

the *Adventurer*

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Term: Fall | Issue 19:3 | November 2019

MONTHLY MEETING

Elder Law

Wednesday, November 13 2019

8:45 am—Registration and Light Refreshments

9:30 am—Welcome & Announcements



Carol Thomas is an Estate Planning Attorney who specializes in elder law. Carol has been practicing for the past 20 years. She will be speaking about

wills, trusts, powers of attorney and nursing home protection. She will talk about the importance of having your documents in place so that assets can be protected if a loved one enters a nursing home. For married couples, Carol can protect 100% of assets, plus the home, if one enters a nursing home. For single people, Carol can protect at least 50%-60%, plus the home if entering a nursing home.

Our friends from the Midland Center for the Arts will also say a few words before the meeting about their upcoming and exciting programming.



NOTES & NEWS

- Nov. 3 Enjoy the free concert by the Classic Legacy Band of Saginaw at SVSU's Rhea Miller Auditorium. 3:30 p.m. Free will offering accepted.
- Nov. 7-10. Riverside Saginaw Film Festival. See riversidesaginaw-filmfestival.org for details.
- Nov. 22 begins the Junior League's "Festival of Trees" at the Great Hall Convention Center in Midland. \$5 per person admission. Tickets \$1 each.
- Nov. 23 check out the downtown Saginaw Christmas parade. 10 a.m. start.
- Dec. 4. Hollyday Art Fair at Saginaw's Anderson Enrichment Center. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Free.
- Whip up a batch of mom's cut-out cookies from www.allrecipes.com/personal-recipe/64761477/moms-christmas-cut-outs

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SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

WEIRD LAWS

MCL 750.383a *"It's unlawful to willfully destroy your radio."*

IMPORTANT DATES

December	No Meeting. Happy Holidays!
December 10 & 12	Registration for Winter Semester
Wednesday, January 8	Winterfest Meeting!
Wednesday, February 12	Jennifer Stinson, Ph.D. SVSU
Wednesday, March 11	Ben Cohen, Small House Farms

CHAIR'S NOTE



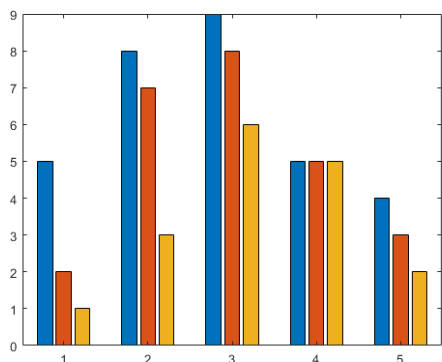
Hello OLLI friends,

Last month I filled my article with examples of ways that people are safer from various dangers today than they have ever been.

Going back to Steven Pinker's book *Enlightenment Now*, I find that they list goes on. Pedestrian deaths went from a peak of 15,500 in to 5,000 in 2014. Plane crash deaths went from around 65,000 in the early 1970s to almost 0 in 2015. Deaths from fire, drowning, gas or vapor poisoning, or falls are very unlikely today. One exception to these declines is death by solid or liquid poison which shows a steep rise starting in 1990 due to the increased deaths from opioids which occur mostly among baby boomers. I have hope that recent events will, or already are, leading to a decline in that number. Encouragingly, high schoolers' use of alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs (other than marijuana and vaping) have dropped to the lowest levels since 1976.

I could go on listing numbers for decreases in deaths from occupational causes, natural disasters, lightning strikes, but you get the idea. I find it very refreshing to stop and appreciate how much better life is today.

—Carol Gohm, Advisory Board Chair



MYSTERY TRIP

Recently OLLI took a group of 94 on a mystery trip. When the group set off that morning, boarding two Blue Lakes busses, only the group leaders knew where they were headed and what they would be doing.

For weeks beforehand, the OLLI office, Katherine and Shelley, were interrogated by members who were signed for the trip. Lips were sealed. On the day of, the bus drivers were quizzed on where they were going and how long it would take to get there. They too, kept quiet.

Participants had been told to “bring their own water,” “dress in layers for the temperature outside,” and that they should “definitely use the rest room” at the stop the group made about an hour into the adventure. Just where were they headed that they would need their own water? Would there be no restrooms?

Upon re-boarding the busses, participants were dressed in pearls and bowties, and told they had to “dress for dinner.” More guesses were taken, laughs were had, and finally, the mystery was revealed—a new venue for OLLI, but a fun one, just the same, a river cruise down the Clinton River out to Lake St. Clair.

While aboard, the *Clinton Friendship*, the group ate lunch and worked to solve a murder mystery. The weather, a sunny 68 degrees, was perfect as the colors just started to peek from the tree line.

FRIENDSGIVING

The end of November and Thanksgiving Day, mark the start to the holiday season here in the United States. While a joyous time for many, it can be a problem for others.

The holidays not only mark occasion for depression to surface for those missing loved ones, alone during the holidays, or just stuck in the cold weather, but also for those in hard financial times. The average American spends around \$50 for Thanksgiving dinner preparations and around \$700 for Christmas.

This holiday season, make the best of it with a modern idea—Friendsgiving.

If you are alone for the holidays, invite some friends over, tell them to bring a dish for Thanksgiving and make the event less about the big meal, and more about the people around you. Less cost will be incurred too.

Instead of spending a small fortune for Christmas, remember what the holiday is all about—the birth of Jesus Christ for those who are Christian, and a time for families and friends to get together and enjoy a break from their workaday lives—a time to reconnect.

Start a new tradition this holiday season, by breaking old ones.

CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS

- Bridge
 - Buddhist Psychology
 - Celtic Music
 - Choral Singing
 - Cross Country Skiing
 - Current Events
 - Cycling
 - Dinner
 - Esoteric Cosmology
 - Games
 - Gardening
 - Guitar
 - Kayaking
 - Knitting
 - Lunch
 - Movies
 - Music Collegium
 - OLLI Folks on Spokes
 - Pickleball
 - Ping Pong
 - Recorder (dojo)
 - Recreational Biking
 - Sharing the Great Courses
 - Stamp & Coin Collecting
 - Theatre
 - Women Active Multi-Interest
- For group leader contact info see: svsu.edu/olli

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

An Anonymous Traveler

Philadelphia Diary

Saturday, Sept. 21: Arrived in Philly around noon, visited Reading Market before hitting the hotel. Market was CRAZY busy, but had cheesesteak and the Republic's tastiest doughnut. Checked into Courtyard Marriott, walked to Target. (Big mistake—don't ask. Distances can be deceiving.) Dinner and orientation at hotel, then fell into the Republic's comfiest hotel bed. Roommate snored.

Sunday, Sept. 22: Great seminar about historic Philadelphia to kick off the day. Visited the Museum of the American Revolution, the Liberty Bell (such a thrill!), and Independence Hall! A great dinner at City Tavern (medallions of beef). (I highly recommend this restaurant for both the food and the atmosphere. I give it maximum stars.) Stopped at the "Rocky steps" at Philly Museum of Art. Walked to the top of the stairs and jumped a little bit, but too tired to wave my arms around. Maybe next time. Roommate snored.

Monday, Sept. 23: Hotel breakfast includes really good potatoes. Toaster is slow, though. Tour guides Nick and Anna are FANTASTIC!! Today's itinerary includes the National Constitution Center and the Franklin Institute. Loved the life-sized statues of the founding fathers—eerily realistic. George Washington was TALL. Hamilton not so much. Driver demonstrated superhuman bus driving skills to deliver us to Manyunk

Cont...

Brewing Co. for dinner. Sirloin!! Cheesecake!! (Glad I'm wearing my stretchy pants.) Pennsylvania is beautiful.

Tuesday, Sept. 24: More breakfast potatoes. Toaster still slow. Great trip to Valley Forge and visit to Washington's headquarters. So interesting to explore the reconstructed brigade huts. Also visited the National Memorial Arch—very glad I got to see this!! Great lunch (we felt bad for the wait staff who had to go up and down all those stairs), then a walking tour of Old City Neighborhood. Some of us took the option of exploring on our own (a.k.a. having a glass of wine at a sidewalk table, ha ha). Had a FANTASTIC farewell dinner at Davio's, which is a FANCY restaurant!! Salmon!! Desserts!! Yes, PLURAL desserts!! The last night in the hotel bed. (I may have snored. I admit to nothing.)

Wednesday, Sept. 25: Last hotel breakfast. Good-bye, potatoes. Toured Strawberry Mansion with a super tour guide. Lunch at the Philly airport. Shelley lunched with us! Searched in vain for a Philadelphia pretzel. Do they exist? I am dubious. Ate a whole bag of SHARE size peanut M&Ms while waiting to board plane. Didn't share. Discovered it's not so bad to sit in the back of the plane. Don't know what the fuss is all about.

Farewell, Philadelphia! Hello, home!

Note to self: Always pack stretchy pants when traveling with OLLI.

ADVISORY BOARD

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GROUP FOCUS: CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Do you dream of wintery white prairies covered in a blanket of snow? Are wooded trails with moonlit snow your heart's desire? Or do you just love a good workout with nature? If so, then you may want to join the OLLI Cross Country Skiing interest group. They meet, snow permitting, throughout the winter months at various locations. For more information, contact Pamela Young at pamelaroseyoung@gmail.com and get your skis ready for the snow to blow!



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.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The holidays always make me think of my mom. My mother loved Christmas and we had many traditions together. One of my fondest memories, and a tradition I still uphold today, is making Christmas cookies. A few of our favorites were meringue kisses, corn flake wreaths, church windows, and of course, sugar cookies, though we called them "cut-outs" since you cut them out of the dough in various Christmas shapes. Perhaps the best part about this tradition, however, was giving the cookies away. Surely they were a gift from the heart, with so much work involved to produce them, and I never met anyone who didn't enjoy a cookie now and then. Check out the recipe for my mom's cut-outs at the link under notes and news.



CLASS HIGHLIGHT

Art Appreciation Series

European and Mediterranean Ancient Art to the Renaissance



Join Andrea Ondish of the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum to learn about European and Mediterranean Prehistoric and Ancient Art, Art of the Middle Ages, and Art of the Renaissance and Baroque Europe (1400-1750). This class is part of our ongoing Art Appreciation Series.

Mondays 11/4, 11/11, 11/18
1-2 p.m.
\$23 for Members
\$46 for Non-Members

TRIP HIGHLIGHT

Travel Orientation

Ready to venture into the world of group travel with OLLI, but want to know more? Join us for this introduction to travel and learn what it's like to travel with a group, how to sign up for day trips and extended excursions, what to expect on your adventure, how to plan for your trip, why you should consider travel protection, and why you would travel with OLLI. From the streets of Detroit to the pastures of Ireland, OLLI will take you to the places you've only dreamed about before.



Wednesday 11/6
10 a.m.-Noon
Free for Members
and Non-Members



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