

The Association of Lifelong Learners

February 2026



Association of Lifelong Learners
665 Johnson St., Alpena, MI 49707
989-358-7207

Email: all@alpenacc.edu

Website: associationoflifelonglearners.org

Office Hours: Mon & Fri 11:00 am—3:00 pm
Tues & Thurs 9:00 am -1:00 pm—Closed Wed

*Production of the ALL Program Guide
is generously sponsored by McFalda Law Office.*

Historical Society of Michigan

The Archaeological Conservancy: Preserving Archaeology in Michigan

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

12:00-1:00 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 143

Coordinator: Ron Young

989-884-4011

The Archaeological Conservancy's mission is to preserve and protect significant archaeology sites across the country. Join us to learn more about how they fulfill this mission across eleven midwestern states, and specifically how they protect archaeological sites here in Michigan.

This program will be offered via ZOOM at ACC Madeline Briggs University Center room 143 . Bring your lunch and watch this with your ALL friends.



Writing Workshop

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 143

Coordinator: MaryAnn Krajnik Crawford

989-916-5540

This writing workshop series focuses on writing, sharing, and feedback. Everyone has stories, some are told, some are written, and some, like memoirs, are written to be shared with others.

Mary Ann Krajnik Crawford has been a personal journal writer and teacher of writing for many years.



What's Up Alpena

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

1:30-2:30 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140

Coordinator: Wendy Payne

703-472-5862

Best experienced in person at ACC Madeline Briggs University Center but available via Zoom : Meeting id: 846 2793 9558 Passcode: 678181

A look at Alpena's Downtown Development projects from 2025 and going forward into 2026. What was completed, what's the status of in-progress activities and what's on the slate for the future. This should be interesting and "good to know" for all Alpena residents and our close-by neighbors who want to learn what's happening in Alpena downtown.

Anne Gentry is the Executive Director of the Alpena Downtown Development Authority, whose mission it is to cultivate economic vitality in Downtown Alpena by bringing people together to create a thriving community for businesses, residents, property owners, and visitors. Since 2017, she has secured over \$2.6 million in grant funds to support and kickstart 27 downtown redevelopment projects, public art initiatives, and historic preservation projects. She grew up in Alpena and is proud to be a part of downtown's renaissance in her role at the DDA.

The Church

Thursday, February 5, 2026

1:30-3:00 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140

Coordinator: Pat Garant

231-640-9320

Why does the church exist? Do the creeds define belief that makes any sense in the 21st century? Is Christianity in its many forms losing the ability to frame serious discussion in today's modern world? Are we taking care of a dying church? For the first time the number of self-identifying Christians, by some polls, is less than 50 percent. Many churches across the theological and cultural perspective show the real stress of decline. It is obvious that many congregations are smaller and older. Why has this happened? Come and hear what Reverend Bob Case has to say about this.

Bob Case is a pastor emeritus from the First Congregational United Church of Christ and keeps trying to enjoy his full retirement. He continues to offer thoughtful presentations giving ALL members much to consider and ponder.

Magnificent Mexico

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

1:30 –3:00 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140

Coordinator: Linda Ferguson

402-679-7669

Zoom: Meeting ID: 820 1954 8831 Passcode: 556930

Lori and Mike are excited to share their recent Road Scholar Trip to Mexico City. The trip highlighted many of the cultural, historical and archaeological highlights of this ancient city including ruins and archaeological sites and arts. Plan to attend for a deep dive into the history of this often-overlooked city and cultural hub in the Americas.

Lori Vought is a retired Alpena Public Schools Counselor with **Mike Vought** both aspiring world travelers.

 **Behind the Scenes—Chocolatier at work decorating chocolates**

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

1:30 – 3:00 pm

North Country Candy and Gifts, 1045 N. Bagley, Alpena

Coordinator: Linda Ferguson

402-679-7669

Get a jump on Valentine's Day with a stroll through the many sweets available at North Country Candy and Gifts. Chocolatier Jessica will take you behind the scenes and share with you the secrets of decorating your own chocolates. Yum!

Attendance is limited to 15, be sure to reserve your place early.

Jessica Brown has been the owner of North Country Candy and gifts since January of 2025. She has been associated with North Country five years. Moving to the Alpena area during Covid to care for a relative, North Country was one of the few places hiring. She learned to make fudge, chocolate, and the private recipe caramel corn popular with so many. She became part owner in 2024 and is very happy that she and her husband became sole owners in 2025.

Historical Society of Michigan

A Leap From the Clouds: Michigan's Early Aeronauts

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

7:00-8:00 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 143

Coordinator: Ron Young

989-884-4011

Michigan's early aeronautic pioneers daringly mixed entertainment and engineering. Whether they were acrobatic balloonists like the Herrguth Brothers or pilots like Donald "The Birdman" McGee, these aeronaut "professors" put their experiments to the test in front of captivated crowds in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

This program will be offered via ZOOM at ACC Madeline Briggs University Center room 143.

Moveable Feast—JJ's Steak and Pizza House

Thursday, February 12, 2026

11:30-1:00 pm

411 N. Second Avenue, Alpena

Coordinator: Jane Roose

989-255-5673

Cost: Each participant is responsible for the cost of their meal and beverage.

Join the ALL Moveable Feast for a Valentine's celebration at JJs Steak and Pizza House at 411 N. Second Avenue in Old Town Alpena. Make a Valentine's date to enjoy lunch and then take in the Bifocal Brass music program at Alpena Community College shortly after. Please feel free to invite someone who has not experienced our "fun" feasts. Please call the ALL office at 989-358-7207 or email all@alpenacc.edu or **register online** for a reservation so the restaurant and coordinator can plan accordingly.

John Benson and son Jon Benson started the restaurant on October 3, 1993, as a small family restaurant with a kitchen and pass-through window. In 1995 they added a catering business that continues to grow. In 1997 they added additional space for dining and a whole new kitchen. The old kitchen became the catering kitchen. They added a catering rental business. They have added two banquet rooms and have purchased the rest of the building and the back parking lot block and are doing more remodeling.



Adventures in Music

Featuring Bifocal Brass—A Community Sextet

Thursday, February 12, 2026 1:30 to 3:00 PM

Granum Theatre ACC

Organize and Declutter**Friday, February 13, 2026****10:00-11:00 am****ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140****Coordinator: Judy Reimann****989-657-0806**

Why should I? How should I start? What should I do with my stuff? This talk is to inspire everyone to get their living spaces to the way they want them. Help hints will be given and questions answered.

Doris Puls is a professional organizer whose goal is to organize Alpena!

What is Wellsport?**Tuesday, February 17, 2026****12:00 – 1:00 pm****ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140****Coordinator: Tom Hilberg****989-464-5569****ZOOM: Meeting ID: 819 0554 1164 Passcode: 152526**

PowerPoint presentation to discuss the non-surgical treatments available for arthritis, tendonitis and other acute and chronic orthopedic conditions. Additionally, we will learn about what the specialty of sports medicine is, and what the WellSport Program at MyMichigan is all about. You do not need to be an athlete to see a sports-medicine provider!

Dr. Shelby Crawford is a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician with specialized training in primary care sports medicine. As a provider of MyMichigan's WellSport Program, she specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of a variety of musculoskeletal and sports-related injuries and medical conditions. Dr. Crawford treats patients of all ages and works with athletes of all levels from competitive athletes to weekend warriors. In addition to injury prevention, she provides non-surgical treatment to patients suffering from orthopedic injuries including strains, sprains, contusions, fractures, joint pain and overuse injuries including arthritis and tendonitis. Treatments are designed to help patients maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

**Journal Writing****Wednesday, February 18, 2026****11:00 – 12:30 pm****ACC Madeline Briggs Center 143****Coordinator: Mary Ann Krajnik Crawford****989-916-5540**

This session invites us to write for ourselves and others. Journal writing is a first step for creating stories, capturing memories, and exploring our ideas and feelings. This is writing for fun and insight in a no-pressure atmosphere. You can write in response to prompts I will bring or about whatever you choose, and you can do as much or as little writing and sharing as our time allows.

Mary Ann Krajnik Crawford has been a personal journal writer and teacher of writing for many years.

Hearing Healthcare
Thursday, February 19, 2026 **2:00-3:00 pm**
ACC Madeline Briggs 140
Coordinator: Mike Mandrick **989-255- 2699**
Zoom: Meeting ID: 865 5861 3326 Passcode: 751160

This program offers information on when you should start thinking about a hearing test and/or consultation for possible hearing aids. How to get the most out of hearing aids. Why it is so important for continued use of them for overall health and wellness.

Jennifer Gruschke has been a licensed audiologist for 31 years. She has worked in diverse settings including hospitals, ENT office and private practice audiology settings. She has been with Northern Hearing Services since 2003.

Immanuel Lutheran School
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 **1:30 – 2:30 pm**
ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140
Coordinator: Bev Bodem **989-354-4656**
Best experienced in person at ACC Madeline Briggs University Center but available via Zoom : Meeting id: 870 9030 8170 Passcode: 182545

This presentation provides an overview of the planned expansion of Immanuel Lutheran School in Alpena and how it will serve students and families in the local community with continued and growing Christian education opportunities. Immanuel has offered parochial education for around 145 years and this expansion aims to open more rooms for continued growth in the elementary level while also adding the secondary level of education. The presentation also outlines the reasons for the expansion, the educational opportunities it will provide, and how the project is being approached thoughtfully and responsibly to ensure long-term sustainability and community benefit.

Pastor Joshua Schultz serves as the Principal at Immanuel Lutheran School.

Have a presentation or hobby to share? Know someone who has presentation or hobby to share? Have a topic you would like to learn more about. Contact the ALL Office to at 989-358-7207 or email all@alpenacc.edu to share your ideas. ALL is always looking for new material .

AHS Tech Workshop

Thursday, February 26, 2026

3:00–5:00 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 143

Coordinator: Linda Ferguson

402-679-7667

Bring any and all of your technology devices that are giving you headaches to this workshop. Bring in all your questions about those devices to this workshop. The AHS students of DECA** club are here to help. These students know it all, if one can't help another can. Club advisor Amanda Pilarski also shares her knowledge and skills. This is one-on-one help that focuses on **your** situation and concerns.

The students participate in various statewide competitions in the spring. If you find their skills helpful and valuable, any donation to help offset the expense of these competitions would be appreciated.

** Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) is a high school and college program for students interested in business. The organization prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

If you missed an ALL program that you wanted to catch, you may find it on our YouTube channel. Over 200 programs have been recorded and can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@associationoflifelonglearn3593>

ALL prefers that you register for our programs, but if things change in your schedule, give the ALL office a call @ (989) 358-7207 or call the program coordinator to let us know you are coming or not.



Established in 1828, the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) is our state's oldest cultural organization and helps connect Michigan's past to its residents and organizations through programs and events, publications, awards, workshops, networking opportunities, and support for local history organizations.

HSM is a member-supported educational 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We receive no appropriated funds from the state of Michigan. While not a part of state government, HSM is the official state historical society by law. We are not collection based and have no exhibits or archives and do not operate the state museum or archives housed at the Michigan Historical Center in downtown Lansing.

Recently, ALL has procured a membership to this wonderful organization. In this month's guide you will see programs of interest:

The Archaeological Conservancy: Preserving Archaeology in Michigan
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 - 12:00 -1:00 pm.

A Leap From the Clouds: Michigan's Early Aeronauts
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm

We hope you will find these programs from HSM a great addition to our goal of continual learning while discovering more about this great state of Michigan.

FEBRUARY RECURRING SESSIONS



PICKLEBALL

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 - 11:00 am

APlex

Coordinator: Pamela Borchert

989-464-6044

Pickleball continues. Call the APlex for additional info @ 989-354-6164. APlex fees apply.



Duplicate Bridge

Mondays

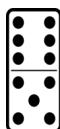
12:15 - 4:00 pm

Call for Location in Alpena. Call Marcy at

989-354-2306

or Bev at 989-595-5119 for more information

This is a form of Bridge where partners play a fixed set of hands in competition with several other partners to see who does the best. This form of Bridge is for experienced Bridge partners interested in some friendly competition. It is also appropriate for individual experienced Bridge players interested in subbing from time to time.



Mexican Train Dominoes

Tuesdays

9:15 - 11:30 am

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 143

Coordinator: Eileen Wikaryasz

989-340-0608

Ready for a fun, addictive and fast-moving game that has lots of surprising twists and turns? Join us for Mexican Train Dominoes! You may join our class any time during the year.



Pinochle

Wednesdays

12:30 - 3:00 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140

Coordinator: Mary Ann Kenne

989-255-4414

Julie Byrnes is inviting you to join her and others in single deck Pinochle on Wednesdays.

ALL is supported by membership fees. Guests are always welcome. A modest donation from guests for the value of your experience is always appreciated.

RECURRING SESSIONS



Spitzer

Thursdays

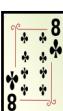
10:00 - 11:30 am

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140

Coordinator: Marilyn Klingshirn

989-354-0884

Spitzer is a challenging card game that requires lots of concentration. It is played extensively in our area, mainly around Rogers City, Alpena, Posen, and regular tournaments are held. Spitzer-challenged people are welcome to come learn the game. Experienced players are welcome to come enjoy playing and guiding the newbies. Name tags encouraged.



Contract Bridge

Fridays

12:30 - 3:00 pm

ACC Madeline Briggs Center 140

Coordinator: Julie Byrnes

734-761-2123

This is an ongoing group of varied players who welcome all players at any time. We are a teaching class but welcome experienced players also.



Square Dancing

Fridays

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Call Glenn Taylor for Location

Coordinator: Glenn Taylor

803-292-9613

Dancing is the Best Activity for Brain Health - Square Dancing is super fun as well! Come join our very active group. No partner needed. Singles and beginners are welcome! We meet most Fridays from 4-6 PM. Call Glenn at 803-292-9613 for location.

Recurring Programs are held the same day of the week in any given month. To find detailed dates of these programs, please refer to the Calendar on Page 11.

February 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	S
1	2 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Dup Bridge 12:15 - 4 pm	3 Dominoes 9:15-11:30 am Archaeological Conservancy 12:00-12:45 pm	4 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Writing Wrkshp 11:00 -12:30 pm Pinochle 12:30-3:00 pm What's Up Alpena 1:30-2:30 pm	5 Spitzer 10 - 11:30 am The Church 1:30-3:00 pm	6 Pickleball 9:00 -11:00 am Bridge 12:30 - 3:00 pm Sq Dancing 4 - 6 pm	7
8	9 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Dup Bridge 12:15 - 4 pm	10 Dominoes 9:15-11:30 am Magnificent Mexico 1:30-3:00 pm	11 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Pinochle 12:30-3:00 pm North Country 1:30-3:00 pm A Leap—HSM 7:00-7:45 pm	12 Spitzer 10 - 11:30 am Moveable Feast JJ's 11:30-1:00 pm Adventures in Music 1:30-3:00 pm	13 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Organize and Declutter 10:00-11:00 am Bridge 12:30 - 3:00 pm Sq Dancing 4 - 6 pm	1 4
15	16 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Dup Bridge 12:15 - 4 pm	17 Dominoes 9:15-11:30 am What is Wellsport? 12:00-1:00 pm	18 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Journal Writing 11:00-12:30 pm Pinochle 12:30-3:00 pm	19 Spitzer 10 - 11:30 am Hearing Healthcare 2:00-3:00 pm	20 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Bridge 12:30 - 3:00 pm Sq Dancing 4 - 6 pm	2 1
22	23 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Dup Bridge 12:15-4:00 pm	24 Dominoes 9:15-11:30 am Immanuel Lutheran School 1:30-2:30 pm	25 Pickleball 9:00-11:00 am Pinochle 12:30-3:00 pm	26 Spitzer 10 - 11:30 am AHS Tech 3:00-5:00 pm	27 Pickleball 9:00 -11:00 am Bridge 12:30 - 3:00 pm Sq Dancing 4 - 6 pm	2 8
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