

## **Fall 2026 Class Schedule . September 21 to December 10th**

### **Geology of Volcanoes, Our Coastal Ocean and the Columbia River Estuary**

**Instructor Ed Joyce . September 21 to October 12**

**Mondays 11am - 1pm . 4 weeks . Astoria Senior Center Classroom**

The Geology of our local region will be presented through various geological formations and their unique effects on our coastline and environment. Main topics include: where and why volcanoes occur; overview of Oregon coastal geology; overview of coastal Oregon oceanography; and the Columbia River Estuary and its connection to the ocean.

Objectives:

1. Increasing awareness of volcanic activity in Oregon and what it means to residents.
2. Providing explanations of various geological events and their effects on our land and sea.
3. Instruction on identifying geological formations and their historical roots.

### **Financial Management for Retirees**

**Instructor Thom Allison . October 19 to November 16**

**Mondays 11am - 1pm . 5 weeks . Astoria Senior Center Classroom**

This class will identify the six major components of effective personal financial management, the four components most relevant for retirees, and learn about strategies to help provide financial security during retirement

Weekly Subjects:

1. The six major components of personal financial management and how they tie together.
2. Learn tax management strategies and investments specific to retirees.
3. Increase knowledge about effectiveness working with an advisor.
4. Learn how to manage financial risks.
5. Learn how to develop a generosity plan.

### **Local Authors Series . Various Local Authors**

**September 21 to December 7**

**Mondays 2pm - 4pm . 12 weeks . Astoria Senior Center Classroom**

Second Annual Local Authors Series will include local poets and writers of fiction and non-fiction. There will be both returning and new writers this year, all from our local area. All have published works and are interested in community education and sharing skills. They will share published material and give inspiration and pointers to interested attendees.

Weekly schedule will be published separately.

December 7<sup>th</sup>, the last class will be about Holiday themes by several authors.

## **Astronomy: The Universe – From Here to the Edge**

**Instructor Dave Ambrose . September 25 to November 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Fridays 10am - 12pm . 7 weeks . Astoria Senior Center Classroom**

A seven-part course starting here on earth and expanding out into the universe. There will be some history of how we humans discovered what is out there and the facts we learned along the way. Each segment is one hour and consists of short videos, lectures, and demonstrations. No math is required, but participants are encouraged to “do the math” with a calculator to find some surprising answers. This class may extend to 8 classes, per the Instructor.

Topics for each week:

1. Introduction - Numbers for astronomy, the little particles that make our world.
2. The Earth and the Moon – Speed and distance
3. The Solar system – the Sun and the planets
4. The Milky Way Galaxy – So many stars, Dark Matter
5. The Local Galaxy Group – Gravity and Dark Energy
6. In the beginning/in the end – The Big Bang
7. Our place in the Universe – We are at the center

Learning Objectives:

1. To give those with no math and science background a better understanding of how our universe operates
2. To learn some math shortcuts to increase learning and discovery.
3. To gain some understanding of our place in the universe both in time and space.

## **Discussions – Current Topics on our Minds**

**Facilitator Elizabeth Hayes . September 25 to October 23**

**Fridays 2pm - 4pm . 5 weeks . Astoria Senior Center Classroom**

Providing an opportunity for ENCORE members to express concerns and solutions for common issues in our current society and explore the complications that are inherent in all of them. Staff will provide discussion points and support the various voices that will be within the membership.

Weekly Topics will include:

1. Homelessness/unhoused
2. What has happened to education?
3. How do we live with AI?
4. Scams and how to deal with them
5. What it means to be white in a multicultural world

Discussions will aim to be productive experiences with respect for all attending.

Objectives:

1. To introduce the idea that expressing thoughts and ideas in a group can be respectful and productive.
2. To increase confidence in taking in information and being able to form one's own opinion.
3. To educate participants in how to find resources and sources of information to help them be aware of these topics and discover ways to help others.

## **Zoom Class – Writing Exchange – Awaken the Writer Within You**

**Instructor Eric Anderson . September 22 - November 10**

**Tuesdays 9:45am - 11:45am . 8 weeks . Via ZOOM**

This short course writing class is aimed to awaken the writer within. Share memoirs, short stories, poems or fiction and receive kind and constructive feedback.

Objectives:

1. To provide a safe environment for new writers to feel able to share their writing and receive feedback.
2. To encourage all levels of writers to continue their work and stretch their wings.
3. To enable pieces of writing to be developed throughout the course with weekly feedback and encouragement.

To join this ZOOM class, contact Eric Anderson (503) 325-3131 . [ericcander@aol.com](mailto:ericcander@aol.com)

## **Writing Exchange – Awaken the Writer in You Class – IN PERSON\***

**Instructor Eric Anderson . September 22 - November 10**

**Tuesdays 1pm – 3pm . 8 weeks . At Astoria Public Library, Media Room (lower level) \***

This short course writing class is aimed to awaken the writer within. Share memoirs, short stories, poems or fiction and receive kind and constructive feedback.

Objectives:

1. To provide a safe environment for new writers to feel able to share their writing and receive feedback.
2. To encourage all levels of writers to continue their work and stretch their wings.
3. To enable pieces of writing to be developed throughout the course with weekly feedback and encouragement.

## **Murphy's Law and Advocacy: Planning Ahead with Confidence**

**Ian Murphy, Attorney at Law . November 13 to November 23 (see dates/times below)**

**Fridays 2pm - 3:45pm, November 13 and November 20 (2 weeks), and Monday November 23 11am - 1pm (1 week) . Astoria Senior Center Classroom**

**Series Description:**

Across three sections, we will provide an overview of the legal tools that help elders protect their autonomy, secure their wishes, and access the benefits they've earned. Each session focuses on a core area of planning: **advance directives, estate planning, and veterans'**

**benefits** (including survivor benefits). Participants will learn practical strategies, understand key documents, and gain clarity about how to prepare for the future with confidence.

### **Session 1: Advance Planning & Powers of Attorney**

This session explains the legal tools that allow adults to maintain control over their medical and financial decisions. We cover **durable powers of attorney**, **medical powers of attorney**, and **advance directives**—how they work, when they activate, and how to choose trustworthy agents. Participants will learn how these documents prevent court involvement, reduce stress for loved ones, and ensure their wishes are respected.

### **Session 2: Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning Essentials**

This session offers a broad, easy-to-understand overview of the core tools used in estate planning. We introduce the basic purpose of **wills**, **revocable living trusts**, and **beneficiary designations**, and explain how they work together to carry out your wishes. Participants will learn what probate is, why it exists, and common ways people simplify or avoid it. The focus is on giving attendees a clear picture of the major options available—what each tool does, what problems it solves, and how to think about choosing the right approach for their situation.

### **Session 3: Veterans' Benefits & Survivor Benefits**

This session focuses on federal veterans' benefits that many older adults or their spouses may qualify for. We cover **VA disability compensation**, **VA pension**, **Aid & Attendance**, **survivor benefits (DIC)**, and how service records, medical evidence, and eligibility rules interact. Participants will learn what benefits exist, how to apply, what documentation is needed, and how accredited representation can help. This session is especially valuable for veterans, widows/widowers, and adult children assisting aging parents.

## **Halloween Arrives but Once a Year**

**Instructor Maureen Balaam . October 30**

**Friday 2pm - 3:45 pm . Astoria Senior Center**

There will be a short presentation about Halloween traditions, including the original purpose of witches and how society came to see them as something wicked and reviewing some scary stories from Astoria.

This will be followed by social time, stories if you have one.

Wear costumes, bring treats to share.