

Albion Area Lifelong Learners

AN INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING IN COOPERATION WITH ALBION COLLEGE

Greetings

Dear Friends,

Welcome to AALL's Winter Term 2024. We start this year with our Assembly on January 11 featuring Dr. Nicolle Zellner, Professor of Physics at Albion College, astronomer, planetary scientist and astrobiologist. Dr. Zellner is highly accomplished in her field, and has presented several classes for us in the past. At the Assembly she will talk to us about exciting new discoveries in space exploration.

Curriculum Committee has once again planned a diverse selection of classes. Dr. Judy Lockyer, who has given us many classes in the past, will now present a course on banned books and their impact on society. Assistant Professor in Art, Emmeline Solomon will give us a hands-on experience in relief printing and book-binding. We will have another film class at the Bohm Theatre, led by Donna Ward, and featuring the Great Dames of British film. We will also be bringing back the Travelogue Series. Note that this class will meet at Ludington Center and will be for AALL members only. Also note that the Curriculum Committee needs new members. Please consider volunteering.

I am looking forward to these enriching activities for this Winter, and hope to see you there too.

Mary Slater, President

Upcoming Events

Winter Assembly

All About That Space

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 10 a.m.

Tennant Hall at the First United Methodist Church

600 E Michigan Ave, Albion, MI 49224

Nicolle Zellner, Albion College. Herbert and Grace Dow Endowed Professor in the Sciences Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science Recipient, Carl Sagan Medal for Science Communication

It's an exciting time to be a space scientist! From observations of deep space via Hubble and the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), to asteroid sample return from OSIRIS-REx, to planned investigations by Dragonfly (Titan) and Europa Clipper (Europa), space science offers something for everyone, now and in the future.

In this talk, I will present updates on several exciting space missions, including NASA's initiative to return to the Moon. I will talk about Albion's plans to celebrate 140 years of astronomy at Albion College and the upcoming solar eclipse in April.

Dinner Theatre

We had such a good time with the dinner/theatre last Fall that we have decided to plan another such event this Spring. On April 18, AALL folks will gather for dinner at Baldwin, each paying for our own and sitting in a designated area, and then attend the theatre's production of 12th Night. Look for an announcement and sign up at a time closer to the date.

Group Trip

We are also in midst of planning a trip to the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo sometime in March. We would car pool to the museum, and have a meal together somewhere nearby. Look for a subsequent e-mail for details.

Upcoming Courses

Book Bans: Truth, Lies, and the Deliberate Destruction of Knowledge

**Judy Lockyer, Professor emerita, English, Albion College;
coordinator Donna Ward.**

Wednesdays, 1 — 3 p.m., February 7, 14, 21, 28. In person. Class size 20.
Room 217, Ludington Center, 101 N. Superior St.

Banning and burning books have long been common ways that humans have attempted to control others. In the United States black people have been banned from “white libraries,” women and girls have been banned from libraries, schools, and universities. We all know we’re living in a time of heightened threats against democracy, peace, reason, and humanity. Right now librarians and teachers are quitting their professions because of threats of job loss, distorted curricula forced on educators at every level, and even prison.

This class will focus on exploring excerpts from specific texts and ideas under threat both now and in history. We can learn a lot by close readings and full discussions of why and how writers and thinkers have been banned or erased. What so threatens people? What exactly is the power of words in a world that also finds them so immaterial? Books such as *Jenny Lives With Eric and Martin*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Satanic Verses*, *On The Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection*, *Mein Kamp*, and *Beloved* have been banned or burned.

One writer who gets to the heart of the need to destroy knowledge is George Orwell. We’ll start by talking about excerpts from Orwell’s *1984*, a novel that should make us all worry about our country and world. Certain ideas and words in fiction, non-fiction, and holy texts seem always under threat and that means we should care enough to understand the stakes. Libraries and archives contain long-term narratives about human experiences and ideas, and we ignore attempts to close or ban them at our peril.

Participants will receive xeroxed copies of the material we will analyze.

The Dames

Donna Ward, Director of Financial Aid, retired.

Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m., February 8, 15, 22, 29. In person. Bohm Theater.
Class size 80.

There is Nothing Like a Dame, unless its TWO Dames – Maggie Smith and Judi Dench – treasures of stage and screen. Both have spent decades as actors on stage, in movies, and on television.

We will talk about their careers and then view four films: Ladies in Lavender (2004) starring Dame Maggie and Dame Judi as two sisters whose lives change when they discover an injured young foreigner washed ashore near their coastal home in pre-war England; Iris (2001) starring Dame Judi and Jim Broadbent, a powerful true story of celebrated English author Iris Murdoch; The Lady in the Van (2015) starring Dame Maggie in a “mostly true story” about Miss Shepherd who parks her van in playwright Alan Bennett’s London driveway and proceeds to live there for 15 years; Tea with the Dames (2018) a documentary with Dames Maggie and Judi, plus Dame Eileen Atkins and Dame Joan Plowright, four legends of stage and screen who get together for a weekend in the country. They share their “candid, delightfully irreverent thoughts on everything from art to aging to love to a life lived in the spotlight.”

There is a \$10 charge to help cover the cost of the theatre rental.

Travelogue Series

Coordinator: Dave Hogberg

Thursdays, 10 a.m. — 12 p.m., In person. Room 102, Ludington Center, 101 N. Superior St. Free and open to AALL members only.

February 8: April in Italy

Susan and Dave Farley

We will share our experiences visiting Italy in the spring of 2023. The trip starts at Lake Maggiore in the mountainous NW and extends to the Amalfi Coast in the SW. It will also include an award-winning video, prepared by a friend, featuring the east coast of Italy.

February 15: Peru: Trip of a Lifetime

Pat Tomasik

Join 17 members of the Greater Lansing Friendship Force Club on the trip of a lifetime to Peru: a week visiting famed Peruvian sites in the high Andes—Lake Titicaca, Custco, Macchu Picchu, and more followed by a week as guests of the Trujillo Friendship Force Club on the Pacific Coast exploring archaeological treasures and the joys of their music, dance, and friendship.

February 22: Alaska: What the Glacier Knows

Thomas Hunsdorfer and Jennifer Garvin

We will focus on what two Alaska novices saw and learned on a two-week expedition cruise from Vancouver, British Columbia to Anchorage, Alaska in May 2023. We will share photographs and other resources that deal with Alaska's geology, wildlife, history, and indigenous people.

February 29: Come Visit Me, Argentina: A Trip to Buenos Aires and Iguazu Falls

Barbara Weiskittel

Argentina is the 2nd largest country in South America and 8th largest country in the world. Best known for football (Messi, before he moved to Miami), wine (Malbec, Torrontes), the tango, steak, Pope Francis and Evita Peron. With Buenos Aires as the capital, Argentina is a biodiverse country with pre-Colombian (Inca) roots and European (Spanish, Italian, and German) influences. Current economic and political instability in recent years continue to affect the entire South American region.

Iguazu Falls, a massive, spectacular waterfall sits between the Argentine and Brazilian borders. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is also part of the largest single protected remnant of the Paranaense subtropical rainforest. At 80 m high and 2700 m in diameter, this semicircle waterfall dwarfs Niagara Falls.

Handmade Notebook: An introduction to relief printing and single-signature bookbinding

Emmeline Solomon, Assistant Professor of Art, Curator of the Albion College Print Collection; Coordinator is TBD.

Fridays, 10 a.m. — 12 p.m., February 2, 9, 16, 23. In person. Bobbitt Visual Arts Building – Studio 1 (basement). Class size 8.

Develop your art skills and learn the basics of relief printmaking (one of the oldest means of making reproducible images and text) and single-signature bookbinding in this studio art course. In this class we will make a relief printed and hand-bound notebook. Participants will begin by creating an image and carving a linoleum block, they will then print that image using an American French Tool press and traditional relief inks, and then they will bind that into a notebook. By the end of this course students will have familiarity with introductory relief printing, bookbinding, and a small amount of letterpress printing. They will also have at least one handmade notebook. Anyone from a complete beginner in the realm of art to experienced printmakers or bookbinders are welcome.

Equipment and supplies that participants will need before class starts: Pencil and sketchbook or notebook for some idea generation – this doesn't need to be exclusively used in this course. All other materials will be provided.

Reminders for Winter 2024:

Annual membership dues for 2024-2025 are \$25. 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.

The Winter Assembly (on Thursday, January 11, 2024) will be held in Tennant Hall at the First United Methodist Church. You may register in person from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Please bring your completed registration form (or facsimile) with you.

Mail-in registration forms (along with a check or money order made out to AALL) must be received by Thursday, January 18, 2024. 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

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

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.

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. If your "free class" is one that requires a fee, you must pay the fee even though the class is free for you.

If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees can be refunded until the start of the course.

Policy for Limited Enrollment Classes

When a course with limited enrollment is over-enrolled, the names of all those who listed as in #1 shall be entered in a lottery. Those randomly drawn shall be placed in the class. Those not selected will be put on a waiting list and will 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 limited enrollment 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.