Volume 32 Number 6

SILIR NEWSLETTER

January 2026

The Newsletter for Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement



Monthly Book Club

LOCATION: Epiphany Lutheran Church 1501 W. Chautauqua St.

Monday, January 19 » 9:30 am Grendel by John Gardner

Monday, February 16 » 9:30 am 1776 by David McCollough

Monthly Lunch Discussion Group

LOCATION: Hunan 710 E. Main St.

Thursday, January 15 » 11 am

Members are invited to join this group to share lunch and open conversation.

January Presenter Benjamin Bricker

The strengths and vulnerabilities of the U.S. Constitution

Today, we see new challenges to our modern constitutional order – challenges that some fear can erode the traditional constitutional structure and the democratic norms that underpin it.

This year, the Supreme Court has accepted several cases that may fundamentally reshape our constitutional system. Benjamin's talk will go over several of those cases –



Wednesday, January 21 10:30 am

including Learning Resources v. Trump, Cook v. Trump, and Trump v. Slaughter – as well as the Court's increasing use of its emergency docket, which may (or may not) give us a preview of how they will ultimately rule in many of these cases.

Benjamin Bricker (Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis, 2013; J.D., University of Illinois) is Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and an Associate Professor of political science at SIU. He holds a cross appointment in the SIU Simmons Law School. He is the author of *Visions of Judicial Review: A Comparative Study of Courts and Policy in Democracies*.

Monthly Presentation

LOCATION: Epiphany Lutheran Church 1501 W. Chautauqua St.

Wednesday, January 21

9:30: Coffee, Tea and Conversation 10:30: Meeting and Program

Next Board Meeting

LOCATION: Epiphany Lutheran Church 1501 W. Chautauqua St.

Monday, January 19 » 1:30 pm

January Greeters Sylvia Drake Dona Lach

PresidentGary Hartlieb

At-a-Glance Monthly Presentations

Wednesday, January 21 Wednesday, February 18 Wednesday, March 18

SILIR NEWSLETTER

SILIR Spring Session One Classes

February 3 - March 5

Tuesdays » 9:30 - 11:30 am

COST: \$10

TWO SESSIONS: February 3 and February 10 INSTRUCTORS: Sandy Pensoneau-Conway and Irene Lutterodt

Understanding Diversity and Using Pronouns

CLASS 1:

Communicating Diversity

How can we create welcoming environments and embrace differences we see around us? Communication is a powerful tool to create a more just and open world.

CLASS 2:

Pronouns in Action

Focus on gender and pronouns. Engage in guided discussion on the evolution and usage of pronouns and move into practice with the goal of better understanding why someone might use gender-neutral pronouns.

Tuesdays » 1:30 - 3:30 pm

COST: \$15

FIVE SESSIONS: February 3 - March 3 INSTRUCTOR: Gary Hartlieb

Five Best Broadway Musicals Turned into Movies

The course will feature five of the best Broadway musicals turned into movies. Included are *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Funny Girl* and *Oliver*. Bring your popcorn or other snacks and enjoy the movie!

Thursdays » 1:30 - 3:30 pm

COST: \$15

FIVE SESSIONS: February 5 - March 5 INSTRUCTOR: Suzanne Schmitz

Lawyers Who Made a Difference

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, drafted by four lawyers, let's get to know some lawyers who have made a difference. We will focus on lawyers no longer with us and learn their life stories and their contributions as legislators, judges, advocates, and public servants. Some may be familiar; most not so much.

Wednesdays » 1:30 - 3:30 pm

COST: \$10

TWO SESSIONS: February 25 and March 4

INSTRUCTOR: Robin Ridgley

Brain Health

A two-part series covering strategies for dealing with forgetfulness, maintaining a healthy brain and enhancing memory and thinking, as well as learning how dementia affects people and how we can make a difference in the lives of people living with the disease.

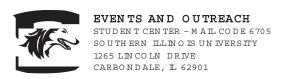
BRING A GUEST, RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER

Our monthly presentations are free and guests are welcome, so next time you come to one of our talks, bring a friend, invite a neighbor. Many out there don't know what we do, so by creating interest in our activities we may expand our membership.

For that matter, you might consider passing on your monthly newsletter so your friends can see the variety of classes we offer at Learning in Retirement.

SILIR Registration Form Please fill out and send entire form with payment.

First Name		Last Name	
First Name		Last Name	
Address			
City		State	Zip Code
Day Phone		Cell Phone	
E-mail			
NEW MEMBERS: How did you hear about us?		_	_
If you are registering more than yourself for	a class/trip, plea July 1, 2025 -	2	R member you are registering.
Name	_ (26M0901901)	FY26 Membership Dues	\$25 x=
		INTE	REST GROUPS
Name	_(26M0901904)	Book Study Group	\$10 x=
Name	_ (26M0901905)	Lunch Discussion Group	\$10 x=
Name	_ (26M0901917)	Understanding Diversity	\$15 x=
Name	_ (26M0901918)	Five Best Broadway Mus	icals\$15 x=_
Name	_ (26M0901919)	Brain Health	\$15 x=
Name	_ (26M0901920)	Lawyers Who Made a Did	fference \$15 x=
Additional Name(s)			
			TOTAL: \$
Learning in Retirement program waiver disclaimer traveling up to one mile or more or navigating 10 si that you may choose wisely.			
Signature		Date	
My signature confirms that I have read and understand the conditions of the trip. I am aware that some trips may enco			
Make check payable to SIU Carbondale or enter	credit card info	ormation below:	Mail form and check to:
Credit Card Number			Events and Outreach Anthony Hall - Mail Code 6705
Name on Card		CVC	Carbondale, IL 62901
Email (for receipt)			Call to register with credit card: 618-536-7751



Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 15 Carbondale, IL

«first» «last»

«address»

«city», «st» «zip»

Questions or suggestions Email: silir@siu.edu Phone: 618/536-7751

> :iuawa.1r1,aH U! 6u!u.1ea7 TS



Visit the SI Learning in Retirement webpage at: conferences.siu.edu/silir

What will you learn today?