Fall 2026

Jewish Senior LIFE

Live and Learn Community Course Guide



With Appreciation

The award-winning Jewish Senior Life Live and Learn Community at Meer Apartments is supported by a generous grant from the Marcia Applebaum Jewish Older Adult Enrichment Fund. JSL is most grateful for this meaningful support and ongoing partnership.

What is Live and Learn at Meer Apartments?

Meer Apartments' award-winning Live and Learn Community provides a range of university-level educational offerings right on site. Courses are taught by experts from world class institutions and cultural partners and presented in various formats to accommodate a variety of learning styles. From larger lectures to small seminars and discussions, each course is designed to foster student engagement and community connection. Jewish Senior Life is especially proud to collaborate with Oakland University/PACE to offer courses (each marked with an asterisk * in this course guide) each semester, facilitated by Oakland University professors.

Come join us to experience the joy of learning alongside others!

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Michigan's Greatest Sports Heroes

From legendary professionals to remarkable amateurs, Michigan has produced some of the greatest athletes and sports figures in history. Join us for a lively look at the men and women who put Michigan sports on the map. Come celebrate the athletes, teams and hometown heroes who have made Michigan proud!

Instructor: Dan Leach is a longtime Metro Detroit and nationally syndicated sports broadcaster covering the games, teams and athletes that sports fans love.

The Union **Tuesday, September 1** **10:30 AM - 12 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

AI: Everyday Life and the Future*

Ask Siri a question. Check your bank app. Scroll your feed. That's AI, already running your day. This session pulls back the curtain: what is AI, really? Where does it actually help? And what should you watch for in terms of privacy, misinformation and scams? We'll even dig into the environmental and community costs behind those massive data centers, including ones right here in Michigan. No technical background required.

Instructor: Dan Arnold is a Provost Fellow for Artificial Intelligence at Oakland University. He taught a six-week course on AI for Live and Learn in the Fall of 2024.

The Union **Thursday, September 3** **10:30 AM - 12 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

Practically Perfect: The Films of Julie Andrews

Few performers have captured America's heart quite like Julie Andrews. From the practically perfect Mary Poppins to the unforgettable Maria von Trapp, Andrews has brought remarkable versatility, warmth, humor, and talent to musicals, comedies, dramas and family films. Join us for a celebration of the beloved films that have made her a timeless favorite. Each film will be shown in the days before class discussion meets.

Instructor: Tara Hayes PhD, known for leading dynamic discussions about books and film. Tara holds worked in the film industry before returning to Detroit.

The Union **Three discussion sessions, 1 PM – 3 PM**

Thursday, September 3: Mary Poppins
Thursday, October 1: The Americanization of Emily
Thursday, November 5: The Sound of Music

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

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Myth and Meaning:
The Enduring Stories of Ancient Greece

Join us on an odyssey through the legendary world of Greek gods and heroes and discover why these ancient stories still hold our imagination. From Zeus and Athena to Aphrodite, Odysseus and Hercules, we'll explore the timeless themes and enduring characters that continue to shape our culture. We'll consider different ways to interpret these fascinating myths and take a closer look at how they've been brought to life across the centuries.

Instructor: John Feeney is a retired high school Latin and French teacher and currently teaches courses on Greek Mythology and Classical Civilization at Wayne State University.

The Union **Five Tuesdays 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM**
September 8 and 22; October 6, 13 and 20

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

Love, Loss and What I Wore

Get ready for an entertaining and wonderfully relatable journey through the ups, downs and fashion choices of a woman's life. Based on the bestselling book by Ilene Beckerman, Nora and Delia Ephron's *Love, Loss and What I Wore* is a funny, poignant collection of stories about love, loss, relationships and, yes, the clothes that become part of our memories. Join us for this abridged table read featuring a talented local cast.

This session will be presented by the talented women of NCJW of Michigan

The Union **Tuesday, September 6 7 PM - 8 PM**

The Broadway Musical Goes to Hollywood

For nearly a century, Hollywood has been captivated by the magic of the Broadway musical with results ranging from spectacular triumphs to colossal flops. From *My Fair Lady* and *Cabaret* to *Camelot, A Chorus Line, Hair* and the 2021 *West Side Story*, we'll explore the colorful history of Broadway-to-movie adaptations and learn how filmmakers have transformed the musicals we love. This program will be presented live over Zoom.

Instructor: This class will be taught by Brian Rose, professor emeritus at Fordham University. His live Zoom lectures on film and TV history have been presented at the Smithsonian Institution, New York's 92Y, libraries and JCCs all over the country.

The Union **Wednesday, September 16 2 PM - 3 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

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Author Talk:
Arthur Horwitz on his book, *Dual Identities*

Join us for a discussion with Arthur Horwitz, publisher emeritus of *The Detroit Jewish News* and author of *Dual Identities: Living in Meier's Shadow*. In this deeply personal presentation, Horwitz will share the story of growing up as the son of a Holocaust survivor in postwar America and explore how family history shapes identity, memory and belonging. Through his own family's story, he will offer a candid look at the transmission of Holocaust memory across generations and the challenges and responsibilities carried by the children of survivors. *Books will be available for purchase and signing.*

Presenter: As publisher of *The Detroit Jewish News* for more than 30 years, including 10 as its Executive Editor, Arthur Horwitz helped shape one of the nation's most influential Jewish newspapers, while documenting the people, events and institutions that have defined Detroit's Jewish community.

The Union **Thursday, September 17** **10:30 AM - 12 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk..

Unforgettable Voices:
Barry Manilow and Doc Primus

Music has a way of connecting us to a time, a place, and to one another. These two programs celebrate the extraordinary diversity of American music, exploring the lives, sounds, and stories of artists who have left their mark on our cultural landscape. From the familiar melodies of Barry Manilow to the distinctive artistry of Doc Primus, who has perhaps less name recognition but whose talent is well-known, join us to explore two musical geniuses.

Instructor: Gary Graff is an award-winning veteran music journalist based in Detroit. He is the author of several books as well as an active member of Adat Shalom Synagogue.

The Union **Both programs will take place from 11 AM – 12PM**

Thursday, September 24 – Barry Manilow
Thursday, October 29 – Doc Primus

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

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Oh What a Beautiful Mornin': The Movie Musicals of Rodgers & Hammerstein

Between 1955 and 1965, Hollywood brought Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved Broadway musicals,including *Oklahoma!*, *The King and I* and *South Pacific,* among others, to the big screen. In this live Zoom lecture, we'll explore how casting, staging and production transformed these classics from stage to screen and helped make them enduring favorites.

Instructor: This class will be taught by Brian Rose, professor emeritus at Fordham University. His lectures on film and TV history have been presented at the Smithsonian Institution, New York's 92Y and libraries and at JCCs all over the country.

The Union **Thursday, October 1** **11 AM - 12 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

Special Evening Concert: Viola, Piano and Voices*

Join us for an intimate evening of chamber music exploring love, faith, consolation and reflection in this program featuring the music of Brahms and Vaughn-Williams. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the unique dialogue of tone and timber between voice, viola, and piano, as our performers get ready for a series of concerts in downtown Detroit.

Performers: We are thrilled to welcome Drake Dantzler, tenor, Alta Dantzler, contralto, Simon Adda-Reyes, piano, John Alexander Madison, viola, from Oakland University.

The Dining Room **Tuesday, October 6** **7 PM - 8 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

A *Bisel* of (Jewish Detroit) History

What can an old photograph, a forgotten document, or a family story reveal about Jewish Detroit? A lot! Don't miss this entertaining journey through Jewish Detroit's archives to uncover fascinating stories, little-known facts, and memorable moments from the neighborhoods, institutions, personalities and everyday experiences that shaped our community.

Presenters: Robbie Terman is the Director of the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives at the Jewish Federation of Detroit. Laura Gottlieb is the Director of Cultural Resources at Temple Beth El . Together, they are partners in the Joan Meyers Jampel Center for Michigan Jewish Heritage.

The Union **Thursday, October 8** **11 AM - 12 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

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The Fisher Building: Detroit's Art Deco Jewel

Architecture enthusiasts have been captivated by the Grand Arcade of Albert Kahn's magnificent Fisher Building since its doors opened. But beyond its bronze doors and marble walls lies a world of wonder, including exquisite Art Deco details, fascinating history and stories that have helped make this Detroit landmark one of the most celebrated commercial buildings in the world. Don't miss this fascinating presentation to discsover the artistry, history and enduring allure of this iconic downtown landmark.

Presenter: Barbara Cohn is an art historian and author with a focus on research, curating and developing unique tours for the Detroit community. Barbara is a member of the Boards of Trustees for both the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan and the Albert Kahn Foundation.

The Union **Wednesday, October 14** **3 PM - 4 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

Jewish Historical Society of Michigan presents: Jewish Greater West Bloomfield

Did you know that Jewish people have been living in Meer's own backyard for more than 100 years? Come hear about the families, synagogues, institutions and neighborhoods that helped shape the community's westward journey from Detroit to the suburbs. Through photos, archival materials and fascinating stories, we'll learn about the surprising history of a community that has called West Bloomfield home for more than a century.

Catherine Cangany, PhD, is a historian of colonial and early federal Michigan. Before joining the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan in 2018 as its CEO, Katie was a tenured professor of history at the University of Notre Dame.

The Union **Thursday, October 15** **11 AM - 12 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

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Michigan's Midterm Elections: What to Expect in 2026*

Don't miss this insider's look at Michigan's upcoming midterm elections, covering the key races and issues shaping the state's political landscape. We'll also examine how Michigan fits into the national picture, including what to expect in the battle for control of the U.S. House and Senate. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of both the local stakes and the national forces at play this election cycle. Bring your questions for this discussion and civil discourse.

Instructor: Dave Dulio is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Oakland University. He is a frequent guest political analyst on both local and national news programs and for our own Live and Learn Community.

The Union **Thursday, October 22** **11 AM - 12 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at Reception Desk.

Beyond the Pyramids: The Art of Ancient Egypt*

Journey into the extraordinary world of ancient Egypt, where art was far more than decoration: it was a window into religion, power, daily life and the afterlife. Over six weeks, we'll explore the pyramids, temples, tombs, sculptures, paintings and hieroglyphs that have captivated humanity for millennia, and together we'll uncover the stories and beliefs behind them. From iconic masterpieces to lesser-known treasures, discover how Egyptian artists created a visual language that continues to fascinate, inspire and mystify us today.

Instructor: Lisa Ngote is a Special Lecturer and Curator of Visual Resources at Oakland University, with both Bachelot's and Master's Degrees from Wayne State University.

The Union **Six Tuesdays** **10:30 AM - 12 PM**

October 27
November 3, 10, 17 and 24
December 1

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at Reception Desk.

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Live and Learn Community Book Club: The Great Gatsby

Join our new Live and Learn Community Book Club for a lively discussion of F. Scott Fitzgerald's enduring classic, *The Great Gatsby*. Together, we'll explore the book's unforgettable characters, timeless themes and glittering (often deceptive) world of Jazz Age America. Come share your perspective, discover new insights and enjoy the pleasure of great conversation with neighbors about a great book. Class size is limited. Books will be provided to those enrolled.

Instructor: Jennifer Gilchrist received her PhD from Fordham University in English Literature with a specialty in British and American fiction. She taught at Hunter College before returning to her hometown of Detroit.

The Union **Four Tuesdays 1:30 PM - 3 PM**

October 27; November 3, 10 and 17

Class size is limited to 15 and registration is a must. Names will be taken for a waitlist.

Conscience on the Docks: *On the Waterfront* and America's Red Scare*

Hollywood has always had its controversies, but after World War II, the film industry became the target of a powerful new force: the government's campaign against alleged communist influence. Explore the friendship and eventual rupture between director Elia Kazan and playwright Arthur Miller, whose opposing choices during the House Un-American Activities Committee hearings inspired two defining works of the 1950s in *On the Waterfront* and *The Crucible* respectively, and helped establish the enduring "culture wars"over artistic expression, loyalty and national identity. The film *On the Waterfront* will be screened in the days before this class meets but is not a requirement to attend.

Presenter: Brendan Kredell is Professor of Film at Oakland University. His research focuses on the intersection of urban studies and media and he regularly consults with governmental agencies and arts and culture organizations on media and cultural policy.

The Union **Thursday, November 5** **2 PM - 3 PM**

Registration is encouraged. Please sign up at the Reception Desk.

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The Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Mozart and Schumann's Romantic Rhenish

Early risers will enjoy this excursion to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra program featuring two DSO musicians – Hannah Hammel Maser on flute and Alyssa Katahara on harp - who step into the spotlight in a program described as graceful, elegant and full of joy. Fanny Mendelssohn's Overture, her only purely orchestral work, will be paired with Robert Schumann's "Rhenish" symphony, characterized as "music alive with optimism, fire and a deep sacred glow."

DSO Orchestra Music Director Jader Bignamini will conduct this performance.

BUS TRIP **Friday, November 13** **Concert begins at 10:45 AM**

NOTE: Shuttle will depart Phase 6 Reception promptly at 9:45 AM and return concert-goers following the performance by approximately 12:30 PM.

Space is limited to 12 participants, with a waitlist available. Advance registration is required. To ensure everyone's comfort and safety, participants must be able to walk from the bus to their seats with relative ease.

This is YOUR Live and Learn Community: Let us hear from you!

Jewish Senior Life's award-winning Live and Learn Community at Meer Apartments was created especially for you, the wonderful Meer residents, to spark intellectual curiosity and lively discussion, foster social connection and wellness, and enrich everyone's lives. We're fortunate to partner with outstanding academic and community organizations that bring expertise and insight on an incredible range of subjects.

Most importantly, we want Live and Learn to reflect **your** interests. What would you like to learn about? What topics, speakers or programs would excite you? Please let us know!

Live and Learn Director Wendy Handler would love to hear from you. Leave a message for Wendy at the Reception Desk, or email her anytime at whandler@jslmi.org. Thanks.

Live and Learn At-A-Glance

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30AM-12PM Michigan Sports Heroes	2	3 10:30AM-12PM AI class 1PM-3PM Film: Mary Poppins	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8 10:30AM-11:45 AM Greek Mythology	9	10	11 Erev Rosh Hashanah	12 Rosh Hashanah
13 Rosh Hashanah	14	15 Flu Clinic- no classes	16 2PM-3PM Bwy Musical Goes to Hollywood	17 10:30AM-12PM Arthur Horwitz Author Talk	18	19
20 Erev Yom Kippur	21 Yom Kippur	22 10:30AM-11:45 AM Greek Mythology	23	24 11AM-12PM Barry Manilow	25	26
27	28	29 Sukkot - no classes	30			

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Live and Learn At-A-Glance

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11AM-12PM Rodgers & Hammerstein 1PM-3PM Film: The American-ization of Emily	2 Shemini Atzeret begins	3 Shemini Atzeret
4 Simchat Torah	5	6 10:30AM-11:45 AM Greek Mythology 7PM-8PM Viola, Piano, Voice Concert	7	8 11AM-12PM A Bisel of (Jewish Detroit) History	9	10
11	12	13 10:30AM-11:45 AM Greek Mythology	14 3PM-4PM Albert Kahn & The Fisher Bldg.	15 11AM-12PM Jewish Greater West Bloomfield	16	17
18	19	20 10:30AM-11:45 AM Greek Mythology	21	22 11AM-12PM The Upcoming Election	23	24
25	26	27 10:30AM-12PM Ancient Egypt 1:30PM-3PM The Great Gatsby	28	29 11AM-12PM Doc Pomus	30	31

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Live and Learn At-A-Glance

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 10:30AM-12PM Ancient Egypt 1:30PM-3PM The Great Gatsby	4	5 10:30AM-12PM America's Red Scare 1PM-3PM Film: The Sound of Music	6	7
8	9	10 10:30AM-12PM Ancient Egypt 1:30PM-3PM The Great Gatsby	11	12	13 10:45AM-12:30PM OUTING: DSO	14
15	16	17 10:30AM-12PM Ancient Egypt 1:30PM-3PM The Great Gatsby	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 10:30AM-12PM Ancient Egypt	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

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