LT - Princeville Clydesdales II</b>  8a-3:30p  <b>SG - Indifferent Stars Above</b>  1-3p  <b>SG - Conversations w/ Women Artists</b>, 1-3:15p</p>	<b>13</b>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>SG - OLLI Trailblazers</b>, 9-11a  <b>LT - Bald Eagle Observation</b>  9a-2:30p  <b>SG - The Great Depression</b>  9:30-11:30a  <b>SG - Art of the Documentary</b>  9:30-11:45a</p>	<b>15</b>
<b>18</b> <b>LT - Saffron Social</b> 10:30a-1:30p	<p><b>19</b>  <b>SG - Indifferent Stars Above</b>  1-3p  <b>SG - Conversations w/ Women Artists</b>  1-3:15p  <b>MM - Tres Rojas Winery</b>  3:30p</p>	<b>20</b> <b>OO Brothers in Arms</b> 12:00 - 1:30 p	<p><b>21</b>  <b>SG - OLLI Trailblazers</b>, 9-11a  <b>SG - The Great Depression</b>  9:30-11:30a  <b>OO - Bison/Wildlife Prairie Park</b>  10-11:45a</p>	<b>22</b> <b>SG - Reel Representation</b> 1:30-3:45p
<b>25</b>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>LT - Root Cemetery/ Hiking Rocky Glen</b>  8:45a-2p</p>	<b>27</b> <b>LT - Greater Peoria Sanitary/ Sewage Disposal Dist.</b> 8:45a-2p	<p><b>28</b>  <b>SG - OLLI Trailblazers</b>  9-11a  <b>SG - The Great Depression</b>  9:30-11:30a</p>	<b>29</b>



WHETHER YOU'RE CLOSING A CHAPTER  
ON A HOME OR OPENING A NEW ONE,

**we bring peace  
to the process.**



Tracy Molendi, Founder of SOS Home  
REALTOR®, RE/MAX Traders Unlimited

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You don't have to handle your **estate** or **downsizing** alone. SOS Home will manage every detail with efficiency and compassion.

And when you're **selling your home**, Realtor Tracy Molendi will help you get top dollar with **beautifully staged spaces** that impress buyers.

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Wherever you are in your home journey, **we're here to make it simple.**

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# Classes

Each class consists of four 1-hour sessions and will meet each Wednesday in April. With our à 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

**April 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026**  
**Coffee 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

● **9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

### Remembering Vietnam: An Insider's View

Your Choice  
IN PERSON  
OR ONLINE

Four veterans of the war in Southeast Asia will share their personal stories. H. Wayne Wilson, trained as an intelligence specialist, spent his tour in Laos monitoring radio traffic and dodging mortar rounds. Coke Mattingly, a military policeman, went undercover to interdict the flow of drugs affecting U.S. forces. Terry Kohlbuss, an infantry squad leader, experienced firsthand President Nixon's plan to "Vietnamize" the war. John McCabe was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received while fighting along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Each week, one veteran will recount his experiences, offering ground-level insights into how they came to serve in the Army, their training, and what it was like to put their lives on the line in a war that was increasingly unpopular at home. They will also share their reflections on their service as very young men and how those experiences shape their feelings today.

\$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

### Protecting Yourself From Dementia: From Vascular to Hearing Health

Your Choice  
IN PERSON  
OR ONLINE

Research suggests that a range of factors beyond age and genetics may influence the development and progression of Alzheimer's disease. Join Dr. Andy Chiou and Alex Chiou as they explore the connection between vascular disease and hearing loss, the role each plays in increasing dementia risk, and how improving vascular and hearing health may help lower that risk and support lifelong cognitive wellness.

\$30 – Class instructors are Dr. Andy Chiou, director of the vascular and endovascular team at Peoria Vein Center, and Dr. Alex Chiou, hearing care practitioner at Beltone Hearing Care Centers of Central Illinois.

### Grow Indoors: An All Season Gardening Series

Gardening doesn't stop when summer ends. Join Rhonda Ferree for a lively, hands-on series that shows how to grow and enjoy plants indoors all year long. She'll share practical tips for selecting and caring for houseplants that add beauty to your home while also helping improve indoor air quality. We'll learn how to start new houseplants, seeds, and bulbs indoors—and everyone will take home a new plant. In the final class, Rhonda will demonstrate how she grows food indoors, including fresh herbs, salad greens, and more.

\$30 – Class instructor is Rhonda Ferree, retired University of Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator.

### The Reverend, the Millionaire, and the Vision They Brought to Fruition

Virginia's colonial capital of Williamsburg, once vital to our democracy, was relegated to the dustbin of history when the capital was moved to Richmond in 1780. In 1926, thanks to the tenacity of both a visionary, and a philanthropist, the restoration of the historic town began and continues to this day. The class will explore the two men, the complexities of executing the restoration, the ongoing challenges faced by the resulting non-profit, educational living history museum, and how the interpretation of life



*Welcoming faces of OLLI: Diane Rock and Denise Hocker greet new members.*

during the time our nation was born has evolved based on knowledge gained from continual archaeological excavations and other sources that come to light.

\$30 – Class instructors are Jim and Rae Anne Hamp, frequent OLLI instructors.

### **Uncommon Story of Common Materials**

Everything we see and touch is made of materials. Many everyday materials have fascinating stories behind their discovery, commercial development, and integration into daily life. John Amdall will share his learning journey exploring materials and reveal the uncommon stories behind familiar substances—including concrete, steel, salt, chocolate, vanilla, paper, and water—that we often take for granted. Why does modern concrete crumble while Roman concrete still endures? Did you know that some of the world's best coffee is first “digested” by a cat-like creature? Why does the Mona Lisa look so different today than when it was first painted? We'll explore the backstories behind these questions—and many more.

\$30 – Class instructor is John Amdall, current OLLI Curriculum Committee Co-Chair, longtime member and frequent instructor.

**When Central Illinois Embraced the "Red Scare"**  
“Un-American.” “Enemy of the state.” “Enemies within.” These phrases aren’t unique to today’s political climate—they were commonly heard during the Red Scare of the 1940s and 1950s, a period that ruined lives and reputations across the country. Central Illinois was no exception. Peoria residents were swept up in the controversy, and even Bradley University’s student body felt its effects. As we examine how the Red Scare unfolded in central Illinois, we’ll also explore the record of Congressman Harold Velde, the Pekin lawmaker who stood at the center of the communist “witch hunt” during his two years as chair of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

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

### **Zoning: Origins, Impacts, and the Future of Land Use Regulation**

Together we'll examine landmark court decisions, discover how zoning shapes the built environment, and consider modern reform movements that are redefining land-use policy. A focused module on sign regulations and First Amendment issues will shed light on one of the most legally complex—and often overlooked—areas of zoning law. Alongside the national perspective, the course will place special emphasis on how zoning has shaped Peoria and continues to influence its development today.

\$30 – Class instructor is Ross Black, urban planner, community developer, former acting Planning Director and Neighborhood Development Manager for the City of Peoria, and frequent OLLI instructor.



Gene Ramsay getting a few pointers during an OLLI trip to the Caterpillar Demonstration Center.

● 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### All Created Equal: America's Unfinished Promise

The Declaration of Independence proudly proclaims that "all men are created equal", and universally endowed with a right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". But Thomas Jefferson's lofty words quoted here set a standard higher than the nation itself could then meet. Since 1776, leaders and everyday Americans have fought to expand rights and find a place at the table of equality for all, especially Blacks, women, workers, immigrants and Native Americans. We'll chart that 250-year journey toward equality, celebrate its milestones and lament where it's fallen short. In both 1776 and now, America's history is always a work in progress—a bold promise still being written.

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

### Get Your Kicks on Route 66

2026 is the 100th anniversary of this iconic highway! Join us for an engaging look at the people, places, and stories that make Route 66 legendary. Discover why "friends don't let friends drive the Interstate," and explore the road's journey from its inception in 1926, through its decline in 1985, to its modern-day revival. Travel the full 2,448 miles of the Mother Road across eight states as we revisit classic attractions, historic sites, and memorable characters—including notable women who shaped Route 66 history. We'll also highlight plans from the Federal Route 66 Centennial Commission and the eight state commissions for the upcoming centennial celebrations.

\$30 – Class instructor is Paul Buck, longtime OLLI member and Route 66 enthusiast.

### Influence Is Power: The Women Who Shaped the History of Rome

Your Choice  
IN PERSON  
OR ONLINE

Julius Caesar, Augustus, and Nero, the famed leaders of Rome, are well known. But what about the women who, through their influence, wielded great power over these men and, in turn, shaped the history of Rome? Some, like Cleopatra, lived lives full of intrigue, while others worked quietly behind the scenes to guide the men in power. Drawing on historical writings, archaeological evidence, and modern scholarship, this class will introduce you to the remarkable women who helped shape the course of Roman history. \$30 – Class instructor is Janene Mattingly, retired Latin teacher, Avid Italy traveler, and frequent OLLI instructor.

### The Parables- More Than Just a Story

The Oxford Dictionary defines a parable as "a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels"

In this class, we will look at some of the parables told by Jesus and put them into context when they were first spoken, and explore what lessons we learn from them today. We'll use guidelines laid out by Josh Scott in his book, *Parables: Putting Jesus's Stories in Their Place*, to come with an open mind, be willing to see the parable in a new light, to be comfortable in being made uncomfortable and to be challenged by the story and to think what if Jesus is telling us the parable to announce that heaven is here on earth. Participants are invited to come and wrestle with the parables and join the dialog that has been told throughout the ages.

\$30 – Class instructor is Reverend Ed Wegele, Senior Minister at First Federated Church in Peoria.

### Pilots Need Heroes Too! The Aircraft Mechanic

Ever wondered what it takes to become an aircraft mechanic—or even an aircraft inspector? We'll discuss what's required to become a certified Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) Mechanic, and gain an understanding of what a Fixed Base Operation (FBO) is. We'll also explore how the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) supports and regulates mechanics in the aviation industry. All aircraft require annual inspections and accurate logbook documentation—discover why these are essential for safety and compliance. We'll also learn about the differences between fabric, sheet

metal, and composite aircraft construction, as well as the many specialty fields available within aircraft maintenance.

\$30 – Class instructor Kerry Leifeld, 50 years of experience as a mechanic in the Navy and Director of Maintenance at Byerly Aviation.

### To Go or Not To Go

**Your Choice  
IN PERSON  
OR ONLINE**

At some point in retirement, we all face important decisions. Should I stay where I am or downsize? Is moving to a

retirement community the right choice, or do I want to age in place? What resources do I have, and are they sufficient? What are my options for retirement communities, and how do I evaluate them? This class will help you explore and assess your choices. During the class we will discuss how to understand and evaluate the variety of options available.

\$30 – Class instructors are Bernie Drake, John Sahn, and John Amdall, all frequent OLLI instructors and facilitators.

### What is a Concerto?

What is a Concerto? The noun comes from the Italian verb concertare: 1) to compete 2) to cooperate. Yes there are two definitions that seem to oppose each other. And, that is what a concerto is. There is lots of competition between soloist(s) and the ensemble. And there is lots of cooperation between the soloist(s) and the ensemble. We'll explore compositions that bring us both these qualities and much more. Starting in the 17th Century we'll experience concerti from baroque, classical, romantic and modern styles. There is never a dull moment in a concerto, so join us for an exciting musical journey.

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

### What's It Worth & Why?

#### An Introduction to Real Estate Appraising

Tedd Neff, of the Neff Valuation Group, will share an overview of residential real estate appraisal practice. OLLI members will learn what an appraisal is, how it is developed and reported, and the key methods used to determine property value. Tedd will also cover the history and evolution of the appraisal profession and its role in today's real estate market. He will discuss the wide range of appraisal clients and their intended

uses, including valuations for mortgage financing, relocation companies, eminent domain cases, divorce proceedings, estate settlements, litigation support, and real estate tax appeals. By the end of week 4, students will understand the purpose of appraisals, the responsibilities of the appraiser, and how appraisal assignments vary by client and situation.

\$30 – Class instructor is Tedd Neff, SRA, a State of Illinois certified general appraiser, and former adjunct faculty member of Illinois Central College.

### ● 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 \$14.00.

<b>April 1</b>	Turkey wrap with cranberry jam, housemade chips with dip
<b>April 8</b>	Ground beef tacos, beans, rice, chips and pico de gallo
<b>April 15</b>	Oven roasted pork, mac and cheese, fingerling potatoes
<b>April 22</b>	Creamy vegetable lasagna with side salad and green beans

### ● 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

#### Americans in Paris

Visit Paris with Stan Ransom to explore the stories of some famous Americans who lived in the "City of Light". Starting with Ben Franklin, whose actions in Paris were essential for the colonies to win their independence, learn about Americans who lived in Paris for several years or even the rest of their lives. We will move from Franklin, Jefferson, and John Adams to the artists, scientists, and politicians of the mid-19th century like James Whistler, Oliver W. Holmes Sr., Charles Sumner, Mary Cassatt, and more. Then it's on to the early 20th century with Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway, Cole Porter, James Baldwin, and we will definitely explore Stan's favorite, the unbelievable adventures of Josephine Baker.

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

## Archaeology: From Treasure Hunting to a Multidimensional Science

Learn what archaeology is and how archaeologists work. Archaeology has developed from its early stage of "treasure hunting" into a sophisticated discipline that uses the latest scientific methods. Archaeologists search for the remains of ancient peoples to discover how they lived. In this class, we will look at the tools in an archaeologist's "toolkit," how archaeologists choose where to excavate, and the techniques they use to determine the dates of their discoveries. This basic introduction to archaeology will help you better understand archaeologists and their work. Many of the examples in this class will come from the instructor's own excavation experiences in Israel  
\$30 – Class instructor is Frank Wheeler, retired professor of Biblical and religious studies.

## Bring on the Male Singers (Part One)

In past classes, we've learned about those strong women singers and how they roared. Now let's check out those vibrant male singers who wrote the songs and sang the songs and made them so unforgettable you want to sing along with them. We will explore singers such as Kenny Rogers, Elton John, James Brown, Lionel Richie, Prince, James Taylor, Stevie Wonder, Bob Seeger, Neil Diamond, Barry Manilow, Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp, and more. We'll have the opportunity to listen to their music and learn about their lives. Get ready for some of that "Old Time Rock and Roll" and Soul.

\$30 – Class instructor is Don Baker, former high school teacher, Journal Star sports writer, disc jockey and frequent OLLI instructor.

## Will It Play in Peoria? The People, Characters, and Events That Made the City

Your Choice  
IN PERSON  
OR ONLINE

"Will it play in Peoria?" Absolutely—it already has. This class will take you through the times, events, and people that shaped Peoria's story. From the "Whiskey Capital of the World" to a "wide-open city" of gambling, prostitution, and gangsters, and eventually to an "All-American City," Peoria has seen it all. Meet the cast of characters—from politicians and entertainers to athletes and business leaders—who helped define the city's unique identity.

\$30 – Class instructor is Mike Plunkett, former Peoria Public Schools teacher, coach, athletic director, and principal.

## Look What I Wrote

Curious about the ups and downs of writing a book and getting it published? Come to this engaging session and hear five local authors share their journeys from first idea to finished book. They'll share their challenges, surprises, and successes, and introduce you to their published works.

**April 1:** Sarah Whitney – *My Wicked Winter War*

**April 8:** Chrissy Curry – *Those Wicked Lines* with her daughter Sadie Alaine whose first novel, *Shadows of the Broken*, has just been accepted for publication.

**April 15:** Claire Craig Evans – *High Tea and the Low Down*

**April 22:** Joe Chianakas – *Darkness Calls*

\$30 – Class instructors as listed above along with their most recent publication.



OLLI members share a day of discovery at the Hindu temple.

## Look Where I Went

No passports, no visas, no suitcases, no long flights, no currency exchanges, and no language barriers when you travel the world from the seat of your OLLI class. Come share in the adventure with photographs and descriptions presented.

### April 1: John & Susan McCabe – San Blas Islands

Sail with us through the San Blas Islands, tropical islands off the coast of Panama. Be prepared for an exciting yet simple disconnected island adventure with limited amenities.

### April 8: Ron Zipfel – Six Country Voyage

Visit the capital of Sweden, step in the Aland Islands, see the capital city of Finland, stroll historic sites in Poland, travel back in time in Denmark, delight in the culturally rich Norway, and drink a beer on a trip to Germany's capital.

### April 15: Richard & Mary Anne Radochia –

**Iceland** Come with us to the "Land of Fire & Ice", with spectacular waterfalls, geysers, thermal pools and wildlife, as we cover part of Iceland's Golden Circle. We even drove through streams and witnessed a puffin dance.

### April 22: Tim Bailey – Sicily & Southern Italy

Journey through Sicily, with its blend of ancient history, vibrant culture, and stunning landscapes, before boarding a ferry to travel along the spectacular coastline of Southern Italy.

\$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

Your Choice  
IN PERSON  
OR ONLINE

● 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

## Breaking the Surface: Female Marine Scientists and their Deep Sea Discoveries

Writer Zora Neale Hurston called research "organized curiosity." Throughout history, the ocean has been a constant subject of curiosity, speculation, and imagination because until very recently, it has been all but inaccessible. Water covers 70% of the earth, yet we know more about surfaces of other planets than we do about the seafloor. In this class, we will encounter the work of several scientists who have peeled back layers of that mystery to reveal incredible discoveries across a range of fields such as marine biology, hydrology, geochemistry, coastal ecology, animal behavior and cognition, and marine engineering and technology. Across four sessions, we will cover notable trailblazers, as well as lesser-known figures whose insights have changed the way we think of the ocean and its systems.

\$30 – Class instructor is Kathryn Eissfeldt, an educator and freelance science writer, Past President of Peoria Area World Affairs Council, and frequent OLLI instructor.

## Four Deans, Four Weeks: An Inside Look at Bradley's Colleges

Join our special four-week series featuring the Deans of Bradley University's five colleges. Each week we'll spotlight one college, offering firsthand insights, updates, and a look into the distinctive strengths shaping today's students.

### April 1: Slane College of Communications &

**Fine Arts – Ethan Ham:** Discover the vibrant hub for makers, storytellers, and performers. Dean Ham will highlight innovative work across art, communication, interactive media, music, and theatre.

### April 8: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences –

**Dr. Sherri Morris:** Explore the breadth of the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and computational sciences. Dr. Morris will share how the college fosters scientific discovery and interdisciplinary learning.

### April 15: Caterpillar College of Engineering &

**Technology – Dr. (Kris) Maillacheruvu:** From infrastructure projects and autonomous vehicles to 3D printing and robotics, students in this college turn ideas into reality. Dr. Maillacheruvu will discuss cutting-edge projects and hands-on learning experiences driving engineering innovation through convergence and collaboration.

## Tazewell County in the Civil War

This class will discuss the history of four separate engagements before and during the Civil War featuring Tazewell County Veterans. First, we'll focus on the Underground Railroad in Illinois, discussing the Central Illinois routes. We'll move on Civil War enlistment at the Tazewell County Courthouse and the early engagements of the veterans with a focus on the history of Illinois' commander General Ulysses S. Grant. We will also discuss the Battle of Vicksburg and the actions of Tazewell County's three Medal of Honor Recipients. Finally we'll cover the service of the 29th Colored Infantry, Tazewell County's participants in the historic unit, and the original Juneteenth Celebration in Galveston, Texas. \$30 – Class instructor is John C. Ackerman, Tazewell County Clerk.

**April 22. College of Education and Health Sciences – Dr. Jeff Wanko:** Learn from Dean Wanko how future educators and health professionals are prepared through rigorous coursework, supportive mentorship, and real-world practice in schools, hospitals, and community organizations.

\$30 – Class instructors as listed above.

### **The Holocaust in Greece**

**Your Choice  
IN PERSON  
OR ONLINE**

This class will review the World War II history of the Holocaust in Greece. We'll start with the Pontic/Armenian Genocide of World War I, which Hitler referenced as a model for the Holocaust of World War II. We'll discuss the systematic enactment of the Holocaust across the various parts of Greece during World War II. We'll explore the documentary *In The Shadow Of The Acropolis* which provides the firsthand account of a Greek Jewish family. Finally, we'll review the heroic actions of the Greek Orthodox Church and the Greek Civic Leadership during the Holocaust, especially Archbishop Damaskinos and Princess Alice.

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

### **The Last Full Measure: Grant and Lee 1864 – 1865**

**Your Choice  
IN PERSON  
OR ONLINE**

Follow in the footsteps of R. E. Lee and U. S. Grant in the last sixteen months of the Civil War. Understand their challenges and opportunities - their strategies, tactics and resulting battles - from the Wilderness to Appomattox. Also, while in the neighborhood, side tours to the Fredericksburg battlefield, Hollywood Cemetery (Richmond), and other bonus surprises. To quote the Duke of Wellington - The worst thing in life is losing a battle - the second worst is winning a battle!" Or, a quote Yogi Berra wished he said - "Total war is okay - in moderation." This class is based on the extensive study of the Civil War by Peter Barclay, a Brit among us Yankees, who will also share insights from a week-long guided tour focused on events at the end of the Civil War. \$30 – Class instructor is Peter Barclay, amateur historian with focus on the American Civil War.

### **U.S. Stock Markets – The Lost Decade (2000–2010) – Will it Repeat?**

This class will focus on what happened during the tech bubble and valuations of the markets between 2000-2010 and contrast current market valuations and environment. As we move into an era of AI (artificial intelligence) and robust technology advancement- will the stock markets react in a similar way they did during DOT COM Era and the Tech Bubble bursting? Will AI truly add the productivity many investors have priced in? We will learn different market valuation tools and compare these metrics of the past tech bubble to today's environment. What will you conclude about the next decade of stock markets.. Will the lost decade repeat, or will we continue to see new market highs?

\$30 – Class instructor is Kristen Kinsey-Gordon, Partner at Kinsey Wealth Management of SC3F Wealth Management Group.

### **Vivandière, Spies, Nurses and Others: Women's Roles in the American Civil War**

Delve into the diverse roles women played during the American Civil War, moving beyond traditional battlefield narratives to uncover the critical contributions of women on both sides of the conflict. From nurses, spies, vivandières, and camp followers to abolitionists and even disguised female soldiers, women shaped the war's course and legacy in ways too often overlooked. We will begin with the U.S. Sanitary Commission, staffed with women who provided services and provisions to the troops. We will spotlight well-known figures such as Clara Barton and Harriet Tubman, as well as the stories of lesser known but equally courageous women, such as Susie King Taylor and Kady Brownwell. We will also cover African American women's experiences as they faced both racial injustice and war.

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

# OLLI Online

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

## ONLINE Classes

Eight of our spring 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 28-34. \$30 per person.

9:00 a.m. – Remembering Vietnam:  
An Insider's View

9:00 a.m. – Protecting Yourself From Dementia:  
From Vascular to Hearing Health

10:30 a.m. – Influence Is Power:  
The Women Who Shaped the History  
of Rome

10:30 a.m. – To Go or Not To Go

12:30 p.m. – Will It Play in Peoria

12:30 p.m. – Look Where I Went

2:00 p.m. – The Holocaust in Greece

2:00 p.m. – The Last Full Measure:  
Grant and Lee 1864 – 1865

## ONLINE Originals

AI with Cory Barker

Tuesday, April 21

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Discover how artificial intelligence is reshaping the way we receive, share, and interpret information. Dr. Cory Barker will explore the fast-evolving role of AI in newsrooms, social platforms, and everyday media use highlighting both the opportunities for smarter, more personalized content and the challenges of misinformation, bias, and trust. Join us for a clear, accessible look at how these technologies are transforming the media landscape and what it means for us as lifelong learners.

\$10 – A Zoom link will be sent the morning of the event.

**Seats available: 25**

## Zoom Training

OLLI offers free, personal training sessions to help members become more comfortable with Zoom and online learning. Contact [olli@bradley.edu](mailto:olli@bradley.edu) and we will set up a time to help you with Zoom with one of our knowledgeable volunteers.

# Osher Online BENEFITS FOR OLLI MEMBERS

## Osher Online

in collaboration with Northwestern University  
School of Professional Studies

### 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.

*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.*

- 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.

## Music: Controversies and Curiosities

Wednesdays, April 15 – May 20

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Music has long provoked debate, from Beethoven and Stravinsky's bold innovations to Broadway works like *Annie Get Your Gun* and *South Pacific*, now revisited through modern concerns about race, consent, and gender. Is political correctness enriching art or erasing cultural heritage? We will also examine plagiarism and borrowing in pop and film music, with cases involving The Beatles, Pink Floyd, and Peter Frampton.

\$65 – Emanuel Abramovits, MBA, is a mechanical engineer and longtime concert promoter who has produced events for artists like Itzhak Perlman, Gustavo Dudamel, and Sarah Brightman.

**Seats available: 13**

## JFK's Quest for Peace: Lessons for Turbulent Times

Thursdays, April 2 – May 7

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Throughout his 1000-day presidency, John Kennedy pursued peace through a broad spectrum of initiatives. In this course, we will explore how his character and life experiences were the origins of those efforts. We will evaluate his powers of persuasion by listening to key speeches, and we will assess his successes and failures and their relevance to today's world.

\$65 – Charles Blum served as a U.S. diplomat and trade policy official and founded a consulting firm in Washington, DC, and Central Europe.

**Seats available: 13**

## Ghosts in the White House: The People Behind Presidential Speeches

Mondays, March 30 – May 4

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Have you ever wondered who writes presidential speeches? This course traces the evolution of speechwriting from George Washington's administration to today. Yes, Hamilton helped draft Washington's Farewell Address, but no, Lincoln did not scribble the Gettysburg Address on an envelope. We will study the writing process presidents used and examine drafts from FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Carter, and George

H.W. Bush. We will view clips from speeches and from former White House speechwriters describing the process.

\$65 – Diana Carlin, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Communication at Saint Louis University and spent 30 years teaching and writing about U.S. First Ladies. She is the co-author of two books on First Ladies and has published extensively on women in politics, presidential communication, and political debate.

**Seats available: 13**

## From Leo XIII to Leo XIV: History of 20th and 21st Century Popes

Tuesdays, April 7 – May 12

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The death of Pope Francis and the election of the first US born Pope have been in the news repeatedly in the last few months, capturing the imagination of many people, including non-Catholics. Who are these men? What are their life stories? In this course, we will discuss the lives and dominant perspectives of the last ten Popes, exploring their most significant positions and their influence on world affairs.

\$65 – Oliva Espín, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and a pioneer in feminist therapy with women from diverse cultural backgrounds.

**Seats available: 13**

## A Beautiful Brain

Thursdays, April 9 – May 14

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Most conversations about aging focus on lifespan, but brainspan (how long our mind stays sharp) matters more. In this course, we will explore how the brain ages and what science reveals about protecting memory, balance, and clarity. Topics include normal changes versus early dementia, neuroplasticity, nutrition, sleep, stress, social ties, and purpose. Each session blends accessible science with self-tests and take-home practices. We will also build a personalized Cognitive Health Scorecard to track habits and strengthen resilience.

\$65 – Scott Fulton is an internationally recognized leader in positive aging whose work focuses on improving adult aging outcomes. He is the author of *WHEALTHSPAN* and a leading voice in lifestyle medicine and optimal aging.

**Seats available: 13**

## Frank Lloyd Wright and Modern Architecture

Tuesdays, April 21 – May 26

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Frank Lloyd Wright designed nearly 1,000 buildings and helped define modern architecture. This course explores highlights of his practice, from Prairie houses to Fallingwater and the Guggenheim Museum, alongside lesser-known projects like affordable housing and city planning. We'll examine how Wright's work reflected cultural shifts in technology, science, and politics, offering a deeper understanding of his lasting influence on architecture and modern design.

\$65 – Jennifer Gray, PhD, is Vice President of the Taliesin Institute at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, where her research examines how modern architecture advanced social change

**Seats available: 13**

## Great Science Stories

Thursdays, April 9 – May 14

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Science is full of surprises. Dyes, accidentally discovered, launched the modern pharmaceutical industry. A failed experiment opened the door to new physics. Discoveries are moments of creativity, struggle, and chance with far-reaching consequences. In this course, we will explore the human side of science, tracing breakthroughs in biology, chemistry, physics, and more. We will ask not only what was found, but how and why it matters.

\$65 – Dr. Johnnie Hendrickson, Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences at Arizona State University and author of Chemistry in the World.

**Seats available: 13**

## AI for Regular People

Thursdays, April 2 – May 7

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand, this updated course offers a clear, engaging introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it's rapidly transforming our world. From self-driving cars to chatbots and precision medicine, we will explore how AI works, where it's headed, and what it means for society. No tech experience needed—just curiosity! With fresh examples and timely updates, participants will gain a solid understanding of the opportunities and challenges AI presents today.

\$65 – This course is co-taught by Hod Lipson, PhD, a Columbia University professor and leading robotics researcher, and Melba Kurman, a technology analyst and author. Together they co-authored *Driverless* and *Fabricated* and are frequent speakers on AI.

**Seats available: 13**

## The Scopes Monkey Trial: Then and Now

Tuesdays, March 31 – May 5

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

In July 1925, Clarence Darrow, William Jennings Bryan, and others converged on Dayton, Tennessee, for the Scopes Monkey Trial—an eight-day clash over religion, science, public education, free speech, and textbooks broadcast nationwide. One hundred years later, these debates continue. This course explores why the trial happened in Dayton, how Bryan and Darrow became involved, what occurred in the courtroom, whether *Inherit the Wind* reflects reality, who won and lost, and why it still matters today.

\$65 – Doug Mishkin is an experienced trial lawyer who partnered with Americans United for Separation of Church and State to foster dialogue in Dayton, Tennessee, the site of the Scopes Monkey Trial.

**Seats available: 13**

## Writing the Personal Essay: Finding Your Story

Saturdays, April 18 – May 23

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

The personal essay, one of the oldest forms of creative nonfiction, blends storytelling, reflection, and analysis to give voice to lived experience. In this course, we will explore the personal essay as both art and self-expression. Through readings, discussion, and writing exercises, we will study elements such as narrative arc, scene-setting, and reflection. We will draft our own essays, discovering how this enduring form helps us find our voices and tell our stories with clarity.

\$65 – Lisa Stolley is a professor of English at the University of Illinois Chicago and Northwestern University and a published fiction author.

**Seats available: 13**

# OLLI VOLUNTEERS: THEY GET THE JOB DONE!

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

## Officers 2025 - 2026

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Shelley Epstein

Vice President  
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Mike Salata  
Don Samford  
Mark Stanard  
Becky Sisk  
Mark Stanard  
Mary Jane Sterling  
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Frank Wheeler

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Kathleen Kowal

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Executive Director

Catherine Lawless  
Associate Director

Lanada Cunningham  
Program Director

Gwen Howarter  
Program Coordinator

Bonnie Davis  
Program Coordinator

Dan Stanley  
Administrative Support

Bonni Whalen  
Administrative Support

## What Do OLLI Volunteers Do? Everything!

Close to 400 volunteers work to make OLLI come to life. We have a wide range of opportunities for interested volunteers: committee members, delivering brochures, instructor/facilitator contact, parking assistance, instructor, facilitator, and more.... Everyone is welcome, if you'd like to help, call our office to find out more (309) 677-3900.



## Great Programs Happen Because of Great Ideas

You're invited to attend our committee meetings.

OLLI welcomes everyone to join our volunteer ranks and we have a wide variety of ways to get involved. We always need hosts for classes and study groups, members to deliver brochures, and, of course, instructors and facilitators. Our committees meet throughout the year to plan OLLI programs, no experience or rsvp need - drop in and join us!

### Learning Trip Committee Fall 2026

Peoria Next/Zoom hybrid meeting  
Tuesday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.

### Study Group Committee Fall 2026

Peoria Next/Zoom hybrid meeting Thursdays,  
April 30 and May 21, 12:00 p.m.

### Curriculum Committee Fall 2026

Peoria Next/Zoom hybrid meeting  
Wednesdays, April 29, May 13 and 27, 9:00 a.m.

# President's Letter

As I write this, it is the 2025 holiday season, a time for reflection on the year past. As you read this, it is the beginning of 2026, a time to look forward at the possibilities of the future.

By now, the OLLI home at the corner of Main and University is no more. Our staff had a heck of a time doing their regular jobs while at the same time packing and preparing to move. We ask a lot of those folks and they never disappoint.

You can find OLLI's new offices on the first floor of Westlake Hall, the stately building with the clock tower. It was the second building constructed on campus by Lydia Moss Bradley in 1897. There is a reserved OLLI visitor parking space on Tobias Lane (behind the building) and you'll find it's a short walk from on-street parking along Bradley Avenue. I hope you find it welcoming and convenient. This home is temporary until the University decides on a new location. We are hopeful OLLI will land in an even better space for members and staff. Stay tuned.

Membership hit a record number in 2025 – nearly 1,300 participated in a wide variety of our programs. That is a phenomenal testament to your engagement and the hundreds of volunteers who work to develop the offerings. If you've got an idea for a class, a study group or learning trip, please pass it along.

Your commitment to OLLI is also demonstrated by your giving. In the last year, 41% of our members made a contribution, either through participating in Trivia Night, buying OLLI socks, a nametag, or a T-shirt, or making a direct gift – the highest percentage ever. That support is the envy of Bradley University and OLLIs across the country. Thank you for making our OLLI the best in the country.

Last year we kicked off our inaugural Voices & Visionaries speakers series with Dr. Robert Ballard, the oceanographer who found the Titanic. In collaboration with the Peoria Riverfront Museum, nearly 2,500 people registered to hear Dr. Ballard speak, the largest OLLI-sponsored gathering in our history.

Our second Voices & Visionaries will be just as exciting. Peter Souza, the photographer who documented the White Houses of Barack Obama and Ronald Reagan, will be our speaker in November. Souza will share his front-row seat to history with his remarkable photographs and words. We'll announce registration information for this free event in the coming months.

In 2026 we kick off the Dallinger Series, an homage to former OLLI member Kathy Dallinger, whose generosity is underwriting a series of educational programs. Lorissa Rinehart, author of Rankin's 2025 biography, *Winning the Earthquake, How Jeannette Rankin Defied All Odds to Become the First Woman in Congress*, is coming to Peoria (to kick off the series) in March.

As you'll see in this catalog, we continue to develop and offer a wide variety of engaging and informative programs. That is our heart and soul, to bring people together to explore, connect, and learn.

I look forward to seeing you at an OLLI event this year.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelley Epstein".

Shelley Epstein, OLLI President

# Giving to OLLI

As we celebrate another outstanding season of exploring, connecting, and learning at OLLI, one thing is clear: our program thrives because of you. Membership is strong, programs continue to grow in variety and quality, and our volunteers remain the heart of everything we do.

Over the past 12 years, our members' generosity has helped OLLI do far more than membership and program fees alone could support: funding new initiatives, maintaining shuttles and equipment, navigating the pandemic, and producing the catalogs that keep us connected.

Our giving year comes to a close at the end of May, so we invite you to help us finish this campaign strong. Our goal is to raise \$55,000 to support catalogs, technology, transportation, and operational reserves. We also strive to increase member participation beyond our impressive 38% giving rate.

Whether you're continuing a tradition of support or making your first gift, now is the perfect time to make a gift. And if you're a Caterpillar employee or retiree, remember: your gift to OLLI can be doubled through matching support, making your impact go even further.

Thank you so much for your support!

To make a gift, please visit:  
[bradley.edu/supportOLLI](http://bradley.edu/supportOLLI)

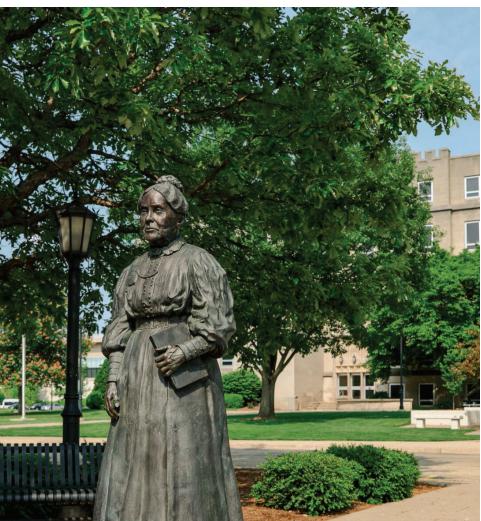


Save the date for our 10th Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser on Friday, August 14, 2026!

## ESTATE GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Estate gifts play a vital role in ensuring OLLI's long-term strength and stability. These thoughtful commitments allow members to make a lasting investment in the programs, people, and experiences that matter most to them. Planned gifts help OLLI weather unexpected challenges, invest in future opportunities, and preserve affordable access to lifelong learning for years to come.

For many members, an estate gift is a meaningful way to reflect their values, support a community they love, and leave a legacy that continues to enrich lives through learning and connection. To learn more about including OLLI in your estate plan, please contact Michelle Riggio Rarick, Executive Director of Continuing Education, at (309) 677-3900 or email her at: [mriggio@bradley.edu](mailto:mriggio@bradley.edu)



## **ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES**

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

## **DIETARY CONCERNs**

All OLLI programs will provide options for vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free meals upon request. If you have a dietary issue, please contact our office at (309) 677-3900 at least two weeks before your program, so we can meet your dietary needs.

## **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!

## **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.

## **PROGRAM DETAILS and PARKING**

For all programs an email will be sent prior to the event regarding specific details on times, location, and parking. For learning trips, we provide reserved parking in the CampusTown Shopping Center, 1200 W. Main. Study groups meet at locations throughout the Peoria area and have ample parking.

## **PARKING FOR CLASSES**

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. When you call, please be prepared to provide your license plate number, your placard number and expiration date, and the make, model, year, and color of your vehicle.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **WEATHER**

In the rare case that Bradley University is closed due to inclement weather, all OLLI programs scheduled for that day will also be cancelled. Please refer to local television and radio stations for closing information.

# Spring 2026 Registration

## Get Ready for Registration Request Week! February 2 – 6

You now have an entire week to request as many programs as you'd like, "no hurry, no stress."

- 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 week!
- IMPORTANT NOTE:** February 10, you should **receive an email with your list of programs** and directions for payment. This email will come from Bradley Cont Ed: [continue@continuing.bradley.edu](mailto:continue@continuing.bradley.edu)
- When registering online**, instead of clicking "Add to Cart," **you'll click "Request Program."**
- IMPORTANT:** The order in which you request programs will determine their priority. As you check out, your cart will say "remove from waitlist" (rather than "remove from cart") as you are technically on a waitlist until after the allocation has been run.

- Need help prioritizing your programs?** Consider the maximum number of participants for each program (listed in the description) and follow the general order of the registration page. For example, if you're excited about a trip, a movie, and a seminar, we recommend prioritizing the trip first because it has fewer seats available.
- After Registration Request Week, the system will be temporarily closed** while requests are processed. Once participants are notified of their program status, **registration will reopen on Wednesday, February 11**. At that time, registration is open as usual on a first-come, first-served basis by selecting "Add to Cart" and paying at checkout.

## 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.
- 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.
- The remainder of the study group fee will be refunded if you cancel at least 7 business days before the start of your group.
- Entire fee will be forfeited if you cancel less than 7 business 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.

## REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 at 8 a.m. through FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 at 4 p.m.



### Register Your Way

#### 1. Online

- Visit [bradley.edu/olli](http://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 February 6 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, February 2 from 11:00 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 at Westlake on **Tuesday, February 3, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

#### 3. Mail-in or Drop-off

- All mailed or dropped-off forms MUST be received by **Friday, February 6, at 4:00 p.m.**
- Forms received after that date will be processed after prioritization on February 11.
- 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, February 4
- Thursday, February 5
- Friday, February 6

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, February 10** 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](http://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

- If you do not receive an email by February 11 regarding your program status and payment, contact the Continuing Education staff for assistance: (309) 677-3900 or [olli@bradley.edu](mailto:olli@bradley.edu)
- Payments must be received by **Friday, February 20** to secure your registration.

# Spring 2026 Registration

## Step 1: SELECT & 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.

Priority#	Program	Date/s	Fee	Seats
	Spring Kick Off	4/23	\$5	250
	Dallinger Series	3/24	\$10	250
<b>LEARNING TRIPS</b>				
<b>Activity Level 1</b>				
	Bright Star	3/12	\$65	28
	Peoria Sculptures...	3/26	\$40	13
	Peoria Sculptures...	4/7	\$40	13
	Bradley's Barton Clinic	4/20	\$35	28
	Peoria's Past Tour	5/1	\$40	13
	Bald Eagles...	5/14	\$35	28
<b>Activity Level 2</b>				
	EP!C	3/3	\$35	28
	America 250	3/5	\$35	28
	Welcome to the Circus!	3/20	\$45	28
	Proctor Center...	4/9	\$35	28
	Getz Fire Equipment	4/23	\$35	28
	Peoria County	5/8	\$35	28
	Saffron Social	5/18	\$45	28
<b>Activity Level 3</b>				
	Forensic Science at ISU	3/10	\$45	28
	Camp Wokanda	3/25	\$45	28
	Princeville Clydesdales	4/14	\$45	28
	Princeville Clydesdales	5/12	\$45	28
	Tres Rojas Winery	4/16	\$45	28
	Peoria Intl. Airport	4/24	\$35	28
	Malvern Lane	4/28	\$35	28
	Springdale Cemetery	5/5	\$35	27
	Root Cemetery	5/26	\$35	28
	Greater Peoria Sanitary	5/27	\$35	28
<b>REGIONAL TRIP</b>				
	Earthmoving Legacy	4/29	\$150	44

STUDY GROUPS				
Priority#	Program	Date/s	Fee	Seats
	Being Mortal	3/4 – 3/25	\$45	20
	Apple Insights	3/2 – 3/23	\$45	20
	Apple Insights	3/10 – 3/31	\$45	20
	The West Wing Myth	3/3 – 3/31	\$45	20
	Dead or Alive?	3/4 – 25	\$45	20
	Presidents at War	3/5 – 4/9	\$45	24
	Table for Two...	3/6 – 4/10	\$45	20
	Plant Intelligence	3/9 – 4/13	\$45	18
	First, Fearless, Faithful	3/9 – 3/30	\$45	18
	Great Decisions 2026	3/10 – 4/28	\$45	20
	Reel Representation	3/13 – 5/22	\$45	20
	Declaring Independ.	3/23 – 4/20	\$45	20
	Exploring China	3/31 – 5/5	\$45	20
	Trailblazers Light	4/2 – 4/23	\$45	20
	Make Brain/Best Friend	4/2 – 4/23	\$45	22
	Geology of IL Parks	4/10 – 5/8	\$45	24
	Art of Documentary	4/16 – 5/14	\$45	20
	<i>Indifferent Stars Above</i>	4/21 – 5/19	\$45	22
	Conversation...Artists	4/28 – 5/19	\$45	18
	Great Depression	4/30 – 5/28	\$45	24
	Advanced Trailblazers	5/7 – 5/28	\$45	20
ORIGINALS				
	Precision Planting	3/9, 3/16	\$20	35
	Pickleball...	3/18	\$15	24
	Chautauqua...Circle	4/10, 5/1	\$25	40
	Walk & Wellness Chat	4/13	Free	25
	What If It Is Not True?	4/16	\$15	100
	Bison/Wildlife Prairie	5/21	\$35	45
	Victoria... Statehood	3/23	\$15	35
	Girls in White Dresses	4/24	\$15	100
	Brothers in Arms	5/20	\$15	100
MOVIES				
	1776	3/25	\$5	190
	Sunday Best	4/17	\$5	190
	Brokeback Mountain	5/1	\$5	190
MIX AND MINGLES				
	CXT Coffee	3/19	Free	40
	Industry Brewing	4/13	Free	60
	Tres Rojas Winery	5/19	Free	60

# Spring 2026 Registration

**NOTE: 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: April 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026

### 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Priority#	Program	Fee
	Remembering Vietnam: An Insider's View	\$30
	Protecting Yourself From Dementia	\$30
	Grow Indoors: ...Gardening Series	\$30
	The Reverend, the Millionaire, the Vision...	\$30
	Uncommon Story of Common Materials	\$30
	Central Illinois Embraced the "Red Scare"	\$30
	Zoning: Origins, Impacts, and the Future	\$30

### 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

	All Created Equal: America's Unfinished...	\$30
	Get Your Kicks on Route 66	\$30
	Influence Is Power: Women Who Shaped...	\$30
	The Parables- More Than Just a Story	\$30
	Pilots Need Heroes Too!	\$30
	To Go or Not To Go	\$30
	What is a Concerto?	\$30
	What's It Worth & Why?	\$30

### 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

	Americans in Paris	\$30
	Archaeology: Treasure Hunting...Science	\$30
	Bring on the Male Singers (Part One	\$30
	Will It Play in Peoria?	\$30
	Look What I Wrote	\$30
	Look Where I Went	\$30
	Tazewell County in the Civil War	\$30

### 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

	Breaking the Surface: Female Marine...	\$30
	Four Deans, Four Weeks: An Inside Look...	\$30
	The Holocaust in Greece	\$30
	Last Full Measure: Grant and Lee	\$30
	U.S. Stock Markets – The Lost Decade	\$30
	Vivandière, Spies, Nurses and Others	\$30

## BUFFET LUNCHES DURING CLASS DAYS

4/1:	Turkey wrap with cranberry jam, housemade chips with dip	\$14
4/8:	Ground beef tacos, beans, rice, chips and pico de gallo	\$14
4/15:	Oven roasted pork, mac and cheese, and fingerling potatoes	\$14
4/22:	Creamy Vegetable Lasagna with side salad and green beans	\$14

## ONLINE CLASSES: April 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026

Priority#	Program	Fee
	Remembering Vietnam: An Insider's View	\$30
	Protecting Yourself From Dementia	\$30
	Influence Is Power: Women Who Shaped...	\$30
	To Go or Not To Go	\$30
	Will It Play in Peoria?	\$30
	Look Where I Went	\$30
	The Holocaust in Greece	\$30
	Last Full Measure: Grant and Lee	\$30

## ONLINE ORIGINAL

Priority#	Program	Date/s	Fee	Seats
	AI with Cory Barker	4/21	\$10	25

## OSHER ONLINE

	Music: Controversies...	4/15 - 5/20	\$65	13
	JFK's Quest for Peace	4/2 - 5/7	\$65	13
	Ghosts in White House	3/30 - 5/4	\$65	13
	Leo XIII to Leo XIV...	4/7 - 5/12	\$65	13
	A Beautiful Brain	4/9 - 5/14	\$65	13
	Frank Lloyd Wright	4/21 - 5/26	\$65	13
	Great Science Stories	4/9 - 5/14	\$65	13
	AI for Regular People	4/2 - 5/7	\$65	13
	The Scopes Monkey Trial	3/31 - 5/5	\$65	13
	Writing ... Finding Story	4/18 - 5/23	\$65	13

# Spring 2026 Registration

## Step 2: CHOOSE HOW TO REGISTER

See page 42 for details.

**DEADLINE:** Registration Request Week, forms must be in the office by **4:00 pm on Friday, February 6.**

For registration after February 11, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

I am new to OLLI and participating for the first time

## Step 4: ADDITIONAL INFO (optional)

a) Are you a Bradley alum?  Yes  No

b) Age range: (circle one)

50-59 60-69 70-79 80-89 90-99 100+

c) Can you suggest a place where we might put OLLI brochures in the community? \_\_\_\_\_

d) My hobbies/interests: \_\_\_\_\_

e) Areas of expertise I could share with OLLI: \_\_\_\_\_

## Step 5: PAYMENT INFORMATION

**NEW**

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

### For those registering February 11 or after:

Spring Kickoff.....	\$ _____ +
Dallinger Series Author Event .....	\$ _____ +
Learning Trips.....	\$ _____ +
Study Groups .....	\$ _____ +
Originals .....	\$ _____ +
Mix and Mingles .....	\$ _____ +
Movies .....	\$ _____ +
Classes.....	\$30.00 x _____ = \$ _____ +
Lunches.....	\$ _____ +
OLLI Online .....	\$ _____ +
Osher Online.....	\$ _____ +
OLLI Quarterly Membership Fee*	\$ 5.00 =

\*Paid only once in March - May    TOTAL DUE = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Information for those registering FEB 11 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 6: 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# IMPORTANT

## Reminders from OLLI

### CHECK ACTIVITY LEVEL

Select Trips that match your ability level.

Activity Levels 2, 3, & 4 include a great deal of walking and standing.



### ACTIVITY LEVELS



### ALERT! COMMUNICATION COMES BY EMAIL

We send confirmations, reminders, updates, and itinerary revisions by email only. Meeting locations, times, and details will be emailed before each program. Please check your inbox regularly to keep up with OLLI!

### PAYMENT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20TH

Registrations not paid by this date may be cancelled



### PHONE SUPPORT

Phone support for Registration Requests is available Wednesday, February 4 – Friday, February 6 only. Due to high call volume, please call during this time if phone assistance is required, so we can serve all requests efficiently.



1501 West Bradley Avenue  
Peoria, IL • 61625

(309) 677-3900

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**SPRING  
2026**



**Spring Registration  
Request Week  
February 2-6**

**CONNECT WITH OLLI**



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