



SPRING 2026 semester Adventures In Learning virtual & in-person classes

It's now a glorious spring in Greensboro! This season always reminds us why we love our community. The series of Adventures In Learning semester will begin on April 21st with new topics.



With many instructors and participants sharing spring days with friends and family, and many traveling there are still great times to share lifelong learning both in-person (4 weeks) and on Zoom (6 weeks). You can sign up for 1, 3, or more 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 to pay the special mini-semester fee of \$55.00. You will **pay online**, through the secure website, using PayPal or your credit card. Be sure to 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. If you choose a Zoom topic, you will get the link for quick sign-in on the day before each class.

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

Ready to expand your mind and BLOOM with us?

Sandy & Vickie & your AIL Volunteer Team

ZOOM Classes that begin on 4/21/2026:

Nine Bloody Days in the Heartland: The Starkweather/Fugate Spree Murders

Instructor: **Tom Brawner**

In January 1958, Charles Starkweather, 19, and his 14-year-old girlfriend, Caril Ann Fugate, terrified the citizens of Nebraska and Wyoming with ten brutal murders over the course of nine days. When they were arrested, Fugate claimed she was a hostage, not an accomplice of Starkweather. Starkweather disagreed. This class will explore the murderers, their motivations, their victims, and the response of the legal system to the senseless killings.

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

Dates: **Tuesdays, April 21, 28, & May 5, 12, 19, 26**

Time: **9:30 am**

Four Revolutions in Astronomy in our Lifetime

Instructor: **Stephen Danford, PhD**

We'll discuss the expected but unpredicted discovery of the first black hole, the first detection of gravitational radiation, the surprising discovery of planetary moons with warm interiors, and the shocking appearance of the first dark comet from another star. Each class stands more-or-less alone so attend as many as you can.

Dr. Danford is a retired UNCG Physics and Astronomy Professor and Chair of the AIL Planning Committee.

Dates: **Tuesdays April 21, 28, & May 5, 12**

Time: **11:30 am**

The Cold War: The 40-Year Chill

Instructor: **Lynn Zimmerman, PhD**

This 6-week class will look at events during the Cold War, a period in history that you probably lived through. Each class session will begin with a 45-minute lecture about specific events, then the last 15 minutes will be discussion. You will be asked to share your own memories of those events and/or to answer a question that focuses on a specific aspect of the events.

Dr. Lynn Zimmerman is Professor Emerita of Education at Purdue University.

Dates: **Tuesdays, April 21, 28, & May 5, 12, 19, 26**

Time: **2:00 pm**

Classical Art and Architecture and its Influence on the Modern World

Instructor: **Linda Danford**

What is “Classic” about the classical art of the Greeks and Romans? Why did their artistic standards, forms, and practices continue to exert influence in the millennia that followed, long after their Empire fell and their political domination ceased? In this class, we will look at the aesthetic, material, and symbolic aspects of ancient Greek and Roman art in order to understand the fundamental power of art and tradition throughout the ages.

Linda is a retired UNCG professor of classics studies.

Dates: **Wednesdays, April 22, 29, and May 6, 13**

Time: **2:00 pm**

Special Presentation of... People, Not Property!

Presenters: **Jeff Thigpen and Richard Cox**

We are honored to welcome two primary researchers

“The history of slavery in the United States is a difficult subject, and for African Americans tracing history and records where they exist is a daunting task.” But a unique project has been undertaken to explore, verify and digitally record important history with documents and details that will aide families as they search for ancestry. Researching deeds and bill-of-sale are skills that Mr. Thigpen has built for our county, and he joined the collaboration with UNCG. There are 400 recorded “deeds of enslaved people” in Guilford County that are now digitally available thanks to Mr. Cox. Join us to learn about this resource and how it has evolved. ([project details here](#)) ([TV coverage of project here](#))

Jeff Thigpen is the Register of Deeds for Guilford County. Richard Cox is a UNCG Digital Technology Consultant and co-chair of this research committee.

Date: **Wednesday, April 29**

Time: **11:30 am**

How to Cope with the Emotional Weight of Everyday Life

Instructor: **Don Grothoff**

Is life stressful? Need a new way to relax your mind and unwind? Join us for an empowering class designed to help you release stress, regulate emotions, and move from overwhelmed to resilience. Learn how to reduce stress and emotional overwhelm, regulate emotions with simple tools, and build resilience and regain balance. Breathe deeply and RELAX with us on a Wednesday morning!

Don is a Tapping practitioner with over 13 years of experience using powerful storytelling and simple, practical tools like EFT Tapping.

Dates: **Wednesday, May 6** (with option of a second class to practice techniques)

Time: **11:30 am**

In The News

Instructor: **John Spurrier, PhD**

Emeritus Professor John Spurrier leads 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 USC.

Dates: **Fridays, April 24, and May 1, 8, 15, 29**

Time: **9:30 am**

Thursdays, beginning 4/23/2026 through 5/14/26 In-Person Classes
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!

Classes at 9:00 AM

Art of Seeing Still Life

Instructor: **Melanie Bassett**

Art, a 4-week, 2-hour class, to explore Still life. What is it? What can it say, not say? How might a still life feel? Participants may bring whatever medium they would like to work in. Pencil, charcoal, pastels, watercolor pencils (if you will be using anything that may be wet, please bring a table covering and cleaning materials). Each week we will all work on the same still life.

Melanie's life has been making art, and studying in England and Spain, with fifty years of teaching, curating, restoring, and making art.

Dates: **April 23, 30, and May 7, 14**

"Hidden Figures: Women Leaders in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement"

Instructor: **Lea Williams, EdD**

Women played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement. Yet, too often, they were shunted aside by egotistical men. Women, nevertheless, refused to be silenced. Ignoring the sexist misogyny, they spoke out in spellbinding voices. With undaunted courage and fearless determination, the women persevered, earning respect in grassroots communities. meet these heroic women in four revealing sessions.

Dr. Williams is a scholar, researcher, advocate of women in leadership, retired educator, and author of two books profiling leaders of the civil rights movement.

Dates: **April 23, 30, and May 7, 14**

10:00 – 11:00 COMMUNITY FORUM

Mini-break with social time & coffee/snacks in the fellowship hall. Followed by the FORUM presentation from a local community leader, beginning at 10:15 to educate us on community actions/events/resources for all our participants.

FORUM presentations planned are:

Greensboro Greenway, Deep Roots Market, Interfaith housing Initiative, and Paul Stewart

Classes at 11:00 AM:
Art of Seeing Still Life - continued

**“Two Gentlemen Alike in Dignity: Shakespeare and Cervantes
as seen in Art and Film”**

Instructor: **Jim Langer, MFA, BFA**

Since it's the 23rd of April, let's have it be painting, sculpture, and film about Shakespeare and his works, compared with art inspired by Don quixote by Cervantes. Shakespeare was born April 23, 1564, and died April 23, 1616. Cervantes died on April 22, 1616. Of course, we'll read parts of Shakespeare's plays and entire sonnet, and watch better interpreters than me read them aloud. There's even a short story we will read excerpts from about the two of these giants of literature debating whether suffering improves art, by Anthony Burgess, called "A Meeting in Valladolid". (You can borrow the whole book from the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/devilsmode0000burg>. *Jim is Director of Galleries and Professor of Art at Greensboro College.*

Dates: **April 23, 30, and May 7, 14**

Sign up quickly for this semester before April 18th!

Click here for the website to register and pay for the classes:

[CLICK HERE to REGISTER:](#)

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.)

Vickie Williamson, Program Manager

home office: williamsonvickie1@gmail.com
336.501.8849 mobile

Sandy Doyle-Jones, Executive Director

home office: scgexecutivedirector@gmail.com
336.202.5769 SDJ mobile

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

Thank you for your interest and we'll see you in the April – May classes!

Shepherd's Center News & Updates

It's time to get back on the road with our Shepherd's Travelers!!

Our next day-trip will be to the Wohlfahrt Haus Theatre in Virginia. We have had so much fun at their musicals in past years and are thrilled to return for lively musical theatre and a full meal. Vickie has booked the comfy bus and made reservations for 8/27 for **The SENSATIONAL 70s!**



Grab your leisure suits and boogie shoes and hustle on down to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre for The Sensational 70s. Featuring the best music from the top genres of the decade—Rock, R&B, Soul, Funk, and Disco—you'll be transported back to the days of flared jeans, bold patterns, and good times. The Sensational 70s is the ultimate trip down memory lane from the decade that gave you Boogie Fever.

Registration form to print: [CLICK HERE](#)

Thursday, August 27th. Mark your calendars and plan to bring the fun (we'll provide the bus).



And then, we are road-ready for a fabulous trip to **Memphis, TN!!** It's scheduled for **November 9-14!** The tour includes visits to Graceland Mansion & Presley Car Museum, Memphis Rock & Soul Museum, Beale St., Alex Haley Museum, Sun Music Studio, and more of this fun music city...as well as dinners and entertainment. We have a flier and registration form ...just send a note to Vickie to request details. williamsonvickie1@gmail.com

Register with a deposit by June 15 - form to print: [CLICK HERE](#)

[or click here](#) to see the tour company's photos and details.

***Click onto our [SCG website Travelers'](#) page for fliers and links to registration forms and extra information.

*OUTBOUND ADVENTURES

We've talked many times about taking a night sky trip to the Observatory with Steve Danford...and now it's planned for **May 12th at 8:15pm!!** *Shepherd's Center Star Party* * * at the Three College Observatory You will see star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, double stars, planets and the moon (if available). Steve Danford will expertly guide this galaxy tour for you. He will be watching the weather forecasts but has booked an alternate date for May 14th.

Since it involves a 40minute drive to Graham, we are networking with 2 area churches to utilize their vans to transport small groups, from First Baptist parking in Gso to the observatory (or you may carpool/drive on your own). There will be a small fee for the adventure.

Seats are limited, and we are working on the final details, so send a note to Sandy to request a registration form at scgexecutivedirector@gmail.com