PREVIOUS NIU LLI STUDY GROUPS

**Fall 2015**
Star Wars in Europe – Dick Dowen
The Journey of Discovery – Sharon Tourville
Music…Music…Musicals! – Pat Vary and Jerry Smith
History and Invention: James Burke’s Connections – Lynn Neeley
Why are Some Nations Rich and Some Poor? – Clark Neher
The 1950s: Part II – George and Elaine Spencer
Conversations with VIPs (Very Interesting People) – Barry Schrader
The World at War: 1914-1918 – Bill Cummings and Carol Zar
Flags and Maps – Dan Dillman
Contemporary Criticisms of College Education – Gary Glenn

**Summer 2015**
This Land is Our Land: America’s National Parks, Part 1 – Born of Fire – Linda Fulton
From Sea to Shining Sea and Beyond: America’s National Monuments, Part 1 – Brian Fulton
Staying Healthy for Seniors – Dave Dick, Kara Gallagher, Lesley Webster, Susan Vezquez and James Vliet
Seventh Annual LLI Summer Film Festival – Brad Pietens

**Spring 2015**
Meditative Traditions in World Religions – Tim Griffin
Great Thinkers in Psychology – Joe Grush
Ballet: France, Russia, Britain and America – Al Resis
An Introductory History of the Bible – Joe Gastiger
How Do We Know That? Thinking about Earth Differently – Wilson Wiedenheft
Rome: The Second Time Around – Judith Testa
The 1950s: Part I – George and Elaine Spencer
Contemporary Southeast Asia – Clark Neher
The Reconstruction Era – Richard Dowen
Explorations in Creativity – Marilyn Cleland

**Winter 2015**
Scandals of All Sorts – Carol Zar
The Changing Media Scene – Barry Schrader
The Game Inside the Game – Dan Dillman
Not Just a Cowboy – Pat McKinley
Asian Religions – Tim Griffin
The One-Room Country School – Guy Todnem
Greeneland – George Spencer
News & Views – Elizabeth Bass
Dancing With The Stars (1920-40 version), Big Bands and More – Paul Pawlowski
Shakespeare’s Bastards and Bad Guys – Lise Schlosser
Fall 2014
Star Wars in the Pacific – Dick Dowen
Better Living, Perhaps – Lynn Neeley
World Cities and a Sense of Place – Dan Dillman
Four Spanish Daughters: Four Spanish Queens – Lise Schlosser
How Do We Know That? Thinking About Earth Differently, Part II – Wilson Wiedenheft
Age of Empire, 1870-1900 – Elaine & George Spencer
Climate Change: Facts and Strategies – Patricia Vary
Pillars of the Normal School, 1899 – Guy Todnem
Orphans of Light: Lost Christianities of the Near East – Rev. Joe Gastiger
Taking Charge of the Rest of Your Life – Joyce Barker & Mary Wiegele
War Stories: World War II – Sharon Dowen
Digital Photography – Jim Womack

Summer 2014
North Side, South Side, All Around Town: Part II – Brian Fulton
“For richer or poorer, in sickness and…” – Brad Pietens
Great American Cookery – Sharon Tourville
Taking Charge of Our Health – Jan Modloff & Gail Venteau

Spring 2014
The Poetry and Music of Love – Joe Gastiger & Jerry Smith
How Do We Know That? Thinking About the Earth Differently – Wilson Wiedenheft
Baseball Through the Ages – Dan Dillman
Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin: Architects of Victory – Al Resis
The British East India Company to Google: Theory and Practice of the Corporation – Dick Dowen
Three Operas by Three Composers from Middle Europe – Jitka Hurych
The 1940s: Part Two – Elaine & George Spencer
Art in Rome Through the Ages – Judith Testa
Old Wine in New Bottles – Clark Neher

Winter 2014
News & Views – Elizabeth Bass
Microbes and You – Pat Vary
Graham Greene: Life on the Edge – George Spencer
What’s New in P-20 Education (Pre-school through Higher Education)?
  What’s New in Teacher Licensure? – Jenny Parker
  Physical Education’s Mission to Teach Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) – Paul Wright
  What is Our Society Doing to Our Students from Mixed-Status Households? – James Cohen
The Bold New World of K-12 School Technology – Cindy York
The Common Core Standards: Promises and Perils – Michael Manderino
Culturally Relevant Pedagogy (CRP) and Whiteness Studies – Joseph Flynn
Assistive Technology – Toni Van Laarhoven
Juggling in the Classroom for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) – Leslie A. Sassone
Cockney Transferred: Mifaire Lidy to Mayfair Lady – Paul Pawlowski
World War II in Perspective – Dan Dillman
North Side, South Side, All Around the Town – Brian Fulton
History of Conservative Thought – Richard Dowen
Lifelong Learners’ Ancestries – Sue Stelling
Why We Travel, How We Travel, Where We Travel? – Jan Modloff
  Service Travel – Mike & Sharon Wadle, Joe & Jean Vaughn
  Different Modes of Transport – Doug & Nancy Dashner, Jan Graefen & Jan Modloff
  Adventure Travel – Sue Prendergast, Dick Dowen
Train Travel & Travel Tips – Ron Klein & Sharon Freagon, Elizabeth Bass

Fall 2013
Innovation and the Third Industrial Revolution – Lynn Neeley
Influential Women in the 20th Century – Carol Zar
In Their Own Words – Lise Schlosser
Listening Creatively and Critically to Rock Music – Glenda Cosenza
Realms that Almost Were: Geographies of Daydreams and Desire – Joe Gastiger
The 1940s, Part One – Elaine and George Spencer
Our Changeable Northern Illinois Weather – Dan Dillman
The DeKalb Environment – Dan Kenney
The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln – Al Ottens
Writing to Remember, Reconstruct, and Give Meaning to the Stories of Our Lives
  – Marilyn Cleland
Snapshot or Photograph? – Tom Smith
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) at NIU – Omar Ghrayeb, Clifford Mirman, Promod Vohra, and Mansour Tahernezhadi

Summer 2013
The Meaning of Gettysburg – Richard Dowen
The Learning Mystique – Brad Pietens
Food for Thought: Three Vegetables and Chocolate – Gail Venteau
Medications & Medical Issues – Jan Modloff and Gail Venteau

Spring 2013
Renaissance Art of Tuscany: Politics, War, Religion, and Sex – Judith Testa
The Civil War Behind the Scenes – Al Ottens
Russia Through the Eyes of Foreigners: Three Films by Russian Filmmaker
  Nikita Mikhalkov – Jitka Hurych
Abraham Lincoln’s Spiritual Journey: Then and Now – Rev. Bill Moore
International Crises – Clark Neher
The Personality of Cities – Dan Dillman
Film Comedy: From Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton to Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers – Albert Resis
The 1930s: Part II – Elaine and George Spencer
Common Sense and How We Use It – Robert Suchner
Birds in Art and Life – Peter Olson
Finance for Poets – Dick Dowen
Just for the Thrill of It – Sharon Dowen
News & Views – Elizabeth Bass

Winter 2013
Naming the Land – Dan Dillman
Living with Wildlife in Illinois – Gail Venteau
News & Views – Elizabeth Bass
Smorgasbord of Talent – Three Swedish Americans – Paul Pawlowski
Asian Religions – Tim Griffin
Peril in the Skies: Germany WWII – George W. Spencer
Aluminum Overcast – Richard Dowen
How Does YOUR Garden Grow? – Sue Stelling with Misty Haji-Sheikh, Candice Miller, Tim Riley and Janet Giesen

Fall 2012
The American Civil Rights Movement: Some Personal Accounts – Cliff Eaton and Robert Suchner
The Imperative of Energy Efficiency and Renewables – Pat Vary
Violence – Clark Neher
Topics in the Constitution of the United States – Gary Glenn
Archeology and Fiction – Winifred Creamer and Arlene Neher
The 1930s – Elaine and George Spencer
Why Can’t We Talk to Each Other – Richard Dowen
Trains in Film – Bill Cummings'
Shakespeare in America – Lise Schlosser

Summer 2012
Easy Travel – Sharon Dowen, Mary Lincoln, Sharon Tourville, and Carol Zar
Media in DeKalb County – Barry Schrader and Jerry Smith
Profiles in Patriotism – Richard Dowen
Back Against the Wall – 4th Annual Summer Film Festival – Brad Pietens

Spring 2012
World War II at Sea: Submarines, Codes, Convoys, and Tin Cans – Richard Dowen
Frontiers of Science – Jerrold and Carol Zar
Peril on the Sea – George Spencer
The Greater Journey – Paul Pawlowski and Sharon Tourville
Reconsidering Disability – Greg Long
Comparative Religions – Joe Gastiger
The Joy of Music from Vivaldi and Bach to Copland and Bernstein – Albert Resis
Literature and Film: Responses to Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway* – Lise Schlosser
Castles, Palaces, and Vineyards in Europe – Location, Location, Location! – Dan & Joanne Dillman
*Blue, White, and Red* – Jan Graefen, Sue Lehto, Marilyn Loy, and Jan Modloff
Digital Photography – James Womack

**Winter 2012**
DeKalb County’s Business Climate – Carol Zar
The Meaning and Joy of Food – Lise Schlosser
Bravo Bernstein – Paul Pawlowski
Money Wise – Sue Stelling
Social Media – Clint Cargile
News and Views – Elizabeth Bass
Aviation Highlights – Richard Dowen
Postwar America Through Film – George Spencer

**Fall 2011**
American Political Philosophy from Jefferson to the Tea Party – Dick Dowen and Robert Suchner
Opera – Clark Neher
The 1920s – Elaine and George Spencer
My Kind of Musical Town – Chicago Is – Cliff Eaton and Jerry Smith
Environmental Geology – Clarence Cassella
Intimate Strangers: Unseen Life on Earth – Pat Vary
Women and Children and the Courts – Sharon Tourville
Statistics in Our Lives – Jerry Zar
China Today: An Introduction – Albert Resis
History of American Railroads and the Railroad Industry – Bill Cummings
Spanish for Travelers – Jan Modloff
News and Views – Elizabeth Bass
Women of Interest – Sharon Dowen

**Summer 2011**
Beer Me Liberty or Beer Me Death: The History of Beer in America – Clint Cargile
Say “Cheese!” – Sharon Dowen
Photography – Larry Gregory
Film Festival: The Other Side of Genius – Brad Pietens

Spring 2011
Local Government: Form, Function, Finance – Carol Zar and Irene Rubin
“The Father of Waters Flows Unvexed to the Sea” – Richard Dowen
Unlikely Stories: Breaking Open Parables and Fables – Rev. Joe Gastiger
Topics in the Constitution of the United States – Gary D. Glenn
Burma/Myanmar – Arlene Neher, Catherine Raymond, Richard Cooler, Kenton Clymer, Clark Neher, and George Spencer
The Symphony Orchestra: Instruments, Players, and Composers – Albert Resis
Lighthouses, Shipwrecks, Ghost Stories, and Folklore of the Great Lakes – Dan and Joanne Dillman
Countries Without Borders…and Other Islands! – Steven Johnson
Local Faith Communities – Sue Stelling

Winter 2011
Rootin’, Tootin’, and Freebootin’ – Clint Cargile
The Girl of the Golden West: Opera and Operetta Compared – Clark Neher and Paul Pawlowski
News and Views – Elizabeth Bass
Preserving Local History – Sue Stelling
Swashbucklers: Afternoons at the Movies – George W. Spencer
The Social Construction of Reconstruction – Jack King
Lies, Damn Lies, and Economics – Richard Dowen
Learning to Hear the Music in Rock – Glenda Consenza
Our Game: The Story of Baseball – Dan Dillman and Walt Owens

Fall 2010
Words We Love More than the Things Themselves – Joe Gastiger
A Geologist’s View of the Modern Solar System – Clarence Casella
World War I – Elaine and George Spencer
Hoffmann’s Stories: The Nutcracker and More – Paul Pawlowski
The Politics of Mid-Term Elections – Elizabeth Bass and Carol Zar
Roadside Attractions – Dan Dillman
“I just couldn’t put it down” Book Group – Sharon Dowen
The Symphony Orchestra: Instruments, Players, and Composers – Albert Resis
Topics of the American Civil War – Richard Dowen
Stem Cells – Laszlo Hanzely
“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”: Shakespeare’s Women – Lise Mae Schlosser
Elvis Lives…and Appears at LLI – Jerry Smith

Summer 2010
Photography – Jim Womack
Spring 2010
County Government and Its Role in Dealing with Health and Human Services – Eileen Dubin
Twilight of the Old Order: The World 1900 – 1914 – Elaine and George Spencer
The Human Immune System – Lazlo Hanzely
Tour de France: Four Operas – Clark Neher
Awaiting the Revenge of Heaven: Tracing the Roots of Christian Militancy and Islamic Jihad – Joe Gastiger
Baseball past and present – Dan Dillman
Building a House Divided – Richard Dowen
Giving Back: The Charitable Side of Life – Jerry Smith
U.S. Supreme Court: Personalities and Process – Lou Pierce and Paul Pawlowski
Know More about Your Computer than a 12-year-old – Jack Reich

Winter 2010
So You Always Wanted to Act, A Performance Class: Spoon River Anthology – Jo Anne Fox
Life in the 1930s – David Kyvig
Creating a Family Heirloom: From Foggy Ideas to Actual Keepsake – Mary Wiegele
News and Views – Elizabeth Bass
Gettysburg – Richard Dowen
Pygmalion/My Fair Lady – Paul Pawlowski
The Small World of Nanotechnology: Theory and Application – Promod Vohra
Seven Continents of Travel – Steven Johnson
Cities in Cinema – Kathleen Turner

Fall 2009
The Last Half Billion Years of Planet Earth – Clarence Casella
Theatre Artists in Production: Exploring How the Written Page Becomes Living Theatre – Jo Anne Fox
Arrgh! The Real Pirates – George W. Spencer
The Big Read: The Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe – Christine Brovelli O’Brien
The Application of Ethics to Real Situations – Richard Dowen
Herbal Medicine – Lazlo Hanzely
Dancing in the Dark: A Beginner’s Guide to Mystical Traditions of the West – Joe Gastiger
Stormy Weather – Dan Dillman
Theory to Practice: Crime, Deviance, and Social Justice – Jack King
Cambodia Reborn – Judy Ledgerwood and Clark Neher
The Mysteries Women Write – Sharon Dowen

Summer 2009
Opera Galas – Clark Neher
Film Festival – Brad Pietens
The Philosophy of Ayn Rand – Richard Dowen
Back to the Future: The Financial Manias of 1720 – Rob Bresticker
Exploring NIU

Spring 2009
World War II: Other Perspectives – George Spencer, Arlene Neher, and Elaine Spencer
World Religions – Joe Gastiger
Victory at Sea – Gilby Mehagan
Life after Work – Darrell Wiley
Savvy Consumer – Richard Dowen
They Also Ran…Presidential Aspirants – Carol Zar
*Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution* – Clark Neher
Renewable Energy and Our Future – Pat Vary
Three Kings and a Duke – Paul and Marlene Pawlowski
Victorian Poetry: Art and Anxiety – Christine Brovelli
Human Nutrition – Lazlo Hanzely
Build Strength, Balance, and Flexibility – Pamela MacFarlane
Immigrant Stories: Melting Pot or Tossed Salad? – Arlene Neher
From Short Story to Film – Kathleen Turner

Winter 2009
Hate Speech and Freedom of Speech – Richard Johannesen
Federal Law Enforcement – Jack King
U.S. Foreign – Tom Diedrich
The Juvenile Court through the Eyes of a CASA Advocate – Joanne Dillman
Fall 2008
An Introductory History of the Bible – Joe Gastiger
The BIG READ: To Kill a Mockingbird – Kathy Dust
The Lyric Opera – Clark Neher
Courageous Conversations About Race – LaMetra Curry
Exploring India: The Highlights – George Spencer
The Immune System – Laszlo Hanzley
Digital Photography Workshop 1 – Jim and Jan Womack
Digital Photography Workshop 2 – Jim and Jan Womack
Cole and Noel: You're the Tops! – Paul Pawlawski
Route 66: The Mother Road – Dan Dillman
Colonial America – Ross Legg
Stem Cell Fundamentals and Research – Darrell Wiley
Making the Most of Your Computer – Norma Wiley
Economics for Poets – Richard Down

Summer 2008
Contemporary Issues Forum – Carol Zar
Digital Photography Workshop – Jim Womack
The Life and Death in the Republic of Ancient Rome – Dave Thomas
Art Cinema in the Summer – Robert Self
Getting to Know NIU

Spring 2008
Nuts and Bolts of Personal Investing – Richard Dowen
Choosing a President – Carol Zar
Jewish Answers to Life’s Questions – Avi Bass
Three All-American Composers – Paul Pawlawski
Strength and Flexibility – Pamela Macfarlane
Surfing the Net – Norma Wiley
You Can Take Charge of your Health – Buzz and Carl Hays
Vietnam – Clark Neher
Overcoming your Barriers to Total Wellness and Balance – Rebecca Cohen
Islam for Beginners – Allan Wantroba
Enter the Palace of Healing Possibilities – Joe Puelo and Rebecca Cohen
An Introduction to Psychedelic Studies – Tom Roberts
Let’s Talk Baseball – Dan Dillman
Traveling in Spanish – Speaking Countries: Language, Customs, Cultures- Jan Modloff
Mobility and Balance – Pamela Macfarlane
What’s New on the Farm – Pat and Gilby Mehagan
Seven Wonders of the World – Arlene and Steven Johnson
Transformations of Religious Images and Spiritual Visions in 20th Century Art:
   Picasso to Kiki Smith – Jerry Meyer

Winter 2008
Issues and Challenges of Living in a Technological Society – Promod Vohra
Freedom of Speech and the Marketplace of Ideas – Richard Johannesen
A Beginner’s Guide to Protestant Reformation – Joe Gastiger
Indian Immigrants in American Literature – George W. Spencer
Understanding Personal Investing – Richard Dowen
Opera Ovations – Clark Neher
Growth and Development in DeKalb and Kane County – Carol Zar
Ancient Greece: Tyranny and Democracy – David Thomas

Fall 2007
Entheogens--Sacramentals or Sacrilege – Thomas Roberts
Safe Food and Common Sense – Norman Schmitt
Crime Scene Processing – James Rossi (1 session)
Wine Appreciation – Louis Schoenburg (2 sessions)
Tools to Help You Be Part of Your Own Healing – Rebecca Cohen & Joe Puleo
   (5 sessions)
How to Build a Habitable Planet: The Early History of Planet Earth – Clarence Cassella
Race in American Musicals – Paul Pawlowski
American Foreign Policy Problems – Lyle Sykora
Human Genetics – Lazlo Hanzely (6 sessions)
Scandals, Seductions, Seditious, and Spying: Rebellious Women of the Renaissance – Lise Mae Schlosser
Lincoln: The War Years – Rossell Legg

Summer 2007
Independence Keeps You Living Happy, Wild, and Free – Carl Hays
Best American Short Stories: 2006 – Sol Feldman
News & Views – Elizabeth Bass
Love Poetry of the Renaissance – Karley Adney
Issues and Challenges of Living in a Technological Society – Dept of Engineering
The Civil War – Ross Legg

Spring 2007
Guns, Germs, and Steel – Walker Bowman
Forensic Crime Scene Investigation – James Rossi
Achieving Whole Life Wellness – Rebecca Cohen
Surfing the Web – Norma Wiley
Balance, Strength and Mobility: Enhancing Your Quality of Life – Pommy Macfarlane
New Frontiers in the Life Sciences – Laszlo Hanzely
Race in American Musicals – Paul Pawlowski
Gold, Diamonds, and the Adamantine: Buddhism and its Visual Expressions – Richard Cooler
Baseball Past and Present – Dan Dillman
What’s So Special About Harry Potter? – Karley Adney
J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb Project – Axel Meyer
Sacred Places: Mountains – Arlene Neher & Steven Johnson