



Had enough of the summer heat and tropical storm impacts? Ready for some calming, glorious autumn days to fill our eyes with new beauty? While there are still opportunities to dine outside, travel and see family and friends, it's time for that fall ritual of getting back to school and nourishing our brains with new classes.

We are offering the autumn series, with scheduling that meets the instructors' calendars and gives you choices at the same time. The Zoom classes will begin 10/7 when Tom Brawner will kick off the series with his full 6-week Zoom on the case of the McDonald family from Fayetteville, followed with the return of John Spurrier for his "In The News" (there's sooo much to talk about!). There are also classes on Fridays and a very special 2-part Mars class in November. The in-person classes on Thursdays will begin 10/2 at First Baptist Church for 4 weeks. There will be classes/forums at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 for you to learn and interact with teachers and fellow lifelong learners.

You can sign up for 1 or 3 or all topics based on your schedule and interests, all for a one-time fee. But you must register!

Step 1: Click on the link **on page 4** of this document to get online to choose your classes and then pay the semester fee of just \$55.00. You will **pay online, through the secure website**, using PayPal or your credit card. Be sure to correctly enter your preferred email address as that is the only way we can send you the connection links for your Zoom classes. *

Step 2: After you pay the fee, you will get a confirmation email from PayPal. Then, we will email you the links for the Zoom classes.

*Live links to the classes cannot be shared, so **send this invitation to your friends** if you'd like them to attend.



The many donations we receive keep us viable, engaged and ready to be here for you at an affordable price. You may choose to add a **donation** at the time you complete registration, or on the SCG website, ([click here](#)), or by mailing a gift to P.O. Box 4063, Greensboro, NC, 27404. We need and deeply love your support. Thank you for your unique participation.

If you cannot register/make payment online, you must call Vickie at 336.501.8849 to let her know you are mailing a check to our post office box (SCG, P.O. Box 4063, Greensboro NC 27404).

Sandy & Vickie & your AIL Volunteer Team

The Autumn semester will kick off on Thursdays, beginning 10/2/2025
In-Person classes for FOUR Weeks: 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23
at First Baptist Church (1000 W. Friendly Ave.)

Choose your classes when you click on the registration link. If the instructor has a reading or supplies list, it will be emailed to you after registration is completed. Social time before classes or during the Community gathering from 10-11 is encouraged...since your friends miss seeing you! And, of course, plan to go out to lunch with a friend or new acquaintance at noon.

Classes Thursdays at 9:00 AM:

Seeing is Creating

Instructor: **Melanie Bassett**

One must always draw, draw with the eyes, when one cannot draw with a pencil."-Balthus

Drawing for beginners, beginning again, and the always beginning. What you see is what you can draw. No experience, talent, or artistic relatives are necessary. **This is a 2-hour studio class, with an optional break in the Fellowship Hall with coffee, snacks, and great speakers.**

Melanie studied in England and Spain, with fifty years of teaching, curating, restoring, and making art.

Greensboro's One City – One Book Discussion

Instructor: **Ron Headen**

My Father's List by Laura Carney is the 2025 choice for the Greensboro Public Library's biennial One City, One Book. Laura and her brother discovered their father's "bucket list" after he passed away due to an automobile accident. She and her brother decided to do everything on the list. Upon completion, Laura decided to write a book about her adventures with the choices from the list. The class will discuss the book and receive supplemental presentations to enhance their reading of it. (* Ron will bring 15 books to borrow from the library, or you can download the book from Libby for digital reading, or pick up a copy at your favorite library to start reading.)

Ron is the Adult/YA Media Selector, Book Club Advisor & Adult Programming Coordinator for Greensboro Libraries.

10:00 – 11:00 COMMUNITY FORUM

Mini-break with social time & coffee/snacks in the fellowship hall.

The FORUM tradition of AIL brings presentations from a local community leader, beginning at approximately 10:15 to educate us on community resources, actions and events for participants. FORUM presentations planned are:

Women's Resource Center ** A Special Blend ** Greensboro Beautiful ** Music Academy of NC

Classes at 11:00 AM:

Paintings That Make You Think

Instructor: **Jim Langer**

Take a tour through some of the world's most provocative and mesmerizing images made by hand with humble pigment. Participants will learn the basic visual language and design concepts to help describe their reactions in the way artists have for centuries, but we will also entertain whatever emotional, philosophical, and even social-political ideas these images conjure. The range and styles of works will be broad: Egypt, Pompeii, China, Japan, Europe, the US, Canada, Mexico, Australia; Impressionism & Postimpressionism, Medieval manuscripts, courtly portraits, decorations and propaganda, itinerant monks' Zen ink and watercolors, Pop Art, abstraction, and more.

Jim Langer has taught college art and art history for over 30 years. He draws and paints, including animal subjects. He is married and has two growing children.

Seeing is Creating – Beginners (continues)

Instructor: **Melanie Bassett**

Greensboro Opera Updates

Instructor: **David Holley**

Let's talk opera, updates, and musical story-telling

David is the Artistic Director of the Greensboro Opera. Professor of Music at UNCG.

VIRTUAL CLASSES ON ZOOM will begin on October 7th, on TUESDAYs or FRIDAYs for the semester... plus a special November class on a Thursday in November (Specific dates are listed for each topic)

Our fabulous Zoom classes will continue as part of your AIL registration flat fee. After you fully register, into the Zoom site, we will send a reminder with the Zoom link on the day before each class. We will try to record many of the classes. We welcome your class participation, questions and expressed gratitude for these volunteer instructors.

Tuesdays beginning 10/7/2025 ZOOM Classes

Unspeakable Rage: The Case of Dr. Jeffrey R. MacDonald

Instructor: **Tom Brawner**

Colette MacDonald and her young daughters, Kimberly and Kristen, were brutally bludgeoned and stabbed to death in the early morning hours of Tuesday, February 17, 1970, in their home at Fort Bragg, NC. Husband and father Jeffrey R. MacDonald, an Army physician injured in the attack, claimed that drug-crazed intruders had attacked him and murdered his family in the style of the recent Manson murders. The crime scene evidence and broader investigation, however, told a different story and soon focused law enforcement attention on Dr. MacDonald himself. This class will explore the people, the evidence, and the intrigue associated with this fascinating saga.

Tom is a retired attorney who loves researching murder mysteries and bringing the stories to SCG.

Dates: **Tuesdays(6): October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11**

Time: **9:30 am**

In The News

Instructor: **John Spurrier, PhD**

After a long hiatus and extended travels, John is back to lead a discussion of current news stories appearing in major newspapers around the country. Emphasis is placed on considering the stories from different viewpoints. Links to the stories will be emailed a few days before each class. Listeners and talkers are equally welcome.

Dr. Spurrier is a retired Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Statistics at the University of South Carolina.

Dates: **Tuesdays(6), October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11**

Time: **11:30 am**

Thursdays beginning 11/6/2025 ZOOM Classes

How do we search for Life on Mars?

Instructor: **Steve Danford PhD** & Guest Presenter: **Patricia Craig PhD**

Mars is the most earthlike planet in our solar system, but we have little idea whether any simple forms of life can be found there or if they ever existed. We'll learn about this fundamental question during the first week

(with Steve Danford) and then hear from Dr. Patricia Craig as a guest in the second session. Dr. Craig is a scientist with the Mars rover, Curiosity. Her talk on November 13 will highlight the ground-breaking engineering and never-before-attempted science that is getting us closer to understanding the mysteries of the Red Planet, and how Curiosity has laid the groundwork for future robotic and human exploration of Mars.

Steve is a retired UNCG physics professor who has presented many space topics at AIL. Dr. Craig researches geochemical evolution of planetary surfaces, with recent emphasis on minerals on Mars.
(<https://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/staff/craig/>)

Dates: **Thursdays(2): November 6 & 13**

Time: **9:30 am**

Fridays, beginning 10/10/25 ZOOM classes

Down the Music & Movie Rabbit Holes!

Instructor: **Larry Brown**

Larry is returning to our AIL with lively classes that will make 4 of our Fridays so interesting. His 4 favorites to be presented are: 1) Sound tracks of 1968, 2) Making of the great Gone With the Wind, 3) Great Songs from movies you love and remember, 4) A Swing & A Miss: how the great American Songbook crooners crashed into the 1960's. If you've taken prior classes with Larry, you know he's a PowerPoint visual pro with lots of movie and music clips,,and he wants your active participation to add to this enjoyable series. Not a series you can afford to miss, so jump in for these rabbit holes!

Larry has a BA from Francis Marion College and a Master of Divinity from Duke University. In retirement, he researches classic films and music. He teaches at the Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews, Columbia, SC.

Dates: **Fridays(4): October 10, 17, 31 and November 7**

Time: **9:30 am**

Genocide: A Contested Concept

Instructor: **Tom E. Porter, PhD**

This class will look at Raphael Lemkin's invention of the word "genocide," which first appeared in print in 1944. We will discuss his thinking on the subject through his writings, such as the book *Axis Rule*, where the term first appeared, a journal article, and unpublished sources to understand his concept. We will then look at UN sources to see how, through successive drafts and revisions, world powers carefully gutted Lemkin's original meaning to avoid being called to account for their own colonial practices, the murder of political opponents, the lynching of African Americans, and the kidnapping of Native American children. The class will also look at international humanitarian law and the toothless mechanisms of the World Court, the International Criminal Court, and the Responsibility to Protect doctrine as a result of the carefully constructed UN structure. If time permits, we will look at contemporary case studies of genocides, "ethnic cleansings", and other mass atrocities such as Gaza, the Rohingya in Burma, and Tibetan children and the Uyghurs in China.

Tom is Professor of Russian, Modern European and Genocide Studies at North Carolina A&T State University.

Dates: **Fridays(6): October 10, 17, 24, 31 and November 7 & 14**

Time: **2:00 pm**

Sign up quickly for a great semester!

Click here for the website to pay for the classes:

<https://shepnet.wufoo.com/forms/rs4jgew1o3g35q/>

Or, you can copy and paste that link into your browser

(If you have never paid online, or need help, please call Sandy 10:00-4:00 at number noted.)

WE love sharing and networking! AFTER you register, send the email to a few of your friends so they don't say... "I didn't know about these classes!"

Thank you for your interest and we'll see you soon!

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Shepherd's Center of Greensboro is on a mission *to help older adults pursue independent and active lives of purpose.*

Mailing address: P.O. Box 4063 Greensboro, NC 27404

Website: www.shepctrq.org 336.378.0766