

Continuing this *Adventure* called *Life for 20 Years!*

# the *Adventurer*



Term: Winter | Issue 20:4 | February 2021



## MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
9:30 a.m. Virtual



Join Chef Bacigalupo for a Lenten-themed cooking demonstration and discussion. Currently working as the culinary arts instructor at Windover Academy in Midland, Chef Bacigalupo attended the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. He has been featured on the Dr. Oz Show as well as participated in the Chefs Moves to School initiative promoted by First Lady Michelle Obama. His role in this program led to his personal invitation to the White House with just four other chefs. Along with these accomplishments, he has been written up several times in *Culinary Review* and *Sizzle* magazine.

## NOTES & NEWS

- OLLI continues to strive to keep everyone engaged, for a complete list of up to date programming and events, please check our website or call the office. For community events, please check online for information.
- Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day!
- Feb. 8 Join the Mid-Mitten Chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes for an online talk by Brenda Dzedzic on Growing Native Plants that Caterpillars, Butterflies, and Moths Need. Email hendersonjeanne23@gmail.com for more information.
- Feb. 14 Celebrate Valentine's Day with your loved ones the old fashioned (and socially distanced!) way—by sending a unique and/or homemade card through the mail. Break out the construction paper!
- Feb. 15 Hail to the Chief.

## CONTACT US

SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
7400 Bay Road  
Curtiss 111  
University Center, MI 48710  
989.964.4475  
[www.svsu.edu/olli](http://www.svsu.edu/olli)  
[olli@svsu.edu](mailto:olli@svsu.edu)



## OLLI FAQ

SVSU OLLI held its first SVSU football tailgate in the fall of 2008.  
Go Cards!

## IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, March 10

Monthly Meeting: Northern Ireland  
Maeve Henry  
*Online*

Wednesday, April 14

Monthly Meeting: Michigan Murders  
Rod Sadler  
*Online*

*Make Sure to Renew Your Membership Today at [svsu.edu/olli](http://svsu.edu/olli)*

## CHAIR'S NOTE



We made it. Here we are in 2021. There were times during the past year that some of us wondered if we would make it and we did. Has

life returned to a pre-covid time? Definitely not and I doubt that it ever will. But there is a new time and a new day along with the new year that brings a new meaning to what is normal. One of my favorite phrases is that it is not what happens to us that really matters. Rather it is how we react to what happens to us. I have tried to live using that as a guide, but I admit sometimes I do not react very well. I do not make new year's resolutions, but rather I like to set goals. One of my goals for 2021 is to attempt to react in more positive ways that will benefit not only me, but all those I encounter in the coming year. As I was thinking about this I came across a listing of suggestions to increase my capacity for joy by giving up things that force joy out of my life. Here are just a couple of those ideas. I am going to apply them to my life. Maybe one of them might be something you would want to adopt for your life in 2021. \*\*Give up pessimism and become more hopeful.

- Give up worry and become more trusting.
- Give up pettiness and become more noble.
- Give up gloom and become more joyful.

WOW! I have a lot on which to work. Let's use those suggestions as we work with our SVSU-OLLI program for the coming year. We know it's not going to be business as usual for OLLI and our over 900 members, but if we remain hopeful, trusting, more noble, and joyful, I know 2021 is going to be a great year for all of us. Welcome 2021. Watch out 2022. Great things are coming.

—Roger Spann, Advisory Board Chair

## GROUNDHOG DAY

If you've seen the film *Groundhog Day* (1993) you know that the film's stars are forced to repeat February 2 over and over again on screen. While it made for a few good laughs, we *definitely* don't need to repeat any of these current crazy days. Speaking of crazy, have you ever wondered where the Groundhog Day tradition came from?

While there is no official documentation for the origins of the American Groundhog Day, it is most likely a holdover of a traditional German celebration surrounding Candlemas. During this ancient Christian holiday, clergy would bless and distribute candles for the winter, the amount and size suggesting how long the winter might last. The Germans took the festivities one step further, and selected an animal to help predict the winter—the hedgehog. (Keep in mind, the Germans did a fair amount of drinking).

Once transplanted to America, German settlers brought their weird traditions with them, substituting the nefarious (and exceedingly common)

groundhog. Settlers in Pennsylvania really brought the modest groundhog fame, dubbing an official groundhog "Punxsutawney Phil" and celebrating his predictions first in 1886.

As tradition goes, if the groundhog emerges from his burrow on Groundhog Day to see his shadow, and therefore runs back in to hide, we are due for six more weeks of winter. If the groundhog emerges and stays happily above ground, an imminent and early spring is in the making!

Truthfully, groundhogs



leave their burrows (unless they're ripped out of them, like Punxsutawney Phil), to look for a mate this time of year, though they return to their homes, choosing March as a much better time to end their hibernation officially.

For more information visit [scholastic.com](http://scholastic.com), "Groundhog Day: 15 Fun Teaching Resources," and [history.com](http://history.com), *This Day in History*, "First Groundhog Day."

## OLLI SNAPSHOT

OLLI Members Richard and Jackie Jankowski enjoy ice cream in Midland after an OLLI Walk.



*Do you have a great picture of an OLLI program or activity?*

Email it to [keelliso@svsu.edu](mailto:keelliso@svsu.edu) for a chance at appearing in an upcoming newsletter!

## DELL COMPUTERS

OLLI has worked with Dell Computers, who holds the contract for SVSU's computers on campus, to bring OLLI members some recommended devices and special pricing!

If you are anxious to get started with OLLI's online courses, but don't have a device at all, or don't have something new enough to work with Zoom, check out the following OLLI recommended devices listed at [www.Dell.com/SVSUOLli](http://www.Dell.com/SVSUOLli)



New Inspiron 14 5000 Laptop



New Inspiron 14 5000 2-in-1 Laptop (Dune)



Still nervous about getting a new computer? OLLI has these models in the office to test for a few months, so we can help you with any issues you may have, first hand!

Try out one of these great devices at a discounted rate, or browse the entire Dell catalog at [www.Dell.com/SVSUOLli](http://www.Dell.com/SVSUOLli) and find something else you may like at a special OLLI rate.

## LOVE AFFAIR

February is the month for love, whether fantasy or non-fiction. Historically, there have been many great love affairs, but perhaps none as dramatic and fascinating as the love between King Edward VIII of England and American Wallis Simpson.

In 1934, Wallis Simpson lived with her second husband in England. A friend left Prince Edward, the friend's then boyfriend, in her charge while she ventured back to America, telling Wallis to keep him busy so no other woman would catch his interest. Unfortunately for the friend, Edward fell head-over-heels in love with Wallis.

Though Wallis was still married and thought the affair would be brief, Edward thought otherwise, including dramatic overtures that pledged suicide if she left him. In 1936, he became King of England after King George V suddenly died. Wallis knew the consequences of their relationship and tried to beg Edward off marriage. She said she'd just remain his mistress so that things would be simpler. She divorced her second husband later in 1936.

The problem was Wallis' then tainted past as now twice divorcee. The head of the Church of England, then synonymous with the King of England would not be permitted to marry a divorced woman, love or not. Refusing to give up on "the woman [he] love[ed]", Edward abdicated the throne—now that *is* love!

For more information visit CNN.com, "The Truth About Wallis Simpson..." 2-16-20, or Anne Sebba, *That Woman* (2013).

## ADVISORY BOARD

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989.799.8417

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## INTEREST GROUPS: OLLI'S FOLLIES



The OLLI's Follies choral singing interest group is looking for a new leader to take the helm! Familiar with reading music and playing the piano, any interested group leaders should contact the OLLI office. The Follies normally rehearse and sing at various retirement home facilities. Due to COVID-19, the Follies have been on an extended hiatus, but are looking for a director to be ready when rehearsals and performances can resume regularly.

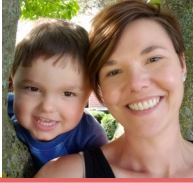
## NEWSLETTER

"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

Well friends, we made it into a new year, but not without a bit of excitement. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year and with vaccine distribution happening, a safer one too. I know we are all anxious to get back to some semblance of normalcy. As we come up on President's Day, I can't help but think of Warren G. Harding's 1920 campaign plea for normalcy following World War I and the Spanish Flu outbreak. "America's present need is not heroics but healing; not nostrums but normalcy; not revolution but restoration...not surgery but serenity," Harding emphasized. Over 100 years later, his words still make sense today as we move forward after epidemic and political turmoil. OLLI is there for you during this chaotic time. We offer a safe space (even if it has to be a virtual one) for discussion, and many opportunities for learning. Join us!



## CLASS HIGHLIGHT

### (214v) Floral Design

Get in touch with your creative side and learn tips for making floral arrangements which will dazzle your family and friends. In this class you will learn about basic design rules, color and flower identification. You will receive a kit with supplies ahead of time. The instructor has been working in the floral industry for 25 years.



Instructor: Heather O'Hearn  
Wednesday • 2/10  
5-7 p.m. • Virtual via Zoom  
Price: \$25 for members

## TRAVEL HIGHLIGHT

### (52) Mosaics Workshop



For those interested in the art of mosaics, Amy Mann will teach the basic skills needed to complete a

beautiful 10.5" square mosaic tray. Participants will discuss working with various substrates, adhesives, sealers and tools. The instructor is a self-taught mosaicist and glass artist with 20 years of experience. Join OLLI for this magical and calming adventure into the creation of recycled art. Limited to 10 participants.

Tuesday • 2/23 • 2-5:30 p.m. AND  
Thursday • 2/25 • 2-4:30 p.m.  
Meet at 1517 Bayliss St., Midland  
(Creative 360)  
Member Price: \$85

Renew Your OLLI Membership Today!