

Creative Play for Seniors

A series of weekly workshops
presented by Ham Gillett,
Marv Klassen-Landis,
and Michael Zerphy



Opening Event:
We're Never Too Old to Play
September 27 | 4:00pm

Nolin-Murray Hall, 38 Pleasant St. Springfield

Enjoy the project artists' performance introducing the humor and pathos of aging and a sampling of the workshop activities—readings, storytelling, poems, songs, skits, play excerpts, and improvisation.



Workshops will meet weekly from
October 4-November 22 from 1:00-2:30
Senior Solutions Cafe
38 Pleasant Street, Springfield

October 4, Workshop 1: Read and Discuss
We will read short pieces of literature
aloud and discuss together.

October 11, Workshop 2: Oral Interpretation
Bring a favorite passage to read aloud
and we'll explore ways to bring them to life.

October 18, Workshop 3: Storytelling
We all have stories; we all are stories. Gain skills by
playing storytelling games with good listeners.

October 25, Workshop 4: Personal Writing
We will explore a variety of writing exercises
to tap into our playful, intuitive side.

November 1, Workshop 5: Stepping Out of the
Shower, Everyone sings in the shower, right?
Bring your voice and we'll sing with you.

November 8, Workshop 6: Theater Games
Play imaginative theater games in which there
are no losers, no audience just lots of laughter.

November 15, Workshop 7: Readers Theater
Let's pick a play and read it out loud together.
We'll switch roles around and see what happens.

November 22: Final Event: Sharing Our Creative Play!

Registration Recommended.

Sign up for one, all, or any number in-between
Space Limited to 25 participants. Learn more

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Creative Play for Seniors

This project will feature three longtime friends and collaborators (who are also older adults) engaging our community elders in arts activities that will provide fun and creative ways to strengthen cognition and well-being through learning new things, interacting with others and exploring their own identities through personal expression and sharing with the community.

Opening Event: We're Never Too Old to Play

Project Artists Ham Gillett, Michael Zerphy and Marv Klassen-Landis will present a performance for the public and for future workshop participants introducing the humor and pathos of aging and a sampling of the kinds of genres and activities introduced in the workshop series-readings, storytelling, poems, songs, skits, play excerpts, improv.

Workshop 1: Read and Discuss

What comes up for us when we read? We may have been taught we should analyze, but what about our associations and memories and gut reactions? And then again, what is actually on the page? We will read short pieces of literature aloud and discuss together.

Workshop 2: Oral Interpretation

Do you read aloud to your grandchildren or to yourself? Would you like to be a bit more expressive? Bring a favorite children's story, a poem, or a prose passage. We'll read them aloud to each other and consider techniques/ways to bring them to life from the page.

Workshop 3: Storytelling

We all have stories; we all are stories. Storytelling isn't rocket science, but there are skills you can gain by playing storytelling games and telling stories from your life in a small group of good listeners.

Workshop 4: Personal Writing

Ever try writing in a journal? Ever get stuck while writing? Does personal writing help you sort out thoughts and emotions? We will try out a variety of writing techniques and exercises to overcome writers block, tap into our playful, intuitive side and get to know ourselves a little better-any sharing of this writing will be completely optional.

Workshop 5: Stepping Out of the Shower

Everyone sings in the shower, right? We will set up the curtains; you give it your best shot. We'll cheer you on. Then, if you feel like it, we'll pull back the curtain and sing with you. Or you can just sing as a group. Who knows, we might even have a good time. All participants will be fully clothed.

Workshop 6: Theater Games

If you ever enjoyed a round of charades, you will love this! Play imaginative theater games in which there are no losers, no wrong choices, no audience. Just creative play and lots of laughter.

Workshop 7: Readers Theater

Let's pick a play and read it out loud together. We'll switch roles around and see what happens. Comedy or tragedy?

Rehearsal for Final Event

Come out and rehearse if you decide to share a poem or story or skit or song (individually or in groups) at our final event. All three artists will be on hand for coaching and moral support.

Final Event

Participants and artists will share with the community something they have created during the series. It's not a requirement for participants but we expect enough enthusiastic volunteers to make for a fun show!