

UNIVERSITY EXPRESS SPRING 2025

Call the Golden Age Center at (716) 773-9682 to register for our great University Express programs!

Tuesday, May 6: 1:00 PM program

FIELD TRIP: Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium - Living Worlds (Length: 1 Hour)

What forms might life take in the Solar System and beyond? Whether earthly or alien, all life leaves a trace. Take a journey through space and time to discover how life makes Earth liveable, where it could be found elsewhere in the cosmos, and what new technologies we might use to find it. Along the way, you'll learn how light and color can help us spot other living worlds even from vast distances—and develop a new appreciation for the one-of-a-kind planet right beneath our feet. A deeper understanding of Earth might help us locate other living worlds, light years away.

Wednesday, May 7: 5:00 PM potluck, 6:00 PM presentation

Bell Aircraft's Rosie the Riveter

Focuses on roles of women at Bell Aircraft during WW2 - google slides presentation with show and tell riveter tools and materials. Instructor: David Faix, Education Coordinator & Docent, Niagara Aerospace Museum.

Tuesday, May 13: 10:30 AM

The Gardens at Murder Creek: Restoration and Biodiversity

The restoration efforts at our gardens (Gardens at Murder Creek) focus on restoring the Great Lakes ecosystem just under 10 acres. The property, a former horse pasture, was purchased in 2008 and restoration efforts in 2010. Our mission included the removal of invasive exotics, increased biodiversity of Great Lakes native plants, and stabilizing the banks of our seasonally flooded creek bed. So far, our efforts have transformed the landscape, and we have begun cataloging the results of our efforts in terms of insects, birds, and mammals. More work is needed but restoration takes time. Our primary goal has always been to demonstrate what restoring native plants would mean to the community Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Contrino, Owner - CW Native Plant Farm/CW Native Botanika.

Tuesday, May 13: 1:00 PM

Graycliff: Isabelle & Darwin Martin's Frank Lloyd Wright Designed House on Lake Erie

Graycliff is a story about a wealthy businessman's ambition of building a breezy summer retreat for his family, a woman's steadfast influence in an otherwise male dominated society, an acclaimed architect on the downward slope of his career, and a country on the brink of a financial crisis that threatened to extinguish it all. This fascinating story is one you won't want to miss! Instructor: Jessica Cross, Visitor Services & Volunteer Coordinator at Graycliff.

Monday, May 19: 10:00 AM

Buffum Street's Secrets

No other street, within Buffalo's city limits, can boast a history as rich and diverse as Buffum Street. It has the remains of a Native American burial ground, the lore of the Underground Railroad and one of the most extant historic houses still standing in Buffalo. All of Buffum Street's secrets will be revealed as we revisit some of Buffalo's earliest history Instructor: Marla Bujnicki, History Enthusiast and Preservationist.

Wednesday, May 28: 12:45 PM

Greeting Card-Making Class

Ever wanted to make someone's day with a card that's WAY more special than anything you'd find in a store? This fun, creative workshop is your ticket to becoming a greeting card superstar! We'll dive into the magical world of card making, where your creativity knows no bounds and every card tells a story. You'll learn cool techniques, discover insider tricks, and unleash your inner artist - no previous crafting experience required! During this class we will be making two greeting cards - a Birthday Card and a Get-Well Card. (Supply kits will be provided. Class size is limited.) Instructor: Cindy Solly, Crafter, Prior President of the West Seneca Art Society.

Monday, June 9: 10:00 AM

Rock On!

Learn About Stones & Craft Your Own Bracelet! We will have a semi-precious gemstone and learn about the meaning of the stone, how it can help in healing and make a fun bracelet to wear. It will improve hand and mind coordination. It's therapeutic and brings creativity, socializing all while having fun making your own bracelet. Instructor: Jennifer Chowdhury, Health & Wellness Coordinator, Erie County Senior Services.

Tuesday, June 10: 1:00 PM

The History of the Herschell Spillman Motor Company

Calling all automobile enthusiasts! From 1901 to 1924 more than 200,000 engines were built at the North Tonawanda plant for cars, boats, trucks, and farm tractors. Join us for a history of the Herschell Spillman Motor Company, their products, and the legacy they left behind. Instructor: John Dumbrosky, Herschell Spillman Motor Company Specialist, Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum.

Friday, June 20: 10:00 AM

Pulitzer Prize Winning Photos and the Story Behind Them

Have you ever wondered why a photo was honored with the Pulitzer Prize? Take a step back in history and learn about the people in the photograph and the person who took the picture. Instructor: Theresa Wiater, Retired Educator.

Wednesday, June 25: 5:00 PM potluck, 6:00 PM presentation

Beat the Heat

If you live in Western New York, you already know the importance of being prepared for winter weather emergencies. As spring and summer temperatures continue to rise, are you prepared for warm weather hazards? Do you know how to take shelter from a tornado? How far away can lightning strike and why can't you continue to play golf when the dark clouds are far away? Can you tell the difference between heat exhaustion and heat stroke? What's the best way to treat annoying insect bites? Is that vine poison ivy? Just how long can I leave those cooked burgers on the picnic table? This class will cover a broad range of spring and summer hazards. We will learn important spring/summer weather terms, outdoor safety, food safety, medications that make people more vulnerable to heat, how to recognize and assist someone experiencing heat illnesses, summer holiday safety, and other topics to help you stay healthy and enjoy Western New York summers. Instructor: Pati Aine Guzinski, Training Coordinator ECDOH- Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

Wednesday, July 9: 10:00 AM

A Night Out on the Town

This talk revives the exciting history of the entertainment community in Buffalo. Are you a movie buff? We will talk about the variety of theatres that would have shown everyone, from Charlie Chaplin to Cary Grant to the original Star Wars. Is music more your speed? We will help you imagine where you would have sat to listen to the likes of Sinatra, Elvis, the Stones, and the Goo Goo Dolls. From vaudeville to live stage productions, Buffalo has been home to wondrous theatres and other venues which are no longer physically with us but, through this talk, can once again be part of our collective memory. Instructor: Christine Campbell - Explore Buffalo.

Wednesday, July 9: 5:00 PM potluck, 6:00 PM presentation

WAVES: During WWII 83,000 Women Enlisted in the WAVES Program

This program, under the guidance of the US Navy, taught women Naval jobs stateside so men could be relieved of desk duty and enter the combat zones. This presentation will give an overview of the WAVES program and take you through the lives of two women who kept detailed scrapbooks. Instructor: Shane Stephenson, Director of Museum Collections, Buffalo Naval Park.

Monday, July 14: 10:00 AM

Sparrows, Seeds, and Safety

Feeding birds is a hobby enjoyed by many people. This hobby provides enjoyment for humans and a vital food source for our avian friends. Did you know that bird feeders and feeding stations can be a source of illness for birds? Are you wondering if you should continue feeding the birds during the recent outbreak of H5 bird flu? Are you at risk of contracting H5 bird flu when filling the feeders? How can we feed the birds and keep the rat population at bay? This class will answer these questions and show you what to feed the birds to avoid seed waste, how to keep your bird feeders clean to prevent illness in birds (and yourself), answer questions about H5 bird flu spread in bird and humans, and how to avoid letting your bird feeder become a rat buffet. Instructor: Pati Aine Guzinski, Training Coordinator ECDOH Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness.