STUDY GROUPS

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

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

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

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

**DISCUSSION-BASED**

1. Reflections and Lessons for Life
   **Fridays, September 6 – October 11**
   **9:30 – 11:45 a.m.**
   **Heartis Village**
   **Minimum 4 participants, register by August 23**
   Join us in discussing the book *The Hungering Darkness*, one of Frederick Buechner’s best statements on contemporary belief challenged by doubt, with reflections on biblical themes. Drawing on texts from the Old and New Testaments, *The Hungering Darkness* extends an invitation to discover the hidden face of God revealed in stillness, in unexpected places, often “through a glass darkly.” Participants should obtain and read the book *The Hungering Darkness* by Frederick Buechner, available at local and online retailers and libraries. Internet and email access is requested for this group.
   $45 – facilitated by Rev. Dr. Arvil Bass, a retired minister and OSF chaplain. (RF/NG)

2. **Better with Age: The Psychology of Successful Aging**
   **Mondays, September 9 – October 14**
   **1:30 – 3:10 p.m.**
   **Methodist College**
   **Minimum 10 participants, register by August 26**
   Successful aging has been an elusive concept to both describe and research. For this study group, participants will collaborate with Methodist College students who are studying the biophysical aspects of aging. We’ll discuss *Better with Age: The Psychology of Successful Aging*, by Dr. Alan Castel, a psychology professor at UCLA who maintains that aging is not all downhill — an important point for students, both younger and older, to remember. The weekly discussions allow everyone to learn from each other, especially about the psychological and social implications associated with the biophysical aging processes.
   Participants should obtain the book, available at local and online retailers and libraries, and have internet and email access.
   $45 – facilitated by Marjorie Getz, a professor of arts and sciences at Methodist College and frequent OLLI facilitator and instructor. (RF/NG)

3. Alternatives for Health and Wellness
   **Tuesdays, September 10 – October 15**
   **9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**
   **Goodwill Commons**
   **Minimum 2 participants, register by August 27**
   For thousands of years, mankind has been treating the body in different ways to achieve ultimate health. In this study group, we will dive deeper into the world of alternative healthcare. Participants will examine different forms of alternative healthcare such as chiropractic, acupuncture, muscle therapy used, and aroma therapy used to treat the body for various conditions. We will have active discussions on how to promote health in the body, with notes provided each week. Internet and email access is required for this group.
   $45 – facilitated by Dr. Kurt Pepperell, a licensed doctor of chiropractic and acupuncture and frequent OLLI class instructor. (NF/NG)

4. China’s Three Teachings
   **Tuesdays, September 10 – October 29**
   **9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**
   **Peoria Next Innovation Center**
   **Minimum 4 participants, register by August 27**
   Two millennia ago, civilizations across the Eurasian landmass began to address questions on the nature of human existence and society. On the eastern reach of that landmass, Chinese civilization pondered such questions through three different lenses that shaped the intellectual heritage of China. Known to the Chinese as “The Three Teachings,” Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism

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created bodies of texts that laid philosophical and religious foundations for Chinese society. This study group will address one text from each of these traditions. Our study will include three opportunities for evening discussions of these important texts with Bradley undergraduates. Participants are expected to obtain and read the following books, available at local and online retailers and libraries: *Confucius Analects: With Selections from Traditional Commentaries* by Edward Slingerland, *The Daodejing of Laozi* by Philip J. Ivanhoe, and *The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch: The Text of the Tun-huang Manuscript* by Philip B. Yampolsky. Internet and email access is required for this group.

$45 – facilitated by Daniel Getz, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Bradley University. (RF/NG)

5. Cognitive Changes: A Candid Exploration
Mondays, September 16 – October 21
3:20 – 4:30 p.m.
Methodist College
Minimum 10 participants, register by September 2
Participants in this study group will join students from Methodist College in candid explorations of cognitive changes that occur during the aging process. We will focus on changes in attention, memory, intelligence, and social cognitions. These changes will be tied with recent research related to older adults and their vulnerability to scamming. Discussions will be supplemented with podcasts from the popular *Marketplace* program on National Public Radio, and the group will end with a brief symposium involving professional staff from local community agencies that focus on decreasing scamming of older adults. Internet and email access is required for this group, but reading materials will be provided.

$45 – facilitated by Marjorie Getz, a professor of arts and sciences at Methodist College and frequent OLLI facilitator and instructor. (RF/NG)

6. The Great Bridge
Tuesdays, September 24 – October 22
9:30 – 11:45 a.m.
Goodwill Commons
Minimum 7 participants, register by September 10
The Brooklyn Bridge was designed in less than three months, but took 14 years to build. Through the study of David McCullough’s book, *The Great Bridge*, we will be introduced to the people who were involved in its design and construction, their personal agendas, and the politics and greed that greatly slowed construction on the massive bridge. We will research other sources for more detailed information on these key people, and discuss some of the technical aspects of the actual construction. Internet and email access is required for this group.

$45 – facilitated by Ralph Dalton, retired Illinois Department of Transportation engineer and past chair of OLLI’s curriculum committee. (RF/RG)

7. The Irish Short Stories of Kevin Barry
Tuesdays, October 1 – October 29
2:00 – 4:15 p.m.
W.E. Sullivan’s Pub
Minimum 10 participants, register by September 17
This study group will examine several of the short stories in Irish author Kevin Barry’s book, *Dark Lies The Island*. Through group discussion, we will explore the various ways the author uses characters, plot, and detail to connect with the reader’s senses. Barry is inspired by what he refers to as the “perfectly tuned comic sentence” and, as we will discover, applies it frequently to the conflicts, resolutions, and epiphanies in each of his stories. Some examples include: “(The car) and mother had in common a martyr’s perseverance and a lack of natural advantages” and “It wasn’t as if she was small – there was no shortage of the girl.” Participants should be willing to obtain a copy of the book, available at local and online retailers and libraries, reflectively read two short stories each week, and be tolerant of Barry’s sometimes graphic language. A study guide will be provided to seed weekly discussion. Internet and email access is required for this group.

$45 – facilitated by Greg Peine, Caterpillar retiree, OLLI member, and frequent study group facilitator. (RF/NG)
8. Civil War Fathers: Sons of the Civil War in World War II

**Thursdays, October 3 – October 31**
**1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

**UnityPoint Methodist North**

Minimum 5 participants, register by September 19

As incredible as it may seem, Civil War veterans fathered children who fought in World War II. Join author Tim Pletkovich for an examination of the lives of eight American families who share this unique commonality. Class discussions will center on Pletkovich’s book, *Civil War Fathers*, about World War II veterans who grew up with their elderly Civil War fathers during the 1920s and 1930s, and how the difficult years of the Great Depression prepared them for their own military service. One of the individuals in the book we’ll discuss is Frederick Upham, who was recently featured in a *National Geographic* video describing his father’s first meeting with President Lincoln during the Civil War. The elder Upham was subsequently appointed to West Point by the commander in chief and served guard duty for an extended period over ex-Confederate President Jefferson Davis at Fort Monroe, Virginia, where the two developed an enduring friendship. Participants are expected to obtain and read the book, available at local and online retailers and libraries, and have internet and email access. $45 – facilitated by Tim Pletkovich, an author, former baseball scout, and secondary school teacher. (RF/NG)

9. Coffee’s History, Hardy Business, Health, and Human Socialization

**Mondays, October 7 – November 4**
**9:00 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

Minimum 8 participants, register by September 23

Coffee dates as far back as the thirteenth century. This study group will explore the history of coffee, the hardy business of coffee, (including farming, roasting, different brewing methods, and selling), the health attributes of coffee, and how coffee has facilitated human socialization. Each session will include a tasting of different beans and discussion of our favorite types of coffee, coffee recipes, coffee makers, and coffee trivia. The book *Uncommon Grounds* by Mark Pendergrast, available at local or online retailers and libraries, will be used, and a workbook will be provided. Internet and email access is required for this group. $45 – facilitated by Bob Yonker, retired Caterpillar engineer, study group facilitator and STEM/STEAM study group category coordinator; and Patricia Melaik, retired teacher, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, and frequent OLLI instructor. (RF/NF/RG)

10. Fly Me To The Moon: A Technical and Social History of Apollo 11

**Mondays, October 7 – November 11**
**1:00 – 3:15 p.m.**

**Lutheran Hillside Village**

Minimum 6 participants, register by September 23

The 50th anniversary of humankind’s first landing on the moon was celebrated in July 2019. This study group will investigate the history of Apollo 11 and the turbulent times of the 1960s. The technical achievement of the mission cannot be told in a vacuum, as NASA’s execution of the Apollo program took place during a decade of searing racial divisions, intense political divisiveness over the Vietnam War, and rapid changes in social norms. Participants should obtain and read the book *Rocket Men: The Epic Story of the First Men on the Moon* by Craig Nelson, available at local and online retailers and libraries. Internet and email access is required for this group. $45 – facilitated by Mark Golden, adjunct physics instructor at Illinois Central College and retired Caterpillar engineer. (RF/RG)

11. Revisiting Eyes on the Prize, Season II

**Thursdays, October 10 – November 14**
**10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**Peoria Public Library – North Branch**

Minimum 8 participants, register by September 26

Join us for viewing and discussing the second season of *Eyes on the Prize*, the award-winning documentary series that aired on PBS in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In cooperation with the Peoria Public Library, we will watch each of Season II’s eight episodes and then discuss the period and events covered in the context of then and now. Participants need not to have attended the previous *Eyes on the Prize* – Season I study group. Internet and email access is required for this group. $45 – facilitated by Kurt and Keith Butterfield, Caterpillar retirees and frequent OLLI study group facilitators. (RFs/RG)

12. Two Great Ones by Wallace Stegner

**Fridays, October 18 – November 15**
**1:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Peoria Next Innovation Center**

Minimum 10 participants, register by October 4

Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner Wallace Stegner was a tour de force of American literature, a teacher, conservationist, and historian, but mainly a brilliant writer. Join us as we read two of his best works: *Crossing to Safety*, a story of lifelong friendship, and *The Spectator Bird*, a tender and humorous memory of a long ago trip. Stegner once said, “The whole business of writing is an attempt to arrive at truth.” Let’s look for it as we discuss these works. Participants are expected to

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obtain and read both books, available at local and online retailers and libraries, and must have email addresses and internet access.

$45 – facilitated by Jane Hense, a retired English teacher and school administrator, a frequent study group facilitator, and current OLLI President; and Muvr Pretorius, retired attorney, frequent OLLI facilitator, and lifelong student of English literature. (RFs/NG)


Thursday, October 24 – December 12
9:30 – 11:45 a.m.
Peoria Riverfront Museum
Minimum 10 participants, register by October 10

In the grand history of the Western world, there is no single individual whose name is more synonymous with inventiveness, curiosity, and creative genius than Leonardo da Vinci. From his relentless pursuit of knowledge to everyday questions such as “What separates water from air?” and “Where is the soul?” da Vinci produced copious journals, notebooks, and sketches of his ever-curious mind. In addition to his well-known and loved paintings, da Vinci pursued subjects such as botany, geology, architecture, hydraulics, military engineering, geometry, and anatomy. As the year 2019 celebrates the 500th anniversary of his death, come discover the uniqueness of the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci from all these perspectives. Internet and email access is required for this group.

$45 – facilitated by Randy Huber, retired Caterpillar engineer and past OLLI study group facilitator; and Patricia Melaik, retired teacher, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, and frequent OLLI instructor. (RFs/NG)

14. Scrooge in Scriptures

Fridays, November 1 – November 22
9:30 – 11:45 a.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 4 participants, register by October 18

Just in time for the holiday season, participants in this study group will discuss how the writings of Charles Dickens can be related to life in the modern world. Using the book A Christmas Carol with a Four-Week Bible Study for Advent (available at local or online retailers and libraries), we will discuss how the Dickens classic tale can be compared and contrasted to scripture. Internet and email access is requested for this group.

$45 – facilitated by Rev. Dr. Arvil Bass, retired minister and OSF chaplain. (RF/NG)

15. Day and Night Dreams

Wednesdays, September 4 – 25
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 5 participants, register by August 21

This study group was last offered in 2010, and is back with new information. Participants will explore possible meanings of their dreams through discussion and creative expression. They will research some interpretations and focus on the enjoyment of the process, including deciphering terms like archetypes, shadows, and animals. Please come to the first session with notes from a night dream and be ready to discuss! Participants are encouraged to obtain the book Transcendent Dreaming by Christina Donnell, available and local and online retailers and libraries, and should have internet and email access.

$45 – facilitated by Helen Martin, who holds advanced degrees in theology and education and has studied at Jung Institutes in Chicago and Zurich. (RF/RG)

16. Presidential Campaign: Candidates 2020

Fridays, September 20 – October 11
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 6 participants, register by August 21

As of June 2019, there were 23 Democrats and 2 Republicans running for President in 2020. In this study group, we will examine the evolution of the presidential nominating process and explore the backgrounds and policy positions of the many 2020 presidential candidates. Several brief readings will be encouraged and a short presentation on one candidate will be requested. Internet and email access is required for this group.

$45 – facilitated by Shelley Epstein, former OLLI executive committee member, retired assistant vice president of communications at Bradley University, and associate opinion page editor for the Peoria Journal Star. (RF/NG)

17. Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor

Mondays, October 7 – November 4
9:30 – 11:45 a.m.
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Minimum 6 participants, register by September 23

For this study group, we will discuss Yossi Klein HaLevi’s book, Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor. Participants are required to obtain and read the book, available at local and online retailers and libraries, as we join together to discuss Yossi’s perspective, and the perspective he presents of his Palestinian neighbor. Halevi’s letters speak not only to his neighbor, but to all concerned global citizens, helping us understand the painful choices confronting Israelis and
Palestinians that will ultimately help determine the fate of the region. This group may deepen your understanding of the situation that these two neighbors face on a daily basis. Internet and email access is required for this group. $45 – facilitated by Susan Katz, executive director at the Jewish Federation of Peoria, and Bill Dohle, a frequent OLLI facilitator, Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Peoria. (NF/NG)

18. American Mah-Jongg for Beginners
Tuesdays, September 3 – October 8
1:00 – 3:15 p.m.
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Minimum 8 participants, register by August 20
Mah-Jongg, a tile-based game developed in China during the Qing dynasty, has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. The game of skill, strategy, and calculation (with a little luck thrown in) has captured the imagination and passion of thousands, maybe millions, of players. Join ardent players and teachers, Louise Rettke and Mary Franck, to experience the phenomenon. Players must be willing to have fun and enjoy a new skill! Participants should be prepared to purchase a 2019 National Mah-Jongg League Card ($9.00) from the facilitators on the first day.
$45 – facilitated by Louise Rettke, retired educator, and Mary Franck, Caterpillar retiree. (RF/RG)

19. Hands-On Drones 101:
Flying, Photography, and More
Tuesdays, September 3 – 24
1:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 4 participants, register by August 20
Wondering how to get off the ground with drone photography? Or even without photography? We’ll give you the basics of flying a drone, how to fly by the rules, the basics of aerial photography and videography, and some flight time/practice with an FAA-certified small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) pilot. You’ll capture some images and we’ll provide a little constructive criticism along the way. Participants should already own a drone, particularly one capable of photography, and consider themselves as new to this very trendy hobby. Internet and email access is required for this group. $45 – facilitated by David Vernon, freelance commercial photographer and FAA-certified sUAS (drone) pilot. (NF/NG)

20. Write Your Life Part II
Fridays, September 6 – October 4
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Goodwill Commons
Minimum 10 participants, register by August 23
All of us have stories to tell. In this study group, we will examine how to put those stories on the blank page. Through the use of prompts, and guided by Bill Roorbach’s book, Writing Life Stories, we will develop scenes from our past and shape our memories into compelling narratives. Writers can expect each session to include “flash” writing time as well as opportunities to read our work for constructive group feedback. There will be additional prompts and exercises to encourage more in-depth writing between sessions. Participants should obtain the book, available at local and online retailers and libraries, from which we will use different selections for each week’s session. Internet and email access is required for this group. $45 – facilitated by Gary Nelson, a retired attorney and study group committee chair, and Vick Steward, frequent study group facilitator. (RFs/RG)

Mondays, September 9 – October 28
1:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 8 participants, register by August 26
Come and improve your bridge playing skills with others who are eager to learn, as we will focus on defensive play. Participants should be familiar with basic bidding and play of the hand. You will learn keys to defensive play, including opening leads versus both no trump and...
suit contacts; third hand play; second hand play; defensive signals; and developing defensive tricks. Participants will have the opportunity to put their newly learned skills into action by playing pre-dealt hands each session. Each participant will receive a text entitled Defense in the 21st Century at no cost.

$45 – facilitated by Chuck Young, bridge teacher certified by the American Contract Bridge League and frequent OLLI facilitator. (RF/RG)

22. Winging it with Polymer Clay
Tuesdays, September 10 – October 1
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Studios on Sheridan
Minimum 6 participants, register by August 27
Join us for a fun, relaxing, and informative group on sculpture for beginners. We’ll learn about the history of clay art, including oil, pottery, and earthenware, and discuss the details of this art method. Next, we’ll get hands on and work with the clay, creating a simple sculpture to learn how to handle and form the clay properly. For our main project, we will build an armature (an internal wire support) in the shape of a bird, layer the clay, and continue working until we have a completed sculpture! Participants should bring an old, dull paring knife to use during the group, and will be asked to pay the facilitator $6.00 on the first day for the clay. By the end of our time together, we will have acquired knowledge about the art, worked with our hands, and completed a bird in a realistic, abstract, or playful style using an oven hardened clay.

$45 – facilitated by Billie Howd, retired dental laboratory owner who teaches sculpture at her studio at Studios on Sheridan. (NF/NG)

23. Fundraising 101: Planning a Fundraising Program for Small Charities and Churches
Fridays, September 13 – October 18
1:00 – 3:15 p.m.
Goodwill Commons
Minimum 5 participants, register by August 30
Are you involved with fundraising for a favorite charity, or on a board at your church and want to go beyond your annual rummage sale? One of the challenges of fundraising for small charities and religious institutions is doing more with less. Most are understaffed with volunteers with limited budgets and little training or experience. Compounding the challenge is the expense involved in attending fundraising symposiums, conferences, and workshops. This study group provides such training at limited cost to allow the participants practical exercises and insight into the fundraising process. Internet and email access is required for this group.

$45 – facilitated by H. Kenwood Lewis, retired director of planned giving, Northwestern Memorial Hospital. (NF/NG)

24. Come With Us to Grover’s Corners
Mondays, September 23 – November 4
1:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Peoria Next Innovation Center
Minimum 10 participants, register by August 9
Hello drama lovers! Chances are, you remember the first time you saw Thornton Wilder’s brilliant Pulitzer prize-winning play Our Town. This American classic has been performed to acclaim by high school students, community theater groups, and professional actors thousands of times. Now OLLI is taking it on as a study group, offering us the chance to hear and maybe speak the beautiful lines again. “Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it?” asks Emily Gibbs in an emotional scene in Act III. Join us to experience Wilder’s tender story once again. Internet and email access is required for this group. Participants should be prepared to purchase the $12 licensed script at the first meeting.

$45 – facilitated by Pat White, a retired teacher and acting and dance instructor; Bruce White, a retired businessman and part time teacher; and Jim Wilhelm, a well-known television personality who has acted in and directed Our Town many times. (NFs/NG)

25. The Art of the Cocktail Redux
Wednesdays, October 30 – November 20
2:00 – 4:15 p.m.
Hearth Restaurant
Minimum 8 participants, register by October 16
Cheers! This repeat of a study group from Winter 2019 is for all levels of cocktail lovers, especially those who are intrigued by the creativity of mixology. We will study cocktails that you know (and don’t know) and demonstrate how the classics can be easily modified into modern cocktails that are great for entertaining others or enjoying on your own. We will review the history of cocktails, both pre-Prohibition and post-Prohibition, and identify the barware, books, and spirits that any home bar should contain. Of course, we will shake, stir, and taste test together along the way and discuss what appeals to you and why. Our goal is ultimately to freshen your approach to the cocktail hour for you and friends. Internet and email access is required for this group.

$45 – facilitated by Tim Bertschy, a retired attorney and amateur mixologist. (RF/RG)