

# SOARING!

SPRING 2024

The Newsletter of  
**SOAR**

Lifelong learning in the North Country

Sponsored by:



Affiliated with:

**ROAD SCHOLAR**  
Adventures in Lifelong Learning

## STATISTICS:

### Registered Members:

Spring 2024: 227

Fall 2023: 245

Spring 2023: 247

Fall 2023: 264

Spring: 2022: 165

Spring: 2020: 268

Fall 2019: 336



## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

*Hello, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Alicia Walter and during our January Board meeting, I moved from the Vice Chair position to the Chair position. Our amazing Chair and SuperSOARer, Janet vanWeringh, stepped down from the position at that time and will still be around*

*imparting her wisdom and knowledge. Thank you, Janet! My first introduction to SOAR was a few years ago when my husband was one of the presenters. I was able to attend the Luncheon with him and thought what a great organization! I was not retired at that time and thought when I did, I would love to take some classes. Well, I took some classes, became an ambassador and soon after was asked to be on the board. I have been learning about the inner workings of SOAR since that time. Watching the committees comprised of volunteers who put many hours into doing their absolute best for their SOAR members with one amazing Administrative Assistant keeping it all moving seamlessly. Thank you to everyone! I am honored to be a part of SOAR and the mission to bring great classes to the membership. I will do my very best to help SOAR continue to keep that mission alive.*

*SOAR on everyone!*

*- Alicia Walter*

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### SPRING LUNCHEON

**MAY 15TH**

**@ 11:30 AM**

SEE DETAILS WITHIN

## SOAR COMMITTEES AT WORK

### News from the Nominating & Awards Committee

The Nominating & Awards Committee met in March to propose a nominee for the SuperSOARer Award, which is presented at SOAR's Spring luncheon. This year's winner is Carol McRobbie, who has contributed significantly and tirelessly for SOAR by serving on the Curriculum Committee, the Bylaws Committee, and the Publications Committee as well as chairing the Registration Committee. Many thanks to Carol for her commitment and many hours of volunteer work in supporting SOAR!

The Leon LeBeau Award is given in the Fall to honor an outstanding presenter or presenters of SOAR courses. The 2023 recipients were Brenda Francey and Kay Russell, who have taught many, many years of Mah Jongg and other courses. Please note that nominations for BOTH awards can be made throughout the entire year by mailing your suggestions with a short description to [jababcock@live.com](mailto:jababcock@live.com).

Betty Graham, for many years the Chair of the Nominating & Awards Committee, has relocated to Michigan and says she misses SOAR and all the people she met through courses and while on the Board of Directors. Thank you, Betty, for your dedication to SOAR and for your wonderful speeches honoring past winners of all SOAR awards!

The committee welcomes Arlene Oey as our newest committee member and is happy to have her join us. We are currently at our required minimum number of members with Sharon Reagan, Barb McBurnie, Arlene, and me and would like to add at least two new committee members to help honor the folks who work on behalf of SOAR. Those interested in serving on the N & A Committee do not have to be members of the Board of Directors. Interested? Contact me at the email address given above.

The Board of Directors also has two open positions, which involves canvassing the SOAR membership for good candidates who wish to help further SOAR.

**Juanita Babcock**, Chair of N & A Committee

*Board Members at Monthly Board Meeting*



*Dr. Alexander Stewart at Tree Rings and Roadways*

## News from the Ambassador Committee

The Ambassador Committee is busy obtaining ambassadors for our courses this semester. In some cases, no one volunteered to serve as an ambassador for a particular course, but members “stepped up” and volunteered - thank you!!

The committee is constantly revising the ambassador’s duties. For example, ambassadors no longer send Course Reminder emails to class members - two volunteers are sending them all this semester. This relieves Juanita, our Administrative Assistant, from doing it, giving her more time to deal with the issues that come up in the office. Also, we now have an Ambassador Committee Liaison – the ambassador’s “go to” person for any issue that may arise. And we continue to update our guidelines.

Serving as an ambassador is an interesting position and one that assists SOAR in having the semester run smoothly. If you have considered becoming an ambassador, there is no better time than now to “step up.” Need assistance or have any questions? Feel free to contact a member of the committee. Members are:

Bill Mein – [BillMeinFromSOAR@gmail.com](mailto:BillMeinFromSOAR@gmail.com)

Brian Gardam – [BrianGardam@gmail.com](mailto:BrianGardam@gmail.com)

Anne Hopkins – [hopkins2ink@gmail.com](mailto:hopkins2ink@gmail.com)

Carol Rossi-Fries – [CarolRows123@gmail.com](mailto:CarolRows123@gmail.com)

**Bill Mein**, Chair of Ambassador Committee

### News from the Registration Committee

SOAR currently has 227 members registered for our Spring 2024 courses. This includes 14 members who joined SOAR this Spring. Please continue introducing your friends and family to our wonderful SOAR organization!

I would like to recognize and thank the team of SOAR members who volunteered to register you for courses this semester: Juanita Babcock, Elisabeth Blackmore, Laurell Brault, Judy Chittenden, Anne and Steve Hopkins, Barbara McBurnie, Sally Murray, Nancy Rehse, Jerry Sharp, Phil and Mary Shatraw, Susan Stebbins, Deborah Steinberg, Alicia Walter, Janet van Weringh and Byron Whitney.

We still have openings in 20 courses that were scheduled to be taught later this Spring to accommodate members who spend the winter away from NNY. I have listed them below. If you would like to register for any of these courses, please email me at [soarregister@gmail.com](mailto:soarregister@gmail.com) or contact the SOAR office at [soar@potdam.edu](mailto:soar@potdam.edu).

**Carol McRobbie**, Chair of Registration Committee



### Course Title

- 1 AARP Driver Safety
- 5 The Art of Pressed Flowers
- 7 The Beatles: Revolution
- 11 Corruption in Europe
- 12 Disney World Tips for Older Adults
- 16 Graphic Novels as Literature
- 17 Growing Dahlias in the North Country
- 18 Hospice 101
- 19 I'll Be Gone in the Dark: Using Genetic Genealogy
- 21 Intro to Fitness Center
- 24 The Kibbutz: an Experiment in Communism
- 26 Mah Jongg for Everyone
- 33 Removing Toxic Textile Dyes from Water
- 35 Rules of Evidence in Criminal Proceedings
- 36 Stretching for Couch Potatoes (ongoing)
- 37 Tai Chi Beginning (ongoing)
- 38 Tai Chi Continuing (ongoing)
- 39 Think You Know a lot about Chocolate?
- 41 Urban Farming and Growing Indoors
- 46 Intro to Fitness Center—repeat of Course #21

### Dates

- 5/7-5/8
- 4/27
- 4/5,4/12 & 4/19
- 4/5
- 4/18
- 5/7
- 4/26-5/10
- 5/6
- 4/22
- 4/15
- 4/19
- 4/18-5/9
- 4/15
- 4/10-4/24
- 3/21-5/9
- 3/19-5/7
- 3/19-5/9
- 4/17
- 4/19-4/26
- 4/15

## A REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE

Changes occur frequently during the semester, so **please** check your email *regularly*.

If you're on a Waitlist for a course, chances are a spot will open to allow your enrollment. You will be notified via email.

Occasionally, classes are cancelled—check your email and/or the SOAR website.

Locations may change or be updated; you will be notified via email. The website will also reflect the change in location.

Bottom line: Please check your **email** and **website** frequently during the SOAR 10-week semester!

**[www.soarnorthcountry.org](http://www.soarnorthcountry.org)**

**Juanita Blakemore**, Admin Assistant



## Contact Us

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**SOAR OFFICE**