



**ADULT LEARNERS INSTITUTE
(ALI Michigan)
PO Box 134
Chelsea, MI 48118
734-292-5540**

**Spring 2026 ALI MICHIGAN CATALOG AND
REGISTRATION FORM**

NEW FOR SPRING 2026

Two Ways to Register - **ON-LINE:** Class information, registration and payment can be made by going to the ALI Website “alimichigan.org.” The registration form and payment instructions are provided. A receipt will be mailed to you with class information. **MAIL IN:** You can also register by filling out the registration form located in the catalog and mail with your check to ALI, PO Box 134, Chelsea, MI 48118 Confirmation will be sent to registered students.

FEE SCHEDULE - The **class fees** will range from \$20 to \$35 based on the total number of times the class meets. There may be additional fees for course materials or supplies. Registrations will be accepted during the semester as long as class spaces are available. WE ARE PROVIDING MORE CLASSES WITH ZOOM. CLOSED classes will be posted on the ALI website at www.alimichigan.org.

ALI Michigan Spring Classes, 2026

Many great courses are scheduled from February through May, 2026.

The Adult Learners Institute (ALI) located at 5 HEALTHY TOWNS OFFICES in the Chelsea Wellness Center, provides a diverse selection of quality community-based learning experiences and camaraderie for adults. ALI is a nonprofit (501c3) Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) affiliated with Road Scholar Institute Network, a group of similar organizations.

ALI is always looking for additional volunteers to help fulfill its mission. Examples include: audio-visual, class assistants, curriculum planning, and one-day events. **Audio-Visual volunteers** will not be charged for the class they are assisting. **Class Assistant volunteers** will receive one \$20 certificate to be used on future classes. Please note, class assistants will be selected and notified by ALI before the class begins.

The ALI Board is also looking for new Board members. Board members attend a once-a-month Board meeting.

For more information: call 734-292-5540 to leave a message. Our website is www.alimichigan.org.

Many ALI courses are conducted in cooperation with Washtenaw Community College.

PLEASE NOTE: ALI classes (except “ZOOM ONLY”) are cancelled when Chelsea District Schools are closed due to inclement weather [Call 734.433.2275 for information].

IN-PERSON classes will be limited by the venue's capacity limits.
Registrations will be accepted as long as there is availability.

ZOOM classes can be connected by using your smart phone or computer. Information will be provided by email to **registered students only** prior to the beginning of the class.

ONE FREE class is being offered with our partner, the Chelsea District Library. Consult the catalog for the class description, date, location, and time. Registration for the Chelsea District Library class must be made by calling the CDL directly (734-475-8732 ext 219).

Additional catalogs and registration forms can be printed from the ALI website at www.alimichigan.org **OR**, will be available at the Chelsea Senior Center, Chelsea and Dexter Libraries, along with other public locations in Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Grass Lake, and Stockbridge.

The Adult Learners Institute is grateful for the continued support of the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation, the Chelsea Senior Center, and the Chelsea & Manchester District Libraries, the Dexter Senior Center, the Cedars of Dexter, Chelsea Retirement Community, Chelsea State Bank, Heydlauff's Appliances, and Chelsea School District Community Education for their partnership in ALI's Spring 2026 semester. We also thank previous supporters Our Savior Lutheran Church, Silver Maples, First United Methodist, St. Paul, North Lake United Methodist, and St. Mary churches.

The Arsenal of Democracy: WWII Buildup **Jim Craft**

1 Monday, May 11 - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Chelsea Senior Center, 512 Washington St., Chelsea
IN-PERSON & ZOOM

The greatest asset the United States possessed in World War II was its industrial capacity. That said, on September 1, 1939, when World War II began in Europe, the United States had virtually no armaments industry at all. At that point, the industrial capacity was only a potential military asset, not an actual one. By 1943, however, American industry was running at full speed and had become a critical factor in the Allied victory. How this transformation occurred—particularly in Michigan—is the subject of Jim Craft's talk on May 11.

Jim Craft has a B.A. in History from Oakland University (Rochester, MI) and an M.A. in History from Wayne State University (Detroit, MI). His background as a historian is diverse: teacher, author, researcher, lecturer, curriculum designer, curator, and historical commissioner. Jim has traveled extensively in the United States, Europe, and Central America. While his interests in history are quite broad, Jim's principal area of expertise is 19th-century America. He is currently writing a series of short history books. These primarily focus on important, although underappreciated, aspects of American history, doing so from a local perspective. In addition to his background in history, Jim also had a career in corporate America in finance, recruiting, and career and retirement consulting.

Artificial Intelligence & ChatGPT **Steve Daut**

2 Thursdays, May 7 & 14 - 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Chelsea State Bank (Downtown Office), 305 S. Main St., Chelsea
IN-PERSON & ZOOM

The concept of artificial intelligence has been with us since early Greek mythology. When the first neural networks were built in the 1940s, that concept began to take physical shape. Then, in 1950, Alan Turing proposed the idea that the search for artificial intelligence would be realized when a human judge could not distinguish between answers generated by a machine and those given by a human. We'll look at computer programs and concepts developed over the next 80 years, how ChatGPT and other modern systems work today to pass the Turing test, and the potential benefits and dangers this poses.

Steve Daut has had a varied career. You may know him through his work with St. Louis Center or as a storyteller. But before that, he spent 20 years as a Geophysicist, working with exploration techniques that involved complex mathematical concepts and computer programs. For three years, he served as President of BSR Resource Data Corporation in London, Ontario, which provided seismic and image-processing services to companies in the energy and environmental industries. Before Comcast came to town, he was

also one of the owners of OpAve, a company that provided internet connectivity to the Chelsea area.

Artificial Intelligence & ChatGPT **Steve Daut**

2 Thursdays, May 21 & 28 - 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Manchester District Library, 912 City Rd., Manchester

****REPEAT OF CHELSEA CLASS****

IN-PERSON & ZOOM

The concept of artificial intelligence has been with us since early Greek mythology. When the first neural networks were built in the 1940s, that concept began to take physical shape. Then, in 1950, Alan Turing proposed the idea that the search for artificial intelligence would be realized when a human judge could not distinguish between answers generated by a machine and those given by a human. We'll look at computer programs and concepts developed over the next 80 years, how ChatGPT and other modern systems work today to pass the Turing test, and the potential benefits and dangers this poses.

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Bagpipes - The Music & The Mystique **Bagpiper Tom Kennedy**

1 Monday, March 23 - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Chelsea Senior Center, 512 Washington St., Chelsea
IN-PERSON

Enjoy a musical history of the bagpipes from ancient times to the present. What is the origin of this odd instrument, and how did it evolve throughout Europe and the world?

The historical and social nature of the music is brought to life as I play selected tunes—from battle marches on the Highland pipes to slow airs and dance music on the Irish uilleann pipes.

Curious about the Highland dress? How did the kilt come about, and are the Scots the only ones who wear them? What's the story behind the funny shoes and the knife in the sock? A short "Bagpipes 101" course will explain how these instruments work. Learn about all of this, have your questions answered, and enjoy the music! (Due to this being an indoor event, earplugs will be provided.)

Tom Kennedy is your local Chelsea bagpiper and has been playing the Highland pipes for 35 years and the

Irish uilleann pipes for the past 25. I play for weddings, funerals, memorials, parties, and presentations like this. You can find more information on my website at wanderingpiper.com or on my YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/BagpiperTomKennedy](https://www.youtube.com/BagpiperTomKennedy).

Bicycle Touring in Southeast Asia

Willy Hunter & Rebecca Houtsma

1 Tuesday, February 24 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Chelsea State Bank (Downtown Office), 305 S. Main St., Chelsea

IN-PERSON

In both 2023 and 2025, we spent nine weeks bicycling through Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. We met local people in their homes, villages, and cities. In this class, you'll have the chance to learn about daily life, agriculture, industry, schools, tourist sites, and the process of planning and experiencing a slow-paced trip to these countries. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and tailor the discussion to your interests.

Willy Hunter and Rebecca Houtsma live in Chelsea, Michigan. Over the past five years, we've bicycled across Europe and Asia. We've wild-camped, stayed at campgrounds, and in hotels as we explored new areas (to us) and met lovely people around the world.

Conversations with Songwriters

Annie Capps

4 Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Pierce Lake Elementary School, 275 N. Freer Rd., Chelsea

IN-PERSON & ZOOM

Go behind the scenes with acclaimed singer-songwriter Annie Capps as she sits down with some of her favorite writers to explore their creative process. Through intimate conversation and live performance, you'll hear the stories behind the songs—what sparked them, how they evolved, and what they mean to the artists who wrote them. Each session features a different songwriter and offers a rare glimpse into the craft of songwriting, blending inspiration, storytelling, and musical insight.

Annie Capps is a multifaceted artist whose four-decade career as a singer, songwriter, performer, and producer defies genre boundaries. With four Folk DJ chart-topping albums and two Kerrville New Folk Finalist awards to her name, Annie has solidified her place in the contemporary folk music scene. She is known as a community organizer, founding several songwriting groups and the On The Tracks Songwriter Showcase at the Chelsea Depot. Annie has been a leading force behind the Folk Alliance Region Midwest (FARM) since 2008 and was recently honored with the Folk Alliance International's Spirit of Folk Award in 2025.

Exploring Musical Theatre

Hank Muir & Chris Lenehan

4 Thursdays, April 9, 16, 23, 30 – 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Chelsea State Bank (Downtown Office), 305 S. Main St., Chelsea

IN-PERSON

This class presents film versions of musicals from the stage and screen. Each is introduced with a history of the production, along with information about the authors, composers, lyricists, casting, and interesting trivia. There will also be time for questions, comments, and discussion.

Chris Lenehan is a retired physical therapist and a lifelong music lover who sang along with Shirley Temple movies and played Cinderella in the sixth grade. She sang and danced her way through high school (playing Rose in *Bye Bye Birdie*) and in student musical productions at the University of Pennsylvania.

Hank Muir is a retired teacher and medical practice administrator with a bachelor's degree from Graceland College and a master's from the University of Nebraska. He has lived in Chelsea since 2003 and is a collector of books, records, and movies.

Financial Fraud Prevention

Nancy Zander, Chelsea State Bank

1 Wednesday, March 11 - 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Chelsea State Bank (Downtown Office), 305 S. Main St., Chelsea

****REPEAT OF FALL 2025 CLASS****

IN-PERSON

Understanding Fraud Techniques: Learn the various fraudulent techniques used to target financial organizations. **Modern Counter-Fraud Tools:** Discover and understand modern tools and methods to combat fraud. **Effective Identification, Investigation, and Prevention:** Gain the skills to effectively identify, investigate, and prevent fraud. **Handling Fraud Cases:** Learn the steps to take when fraud occurs and how to apply the acquired knowledge to handle such situations. **Best Practices:** Be equipped with internationally accepted best practices for fraud prevention.

Nancy Zander - Risk Mitigation Officer at Chelsea State Bank.

Garden Myths Debunked

Carol Brodbeck

(Presented in cooperation with Washtenaw Community College)

Wednesday, March 25 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Dexter Senior Center, 2740 Baker Rd., Dexter

IN-PERSON & ZOOM

Some of our traditional recommended gardening practices have been debunked as myths, such as planting a tree at the same depth as in the container; watering at the drip line; chopping tree leaves before leaving them on the lawn; setting houseplants on a

pebble-filled saucer to increase humidity; using citronella to ward off mosquitoes; and believing that fertilizing by foliar watering is very effective. The list goes on.

Carol Brodbeck is a degreed biologist, Certified Advanced Master Gardener, National Garden Clubs, Inc. Five-Star, and part-time faculty at Washtenaw Community College. in person!

History of Hats and Millinery

Diane E. Hall

1 Monday, May 4 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Chelsea Senior Center, 512 Washington St., Chelsea

IN-PERSON

This class will address head coverings and their social implications through the ages, from antiquity to contemporary times. It includes many examples from the instructor's extensive vintage millinery collection, which will be modeled for the enjoyment of the class. There will be time for questions after the presentation.

Diane Hall is a Michigan native, and she has lived in Ann Arbor since 1984. She has a B.A. with a concentration in history and is retired from the University of Michigan, where she worked in Information Technology (IT). Experienced in costuming and a member of the Grand Traditions Vintage Dance group in Ann Arbor, she participates in national and international vintage dance weeks, including a crossing on the Queen Mary 2. Diane is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) and has been a genealogy researcher for over 30 years, with a focus on colonial Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas.

Rio de Janeiro, from Sugar Loaf to Carnival

Rosangela Lawrence

(Presented in cooperation with Washtenaw Community College)

1 Friday, April 10 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Dexter Senior Center, 2740 Baker Rd., Dexter

IN-PERSON & ZOOM

Join us on this virtual trip to one of the most charming cities in Brazil—Rio de Janeiro—where the sea meets the mountains and people always seem happy. Discover the dramatic contrasts involving this city, and be inspired by “The Girl from Ipanema” and Rio’s main events.

Rosangela Lawrence, a native of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, holds language degrees in Portuguese and English and began her teaching career in Brazil by teaching both languages. Here in the U.S., she has been working with the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture since 1995, teaching and writing her own courses at WCC.

Through her home-based business, Brazilian Portuguese Language Services, she provides translation, editing, and tutoring services.

The Road to Batopilas: Exploring Mexico's Copper Canyon by Motorcycle

John Deikis

1 Monday, February 23 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Chelsea Senior Center, 512 Washington St., Chelsea

IN-PERSON & ZOOM

Copper Canyon is a stunning network of six canyons in Mexico that is four times larger, as well as deeper, than the Grand Canyon. It is also home to the Tarahumara people who are known for a history of resisting Spanish colonization since the 16th century, maintaining their cultural identity despite pressures from outside influences, and their exceptional long-distance running abilities. Until recently, the only access into the canyon was down unpaved single-lane hairpin roads. Ride with John as he learns about Creel, Urique and Batopilas, the canyon’s largest town, and about the indigenous residents, ultra-marathon trail runners, and narcos who have interest in this remote area.

John Deikis caught the travel bug while working on an ocean-going ship in the 1960s. He later spent a year wandering to the southern tip of South America, Prudhoe Bay in Alaska, the North Cape of Arctic Europe, and the Cape of Good Hope in Africa. Interrupted by an unexpected adulthood, he returned to traveling when he retired from a career as a clinical psychologist 11 years ago. His preferred mode of travel is now by motorcycle. He has been a presenter at the U of M’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, as well as at travelers’ meetings in Virginia, New York, and Canada.

The Rollercoaster History of Detroit

Elisabeth Z. Thoburn

(Presented in cooperation with Washtenaw Community College)

4 Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26 – 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Cedars of Dexter, 411 Cedars Lane, Dexter

IN-PERSON

Immigration, Fire, Golden Years, Depression, Model T, Motown, and Bankruptcy - these are just a few key words that indicate the turbulent history of Detroit. Through a richly illustrated talk, augmented with great music clips - we will dive in deeper to understand the importance, resilience and beauty of our neighbor city, Detroit. Join me in this exploration.

Elisabeth Thoburn (ET), originally from Germany, is an art historian and emeritus faculty member at WCC. She has traveled to more than 40 countries and taught art history, religious and cultural studies at WCC for 30 years. Her talks are informed by her personal connections with the subjects she teaches and her love of art, music, and culture.

Tea and Sweet Treats

Tamara El-Khatib

(Presented in cooperation with Washtenaw Community College)

3 Wednesdays, April 8, 15 & 22 – 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Heydlauff's Appliances, 113 N. Main St., Chelsea
IN-PERSON

****Supply fee of \$19.50 is included in class fee****

Learn to make a variety of teas and multicultural sweets perfect for serving at a party or enjoying with your family. You'll also get to sample each one, with treats to enjoy in class or take home.

Tamara El-Khatib is the previous owner of Exotic Syrian Bakery in Ann Arbor. Current owner of Syrian Soul Catering, serving Washtenaw County. Professor of Culinary Arts at Washtenaw Community College.

Technology Through the Ages

Charlie Taylor

4 Wednesdays, April 29, May 6, 13 & 20 – 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Chelsea State Bank (Downtown Office), 305 S. Main St., Chelsea

IN-PERSON

Complex technology is one of the few things that distinguish humans from other animals. This class will highlight dozens of very old, kind of old and new technologies and discuss their key insights, timing and impact on society. Some of these inventions are so widely used that we don't often consider their impact (e.g. writing, language, toilets, radio, plumbing, electricity, the transistor). Please come and join the discussion!

Charlie Taylor has taught many previous classes for ALI. He holds a PhD in neuroscience and worked for 30 years as a drug discovery biologist for Parke-Davis and Pfizer. He also taught three terms of undergraduate neuroscience at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has lived in the Chelsea area for 42 years and has three grown children with his wife, Jill.

Uncovering Your Family History - With Fun!

Bill O'Reilly

1 Monday, March 9 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Chelsea Senior Center, 512 Washington St., Chelsea

IN-PERSON & ZOOM

Whether you know little about your family history or a great deal, this course will show you how to uncover the surprises and stories in your family tree. With a new twist, up to five registered attendees will have a branch or two of their tree researched in advance by Bill O'Reilly, who will show the class what he found and, most importantly, how he found it. The class will conclude with a look at the lighter side of genealogy.

****To be considered for the research, email Bill at billoreilly3@gmail.com by February 1st. Names will be drawn at random.****

Bill O'Reilly has worked on his own family tree for more than 40 years and has been a professional genealogist for the past 14 years, providing research for hundreds of clients throughout the world. He is also the current President of the Chelsea Area Historical Society; past President of the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan; and founder and former leader of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County's Ireland & United Kingdom Special Interest Group.

When Beaver was King

Barbara Schutzgruber

1 Monday, March 16 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Chelsea Senior Center, 512 Washington St., Chelsea

IN-PERSON

Empires were built, wars were fought, and adventure ruled as fortunes were made and lost—all because of this amazing creature: the beaver! Barbara offers a lively presentation of stories and information about the animal that changed the face of Michigan. Using an eclectic mix of factual information, high-spirited stories, and a description of how beaver tail hats were made, Barbara sets the stage for enjoyable entertainment and education about the beaver, its encounters with humans, and how it still wields power in Michigan today.

Barbara Schutzgruber is an award-winning storyteller, recording artist, and author of folktales, ballads, and personal stories of resilience. Since 1987, she has presented programs, workshops, showcases, and keynotes throughout Michigan, as well as nationally and internationally. Barbara holds a master's degree in Children's Literature from Eastern Michigan University, is a recipient of the National Storytelling Network ORACLE Award, and is the co-author of *Beyond the Sword Maiden: A Storyteller's Introduction to the Heroine's Journey*.

Wholesome International Side Dishes

Tamara El-Khatib

(Presented in cooperation with Washtenaw Community College)

3 Thursdays, March 12, 19 & 26 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Heydlauff's Appliances, 113 N. Main St., Chelsea

IN-PERSON

****Supply Fee of \$19.50 is included in class fee****

Learn to make a variety of wholesome International side dishes, including stewed garlic green beans with whole garlic cloves, hearty spinach divine with caramelized onions, and Damascus lentils with pomegranate molasses and cilantro—all sure to please your family or guests!

Tamara El-Khatib is the previous owner of Exotic Syrian Bakery in Ann Arbor. Current owner of Syrian Soul Catering, serving Washtenaw County. Professor of Culinary Arts at Washtenaw Community College.



Scan this QR code to register online.

Get involved with ALI Michigan Join one our Committees!

Curriculum:

Do you love lifelong learning and have great ideas for class topics? We're looking for a volunteer to help shape our upcoming semesters! As a committee member, you'll play a key role in contacting potential instructors and organizing engaging class offerings. Most of the work happens in just a few hours during October and May, making it a perfect fit for busy schedules. Be part of the creative team that brings exciting, enriching courses to life!

Audio-Visual:

Are you someone who enjoys working with tech and making things run smoothly behind the scenes? Our audio-visual assistants are the unsung heroes of each class session—ensuring everything from microphones and projectors to Zoom and PA systems are set up and functioning perfectly. Whether it's a lively hybrid lecture or an in-person class, you'll play a key role in creating a seamless learning experience. If you have a passion for technology and a knack for troubleshooting, we'd love to have you on board. Come volunteer with our AV team and be the tech-savvy powerhouse every class relies on!

Registration Committee:

Class assistants: Volunteer to assist the class instructor by taking attendance and evaluations, passing out handouts, and being a liaison between the instructor and AV team. Typically class assistants volunteer for this role for a class that they are already attending, and then they receive a \$20 gift certificate for a future class.

Registration Volunteers: Help bring our classes to life! We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to assist behind the scenes—prepping materials, planning events, and connecting with local senior centers, libraries, and community partners. If you enjoy organizing, meeting new people, and supporting lifelong learning, this is the perfect role for you.



If you are interested in any of these volunteer roles, please go to:

<https://alimichigan.org/get-involved/volunteer/> or scan the QR code

ALI Michigan

Mailing Address:

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PO BOX 134

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