

# the Adventurer

Term: Winter | Issue 17:7 | April 2018

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## MONTHLY MEETING

### The Eastland Disaster

Wednesday April 11, 2018

8:45 am—Registration & Light Refreshments

9:30 am—Welcome & Announcements

In the summer of 1915, the passenger boat *Eastland* called St. Joseph, Michigan home. Owned by the St. Joseph-Chicago Steamship Company, *Eastland* transported passengers daily between the cities of St. Joseph and Chicago. On July 24, 1915, the Western Electric Company chartered the boat to transport 2,500 of their employees to a company picnic in Michigan City. *Eastland* capsized while still tied to the dock, killing 844 people. This presentation by Dr. Caitlyn Perry-Dial, Director of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, will discuss the boat's history, the events of that day, and how after a century the tragedy remains the Great Lakes' greatest disaster in terms of loss of life.

\*\*Some of the images shown during the presentation are graphic\*\*



## NOTES & NEWS

- The monthly meetings for May and June will be moved to the Temple Theatre at 203 N. Washington St. in downtown Saginaw due to construction on Curtiss Hall; parking in the garage across the street from the Theatre is \$6/car.
- Check out Saginaw's Silver Screen at the Temple Theatre for the *Stratton Story* on April 8 at 1:30pm. \$5 Admission.
- Join the Men of Music for their Spring Show on Friday April 13th at 7:30pm. Cost is \$15 at the Midland Center for the Arts.
- View the *Hina Matsuri, Hina Dolls* display at the Japanese Cultural Center in Saginaw during the month of April.

## CONTACT US

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday May 9

**Monthly Meeting: Climate Action—An Update**  
By: Pat Race, Jim Crissman, & Pete Sinclair  
Temple Theatre-203 N. Washington, Saginaw  
(parking garage \$6/car)

Wednesday June 13

**Monthly Meeting: Serve, Innovate, and Empower: The Saginaw County School System**  
By: Kathy Stewart, Ph.D. Saginaw ISD  
Temple Theatre-203 N. Washington, Saginaw

## CHAIR'S NOTE



Hello OLLI friends,

I've been holding this happy thought: by the time they come for my car keys, I'll be able to buy a self driving car.

But now comes weekly magazine The Economist to pop my balloon.

First of all, those autonomous vehicles (AVS) will be so expensive that at least initially they will probably only be available as "robotaxis" which get used enough to offset their costs.

And second, they will only be able to navigate in "limited and carefully mapped areas." None of this wind-in-the-hair open road fantasy.

And then there are the privacy issues. Apparently there was an "infamous" analysis of passenger data in which Uber identified one-night stands; and since AVS record everything that happens in and around them, the world of the future holds even less privacy.

Keeping the old car may not be an option. There's the likelihood that human driven vehicles will be banned on safety grounds. AVS will "dramatically reduce the number of road deaths." That's good. But obviously, there could be less freedom to travel the roads. Forget "blue highways."

And then there is pricing. According to The Economist, with AVS, "the unwelcome externalities associated with cars can be fully priced in". Translation: taxes and tolls can go up. For more happy news, see The Economist March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018, page 14, "Who is behind the wheel?"

—Leslie Sanders, Advisory Board Chair

## DON'T BE A FOOL



April 1st is designated as April Fool's Day where people near and far torture their family and friends by becoming overnight tricksters and liars. April Fool's is one of the strangest holidays to celebrate, but where did it start?

The origins of such an odd day are mysterious. It is most widely believed to have started during the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, when the new year went from March 25 to January 1. Those who mistakenly still celebrated the new year on April 1 (because the last week in March was a holy week), were dubbed "fools." Likewise, friends and neighbors may have stopped by on April 1st in order to trick the homeowner into thinking it was a new year's visit.

The beginning of April is also fairly close to the arrival of spring. Trickster Michigan is always trying to fool us into thinking it's a different season than it's supposed to be. Are we fools for hoping for warmer weather and greener grass?

No matter the origin, April Fool's Day is one holiday to look out for! Beware of visiting friends that day!



## READY, SET, ACTION

OLLI is setting its sights on the silver screen! Well, not really, but OLLI is working on a few videos for our website and YouTube.

Over the next few weeks, you may see our Director pop into your classes or interest group sessions to snag a few clips. Pretend like she's not even there!

If you'd like to participate in these OLLI videos, please let the Director know. We will be looking for satisfied customers to tell us why they love OLLI, about all the great things OLLI has to offer, and why they joined OLLI in the first place.

We will also be utilizing photos in the videos as well, so if you have a great shot of an OLLI trip, meeting, interest group activity, or class, please give us a copy (electronic or hard copy)! You can email them to the Director at [keelliso@svsu.edu](mailto:keelliso@svsu.edu) or drop them by the OLLI office in Curtiss 111.



## CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS

• Bridge	• Gardening	Courses
• Buddhist Psychology	• Guitar	• Short Stories
• Choral Singing	• Kayaking	• Stamp & Coin Collecting
• Cross Country Skiing	• Knitting	• Theatre
• Current Events	• Lunch	
• Cycling	• Music Collegium	
• Dinner	• Pickleball	
• Esoteric Cosmology	• Ping Pong	
• Euchre	• Recreational Biking	
• Games	• Sharing the Great	

For group leader contact info see: [svsu.edu/olli](http://svsu.edu/olli)

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Barb Mitchell

When Helmut Schick quipped “She’s a hoot!” to a class member who’d commented on my owl garb, he probably didn’t realize he was complimenting me! After all, I’ve spent a lifetime looking for humor in all situations. From childhood, at my Dad’s suggestion, I’ve always read the comics first, no matter the headline! I still remember the friend in a next-door classroom saying, with a slight frown: “I don’t understand why your students are always laughing!”

When teaching Latin (the “dead” language) and French (“No American can speak French properly!”), you’d better have a way to get and keep a student’s attention! So being a “hoot” was highly motivating and made teaching a joy, as well as providing me with fantastic memories.

Then I decided to *Google* “Laughter as Medicine.” And guess what?!? My dad and I were on to something! Check out the article “Laughter is the best Medicine.” “Laughter relaxes the whole body, boosts the immune system, triggers the release of endorphins, protects the heart, burns calories, lightens anger’s heavy load and may even help you to live longer!” So laughter has physical benefits *and* helps you stay mentally healthy. Check out laughter’s benefits online and start looking for humor in the world around you!



## WHO GETS CREDIT?

Often when losing a spouse, one’s credit is at the end of the list to be concerned about. Left to deal with funeral and burial arrangements, estate issues, and more, the widow or widower may not even worry about credit cards until days or weeks later.

However, credit cards are often issued to one person as a primary account holder with additional “authorized users” who also have cards in their own names. In many cases, a wife’s card is that of an “authorized user” and when her husband passes away, her credit card account is closed as well.

Even if a couple has had the card for years, the primary account holder is the only one with control over the account—and in his/her death, the account is closed. Most credit card companies find out about deaths through the Social Security death records and credit reporting agencies, and close the account automatically without notifying any of the other users.

Plan ahead and make sure that each spouse has at least one primary credit card with him/her named as the primary account holder, or that the card allows for two primary account holders. If caught trying to use a card that has been closed after a loved one’s death, it can be devastating all over again.



## ADVISORY BOARD

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## GROUP FOCUS: KAYAKING

Imagine a day on the Kawkawlin, AuSable, Chippewa, or Cass River, paddling and chatting amongst friends. After a two to four-hour trip, perhaps you relax at a local restaurant to refuel and finish the conversation before heading home. Sunshine, fresh air, and burbling waters abound. This dream is the reality of the Kayaking Interest Group! Join group leader Dan Dauer and his kayaking compatriots in this group and embrace summer. See Michigan’s picturesque rivers and streams complete with encounters with ducks and eagles all from the safety of your own kayak. For more information contact Dan Dauer at [dauerhome@juno.com](mailto:dauerhome@juno.com) or 989-753-6038.



## NEWSLETTER

“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.

Newsletter Editor:  
Katherine Ellison  
989.964.4475

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

This past month I visited a couple of amazing groups of people interested in knowing more about OLLI. First I visited the Kiwassee Kiwanis in Midland, who raise money and volunteer their time to help children and families. One of their big projects is a converted elementary school building to be used as housing for homeless families until they can get back on their feet. I also met with the Communication Workers of America group of retirees. They've enjoyed our OLLI's Follies group at their holiday party and wanted to hear more about our trips and classes. Both groups were incredibly nice and I hope to see many of their members here at OLLI one day soon! If you have a group I should visit, just let me know! I'd love to.

JK



## CLASS HIGHLIGHT

### Women in Early America

Women in Early America will look at the lives of women in North America from the time of European Colonization through the Early American Republic. We will discuss women's position in the societies of the native tribes and the colonists, the social structure of the societies and how they interacted as well as the famous and infamous women of the era. Christine Szilagyi, an award-winning adjunct instructor at SVSU and Delta College, teaches this course.

Monday 4/2,  
4/9, 4/16, 4/23,  
4/30  
9:30am-  
11:30am C129  
\$32 Members/  
\$62 Non-  
Members



## TRIP HIGHLIGHT

### Stratford Theater Festival

Join OLLI friends for our 14th annual whirlwind motorcoach trip to Stratford, Ontario! Trip includes premium seating at the three included shows, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Bronte: The World Without*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* as well as double-occupancy lodging at the Arden Park Hotel, three-course lunch at Molly Bloom's Irish Pub on Tuesday, buffet lunch on Tuesday and breakfast on Wednesday at the hotel, deluxe motorcoach transportation from SVSU, and choice of chat with the actors, backstage tour, or free time on Wednesday morning!

*Stratford*  
FESTIVAL

June 6-7, 2018  
\$439 Members  
\$489 Non-Members  
\$79 Single Supplement

\*\*Passport or Enhanced License  
Needed to enter Canada.\*\*



We enrich.

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