



# Albion Area

# Lifelong Learners

Winter 2017 Newsletter

[AlbionAALL.org](http://AlbionAALL.org)

Participating Member  
**ROAD SCHOLAR**

Adventures in Life Long Learning



Albion College

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## January 12, 2017 Winter Assembly

Subject: Recovering Civil Discourse  
The Bohm Theatre - 10:00 a.m.

A panel discussion with Pastors Donald Philips (Lewis Chapel, AME), Richard Lewin (St. James UCC, Dearborn, MI), and Special Guest: William Jennings Bryan, former United States Secretary of State.

It's been an awful election season of insult and recriminations: there was bound to be half of us angry with election outcomes. Families, partners, work places, houses of worship, all hold either silence or angry argument over who or how a race was won or lost.

We're all working on getting on, renewing relationships, even forgiving ourselves for the anger we've held. But the language? How do we call back the language we wish we hadn't used with each other, and even when we were alone and "mad as hell." We've been here before, as a Nation. We can heal some and learn a little from people of good will who use words to good purpose.

### ***Theodore Kachel as William Jennings Bryan***

After forty years' university teaching, including a stint as University of Michigan Director of Religious Affairs, Dr. Kachel (B.A., Baylor; M.A., in drama, Iowa; M.Div., in theology, Union Seminary; PhD., in religion, Columbia) grew a career of teaching and acting into the creation of characterizations he has presented throughout the United States. Ted has performed as William Jennings Bryan, Sir Winston Churchill, William Shakespeare, Joseph Mallord, William Turner, H.G. Wells, and the Civil War Generals Robert. E. Lee and William T. Sherman. Working with renowned futurist, Watts Wacker, he also has performed P.T. Barnum, Thomas Edison, Roy Olmsted, and Frank Lloyd Wright for corporate learning engagements.





## The Rainbow Connection

The Albion Rainbow Connection, a group of LGBTQ people and allies, strives to develop "safe spaces in places, minds, and hearts" through education and awareness, and by addressing bullying, discrimination, exclusion, and other issues important to the LGBTQ community. The group has asked local area churches, governments, and organizations to help create awareness in Albion and surrounding communities of the group's existence and purpose. Please send an email to [albionrainbowconnection@gmail.com](mailto:albionrainbowconnection@gmail.com) with any questions, to join the group, or to be added the group's private Facebook page and / or private email list.



WINTER CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter 2017 Newsletter

Albion, Michigan 49224

P.O. Box 188

AALL

# AALL Course Descriptions, Winter, 2017

**Registration required by January 16, 2017**

VANISHING LIFE: SPECIAL CONCERN, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES. Barbara Raifaill, Ph.D., Botany. Tuesdays 10:00-12:00. February 7, 14, 21, 28. TBA.

Vanishing Life is a class about "listed species" or those plants and animals considered to be endangered, threatened, or of special concern. We will start by tracing the history of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and considering its attributes. Participants will learn why a species becomes listed, how the lists are developed, and how listed species are monitored and eventually removed from the listing. Class members will hear stories about extinct plant and animal species and learn about some of those which are currently listed in the United States. Lastly, we will touch on certain questions, such as: Is any plant or animal expendable?; Are ethics involved in the listing and preservation process?; Who is responsible for this part of our natural heritage? Class members will be exposed to both depressing and positive aspects of the fate of plant and animal species on Earth.

SOURCES OF EVIL. Jorg Baumgartner, Ph.D., Philosophy. Mondays 2:00-4:00. February 6, 13, 20, 27. TBA. Limit 30.

"The imagination of man's heart is evil from Youth." (Genesis 8:12)

"For the good that I would do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." (Romans 7:19)

"Man is by nature good, but he is corrupted and depraved by society." (Rousseau)

"Out of timber so crooked as that from which man is made, nothing entirely straight can be built." (Kant)

"The devil is old: you must become old to understand him." (Goethe)

Although we are all too familiar with kinds of evil, we are not familiar with its sources. In order to find these, we will examine views of philosophers who have given sustained thought to this particular problem: Plato, Aristotle, Augustin, Rousseau, and Kant. Throughout this course we will consider objections against these philosophers: for example, those by de Sade, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky, Freud, Bataille, Max Weber, and members of the Frankfurt School. Course pack and lecture outlines will be provided.

EVOLUTION. Sheila Lyons-Sobaski, Ph.D., Biology, Albion College. Thursdays 2:00-4:00. February 2, 9, 16, 23. TBA.

Dobzhansky's famous quote, "Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution," puts into context how biology is intimately intertwined with evolution. Evolutionary theory is well-accepted in the scientific community and is often understood by many non-scientists. In some cases, however, evolution is misunderstood. This misunderstanding has filtered into science classrooms where students are presented with unscientific information that inappropriately challenges scientific theory, ultimately diluting the quality of science education in the United States.

This class will present a foundation for understanding the science of evolution. The course will begin by first introducing the mechanisms of evolution that include not only understanding Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection, but also other forces, such as genetic drift, gene flow, mutation, and their interactions. The course will present evidence for evolution in the fossil record, as well as field and laboratory studies to help clarify evolutionary relationships among species. We will consider the broader significance of evolutionary biology in our lives from medicine to education.

## AALL Officers

President :	Robin Reed
Vice President:	Royal Ward
Treasurers:	Alice Cook
Secretary:	Kathleen Seidl
Editor, Newsletter:	Dick Lewin

WATERCOLOR IMPRESSIONS: AN ARTIST'S INSPIRATION. Maureen Reed, Art Educator and Artist.

Wednesdays 2:00-4:00. February 1, 8, 15, 22. Eastern Academic Center. Limit 20.

Class Participants will explore what inspires an artist to create original works of art.

This hands-on painting and drawing course combines art history and biographical studies of artists who have influenced the style and works of the class instructor. PowerPoint presentations as part of the art series illustrate a wide range of art styles from French Impressionism (Claude Monet) to American Modernism (Georgia O'Keefe). Students will have an opportunity to paint vignettes during each class and will be encouraged to use a sketchbook between class sessions as a way of exploring their creative side. This will be a casual class with a positive atmosphere.

The Eastern Academic Center (Kellogg Community College) is located at 14055 26 Mile Road across from Starr Commonwealth. Room TBA. This course has a \$20 fee for art supplies.

TRAVELOGUE. Co-coordinators Martha O'Kennon and Jim Seidl. Tuesdays 2:00-4:00. February 7, 14, 21,

28. Albion District Library Naomi Lane Room.

February 7: Darlene and Tom Chisholm. "Springtime in South Africa." View the magnificent Kirstenbosch National Botanic Gardens, Cape of Good Hope, the Darling wildflower route, Chisholms' 4x4 trip through Sani Pass to the mountain country of Lesotho, and the numerous birds including African penguins. They will also share an "awesome" stay at Thula Thula, a private game reserve. Reading *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony will make the presentation more meaningful.

February 14: Abby and Dick Mortensen. "A Tale of Two Islands: Rapanui and St. Lucia." We will review some of what is known about Easter Island, its famous moai and constructions related to Peru and contrast that with the lovely volcanic St. Lucia, a jewel of the Caribbean.

February 21: Martha O'Kennon. "A Potpourri Adventure." Colorful and eclectic, Martha O'Kennon will lead class members through travels as varied as Portugal and the Canaries, Ireland, a bit of China, Botswana, Barcelona, and wherever her fancies take us.

February 28: Carolyn and Dennis Gaswick. "From the Black Sea to Budapest." Join the Gaswicks on their river cruise through Eastern Europe, including parts of Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania.

SEX AND GENDER, NATURE AND NURTURE. Marc Roy, Provost, Albion College, Ph.D., Behavioral Neuro-

science. Mondays 10:00-12:00. February 6, 13, 20, 27. Limit 25.

From the earliest possible moments, sometimes even before birth, we identify individuals as females and males. Gender roles and identities are reinforced from birth with the clothes we dress infants in and the toys we give them. But what makes us males and females? Sex and gender are concepts that have been studied from a variety of perspectives. Are they the same things? What leads to differences in sex and gender? While some people have argued that biological factors are the primary factors that determine if an individual is female or male, others have argued that these terms are socially constructed and that social and cultural factors are the primary determinants of sex and gender. In this course, we will examine how biological factors interact with cultural and social factors to influence the expression of sex and gender and how our understanding has changed over time. This will require us to bring together feminist perspectives along with biology, psychology, anthropology, and history.



# AALL Course Registration Form – Winter 2017

## Registration Instructions – Please Read Carefully

1. Fill in the blank below (on the left) for yourself. If you have a spouse/partner who is an AALL member, use the blank (on the right).
2. For each course for which you wish to register, place a number in the box in front of the course name: 1 for the course you most wish to take, 2 for the second course you wish to take, etc. Note: If you only wish to take one course, indicate only one (1) course (mark it with the number 1) — see instruction 4 below.
3. In the column marked FEE, indicate the appropriate cost. Your first course (each term) is free with your AALL membership; simply write FREE in the FEE column. For each additional course, the fee is \$10.
4. If you wish to indicate an alternate choice (in case one of your choices above is oversubscribed and you are not admitted to that course), mark an X in the box before your alternate choice.

**IMPORTANT:**

1. Use numbers in the boxes to indicate which course(s) you wish to take; use an X only to indicate alternate courses.
2. If you are registering for a course with limited enrollment, make sure you mark it number 1 (only those indicating a course as their first choice are entered into the random selection).

"If there are additional class fees for supplies, these fees need to be paid at the time of registration and are non-refundable unless the class is canceled."

NAME: _____	
phone: _____	
E-mail: _____	
	FEE
<input type="checkbox"/> Sources of Evil .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Evolution .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vanishing Life .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Watercolor .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sex and Gender .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Travelogue .....	_____
Total Fees	_____
Signature: _____	
<b>Deadline for registration: January 16, 2017</b>	

NAME: _____	
phone: _____	
E-mail: _____	
	FEE
<input type="checkbox"/> Sources of Evil .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Evolution .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vanishing Life .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Watercolor .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sex and Gender .....	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Travelogue .....	_____
Total Fees	_____
Signature: _____	
<b>Deadline for registration: January 16, 2017</b>	

<b><u>MEMBERSHIP FORM</u></b>	
(To be completed only by those wishing to renew their membership in AALL)	
Name _____	Spouse/Partner Name _____
Address _____	
City _____	Zip _____ Date _____
Phone ( ) _____	E-mail _____
Dues: \$20 per year per person	Spouse's E-mail _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I am 55 or older (spouse/partner could be younger)	



A suggestion was made at the AALL Board Meeting that members could bring their own coffee mugs to classes to help reduce landfill issues. The impact of this decision may seem to be of small significance, but it is one way that we can reduce our environmental "FOOTPRINT". AALL will continue to provide cups for those who don't bring their own.

## AALL Membership

If you are not already an AALL member, or if you have not paid your 2016-2017 dues, a membership form is included at the bottom of the "Course Registration" form. Dues are \$20 per person, per year, with the year running from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

Members may take one (1) free course per term (fall, winter, spring). There is a charge of \$10 for each additional course taken in any term. Members who are not sure whether they have paid dues for the current year should contact Alice Cook, AALL Treasurer, at 517-629-6432 or e-mail: [acook@alumnimail.albion.edu](mailto:acook@alumnimail.albion.edu).

## Registration Information

The Registration form attached to this newsletter should be sent, with payment (if any), to:

**AALL Registrar**

**P.O. Box 188**

**Albion, Michigan 49224**

or brought to the

**Winter Assembly on January 12, 2017 @ 10 a.m. in The Bohm Theatre.**

**"If there are additional class fees for supplies, these fees need to be paid at the time of registration and are non-refundable unless the class is canceled."**

### AALL Lottery Policy for Over-Enrolled Classes

When a course with limits is over-enrolled, the names of all of those who had it listed as #1 shall be entered in a lottery. Those randomly drawn shall be placed in the class. Those not selected will comprise the waiting list and also be given first access if that course is offered again. The registrar will keep a record of those on the waiting list until the course is offered again.

Those selected for the course in its first offering will not be eligible to retake it until all those on the waiting list have had the opportunity to take the course.

Those who have signed up for a class with limits and listed it as #1 are encouraged to sign up for at least one additional class. Members are also encouraged not to sign up for a course with limited enrollment if they know they won't be there for all four sessions.

Registrants for all classes will receive a letter shortly after **January 16, 2017** that will acknowledge their registration, and provide additional information about the course(s) for which they have registered.

If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees will be refunded **ONLY** if the AALL Registrar, Mary Deardurff (517-629-9661) is notified **no later than one week prior to the start of the class.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** AALL incorporated as a separate NONPROFIT organization in January 2010 under the incorporation laws of the State of Michigan. However, we have NOT yet become a TAX EXEMPT organization under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service. Therefore, any donations and/or fees paid to AALL are NOT tax deductible. The AALL Board is currently weighing the costs and benefits of applying for tax-exempt status, but no decision has yet been reached.