



## Albion Area Lifelong Learners

AN INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING IN COOPERATION WITH ALBION COLLEGE

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### Albion Area Lifelong Learners Enjoy Winter Wonderland

*From the President's Desk:*

Greetings AALL Members,

As we prepare for a beautiful holiday season and the delights of ringing in a New Year, AALL is gearing up for an informative presentation at the Winter Assembly **on January 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Wesley Chapel, Albion College Campus**. Dr. Brad Chase will present on the Indigenous Settlement Area of the Whitehouse Nature Center and Plans for Future Growth.

Dr. Chase, Professor of Anthropology, joined Albion College in 2008. He is an anthropologist and archaeologist who has conducted fieldwork in the American Midwest and Southwest, Turkey, Pakistan, and currently in India, where he has been doing research for over a decade. His research interests include the organizational dynamics of early urban societies from a comparative perspective, the relationship between humans and their environments during periods of social change, and the role of material culture in creating and maintaining identities in both the past and present. His ongoing research examines these issues within the context of the Indus Civilization in Gujarat, India, specifically focusing on changes in land-use practices and social organization during the rise and fall of South Asia's first urban civilization.

Arrangements have also been made to livestream the event for our out-of-town, snowbound, and housebound members, as well as interested supporters. Come, share with a friend, and enjoy a morning of good news about Dr. Chase's research and the latest developments at the Whitehouse Nature Center.

Ongoing collaborations continue with Dr. Vicki Baker's AC-3 class. A student worker has been assigned to update AALL's social media, registration process, webpage, and newsletter distribution and records. The webpage is currently undergoing some changes, so be on the lookout for a renovated site in the upcoming weeks! Thank you to Bruce Nelson for supporting our media presence, and to Jim Whitehouse and Vicki Baker for securing the resources to execute our marketing plans.

Luann Sommers, Director of Forks Senior Center, will share the winter class descriptions in the Forks Newsletter for January and February. Announcements about the classes, including their times and locations, will be posted in the front sitting area. FSC members are encouraged to suggest courses and instructors for upcoming offerings at the center. Discussions are underway with Calhoun County Senior Services and the Battle Creek YMCA to secure financial sponsorships for senior classes in partnership with AALL classes.

Mark your calendar for the **upcoming Winter and Spring Assembly dates on January 15, 2026, and April 19, 2026, at Wesley Chapel on the Albion College campus.** The assemblies will be live-streamed and recorded as YouTube videos. Viewers can visit their YouTube channel by searching for @albionfirstunitedmethodist3740, clicking the Live tab, then clicking the “thumbnail” to watch the General Session. Thanks to Rick Lange for coordinating the live streaming, which offers our members increased convenience.

Remember, Albion College Rotaract Club members and the Albion College Fellows are available to assist AALL members with yard work and minor home repairs. Please get in touch with me if you require help with maintenance, and I will connect with Rotaract leaders on your behalf.

Thank you to Doug White for organizing an impressive lineup of winter classes. The Travelogue Series features Tanzania, a month in Spain and Portugal, The Faith Path, and the Canadian Rockies. Movie enthusiasts can enjoy Anatomy of a Murder, a story about a Michigan Lottery couple, The Road to Perdition, Somewhere in Time, and Escanaba in da Moonlight. Your taste buds will be excited to learn about the Past, Present, and Future of Chocolate. Additionally, for the first time at AALL, Dr. Vicki Baker is offering a virtual series on Experiential Learning from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

In other news, Ginney Garrison has organized activities to entertain and refresh our spirits. We will choose from options including upcoming events with Jackson Trippers, Albion College Theatre, Women’s Basketball, Men’s Basketball, and activities at the Potter Center. There will never be a boring weekend for AALL members and friends.

Finally, the positions of AALL Board President and three board seats are open for election. Members are encouraged to consider accepting a nomination for an officer or board of directors seat starting in April 2026.

We are asking members to share their ideas for interesting and innovative classes, as well as possible instructors. If you have questions, concerns, or would like to discuss membership, program ideas, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at **517-250-3714** or via **viviandavis1100@yahoo.com**. I am looking forward to the intriguing AALL winter and spring speakers and sessions.

#### **Dates to Remember:**

- January 15, 2026 – Winter General Assembly
- March 12, 2026 – Board Meeting
- April 9, 2026 – Spring Assembly

Vivian Davis, President

## Membership Reminders

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### Annual Dues 2026

To maintain a viable organization, please invite your friends and neighbors to join AALL. Membership dues are \$30.00 per year, starting in September. Dues are prorated at the start of the second semester (\$20 if a member joins the second semester session, and \$10 if the member joins the spring semester).

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## Registration Guidelines

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Place a number in the box in front of each course name you register for. 1 for the course you most want to take, 2 for the second course you wish to register for, etc.

If you want to choose a different course, mark an X in the box next to your alternative if one of your options is scheduled at an inconvenient time.

In the column marked FEE, indicate the appropriate cost. The first course is free with your AALL membership; write FREE in the FEE column. Each additional course costs \$10.00 (plus additional fees for specific classes as outlined in the course description). All fees must be paid at the time of registration. If your "free class" requires an additional fee, you must pay that fee even though the class is labeled as free. If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees will be refunded until the start of the first session of the course.

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## Register for Courses

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If we face the fortunate problem of an overcrowded class enrollment, the names of students who listed the class as their #1 choice will be entered into a lottery. The randomly drawn names will be admitted into the class, while those not selected will be placed on a waitlist. Waitlisted students will have first access if space becomes available or if the class is offered again.

The Registrar will maintain a record of the waitlist until the course is offered again. Those who are chosen for the course during its first offering will not be eligible to retake the class until all waitlist registrants have had the chance to enroll. People who have signed up for a class with limited capacity and listed it as their top choice are encouraged to register for at least one additional class. Members are also advised not to enroll in a course with limited capacity if they cannot attend all the sessions.

[Register for a Course](#)

[Not an AALL Member?](#)

Please visit our website to print the Registration Form or complete the attached registration form and bring it to the Fall Assembly or mail it to the organization's mailbox (address located below).

Membership Forms are on our website, or you may get a membership form at the Fall Assembly from Bea Robinson, Registrar.

**Mailing Address:**  
Albion Lifelong Learners  
AALL P.O. Box 188  
Albion, Michigan 49224

## Winter Semester Classes



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### Experiential Learning for All (EL4A): Investing in High-Impact Practices at Albion

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**Vicki L. Baker**, Ph.D., Chair, Economics & Management; Associate Dean, Strategic Partnerships & Innovation, Albion College

**Mondays, 6:00 pm—7:00 pm. February 2, 9, 16, 23. *Virtual online series.* Class size unlimited.**

Curious about how today's colleges are reimagining learning for the next generation? Interested in seeing how students connect classroom knowledge with real-world problem-solving? Join us for a front-row look at Albion College's newest and most forward-thinking initiatives designed to prepare students for meaningful, purpose-driven lives. Whether you're passionate about education, invested in the future of Albion, or simply love learning about innovative ideas, this series offers an engaging and inspiring window into how experiential learning is reshaping higher education. No homework—just lively conversation, behind-the-scenes insight, and a chance to see how powerful learning becomes when it moves beyond the traditional classroom.

Albion College is launching a bold chapter one, where experiential learning, innovative teaching, and deep community connection become the heart of the student experience. This virtual course, designed especially with lifelong

learners in mind, invites participants to explore Experiential Learning for All (EL4A), a new graduation requirement for the Class of 2029 and beyond and a major component of Albion's strategic vision. Through four interactive sessions, attendees will gain an insider's look at emerging educational models, high-impact practices, student-centered innovation, and campus–community partnerships that are shaping the future of Albion College.

Each class blends accessible lectures, rich discussion, and examples of experiential learning in action. Discover how Albion is preparing students for life's opportunities—and how this work is strengthening the local community.

### **Week 1 — Strategic Priorities in Action: Experiential Learning & Curricular Innovation**

Begin with an overview of Albion College's three strategic priorities and the powerful role experiential learning now plays in shaping the curriculum. Participants will see real examples of innovation happening across campus and learn how these priorities are supporting student growth, community engagement, and workforce readiness. Time is reserved for open Q&A.

### **Week 2 — Understanding EL4A: What Counts, Why It Matters & How We Live It**

This session introduces the Experiential Learning for All (EL4A) framework and explains what “counts” as experiential learning for students. Attendees will explore how faculty, staff, and students bring EL4A to life through hands-on learning, research, community projects, internships, and more. The session also spotlights Albion's NSF EPIIC Grant and its impact on expanding inclusive and evidence-based opportunities.

### **Week 3 — Inside AC3: The Albion College Community Collaborative**

Join us for an inside look at AC3 (Albion College Community Collaborative)—Albion's dynamic experiential learning lab where students work as consultants for community partners, nonprofits, and regional clients. Discover how the model works, what students learn, and how AC3 strengthens local organizations while preparing students for leadership and problem-solving beyond graduation.

### **Week 4 — “How Can I Help?” Building a Culture of Experiential Learning Together**

The final session asks an energizing question: How can members of the Albion community—faculty, staff, alumni, partners, and lifelong learners—help cultivate and sustain experiential, innovative, and community-focused learning? Participants will learn about opportunities to support students, collaborate on projects, and strengthen connections between Albion College and the surrounding community.

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## **Travelogue Series**

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**Tuesdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. February 3, 10, 17, 24. *In person*, Ludington Center. Class size is unlimited.**

### ***Week 1 — Tanzania Travels with Pat Visser***

Northern Tanzania is a popular destination for safari enthusiasts, and it is also home to Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Great Rift Valley (specifically the southern apex where the Leakeys conducted their anthropological research), and many coffee farms. This brief tour will give you a sense of the diverse landscape, geology, and (of course) the animals I observed during a trip to this fascinating country in May 2024.

### ***Week 2 – A Month in Spain and Portugal with Scott and Marilyn Stephen***

Starting from our home base in the town of Mijas, above the Mediterranean near Malaga, we visit nearby Granada and Cordoba. Then by plane and train, we journey to Barcelona, and Bilbao, and then to Portugal, touring around Lisbon and Porto, finally landing in Madrid. We’ll see the Alhambra and the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, and the architecture of Antoni Gaudi, Frank Gehry, and Santiago.

### ***Week 3 – The Faith Path with Mauricio Marengoli***

The Faith Path is a set of roads (gravel, and tarmac) in southeast Brazil for peregrination, usually done by people that follow the Roman Catholic Church. It is similar to the one most known in Europe as The Way of Saint James. The main branch of the Faith Path is about 200 miles and peregrines will do it on foot, or biking - usually 10 days on foot and 5 days for biking. In this travel class I will be talking about the origins of the Faith Path and present you with my experience of doing this adventure in 5 days with my e-bike. I will show some videos, maps, and pictures of this beautiful region in southeast Brazil.

### ***Week 4 – A Road Trip to the Canadian Rockies with Sarah Steinhauer (and Larry)***

After Larry retired in 2006, we bought a camper and truck. Our first big trip was to the Canadian Rockies in 2008. We traveled through the UP and then crossed the Canadian prairie, landing in Jasper at the north end of the Rocky Mountain experience. We slowly traveled south to Glacier National Park in Montana and then returned home across Montana and Roosevelt National Parks in North and South Dakota.

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## **Favorite Michigan Movies**

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**Sylvia Dulaney.** A writer and producer of educational films, Syd learned film editing in NYC assisting a Woodstock cameraman. Raised in a family so ordinary, they were randomly selected as a “Nielson family” to rate TV shows in the late 1950s. She likes movies and loves Michigan.

**Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 pm. February 5, 12, 19, 26. Bohm Theatre. *In person*. Class size is unlimited.**

**There is a \$10 charge to help cover theatre rental costs.**

In 2025, Bridge Magazine had a contest to determine the most popular Michigan movies. These were movies that were placed in Michigan, and in some cases involved Michigan people and events. Out of 30 possible movies, we will watch an assortment. A great movie, ***Anatomy of a Murder*** was not chosen because it is two hours and 45 minutes long. You will receive a list of all 30 films considered, along with a short description of each. How many have you seen?

The assortment we will watch is:

**A true story: *Jerry and Marge Go Large***, a Michigan couple, beat the lottery and used their winnings to help their small town. Stars Bryan Cranston and Annette Bening. Heartwarming and true. 2022, 1 hr. 36 min.

**A gangster story: *The Road to Perdition***, starring Tom Hanks and Paul Newman in his last dramatic role. Directed by Sam Mendes. Michigan weather scenes and excellent camera work explore regret and redemption. 2002, 1 hr. 57 min. "Every father is a hero to his son."

**A love story: *Somewhere in Time***, starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. Filmed on Mackinac Island with lots of views of the hotel and Michigan scenery. 1980, 1 hr. 43 min.

**A goofy story: *Escanaba in da Moonlight***, written, directed, and starring Michigan native Jeff Daniels. He lives in Chelsea, Michigan, and operates the Purple Rose theater. Filmed on UP locations, a humorous look at deer hunting cultural traditions. 2001, 1 hr. 32 min.

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## Past, Present, and Future of Chocolate

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**Jenny Risner-Wade**, Passionate and forward-thinking business owner and craft bean-to-bar chocolate maker, B.A. Albion College (English major and Environmental Studies concentration), Founder of Yellow Bird Chocolate Shop, est. 2018.

**Fridays, 10:00 am — Noon. February 6, 13, 20. *In person*, Ludington Center. Class size limited to 20.**

**There is a \$20 charge to cover the cost of ingredient materials, such as a fresh cacao pod and drinking chocolate.**

Everyone believes they know everything about chocolate, but new archaeological discoveries are revealing more facts each day about how ancient civilizations revered this fruit. Current food and health trends influence how chocolate should taste. Sustainable farming practices ensure the world can continue to enjoy chocolate and cacao in the future. Experience just a taste of this fascinating industry in this three-session class!

# Register for 2026 Winter Courses Now!

Click the button below to register for courses, or [visit our website](#) to print the [registration form](#) to do so.

Click here to register!

Albion Area Lifelong learners | AALL P.O. Box 188 | Albion, MI 49224 US

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