

Silver Lake Experience - Thursday, July 30, 2026

(Subject to Change)

7:30-8:45 | T0 - Registration/ Breakfast

Description: Join us for breakfast at the Epworth Cafe.

Presenter: The SLE Committee

Presenter Bio: See your program materials for more info.

8:15-8:45 | T0A - Opening Remarks and Instructions

Description: Join us for opening remarks and instructions at Epworth Hall.

Presenter: The SLE Committee

Presenter Bio: See your program materials for more info.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | T1A - History of Comic Books, An American Art Form Limit: 10

Description: Bob is a 1972 graduate of R.I.T, and owned a comic book shop for 27 years. Writing under the title of Life in " a Ten Cent World When a Dime Was Money", Bob shares the local history of Silver Lake. Bob has also published three comic books on Silver Lake history. This year's barn chat will discuss the history and culture of comic books.

Presenter: Bob Murphy

Presenter Bio: Bob grew up in the Silver Lake Institute (SLI) so he has a very long history of stories of this historical area. He is considered the SLI Historian and takes great pride in both his personal photo collection and being the steward of the Institute's vast black and white photograph collection. Bob is also one of the founding members of the Silver Lake Experience and offers a wide variety of workshops. If anyone has a question about the history of the Silver Lake Institute. Bob will probably have the answer or know how to find the answer.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | T1B - Origami Gift Box Limit: 12

Description: Make a lovely 6" square gift box out of 8 folded pieces of coordinating, decorative scrapbook paper. A small addition of artificial flowers on the top completes the project. All materials and directions will be provided.

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 | T1C - 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.

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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 and paddles will be provided but players are encouraged to bring their own.

"PICKLE ON"

Presenter: SLE 2026

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

9:00- 10:30 Session I | T1D - 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 (SLI) 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 | T1E - Sex Trafficking Limit: 40

Description: The Wyoming County Youth Bureau and its Safe Harbour Program have been working in Wyoming County for the past three years to educate and inform the general public as well as our schools, law enforcement, medical professionals and other agencies working with youth, that Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking is happening right here in Wyoming County. Oftentimes, when people first learn about child trafficking, the first thing that comes to mind is "it only happens in movies". They do not think about their child or grandchildren becoming a victim. They are recruited through social media apps, games and websites. Victims frequently fall prey to traffickers who lure them in with an offer of food, clothes, expensive gifts, drugs, attention, friendship, love, and a seemingly safe place to sleep. Kelly Nickerson, Wyoming County Youth Program Coordinator, offers an eye-opening presentation.

Presenter: Kelly Nickerson

Presenter Bio: Kelly is the Youth Program Coordinator for the Wyoming County Youth Bureau, she has two children, including a High school-aged daughter and a son who graduated in 2023, Kelly along with her husband Clayton and their family live in Wyoming County. Kelly grew up on a dairy farm in Western NY, which has impacted her work ethic. Kelly has worked with school age youth throughout Wyoming County for the last 10 years. She took on the position as the Safe Harbour Coordinator for Wyoming County in the spring of 2023, the biggest role as the Safe Harbour Coordinator is to educate the community in what Child Trafficking looks like in our rural community, as well as linking our youth survivors to resources to help keep them safe.

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9:00- 10:30 Session I | T1F - If You Plant It, They Will Come: Keystone Plants for Pollinators Limit: 40

Description: If You Plant It, They Will Come – Gardening for Our Pollinators. The Monarch butterfly is the poster child of pollinators and milkweed is in high demand at garden centers everywhere. But what about all the other butterflies, moths, and bees that are threatened by habitat loss? Learn about the plants that attract and support Swallowtails, Red Admirals, Skippers, and more. VCE Master Gardener Emerita Judith Alberts shares her photographs to illustrate her citizen-scientist’s approach to raising wild butterflies by cultivating native plants.

Presenter: Judith Alberts

Presenter Bio: Judith Alberts held a butterfly for the first time in September 2012 and has been photographing and learning about butterflies ever since. Judith spent most of her professional life as an educator in photography and marketing. Now she uses her camera as a citizen scientist to study and share the wonders of butterflies. In 2017, she took the Master Gardener Training in Virginia to learn how to be a better gardener for the specific purpose of protecting and supporting pollinators. This training led to her passion for native plants. To date, she has raised over 3,000 butterflies of various species, including the Monarch. Her friends know that she will talk about butterflies at the slightest encouragement. Ms. Alberts served on the Williamsburg Botanical Garden Board of Directors from 2018 until 2024. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Town and Country Garden Club of LeRoy and recently transferred to the Master Gardeners of Genesee County’s branch of the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | T1G - Crazy Grandparent Stories and Activities Limit: 20

Description: Calling all grandparents! Do you have some crazy activities/traditions that you do with your grandkids? Are you looking for new ideas? Come join a unique group discussion on “grandparent power”. Share your stories and listen to others. Be sure to bring photographs of your grandkids.

Presenter: Kathy Schaefer, Bill Schaefer

Presenter Bio: Kathy and Bill Schaefer are longstanding residents of the Silver Lake Institute, founders of the SLE and extremely active in our community. They can be found in the center of many community activities, offering assistance and fabulous family friendly ideas. They are grandparents to Sophie (21), Ellie (18), Abby (13), a twins Aidan and Emory (7). Kathy and Bill’s favorite roles are that of being Nana and Poppy.

9:00- 10:30 Session I | T1H - Bookbinding Limit: 20

Description: Bookbinding - The Book as a Work of Art

Did you know a book can be a work of art? Students to this workshop will explore the possibilities of using handmade books to express their ideas. We will learn a brief history of the book, the terms and tools used to make them, and create 2-3 sample books using different “structures,” such as the concertina or accordion book. The class will be shown a variety of ways these techniques can be expanded upon to make even more elaborate books to be used by them or given away as gifts.

Presenter: Roycroft Presentations- Alan Nowicki

Presenter Bio: Alan Nowicki is the Director of Programming at the National Historic Landmark, Roycroft Campus. He has been a teacher for more than 25 years, having taught in every grade level from Pre-K through college, specializing in art and history. A regular speaker at local schools, libraries, churches, and historical sites around Western New York. Recent presentations have included talks at the Buffalo History Museum, Iowa State University, the Folger Shakespeare Conference, and the Smithsonian.

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9:00- 10:30 Session I | T1I - Serving From the Heart Limit: 40

Description: Powerful, humorous, and moving stories from decades in youth camps that illuminate timeless leadership principles — not about power, but about service. Draw parallels to church life, community volunteering, and even grandparenting. Highlight how leaders listen first, serve always, and grow others before themselves. Servant leadership is planting seeds you may never see grow. This session explores how we mentor, form, and guide the next generation.

Presenter: Alvaro Ferreira

Presenter Bio: Alvaro "AL" Ferreira, Servant Leadership Artisan (I say artisan because it is something I continue to practice.) Born in Natal, Brazil, I immigrated to the United States with my family at the age of four. Growing up in and around Pasadena, California, I attended California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, earning a degree in Communications with a focus on Journalism and Organizational Communication.

My journey as a youth development professional began at the age of 15 when I joined the YMCA. Over the course of more than four decades, I've served in various non-profit leadership roles, directing and leading multiple YMCA and Scout camps. My efforts have positively impacted over 54,000 campers, creating meaningful experiences that foster growth and leadership. For 45 summers, I have embraced the role of a servant leader, dedicated to empowering young leaders in outdoor educational and residential camp settings. My work has included recruiting, training, and mentoring thousands of teens and young adults to realize their leadership potential. My passion for leadership development has driven me to create progressive programs and facilitate organizational development experiences for youth, teens, college students, volunteer boards, and staff. My mission has always been clear: to provide lessons that inspire "Leaders for Life."

As a certified coach, speaker, and trainer through the John C. Maxwell Team, I've further honed my ability to mentor and develop future leaders. I've had the privilege of redesigning the Easton Foundation's Olympic Archery in Schools curriculum, now offered at over 170 schools and three major Foundation locations across the United States.

Co-authored the Number 1 Best Seller on Amazon in six different categories called "Serving From The Heart" and my continued story on Al Ferreira Coaching BLOG.

11:00-12:30 Session II | T2A - "Dr. Benjamin Rush: America's Forgotten Founding Father" Limit: 40

Description: One of the most fascinating men to sign the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Dr. Benjamin Rush, nevertheless is often the forgotten founding father. Educated in Europe, Rush was one of the most educated men in America. His medical practice would be one of the most robust in Philadelphia - though his practices have been controversial. One of his greatest contributions was pioneering treatment for mental illness. Come hear about this remarkable man.

Presenter: Derek Maxfield

Presenter Bio: Formerly associate professor of history at a small WNY college, now retired, Derek Maxfield was honored in 2019 with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 2013 he was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. His research interests include Victorian deathways and 19th century politics and culture. Maxfield has written for Emerging Civil War since 2015 and has written two titles for the ECW book series – Hellmira: The Union's Most Infamous Civil War Prison Camp – Elmira, NY (Savas Beatie, 2020) and Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman in the Civil War (Savas Beatie, 2023).

Maxfield lives near Rochester, NY, with his wife Jess, four cats, a basset hound, King Charles cavalier spaniel, and a python. He hopes to soon acquire a Bengal tiger cub (subject to his wife's approval).

11:00-12:30 Session II | T2B - Stained Glass tour Limit: 50

Description: BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!! Perry First United Methodist Church built in 1906 has some of the most beautiful windows in Perry. Enjoy the history and symbolism behind the windows as presented by Rev. Tony Hipes, pastor of the church. Meditative music will be offered at the end of the presentation as you think about the stories of the windows.

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Presenter: First United Methodist Church, Rev. Tony Hipes

Presenter Bio: Rev. Hipes has been pastor of Perry First UMC for the last 6 years. A lifelong United Methodist, he has been a pastor for over 25 years. He has served churches throughout upstate New York and Northeast Pennsylvania. Rev. Hipes has been married to Judy for 30 years. He has one son, 4 grandchildren and 6 + great-grandchildren

11:00-12:30 Session II | T2C - Mahjong 101 Limit: 16

Description: Learn the basics of this popular game. Learn how bams, craks, dots, flowers, jokers, and winds are formed using tiles to Mahjong! This class is ONLY for people who have never played mahjong before. Max: 16 people

Presenter: Sue Meegan, Bonnie Bright, Sue Probst, Marie Soderholm

Presenter Bio: Susan Meegan and Marie Soderholm are former French teachers and have been playing Mahjong for over 6 years.

Susan Probst has played Mahjong for over 8 years and taught Susan Meegan and Bonnie Bright.

Bonnie Bright started a Mahjong group at her Florida community association and teaches new people.

11:00-12:30 Session II | T2D - Demystifying DNA and How It Helps Find Ancestors

Limit: 40

Description: The presentation will quickly cover the three types of DNA tests, Autosomal, Y-DNA and Mitochondrial DNA. The presentation will then focus on Autosomal DNA and demonstrate how it's passed down generation to generation. Real life examples will be used to illustrate the use of DNA to solve relationship mysteries such as adoption and its use in solving crimes. There will be time for questions at the end of the presentation.

Presenter: June Franzel

Presenter Bio: June Franzel graduated from Niagara University with a Business and Education Degree. She went on to earn a credential in Educational Administration through Buffalo State College. June worked for Erie 1 BOCES and Orange-Ulster BOCES in the Hudson Valley, where she currently resides. June's family was a bit of a mystery and so 20 years ago June began the journey of discovering her roots. In retirement, June earned a certificate from Boston University for Genealogy Research. She has attended multiple courses in DNA, Irish Research, Forensic Genealogy and completed an 18 month course called ProGen to support her efforts to become a Certified Genealogist (CG) and start her own Business called Heritage Sleuths. She has submitted her portfolio for certification and will hopefully be able to add the letters CG to her name. She belongs to the Association of Professional Genealogists and has assisted many people in researching their family and their ancestors.

11:00-12:30 Session II | T2E - Mushroom Growing Limit: 20

Description: Join Don Gasiewicz for a presentation to learn how to grow many popular mushroom varieties at home. Topics will include the types of mushrooms you can grow easily at home, cultivation methods for popular varieties such as shiitake, oyster, lions mane, chestnut and Stropharia. We will also cover sourcing materials and tools, maintenance and harvesting of your mushrooms.

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Presenter: Don Gasiewicz

Presenter Bio: Don is the Agriculture Program Manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County who also owns and operates Toad Song Mushrooms in Varysburg, NY. Toad Song specializes outdoor log grown shiitake mushroom cultivation, alongside many other seasonal gourmet varieties. Mushrooms grown outdoors on logs are as close to wild harvested, the consumer can get. For those interested in growing their own mushrooms at home, we also offer hands on how-to educational workshops.

11:00-12:30 Session II | T2F - Boathouses and Lakefront Tours Limit: 10

Description: Join us for a walking tour of the waterfront of the Silver Lake Institute. Visit some old boat houses, new decks, and beautiful gardens. The walking tour will include some stairs and uneven surfaces.

Presenter: Tina Turner, Chuck Dusel

Presenter Bio: Tina and Chuck are seasonal residents of the Silver Lake Institute. Chuck has been coming to his original cottage since he was a baby and has many stories of times past. Tina and Chuck are neighbors at the institute and have forged a wonderful friendship over the years. Together, they will take you on a tour of the historic boathouses and lakefront gardens of the Silver Lake Institute.

11:00-12:30 Session II | T2G - Pickleball Play Time! Limit: 6

Description: LET'S PLAY PICKLEBALL!

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Presenter: SLE 2026

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

12:45-1:30 Lunch | TL - My Career: Understanding Nature Limit: 100

Description: My Career: Understanding Nature- Growing up on Cape Breton Island on a self sufficient farm gave me a raw connection to nature and an understanding that runs deep. My experience in studying biology on my own and a trip to the woods taught me about my belonging in nature and in the world. In this presentation I weave stories of my unusual career as a cut flower grower, consultant and restoration specialist with my connection with and understanding of plants and the ecology of the whole. You will come away with a new perspective on the land around you and how you interact with your surroundings.

Presenter: Nell Gardner

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Presenter Bio: Nell Gardner- Bio

Through hard work and a dedication to the science and understanding of the natural world Nell Gardner has earned a reputation for problem solving, skilled technique and expertise in agronomy and horticultural management. Through her hard scrabble farm upbringing in Nova Scotia to studying at Cornell University, she brings an expertise and quality to the field of Horticulture and Agriculture, seeing nature as an integrated whole, a system that needs balance and a thorough understanding of natural systems. Nell has worked for Cornell University as well as run her own consulting business and Flower Farm "Flower Fields" for 30 years. Nell's signature wreaths were featured in July 2018's Country Gardens Magazine, as a "resourceful recipe for long-lasting wreaths." She currently works as the Horticulturist for Graycliff, operates Flower Fields, and consults in Horticulture and Agriculture.

With no formal high school education and no money she earned a degree in Agriculture from Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Cornell University. Working for The Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and her own private consulting business, has given her a wide range of experience she applies to her approach to horticulture. Seeing opportunity and making use of everything she finds grew out of necessity and reuse and repurposing are instinctive. She has grown cut flowers for over 25 years and consults in horticultural problem solving and cut flower growing.

Nellie was born in Chestertown, Maryland and moved multiple times with her family before settling on Cape Breton Island at the age of 12. Her experiences growing up, moving and restoring old farmsteads and planting gardens in forgotten fields has given her the skills to tackle difficult projects and make a "silk purse from a sows ear". Creating beauty out of function has been second nature to her as this is how she grew up. Her parents chose a life of "living off the land" rather than be a conventional wage earner, which gave her an unusual outlook and ability to overcome adversity.

2:00-3:30 Session III | T3A - Why Water Matters Limit: 40

Description: Water is amongst the most important molecules on Earth. It is essential to all known life forms, human health, ecosystem survival, sustainable development, and it shapes our environment. Water is also critical for agriculture, energy production, industry, transportation, and even climate change adaptation. This presentation will explore the distribution of water on Earth, explain how water's unique structure permits it to play a leading role, show how water moves within and throughout our environment, describe how water got here, discuss the impact of a growing human population and limited freshwater, and explore local water issues at Silver Lake.

Presenter: Dr. Frank Bright

Presenter Bio: Dr. Frank Bright is an award-winning educator, inventor and science researcher. He retired from the Department of Chemistry at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY-Buffalo/UB) as a SUNY Distinguished Professor and Goodyear and Woodburn endowed chair holder. His professional expertise ranges from chemical sensors and solvent dynamics to organized media and nanoscale imaging and materials. Outside academia he devoted over 10 years to help create comprehensive partnerships to address water quality issues at Silver Lake and he co-founded the not-for-profit Citizen Led Environmental Action Network at Silver Lake (CLEAN@SilverLake) an all-volunteer group devoted to improving the health and vitality of Silver Lake and the surrounding watershed. Learn more about CLEAN@SilverLake by following us on Facebook or by visiting our web site: <https://cleanatsilverlake.org/>.

2:00-3:30 Session III | T3B - Stained Glass Tour Limit: 50

Description: In this tour we will learn the history of the windows of the Brick Presbyterian Church while allowing time to meditate on their beauty. The church is the Gothic Revival Style built in 1909 of random ashlar Pennsylvania limestone. It consists of a central octagonal structure housing the sanctuary surrounded by wings that give the structure a cruciform appearance. The stained-glass windows are spectacular.

Presenter: Brick Presbyterian Church

Presenter Bio: Lynn Burdick: Lynn has been a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley since 2003 and is the current pastor at the Brick Presbyterian Church of Perry. Lynn has been serving the Brick Church part time since March

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2020. Lynn is a retired Senior Information Analyst from the University of Rochester where she was employed for 31 years. Lynn lives in Caledonia with her loyal canine companion, Paddy, who is frequently at church with Lynn during the week when she is working. In her free time Lynn enjoys hiking with Paddy and riding and competing in dressage with her horse Moxie.

2:00-3:30 Session III | T3C - Coca Cola Museum Tour Limit: 20

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 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 Odasagih Bible conference for several years. He's been on mission trips in the US and South America.

2:00-3:30 Session III | T3D - Intro to Line Dancing Limit: 30

Description: Line dancing is not just something that was done back in the 80s - it is still popular today all over the world. Think it is just done to country music? Nope! It can be done to any genre of music. It is a great form of exercise (that doesn't even feel like exercise) for mind, body and soul. Anyone can learn to line dance-all you need is time, patience, and a sense of humor. Join me for a session to learn some basic steps and some easy dances.

Presenter: Pam Fiegl

Presenter Bio: Pam Fiegl - How it all started for me: I had seen line dancing and was intrigued by it - but couldn't get any of my friends to give it a try with me. One day I saw a pennysaver ad for a local class and decided I was going to just try it by myself. It was intimidating, but I loved it and stuck with it and never looked back. I've been dancing now close to 20 years. About 10 years ago, I was between jobs for about 6 months and I filled my time with practicing line dancing at home. The following year, with encouragement from a friend, I started teaching a class in Warsaw. I now have classes three nights a week. I also danced with a team based out of Lockport for about 4 years - doing demonstration performances several times a week throughout the year. I've also started a Facebook group for sharing line dance opportunities and communicating class information with my dancers throughout Wyoming, Genesee and Livingston Counties. Come to my session and I will share my passion with you!

2:00-3:30 Session III | T3E - Afternoon Tea Limit: 7

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Description: Join Sharon on a tour of her historic cottage, and enjoy some cool afternoon refreshments while Sharon shares some lake stories and facts.

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.

2:00-3:30 Session III | T3F - Kayaking Limit: 10

Description: Have you ever wanted to learn how to kayak? Or maybe you just want to take some time to relax on the water. Participants will meet with the Asbury staff for a brief lesson on kayaking and will then glide out onto the lake in an ocean kayak.

Presenter: Asbury Staff

Presenter Bio: Thank you to the Asbury Retreat staff for their continued support and expertise!

2:00-3:30 Session III | T3G - Making Theatrical Prop Desserts Limit: 25

Description: Is it cake? Nope, guess again! In this class you'll learn about how theatrical prop artisans use unconventional materials to make faux sweet treats (almost) good enough to eat. This class also offers the opportunity for participants to get crafty and make their own plate of petit fours and macarons. This class is for all artistic skill levels from beginner to experienced.

Presenter: Mara Rooney

Presenter Bio: Mara has been painting in various mediums all her life and especially enjoys watercolors which she has begun to focus on more professionally in the last six years. Along with watercolor painting she also enjoys fiber arts, particularly, knit and crochet. She enjoyed fiber art so much she opened Dancing Goat Yarn Shop in Warsaw in 2010 and closed after 5 years of operation so she could once again pursue a career in painting for the theatre and entertainment industry. She worked as a Scenic Artist at The Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, PA for three years before freelancing at various theatres in Maine, New York, and more. She is currently the Charge Scenic Artist and Paint Dept. Lead for Atomic Design located in Lititz, Pennsylvania. She has painted scenery for The Academy Awards, The Tony Awards, The Grammy Awards, Wrestlemania, and more including various rock and roll tours such as the Taylor Swift Eras Tour.

2:00-3:30 Session III | T3H - "Tasty Treats" Cooking Demonstration with Chef Steve Limit: 12

Description: "TASTY TREATS " with Chef Steve

This session will include a demonstration of the preparation methods of three upscale hors d'oeuvres. We will all be eating these savory appetizers.

Presenter: Steve Burgeson

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Presenter Bio: Chef Steve has expert experience in many settings. See below: Credentials: Food and Beverage Management Bachelor's Degree and Masters Degree in Higher Education. Certification as a Sous Chef from the American Culinary Federation

Work Experience: Justines, Valentine's, Saturn Club, Transit Valley C.C., Brookfield C.C., The Phoenix, Left Bank, etc.
Professor/ Chef 28 yrs at Buffalo State (Campus House Club)

4:00-5:00 Session IV | T4A - Restoring the Martin House and Graycliff Landscapes Limit: 50

Description: With an abundance of curiosity about historic estate cutting gardens, I volunteered to help with the Martin House landscape restoration. This turned into a job for ten years, being intimately involved with the restoration of both the Martin House and Graycliff landscapes. My research took me deep inside the University of Buffalo Archives and into a life and time of elegance and philanthropy. I detail the restorations and bring the story alive with a discussion of how the Martins lived in and related to the gardens.

Presenter: Nell Gardner

Presenter Bio: Through hard work and a dedication to the science and understanding of the natural world Nell Gardner has earned a reputation for problem solving, skilled technique and expertise in agronomy and horticultural management. Through her hard scrabble farm upbringing in Nova Scotia to studying at Cornell University, she brings an expertise and quality to the field of Horticulture and Agriculture, seeing nature as an integrated whole, a system that needs balance and a thorough understanding of natural systems. Nell has worked for Cornell University as well as run her own consulting business and Flower Farm "Flower Fields" for 30 years. Nell's signature wreaths were featured in July 2018's Country Gardens Magazine, as a "resourceful recipe for long-lasting wreaths." She currently works as the Horticulturist for Graycliff, operates Flower Fields, and consults in Horticulture and Agriculture.

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4:00-5:00 Session IV | T4B - Dream Analysis- Finding Wisdom in Your Dreams Limit: 40

Description: *Unlocking Your Dreams* is a brief exploration of Jungian dream work, focusing on a few basic principles to help you find meaning and discernment through this powerful conduit to the psyche. This presentation will include a demonstration of one-to-one dreamwork with a volunteer, so bring a dream!

Presenter: Rev. Corey Keyes

Presenter Bio: Corey S Keyes is the Executive Director of The Haden Institute, which since 1994 has offered training in Spiritual Direction and Dream Work in the Jungian Mystical Christian tradition. He also served as Pastor of West Bloomfield (NY) United Church of Christ for 28 years, and maintains a private Spiritual Direction practice with a particular focus on dreamwork.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | T4C - Tie-Dye Limit: 12

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(Subject to Change)

Description: Create a vibrant tie-dye masterpiece in our 60-minute program! Unleash your creativity as we walk you through unique folding and dyeing techniques. All materials provided including t-shirts – just bring your imagination! Perfect for an end of the day activity! Add a splash of color to the end of your day.

If there is something specific you would like tie dyed, bring it!

Presenter: Kaelyn and Brandon Phillips

Presenter Bio: Kaelyn and Brandon are both teachers in the Churchville Chili School District after teaching for over 10 years in Baltimore County, Maryland. Kaelyn teaches 7th&8th grade Health and has coached girls JV and varsity volleyball, tennis, modified boys and girls swimming. She is currently the program assistant for the varsity girls swim program. Brandon teaches 9th grade Honors Geometry and 9th grade Algebra. He is currently the JV Baseball Coach for Churchville. They reside in Chili with their 7 year old twin sons.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | T4D - Make a Cottage Your Own Limit: 10

Description: Join Kathy as she shares the “steps of evolution” of their beloved cottage. She will share her endeavors to incorporate curbside treasures, family trinkets and treasures, and travel mementos - all used to create a cozy cottage of memories.

Presenter: Kathy Schaefer

Presenter Bio: Kathy Schaefer is a retired Health educator and Service Learning Coordinator from Gates Chili High School in Rochester. She has been a summer resident of Silver Lake Institute for 24 years where she was a co-coordinator of The Silver Lake Experience for 12 years, a steward of Stoody Hall and coordinator of Saturday Morning Cafes. Her favorite role is being "Nana" (which now spans over 21 years!) to Sophie (21), Ellie (18), Abby (13), and twins Aidan and Emory (7). She loves creating fun memories for them through baking sessions, "Nana Monster" hide and seek, unexpected scavenger hunts, family vacations, and surprise "damage days". They have rejuvenated her during difficult times and bring light and happiness to her world.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | T4E - Open Swim at Asbury Pool Limit: 35

Description: Open swim at the Asbury pool.

Presenter: Asbury Staff

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

4:00-5:00 Session IV | T4F - Devotions: Finding Peace in an Anxious World Limit: 10

Description: Finding peace in an anxious world. A study of Philippians 4. Sometimes it feels we are anxious about everything. We can't sleep and struggle with just getting through life. The Bible gives us ways to cope with stress and have a more positive outlook on life. 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: Rev. Tom Kraft

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Presenter Bio: Tom Kraft has been a United Methodist Pastor for 37 years. During that time, he has wrestled with the struggles over hard questions and difficult relationships with hundreds of people in sermons, Bible studies and counseling. One of the hardest struggles is helping people understand when forgiveness is appropriately offered, and when it isn't, and how to heal from brokenness caused by others. Tom, and his wife Reverend Jackie Ann Rose Kraft, have owned a cottage at Silver Lake for 38 years which is now their residence.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | T4G - The Dirty Story Behind the Birth of 4 Architectural Treasures Limit: 40

Description: The Dirty Story Behind the Birth of 4 Architectural Treasures - This presentation examines the complex relationship among four giants in American history that all intersect around the turn of the 19th to 20th century in Buffalo, New York. John Larkin, owner of one of the largest soap companies in the world, Elbert Hubbard, mastermind behind the Roycroft Campus, businessman Darwin D. Martin, and the world-famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Their relationship would help create four architectural masterpieces; The Larkin Administration building, The Martin House, Graycliff, and The Roycroft Campus, which are once again beacons for people today.

Presenter: Alan Nowicki

Presenter Bio: Alan Nowicki is the Director of Programming at the National Historic Landmark, Roycroft Campus. He has been a teacher for more than 25 years, having taught in every grade level from Pre-K through college, specializing in art and history. A regular speaker at local schools, libraries, churches, and historical sites around Western New York. Recent presentations have included talks at the Buffalo History Museum, Iowa State University, the Folger Shakespeare Conference, and the Smithsonian.

4:00-5:00 Session IV | T4H - Meet & Mingle

Description: Come and sit a spell, meet and mingle with other SLE attendees or volunteers.

Presenter: Committee/ Volunteers

Presenter Bio: See your program materials for more info.

6:30-7:00 PreConcert | T5 - Desserts by Glen Iris (6:30-7:00)

Description: Join us for some delicious pre-concert treats.

Presenter: Glen Iris Inn

Presenter Bio: Thank you to the Glen Iris Inn for their continued support of the Silver Lake Experience!

7:00- 8:30 Entertainment | T6 - Carnival Kids Steel Orchestra (7:00-8:30)

Description: Join us for a musical experience you will not forget! The Carnival Kids Steel Orchestra or "CKSO" is one of Lancaster's most unique musical organizations. Founded in 1974 by former Lancaster teacher John Marone, our Caribbean Steel Band is one of the five oldest steel band programs in the United States.

Presenter: Carnival Kids Steel Orchestra

Presenter Bio: The group has performed in Trinidad, Hawaii, and the Bahamas, on a cruise ship, at the Grand Ole Opry, for the Sabres, at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and with several University Steel Bands. CKSO is the featured guest artist at many

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local summer series music programs, and one of the busiest student performance groups. The CKSO earned a Grand Champion Award at Universal, was “Most Entertaining High School Group” in 2011, and has 6 CDs to its credit. Students are selected following an audition at the Middle School.

8:30-9:00 PostConcert | T7 - 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 Schiske

Presenter Bio: Lisa and her husband have been cottage owners here at Silver Lake Institute for the past 19 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 39 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 2024 SLE!