

Albion Area Lifelong Learners

AN INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING IN COOPERATION WITH ALBION COLLEGE

Greetings

Dear Friends,

I am sure we will all be very happy to meet again in person for our Spring Term classes. Curriculum Committee has planned five classes on a wide variety of topics. Participants in classes held at Ludington Center still need to follow Albion College COVID policy. As of the writing of this letter, masking is still required, but it is anticipated that these restrictions will be lifted soon. Deadline for submitting registrations is April 21.

Curriculum Committee is always searching for new classes. If you have ideas, please suggest them to Doug White (dwhite@albion.edu) or Martha O'Kennon (mokennon@albion.edu). As you know, each class has a coordinator. It often happens that the same few people act as the coordinators time after time. Curriculum Committee requests that others offer to coordinate a class. You do not have to be a member of the committee to coordinate a class. Class coordinators are responsible to make contact with the class teacher, introduce him or her, and communicate any messages that class members need. Also, the coordinator does not have to pay for that class. Please consider.

Spring Assembly will be April 14, featuring Mr. William Strohaber, who graciously agreed to postpone his talk from the Winter Assembly. We look forward to his presentation on end-of-life decisions with regard to environmental consequences of what we do with our physical remains. Remember that the Assembly is free and open to the public, so invite your non-member friends.

Spring Assembly is also the time of the AALL Annual Meeting, as required by our Bylaws. Two Board members' terms have expired and they will be leaving the Board: Ken Ponds and Dick Mortensen. We thank them for their contributions to this organization. Two current members, Vivian Davis and Gareld Boehlke, have agreed to run for a second three-year term. Since our

Bylaws call for 11 positions, there are three additional openings on the Board. Nominations can be made from the floor. If you are thinking of nominating someone, be sure that person is willing to serve before nominating him or her. Vote of approval will be taken at the meeting. Remaining Board members are: Mary Slater, Tanya Arnett, Sue Farley, Dale Kennedy, John Williams and Carole Fraker. Our Treasurer is Jim Seidl.

Happy Spring

Mary Slater, Board President

Upcoming Events

Winter Assembly

From Toxic Chemicals to Fossil Fuels to Trillium: Making Green End-of-Life Decisions

Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 10 a.m.

William E. Strohaber

My personal journey to explore end-of-life options began in earnest after reading “Dying to be Green,” in the September/October 2010 issue of the Audubon Magazine. My parents had chosen as their final resting place a new cemetery located in a rural area with native trees and shrubs mixed with nursery stock, no artificial monuments, or tombstones – simply a small plaque with names and dates. This option still did not resolve all of my personal issues associated with embalming, vaults, and caskets. I had always assumed, that when the time came, I would be cremated. The Audubon article pointed out that a growing number of Americans would prefer final resting places filled with wildflowers not concrete, steel and granite. It compared and contrasted the different end-of-life options – conventional embalming/vault burials, cremation, and natural or “green” burials – educating the reader about the many myths and beliefs about burials including what we believe is law. The most significant take away was the fact that cremation is NOT a “green” alternative to conventional burial. If you are concerned about global warming and your personal carbon footprint, or clean air and water, habitat protection, and protecting land from development; then green options should be explored. For the last ten years, my journey has included researching, interviewing, and visiting natural cemeteries ultimately advocating

for a Trillium resting place. This presentation will cover the pros and cons of conventional and cremation end-of-life options; the definition and types of green cemeteries and how they are certified; location of green certified cemeteries in Michigan, and examples of conservation cemeteries “the greenest of the green” across the country. Finally, we will take a deeper look at two conservation cemeteries: Foxfield and Kokosing which were founded in Ohio consistent with Ohio Cemetery Laws. Foxfield Preserve is located in Wilmot, Ohio and is the first conservation burial ground in the country to be operated by a conservation organization. Foxfield is a subsidiary of the Wilderness Center, a nonprofit nature center and land trust. Kokosing Nature Preserve is operated by the Philander Chase Conservancy, Kenyon College’s Land Trust in Gambier, Ohio. Finally, a list of books and articles and other resources will be provided if you are inspired to start your own journey.

Tennant Hall at the First United Methodist Church

600 E Michigan Ave, Albion, MI 49224

[Get Directions](#)

Upcoming Courses

Human Rights In Albion: International Standards, Local Practices.

Carrie Booth Walling, Professor of Political Science & Faculty Director, Ford Institute, Albion College.

Monday. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. May 2, 16, 23. In Person. Ludington. Class size unlimited.

Human rights issues are all around us. If we look closely, we can find them in our neighborhoods, on our college campuses, and even in our own closets. We can advance human rights by placing the well-being and dignity of other human beings at the center of the decisions we make personally and as a community. By understanding human rights, we can help make their enjoyment a reality. This course offers a brief introduction to human rights – their historical and political origins, substantive meaning, and how they are put into practice locally, nationally, and internationally. Participants will be introduced to collaborative human rights work underway on campus and in the community through the newly launched Albion Human Rights Lab. The course will offer

tools and strategies for becoming human rights. The last class will consist of a virtual tour of the United Nations with a human rights expert briefing defenders in our own communities.

Materials Fee \$15 for the Virtual tour of the United Nations.

Books, Equipment, Supplies that participants will need before class starts: I will email reading materials to those enrolled before the course begins along with a schedule. Each participant will also receive a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Poisonwood Bible

Judy Lockyer, Ph.D., Professor of English emerita, Albion College.

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. May 3, 10, 17, 24. In person, Ludington 103. Class size 20.

We will explore a big novel full of ideas, humor, human truths and human delusions, history, and beautiful language. *Poisonwood* is an engaging novel with characters that make us laugh and wonder and a story based on real events but are told in an inspired, imaginative method. I'm eager to discuss the questions it raises and the actions of characters who are very much still with us. It's a story about a mother and her four daughters who find themselves in jarringly new place, the Congo just before it broke loose from Belgian colonization; it is also the story of their husband/father who brought them to the Congo. This family of six from Bethlehem, Georgia leads us into a story about Americans who are full of assumptions and unexamined needs. The novel leaves us with a richness that will remain with us.

Required Text: Barbara Kingsolver. 1998. *The Poisonwood Bible*. The College bookstore will have the novel on sale if you don't already have it. Please come to our first meeting having read the first book, "Genesis." I can't wait to meet you!

Christian Contemplative Literature

Bruce Nelson, Lecturer and teacher.

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. May 4, 11, 18, 25. In person, Ludington 103. Class size unlimited.

We will look at Christian contemplative literature over the last two thousand years to gain a new appreciation of the richness of the Western tradition. Beginning with the early Christian contemplatives we will examine the roots of contemplative spirituality in the Jewish, Greek and Asian wisdom traditions, and the specific nature of the Christian contemplative understanding. We will look at parts of the New Testament, Gnostic treatises, the Desert Fathers, the Philokalia, Meister Eckhart and the Rhineland mystics, medieval English contemplatives, Christian alchemists, nineteenth century American mystics, and Christian contemplatives in modern times to see how contemplative vision has continually informed and inspired the West.

I will provide a sourcebook when the class starts.

Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease Mini-Series

Katey Price, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at Albion College and a Board Member of the State of Michigan Alzheimer's Association; Cassidy Covert, Program Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association and a Certified Dementia Practitioner.

Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. May 5, 12, 19, 26. In person, Ludington, 103. Class size unlimited.

Dr. Katey Price (Albion College) will begin this mini-series by presenting social science research on Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (ADRDs). Topics of research will cover impacts of communication, identity challenges, social isolation, stigma, as well as emerging research on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for those caring for and/or living with ADRD.

Cassidy Covert (Alzheimer's Association) will present an Alzheimer's and Related Dementias mini-series that will cover the following topics: a) Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia where we will learn the warning signs of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, Alzheimer's stages and risk factors, current research and available treatments, and ways the Alzheimer's Association can help; b) Effective Communication Strategies where we will learn to decode the verbal and behavioral messages

delivered by someone with dementia, and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease; c) Healthy Living for your Brain and Body where we will learn what research has shown about lifestyle choices that may help keep your brain and body healthy as you age.

Winston Churchill and the Movies

John Kondelik, Director of Libraries, Albion College Emeritus.

Thursdays. 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 pm. May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2. In Person, Bohm. Class size 80.

Most people probably do not know that Winston Churchill was an avid movie fan. It was one of his favorite entertainments. This was especially true during World War Two when as Prime Minister he spent part of every weekend watching movies. In fact on his way to see President Roosevelt in 1941 on board the battleship King George the V, there was a movie shown on board every night of the voyage. So if you want to know what these films were, you will need to attend this class.

Churchill's love of movies actually precedes WWII. It probably began in the 1920s in the long period he was out of political office. We know he loved Charlie Chaplin's films and actually visited Chaplin in Hollywood on Churchill's tour of the US later in the decade after WWI. One of his all-time favorite films was Chaplin's last silent film City Lights.

Churchill was also interested in the production of movies and formed a friendship with the great film director Alexander Korda and even explored composing a film script with Korda.

We will view one of Korda's films along with four others, all but one of which were favorites of Churchill. One of these 5 films was not a favorite and in fact was controversial and not fully appreciated in its time. To find out what these films are you need to join me in viewing and discussing why these films were appreciated or not appreciated by Winston Churchill.

There is a \$10 charge to help cover the cost of the theatre rental. Note that this course has five sessions.

Reminders for Spring 2022:

1. Annual membership dues for 2022-2023 are \$20. Members may take one class each term without additional fee; each additional class is \$10. If you have questions, you can call the Registrar, Mary Deardurff at 517-990-4158.
2. The Spring Assembly (on Thursday, April 14, at 10 a.m.) will be held in Tennant Hall at the First United Methodist Church. You may register in person from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Please bring your completed registration form (or facsimile) with you.
3. Mail-in registration forms (along with a check or money order made out to AALL) must be received by Thursday, April 21. Mail the completed form along with a check or money order payable to AALL to: AALL Registrar, P. O. Box 188, Albion, MI 49224

Registration Information

1. For each course for which you want to register, place a number in the box in front of the course name: 1 for the course you most want to take, 2 for the second course you wish to take, etc. (NOTE: If you only wish to take one course, mark it with the number 1)
2. If you wish to indicate an alternate choice (in case one of your choices is oversubscribed and you are not admitted to that course), mark an X in the box before your alternate choice.
3. In the column marked FEE, indicate the appropriate cost. The first course (each term) is free with your AALL membership; simply write FREE in the FEE column. Each additional course is \$10 (plus any special fees). All fees need to be paid at the time of registration.
4. If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees can be refunded up until the start of the course

Policy for Limited Enrollment Classes

When a course with limits is over-enrolled, the names of all 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.

