

## Monthly Highlights

■ Remember, if SVSU is closed due to adverse weather conditions, OLLI classes and meetings are also cancelled. Call the University Weather Line for an up-to-date report: 964-4477.

■ Check out the exhibit “Mingled Visions: Images from *The North American Indian Collection*” by Edward S. Curtis Feb. 3-May 20th in the Marshall M. Fredericks Museum.

■ Join SVSU’s James V. Finkbeiner Endowed Professor of Ethics, Peter Barry for a talk on “The Age of Discrimination” on April 5 from 6-7:30pm in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

■ Looking Ahead: OLLI class registration for Spring/Summer begins April 12!

**SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**  
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## April Monthly Meeting

*Wednesday, April 12, 2017*

*SVSU Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms*

**8:45 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**9:30 a.m. Welcome & Announcements**

## Jazzy Musical Entertainment

*Presented by The New Reformation Band*

Come to our April meeting ready to be entertained! The New Reformation Band has given thousands of performances worldwide in its 45+ years of playing traditional jazz, including Dixieland, ragtime, blues, big band, swing, and more. From its first performance at a Saginaw church in 1970, the band has played its “joyful sound” at national jazz festivals, on cruise ships, in concert halls, country clubs, band shells, fairs, resorts,



supper clubs, at schools and colleges, as well as performing hundreds of worship services in churches of many faiths. Over the years, The New Reformation Band has produced 15 critically acclaimed albums, which are being enjoyed by fans everywhere. Featuring the founding Oppermann Brothers and five “superstar” sidemen, these seven friendly fellows provide a fun-loving, knee-slapping, toe-tapping entertainment experience that you don’t want to miss!



## Upcoming Events & Monthly Meetings

**Wednesday, May 10**

**Monthly Meeting, *The Storyteller’s Tao***  
by Deng Ming-Dao  
Curtiss Hall - Banquet Rooms

**Wednesday, June 14**

**Monthly Meeting, *New Hope Valley***  
by retirement community staff  
Curtiss Hall - Banquet Rooms

**Wednesday, August 9**

**Monthly Meeting, *History of the MI State Police***  
by Trooper William Smith  
Curtiss Hall - Banquet Rooms

## SVSU-OLLI

Osher Lifelong Learning  
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7400 Bay Road  
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The *Adventurer* is published monthly for SVSU-OLLI members at Saginaw Valley State University. Reprints of this newsletter may be obtained by calling (989) 964-4475.

Hello OLLI friends,

I have been thinking about Hillbilly Elegy, whose author J. D. Vance grew up in Jackson, Kentucky and Middletown, Ohio. His classmates called it “Middletucky” because so many came from Kentucky to work in the Armco steel mills there. By 1960, 1 million of the Ohio population of ten million were from Kentucky, West Virginia, or Tennessee.

But the factories closed, and as the Middletowns of Ohio and elsewhere slowly decayed, many of those whose parents had found good jobs and created a better life than they had had in Appalachia, found that they faced declining opportunities.

In his late teens Vance was thinking hard, and angrily, about the conditions he saw all around him. He read The Truly Disadvantaged by sociologist William Julius Wilson, and it “struck a nerve.” Once the factories shut down, those left behind were trapped in places that could offer little social support. And he read Charles Murray’s Losing Ground, which he says described “the way our government encouraged social decay through the welfare state.”

These books spoke to him despite the fact that they were written, not about stranded hillbilly transplants from Appalachia, but about black people in inner cities.

Unlike his peers, Vance left the rust belt. He feels he had help that his neighbors did not. He served in the Marine Corps, graduated from Ohio State University, earned a law degree from Yale, is a principal with an investment firm in Silicon Valley and sometimes writes for National Review. Billionaire Peter Thiel endorses his book, saying “J.D. Vance writes powerfully about the real people who are kept out of sight”.

Those “real people” are here in Michigan as well, in what some call “flyover country” between the coasts. There’s plenty to think about in Hillbilly Elegy, whether you read National Review or The Nation.

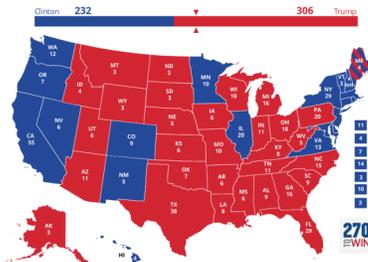
Leslie Sanders, OLLI Advisory Board Chair



## Political Roundtable Event

### President Trump’s First 100 Days in Office

In an historic campaign that drastically altered the political map, Donald Trump gained an electoral victory in the 2016 Presidential Election. Honored as *Time*’s Person of the Year in 2016, many Trump supporters and opponents were left wondering how this non-politician’s political career would work once in office.

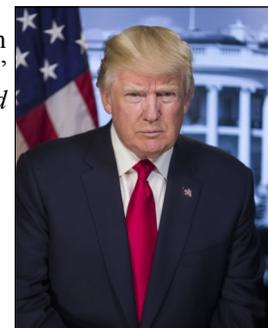


Featuring SVSU political scientists Stewart French, Ph.D. and David Weaver, Ph.D. (emeritus), Delta College economist Erik Q. Beckman, and CMU history professor Kathleen Donohue, Ph.D., this group of experts will lend their analysis to what’s happening inside the White House. The

panel will respond to audience questions and each other regarding the Trump Administration’s policies, and impact on the United States and the world during his first 100 days in office.

**This event is free to OLLI members and just \$10 for guests.** Find it in the Spring/Summer Catalog under “Current Events & World Culture.” *Those in attendance are encouraged to write down their questions ahead of time for submission to the moderator.*

**Thursday May 11 ♦ 12:00pm-2:00pm ♦ Curtiss Hall 129**



# Taiji Seminar & Keynote Address

**Taiji Seminar**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2017**  
9:00 am-3:30 pm  
*SVSU Banquet Rooms*  
*Curtiss Hall*

The workshop fee includes lunch and refreshments, which will be served in the SVSU Banquet Rooms, Curtiss Hall

**Price (Until April 30):**

OLLI Members & SVSU Faculty/Staff	\$70
Students	\$50
General Public	\$80
Price after April 30 for everyone	\$90

Join internationally known author Deng Ming-Dao for a Taiji Seminar on Tuesday May 9, 2017, followed by his keynote address on Wednesday May 10 during the regular OLLI Monthly Meeting. After last year's successful class featuring the Ten Movement Taijiquan, Ming-Dao will return to teach the Twenty-Four Movement Yang Style Taijiquan. An expansion of the ten basic postures, this set is excellent for beginning and intermediate students. This is an exceptional method for relaxation, the healing of chronic illnesses, and the maintenance of balanced health. Come join the Taiji community and discover the wonders of Taijiquan!

OLLI Members can also enjoy the Deng Ming-Dao's stories as he shares "The Storyteller's Tao" for the monthly meeting. Taoism is China's great contribution to world philosophy. Many of these concepts are expressed in pithy stories. The short texts range from allegories to essays, and they cover topics from the origin of the world to how to live with effortless action. Ming-Dao will present a selection of these memorable stories, their history and connection to contemporary American life.

## OLLI Fast Stats

- ◆ SVSU's OLLI has over 2000 members presently!
- ◆ We are ranked 8th amongst all OLLIs nationwide for membership.
  - ◆ The largest OLLI is at the University of Delaware.
- ◆ The newest OLLI is at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

## Current OLLI Interest Groups

**Board Games:** Ted McLaughlin, (989)790-9587, tshorty@chartermi.net  
**Bridge:** Matt Skowronski, (989) 684-6402, Marilyn Bechtel (989)894-1089  
**Buddhist Psychology:** Eric Devos, (989)964-4329, devos@svsu.edu  
**Choral Singing:** Rose Kohut, (989)790-1883, obsessedreader@hotmail.com  
**Cross Country Skiing:** Pam Young (989)781-2759, pamelaroseyoung@gmail.com  
**Current Events:** Carol Gohm, (989)574-5862, cgohm47@gmail.com  
**Cycling:** Linda Ackerman (989)781-2961, lmackerman50@gmail.com  
**Dinner:** Deborah Bula, (989)781-1126, dbretired610@gmail.com  
**Esoteric Cosmology:** Wayne O'Brien, (989)686-0475, woobrien@tm.net  
**Euchre:** Ruth Skeebo (989)631-1183, rskee42@charter.net  
**Feminism:** Eileen Harris (989)780-8893, eileenh@umass.edu  
**Gardening:** Crystal Kauer (989)792-6874, cmkauer@chartermi.net  
**Guitar:** Mike Juengling, (989)607-2509, mikejuen5@gmail.com  
**Kayaking:** Dan Dauer (989)753-6038, dauerhome@juno.com  
**Knitting:** Barb Weadock, (989)792-8839, barb@weadock.net  
**Lunch:** Rita Grasso, (989)781-4725, ritaolli1@yahoo.com  
**Music Collegium:** Eric Nisula, (989)964-4307, epn@svsu.edu  
**Pickleball:** Edith Sommers, (989)751-3819, edithsommers@charter.net  
**Ping Pong:** Carol Lagalo, (989)752-9857, lagaloc@yahoo.com  
**Readers Theatre:** Rose Kohut, (989)790-1883, obsessedreader@hotmail.com  
**Recreational Biking:** Vicki Shrope (989)615-0317, vshrope@yahoo.com  
**Stamp & Coin Collecting:** Robert Bula (989)781-1126  
**Theatre:** Bonnie Rowell, (989)799-3102, bjrowell43@yahoo.com

## Interest Group Feature: Pickleball!

Are you a tennis playing pro or ping-pong guru looking for a new challenge? Have you wondered what those funny wooden paddles were for or are you just looking for something new to play? Pickleball just may be the sport for you! Invented in 1965, and possibly named after the family dog, pickleball can be played indoors or out as singles or doubles. Invented with the intention of being a game the whole family could play, pickleball is easy to learn for beginners. However, if you've already got experience, be ready for a fast-paced competition! This summer, join the OLLI pickleball interest group for a fun and exciting form of exercise with friends. For more information, contact Edith Sommers at the points to the left.



## Director's Corner: Katherine Ellison

In April, Advisory Board Chair Leslie Sanders and I will be headed to Irving, Texas for the Osher Institutes National Conference! I'm hoping to learn a lot about the other OLLIs around the country and how they work, as well as how we can continue to make OLLI at SVSU even better. With over 2000 members now we have to explore new options for maintaining our numbers and satisfying the masses too! I'll also be learning more about Generation X as they age into the OLLI bracket and how we can better serve them as a unique group between the Baby Boomers and Millennials. In the meantime, I've been working hard putting together an interesting and diverse course list for spring/summer. We are looking at over 70 classes offered in history, health, legal studies and much more! A new area of interest is the OLLI After Hours section, where members may experience wine and beer tasting at off-site locations between five and seven o'clock and learn about amazing local products and businesses in the Great Lakes Bay Area.



*K.E.*

## Class Highlight: Ukulele

Is the guitar too hard? Is the piano too heavy to lug around? Well, then, learn to play the ukulele with the founder of the Saginaw Ukulele Gurus And Rookies (SUGAR), Midland's own Johnny Hunt! The key to learning anything is having fun in the process, and that will be the primary objective of this class. There will be a limited number of ukuleles available at the first class for in-class use. You may purchase a starter uke for as little as \$40 at many music stores (or online). E-mail Johnny at johnnyhunt57@yahoo.com with questions. Hal Leonard *Ukulele Method Book* provided with class fee. Class limited to 30 people.



**Mondays: May 8, 15, 22 and June 5, 12, 10:00am-12:00pm**  
**Price: \$32 Members; \$64 Non-Members**  
**Room: C129**

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