



Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute

Affiliated with Salem State University

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SUMMER INTERSESSION 2026

When: Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Explorers, Suite 10

All but one of our summer 2026 speaker events will take place in-person at our Salem headquarters and will also be simulcast over Zoom. The general public is invited at no charge. To access these meetings over Zoom, control/click or copy/paste this link into your web browser: <https://bit.ly/summer26talks>

July 8 - Salem History Without Witches - Brad Austin, Ph.D. & Donna A. Seger, Ph.D.

Two members of the History Department at SSU have co-edited a new collection of essays with the title: "Salem's Centuries: New Perspectives on the History of an Old American City, 1626-2026." The book presents multiple narratives of Salem's "other" history, a general history of lesser-known but essential stories which simply have not been told.

July 15 - Understanding Gerrymandering , the Most Important Element in American Politics - Michael Goldman, veteran political consultant. Popular Explorers' class presenter, Michael Goldman has worked on more than 150 campaigns and taught political history and media at Tufts University. He shares his views about how gerrymandering can be an important threat to our democracy.

July 22 - The Case For A Universal Basic Income - Richard Frenkel, economist & author. Our guest will discuss his book: "Shares in America: The Case for Universal Basic Income" that asks a simple question: if rising productivity made the nation so wealthy, why aren't most people sharing that prosperity?

July 29 - My Return Visit To China": How Things Have Changed - Robert Hooker, Explorers' class presenter. Having taught courses in a number of Chinese universities over a number of years, Mr. Hooker reflects on how the economic conditions and way of life in that country have changed during his most recent visit.

August 5 - Old Salem In Ballad and Song - Bob & Jennifer Strom, local folk musicians and music historians. Our guests will entertain the group on fiddle and guitar, paying tribute to Salem's lengthy and diverse musical heritage. They will use primary source material to provide the historical significance to Salem for each song.

August 12 - Inspired By Italy - How Heritage Enhances Creativity (and living In Italy for part of the year doesn't hurt either!) - **Linda Dini Jenkins**, author and long-time Salem resident. Ms. Jenkins will share stories from her 3 books which highlight her discovery of "Italian-ness"- her experiences from being a part-time resident of the small Italian city of Abruzzo.

August 19 (ZOOM ONLY) - Why Can't We Have Health Care For All?- Dean Wasserman, M.D. , Our guest is a retired former chief medical officer at a local hospital. During his Zoom presentation he will make the case that, given the current situation in this country, is universal health care necessary, inevitable, workable, or even possible?

August 26 - The Situation In Venezuela Today - Dr. Ernesto DaSilva, M.D. Since the major news media has shifted its attention from the President's invasion of Venezuela to the war in Iran, our speaker, a local gerontologist and native of Venezuela, will talk about the history of the country, how it changed for the worst, and his views on the current social and political state of the country.

Explorers LLI of Salem State University is a 501(c) organization, and one of more than 400 Lifelong Learning Institute chapters across the USA. Membership is open to anyone 50 years of age or older. Donations to our events are appreciated.

