

ALBION AREA LIFELONG LEARNERS

An Institute of Adult Learning in cooperation with Albion College

Fall Newsletter

August 20, 2026

AALL KICKS OFF NEW SEMESTER WITH FALL ASSEMBLY THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10th



Steve Castle and Eric Rice to speak on:

Practicing Lifelong Learning In Addressing Homelessness and Poverty

Steve Castle, CEO of Jackson Interfaith Shelter and Eric Rice, CEO of Drive Staffing, will discuss the work they have done in providing support to the homeless and jobless at Albion Area Lifelong Learner's Fall Assembly Thursday September 10th at 10:00 a.m. in Wesley Chapel on the Albion College campus.

Steve has served at Jackson Interfaith Shelter as their CEO since 2019. Prior to his time at Jackson Interfaith Shelter Steve spent time as a schoolteacher, student development, advancement and adjunct faculty member at Spring Arbor University and U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia, Africa. He completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Spring Arbor University. This past July Steve and his wife Heather celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary. Heather is an ordained pastor in the Free Methodist Church and has served in various ministry roles including youth ministry, worship and spiritual formation.

Eric is the founder of DRiVE Staffing and Altering Outcomes. Through these organizations, Eric creates sustainable workforce solutions by connecting employers with qualified talent while supporting community members in overcoming barriers to employment. With a clear focus on providing employment, transportation, and housing solutions, Eric works collaboratively with employers, community partners, and service providers to ensure individuals have access to the resources they need to secure and maintain meaningful employment.

Register for October AALL Courses

Register at the FALL ASSEMBLY Or Mail Your Registration to Us

All AALL members are invited to sign up for courses. Annual member dues are \$30 for the full year (usually paid in September). Membership includes one class per term. Additional courses are \$10 each. So, if you are renewing your membership and taking one class the cost will be \$30, if taking two classes \$40, if taking three classes \$50. There is a \$10 additional fee for the movie class to help cover costs of renting the Bohm.

The completed course registration form and/or membership form may be brought to the current Assembly meeting or send it to:

AALL Registrar
P.O. Box 188
Albion, MI 49224

Can I register and pay online? Sadly, not at this time. But hopefully in the future!

Class registration deadline is one week after the assembly meeting. Registrants will receive notice shortly after the registration deadline acknowledging their registration and providing additional information about the course(s) they have registered for. While members must be 55 or older, younger partners are also eligible to join.

Upcoming Courses

Making Pop-Up Cards

Martha O’Kennon, Mathematics Professor emerita, Albion College

Mondays, 2:00-4:00 pm. Two sessions: October 12 and 19. Class limited to 15.

I’ve been making my own personalized and colorful pop-up cards for years now, and want to share some techniques for doing this in this two-session workshop. People are always surprised and happy when they get something so novel made personally for them! We will learn various techniques for getting dimensionality and movement into our cards, especially delightful pop-up techniques. If you took the Escher class in May, you will be pleased to find out that you can insert some perspective-bending Escher-like elements into your cards.

Please bring your own scissors, Elmer’s Glue-All (may be shared), and a variety of cardstock paper (various colors including white, according to your preferences, 8.5’’x11’’).

Introduction to Spanish, an AALL/Forks Senior Center Course

Julián Paul Vasquez, instructor and retired dual language teacher

Tuesdays, 11:00 am—Noon at Forks Senior Center. October 6, 13, 20, 27. Class size unlimited.

Hola, me llamo **Julián Paul Vasquez**. I will be your teacher for the Introduction to Spanish language class this Fall.

I was raised in Albion, graduated high school in 1972, and acquired a teaching degree from Central Michigan University. I traveled to Brazil and learned Portuguese while living in Rio de Janeiro. I worked as a dual language teacher for 31 years prior to retirement. This past year, I taught my first Spanish class at Forks Senior Center, and I am excited to join the AALL family of volunteers and look forward to meeting you in class. Adios and haste pronto.

This AALL/Forks Spanish class is designed to give participants a simple easy-to-follow experience in second language acquisition. Its goal is to provide participants with an appreciation of language within a culture during a limited span of four weeks.

By the end of day one, students will realize they already know over 200 words in Spanish. A list of COGNATES will be distributed to all. These words will be the center of our experience with the Spanish language. Coupled with unique pronunciation of words, consonants and vowels using special techniques, the language learning experience will seem easy and enjoyable.

The class will include the influence that the Spanish language has had in the United States. The music of the mariachi genre along with the folklore dance associated with it will also be highlighted. Furthermore, with respect to music, students will learn the Happy Birthday song of the Latin world; Las Manñanitas.

Latino cuisine, particularly, Mexican food will also be visited and studied. In particular, the popular salsa & chips will be provided and evaluated for taste. If time allows, the class participants will engage in the preparation and cooking of tamales, a popular tasty and delectable dish widely prepared around the fall and winter holidays.

As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams: An Introduction to Japanese Literature

Bruce Nelson, the current President of AALL.

Tuesdays, 4:00pm to 5pm. October 7, 14, 21, 28. Class size unlimited.

Comfortably enjoy a world vastly different from our own in this one hour afternoon Zoom class.

Exploring the rich tradition of Japanese Literature, we will highlight a number of wonderful books, beginning with 11th century women writers whose diaries and novels are quite readable and moving today. We will move onto the 18th century writer Uyeda Akinari whose *Tales of Moonlight and Rain* contributed to the robust Japanese ghost Story genre, read the delicate writings of Higuichi Ichiyo who wrote remarkably beautiful stories in the 1890s before her untimely death at age 24, and conclude with the early 20th century writer Nagai Kafu, whose response to the rising Japanese militarism and nationalism of the 1930's offers hints of how to stay human in dark times.

Through these brief glimpses into one of the world's foremost literary traditions we will see how timeless human concerns play out in a variety of life situations. The course will include short historical introductions, readings from literary works and group discussion.

Thinking About *On Freedom*

Judy Lockyer, English Professor emerita, Albion College

Wednesdays, 10:00 am—Noon. October 7, 14, 21, 28. Class size unlimited.

In his new book *On Freedom*, historian Timothy Snyder builds a vibrant, richly supported case for understanding freedom as about “what we value and bringing it to life.” What does that mean?

Snyder begins with an analysis of the negative principle that freedom exists in the universe and can be achieved simply by removing restrictions. The idea that wars, including the American Revolution, are fought for freedom does not establish freedom. When we believe that freedom is given to us, we let its possibility go from our lives and our minds. If the Revolution freed us from taxation without representation, how do we understand the current state of

American democracy? The fact that truth and facts are now fragile realities in much of American culture is enough to make me despair, but Snyder's argument is compelling and empowering.

Snyder includes memories of his childhood and his experiences parenting his own children, and he connects those to his scholarship and teaching of 20th c. American and eastern European history. He relates philosophical principles to his conversations with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy before and during the Russian invasion. The result is a book that expands and deepens our understanding of freedom as an achievable positive reality.

We will meet four times for two hours each to talk about the five forms of freedom that Snyder argues can bring us constructive and valuable ways forward.

Recommended Book: *On Freedom* by Timothy Snyder (available in paperback for \$13).

The Last Movie Stars: Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward

Sarah Steinhauer, A lover of old movies!

Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 pm. October 8, 15, 22, 29. Bohm Theatre. Class size unlimited. **There is a \$10 charge** to help cover the cost of the theatre rental.

I was inspired to assemble this film series after watching a 6-part documentary aired on HBO MAX called *The Last Movie Stars*.

In the early 2000's, Paul Newman asked his good friend and screenwriter Stewart Stern to help him tape over 100 interviews with everyone in Paul's life: family, friends, famous people, nannies, assistants. Although Paul burned all the tapes before he died in 2008, Stewart had already made transcripts of them.

During Covid, Paul and Joanne's children asked Ethen Hawke to work with these transcripts to tell the story of their parents. Ethen gathered many celebrities on zoom to plan the series that included actors reading the parts that were transcribed. Most notable are George Clooney as Paul and Laura Linney as Joanne. The words were woven in with scenes from their many movies.

We will watch four films that epitomize the couple's cinema legacy.

Three Faces of Eve (1957)—Based on a true story, Joanne plays a woman with three personalities. This was her first movie, and she won the Academy Award for Best Actress.

The Long Hot Summer (1958)—Paul and Joanne are paired on the screen for the first time.. Based on William Faulkner's works, Paul plays a drifter arriving in a

small Mississippi town who clashes with patriarch played by Orson Welles as he woe's his daughter, played by Joanne.

Winning (1969)—Paul plays a rising star on the car racing circuit who dreams of winning the Indianapolis 500. But to get there, he runs the risk of losing his wife, (Joanna) and his stepson (Richard Thomas). It is the most autobiographical story of Paul's life, touching real life issues of car racing, alcoholism, and a troubled son.

The Sting (1973)—Set in 1936, it involves a complicated plot by two grifters (Paul Newman and Robert Redford) to con a mob boss (Robert Shaw).

AALL FALL COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

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AALL Registrar
P.O. Box 188
Albion, MI 49224

Registrant 1

Class Title

(Cost (\$10 each
after first choice)

Check Here (First Class Free)

☐	Making Pop-Up Cards	
☐	Introduction to Spanish	
☐	As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams-- Japanese Literature	
☐	Thinking About <i>On Freedom</i>	
☐	The Last Movie Stars (Special Fee of \$10 to cover cost of Bohm)	

Membership (First Time or Renewal)

\$30

Total

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registrant 2

Class Title

Cost (\$10 each
after first choice)

Check Here (First Class Free)

☐	Making Pop-Up Cards	
☐	Introduction to Spanish	
☐	As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams-- Japanese Literature	
☐	Thinking About <i>On Freedom</i>	
☐	The Last Movie Stars: (Special Fee of \$10)	

Membership (First Time or Renewal)

\$30

Total

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____