

Kindle the Flame
of Learning

Classes Sept 14 to Nov 19

Fall Semester 2026

A Message From Our President



Dear Elder Quest Friends,

I am honored to serve as President of Elder Quest for the next couple of years. I accepted this opportunity because Elder Quest has enriched my life with friendship, learning, and purpose. It has been a true blessing, and I am grateful for the chance to give back.

One of the greatest strengths of Elder Quest is our outstanding teachers. Their enthusiasm, knowledge, and willingness to share make every class engaging and enjoyable. I also appreciate the UVU Scholarship, which allows us to help students continue their education and invest in their futures.

We are fortunate to enjoy a wonderful partnership with the Provo Recreation Center, giving us excellent facilities and resources. Our UVU Culinary Luncheons, day trips, and Friday Flicks provide memorable opportunities for learning, friendship, and fun.

Elder Quest thrives because of our dedicated volunteers, board members, and staff. Their countless hours of service make everything we do possible, and I am deeply grateful for their commitment and support.

Our theme this year, "**Kindle the Flame of Learning**," perfectly reflects the spirit of Elder Quest. I look forward to another year filled with discovery, friendship, and meaningful experiences.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our past president, Marjean Bingham. Her leadership and dedication have strengthened Elder Quest. I am grateful for her example and continued support.

Thank you for your confidence and encouragement as I begin this new role. I look forward to serving alongside each of you as we continue to kindle the flame of learning together.

With gratitude, ***Gloria Simons, President 2026-27***

Monday Classes

10:00-11:30 AM **Judith and Leonard Tourney**

The Old Irish Storytelling And New Irish Cinema



Ireland, a land of surplus riches of stories and tales. It has been forever thus. The natural beauty of the land has been a perfect setting for what George Bernard Shaw called “our dream world.” Perhaps for him, the dream consisted of idealism, heroism, myth, sources of strength when the Irish found their culture threatened by poverty, oppression, and wanderlust.

If one is not a storyteller in Ireland, one is certainly an avid listener. The *seanchaí*, (pronounced “shan-a-key”) or storyteller, is a traditional figure in Irish culture—not just an entertainer but a transmitter of cultural and national identity. In our time, movies have become the dominant medium of storytelling with filmmakers incorporating myths and legends in contemporary settings.

In our class we will offer a selection of films that demonstrate this: from the comic irony of *The Waking Ned Divine* to the popular *The Quiet Man*, the romanticizing of isolated island life in *Man of Aran*, the dark comedy of *The Banshees of Inisherin* the mysterious *The Secret of Roan Inish* and many others.

Don’t expect shamrocks, leprechauns, or pots of gold at rainbow’s end. This isn’t Hollywood. And it goes without saying: you don’t have to have Irish roots to enjoy this course.

1:00-2:00 PM **Linda Knight**

World War I: The Greatest War



“The European continent was at peace on the morning of Sunday 28 June 1914, when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie Chotek arrived at Sarajevo railway station. Thirty-seven days later, it was at war. The conflict that began that summer mobilized 65 million troops, claimed three empires, 20 million military and civilian deaths, and 2.1 million wounded.” (Christopher Clark, *The Sleepwalkers*).

Join us each Monday this Fall Semester at 1 p.m. to follow the fascinating history of The Great War, sometimes ironically named “The War to End All Wars,” as we witness the leaders (some of them were cousins on opposite sides), battles and events of this period of our world’s history. We’re going to visit cities, battlefields, monuments and those famous trenches of World War I.

2:15-3:15 **Bruce Young**

C. S. Lewis: The Basics and Beyond



C. S. Lewis, one of the twentieth century’s greatest writers and thinkers, has inspired millions of readers with beautiful writing, imaginative stories, and profound thoughts. During previous semesters, we looked at Lewis’s works of fiction: *the Chronicles of Narnia*, *the planetary trilogy*, and Lewis’s last great novel *Till We Have Faces*. We won’t focus on any of these works this semester. Instead, we’ll focus on the basics – some of Lewis’s most important and best-known books – as well as on some of his writings that are less familiar.

We’ll spend most of our time with Lewis’s non-fiction books and essays plus two religious “supposals,” *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Great Divorce*. In addition to these “supposals,” we’ll look at *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain*, *The Four Loves*, and the book Lewis wrote after his wife’s death, *A Grief Observed*. We’ll also look at 10 or 12 of Lewis’s essays on various topics, including literature, life, and religion. You’re welcome to read the books and essays we discuss. But even if you don’t, you’ll learn a lot about Lewis as a person and as a thinker and writer. Either way, you’re sure to find our time together an opportunity to be delighted, stimulated, and inspired by some of Lewis’s most important ideas and writings.

Tuesday Classes

10:00-11:30 AM **Marden Pond**

Utah Musicians:

Masters, Mentors, Colleagues, Collaborators And Friends



Marden Pond highlights many of Utah's world renowned fine art composers and performers. Special guests will be invited to share their own musical careers live, in person and via the internet.

These award-winning guests, featured artists and producers have performed around the world in some of the most prestigious concert venues and through recordings, broadcasts, and video. Some of Dr. Pond's own works and recordings will also be included.

1:00-2:00 PM **Glen M. Cooper**

Introduction to Islamic Civilization



This course will introduce Islam both as a religion but also as the cultural basis of one of the greatest civilizations of world history. We will attempt to provide students with a factual and critical understanding of a religion and culture that is widely misunderstood in the West.

We will examine:

- The career of the Prophet Muhammad;
- The *Qur'an*, its teachings and significance in Islam;
- Islamic Law (*shari'a*) as the engine behind Islamic life;
- Origins of Sunni / Shi'ite division, with particular attention to Iran;
- Foundations of the Islamic Empire (the Caliphate) and its Successors;
- Islamic art, architecture, and literature;
- The Crusades and Islamic interaction with the West;
- Intellectual and Cultural debts of the West to the Islamic world;
- Modern Islam in the world: fundamentalism and progressive Islam.

Handouts will be made available online.

2:15-3:15 PM **David Farnsworth**

The Victorian Age: Life in the Beginning of the Modern Age



This class explores one of the most transformative periods in human history. Between Queen Victoria's accession in 1837 and the dawn of the twentieth century, Britain stood at the center of an empire on which "the sun never set," while railways, steamships, telegraphs, sanitation, mass education, and industrial innovation reshaped everyday life. And we will ask how this 18 year old outlier became queen of this empire?

We will look at everyday life of the Victorians, from the poorest to the aristocracy.

We will examine the achievements and contradictions of the age: expanding democracy alongside rigid class distinctions; scientific discovery alongside religious debate; extraordinary wealth beside urban poverty; and an empire that brought both unprecedented global connections and profound human costs. We will also consider how the Victorians confronted disruption, technological change, globalization, public health crises, and social reform—questions that remain remarkably relevant today.

For many of us, especially those with British ancestry, these were the years in which our grandparents or great-grandparents came of age, carrying Victorian ideas about family, work, education, and civic responsibility into the twentieth century. In many respects, the modern world was born during these decades.

Wednesday Class

10:00-11:00 AM **Deon & Gerhard Ruf**

Remarkable People

Deon and Gerhard's class Remarkable People will feature:



- Actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward
- Two books set in Iran
- Two books from WWII, *The Vatican Pimp* and *Seducing and Killing Nazis*
- Two books about men sent to prison
- A book about a teen with Down Syndrome who completed an Iron Man Triathlon and a book about a blind boy who used echolocation to become independent

We think class members will enjoy classes about these remarkable people.

Elder Quest Luncheons

2nd Wed at Noon \$16 per person

UVU Culinary Arts Building

661 Timpanogos Pkwy, Orem

Sept 9 Oct 14 Nov 11 Dec 9

Reserve at least 1 week in advance

801 863-8012 or bit.ly/UVUelderquest

Potpourri Wed (guest lectures)

First & Third Wed 11:15 to 12:15

Sept 23 Oct 7, 21 Nov 4

Presenters TBA in weekly Elder Quest emails

Attend live in Provo Rec Classroom or on Zoom

Thursday Classes

10:00-11:30 AM **Brad Daw**

The World And You



This weekly class provides a clear and balanced overview of the major national, international, and local news stories from the past week. I will present a structured news digest with helpful context for each story, while encouraging respectful comments and questions from class members throughout the presentation. All viewpoints are welcome. The goal is to stay well-informed together, explore different perspectives, and better understand the events shaping our world — all in a friendly, civil, and engaging environment.

1:00-2:00 PM **Alan Keele**

The Grapes of Wrath



Over the years teaching with Elder Quest, with the exception of my class on the poet Leslie Norris, I've tended to stick to German-related themes, not wanting to step on the toes of my marvelous English-language colleagues such as Bruce Young and Dave Johnson, but I taught for many decades in the BYU Honors Program a two-semester History of Civilization course, where I went outside my comfort zone to teach English, American, and even Russian books.

One of my favorites is *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck. It's a deceptively profound work, a symbolic account based in the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, but which is in fact the story of the whole human family.

Thursday classes continued

There's even a Noah in this family, who represents their passing through the great flood.

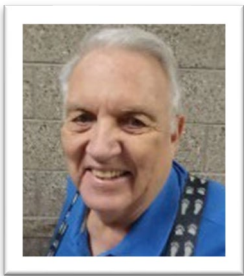
I especially love the character of Jim Casey, the Jesus figure in the work, with his initials JC. I read about him for the first time many years ago in a book by my Doktorvater at Princeton, Theodore Ziolkowski, entitled *Fictional Transformations of Jesus*.

The story is especially relevant in today's world as it raises fundamental questions about fairness, the sharing vs. the hoarding of vital resources, and the impact of environmental deprivation. The final scene is a breath-taking tour de force like nothing else in literature. I guarantee it will change your life.

We'll be reading from the Penguin Classics version, with Introduction and Notes by Robert DeMott

2:15-3:15 **Dave Johnson & Lind Williams**

Enjoying Shakespeare



“All the world’s a stage,” said William Shakespeare, “and each man (or woman) in a lifetime will play many parts.” This is your chance to play kings and queens, ladies and lords, rogues and priests, heroes, and even common people. The Bard will happily loan you his iconic words to help you see how they still resonate even after more than 400 years!

No prior experience is needed. No memorization. Class is presented in a readers’ theatre / discussion format. You are encouraged to take part as an actor and as a member of the audience—both are distinct parts of Shakespeare’s theatre. His plays were written to be shared aloud rather than studied silently. It is ok to read ahead.

We project the text in class and online as well. If you like having a script in hand, they are widely available at libraries, new and used bookstores, and online. Plan to join us in our usual time slot on Thursday at 2:30 pm. It’s a good way to finish the week with a feast and dessert to savor for the weekend.

Whether you attend the Festival in Cedar City with a tour, on your own, or indulge in Shakespeare shows elsewhere, the class is a way to help you better enjoy your time with works of the Bard. Our plan is to study the Shakespeare plays to be presented at the 2026 Season of the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

New for 26-27: I will be co-teaching the class with Lind Williams who so ably filled in for me during last winter semester

2027 Utah Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, UT
(Plays by Shakespeare)

Henry V
The Merry Wives of Windsor
The Two Noble Kinsmen

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of Learning**

Elder Quest Fall Semester

Classes from Sept 14 to Nov 19

Join UVU Elder Quest!
Call (801) 863-8012
For Registration, Information
and Luncheon Reservations

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10-11:30 Leonard & Judith Tourney  <i>Old Irish Storytelling & New Irish Cinema</i>	10:00-11:30 Marden Pond  <i>Utah Composers and Performers</i>	10:00-11:00 Deon & Gerhard Ruf  <i>Remarkable People</i>	10:00-11:30 Brad Daw  <i>The World and You</i>	Friday Flicks With Jaynann Hampton  Fridays at 2:00 pm
BREAK	BREAK	11:15-12:15 Potpourri Presentations Wed Sept 23, Oct 7, 21 Nov 4 <i>Live in the classroom or on Zoom</i> More TBA in weekly EQ emails	BREAK	Orem City Library Media Room Come and bring your Friends!
1:00-2:00 Linda Knight  <i>WWI: The Greatest War</i>	1:00-2:00 Glen M. Cooper  <i>Intro to Islamic Civilization</i>	12:00 Noon 2nd Wednesdays! EQ Monthly Luncheon UVU Culinary Arts Building Call (801) 863-8012 <u>Reserve at least one week in advance!</u>	1:00-2:00 Alan Keele  <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Friday Day Trips With Judy Istook! 
2:15-3:15 Bruce Young  <i>C. S. Lewis: The Basics & Beyond</i>	2:15-3:15 David Farnsworth  <i>The Victorian Age: Life in the Beginning of Modern Times</i>	 Facebook @Elder Quest—Utah County  YouTube @Elder Quest Utah County UVU 801 863-8012 or uvu.edu/ce/elder/	2:15-3:15 Dave Johnson & Lind Williams  <i>Enjoying Shakespeare</i>	Details TBA in weekly Elder Quest emails! Friday, Sept 25 Pl Grove Playhouse - mystery Friday, Oct 23 Museum of Utah Friday, Dec 4 Luminaria at Thanksgiving Point

UVU Elder Quest

Who We Are

- Elder Quest is a unique organization sponsored by Utah Valley University.
- Our major purpose is to provide life-long learning opportunities for seniors 55 and older.
- We're now in our 30th year! Last year we served over 200 members throughout Utah Valley.

What We Do

1. We offer two semesters of classes per year. Fall semester begins mid-September and runs until shortly before Thanksgiving. Winter semester starts mid-January and runs mid to late March.
2. Ten weeks of classes are offered each semester. Each class is held once per week. Classes are held Monday through Thursday at the Provo Senior Center and are also available on-line via Zoom. Elder Quest members can take as many or as few classes as they desire. Classes require no homework or tests.
3. Classes include a variety of subjects (see fall class schedule on the back side of this page). Elder Quest teachers are skilled professionals. All teachers donate their time and effort simply because they love teaching Elder Quest.
4. In addition to regular classes, we hold a series of guest lectures each semester, our Elder Quest potpourris. Guest presenters teach one short class based on interest and expertise.
5. We sponsor monthly luncheons prepared and served by UVU Culinary Arts students. Three or four day trips each semester take us to fascinating places and afford the opportunity to socialize together. Elder Quest also shows weekly Friday movies at the Orem Public Library.
6. Our Elder Quest scholarships provide financial aid to non-traditional UVU students. Following Spring semester an outstanding one-day seminar is held, featuring excellent speakers and outstanding entertainment. Here we ask members to dig deep and contribute to our UVU Non-Traditional Student Scholarship program.

Find Elder Quest online!!!



YouTube

@[Elder Quest Utah County](#)



FaceBook

@[Elder Quest -- Utah County](#)

UVU Elder Quest Website

uvu.edu/ce/elder/

*Luncheon Payments

*Registration Info

*Newsletters

And more!

Or call UVU 801 863-8012

Would You Like To Join Us?

You may be surprised to find that Elder Quest membership costs just \$45.00 per year or \$25.00 for each semester. Lunches are priced separately at \$16.00 and day trips are extra based upon the price of the event and the cost of the bus.

As Elder Quest President for the coming year, I invite you to engage with us in this amazing lifelong learning opportunity. For more information call me at 801-709-9047. Better yet, pick up the phone today and register by calling 801-863-8012 or go online to bit.ly/UVUelderquest

-Gloria Simons, Elder Quest President

Friday Adventures!

Day Trip Adventures with Judy Istook!

- Fri, Sep 25, 7:30 PM \$13 per ticket at Pleasant Grove Playhouse.
"Something's Afoot", an Agatha Christie style murder mystery.
- Fri, Oct 23, 10 AM Bus trip to SLC, tour of new "Museum of Utah".
More details are coming in weekly Elder Quest email.
- Fri, Dec 4- Thanksgiving Point's "Luminaria".
More details are coming in weekly Elder Quest email.



Friday Flicks with Jaynann Hampton

Fridays at 2 pm at the Orem Library Media Room

Join us for good company, comfortable seating and even treats!
You don't have to be a member of Elder Quest so bring your friends!



Help a struggling UVU Student with
your donation Today!

Your Generosity Changes Lives!

UVU Elder Quest Scholarship Fund

is dedicated to helping
"non-traditional students" returning to UVU
and seeking a better life.

Mail Checks anytime, payable to:

UVU Elder Quest Scholarship UVU
Institutional Advancement
Attn: Vicky Hopper
800 W University Pkwy, MS 111
Orem, Ut 84058

OR

Credit card donations are accepted

online at uvu.edu/ce/elder/
then click on the "Scholarship
Donation" button on the right
lower page

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UVU Elder Quest 2026-27

"Kindle the Flame of Learning"

Contact UVU at (801) 863-8012 or visit

uvu.edu/ce/elder/

for more information about how
you can join Elder Quest classes
either in person or via
zoom!

President Gloria Simons
801 709-9037

Vice President Julie Redd
801 361-4601

Register online for Elder Quest
Membership

bit.ly/UVUelderquest
Or call (801) 863-8012