

Silver Lake Experience - Saturday, August 1, 2026

(Subject to Change)

7:30-8:45 | S0 - Registration and Breakfast

Description: Join us for breakfast in the Wpworth Cafe.

Presenter: The SLE Committee

Presenter Bio: See your program materials for more info.

7:30-8:00 | S0A - Daily Devotion: How do you feed your soul? Limit: 20

Description: Taking care of our soul is just as important as taking care of our bodies and minds. So much in this world distracts us. We need to find time and ways to refresh our souls. Come spend some time with God as we reflect on the words from John 6: 24 – 35.

Presenter: Sue Russell

Presenter Bio: Sue is an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church. She spent over 20 years in the local church as a youth pastor and has been the Director at Asbury Retreat Center since 2016. She loves welcoming all people to the sacred grounds of Asbury. Sue enjoys spending time with family, traveling, and being outdoors where she experiences spiritual renewal through God's creation.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1A - Blue Bottle Art (Make & Take) Limit: 12

Description: Painted Wine Bottles with Mini Lights

Participants will paint stylized evergreen trees on a blue or green wine bottle. A string of mini lights attached to a cork and inserted into the bottle will complete the project. All materials and directions will be provided. No painting experience necessary.

Presenter: Adele Upton

Presenter Bio: Adele Upton is a retired elementary school teacher. She has enjoyed doing a variety of crafts her whole life and often incorporated crafts in her lessons for her 4th graders. She enjoys quilting, sewing, crocheting, knitting, calligraphy and decorative painting. Adele and her husband are also avid gardeners and participate in the Grand Island Garden Walk as well as the Open Gardens of WNY. Her crafts extend into the gardens also with making leaf casts and creating hypertufas. Adele is always on the lookout for new crafts to try!

9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1B - Pollinators & Native Plants Limit: 15

Description: Step into a world of vibrant wings and delicate beauty at our Butterfly Garden Workshop! Join us for an enchanting experience where you'll learn the secrets of creating a thriving butterfly haven right in your backyard. Discover the fascinating life cycle of these winged wonders, gain insights into attracting different species, and leave with the knowledge to transform your space into a kaleidoscope of colors. Embrace the joy of fostering biodiversity and create lasting memories surrounded by the magical dance of butterflies. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with nature and to contribute to the conservation of these exquisite creatures.

Presenter: Kelly McMurtry

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Presenter Bio: As a single mother, I find solace and inspiration in the great outdoors. My love for nature runs deep, and it's a joy I've passed on to my 7-year-old daughter, who shares my fascination with bugs, butterflies, and all things wild. But there's one tiny creature that has captured our hearts—the monarch butterfly.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1C - Three to See Cottage Tours Limit: 10

Description: Sharon always gives a lovely tour of unique cottages while giving a bit of history of the Silver Lake Institute along the way. Each tour given this year will include cottages new to the SLE program.

Presenter: Sharon Pratt

Presenter Bio: Sharon grew up in the Perry, NY area and remembers swimming in Silver Lake and attending Asbury (Camp) as a teenager. She is a 30 year resident of Silver Lake Institute where she has been a member of the SLI Board of Trustees, served as steward (chairperson) of Epworth Hall, and is a founding member of The Silver Lake Experience. Sharon has had a lifelong interest in history and architecture. She has retired from the Landmark Society of Western New York.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1D - Gentle Chair Yoga Limit: 15

Description: Serene Shoreline will feature chair yoga, a gentle and accessible form of yoga that takes place primarily while seated or using a chair for support. Modified yoga poses and gentle stretches will be paired with breath awareness, relaxation techniques, and gentle movements to promote flexibility, strength, and balance. Chair yoga is suitable for individuals of all ages and abilities, including those with limited mobility challenges. Chairs will be provided for participants. You are welcome to bring your own adaptive equipment, such as a wheelchair, as needed. Please bring a water bottle to maintain hydration. Following our session of yoga practice, immerse yourself in a guided meditation session outdoors, basking in the warmth of the sun and the tranquility of nature.

Presenter: Amanda Ganguly

Presenter Bio: Amanda Ganguly, from Rochester, New York, discovered the transformative power of yoga in 2015 and has been devoted to her practice ever since. Amanda founded Lake Girl Yoga following graduation from TRU Yoga's Teacher Training in May of 2023 with her 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher certificate. She is passionate about sharing the profound benefits of yoga with others and firmly believes that yoga is for every body and every soul. Her inclusive teaching style reflects this belief. For Amanda, yoga has been a life-changing journey that has not only brought her physical and mental well-being but also led her to meet her husband at a local studio, making her connection to yoga even more profound. Get ready to embark on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment as you join Amanda of Lake Girl Yoga on the mat and/or on the chair.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1E - Avoiding Hackers and Spammers Limit: 40

Description: Join us for important information on online safety.

Presenter: Thompkins Bank Sean Valdes

Presenter Bio: Sean Valdes, Branch Manager, Tompkins Community Bank. Sean owned small businesses in the restaurant, event planning and hospitality industries for over 30 years. Sean uses his experience, along with the expertise and resources of the Tompkins Financial team, to help his customers achieve their goals. By investing in our local communities, not only with money, but with our time and compassion, we can make a difference that reaches farther than we can ever imagine.

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9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1F - Family Day Ticket: Opening Session- Silver Lake Legends/ Sea Serpent Family Session Limit: 80

Description: Welcome to Sea Serpent Day! Begin your Family Day at the Silver Lake Experience with an introduction to our Family Day Program, and a brief history of the Silver Lake Experience, Silver Lake Institute and its local legend, the Silver Lake Sea Serpent! Bob Murphy, local historian will tell the story of the Silver Lake Sea Serpent, which will be followed by a Sea Serpent Puppet Show! Kids will also receive a themed coloring activity pamphlet.

Presenter: Porta Globe Puppets, Bob Murphy, Sue Palmer

Presenter Bio: Port-A-Globe Mobile Theatre Company is a small, Rochester-based puppet theater specializing in Punch and Judy puppetry, using traditional English wooden puppets and a seaside-style puppet booth. Port-A-Globe regularly performs at festivals, private gatherings, libraries, schools, public markets, and private gatherings. Although it has been called “one of the best options for kids at the Rochester Fringe Festival” (CITY Magazine), this style of puppetry is meant to be appealing to all ages. Port-A-Globe also gives historical presentations on the history of English puppetry. Its crew consists of “Professor Kitos” (aka Keith Jones), a retired Latin teacher and his assistant, or “bottler” Rauncie Reynolds, a former dean of the graduate school at RIT.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1G - SLI Landmarks: A Walking Tour of Epworth Hall, Stoody Hall, and the Hoag Art Gallery Limit: 15

Description: SLI Landmarks: A Walking Tour of Epworth Hall, Stoody Hall, and the Hoag Art Gallery
Step back in time during this relaxed one hour and fifteen minute walking tour of three of the Silver Lake Institute’s most iconic historic buildings. Together we’ll explore Epworth Hall, Stoody Hall, and the Hoag Art Gallery—looking closely at architectural details, uncovering stories from their early days, and learning how these buildings reflected the values, ambitions, and daily life of the Assembly era. This gentle stroll blends history, architecture, and storytelling, offering fresh perspective whether you’re new to Silver Lake or have been coming for years. Meet at Epworth Hall. This is a walking tour beginning at Epworth and concluding at the lakefront.

Presenter: Brad Huber

Presenter Bio: Bradley Huber is a reading teacher in the Rochester City School District, and a hobby preservationist. First completing a full restoration on a 1930's Bungalow in West Irondequoit, NY which was subsequently featured in This Old House Magazine and HGTV's Cheap Old Houses tv series. He recently turned his attention to Silver Lake where he completed a full rehabilitation of a 1878 Stick-Style Victorian Cottage with the support of NYS and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, and of course his many kind neighbors. Brad also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Silver Lake institute and has completed several projects for his community. He also advocates and teaches on preservation topics in his community.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1H - English Paper Piecing Limit: 15

Description: English Paper Piecing (commonly called EPP or Hexies) is a quilting technique that can be traced back to the 1770s using scraps to create quilts for warmth. As the perfect travel project, quilters today use needle & thread to baste fabric pieces around die cut papers, available in almost any shape or size, that are then whipstitched together to create intricate designs.

Join Sarah to learn this fun technique and see a few examples of her hexie quilts.

Presenter: Sarah Ballinger

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Presenter Bio: Shortly after returning to her native Castile, NY, Sarah Ballinger learned how to English Paper Piece, AKA hexies. 15 years later, it is by far her favorite hobby and travels with her everywhere from the couch to quilt retreats with friends to Adirondack mountaintops! Sarah also leads a monthly hexie group at The Quilter's Daughter in Perry Center on the first Friday of the month. All are welcome to attend!

9:00- 10:30 Session I | S1i - Pickleball Play Time! Limit: 8

Description: LET'S PLAY PICKLEBALL!

Here's your opportunity to hit the court with paddle in hand to play some pickleball with friends, old and new.

Note: this is not an instructional session. Players should be familiar with basic rules, etc.

There will be several sessions during SLE2026 from which to choose to reserve the court in Bishop Burt Park. For courtesy to others, please sign up for only one session. There will be free play available at other times. The sessions generally run 90 minutes and are limited to 6 registrants per session.

To facilitate play, we recommend a round-robin format where four people play doubles and the two players sitting out the first game enter for the second game, and so on... Feel free to mix up teams, whatever you want.

To keep games moving, we suggest "rally scoring" (score points whether serving or receiving) to 11 points.

These are suggestions. Bottom Line - do what you want and have fun. Players need to bring their own paddles.

Presenter: SLE 2026

Presenter Bio: Thank you to the Silver Lake Institute for their continued support.

11:00-12:30 Session II | S2A - Enjoy a Forest Healing Walk with Certified Forest Therapy Guide, Chip Matthews Limit: 40

Description: Did you know you can reduce stress, improve your attention, boost your immunity and lift your mood all with a walk in the woods? Research shows time in nature can do all of these things without huffing, puffing or climbing up mountains but simply by slowing down, noticing what's around you and reconnecting with the natural world. Forest Therapy guide Chip Matthews invites participants to learn more about the benefits of this gentle practice through a Forest Healing experience. Breathe deep, slow down and see what inner peace you might find in the great outdoors.

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>> Forest Healing Walks are gentle walks in nature, practiced with the intention to slow down and engage with the world in an embodied and sensory way. Forest Healing Walks are inspired by the Japanese practice of 'forest bathing' (Shinrin Yoku). Participants will learn that experiences in nature are essential to the well-being of the human mind, body, and soul.

Presenter: Chip Matthews

Presenter Bio: Charles Matthews better known, as Chip, is currently serving as the Director of Student Life at SUNY Geneseo. He is an enthusiastic professional, who is interested in partnering with others to learn and develop through active engagement and increased self-awareness.

Throughout his career, Chip has conducted numerous workshops on leadership, bystander intervention, team building, ethical leadership, and conflict resolution. He teaches courses in leadership theory, interpersonal skills, career and educational planning, and group dynamics and is a Adult Mental Health First Aid USA Instructor.

Chip has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, a Masters in Public Administration, a Professional Coaching Certificate, a SUNY Mindfulness Certification, and is Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide and Life Coach.

11:00-1:30 Session II | S2B - Coca Cola Museum Tour Limit: 20

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Description: Would you like to take a small step back in time? Dave Phillips has reimagined his garage into a Coca Cola Museum after years and years of collecting Coke memorabilia that started with a single pitcher. Travel up into the hills on the opposite side of the lake to find this hidden gem. Dave and his museum were highlighted in the December, 2022 issue of 55 Plus Magazine. NOTE: there are stairs to the upper loft to the second half of his collection. The museum houses 3-4 thousand items the oldest dating back to about 1905! The museum covers two floors and also has a small Coca Cola Cafe that offers a typical Coca Cola lunch from back in the day! A hot dog, a Coke (or other beverage hot and cold), chips and a cookie. The museum has on display several historic pieces from the Silver Lake area: a poster which at one time hung in The Silver Lake Grove Hotel and an old Coke machine which used to be in Jake's Barber Shop in Perry! Also two antique lights that hung in the original Silver Lake Drive In Snack Bar. The collection consists of everything from tins to Barbie Dolls. A must see collection.

Presenter: Dave Phillips

Presenter Bio: David Phillips attended Perry Central School graduating in 1968, served in USMC from 1970-74, got married in 1974 and had 6 children. From 1974-1986 he worked construction and then made a career change going to Roberts Wesleyan College from 1986-1990 receiving a BS degree in Elementary Education and a Masters degree in Elementary Education in 1994. From 1990 to 2012 he taught elementary school at Letchworth Central School retiring in 2012. Dave's hobbies are woodworking, collecting Coca-Cola memorabilia, making maple syrup, hunting, traveling, camping, walking and hiking. He attends Hope Chapel in Perry and has been involved with Odosagih Bible conference for several years. He's been on mission trips in the US and South America.

11:00-12:30 Session II | S2C - Pickleball Play Time! Limit: 6

Description:

LET'S PLAY PICKLEBALL!

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To keep games moving, we suggest ""rally scoring"" (score points whether serving or receiving) to 11 points.

These are suggestions. Bottom Line - do what you want and have fun.

Equipment: Balls will be provided but players need to bring a paddle.

""PICKLE ON""

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Presenter: SLE 2026

Presenter Bio: Thank you to the Silver Lake Institute for their continued support.

11:00-12:30 Session II | S2D - Self Discovery Through Journaling Limit: 20

Description: Join me to learn ways to tap into your inner voice and begin the journey towards a happier, more fulfilling life. I am a mental health counselor who uses journaling techniques in my practice to help people process challenges in their lives and move in new, often unexpected directions. I will be sharing with you a number of the techniques that have been very helpful in the process of self-discovery. We will be exploring different styles of journaling and helping you to get past the fear of having to "do it right". Discover the fun you can have in taking yourself to a deeper level. This workshop will be a combination of discussing techniques and an opportunity to see what resonates most with your inner self.

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Presenter: Kate Stanford

Presenter Bio: Kate Stanford LMHC, CCCTP, is a New York State Licensed Mental Health Counselor, and Certified Clinical Complex Trauma Professional. She works with individuals who are struggling with mental health issues by helping them take a holistic view of their journey to wellness. She has a special focus on working with people recovering from interpersonal/intimate partner abuse so that they can live happy fulfilling lives. Kate uses a variety of techniques when working with people and focuses on meeting people where they are at and helping them to grow into who they wish to be. In addition She is a Reiki master and focuses on alternative healing options to help people on their path. Kate lives and works in Rochester and has had the privilege to have spent many happy summers at her family's cottage on Silver Lake.

11:00-12:30 Session II | S2E - Mindful Meditation Bracelet & Ojo de Dios Limit: 24

Description: Bring your hands as well as your heart to this workshop. You require absolutely no artistic talent or skill to create these lovely and meaningful keepsakes, designed to enhance your prayer life and remind you of God's unwavering presence. Does your mind wander off somewhere unintended while you wholeheartedly attempt to pray or meditate? Do you desire a more meaningful prayer life and deeper connection? This "Mindful Meditation Bracelet" contains components which represent prayer, praise, gratitude and comfort. I have composed a little guide to inspire you to make this personal to you and help keep you focused. Ojo de Dios translated to "Eye of God" is a Mexican folk art, dating back to the sixteenth century and a reminder that God is watching over us. While our hands are busy, let's share with our hearts. Perhaps you have a personal story to share or you choose to sit quietly and reflect. Whatever the case we will all be surrounded by the beauty of Silver Lake in this experience. I look forward to spending this creative time with you.

Presenter: Holly Catherine Rankie

Presenter Bio: Holly Catherine Rankie (Holly-Design/Hip Gypsy)

God richly blessed me with an artful life. It began as a little girl when my grandma "Viola" placed a needle and thread in my hand. I remember the sheer happiness I felt sewing with her, and nearly 60 years later that feeling returns whenever I stitch. Although I truly love creating in all medias, it is the needle arts that have captured my heart. While my career in fashion and home decoration filled my craving to create, while busy raising my sons, I'm now embracing the unhurried nature of my "golden years" as an unexpected gift particularly when spent surrounded by woods at my cabin studio with a project in my lap, my bare feet on the grass and the bird songs in the air I feel a primeval connection and lose all concept of time that piece that passes all understanding as the Bible so eloquently describes in Philippians 4:7 as an advocate for sustainable lifestyle and maker of slow fashion and accessories I mostly enjoy using vintage and reclaimed textiles found objects and natural fabric dying methods techniques more mindful of kindness towards Mother Earth.

11:00-12:30 Session II | S2F - Family Day Ticket: Junior Architects/ Family Architectural Cottage Tour and Scavenger Walk Limit: 30

Description: This is a Family Day session to be enjoyed by the whole family! Join us as we become Junior Architects! In this hands on session, families will learn about basic architectural styles, the architecture of the Silver Lake Institute, and embark on a scavenger hunt as we apply our knowledge as junior architects, in search of clues and examples of these styles! The session will include a brief architectural presentation, the story and tour of one of our oldest cottages, a true architectural treasure, and a guided scavenger hunt through the Institute as we search for architectural clues from the past. Children and parents will learn and explore together in this fun, interactive session as we become Junior Architects!

Presenter: Susan Palmer, Julie Hoffner

Presenter Bio: Susan Palmer is a retired history teacher who taught for 22 years at Akron High School and a retired attorney with a longstanding commitment to historic preservation. She served five years on the Village of Williamsville Historic

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Preservation Commission and four years as Chair of the Town of Amherst Historic Preservation Commission. Susan was also a member of the founding committee for the Town of Amherst's Annual Preservation Day, a family-focused educational program promoting awareness of historic preservation.

An active advocate for preserving local heritage, she and her husband, Tom, recently restored their cottage at the Silver Lake Institute, saving four historic stained glass windows from demolition. Susan has delivered multiple presentations on historic preservation and continues to support the education and protection of historic community assets.

Julie Hoffner's grandparents bought their cottage in 1945. She has been spending her summer vacations at Silver Lake since her grandmother first dipped her feet into the lake when she was just three months old. Julies parent bought their own cottage just across the back yard from her grandparents when she was 10 and her family continued to spend summers at the lake.

After college, Julie became more involved, taking on the job of organist for Sunday services (as position she continues to have part time). Julies husband also fell in love with the lake, supporting the community working part time on the Grounds committee. In 1988, Julie and her husband purchased her grandparents cottage. Julies husband also supported the community, working as a Trustee of the Silver Lake Institute and when he died in 2003, Julie ran for his seat, and has been on the Board ever since. Julie also became Program Coordinator in 2004, planning and getting performers and speakers for summer programs at SLI, a position she retired from last year. If you say that SLI is in Julies blood you would be right. It is part of her DNA that she has passed on to her children and grandchildren. Her son purchased his own cottage across the road from hers, and so it continues. She will be part of Silver Lake forever, since having her feet dipped in the lake all those years ago.

11:00-12:30 Session II | S2G - One Love Drum Circle with Jackie Limit: 18

Description: (Jackie Swaby will conduct a simple drum circle with a focus on love and harmony through the hands.) As the facilitator of this drum circle, my goal is to create an atmosphere of love and harmony through the power of music. Drumming has been used for centuries as a means of communication and connection, and I believe it has the ability to bring people together in a positive and uplifting way. Through rhythmic beats and collective energy, we will create a space that promotes love, acceptance, and unity. Our goal will be to embrace the power of the drum to spread love and harmony among all who join us in this circle. Together, we will create a beautiful and meaningful experience that celebrates the universal language of music.

Presenter: Jackie Swaby

Presenter Bio: Jacqueline "Jackie" Swaby is the current Education Director and Gallery Curator for GO ART!, a role she assumed in September 2024. Before this position, she spent 16 years as the Executive Director and 12 years as Gallery Curator for the Arts Council for Wyoming County (ACWC). Jackie also held the Director position at the Cordelia A. Greene Library for 20 years prior to her roles at the ACWC. In her role as library director, she helped facilitate significant modernization efforts, including a major building remodel and library automation, which significantly improved operational capacity and service outreach. Hailing from Kingston, Jamaica, Jackie began her career as an art and social studies teacher at Westwood High School, where she founded a pioneering youth folk music group that garnered accolades at regional and national competitions. Throughout her 36 years in the arts and education sectors, her career has been marked by securing many grant funds for the organizations she has served. She has also been instrumental in establishing satellite galleries within local communities and has made contributions to the arts and nonprofit sectors through her work and participation on various committees and panels, including the Wyoming County Women's Business Summit and panels for the New York State Council on the Arts, among others. Jackie has received multiple awards, including the L. Marion Mosher Award for Distinguished Librarianship. In addition to conducting drum circles, Jackie has been involved with various civic, religious, and community organizations during her 40 years in the US, reflecting her wide-ranging interests and commitment to community engagement. Beyond her professional pursuits, Jackie is an enthusiastic cyclist and gardener who values her time spent outdoors and embraces contemplative living.

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11:00-12:30 Session II | S2H - Antiques Appraisal Limit: 40

Description: Everyone wonders if they have a valuable antique sitting in their attic or cellar or garage! Maybe it's got a place of honor in the home! Find out its real value in today's market. What still has value? What no longer has value? Each participant can bring one item for Mr. Jantzi to appraise. Come enjoy the highs and lows of your treasured items.

Presenter: Todd Jantzi

Presenter Bio: For over 25 years, Todd Jantzi has been a dedicated auctioneer and real estate professional. He began his career at Bontrager Real Estate & Auction Service where he is now owner and president. In 2009 he earned his real estate broker's license. An active member of the New York State Auctioneers Association, Todd served as president of that organization from 2020 – 2022 and was selected as Auctioneer of the Year in 2016. He is a graduate of SUNY Brockport with a degree in History. Todd lives in Batavia, NY with his wife, Sandra. They have two grown sons and two grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys raising beef cattle.

11:00-12:30 Session II | S2I - Family Day Ticket: How Glaciers formed Silver Lake but not Letchworth State Park! Limit: 50

Description: See and feel the fossils! Glaciers get full credit for creating our sparkling freshwater fjord, friendly neighborhood Silver Lake. But Letchworth State Park and the Genesee River chose another path. Hear the story!

Presenter: Conrad Baker

Presenter Bio: Conrad Baker is a naturalist for the Genesee Region of New York State Parks, based at Letchworth. He loves making the slow-motion saga of the area's geologic majesty entertaining and accessible to all!

12:45-1:30 Lunch | SL - All Attendees: Lunch Speaker—"PSSST! Can You Keep A Secret?"

Description: "PSSST! Can You Keep A Secret? Join Kate Welshofer for the Secret Monster Project's Secret Art Club where, and this is TOP SECRET: Everyone is an artist!"

Award-winning journalist and storyteller Kate Welshofer brings her Monster Project to the Silver Lake Experience for an engaging and thought-provoking program. With humor, heart, and powerful storytelling, Kate invites us to reconsider what makes something — or someone — a monster, and what that reveals about us all. Join us for this entertaining, and hands on opportunity to explore this creative project!

Presenter: Kate Welshofer

Presenter Bio: Kate Welshofer is a writer, illustrator, and creative entrepreneur from Perry. After nearly 30 years in television journalism as an award-winning anchor, reporter, and producer, she shifted her focus to creative storytelling and launched Welshofer Creative LLC. Kate writes for regional publications including The Perry Herald and Buffalo Spree magazine, and shares essays and audio reflections on Substack.

In 2023, she created the Secret Monster Project, a daily doodle practice that began as a lighthearted response to burnout and quickly grew into a joyful creative movement. Her whimsical monsters have appeared in installations, merchandise, community events, and her book, You Monster! (That's a Compliment). Through humor and imagination, Kate encourages audiences to embrace creativity, imperfection, and play as powerful tools for resilience and connection.

2:00-3:30 Session III | S3A - What's Up in Libraries: Public and Little Free Libraries, Trends Limit: 40

Description: Rebecca Connolly, Director of the Cordelia A. Greene Library in Castile, NY and Kelly Paganelli, Asst. Children's Librarian at the Mendon Public Library will share information on Little Free Libraries and Trends in Public Libraries.

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Kelly, who has a cottage down the road from the 4th Little Free Library set up on Silver Lake, will talk about how little free libraries work and what's involved in setting one up.

Rebecca will follow this talk with information on what rolls libraries are playing in 2026. She will speak specifically about her work at the Castile library, highlighting how things have changed since COVID and how she and her staff work to meet the needs of their community.

Presenter: Kelly Paganelli & Rebecca Connelly

Presenter Bio: Rebecca grew up in Mt. Morris, went to Ithaca College and a few years later, in 2012, moved to her husband's hometown of Castile. She has been the director of Cordelia A. Greene Library for 5 years. She feels passionately about encouraging a love for reading. She also believes that the library is a vital part of the community and therefore should be of service to our patrons however we can be. In her personal time she is making memories with her 3 young children, aforementioned husband, their dog, 3 cats and 2 rabbits. Kelly enjoys all kinds of books – picture books to novels and non-fiction. By day, she works part time at the Mendon Public Library in Honeoye Falls managing the children's and teen book collections as well as planning programs throughout the year. An employee at the library for 15 years, Kelly Paganelli enjoys offering Story Time throughout the year. "Sharing a good book and a song or two with our young patrons and their adults is the greatest!" Kelly said. When not at work, Kelly enjoys time outdoors and adventuring with her husband and two grown sons.

2:00-3:30 Session III | S3B - Celebrating 150 Years at Silver Lake Limit: 40

Description: Methodist Camp Wesley was established at Silver Lake in 1873. At that time, campers rented platform tents and were served meals in public tents. Time passed. Cottages and public buildings were built, programs were added, and the camp became Silver Lake Assembly. Now we are The Silver Lake Institute. Come to see and hear the story of the evolution of the Silver Lake Institute through historic pictures and maybe a few surprises!

Presenter: Sharon Pratt

Presenter Bio: Sharon Pratt grew up in the Perry, NY area and remembers swimming in Silver Lake and attending Asbury (Camp) as a teenager. She is a 30 year resident of Silver Lake Institute where she has been a member of the SLI Board of Trustees, served as steward (chairperson) of Epworth Hall, and is a founding member of The Silver Lake Experience. Sharon has had a lifelong interest in history and architecture. She has retired from the Landmark Society of Western New York.

2:00-3:30 Session III | S3C - Prehistoric World Tour Limit: 20

Description: Join us for an exciting offsite visit to Prehistoric World in Perry, NY — New York's only reptile zoo and dinosaur attraction. Guests will explore themed exhibits, encounter live reptiles and amphibians, and enjoy interactive, educational experiences led by knowledgeable staff. This hands-on tour offers a fun and memorable way to learn about wildlife, habitats, and conservation.

Reserve your spot and experience the adventure up close!

Presenter: Prehistoric World

Presenter Bio: Prehistoric World is New York's only reptile zoo and dinosaur-themed attraction in Perry, where visitors can see and interact with live reptiles, learn about fossils and wildlife, and enjoy Jurassic-inspired exhibits.

Address: 16 Lake St, Perry, NY 14530

2:00-3:30 Session III | S3D - Impressionism Limit: 40

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Description: Impressionism was revolutionary because it broke with the traditions of painting in France in the mid-19th Century. The French Beaux Arts Academy emphasized religious, mythological themes in a very polished form and the New Painting emphasized painting everyday life in an immediate manner working directly from their subjects. New ideas about color emerged from research by the chemist Eugene Chevreul. His book about how our perception was an interaction of adjacent colors, not by modelling in dark and light tones taught these painters that un-mixed colors applied in daubs could give the sensation of light more like the daylight they were observing. The paintings now looked rough and unfinished, and the critics thought that these painters were unskilled daubers. Monet's "Impression Sunrise" painting was used as the example to call this new type of painting Impressionism.

Presenter: Professor Bill White

Presenter Bio: Bill White has been a painter for over 60 years. He has a BFA, MFA in Painting and he has taught Drawing, Painting and Modern Art History for over 40 years. He is Professor Emeritus from Hollins University, Roanoke, VA. Bill works in his studio or out in the landscape, both here and abroad. He translates observation into his "sense of place". His handling of color conveys a lush sense of light and space. His works have been in over 40 solo exhibitions, including the Bowery Gallery, NYC and over one hundred invitational and juried group shows. He had a 50-year Retrospective, Life in the Studio at Rider University, NJ. He is a member of the Midwest Paint Group, the Rochester Art Club, the Genesee Valley Plein Air Painters and the All-Weather Gang. He is represented by Steven Francis Fine Art gallery in Lynchburg & Roanoke Virginia as well as the Village Gallery in Caledonia, NY. White's works are in 18 Museum and Institutional Collections in the USA.

2:00-3:30 Session III | S3E - Embury Lanterns: Lighting Up the Globe Limit: 40

Description: Take a journey into the early-1900's to learn about Embury Lanterns. Founded in Rochester, NY; perfected in Warsaw, NY – this interactive discussion will not only review the origins of this home-grown company and how they grew to become one of the most popular lanterns in the world, but also the many different kinds of lanterns that exist and what they were used for. There will be an array of lanterns to see, engage with, and several for purchase. As with most stories, this one starts with Covid, an over-abundance of free time, and Eric in his dining room wielding a blowtorch. What began as a couple lanterns on the supper table, has morphed into a full-fledged lantern laboratory with 60 foot electric nodes, wise-cracking Transylvanian sidekicks and the inspiration to bring 100-year-old pieces of art back to life. Our motto is: we refurbish rusty junk and set it on fire.

Presenter: Eric Szucs

Presenter Bio: Eric Szucs is the Director of Tourism & Marketing at the Wyoming County Chamber and Tourism. He has the pleasure and honor of sharing stories about our wonderfully rural community with tourists from around the globe. In his free time, you will find him seeking out hidden gems, grubbing on delicious foods, and exploring unique shops with friends and family. He has a passion for local history, and after speaking about Embury Lanterns (made in nearby Warsaw, NY) at the 2022 Silver Lake Experience, he's delighted to return once again to this magnificent event.

2:00-3:30 Session III | S3F - Family Day Ticket: Animals of Western New York: Creatures big and small call Western New York home! Limit: 70

Description: This hands-on presentation will explore which animals can be found in and around Silver Lake using pelts, skulls, and other natural items. We'll learn about how each survives in its unique environment. From Black bears to Striped skunks, to Snapping turtles, join us for a fun animal adventure.

Presenter: Claudia Nusstein, Conservation Education Program Coordinator; Genesee County Park & Forest

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Presenter Bio: Claudia Nusstein is the Conservation Education Program Coordinator at the Genesee County Park & Forest, the oldest County Forest in New York State.

2:00-3:30 Session III | S3G - ART SHOW

Description: Visit the Hoag Gallery for this wonderful show.

Presenter: Local/Regional Artists

Presenter Bio: Thank you to all of our community artists for sharing their amazing talents with us.

2:00-3:30 Session III | S3H - All Attendees: Boat Ride Limit: 10

Description: Enjoy a tour of the lake!

Presenter: Asbury Retreat Center

Presenter Bio: Thank you to the Asbury Retreat staff for their continued work and expertise.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4A - Walking the Labyrinth Limit: 10

Description: Walking the labyrinth leads to inner calm and peace. A labyrinth does not force you, but draws you in. It is a journey. As you walk the path in, you reflect on that which is wrestling in your soul. The center offers a time to pause and meet with God. As you walk the path out, you release what is needed and begin to be changed. Rev. Sue Russell, Director of Asbury Retreat Center will present the history of a labyrinth, its uses, and guide you in an experience of the newly installed labyrinth. This will be a time for self reflection on the water front of beautiful Silver Lake.

Presenter: Sue Russell

Presenter Bio: Sue is an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church. She spent over 20 years in the local church as a youth pastor and has been the Director at Asbury Retreat Center since 2016. She loves welcoming all people to the sacred grounds of Asbury. Sue enjoys spending time with family, traveling, and being outdoors where she experiences spiritual renewal through God's creation.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4B - Acrylic Painting (Make&Take) Limit: 10

Description: Join Lorie as she teaches us step by step! Artists will explore color mixing, gradation, creating distance, balance and perspective.

Presenter: Lorie Longhaney

Presenter Bio: Lorie is a self-taught artist, who has been creating art in many mediums her entire life. She has taught art in many venues including Holy Family and St. Mary's catholic schools, Le Roy Senior Citizens, The Genesee County Office of the Aging, Gillam Grant Community Center and years of private lessons. She has been commissioned several times by Thompkins Bank of Castile, DePaul, Pavilion State Bank and many other local businesses. Lorie has owned a home in the Institute, and she has used the beauty of Silver Lake to create many lake scene paintings and drawings. She looks forward to connecting with new artists to share the love she has for creating artwork and the beauty and magic of Silver Lake.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4C - The History of English Puppetry Limit: 80

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Description: Port-A-Globe Mobile Theatre Company will provide a presentation on the history of English puppetry.

Presenter: Port-A-Globe Mobile Theatre Company

Presenter Bio: Port-A-Globe Mobile Theatre Company is a small, Rochester-based puppet theater specializing in Punch and Judy puppetry, using traditional English wooden puppets and a seaside-style puppet booth. Port-A-Globe regularly performs at festivals, private gatherings, libraries, schools, public markets, and private gatherings. Although it has been called “one of the best options for kids at the Rochester Fringe Festival” (CITY Magazine), this style of puppetry is meant to be appealing to all ages. Port-A-Globe also gives historical presentations on the history of English puppetry. Its crew consists of “Professor Kitos” (aka Keith Jones), a retired Latin teacher and his assistant, or “bottler” Rauncie Reynolds, a former dean of the graduate school at RIT.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4D - All Attendees: Open Swim at Asbury Pool Limit: 35

Description: Visit the pool for an enjoyable swim.

Presenter: Asbury Staff

Presenter Bio: Thank you to the Asbury Retreat Center for their continued support.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4E - Family Day Ticket: Family Sea Serpent Crafting/Playground Time Limit: 35

Description: Come and relax at Burt Park, enjoying some crafting and coloring family time. Make a lantern which you can keep and use for the Lantern Walk later this evening.

Presenter: Lisa Shiske

Presenter Bio: Lisa and her husband have been cottage owners here at Silver Lake Institute for the past 17 years, feeling Blessed to live here at the Institute all summer long. Lisa is very passionate about community supported events and even more grateful that her husband of 37 years just smiles and nods his head as she runs out the door again to tend to another 'crazy idea she had in her head to be facilitated in their Silver Lake Community or back at home in Pavilion NY.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4F - All Attendees: ART SHOW

Description: Visit the Hoag Gallery for this wonderful show.

Presenter: Local/Regional Artists

Presenter Bio: Thank you to all of our community artists for sharing their amazing talents with us.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4G - All Attendees: Scavenger Hunt Time Limit: Unlimited

Description: Walk the grounds on your own and explore the historic hunt!

Presenter: On your own

Presenter Bio: Thank you to Bob Murphy for creating this enjoyable and enlightening experience!

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(Subject to Change)

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4H - Pickleball Play Time! Limit: 6

Description: LET'S PLAY PICKLEBALL!

Here's your opportunity to hit the court with paddle in hand to play some pickleball with friends, old and new.

Note: this is not an instructional session. Players should be familiar with basic rules, etc.

There will be several sessions during SLE2026 from which to choose to reserve the court in Bishop Burt Park. For courtesy to others, please sign up for only one session. There will be free play available at other times. The sessions generally run 90 minutes and are limited to 6 registrants per session.

To facilitate play, we recommend a round-robin format where four people play doubles and the two players sitting out the first game enter for the second game, and so on... Feel free to mix up teams, whatever you want.

To keep games moving, we suggest ""rally scoring"" (score points whether serving or receiving) to 11 points.

These are suggestions. Bottom Line - do what you want and have fun.

Equipment: Balls will be provided but players need to bring a paddle.

""PICKLE ON""

"

Presenter: SLE 2026

Presenter Bio: Thank you to the Silver Lake Institute for their continued support.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | S4I - Porch Chat- Why is Everyone Fighting? Limit: 15

Description: Join in the conversation at this lovely and historic cottage for a porch chat. Why is everyone fighting? Even Christians are attacking other Christians. We argue with people we love over people that don't even know we exist. How do we overcome anger and evil? Are demons real? How can we become peacemakers? Join us on our front porch for a time of reflection. And even a walk through of one of the historic homes at Silver Lake built by Colonel Patchin Pond.

Presenter: Tom Kraft

Presenter Bio: Tom Kraft is a long time resident of the Silver Lake Institute and minister. His conversations and ministry are enjoyed by all.

6:30-7:00 PreConcert | S5 - All Attendees: Preconcert Dessert and Port-A-Globe Mobile Theatre Company Puppet Show (6:30-7:00)

Description: Come, relax and enjoy dessert and an entertaining pre-concert show performed by the Port-A-Globe Mobile Theatre Company at Epworth Hall!

Presenter: Port-A-Globe Theatre Company; Desserts provided by local bakeries!

Presenter Bio: Port-A-Globe Mobile Theatre Company is a small, Rochester-based puppet theater specializing in Punch and Judy puppetry, using traditional English wooden puppets and a seaside-style puppet booth. Port-A-Globe regularly performs at festivals, private gatherings, libraries, schools, public markets, and private gatherings. Although it has been called "one of the best options for kids at the Rochester Fringe Festival" (CITY Magazine), this style of puppetry is meant to be appealing to all ages. Port-A-Globe also gives historical presentations on the history of English puppetry. Its crew consists of "Professor Kitos" (aka Keith Jones), a retired Latin teacher and his assistant, or "bottler" Rauncie Reynolds, a former dean of the graduate school at RIT.

7:00- 8:30 Entertainment Sea Serpent Night | S6 - All Attendees: Sea Serpents and Restless Spirits: Silver Lake reflected through Story and Song (7:00-8:30)

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(Subject to Change)

Description: Come to the historic Epworth Hall for a program of live music and storytelling with Broadway actress, Megan Loomis. She'll take you on a journey through Genessee Valley folklore filled with restless ghosts, lost loves and of course, sea serpents! Epworth Hall will echo with these spirits brought to life through traditional Irish and American folk tunes, as she sings and accompanies herself on fiddle, guitar, and mandolin. This gathering is for old souls, young souls, and anyone young at heart!

Presenter: Megan Loomis

Presenter Bio: Megan Loomis is an actor, singer, musician, and playwright. Originally from Rochester, she has spent nearly every summer of her life at Silver Lake. Megan made her Broadway debut last year in *Wicked* as standby for Donna McKechnie in the role of Madame Morrible. Tours: *Wicked*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *War Horse*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*. She's performed Off-Broadway at Irish Repertory, Classic Stage, and Westside Theatre. Regional favorites include GeVa Theatre, Goodspeed Opera, Ogunquit Playhouse, Milwaukee Repertory, and Maltz-Jupiter Theatre. Internationally, she has performed in Japan, South Korea, Poland, and at the Edinburgh Fringe and Vienna's English Theatre. Megan is a graduate of Eastman School of Music (BM Voice) and Goddard College (MFA in Playwriting). @megstheooms

8:30-9:00 PostConcert | S7 - All Attendees: Lantern Walk (8:30-9:00) Limit: 20

Description: "There isn't enough darkness in the world to snuff out the light of one little candle" Siddhartha Gautama As the dark and cold take the place of light and warmth on the outside, we must bring our inner lightened warmth to shine forth. To celebrate a lantern walk is to cultivate generosity, kindness, selflessness, and a sense of light, power and love.

Let our Lantern Walk inspire and awaken the light that lives within, and be a reminder to take your light, your gifts, and unique talent, gifts that we all have, and share them with family, friends, and perhaps a stranger or two you meet as you walk along your journey of life.

Lisa introduced participants to the Lantern Walk in 2022 and received rave reviews!!! It is of the utmost importance that you remain silent during this walk to get the full effect and to give other participants the chance to thoroughly enjoy this unique experience.

Presenter: Lisa Shiske

Presenter Bio: Lisa and her husband have been cottage owners here at Silver Lake Institute for the past 17 years, feeling Blessed to live here at the Institute all summer long. Lisa is very passionate about community supported events and even more grateful that her husband of 37 years just smiles and nods his head as she runs out the door again to tend to another 'crazy idea she had in her head to be facilitated in their Silver Lake Community or back at home in Pavilion NY. Silver Lake is a magical place and Lisa is excited to share her love for fairies, angels, and lantern walks with all of those who sign up for the Silver Lake Experience. Lisa is back by popular demand after a wonderful 2022 SLE!