

# SENIORS FOR CREATIVE LEARNING

## Spring Courses 2022

TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAM RESERVATIONS

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## SENIORS FOR CREATIVE LEARNING IS BACK!!

**Dear Present and Future SCL Members,**

When reviewing the SCL offerings for the Spring 2022 Semester, we hope that you will be as enthusiastic as we are. The sessions are described in more detail in this brochure. Our courses are lecture-based and taught by local experts. With the exception of the field trips, all of the classes will be held at the O'Connor Center, 611 Winona Street. Classes meet at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the semester unless otherwise noted in the schedule.

SCL is a volunteer organization supported by membership dues, The University of Tennessee Department of Professional and Personal Development, and the John T. O'Connor Senior Center. All members must be 50 years of age or older. Officers and the Curriculum Committee are all SCL members who volunteer their time and effort to bring you these programs. The cost of membership is \$40.00 per person or \$55.00 per couple (per semester). These fees are used to offset the costs of brochure printing, postage, registration, speaker honorariums, supplies, field trip subsidies, etc. **Registration is through the Department of Professional and Personal Development, via telephone using a credit card at (865) 974-0150.**

**Nametags** – As a registered member of SCL, a nametag will be created for you. When attending any of our SCL events, please wear your nametag. It demonstrates that you are a paying member of SCL and also helps each of us to learn the names of fellow members. We ask that you please return your nametag at the end of each session so that it will be available for you at each event.

Spring 2022

## SCL Programs

MAR 29	TUES	1:00 PM	A Glimpse into the Wild Life of Bears
MAR 29	TUES	2:30 PM	History of the Manhattan Project
MAR 31	THURS	1:00PM	To Be a Hero; How Ordinary Life is Extraordinary
MAR 31	THURS	2:30 PM	Knoxville's New Baseball Stadium and its Impact on Knoxville and the Old City
APR 5	TUES	1:00 PM	The Challenges of Police Work in Knoxville
APR 5	TUES	2:30 PM	Of Sound Mind: Increasing Health and Wellness Using Sound and Music
APR 7	THURS	1:00 PM	Random Acts of Flowers
APR 7	THURS	2:30 PM	Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding (STAR)
APR 12	TUES	TBD	Field Trip to Oak Ridge Manhattan Project Sites
APR 14	THURS	1:00 PM	The Most Un-Civilized War: Knoxville and East Tennessee in the Civil War
APR 14	THURS	2:30 PM	Cyber Crimes: How to Protect Yourself and Your Information from Scammers
APR 19	TUES	1:00 PM	Murder and Mayhem in East Tennessee
APR 19	TUES	2:30 PM	I Didn't Intend to Write a Book, But...
APR 21	THURS	1:00-3:30 PM	What is it, How Old is it and is it Worth Anything?
APR 26	TUES	TBD	Field Trip to H.M.S. Titanic Museum Field Trip
APR 28	THURS	1:00 PM	Highlander Research and Education Center
APR 28	THURS	2:30 PM	Friendly Robots: A New Way of Caring for Alzheimer's and Dementia Patients
MAY 3	TUES	1:00 PM	Birds of Prey
MAY 3	TUES	2:30 PM	The Lincoln Conspirators
MAY 5	THURS	TBD	Field Trip to tour the Old Gray Cemetery

## Spring 2022

**Date:** Tuesday, March 29

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Title:** A Glimpse Into the Wild Life of Bears

**Speaker:** Chris Norcott

Did you know that black bears have rules of etiquette? They do, and this presentation will explore this aspect of their lives as well as other little-known facets of the world of black bears. Through Chris' talk and amazing photographs you'll learn so much about bear behavior. Seeing a bear in Cades Cove is just not the same as experiencing them in the wild.

Chris Norcott is an expert on black bears and he has spent more than a decade hiking the backcountry of the Great Smoky Mountains photographing bears' wild and secretive lives. He is a renowned wildlife photographer who lives just outside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Chris conducts landscape and nature photography workshops and leads backcountry tours throughout the United States.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 29

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Title:** History of the Manhattan Project

**Speaker:** Ray Smith

This is the first of two presentations this session by Ray Smith of Oak Ridge on the Manhattan Project which developed the atomic bomb during World War II. (The second is a field trip on April 12 to see many of the Manhattan Project sites in Oak Ridge.) Have you ever wondered why the then unknown community of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was chosen as one of the three sites of the project, what the workers at the Oak Ridge facilities were told about the purpose of their work, how the work at Oak Ridge fit into the overall scheme of the Manhattan Project, etc? Come join us and find out the answers to these questions and many others as well as getting an update on the new Manhattan Project National Park being developed in Oak Ridge and at the two other Project sites.

Ray Smith is the Historian for the City of Oak Ridge and is a Commissioner on the Tennessee Historical Commission. He is also a board member of the Atomic Heritage Foundation and is the retired historian for the Y-12 National Security Complex.

**Date:** Thursday, March 31

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Title:** To Be a Hero; How Your Ordinary Life is Extraordinary

**Speaker:** Chris Edmonds

A couple of years ago many of us read the brief newspaper accounts of the heroism of U.S. Army Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds of Knoxville. Sergeant Edmonds saved numerous lives of Jewish prisoners of war when he courageously refused to divulge the names of the Jews in a POW camp to the camp's commanding German officer in the closing days of World War II. Our speaker is Sgt. Edmonds' son who has written a best-selling book on the subject. Mr. Edmonds will give us the full story which spans seven decades and links a sprawling list of heroes from every corner of the country.

Chris Edmonds is a native of Knoxville and holds degrees from the University of Tennessee and Liberty Theological Seminary. He is the senior pastor of Piney Grove Baptist Church and is the author of the book *No Surrender: A Father, A Son, and An Extraordinary Act of Heroism That Continues to Live On Today*. He is a much sought after speaker.

**Date:** Thursday, March 31

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Title:** Knoxville's New Baseball Stadium and its Impact on Knoxville and the Old City

**Speaker:** Tim Hill

By now you know that Knoxville is getting a new baseball stadium (which will be located not far from the O'Connor Center's location.) However, unlike the present Smokies stadium in Sevier County, the uses to which this stadium can be put are many and varied. In addition to a multi-purpose stadium there will be commercial, entertainment and residential development adjacent to the site. Obviously, such changes in the area being developed will have a large impact on Knoxville, and especially on the Old City. Join us and find out what's going to be changing and what the anticipated impacts will be.

Tim Hill is a member of the seven member City of Knoxville Sports Authority Board which is in charge of the \$65,000,000 development budget for the stadium and its Old City surroundings. In addition, Mr. Hill is Co-founder and President of Hatcher-Hill Properties in Knoxville. He also serves on the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission, various charitable boards and is President of the Bearden Village Council.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 5

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Title:** The Challenges of Police Work in Knoxville

**Speaker:** Knoxville Police Chief Eve Thomas

In some ways Knoxville has the feel of a small town. However, it also has the challenge of being large enough to have to face most of the issues of crime (gangs, drugs etc.) that much larger cities have to contend with. Come join us as Knoxville's Police Chief describes the challenges her officers and staff face on a daily basis and how they are meeting the challenges to keep us safe.

Chief Eve Thomas has been with the Knoxville Police Department in a number of varied capacities for almost 30 years and has served as its first female Chief since June of 2018. In addition to various professional accreditations Chief Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Tennessee and a Master's degree from the Homeland Security Institute of the University of Long Island. She has been married to her husband Karl for over 30 years and has two sons.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 5

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Title:** Of Sound Mind: Increasing Health and Wellness Using Sound and Music

**Speaker:** Jan Coe

Sound and music have been shown to positively affect mood and overall mental and physical wellbeing. Join Jan Coe of Whole Notes Harmony to learn about these modalities and how to incorporate them into your wellness routine. A sound meditation using singing bowls and gongs will be included so that you may directly experience the concepts presented.

Jan Coe began her work as an environmental scientist and data analyst in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In 2007 she decided to make a change and opened an in-home care business that she successfully built and managed for 10 years. During that time, and as a lifelong musician, she began researching how music affects dementia. Various avenues led her to the sound of singing bowls and ultimately to study the effects of both sound and meditation on the brain. She sold her home care business in 2016 and as able to retire to her third and current career using sound as a therapy for the mind and body.

**Date:** Thursday, April 7

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Title:** Random Acts of Flowers

**Speaker:** Mick Reed

In a span of only a few years, Random Acts of Flowers has become a well known and respected local charity enriching the lives of a multitude of people in our area. But how did it start, what are they doing now, how do they do it and what are the charity's plans

for the future. Come and find out about this worthwhile charity that recycles flowers for patients who otherwise would receive nothing while recuperating in local hospitals.

Mick Reed is the Executive Director of Random Acts of Flowers

**Date:** Thursday, April 7

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Title:** Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding (STAR)

**Speaker:** Lynn Petr

Many have heard of the STAR program, but few know exactly what the organization does. Join us as we explore with its executive director this valuable community resource which helps both children and adults with physical, mental and neurological challenges achieve improved balance, coordination and muscle tone, all while on the back of a horse!

Lynn Petr is the founder and executive director of STAR which began 33 years ago as the subject of her master's thesis in therapeutic recreation.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 12

**Time:** Departure and Return times to be announced

**Title:** Field Trip to Oak Ridge Manhattan Project Sites

**Tour Guide:** Ray Smith

If you ever wanted to know more about the Manhattan Project, this is your chance to get your Ph.D on the subject! Come join us as we set off on an all-day guided tour of the Atomic City sites that put it on the map. Among other stops we'll visit the Y-12 History Center, the K-25 History Center

and the International Friendship Bell and Secret City Commemorative Walk. In between we'll have lunch at a local restaurant in Oak Ridge.

Our guide for the day will be Ray Smith who is currently Historian for the City of Oak Ridge. He is also a commissioner on the Tennessee Historical Commission and a Board Member of Atomic Heritage Foundation. He is the retired historian for the Y-12 National Security Complex.

**Date:** Thursday, April 14

**Time:** 1:00

**Title:** The Most Un-Civilized War: Knoxville and East Tennessee in the Civil War

**Speaker:** Mark Blevins

During the American Civil War Knoxville found itself in the unenviable position of having its citizens sharply divided in their loyalties between the Federal government and the Confederacy. In fact, having such events as competing recruiting rallies going on at the same time on Gay Street was not unusual. Such an environment lent itself to the city and region being torn apart from within by the differing factions. In this talk we'll learn what factors brought about such differing loyalties in the area, how these differing loyalties tragically played out and how things stood at the end of the four years of war.

Mark Blevins' study of history began at age five sitting in his grandmother's lap listening to stories of the Civil War she had heard from her grandfather who had fought in the war. He received his formal education at East Tennessee State University, the University of North Carolina, Concord University and Bluefield University. He has taught at the elementary through university levels. He has also been active in numerous Civil War Roundtables, has traveled to and researched every major and most secondary Civil War battlefields and was previously honored by being named East Tennessee History Teacher of the Year.

**Date:** Thursday, April 14

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Title:** Cyber Crimes: How to Protect Yourself and Your Information from Scammers

**Speaker:** FBI Management and Program Analyst Rachael Yurkovich

*Joint Meeting with the Council on Aging*

Did you know that seniors are robbed of approximately \$30,000,000 each year as a result of online scams? And the online and email scams targeting seniors seem to be increasing and becoming more sophisticated each year! Join us as a member of the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) explains how to enjoy the internet while at the same time protecting yourself from fraud and identity theft.

Rachael Yurkovich has been with the FBI for 25 years and with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) for 9 of those years. At the IC3 she is the point of contact person for a number of cybercrime initiatives including those dealing with elder cybercrime, IRS and Social Security fraud and mass marketing fraud. She is a member of the Global Anti-fraud Enforcement Network and has represented the FBI at collaborative meetings in the US, the Hague, Madrid, Spain, and Bern, Switzerland.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 19

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Title:** Murder and Mayhem in East Tennessee

**Speaker:** Dewain Speaks

We tend to think of East Tennesseans as a generally peaceful group of folks. But, East Tennessee has had its share of murder and mayhem incidents. Our speaker has written a book about them and will tell us about cases with interesting subplots and historical significance. In his book, *Murder and Mayhem in East Tennessee*, each chapter covers a story that affected lives and shocked communities. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about these stories and the people and communities involved.

Dewain Speaks is a lifelong resident of East Tennessee. He graduated from the University of Tennessee and had a career in marketing of industrial controls. In addition to *Murder and Mayhem in East Tennessee*, Dewain has written three other books on East Tennessee in World War II, historic disasters in East Tennessee and Weston Fulton, a Knoxville inventor of some renown in the industrial controls arena.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 19

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Title:** I Didn't Intend to Write a Book, But.....

**Speaker:** Georgiana Vines

Most of us have probably read Georgiana Vines' columns in the Knoxville News-Sentinel over the years. Come and join us as she brings us up to date on what has happened to various East Tennessee newsmakers and luminaries that she covered back in the day. Do you know what's happened to the likes of Cissy Baker, Harry Moskos, John Cullum, Sister Marie Cirillo and others? You will after Georgiana's talk!

Although she's officially "retired" from the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Georgiana Vines still writes a political column twice a month for the paper. She began her journalism career in 1961 at The Miami Herald. She also worked in St. Petersburg and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She has been in Knoxville since 1968, except for 1996-97 when she was the

top editor at the El Paso Herald-Post. She has been recognized by the East Tennessee Friends of Literacy, Writers Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Press Association.

**Date:** Thursday, April 21

**Time:** 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

**Title:** What Is It, How Old Is It and Is It Worth Anything?

**Appraiser/Speaker:** John Coker

Have you ever wondered what that curio you bought at a yard sale actually is? Or, is Aunt Mary's brooch that I inherited worth anything? What about, how old is the mantle clock my grandfather gave me? Well now is your chance to find out! Just load up a couple of items (no firearms, please) and bring them with you to SCL. You'll receive on the spot answers and won't have to go on wondering!

John Coker is a lifelong East Tennessean and dealer in antiques. He has collected, appraised and bought and sold antiques for decades. He works with individuals, families and estates in East Tennessee and possesses a wealth of knowledge in almost all areas of the antique world.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 26

**Time:** Departure and Return Times to be announced

**Title:** H.M.S. Titanic Museum Field Trip

Join us as we travel to Pigeon Forge to explore and find out what it was really like to be on the H.M.S. Titanic during that fateful night in April of 1912. We'll tour full-scale reproductions of the cabins, rooms, parlors and salons of the ship as well as the ship's fabled Grand Staircase and Rotunda. We'll view over 400 authentic artifacts from the Titanic and discover what it was like to travel in the first-class suites as well as the cramped third-class rooms. We'll be able (but not required) to walk on decks sloped to the same angle as the decks were on the Titanic as it sank. We'll even be able to see an iceberg and dip our hands into water the same temperature as the Atlantic Ocean was the night the ship disappeared! (The museum is wheelchair accessible and has elevators.) Afterwards we'll have a delicious lunch at the Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant before returning to the O'Connor Center.

**Date:** Thursday, April 28

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Title:** Highlander Research and Education Center

**Speaker:** Elizabeth Wright

Many of us know that the Highlander Center was in the forefront of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, has crusaded for worker health and safety issues for decades and has been active in labor organizing and environmental issues. But did you know that it's been located in nearby New Market, Tennessee, for the past forty-nine years? Join us as we learn about the organization's history, impact on society and current work.

Elizabeth Wright holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Tennessee and is the Development and Communications Director of the Highlander Center.



**Date:** Thursday, April 28

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Title:** Friendly Robots: A New Way of Caring for Alzheimer's and Dementia Patients

**Speaker:** Dr. Xiaopeng Zhao

Technological advances in recent years have led to artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics that can execute complex computations and perform increasingly sophisticated physical tasks. This talk will present examples of friendly AI and robotics technologies which aim to address the physical, cognitive, psychological, social and environmental challenges faced by people with dementia as well as their caregivers. Join us for a fascinating exploration of this emerging field that seeks to help so many individuals faced with tremendous challenges.

Dr. Xiaopeng Zhao received his Ph.D from Virginia Tech. He is a full professor at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville where he is the Director of the One-UT Project on Detection, Care and Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 3

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Title:** Birds of Prey

**Speaker:** Stephen L. Bales

When we think of birds of prey most of us think only of hawks and eagles. But the term includes so many more birds, such as owls, kestrels etc. Our speaker has worked professionally with birds of prey for the past twenty years at Ijams Nature Center and will share with us his knowledge of the birds of prey of East Tennessee. We expect to have a special guest or two that you'll want to meet!

Stephen Bales is a UT Press author and former naturalist at Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 3

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Title:** The Lincoln Conspirators

**Speaker:** Dennis Urban

As most of us know, John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln in April of 1865. But did you know that the conspiracy to kill Lincoln was considerably larger in scope and that it originally began as a plan to kidnap Lincoln? Join us to learn about the real intent and purpose of the conspiracy, the somewhat odd cast of characters involved, how the conspiracy played out and how the conspirators' actions affected the fate of the South after the war. If you like history at all you will not want to miss this presentation!

Dennis Urban, along with being one our most popular presenters, is a consummate researcher, artifact collector and Civil War historian. He recently served three terms as president of the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable and previously served as a docent at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. and at the nearby Peterson House (where Lincoln died.) Prior to taking a job in Oak Ridge in 2004, Dennis had concurrent careers in sales and marketing for 25 years and is also a retired fire chief from Montgomery County, Maryland.

**Date:** Thursday, May 5

**Time:** Departure and Return times to be announced

**Title:** Field Trip to tour the Old Gray Cemetery

Join us as we explore this historic local cemetery which contains the final resting places of many of Knoxville's most famous and influential citizens. The 13 acre cemetery was established in 1850 and was an early example of the "garden" style cemetery that became popular in the mid-nineteenth century. Our tour will be led by Laura Still who gives regular tours of the cemetery and downtown Knoxville. She will provide us with not only the history of the cemetery but can also answer questions concerning any ghosts that may inhabit the environs! After our tour we will have lunch at the Copper Cellar restaurant on Cumberland Avenue.

**Spring 2022**

## **ATTENTION SENIORS**

### **IN PERSON MEETING LOCATION:**

John T. O'Connor Center  
611 Winona Street  
Knoxville, TN 37917  
Phone (865) 523-1135

### **SENIORS FOR CREATIVE LEARNING (SCL) is...**

- A membership organization of seniors dedicated to learning new things and sharing their love of learning with others;
- Informal education designed and developed by SCL members and offered in an informal setting;
- A membership organization available to all seniors, 50 years of age or older;
- Offered twice yearly – spring and fall;
- Supported by the members, membership fees, the University of Tennessee Department of Professional and Personal Development, and the John T. O'Connor Senior Center.

**Note: All sessions, unless otherwise noted, will be presented at the John T. O'Connor Center.**

**Have you heard of a good program that you think SCL members would enjoy hearing? Give one of the Curriculum Committee members a note with the specifics, and we will consider your idea for a future presentation since programs are planned several months in advance. Let us know about the topics and presenters you particularly liked or disliked. We need your feedback to serve you best.**