

Winter 2024 Schedule

February 6 – March 14

Class Listing

Enrollment begins

January 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

www.soarexplore.com

The logo for SOAR Lifelong Learning Institute. It features the word "SOAR" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized with a blue arrow pointing upwards and to the right. Below "SOAR" are the words "LIFELONG LEARNING" and "INSTITUTE" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

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Never. Stop. Learning.

Made in Michigan

Welcome from Debra Yamstein, SOAR LLI Executive Director

Welcome to our Winter 2024 Term! This is SOAR's 14th year of producing a thematic Winter Term and our fourth year of an all-virtual program.

Thanks to the hard work of the Winter Committee, this year's theme, **Made in Michigan: The Influence of Our Pleasant Peninsula**, is going to be an especially interesting session. So many of us are proud of our state and eager to learn more about its beginnings, its role in ending slavery, its art and music, and of course, its Coney Dog!

There are so many benefits to an all-virtual term: the classes can be enjoyed whether you're a committed winter-loving Michigander or you choose to escape the snow and go somewhere warm. Most of the lectures are recorded (with instructors' permission) so you can enjoy them on your own schedule; and there are no cancellations for snow! I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Something new this Winter; we have added an option for a two-person household membership. SOAR averages about 400 registered members for both Spring and Fall, but only 200 for Winter. This has a large impact on our budget. We ask members that are sharing a screen to please choose the two-person membership option.

Once again, join me in sending a big thank you to the committee for their dedication to this endeavor and to all of the instructors who give so generously of their time.

I look forward to seeing you all on Zoom and to the spring when we can be together in person.

Best,

Deb

From SOAR's Winter Curriculum Committee

The SOAR Winter Committee has worked diligently to provide you with another interesting and enjoyable learning experience. Whether you enjoy the winter in warmer states or remain in Michigan, our instructors will provide you with quality classes available on Zoom.

The SOAR Winter Term theme for 2024 is titled **"Made in Michigan: The Influence of Our Pleasant Peninsula"** and we hope that you will join us as we feature the Michigan based people who have made an impact on local and international communities.

We look forward to seeing you and be sure to tell your friends about the 2024 SOAR Winter Term.

Ralph Stromberg, Chair • Susan Genden • Joe Kwapisz
Marilyn McKinney • Sharon O' Brien • Elaine Yaker



Debra Yamstein, SOAR LLI Executive Director

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Curriculum Committee

Ralph Stromberg, Chair

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Sharon O' Brien

Elaine Yaker

On the Cover

The lighthouse at Tawas Point, Michigan was in operation from 1876 to 2016 when it was replaced by a modern light on a pole closer to the shore. Larry Knupp; istockphoto.com



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☎ 248-626-0296 ✉ info@soarexplore.com

🌐 www.soarexplore.com

How to Register for Classes

The Winter Term is completely virtual (on Zoom). The registration fee is \$80 for a single-member household and \$130 for a double-member household. This fee includes access to all of the Zoom classes; along with access to any recordings of those classes so you can watch them on-demand, at your convenience. **Registration for the Winter 2024 Term begins 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 3rd and classes begin on February 6th.** There are two ways to register for the Winter Program:

Online at www.soarexplore.com (preferred method)

From the [soarexplore.com](http://www.soarexplore.com) website, click on the “Registration” button.

Prior members, log in to your account and follow the steps below. New users will need to set up a user account first and then follow the steps below.

Our Winter Program is bundled, which means **ALL CLASSES ARE INCLUDED FOR ONE PRICE**. Simply select “MEMBERSHIP” on the main registration page:

- Click on either “2024 Winter Two Person Household Membership” or “2024 Winter Single Household Membership” depending on your situation.
- Scroll down and look for the “Accept Terms” button at the bottom of the screen. After reading the terms don’t forget to click on the box to accept the terms.
- Complete the “Check Out” process (a credit card will be required for payment), and you are done!

EACH ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT THE DAY BEFORE THE CLASS.

To view each course description

- Click “Search” at the top of the screen.
- Scroll down to “Search Options” and select “Winter 2024 Program” from the drop-down menu.
- Click on a class to view the description.

NOTE: Each class will show as “UNAVAILABLE.” The system will not allow you to register for individual classes.

Financial Assistance: SOAR believes all persons should have access to SOAR’s programs and classes. A limited number of scholarships are available for those requiring financial assistance. Please call our office for more information.

Mail-in Registrations

To register by mail, complete the Winter 2024 Program registration form on page 2 of this catalog and mail with a check to the SOAR office. The registration fee for a single person is \$80. If both you and your spouse/partner/housemate are registering, simply include both names on the form and include one check for \$130.

Walk-in registrations are not accepted but assistance is available for those wishing to register in person. Please call the office to make an appointment with our staff; we’re happy to help.

Location

The Winter 2024 Program is completely virtual so you can enjoy the classes from the comfort of your own home or wherever you spend the winter. Zoom registration links will be sent to all registered members on the day before the scheduled class.

Program registrants will also receive an email with links to the recorded classes so you can watch them again or for the first time at your convenience.

Withdrawal/Refund Policy

Requests for withdrawals and refunds must be made in writing or by email. Requests must be received no later than 5 PM on January 24 to be processed. No refunds will be made after that date and time. There will be a \$10 service fee for all refunds. There are no refunds for special events or field trips.

Teach for SOAR. Volunteer for SOAR

SOAR is powered by volunteers. All of SOAR’s faculty members are volunteers, all of SOAR’s committees are comprised of volunteer leaders and members. SOAR simply could not exist without the brilliant minds and dedicated hands of the men and women who spark ideas and action. Please consider becoming a SOAR volunteer. Lead a class, help plan a semester, organize a SIG, join a committee, champion SOAR to friends and family.

Made in Michigan: The Influence of Our Pleasant Peninsula

Michigan's Quest for Statehood

In January 1837, President Andrew Jackson quietly signed a measure making Michigan the nation's twenty-sixth state. The two-year quest for statehood required Michiganians to succumb to the demands of an unsympathetic Congress. They surrendered a future metropolis that promised to rival New York City in exchange for a remote wilderness that offered little economic promise. Join this Winter Program kickoff class to learn about our Pleasant Peninsula's beginnings.

Roger L. Rosentreter earned his PhD from Michigan State University and now teaches American History there. From 1988 to 2009, he served as editor of Michigan History Magazine. Recent publications include Michigan: A History of Explorers, Entrepreneurs, and Everyday People, and Grand Rapids and the Civil War. His most recent book, Come On, You Wolverines: Michigan in the Civil War, is scheduled for release in early 2024.



Tuesday, Feb 6, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

The Real League of Their Own

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), which was made famous by the 1993 film "A League of Their Own," operated between 1943 and 1954, drawing players from across the country and beyond. Professor Smither, who interviewed many former players and co-produced a documentary and a series of short videos based on those interviews, will draw on his material to tell the story of the league and its players, with particular emphasis on teams and players from Michigan.

Dr. Smither holds degrees from the University of Chicago and Brown University and is Professor of History at Grand Valley State University. He directs the GVSU Veterans History Project, which records and archives oral history interviews with military veterans and others with stories relating to the American experience in wartime. The AAGPBL was a product of the WWII home front, which led him to make his documentary about it.



Thursday, Feb 8, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

SOAR Class Mail-In Registration Form: Winter 2024

Complete the form below to register by mail. Please note: an email with the class link will be sent to all paid members the day before each class. If you do not receive an email with the link, please email the SOAR office at info@soarexplore.com or call (248) 626-0296.

First Name	Last Name	
Address	City/State	Zip
Email Address	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> This contact information is new or updated.

On the line above, please provide a local emergency contact name and phone number.

Are you new to SOAR? ☐ No, I am a returning member ☐ Yes! – How did you hear about SOAR?

☐ Enclosed is my check for ☐ \$80 single-person household ☐ \$130 two-person household } I understand that my Winter 2024 Program fee includes Zoom links to all 12 classes.

☐ Please accept this additional donation of \$_____ as my gift to SOAR.

RETURN THIS FORM BY MAIL ONLY TO:
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____	Postmark Date _____	Opened by: _____
Check # _____	Check Date: _____	Check Amount: _____



Edna Ferber and Elmore Leonard: Two Writers Who Made a Difference

This class will explore two writers central to Michigan's literary legacy. Born in Kalamazoo, Edna Ferber, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, is best known for her novels, *Showboat* and *Giant*. Her work features strong women characters and highlights important secondary characters who faced discrimination. Elmore Leonard spent most of his young life in Detroit, the city in which many of his books are set. Leonard raised the bar on the crime novel by developing his characters fully and by using realistic dialogue.



Sharon O'Brien taught English and Women's Studies at Siena Heights University for 22 years. She began working on the development of SOAR in the mid-1990s and continues to serve on several committees and as the liaison for the Shared Interest Groups.

Tuesday, Feb 13, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Made in Michigan: Coney Detroit

Detroit is the world capital of the Coney Island hot dog — a natural-casing hot dog topped with all-meat beanless chili, chopped white onions, and yellow mustard. In this program, Joe Grimm will explore all aspects of Michigan's beloved regional delicacy, which was perfected by Greek immigrants in the early 1900s. While the Coney legend is centered in Detroit, Grimm will explore Coney traditions in many Michigan cities.

Joe Grimm co-authored Coney Detroit with Katherine Yung to answer the question of why Michigan has so many Coney Islands serving this delectable delicacy while so many other states have almost none. They traveled thousands of miles, talked to hundreds of people, and ate a whole lot of Cones to find the answer. Joe, a lifelong Detroit-area resident, is now a journalism professor at Michigan State University. With his students or on his own, Joe has published more than 20 books.



Thursday, Feb 15, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Shared Interest Groups, or SIGs are a way for SOAR members to take a deep dive into areas of common interest. SIG small groups are hosted by a SOAR volunteer and typically meet once a month on Zoom to discuss a book, film or issue. More information can be found under the Programming tab on our website.

Detroit Broadcast History

This class will explore the early history of radio in the Detroit area with an emphasis on the 1950s through the 1970s. In 1971, Vuolo produced a documentary called "The History of Detroit Radio" ahead of the launch of a new and innovative FM talk station in the Motor City. Mr. Vuolo knows the history of nearly every radio station in SE Michigan and beyond and will discuss them during this class.

Art Vuolo, Jr., a 1969 graduate of Eastern Michigan University, is involved in radio, television, video production, and journalism. While at EMU, he developed the concept of RADIOGUIDES, designed for people who travel. Since 1972, his company has published over 100 million such guides. Famous radio personality Scott Shannon dubbed him "Radio's Best Friend." He has helped countless people get into the broadcasting business, is frequently seen as a one-man walking campaign for the radio industry, and believes that being nice to people is still in vogue.



Tuesday, Feb 20, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Frontier Arms Race: The Story of the Cannons from the Detroit River

On October 5, 2011, an iron cannon barrel, corroded and covered with zebra mussels, broke the surface of the Detroit River for the first time in many years. Six similar guns had been recovered from the same area since 1984. How and why did they come to be there? Join Dan Harrison as he traces the paths that led to this watery fate. It is a tale of the militarization of the Great Lakes, throughout the turbulent 18th century, as French, Native Americans, British, Canadians, and Americans vied for control of economic resources and strategic waterways.

Dr. Daniel Harrison is a maritime archaeologist specializing in the Great Lakes region. In 2019, he retired as a reference librarian at Henry Ford College in Dearborn. His research focuses on shipwrecks and submerged sites in southeast Michigan waters. His forthcoming book, Michigan's Venice: The Transformation of the St. Clair Maritime Cultural Landscape, 1640 - 2000, will be published by Wayne State University Press in Spring 2024.



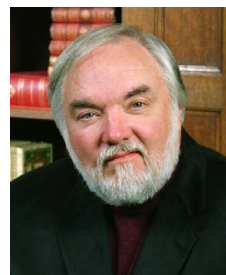
Thursday, Feb 22, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

The Vagabonds

Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs made up the group known as 'The Vagabonds' – a group of famous men who got together to escape their hectic business lives by taking off for a week or two. Each personality brought different skills and insights to the outings. Presidents of the United States were occasionally guests of the group. These famous get-togethers were photographed and well documented. This presentation will include seldom-seen images of and interesting stories about these famous trips.

Robert Kreipke is Ford Motor Company's Corporate Historian Emeritus. Bob's career at Ford included the production of award-winning films, videotapes, and live shows, as well as overseeing executive strategic planning. Bob has authored four international books – Ford Motor Company, the First 100 Years; The Model T; Faces of Henry Ford; and The Ford Model A. In addition, Bob has directed various nationally recognized films, including award-winning documentaries shown on PBS.

Tuesday, Feb 27, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM (Not Recorded)



Historian Emeritus. Bob's career at Ford included the production of award-winning films, videotapes, and live shows, as well as overseeing executive strategic planning. Bob has authored four international books – Ford Motor Company, the First 100 Years; The Model T; Faces of Henry Ford; and The Ford Model A. In addition, Bob has directed various nationally recognized films, including award-winning documentaries shown on PBS.

Regina Carter & Stevie Wonder: Sparked by The Motor City

The Motor City has inspired countless icons of the modern musical world. Whether hearing the musical fluidity of the innovative jazz violinist, Regina Carter, or watching Little Stevie Wonder mature into the musical brilliance we recognize today, Detroit has been an incubator and inspiration for musical ideas. This class will explore these award-winning artists to find their common ground and discover how the pulse of Detroit drove their musical language.

Rochelle Rosenthal Forester has had a lifelong love of music, theater, and performance. A member of Actors Equity and SAG, she frequently performed at The Attic Theater, JET Theater and Michigan Opera. Now retired, she enjoys researching and sharing her love of learning with others. Forester is married and has an adult daughter.

Thursday, Feb 29, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM



The Art of the Cass Corridor

The Wayne State University Art Collection (UAC) is used to educate, inspire, foster creative thinking, and promote the advancement of social and cultural leadership. Founded in 1968, the collection has grown to over 7500 works of art that celebrate Detroit artists. It features the most comprehensive collection of Detroit's famed "Cass Corridor," a countercultural art movement that flourished at and around the university during the mid-1960s to late-1970s. Many artists in this collection have become some of the most prominent visual artists to emerge from Detroit and have joined the international conversation on contemporary art. The presentation will also show how the UAC is expanding to be more inclusive and representative of Detroit artists beyond the Cass Corridor.

Grace Serra is the Art Collection Curator at Wayne State University and Exhibition Curator at the University of Michigan North Campus Research Complex. Serra has served as an adjunct faculty at Henry Ford College, Macomb Community College, Eastern Michigan University, and Wayne State University, teaching visual arts, art history, and arts administration courses. She holds



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a BFA (Painting) from Wayne State University; an MA (Painting) from Dominican University in Florence, Italy; and an MA (Arts Administration) from Eastern Michigan University.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Michigan's Freedom Fighters in the Underground Railroad

Before the Civil War, a number of Michiganders fought the tyranny of slavery by direct involvement in the Underground Railroad. This has often been called one of the greatest modern examples of human compassion in U.S. history. This course examines the actions and impact of those prominent Michiganders who risked all to make America a more free and just society.



Dr. Fred L. Johnson, III, is the Guy Vander Jagt '53 Endowed Professor of History at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Prior to his career in academia, Dr. Johnson served as Communications-Electronics and Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps (and Marine Reserves).

Thursday, March 7, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

The Murder Trial of Jack Kevorkian: A Personal Retrospective

Compassion for the dying, including the propriety of assisted suicide, is an issue faced by every culture in the world. In the 1990s, Jack Kevorkian was Michigan's most famous assisted-suicide advocate. In April 1999, Kevorkian was prosecuted for murder in Oakland County. This presentation will discuss the trial and the legal, ethical, and practical issues involved in the case, as well as the lasting impact of the verdict. The story will be told from the perspective of one of the trial prosecutors involved.

Daniel L. Lemisch is the General Counsel of Lakeview Capital, Inc. Prior to joining Lakeview, Mr. Lemisch served in the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan as the Acting United States Attorney, First Assistant United States Attorney, and Chief of the Criminal Division. Prior to joining the US Attorney's Office, Mr. Lemisch was with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office in Pontiac as a trial lawyer



and Chief of Appeals. Mr. Lemisch also practiced civil law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he specialized in commercial litigation.

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Celebrating 50 Years of the Detroit Film Theatre

Join the founder of film programming at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Elliot Wilhelm, as he reflects on the past 50 years of the Detroit Film Theatre (DFT) and a history of Michigan-related movies. In a lively one-on-one format, fellow WSU instructor of Media Arts and Studies, Karen McDevitt, will ask Elliot about the movies he's screened, the film festivals he's attended, and the people he's met over the past five decades.

Informally known as the "Detroit movie guy," and before that as the kid who started the Wayne (State) Cinema Guild, Elliot Wilhelm has been the director of the Detroit Film Theatre series at the Detroit Institute of Arts since 1973, and Curator of Film at the DIA since 1984.



Karen McDevitt has been teaching for Wayne State University's Media Arts and Studies program for over 20 years. She served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Detroit Film Theatre for 10 years, and currently serves as a member of the Editorial Board of Directors for Wayne State University Press.



Thursday, March 14, 2024, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Classes by Date - All classes begin at 11:00 a.m.

Date	Class Title	Presenter(s)
Feb 6	Michigan's Quest for Statehood	Roger L. Rosentreter
Feb 8	The Real League of Their Own	Dr. Smither
Feb 13	Edna Ferber and Elmore Leonard: Two Writers Who Made a Difference	Sharon O'Brien
Feb 15	Made in Michigan: Coney Detroit	Joe Grimm
Feb 20	Detroit Broadcast History	Art Vuolo, Jr.
Feb 22	Frontier Arms Race: The Story of the Cannons from the Detroit River	Dr. Daniel Harrison
Feb. 27	The Vagabonds	Robert Kreipke
Feb. 29	Regina Carter & Stevie Wonder: Sparked by The Motor City	Rochelle Rosenthal Forester
Mar 5	The Art of the Cass Corridor	Grace Serra
Mar 7	Michigan's Freedom Fighters in the Underground Railroad	Dr. Fred L. Johnson, III
Mar 12	The Murder Trial of Jack Kevorkian: A Personal Retrospective	Daniel L. Lemisch
Mar 14	Celebrating 50 Years of the Detroit Film Theatre	Elliot Wilhelm Karen McDevitt



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