



FALL 2025

CLASS/TRIP CATALOG

INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

165 ELM ST. SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057 | WWW.ILRETIEMENT.ORG INFO@ILRETIEMENT.ORG



WELCOME TO THE ILR FALL SEMESTER 2025

Join us!

- Fill out an ILR Membership Registration Form
- Fill out a Classes/Trips Registration Form
- Pay your membership dues and class fee

Forms in Eletronic format are available online, on the ILR website: www.ilretirement.org
Forms in Print format are available at the ILR office. You can print forms in PDF format from the website
For more information: contact the ILR staff at info@ilretirement.org

After receiving your membership dues, the ILR staff wil enroll you in classes and trips on a space available basis at the time of your enrollment.

Enrollment is done on first come first served basis.

After Registration, you will receive the following:

- A list of of classes you are enrolled in
- Your ILR account balance
- The ILR Membership Card for Spring 2025

ENJOY!

QUICK GUIDE

CLASS TITLE

INSTRUCTOR/FACILITATOR

Agency on Aging Services (F)	Brittany Buzzelli
Alzheimer's Disease (Z)	Cynthia Felix
Are Angels Real? (F)	Janice Brown
Art Immersion (F)	Bill Simon
An Author Comes to Discuss Her Work (F)	Linda Rettstatt
The Battle of Antietam (F)	James Carnes
Bible Women of Old Testament Part 2 (F)	Verna Call
Black and Gold Fever (F & Z)	Steve Cicero
Book Club (F)	Janet Leise
Butterflies - Monarch Butterflies (F)	Diane Bell
Cabin Fever: Combating the winter blues (F)	Sherri Schleiter
Cards. Create Greeting Cards Using Vintage Linens (F)	Barbara T. Frohne
Christmas Carols (F)	Janet Leise
A Civil War Soldier's Life (F)	James Carnes
Creative Writing. Captivating Mystery Story (F)	Antonia Thomas
Creating Appetizers For Your Next Party (F)	Janet FLeiming
Crisis Management as Part of Strategic Communication (F)	Dr. Nicholas Neupauer
Diseases in the News: Bird Flu, Hantavirus and more (F)	Karen Martin
Drone - How to Use a Drone (F)	Jack Livingston

CLASS TITLE	INSTRUCTOR/FACILITATOR
Drumming for Everyone (F)	Janet Leise
Essential Legal Topics for Older Adults: What You Need to Know (F)	John Golden
Fantasy Football for Beginners (F)	Chris Nagowski
Fiber Art. Treasured Memories Into Fiber Art (F)	Cindy Andes
Films of Grace Kelly (F)	Dale Doran
Games: Are You Game ?(F)	Dale Doran
Genealogy and the Old Butler Graveyard (F)	LuAnn Cherry
Geriatric Dentistry and You.(F)	Douglas Lockawich
Ghost Stories--Butler and Beyond (F)	Bill May
Grace Kelly Story - a Hollywood Royalty (F & Z)	Steve Cicero
Guided Writers' Workshop (F)	Dorie Schleiden
Hearing Loss and Your Brain (F)	Kate Faunce
The How and Why we make Personal Economic Decisions (F)	Robert Kochems
Internet Health Care Information - Is THAT true? (F & Z)	Kathy Flood
Masters and Masterpieces (F)	Ruth Gerrard Cole
Meditation, Manifest, and How to Open a Healing Cone (F)	Margaret DeLuca
Music of World War II (F)	Phillip Atteberry
Pittsburgh Makes Merry: Gilded Age Holiday Traditions (F)	Sue Morris
Preston Park - Visual Tour (F)	Anthony Stagno
Race to The North Pole (F)	Cliff Brown
Real Estate from a Skydiving Real Estate Agent (F)	John Ellison
SD. Black Hills of South Dakota (F & Z)	Verna Call
Secrets to Estate Planning and Asset Protection (F)	Timothy Sechler
A "Senior" Look at the Young Adult Novels (F)	Phillip Atteberry
Sociology Today (F)	Martin Bright
Solar System - Recent Discoveries (Z)	Krishna Mukherjee
Snorkel and Scuba Diving the Great Barrier and Ningaloo reefs (F & Z)	Michael Wood
The Spy Who Loved Her (F)	Bill May
Travel to Easter Island (F)	Karen Martin
Trucker. Challenges and Rewards of Being an Over-the-Road Truck Driver (F)	Howard Glass
Ukulele and Singing Jam Session (F)	Janet Leise
Ukulele for Beginners (F)	Janet Leise, Peggy & Andy Johnson
Vanderbilt's Folly: The Story of the PA Turnpike (F & Z)	Polly Shaw
Veteran's Day Tribute (F & Z)	Steve Cicero

BONUS CLASSES	INSTRUCTOR
Brainstorm! the SRU Homecoming parade (F)	Margaret De Luca
Fall Foods Festivale (F)	Kathy Flood, Debbie Bell, Rich Thornhill, Margaret DeLuca

TRIP/TOUR	TRIP LEADER
A Hollyday Luncheon - Social	Kathy Flood & Social Committee
Apples. Visiting Emmett's Apple Orchard	Ruth Leo
Art Museum. Visit Butler Art Museum in Ohio	Martha Manzato
Biking Moraine State Park	Rich Thornhill
Boat Tour of Lake Arthur at Moraine State Park	Ramona Nathan
Brunch Munch and Conversations	Sherri Schleiter
Bump in the Night at Jennings	Kati Edmiston
Butler Best - 5 Historic Vehicles	Steve Cicero
Ceramics-Painting and Sipping	Margaret DeLuca
Chocolate. Count Chocula, chocolate Christmasland, chocolate liquor, liqueur	Sherri Schleiter
Clemente. Tour of the Roberto Clemente Museum	Greg Sferra
Fitness for Pickleball	Ryan Stack
Forest Bathing at Munnell Run Farm	Kelcy Marini
Gibson House: Mercer County's Underground Railroad Connection	Greg Sferra
Halloween at Beacon Hotel	Margaret DeLuca
JFK Assassination	Dr. Thomas Pearcy
Lunch Out	Teresa O'Malley & Hanry Anna
Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education & Research	Greg Sferra
Masonic Temple in Butler - Tour	Steve Cicero
The Mercer County Historical Society	Ruth Leo
Music. Bayernhof Museum	Janet Leise
North Country Brewery Brewing Production Tour	Greg Sferra
Old Economy Tour	Janet Leise
Opera. La Boheme	Dale Doran
Opera. Fellow Travelers	Dale Doran
Pickleball Serves	Denny Hemphill
Planetarium. Vincent Science Planetarium tour	Greg Sferra
Playthings - Toy Store	Janet Leise
Preston Park - Walking Tour	Anthony Stagno
Quilt Show and Leaf Peeping	Barbara Frohne & Ruth Leo
Trains. Gene's Lionel Train Display	Greg Sferra
Underground Railroad Tour	Margaret DeLuca
Warner Brothers' Museum	Ramona Nathan
Wine & Dine	Kathy Flood
Yoga – An Introduction	Cindy Naples

CLASS DESCRIPTION

In-person classes are held at Fowler Building (F). Online classes are held on Zoom (Z).

Agency on Aging Services. Brittany Buzzelli

Would you like to learn more about the programs and services offered by the Agency on Aging? A speaker from the Butler County chapter will give information and answer your questions.

In-person
Mon. Nov. 3; 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Alzheimer's Disease. Cynthia Felix

The class will focus on Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia- its' characteristics, risk factors, prevention and treatment.

On Zoom
Mon. Sep. 8; 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Are Angels Real? Answers from History, Art, and Scripture, as explored in the writing of C.S. Lewis. Janice Brown

C. S. Lewis was the most influential Christian writer of the twentieth century. Though he focused most on explaining the basic tenets of faith as laid down in the creeds of the Church, Lewis also wrote on a seldom discussed topic--the nature of angels. This subject has been so trivialized by the picturesque treatment of angels in popular culture that serious Christian writers seem to be too embarrassed to mention it. Not so with Lewis. In his expository writing, his fiction, and his poetry he explores the nature of angels, using historical material, the works of great artists, and scripture.

In-person
Mon. Nov. 17; 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Art Immersion. Bill Simon

11 Sessions



Surround yourself with art concepts, conversation, resources and experiences to develop your own artistic voice. Whether you're a beginner, or a more experienced artist, develop your skills as you learn new ways to communicate with the world through art. Bill can guide you on your journey, whether you're interested in sketching realistically, or creating expressionistic watercolors. He creates an artistic community where participants learn and share with each other. You will learn as part of the group and also receive individual instruction along the way. Come join us! It's informative and FUN!

In-person
Wed. Sep 10 - Nov. 19.
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Max: 20

An Author Comes to Discuss Her Work. Linda Rettstatt

Linda will discuss her passion for writing following a career as a social worker and clinical counselor. The ILR Book Club will have read Linda's book *Ladies in Waiting*. We will use the contents of the book to ask Linda how she arrived at a particular viewpoint of a character, for example. Attendees need not have read the book to participate. A few copies will be available. Contact Janet Leise if you want a copy. As Linda has written over 50 books about strength, love, humor and hope, she should have good advice for a potential author.

In-person
Tue. Oct. 7. 12:00 - 2:00 PM

The Battle of Antietam. James Carnes

The Battle of Antietam, the deadliest one-day battle in American military history, showed that the Union could stand against the Confederate army in the Eastern theater. The battle ended in a draw but because Lee retreated into Virginia, Lincoln declared a Northern victory and announced the Emancipation Proclamation.

In-person
Mon. Oct. 20. 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Bible Women of Old Testament Part 2. Verna Call

This Bible study will focus on stories of women of the Old Testament during the period of the kings and their impact on our faith. Some were heroic and righteous figures while others were wicked and immoral. In a time when women were often ignored and powerless, these women had the courage to make a difference in the lives of their families, religious communities, and leaders. These stories can inspire and encourage us all in the times we live.

In-person

Mon. Sep. 8, 29, Oct. 20, Nov 3:
2:00 - 3:30 PM

Black and Gold Fever Steve Cicero

Western PA is home to some of the greatest teams in the history of sports. The Black and Gold is never out of season because these are the colors of every professional team in Pittsburgh. Come hear the story of those colors and all the other great traditions like "Terrible Towels", "Butcher's Dogs", and "Green Weenies".

In-person:

Tue. Oct. 14; 2:00 - 3:30 PM

On Zoom:

Mon. Oct. 13; 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Book Club. Janet Leise & Debbie Bell

Love to read? Here's your chance to discuss a wide variety of books with other bibliophiles. We read fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, biographies, and histories to name a few, and YOU get to choose the selections for the following semester! This fall's selections include **Sept:** The Black Angels by Maria Smiles; **Oct:** The Only Woman in the Room: A Novel by Marie Benedict; **Nov:** When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka.

In-person

Tue. Sep. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18
12:00 - 1:30 PM

Brainstorm! the SRU Homecoming parade. Margaret De Luca



The ILR has been invited to participate in the SRU Homecoming parade. The theme this year is "A very vintage homecoming." Since we ARE vintage, this should be fun and easy. Please meet with us after the Social on Sept 11. Your input is important.

In-person

Thu. Sep.11; 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Butterflies. Monarch Butterflies. Diane Bell

Let's explore the amazing migrating Monarch! We will discuss the Monarch's life-cycle, science facts, and migratory journeys of this unique butterfly.

In-person

Mon. Sep. 8; 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Cabin Fever: Combating the winter blues. Sherri Schleiter

Do you get cabin fever during the winter or start feeling the winter blues? Learn the differences between Cabin Fever and Seasonal Affective Disorder. What are some of the feelings you might experience and how can you combat these issues? Presented by reviewing a Photographic Project on Cabin Fever and by having participants review and practice ways to reduce its effects.

In-person

Tue. Nov. 4; 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Cards. Create Greeting Cards Using Vintage Linens. Barbara T. Frohne

Hankies, lace, orphan quilt blocks, and embroidery, all can create beautiful tactile greeting cards. I will kit all supplies for you to create one card at a cost of \$5 per person as well as written directions.

In-person

Thu. Oct. 30; 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Max: 12

Christmas Carols. Janet Leise

Christmas will be here before we know it! This class will be part-learning about the stories behind both traditional and modern carols, and part sing-along. Enrollment is open to singers and non-singers alike. Lyric sheets will be provided. Bring along a favorite Christmas snack and/or nonalcoholic beverage to share. Christmas sweaters are encouraged but not required!

In-person
Wed. Nov. 19: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Max: 20

A Civil War Soldier's Life. James Carnes

His daily life was dominated by routine and a mix of training, camp duties, and occasional combat. A typical day involved morning drills, marching, guard duty, camp maintenance, and evenings spent in leisure activities or writing letters home. While battles were a significant part of the war, most of a soldier's time was spent in camp or on the move. There was a lack of food, proper clothing, medicine, and shelter, especially as the war dragged on.

In-person
Tue. Sep. 30: 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Creative Writing - Captivating Mystery Story. Antonia Thomas

10 Sessions



Write a Captivating Mystery Story. If you ever wanted to write your own mystery—or you want to hone your writing skills with a new genre—this class is for you. Over the term, you will learn what makes a mystery story successful, how to create a believable plot (with twists), how to create convincing characters, and how to improve your writing through editing. Standard grammar and spelling rules will apply. Class discussions will include critiques: your own, those of your fellow students, and those of the instructor. This class meets through the entire term so you can create a fully developed plot of your short story or novella.

In-person
Thu. Sep. 11 - Nov. 20:
2:00 - 4:00 PM

(no class Oct 9)

Creating Appetizers for Your Next Party. Janet Fleming

Examine the history and origins of appetizers. Create an easy or extra fancy appetizer to share. Consider making a gluten - free or reduced sodium or vegetarian dish, for example. Bring your favorite appetizer and recipe to share. Leftovers may be taken home.

In-person
Wed. Nov. 19: 12:00 - 2:00
Max: 15

Crisis Management as Part of Strategic Communication. Dr. Nicholas Neupauer

Ransomware attacks. University protests. Financial instability. Threats always seem to be right around the corner in today's 21st century workplace. In this two-hour presentation, Dr. Nicholas C. Neupauer will discuss crisis management as a key component of an organization's strategic communication deployment. Internal, external and media publics will be examined as well as the importance of transparent communication, understanding the psychology of various publics involved, and the reliance on a strong organizational mission. Ironically, if handled correctly, an organization's public perception can actually improve as a result of how it proactively responded to the crisis at hand.

In-person
Tue. Oct. 7: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Diseases in the News: Bird Flu, Hantavirus and more. Karen Martin

Diseases are frequently misrepresented in the media. We will explore diseases that are occurring and try to understand causes, preventions and our risks. Come with questions.

In-person
Tue. Oct. 28: 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Drone - How to Use a Drone. Jack Livingston

Just getting started learning how to fly a drone? Be patient, eventually operating the controls will become natural enabling you to not even think about how to operate them. It will become second nature and you'll just be enjoying flying. However, before that you will need to practice a lot to become comfortable flying the device. This class will provide an overview and some hands-on training to operating a drone.

In-personWed. Oct. 15; 1:00 - 2:30 PM

Drumming for Everyone. Janet Leise**5 Sessions**

Let's explore rhythm and making music together in a safe, healthy and fun group. No previous musical experience or talent is needed. Percussion instruments and hand drums will be provided, although you can bring your own. Each drum circle will include beginner instructions and will be appropriate for returning participants as well.

In-personTue. Sep. 16. 30 Oct. 21, 28Nov. 11; 2:00 - 3:30 PM**Max: 15**

Essential Legal Topics for Older Adults: What You Need to Know. John Golden

This informative session covers the most important legal issues facing older adults today. Learn the basics of estate planning, powers of attorney, advance directives, and protecting yourself from scams and elder abuse. We'll also review your rights related to health care, housing, Social Security, and end-of-life decisions. Whether you're planning for the future or helping a loved one, this presentation offers practical guidance and trusted resources to help you make informed decisions. Designed for seniors and caregivers alike, the session emphasizes clarity, empowerment, and peace of mind. No legal background needed—just bring your questions and curiosity!

In-personTue. Nov. 4; 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Fall Foods Festival. Kathy Flood, Debbie Bell, Ron Thornhill, Margaret De Luca

The ILR Social Committee invites you to join your fellow members to share your favorite fall treats and conversation. The Committee will provide beverages to include apple cider, tea, coffee, water and participants are invited to bring samples of their favorite fall treats (savory and sweet).

In-personThu. Sep. 11; 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Fantasy Football for Beginners. Chris Nagowski

What is Fantasy Football? How does one join up and play in a league? You do not need to be an expert in football. All that is required is a love of football and access to the internet. This class will involve going over the basics --which may include instruction on downloading the app to your phone. If there is enough interest, we can set up our own *free* league.

In-personTue. Sep. 9; 12:00 - 1:30 PM**Max: 25**

Fiber Art. Treasured Memories into Fiber Art. Cindy Andes

This class will be another "Show and Tell" featuring the many diverse fiber art pieces of the presenter, and later "faces in fiber" completed by participants from last Spring's session. Some pieces shown are all fabric wall hangings, while others incorporate traditional frames, and fabric pieces collaged without sewing. The presentation will certainly stimulate the imagination, featuring uses for old laces, buttons, hankies and other treasured mementoes. Participants are encouraged to bring a special piece they are thinking of using in a future project, but this class will not be a hands-on workshop.

In-personTue. Sep. 23; 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Films of Grace Kelly. Dale Doran**9 Sessions**

Grace Patricia Kelly was an American actress & model who lived from 11/12/1929 to 9/14/1982. She made only 11 films but achieved stardom in several significant Hollywood films in the mid-1950s receiving professional recognitions. She became known as Princess Grace of Monaco when she retired from film making to marry Rainier III, Prince of Monaco in 1956. They had 3 children together Caroline 1957, Albert II 1958 and Princess Stephanie 1965. Tragically she was only 52 when she died from injuries sustained in a car crash in September 1982. We will be watching 9 of her films for this class. A biography power point of Grace's life will be given by Steve Cicero in a separate class this semester. Participating in both classes will enhance your experience.

In-person

Wed. Sep. 10 – Nov. 5
1:00 - 3:30 PM

Games: Are You Game? Dale Doran**5 Sessions**

Are you game? Then this is the class for you. A variety of games will be presented for your entertainment - board, card, dice, domino, tile, trivia, word, number, strategy games for two and for more than 2 players, and geography games. Learn about new games and revisit old favorites. Come and have fun and be prepared for laughter. You won't be "board".

In-person

Mon. Sep 15. Oct. 13
12:00 - 2:00 PM

Genealogy and the Old Butler Graveyard. LuAnn Cherry

The town of Butler needed a new high school, and they had to remove hundreds of graves from the town's oldest cemetery for the new site. Fact or fiction? Revolutionary War soldiers, ministers, lawyers, business and entire families were buried just two blocks from Main Street. Where are they now? Hear the true story of the graveyard as written by retired teacher and professional genealogist, LuAnn Cherry.

In-person

Thu. Oct. 23; 10:00 -11:30 AM

Geriatric Dentistry and You. Douglas Lockawich

When did you last review how important your dental health is to your overall health? This class provides you with an opportunity to do so. Oral health is significant in one's appearance, chewing and digestion, speech, and in respiration. We will learn about the expanding field of Geriatric Dentistry. It is hard to avoid the bad news about oral health as we age. This may include issues from dry mouth to oral cancer and sleep apnea. Come to class to learn how to achieve good dental health as one ages.

In-person

Tue. Sep. 23; 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Ghost Stories--Butler and Beyond. Bill May

Bill will take us on a supernatural journey into the night. The audience will be enraptured by May's true tales of Butler's haunted past including "The Girl on the Top of the Stairs," "The Man in the Closet," "The Ghost under the Floor of Zelenople's Kaufman Tavern," "Groaning in the Old Courthouse Vault," "Voices in the Wall," "The Ghost of Uncle Wilbert," "The Bride in the Window," and many more, including some of Bill's favorite stories from his amazing "Butler Ghost Walk." Special added bonuses will be Bill May's favorite ghost story from the Battle of Gettysburg and the story and photo of Butler's Penn Theater's own ghost!

In-person

Tue. Oct. 14. 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Grace Kelly Story - a Hollywood Royalty. Steve Cicero

One of the greatest performers in Hollywood history, Grace Kelly left her fabulous career at age 26 to become a real-life princess. She and her real-life prince raised three children and worked on many charity projects, until her untimely death in a car accident. In this class we will explore the life and legacy of this remarkable woman.

In-person

Tue. Sep. 9: 2:00 - 3:30 PM

On Zoom

Tue. Sep. 9; 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Guided Writers' Workshop. Dorie Schleiden & Meg Salizzoni

My buddy Ed said, "Keep the name the same." Fall into four sessions of reading, writing, and editing that will jumpstart your creative side. Find the support of fellow writers as we create Personal Indexes (not scary at all), stock an ILR Vendorama (fun), and polish our own works (always fulfilling). Your stories are worth telling. Meg Salioni, a graduate of SRU will co-teach with me. Please join us.

In-person

Mon. Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Hearing Loss and Your Brain. Kate Faunce

There is a powerful connection between our hearing and our brain health. Since Johns Hopkins initially published research in 1999, we've been better able to understand how untreated hearing loss impacts the brain. This presentation will talk about the hidden risks of hearing loss and the effect on brain function.

In-person

Tue. Sep. 30. 10:00 - 11:00 AM

The How and Why We Make Personal Economic Decisions. Robert Kochems

Exploring the science of how and why we make personal economic decisions, which leads to a discussion of how and why government and business use this knowledge to influence our decisions.

In-person

Thu. Oct. 2, 16, 23;
12:00 - 2:00 PM

Internet Health Care Information - Is THAT true?. Kathy Flood

The internet provides everyone with easy access to health information *and* misinformation. How do you decide what is true and unbiased and whether it is applicable to you? We will review some guidelines for evaluating what you read on the internet.

In-person

Mon. Nov. 10; 12:00 - 1:00 PM

On Zoom

Wed. Nov. 5; 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Masters and Masterpieces of Literature. Ruth Gerrard Cole

The Masters will be William Shakespeare and Mark Twain; the Masterpieces will be two of their best works: Hamlet and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. The purpose is to view two incredibly outstanding authors and how they developed through their biographies, nations, experiences, literary talents works that have stood the tests of time through all audiences and thoughtful readers. Reading, lecturing, discussion will be featured.

In-person

Thu. Oct. 9.
Part 1: 10:00 - 11:30 AM,
Part 2: 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Meditation, Manifest, and How to open a healing cone. Margaret DeLuca

The first of this class series will be about "*How to ground and protect yourself for a deep meditation*" coupled with a guided meditation. The second class offers "*How to manifest*" and will begin as you manifest 3 "things" you want. The third class will be "*Woo-Woo*" as you say, as you learn how to open a healing cone with your spirit guides and work with

In-person

Mon. Sep. 8, 15, 22, 29
10:00 - 11:30 AM

them on any health issues you may have. The fourth session will focus on an easy but powerful energy enhanced movement, Chi Gong/Tai Chi, guided by an example on YouTube. This fourth session is a bonus. Bring a friend!

Music of World War II. Phillip Atteberry

Using a mixture of film clips, discussion and lecture, this class will explore the music of World War II. Particular attention will be given to different genres of songs that were popular during the era, such as work songs, propaganda songs, separation songs, etc. The class will feature lots of music, film clips and still images.

In-person
Tue. Oct. 7
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Pittsburgh Makes Merry: Gilded Age Holiday Traditions. Sue Morris

Join us to learn how Pittsburghers celebrated the December holidays during the 1800s and early 1900s and discover how many of our holiday traditions originated during America's Gilded Age.

In-person
Thu. Nov. 20. 10:00 - 11:30AM

Preston Park - Visual Tour. Anthony Stagno

A visit to Butler County's hidden gem, Preston Park, in two parts. Part 1: See Preston Laboratory through the camera's eye as you "walk" through the home of Dr. Frank and Jane Preston. A combination of slides and videographer Chris Leise's videos will take you inside and allow you to experience the Preston lifestyle. Part 2: "Let nature surround you " on a walking tour of Preston Park. See the Preston Park – walking tour in the **Trips** section.

In-person
Wed. Oct. 1
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Race to The North Pole. Cliff Brown

For several hundred years, explorers sought a passage through northern Canada which would shorten the route and open a new commercial pathway between Europe and the Far East. By the late 1800s a 'northwest passage' was still being sought, but a new goal had emerged, a goal not for commerce, but for status- to reach the North Pole. An imaginary spot on the polar ice became the dream of men and of nations. The class will take listeners through the years of struggle and the final chapter of that quest. Whether Robert Peary actually made it or not is only part of the story.

In-person
Tue. Nov. 11.12:00 - 1:30 PM

Real Estate from a Skydiving Real Estate Agent. John Ellison

This discussion, led by an experienced real estate agent, covers the fundamentals of real estate, including property types, market trends, financing options, and the ins and outs of transactions. Attendees will gain practical knowledge on the buying, selling, and leasing processes, as well as the roles agents and brokers play in the market. The session encourages questions and real-world examples, offering a hands-on understanding of how real estate works and how to navigate the industry effectively. I will also answer any questions about Skydiving.

In-person
Tue. Sep. 23. 2:00 - 3:00 PM

SD. Black Hills of South Dakota. Verna Call

Join a two-part adventure into the Black Hills, which is more than just Mount Rushmore. We will head into the Badlands' impressive rock formations, ride an 1880 train, view the Crazy Horse Memorial, hike Devil's Tower, and take a safari jeep tour. You will visit colorful towns and see nature up close – bison, prairie dogs, rattlesnakes, and antelopes.

In-person

Mon. Sep. 15, 22; 2:00 - 3:30 PM.

On Zoom

Tue. Sep. 09, 16; 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Secrets to Estate Planning and Asset Protection. Timothy Sechler

The seminar will help to educate the ILR community on how to protect your family and finances from the risks of long-term care costs and the government. There will be a discussion of estate planning tools, how to maintain control of your savings, review Medicaid eligibility for the nursing home, and advanced IRA transfer strategies. The session is designed to provide you with the right information to protect your legacy.

In-person

Mon. Sep. 15; 2:00 - 4:00 PM

A "Senior" Look at the Young Adult Novels. Phillip Atteberry

The young adult novel is not what it used to be. But young adult novels can help seniors understand the generation gap in more thorough and subtle ways than we otherwise might. This class will consider three contemporary young adult novels. Among other things, we will consider the differences between "young adult" novels and "adult" novels, how the young adult novel has evolved over the decades and how we, as seniors, might benefit by occasionally viewing the world through the lens of a "young adult" novel. This class is not a book club, but it will have a book club flavor. Each class session will focus primarily on a specific novel, each written to a different level of "young adult." It will be helpful to read the novel before class. The class will be largely discussion, but the instructor will provide some historical and literary background and context. Novels To Be Discussed: The War I Finally Won, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (2017) - Sept 30. Coyote Lost and Found, by Dan Gemeinhart (2024) - October 14. I'll Give You the Sun, by Jandy Nelson (2014) - October 28.

In-person

Tue. Sep. 30, Oct. 14, 28.
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Snorkel and Scuba Diving the Great Barrier and Ningaloo reefs. Michael Wood

With our Advance Open Water Diver qualifications my wife and I traveled to Australia. Among multiple places we were able to visit on this trip, two goals were snorkeling and scuba diving. We experienced world class snorkeling and diving on the Great Barrier Reef spending five days on Australia's most awarded Live-Aboard vessel, Spoilsport. Among several different expeditions offered we chose a combination of Mineke whale and reef diving. We also spent several days "Glamping" on the Ningaloo reef where we had the opportunity to swim with whale sharks. Join us as we share this incredible experience.

In-person

Mon. Oct. 6; 12:00 - 1:30 PM

On Zoom

Mon. Oct. 6; 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Sociology Today. Martin Bright

There will be an examination of various topics such as marriage, faith, foster care, and the status of women presently as compared to a generation or two ago. We will speculate on what is changing for the positive and what seems negative. We may need to look at some of the principles that Fred Rogers used in his neighborhood as we interact with other adults today.

In-person

Wed. Sep. 17; 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Max: 20

Solar System - Recent Discoveries. Krishna Mukherjee

This course will examine the discoveries made with rovers, orbiters and telescopes of the Moon, Mars, Asteroids and Jovian planets. We will discuss how our understanding of them has improved over the past decade.

On Zoom

Mon. Sep 22, 29, Oct. 13, 20;
9:30 - 10:30 AM

The Spy Who Loved Her—**The Story of Robert E. Lee's Daughter and Confederate Colonel Orton Williams (F). Bill May**

Don't miss this Civil War mystery brought to life by storyteller Bill May. Agnes Lee was the prettiest of Confederate General's Robert E. Lee's 4 daughters. He was Orton Williams, her childhood friend and cousin that war would change into a hard drinking officer with a violent temper. His rebuked marriage proposal would lead the great-grandson of Martha Washington to take on a dangerous mission resulting in him being tried as a spy captured behind Union lines.

In-person

Mon. Sep. 22; 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Travel to Easter Island. Karen Martin

Describing the sculptures and religion of the inhabitants of Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

In-person

Wed. Nov. 12; 12:00 - 1:00 PM

A Trucker's Life. Challenges and Rewards of Being an Over-the-Road Truck Driver. Howard Glass

With 35 years of work as an over-the-road truck driver, Howard will share the challenges and rewards he experienced. Yes, driving 18-wheelers! Anyone who has traveled knows it has frustrations. A trucker has to adjust to those things because traveling is the job. Only the most extreme weather stops him or her, and it rarely stops them when at home. Their diet and sleep schedule must be elastic. As you have traveled on Interstate 80, have you felt you were on a busy truck route? What are the reasons for the heavy truck traffic? Why not more trains? Watching a large Walmart truck trying to make a turn onto a street in your town, have you wondered why the trucks are so large? What kind of training is necessary for truck drivers? Is being alone at work a blessing or a curse? Do truckers have advice for those who share the road with them? What does Howard warn people about before they get into the trade?

In-person

Wed. Oct. 29. 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Ukulele and Singing Jam Session. Janet Leise, Andy & Peggy Johnson

This class is for graduates of our Beginning Ukulele class or anyone who already knows a few chords on the ukulele and would like to play along with others in an informal setting. You must have your own ukulele. Also, if you just enjoy singing (primarily) folk songs, you are also welcome to participate.

In-person

Tue. Sep. 23, Mon. Oct. 6, Tue. Nov. 18
2:00 - 3:30 PM

Max: 15

Ukulele for Beginners. Janet Leise, Peggy & Andy Johnson

This four-session class will teach you the basics of uke tuning, chords, and strumming. You will learn to play a simple song in the first class. This class is a low pressure/high reward experience. Our three instructors will give you lots of attention as they gently guide you into the realm of the uke. When you sign up please indicate if you are bringing a uke or are in need of a uke. Printed instructions, tuners, and (if needed) ukes will be provided.

In-person

Wed. Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29;
2:00 - 3:30 PM

Max: 15

Vanderbilt's Folly: The Story of the PA Turnpike. Polly Shaw

The Pennsylvania Turnpike emerged from a failed competition between two prominent railroads who were eager for a new PA route. Endorsed by William Vanderbilt, the project failed, leaving the stinging nickname of "Vanderbilt's Folly" when it was abandoned in 1885. After sitting dormant for 50 years, the time was right for a limited access road utilizing the half-dug tunnels and old rights-of-way to create the 160 miles superhighway between Irwin and Carlisle. This is the story of the original PA Turnpike which opened October 1, 1940.

In-person

[Mon. Oct. 27; 12:00 - 1:30 PM](#)

On Zoom

[Tue. Oct 21; 9:30 - 11:00 AM](#)

Veteran's Day Tribute. Steve Cicero

What is the difference between Memorial Day and Veteran's Day? Why do we stop the Veteran's parades at exactly 11:00 AM? In this program we will also discuss the Tomb of the Unknowns and many of the memorials that celebrate the sacrifices of those who have served in our military.

In-Person

[Mon. Nov. 10; 2:00 - 3:30 PM](#)

On Zoom


[Mon. Nov. 10; 7:00 - 8:30 PM](#)

TRIPS/TOURS DESCRIPTION

A Hollyday Luncheon. Kathy Flood and the Social Committee

Social Committee: Debbie Bell, Rich Thornhill, Margaret De Luca and Kathy Flood - committee chair: Join us for a Holiday Celebration to close out the 2025 fall semester! We will order from the menu and pay individually. As always, attendees are invited to bring a sample of a favorite dessert. Venue: Georgetown Eats in Vollant. Accessibility: uneven, rocky terrain, parking lot is not paved.


[Wed. Dec. 3; 12:00 - 3:00 PM](#)

 1974 Georgetown Road, Volant, PA 16156

Apples. Visiting Emmett's Apple Orchard. Ruth Leo

Visit this family-run Mercer County treasure to explore the orchard, visit the barn animals, sit on the back porch, buy gifts at the gift shop, sample fresh cider, and check out the bakery for turnovers, pies, cookies, muffins, and mini cheesecakes. The apple orchard features Ginger Gold, Gala, Honey Crisp, Macintosh, Crimson Crisp, Cortland and more. The shop is closed on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Usually, open 9:00 - 5:00.


[Thu. Sep. 25; 1:00 - 2:30 PM](#)

 1351 Enterprise Road, Grove City PA 16127

Art Museum. Visit Butler Art Museum in Ohio. Martha Manzato

Visit the Butler Museum of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio.! This premier museum offers all types and ages of American art in a beautiful setting. (Check out online) Tour date is Friday, September 19, 2025. Depart Parking lot at the Fowler Building 8:45am to arrive 9:45am for docent led tour 10am to 11:30am. Lunch in Museum Cafe, followed by free time to explore the museum. Depart 3:30pm to arrive at Fowler 4:40pm. Museum and parking free. You pay lunch; you may donate. Carpooling travel is up to participants, easy drive, less than one hour, no city traffic. Museum open to public


[Fri. Sep. 19;](#)
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

 Youngstown University campus
Youngstown, Ohio

Biking Moraine State Park. Rich Thornhill

A beautiful winding trail runs along the lake. We will pass the beach and sailboat marina and turn around at Davis Marina. We will meet at the bikes rental booth, at the beginning of the bike trail.

Fri. Sep. 26.
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM


 Lake Arthur, North Shore

Boat Tour of Lake Arthur at Moraine State Park. Ramona Nathan

This 90-minute boat tour on Lake Arthur is perfect for those who want to see the park from the water and learn about the wildlife, history and current park amenities. Starting at McDanel's Launch and turning back at the 528 bridge, we include narration for the first 45 minutes and then let you enjoy the views on the way back! Our boat and restrooms are handicapping accessible Emily Sizer is the representative of the boat tour company. The tour cost is \$400.00 per group. The individual cost depends on the number of participants. The deadline for registration and payment is September 22.

Meeting point: Owlet Gift Shop at McDanel's Launch on Lake Arthur North Shore, Moraine State Park

Thu. Oct 9:
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

 118 North Shore Drive. Portersville, PA 16051

Brunch Munch and Conversations. Sherri Schleiter

This class will meet at local restaurants, coffee shops, etc. Locations will include nearby towns like Slippery Rock, Butler and Grove City. Participants will engage in conversations to get to know each other. Participants will pay for their own munchies. Carpooling is arranged by participants if needed. Join us to make new friends.


Fri. Oct. 3, 10, 31, Nov. 14
9:30 - 11:00 AM



Bump in the Night at Jennings. Kati Edmiston; Trip Leader: Martha Manzato

When darkness envelops the landscape and human vision fails, the others four senses suddenly become alert. As imaginations run wild, night sounds often can send chills up the spine and start a hearth pounding. Listen to these nocturnal noises and look at what makes them. Apprehension will turn to appreciation as the amazing stories behind various nocturnal sounds unfold. This indoor program will be held at Jennings Environmental Educational Center; be in your seat by 10am to begin.


Thu. Oct. 24
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

 Jennings EEC
2951 Prospect Rd, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Butler Best - 5 Historic Vehicles. Steve Cicero

We are going to visit the workshop and storage area used by the local **Antique Auto Club**. They have several old vehicles on display including at least one example of the five vehicles that were designed and built in Butler PA. This includes the legendary Jeep of World War II fame. The tour guides will tell us the history of the cars and describe how they are restored and maintained. We'll meet at the site. Donation \$10.00 at the gate.

Sat. Oct 18; 12:00 - 4:00 PM

 100 Barracks Road,
Butler PA. 16001

Ceramics-Painting and Sipping. Margaret DeLuca

Steele's Ceramic Studio has hundreds of ceramic figurines (Gnomes, dinosaurs, Christmas Trees, Halloween stuff, etc.), plate, trivets, cups and bowls. Pick one and paint to your heart's content 2 hours is enough time but you can stay longer or go back on your own. The cost of

Fri. Nov. 14
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



ceramic objects is between \$15.00 and \$100.00, and you buy them at the studio along with a glass of wine for inspiration. The Studio is handicap accessible. We'll meet at the studio.

1631 North Main St.
Extension. Butler, PA

Chocolate. Count Chocula, chocolate Christmasland, chocolate liquor, liqueur ... Sherri Schleiter

Let's go crazy with chocolate. This class will meet for 3 sessions. Session 1: We will visit a couple local chocolate/coffee shops with a laptop power point about chocolate. Session 2: We will visit Daffin's chocolate/candy shop and Kraynack's Christmas display. Session 3: We will have the opportunity to try chocolate beer/alcohol. Children are invited to attend the Daffins and Kraynack session. All sessions will have opportunity to purchase munchies/lunch. We'll meet at the locations.


Sat. Oct. 11, 25,
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Nov. 8:
4:00 - 6:00 PM



Clemente. Tour of the Roberto Clemente Museum. Trip Leader: Greg Sferra


The Clemente Museum mainly offers docent led tours through our collection of memorabilia, photography, documents and ephemeral. The guide will help to tell the story of one of the sports' greatest legends in addition to the history of Engine House 25 and the creation of the museum. The tour will be guided by Zoe Fishter, the Clemente Museum's Community Outreach Director. We'll meet there.

Access fee: \$21.00/person, payable at ILR - Deadline for fee payment: October 5.

Mon. Oct 13
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
 3339 Penn Ave,
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Min.10; Max. 25


Fitness for Pickleball. Ryan Stack

Want to improve your pickleball game? Begin by improving your fitness level. Building strength in key muscle groups can enhance your power and stability on the court. Focus on exercises that target the legs, core, shoulders and arms. This class will introduce participants to exercises that will improve their fitness level for success on the pickleball court.

Tue. Sep. 16: 12:00 - 1:00 PM
 SRU Aebersold
Student Recreation Center


Forest Bathing at Munnell Run Farm. Kelcy Marini, Trip Leader: Martha Manzato

Join us at Munnell Run Farm in Mercer, PA, for the opportunity to slow down and connect with nature through "forest bathing." Forest bathing, modeled after the Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, is immersing in nature to build deeper relationships and enhance health and well-being. Using the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's model, we will gather in the farm's pristine forest and use the newly renovated trail to dive into your forest bathing experience. Be aware of uneven, rocky terrain, steps without ramps, elevators, narrow sidewalks, doorways. We'll meet at Munnell Run Farm Pig Barn. There is a \$5.00 fee payable at the site.

Fri. Sep. 12: 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 Munnell Run Farm,
753 Greenville Road,
Mercer, PA 16137
Max: 25

Gibson House: Mercer County's Underground Railroad Connection. Trip Leader: Sferra

Come visit Mercer County's connection to the Underground Railroad at the Gibson House in Jamestown, Pa. The Underground Railroad was so secretive and put so many lives in danger, the fugitive slaves, freed slaves and stationmasters who helped them, that virtually nothing was documented for fear records could be traced to a slave or their family still in the South. However, Jamestown families have been able to help form The Friends of the Manor Charitable Fund and Trust to preserve the history and verify the tunnels, chains and the house's hiding places. The proximity of the Gibson house provided a perfect escape route for slaves to use the rivers and rails to Meadville, New York and eventually Canada, which

Thu. Oct. 16: 1:00- 2:00 PM
 210 Liberty St,
Jamestown, Pa 16134

was outside the boundaries of the laws in the US where they could be safe. Be aware of steps without ramps, elevators. We'll meet at the venue.


Access fee: \$27.00/person payable at ILR Deadline for fee payment is **October 8.**

Max: 20

Halloween at Beacon Hotel. Trip Leader: Margaret DeLuca

Sunday afternoon, grab your flashlight and bring your appetite to The Beacon Hotel's Corn Maze and Haunted House. Eat and drink first then walk through the (no haunt on Family Sundays), Haunted House then hit the Corn Maze with your trusty flashlight and ILR Buddies. Meet at the restaurant at 4:30 then around 5:30 or 6, we go crazy for the Haunted House and Corn Maze. The Halloween excitement will be offered a few Sundays in a row. Our trip date is subject to change, but the trip is nailed. Admission fees are \$12 - \$15 for the Haunted House and Corn Maze combined. Food and beverage cost is separate from the admission fee. Bring your flashlight!!!


Sun. Oct. 19: 4:30 - 9:00 PM

 231 Beacon Road,
Renfrew, PA

JFK Assassination. Dr. Thomas Percy

It has been 62 years since November 23, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Despite the time lapse, Americans are still fascinated by the incident. The controversies and speculation surrounding who conducted the shooting and why has perpetuated interest. SRU history professor Dr. Thomas Percy will share his knowledge on the subject. The class will be held at SRU.

Thu. Nov. 20: 2:00 - 3:30 PM

 SRU, Spotts World
Cultures Building, Room 113.

Lunch Out. Teresa O'Malley & Henry Anna

6 Sessions



We meet on Thursdays and will dine at various restaurants in and around the city of Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. You will pay for your own lunch and will be contacted by e-mail. We carpool. All arrangements will be made via your facilitator.


Thu. Sep.11, 18, Oct. 9, 16,
Nov. 6, 20,
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education & Research. Samanta Bortz, Trip Leader: Greg Sferra

The Macoskey Center is a 70-acre sustainability education, demonstration, and research center at Slippery Rock University. The center was founded in 1915 by Dr. Robert A. Macoskey and the ALTER Project. The tour will be guided by Samantha Bortz, Director of The Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education & Research.
Be aware of uneven, rocky terrain, narrow sidewalks, doorways.


Thu. Sep.26: 1:00 - 2:00 PM

 SRU Macoskey
Center

Masonic Temple in Butler - Tour. Trip Leader: Steve Cicero

Join us for a tour of the Butler Masonic Building and learn how this ancient fraternal organization began, helped build and shape America, and continues today. Our mission is building better leaders for tomorrow, helping local charities through service and making good men and women better through its many branches.
The building has a very small elevator. Free parking is available in the vicinity.


Sat. Oct. 4: 3:00 - 5:00 PM

 346 South Main
Street, Butler, PA 16001

Mercer County Historical Society. Trip Leader: Ruth Leo

Located in the shadow of the Mercer County Courthouse, the Mercer County Historical Society has much local memorabilia displayed. Notably, there is an Industrial Collection as well as a Military Collection. A furnished home from the mid-1800s and a former Episcopalian Church add to the collections. Following the 1.5-hour docent-guided tour, we are invited to tour a Victorian-era Queen Anne home located nearby. Be aware of steps without ramps, elevators. For carpooling we'll meet at the ILR office in Slippery Rock.


Sat. Oct. 18: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

 119 S. Mercer St,
Mercer, PA

Museum. Bayernhof Music Museum. Trip Leader: Janet Leise

This extremely unique, 19,000 square foot museum (the former residence of Charles B. Brown, III, the Museum's founder) houses a world-class collection of music boxes and other antique automatic music machines, as well as many other fascinating items. The building itself provides guests with a most enjoyable experience as they pass from one unbelievable room to another, at times through hidden doors and secret passageways. Be aware of steps without ramps, elevators, many stairs and quite a bit of walking. Carpooling to be arranged by participants. Access fee : \$10/ person in cash, payable at museum.

Fri. Oct 17: 12:30 - 6:00 PM


 225 St. Charles Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Max: 12

North Country Brewery Brewing Production Tour. Trip Leader: Greg Sferra

The tour of the North Country Brewery canning facility with Johnathan Barnes - the head brewmaster for more than 10 years - will provide an overview of the process of how craft beer is brewed and then distributed across Pennsylvania and parts of Ohio.

Thu. Sep. 19: 12:00 - 1:00PM


 111 Arrowhead Dr.
Unit B, Slippery Rock, PA

Old Economy Tour. Trip Leader: Janet Leise

Old Economy Village is home to 17 historic buildings set amidst beautiful gardens, located 18 miles northwest of Pittsburgh along the Ohio River in Ambridge. This National Historic Landmark preserves the legacy of the Harmony Society, one of the most successful religious communal groups of the 19th century.

Stairs and walking are involved, uneven, rocky terrain, steps without ramps, elevators, narrow sidewalks, doorways, inaccessible washrooms. Meet at Old Economy Visitor Center
The access fee is \$10 for under 65 years old and \$9 for 65 or over, payable at the site.

Fri. Sep. 26
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

 270 16th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003


Max: 15

Opera. La Boheme. Dale Doran

Set against the backdrop of 1830's Paris, La Boheme follows four impoverished artists surviving with little more than friendship, passion and their love for art. When Roldolfo, a poet, and Mimi, a young seamstress, meet, the two are drawn into a tumultuous and passionate affair with a love that can only be broken by death. La Boheme will make you laugh, and bring you to tears, with its timeless story and captivating music. Emotional and dramatic, it's no wonder Puccini's most celebrated opera has transcended the genre, inspiring both a ballet and the Broadway hit musical rent. Anthony Walker conducts. Kristine McIntyre directs. Be aware of steps without ramps, elevators, walking from the parking area to the restaurant to Benedum. We will meet at the ILR parking lot a little before 11:00 AM.

Sun. Oct. 26
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Benedum Center for the
Performing Arts

 237 7th Street,
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Class Fees: \$50.00 payable at ILR

Opera. Fellow Travelers. Dale Doran

At the height of the McCarthy era, naive college graduate Timothy Laughlin comes to Washington eager to join the crusade against communism. But a chance encounter with a handsome State Department official, Hawkins Fuller, leads to Tim's first job--and his first relationship with a man. Under the threat of increased government scrutiny, this complicated and clandestine affair will put both men's loyalties and convictions to the ultimate test. As the poisonous political climate pollutes their relationship, love becomes a casualty of what it takes to "play the game" in Washington. Based on Thomas Mallon's 2007 gut-wrenching novel, *Fellow Travelers* was praised as "a near-perfect example of fast-flowing musical drama" by The New York Times and is already widely considered a contemporary classic. Anthony Walker conducts. Brian Staufenbiel directs.

We will meet at the ILR parking lot a little before 11:00 AM.

Class Fees: \$50.00 payable at ILR

Sun. Nov. 16

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Byham Theater
Performing Arts Theater-



101 6th Street
Pittsburgh PA 15222

Pickleball Serves. Denny Hemphill

In the game of pickleball, points are awarded only to the serving team/player. Thus, it is important to take advantage of the opportunity when having the serve. This class will assist participants in learning and improving their pickleball serves. The class will be conducted at Slippery Rock University's Aebersold Student Recreation Center (ARC). Participants should come dressed to play wearing athletic apparel and shoes. Paddles and balls will be provided but participants may bring their own paddles.

Wed. Oct. 8.

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM



SRU
Aebersold Student
Recreation Center (ARC)

Planetarium. Vincent Science Planetarium tour. Trip Leader: Greg Sferra

Slippery Rock University's planetarium is located in Vincent Science Hall and is unique because it is run entirely by students. Students organize the material and music for the shows, which include full dome movies. The facility has slowly migrated to using a digital projector. The capacity for seating is 50. Students who take Dr. Mukherjee's Astronomy and Space Science classes also use the planetarium. It serves as a venue for their service learning projects.

Fri. Nov. 7; 1:00 PM - 2:PM



SRU
Vincent Science Hall

Playthings - Toy Store. Trip Leader: Janet Leise

The World's Coolest Toy Store is right here in Butler County! We will have an early entrance time to this magical place to learn about the science of toys. Afterwards, there will be time for exploring the store on you own. Celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year! Meet at the store.

Thu. Sep 25; 9:30 - 11:30 AM



2483 William Flynn
Hwy. Butler, PA

Preston Park - Walking Tour. Anthony Stagno

Prepare for this tour by attending the in-person class program "Preston Park Tour". The Friends of Preston Park Executive Director, Anthony Stagno, will take you on a 2-3-hour walking tour of buildings and grounds of Preston Park, 215. S. Eberhart Road, Butler, PA. Meet in the parking lot at Preston Park, near the Rest Rooms.

Fri. Oct. 3; 2:00 - 4:00 PM




215. S. Eberhart
Road, Butler, PA

Quilt Show and Leaf Peeping. Barbara Frohne & Ruth Leo

Meandering Trails Quilt Show is a large quilt show including displays, demonstrations, vendors and raffles. Food is available. Admission is \$5.00 per person and includes a free raffle ticket and a cloth butterfly pin or magnet. Docents will explain displays and answer questions about the quilts. The place for the quilt show is in a lovely area for fall colors. It will be a good leaf peeping day. We will meet at Scrubgrass Grange unless it is carpooling. For carpooling contact Ruth Leo. Contact information will be provided for the trip participants.

Access fees: \$5.00, payable at the site.

Fri. Oct. 10;
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM


 Scrubgrass Grange
5104 Emlenton-Clintonville
Road, Emlenton, PA 16373

Trains. Gene's Lionel Train Display. Greg Sferra

Gene's Lionel O-gauge train display is housed in a 56' x 24' building constructed in the year 2000. Two five-man teams built the display working one day a week for two years and the layout measures 30' x 17'. The trains operate on five different levels with the capability of nine running simultaneously. One can view trains traversing a mountain scene, residential and country life with rolling stock (cars and engines) collected over 74 years. Visitors have come from as far away as Ukraine, Columbia and many states in the USA.

Please note that there are no restrooms available. We will meet at the site.

Fri. Nov. 14; 2:00 - 3:30 PM

 121 Smith Valley Rd,
Slippery Rock, PA


Max: 20

Underground Railroad Tour. Trip Leader: Margaret DeLuca

Every 2 years J&J Spratt Funeral Home in association with Historical Society offers a guided walking tour of the "safe" houses for the Underground Railroad. Speakers are in period dress and tell a story about their house. Sidewalks are used for the 1–2-hour tour but not handicapped accessible. There is a hill up and a hill down. The tour leaves every 15 minutes and there is always a wait, but they have refreshments. There is no fee but without donations they can't exist. Donations are strongly encouraged and expected.

Be aware of narrow sidewalks, doorways, sidewalks, a hill up and down. Not handicapped accessible. We will meet at the ILR and any other needed stops on the way or in New Brighton.


Sat. Sep. 27;
9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

PA J&J Spratt Funeral Home
 1612 3RD Ave,
New Brighton, PA

Warner Brothers' Museum. Ramona Nathan

We will tour the museum which is on the site of the first Warner Brothers Theater in the United States. The tour is \$200.00 per group. The individual fee depends on the number of the participants. The deadline for registration is September 15. Parking is available across the street. We will meet at Warner Brothers Museum.

Thu. Oct. 2; 10:00 - 11:00 AM

 11 S Mill St.
New Castle, PA -16101

Wine & Dine. Kathy Flood

Please join an adventurous group of ILR members (and sometimes friends) for wine tasting followed by eating. We will visit local wineries (within a 1-hour drive) to sample their wares and then enjoy a meal. We will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Since many tasting rooms do not open until late afternoon (4 PM), some outings will be wine and dinner, others will be wine followed by lunch. Carpooling may be arranged privately among participants. The cost of tasting (generally \$0-\$5) and food will be the responsibility of the participant.

Thu. Sep.25, Oct. 23, Nov. 13
11:30 AM - 6:00 PM



Yoga – An Introduction. Cindy Naples

In an introduction to the principles of yoga, the instructor will share the postures, mindfulness and breathing exercises as participants engage in possibilities of this lifelong practice. Participants should wear comfortable, unrestrictive clothing and bring a water bottle. Contact Greg Sferra for information regarding the venue and meeting point.

Tue. Sep. 9: 12:00 - 1:00 PM



SRU Aebersold
Student Recreation Center

Max: 15

INSTRUCTOR'S BIO

CARMEN AIELLO

Carmen Aiello is the President/CEO of Visit Mercer County, PA.

CYNTHIA ANDES

Cindy Andes lives in Titusville, Pennsylvania and retired from the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville as an Assistant Professor of Humanities and English. Among the courses she taught, were "Words & Images", "Women & Literature," and later during the spring term, "Art & Architecture in Germany & the Czech Republic." Cindy has been a traditional watercolor painter for over 50 years, and in more recent years, a mixed media artist in many mediums. She grew up spending summers at the Jersey shore, where she continues to connect with the community.

HENRY ANNA

Hank is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Public Administration at SRU, having retired in 1998. A native of Cambria County, PA, Hank has traveled extensively and has so far visited 47 US states and more than 25 countries on 5 continents. He enjoys reading and volunteer work, including Rotary.

PHILLIP ATTEBERRY

Phil has taught English and popular music for over thirty years at PITT and the Chautauqua Institute. He has a Ph.D. from Washington University. His passion for music and show business was passed down to him from his grandparents and great-grandparents who were singers and vaudevillians.

DEBBIE BELL

Debbie and her family moved to Slippery Rock in 1983. Debbie is a retired elementary teacher from Slippery Rock Area School District. The ILR has provided her with opportunity to forge new friendships, to explore new areas of interest, and to participate in trips and other experiences. Some of her interests include reading, knitting, boating, biking, and traveling.

DIANE BELL

Diane is a retired teacher from Wilmington and Shenango school districts. She is an author and illustrator of children's books.

MARTIN BRIGHT

Martin is a professor of Psychology and Social Work at Grove City College. His educational background is in Sociology and Counseling Psychology. Dr. Bright is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and has worked as a counselor and case manager in various settings.

JANICE BROWN

Janice taught English literature at GCC for 21 years until her retirement in 2015. She lives in Mercer, PA with her husband Cliff. She specializes in works by Christian authors and has published a comprehensive book, among others *The Lion in the Waste Land: Fearsome Redemption in the Work of C. S. Lewis, Dorothy L. Sayers, and T. S. Eliot*.

CLIFF BROWN

Cliff is a retired history teacher who has taught in the US, Canada and Papua New Guinea. He works part-time in theater production at Grove City College. He has published books, educational posters, games, coins and stamp albums related to Newfoundland.

BRITTANY BUZZELLI

Brittany is the Community Liaison for State Health Insurance Assistance, Program Coordinator and Aging and Disability Resource Program Coordinator for the Butler County Area Agency on Aging. Brittany has her B.A. in Urban Studies/Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh and has been working in Social Services with the Butler County Area Agency on Aging since 2014. She is the agency's authority on Medicare as the County's lead APPRISE (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) Coordinator.

VERNA CALL

Verna is a retired ordained minister in the United Church of Christ with a Doctorate of Ministry from Lancaster Theological Seminary. She is an avid reader of European and religious history. She is also an avid photographer and traveler, having toured almost 50 countries on all 7 continents. Verna has created photo album diaries and shares her trip experiences with organizations throughout this area.

JAMES CARNES

James holds a BA in History and a MS in Political Science from Edinboro College. He taught high school history for 35 years and was an adjunct professor at Grove City College for 16 years. He has been presenting History programs for the past 15 years.

LUANN CHERRY

LuAnn is a retired teacher from Butler Area School District. Following her passion for researching family history, she completed a degree at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland earning a Master of Science degree with Distinction in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies in November 2023. Her most recent book is *The Old Butler Graveyard, the story of the oldest cemetery in Butler*.

STEVE CICERO

Steve is a former history instructor in Butler Area School District. He is active with a number of historical organizations in Western PA as a part-time teacher or volunteer, as well as with several retired educator groups. In addition, he is always looking for ways to promote local history and historical sites through presentations and tours.

RUTH GERRARD COLE

With her bachelor's and master's degrees from the College of Wooster plus three years of graduate work, Ruth is a Shakespearean from master's thesis through publishing through years of teaching the Bard, including a high school senior elective for twenty-five years. She has taught and lectured at Chautauqua, New York, Road Scholars, and ILR.

MARGARET DE LUCA

Margaret was born in Michigan, lived in Georgia and Florida and now, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. She has a rich experience in life working in hospitality services, crafting, arts and acting, volunteering, and laughing. She is fascinated by nature and the supernatural. Margaret enjoys her herb garden, bug pins, creating gluten free and dairy free foods, creating and selling recycled yard art and meditation. She is always ready to share her passion, time, energy, and "gifts" with others, including the ILR members.

DALE DORAN

Dale worked in her hometown of Philadelphia for private industry, then as a civil servant for ATF and the U.S. Air Force before completing her degree at SRU. This was followed by 39 years teaching students with autism, learning and behavior challenges.

KATI EDMISTON

Kati is an Environmental Education Specialist at Jennings Environmental Education Center. She previously worked for the PA Game Commission and has experience sedating, processing, and tagging black bears.

JOHN ELLISON

John is a lifelong resident of Butler county, growing up in Center TWP and living currently in Sarver. He has been a Professional Skydiving Instructor in Mercer for 17 years and a Professional Real Estate Agent for 5 years. He enjoys sharing his knowledge about both with others.

KATE FAUNCE

I've been an audiologist for 14 years and work with individuals with hearing loss as they pursue hearing aids. It's a joy to help keep people connected to their friends and family.

CYNTHIA FELIX

Geriatrician doing research in Alzheimer's disease at the University of Pittsburgh. Experienced in community engagement activities and policy endeavors on dementia prevention.

JANET FLEMING

Janet is a retired Registered Nurse having graduated from St. Francis, New Castle and Penn State University. Besides having worked in various positions in nursing for over 50 years, her hobby has been cooking and baking.

KATHY FLOOD

Kathy retired after 30 years of practice as a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician, primarily at the Veterans Health Administration. Kathy now fills her time with volunteer work at the Medi Home Hospice office in Butler, BC3 Literacy Program as a GED tutor, and some travel.

BARBARA FROHNE

Barb is a retired teacher. During her retirement she has become passionate about creating art quilts, quilts, and rescuing vintage linens by finishing unfinished quilt tops and making items that can be used and displayed instead of stored in drawers, attics, basements or landfills.

HOWARD GLASS

After serving four years as a mechanic in the Air Force, Howard spent most of his life as a trucker and began writing to fill his spare time on the road. Success with short stories in a trade publication encouraged him to write more. He has written for five national publications and enjoyed a short stint as a columnist for The Herald. He has penned two novels and co-written an account of surviving Pol Pot's Killing Fields of Cambodia.

Dr. JOHN GOLDEN

Dr. Golden teaches law and finance at Slippery Rock University where he also serves as the university's Entrepreneur-in-Residence. He is the Managing Director of the Sustainable Enterprise Accelerator (SEA) at Slippery Rock, which assists new start-ups and existing businesses with sustainable growth opportunities. He serves on several boards of directors, profit and non-profit. He is the owner of Golden Intergroup, Inc. a private sustainable business consulting firm. He also practices law in the USA and internationally, specializing in commercial law.

DENNY HEMPHILL

Denny picked up a Pickleball paddle in 2015 and never looked back! In the Pennsylvania State Championships, he won a Gold medal in mixed doubles in 2017 and 2 Silver medals in men's doubles in 2019 and 2021. As an instructor, he is excited about helping participants improve their game!

ROBERT KOCHEMS

Bob is the retired DA of Mercer County with 38 years' experience in the criminal justice system as a prosecutor and defense attorney. He also has 30 years' experience doing general 'people' law (family, elder, estate, and real estate). Bob's passion is seeking ways to improve the justice system for the average person.

JANET LEISE

Janet is a graduate of Slippery Rock High School. She completed her BS and MEd from SRU. She taught students with special needs in Pennsylvania and Ohio. She retired after 33 years of teaching in 2017. Janet loves to travel, and has visited 6 continents and many islands. She enjoys photography, dance and reading. She plays several instruments, including flute, guitar, autoharp and percussion. Besides the ILR, she volunteers at her church and Community Care Connections, an agency which helps people who have special needs. Janet is a certified Drum Circle Facilitator.

RUTH LEO

Ruth is a professor emerita at SRU where she taught in the Department of Nursing for 24 years. Ruth has worked as a registered nurse, a pediatric nurse practitioner, nursing faculty member, and parish nurse. She enjoys family activities, travel, health-care-related community service, serving as a deacon at church, and learning new things.

Dr. JACK LIVINGSTON

Dr. Livingston has a Ph.D. degree from the University of Kansas in 2001. He is an Associate Professor in SRU's Geography, Geology and Environmental Science Department. He has research interests in Biogeography, Soils, the Caribbean Area and Africa.

KELCY MARINI

Kelcy joined the Mercer County Conservation District in October 2021 as their Environmental Education Coordinator. She got her BA in environmental studies from Allegheny College and her master's in sustainability from Chatham University. She enjoys camping, kayaking, and educating others about the environment.

KAREN MARTIN

Dr. Martin is a veterinarian retired after 28 years with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health investigating dangerous transmissible disease including zoonotic diseases. Prior to becoming a veterinarian she worked as an archaeologist and physical anthropologist.

BILL MAY

Bill is a retired teacher from Lakeview School District. He is the founder of the Butler County Civil War Roundtable and is an avid historian of the Civil War and local history topics. Bill is a speaker and tour guide of the popular 'Butler Ghost Walks' and 'Historic Mansions of Butler' walking tours.

GENE MCCANDLESS

Eugene McCandless, aka Gene, was born 79 years ago in Grove City, PA. He lived at 121 Smith Valley Road, Slippery Rock, PA all his life. He graduated in 1964 from Slippery Rock High School, served in the US military 1966-69, and retired from General Electric Company, Grove City, after 30 years of service. He continues to engage in community by volunteering for church associations. His interest in prototype and model railroading began when he was very young.

SUE MORRIS

Sue enjoys making the past come alive through her carefully-researched and entertaining presentations about the 1800s and early 1900s. Writing as "*The Historical Dilettante*", she uses social media to present tales that encourage audiences to enjoy thinking critically about history and our regional cultural legacies.

Dr. KRISHNA MUKHERJEE

Krishna teaches astronomy and physics at SRU. She did her Ph.D. on astrophysics at Pitt. Her current research interest lies in the formation of exoplanets and gravitational lensing.

CHRIS NAGOWSKI

Chris is a retired special education teacher who resides in Butler. She has been playing Fantasy Football for twenty years.

CINDY NAPLES

Cindy Naples received her 200 hour Yoga Alliance Instructor Certification through Broad Street Yoga in Grove City in 2015. Throughout her 10 years of yoga instruction she favors a slower paced, long hold with breath approach to yoga, both in her own practice and teaching style.

RAMONA NATHAN

Ramona is a former New Castle teacher who has been an ILR member since the fall of 2008.

DR. NICK C. NEUPAUER

Dr. Neupauer served as Butler County Community College's eighth president for 17 years. He retired from this position in 2024 and currently serves as a visiting Assistant Professor of Practice with a focus on community college leadership in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education.

TERESA O'MALLEY

Teresa is employed at the Seneca Valley SD as a substitute for paraprofessionals working with children with special needs and children with autism. She is a life member of the Evans City Ladies' Fireman's Auxiliary and member of the Rubber Dolls Stamping Club.

TOM PEARCY

Dr. Thomas Percy is a SRU history professor with an established record of scholarly excellence including a half-dozen research monographs published by university presses in the US and Panama, a coauthored US History textbook, and more than one dozen articles published in professional journals. He completed a BA (Political Science) and an MA (American History) at Purdue University and earned a Ph.D. (Latin American History) from the University of Miami in Coral Gables. Dr. Percy joined the SRU faculty in 1998.

LINDA RETTSTATT

Linda Rettstatt, who has returned to SW PA in her retirement, is the author of 40 plus novels, novellas and short stories.

MEG SALIZZONI

Meg is a 2024 Slippery Rock University graduate with a degree in Creative Writing and a minor in Theatre. A fan of all things creative, she has been submersed in the arts for most of her life: college was just the culmination. During her college years, she spent a lot of time working at the Writing Center as a consultant and editing biographies for the literary magazine SLAB. An avid writer and self-proclaimed book reader extraordinaire, Meg works alongside friend Dorie Schleiden to co-facilitate the Writing Workshop.

DORIE SCHLEIDEN

Dorie Schleiden is a 1974 graduate of Slippery Rock University. She taught, worked, and raised a family in the South Hills and Evans City before relocating to this area in 2007. Her retirement passion is writing. She has been a correspondent for The Newsweekly and The Butler County News. Her essay "*Seeing in the Dark*" appears in the 2022 edition of *Shoofly Literary Magazine*. She has recently direct published her first novel, *Galleries*, and a collection of children's stories, *Grownups Love Stories Too*, through Amazon Books.

SHERRI SCHLEITER

Sherri worked in Social Services in Fairbanks, Alaska. At the University of Alaska she earned an MA in Northern Studies and Visual Art, MA in Special Education and a BA in Political Science, and a BA in Journalism. She also earned an MA in Library Science and Technology with Clarion University, PA. She also worked for U.S. Peace Corps, Zaire Africa in Aquaculture. She enjoys photography (especially black and white fine arts) and travelling.

TIM SECHLER

Tim is an attorney and the owner of Sechler Law Firm, LLC in Mars, PA. He is one of the area's only Certified Elder Law Attorneys. Tim helps his clients plan for the financial threat associated with the need for long-term care. He assists many families with nursing home Medicaid strategies.

GREG SFERRA

Greg received both his Masters and Bachelor of Science degrees from Slippery Rock University (SRU) and later served as SRU's first Campus Recreation Director overseeing the construction and opening of the Aebersold Student Recreation Center. He currently serves the Institute for Learning in Retirement as the curriculum committee chair.

POLLY SHAW

Polly is retired from the Seneca Valley School District. A local state park volunteer for more than 25 years, Polly is the author of *Moraine State Park* book and is currently writing *McConnells Mill State Park* book for Arcadia Publishing. She has presented many programs on local topics of historical interest.

WILLIAM SIMON

As an apprentice to his father Edwin, William Simon was ushered into the family business of hand lettering granite and other forms of stone. By the middle 1980s he was creating carved and sandblasted signs, embellished with gold leaf and pictorial painting. While working in Pittsburgh for Lamar Advertising as a billboard painter, he decided to leave the applied arts for art studies, graduating in 2014 from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Currently, he resides outside of New Wilmington and works in and out of his studio creating portraits, still lifes, and landscapes, all from direct observation.

RYAN STACK

As SRU's Campus Recreation's Assistant Director of Wellness and the Russell Wright Fitness Center, Ryan Stack is responsible for conducting fitness orientations, personal training and scheduling group fitness classes. He received his master's degree in health and physical activity/exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a Minor in Exercise Science from Grove City College.

ANTHONY STAGNO

Anthony is the Executive Director of the Friends of Preston Park Foundation. His knowledge of the Preston's and the Park comes from working with volunteers to maintain Preston Park, and tours he has given. He is on the board of Connecting2Tomorrow and President of the Spigno Saturnia Society.

ANTONIA THOMAS

Antonia's career is varied: writer, editor and publisher for newspapers, magazines and books; ad agency creative director; product development professional; public relations specialist for theater and higher education; grants writer; overseas and higher education teaching, including aboard US Navy ships at sea. She has a BA in art history and studio art from Baldwin-Wallace University and an MA in English from Slippery Rock University.

RICH THORNHILL

Rich worked for the USPS for 40 years before retiring. He enjoys biking, kayaking, and hiking, and spending time at his cabin in the National Forest. He is active in the ILR, taking classes and serving as vice president. Rich also leads trips for the Butler Outdoor Club. He has one daughter, one son, one granddaughter, and two great-grandsons.

MICHAEL WOOD

Michael is an Electrical Engineer with an American automatic test equipment (ATE) designer and manufacturer headquartered in Massachusetts. One of the company multiple facilities around the world, where he works is located in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. This facility provides test equipment for integrated circuit manufacturers to test logic, RF, analog, power, mixed-signal and memory devices.
