

the *Adventurer*

OSHER
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INSTITUTE



Term: Winter | Issue 18:7 | April 2019

MONTHLY MEETING

First Robotics & SVSU

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

8:45 am—Registration, Light Refreshments

9:30 am—Welcome & Announcements

FIRST Robotics is an international high school robotics competition in which students, coaches and mentors have six weeks to build a game-playing robot and then compete in district events. Teams who are successful at the district level go on to compete at the state championship at SVSU to earn a spot at the world competition. The FIRST Robotics State Competition has a tremendous impact on SVSU's campus, as well as the Great Lakes Bay Region. Hear from Midland teacher and coach of "The Charge," Dow High's robotics team, Sean Murray. Murray will talk about FIRST and how it works in the school systems as well as how the competitions work and how relationships are formed in the community. SVSU's Director of STEM Adrienne Cole will then discuss how the competition brings thousands of participants and spectators to this region, boosting the local economy. FIRST Robotics State Competition is another example of the incredible partnership between Saginaw Valley State University and many of the schools and industries throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond.



NOTES & NEWS

- April 5-7, 9 am-6pm (Fri. & Sat), 9am-2pm (Sun), Annual quilt show and silent auction to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Biggest quilt show in the area! Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saginaw. Free.
- April 9 at 11am learn about "Retirement in Today's 'New Economy'" at this free lunch & learn at Midland's Logan's Roadhouse. Lunch included. RSVP at www.YesRSVP.com
- April 13 borrow your grandkids and celebrate Easter early with an indoor "tooth-friendly" Easter egg hunt at the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum from 9:30am-4pm. Free.
- Bay City's Tall Ship Celebration (July 18-21) needs volunteers! If you're interested please visit baysail1.volunteerlocal.com.
- April 16/18, OLLI Spring/Summer registration opens.

CONTACT US

SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

7400 Bay Road

Curtiss 111

University Center, MI 48710

989.964.4475

www.svsu.edu/olli

olli@svsu.edu



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

OLLI WISDOM

"Cough into your sleeve, please"

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, May 8

Monthly Meeting: Blood on the Mitten

By: Tom Carr, Author

Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms

Wednesday, June 12

Surviving the Holocaust

By: Irene Miller, Author & Holocaust Survivor

Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms

Wednesday, August 14

100 Years of Michigan Parks

CHAIR'S NOTE



Hello OLLI friends,

Continuing my theme of good news (from Steven Pinker's book *Enlightenment*

NOW), this month's good news is about the environment. We have made progress with air pollution. According to Pinker "... since 1970, when the Environmental Protection Agency was established, the United State has slashed its emissions of fire air pollutants by almost two-thirds." This improvement was in spite of the fact that the population grew, people drove twice as many miles, and became two and a half times richer. Many rivers are less polluted and fish are coming back. We've seen that locally with improvements in the Saginaw River. Deforestation is still a problem, but at least the rate of deforestation of tropical forests went down by four-fifths from 2004 to 2013. Oil spills are a very salient form of pollution which is widely covered by the news media. Oil spills have, however, fallen from over a hundred per year in 1973 to only five in 2016, even though we ship a lot more oil now. I've noted only some of the areas that have shown improvement and obviously there are many serious environmental issues that we still need to address, but we can at least acknowledge that we have made some progress.

—Carol Gohm, Advisory Board Chair



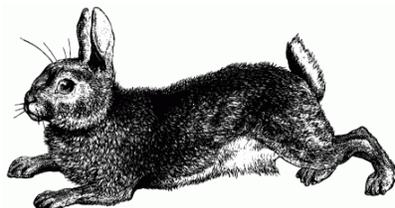
EASTER BUNNY

The Christian holiday Easter is coming up later this month, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but what about the more whimsical representation of Easter, the Easter bunny?

Most everyone is aware that there is no Easter bunny mentioned in scripture, but nonetheless chocolate-cloaked, grinning rabbits pop up in stores near and far this time of year, usually surrounded by equally delectable chocolate and candy eggs. Where did this symbolism come from?

Our friend the Easter bunny was most likely born of pagan tradition and the festival of Eostre, which celebrated the fertility goddess Eostre, whose animal symbol was a bunny. Colorful eggs most likely came from Russian tradition, where eggs were a banned food during lent, the ability to eat them once again, celebrated on Easter day with the exchange of beautiful, sometimes even jewel-encrusted eggs.

The Easter bunny and his colorful eggs came to the United States with German immigrants who celebrated the holiday by leaving carrots out for the *Osterhase*, an egg-laying hare. The tradition spread across the U.S. giving us the furry friend we know today.



THE HAPPIEST AGE

Societal misconceptions suggest that growing older must mean having a certain level of depression about being old and increased fear of death, but the reality is that older people are happier people.

According to the Office for National Statistics, 65 to 79 is the happiest age group for adults. Those surveyed suggest they no longer concern themselves with what other people think about them or how they look, they are no longer worried about being good at something, instead believing they are still learning, so lack of perfection is fine, even expected.

Ultimately, aging for many, means a carefree enjoyment of life. People in their sixties and seventies are able to do as they please, and even have greater adventures, because there is little worry of embarrassment.

Aging is also intensely personal. The status of oneself in old age is reliant upon societal connections, physical well-being, and even economic circumstances. Not everyone is a Jane Fonda (age 81), but the stereotype of being old, alone, and sad, is not the reality either. Most people are somewhere in-between and living their best life in!



CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS

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

For group leader contact info see: svsu.edu/olli

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer of the Year!

Last year's volunteer of the year was Rose Kohut, who has taught numerous grammar and literature classes for OLLI. She also directs the OLLI's Follies singing interest group. She was recognized at the volunteer luncheon and received a plaque with her name on it and permanent recognition on the large plaque in the OLLI office window.



It's time to recognize another deserving volunteer for 2019! If you have someone in mind—an interest group leader, an OLLI member instructor, etc. please fill out the volunteer of the year form (available in the OLLI office or online at :

www.svsu.edu/olli/aboutus/volunteeroftheyearaward/). All nominations are due by May 1.

JFK EXHIBITION

SVSU's Marshall M. Fredericks Museum will be hosting *American Visionary: John F. Kennedy's Life and Times* from March 15 through June 29. Free and open to the public M-F 11 am-5pm and Sat. Noon-5pm.

Programs involved with the exhibit include:

Thursday, March 21, 7pm, Malcolm Field Theater—Lecture by curator and noted photojournalist Lawrence Schiller.

Lunch & Learn Programs: Please RSVP for free lunch to mfsm@svsu.edu by one week ahead

- 3/27 JFK & the Beatles**
by Gary Johnson
- 4/10 The Election of 1960**
by Dr. John Pafford
- 5/1 JFK's Service in WWII**
by Jim Reha
- 5/31 Sea of Peace or Sea of War: Kennedy, the Cold War, and NASA** by Christine De Clerck- Szilagyi

Select Saturdays: 1-4 p.m. Free Art Activity for All Ages

- 4/6 JFK Portrait Scavenger Hunt**
- 4/13 Play-based Artwork**
- 4/27 JFK Art Contest**
- 5/18 Creative Collage**
- 6/8 Sensational Stamped Design**
- 6/22 Art Photo Tips**
- 6/29 Printmaking Passion**



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GROUP FOCUS: CYCLING

As the temperature warms and the snow melts, the OLLI cycling groups will soon be making plans to hit the pavement. Traveling locally and on trails throughout the Great Lakes Bay Area, one of the cycling groups is bound to fit your needs and interests. If you're intrigued in this fun form of exercise contact our cycling group leaders today to get on the list! Cycling Group—Linda Ackerman, 989.781.2961 or lmackerman50@gmail.com, Recreation Cycling—Vicki Shrope 989.615.0317 or vshrope@yahoo.com.



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 we have been working hard on a fresh spring/summer catalog, just for you. With construction at Curtiss Hall and near our classroom, we have moved many classes over to Science East—but don't worry, parking is closer, and Starbucks will keep you caffeinated. There is a map in the back to help you find your way as well. Some old favorites are back this summer, such as "Make Your Own Creations with Clay" and formerly *Behind Closed Doors*, "Opening Doors," as well as some regular favorites, like Wil Hufton's "Wildlife Boating Adventure." Can you tell that I'm excited about warmer weather and more activities outside? It's April! And I can practically smell those May flowers in the air.

K.E.



CLASS HIGHLIGHT

Free Collage

Learn to collage with paint and tools from around the house! We will use things like a potato masher, bubble wrap, cardboard, saran wrap, erasers, old books and magazines, packing tape, etc. Students will work on an art canvas and also make a book for journaling, recipes, photos, doodling or anything someone would want to keep or share.

Mondays 4/8-4/29 * C129
10 a.m.-Noon
\$38 Members/\$58 Non-Members



TRIP HIGHLIGHT

Trip Preview: Canadian Rockies & Cali Coast

Join us to learn about the adventure of your lifetime! Take this opportunity to learn more about the destination we'll be visiting—either the Canadian Rockies, or California; ask questions about group travel; and possibly connect with a traveling partner. A representative from Go Ahead Travel will provide a travel preview for the following trips:

*5 p.m. - *Grand Tour of California: San Francisco to Los Angeles* (Mid June, 2020)

*6 p.m. - *Canadian Rockies* (Mid August, 2020)

Tuesday, April 23 * C100
5pm and/or 6pm
Free-No Pre-Registration Required



We enrich.



Saginaw Valley State University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
7400 Bay Road
University Center, MI 48710



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