Houchard shows off new program

The first OLLI Winter Lunch and Learn will feature Andrea Houchard, focusing on her efforts to make philosophy relevant and bring it out of academia and to the general public. Her presentation will be held Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 1 p.m. in room 34 of The Yavapai College Sedona Center.

Houchard founded the Philosophy in the Public Interest program at Northern Arizona University, but will focus her talk on a new initiative — The Sedona Philosophy Experience. She has a Ph.D. in philosophy, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Society of Philosophy in America. Her passion is making philosophy accessible and relevant to daily life.

The Sedona Philosophy Experience will offer a new perspective on what philosophy is and where philosophy is done. Philosophy is an activity, and what people do when they think and talk about some of life’s most intriguing, perplexing and seductive questions. What is happiness? Why do we value friendship? What makes a life good? These questions may never be answered, but people benefit and learn when they engage on dialogue with one another.

A key idea in SPEX is that philosophy can be done outdoors. It is usually thought of happening in seminar rooms or lecture halls, but the natural world is philosophy’s best classroom. SPEX takes philosophy out of doors and immerses people in what Sedona is known for best — beauty and inspiration.

Houchard’s idea is to offer adventure philosophy programs and tourism retreats: Outdoors, on trails, on rivers and under the stars. Exploring philosophy, science and religion in the natural beauty of Sedona and Northern Arizona. Everyone is welcome to come for a philosophy experience on Jan. 27. Upcoming programs as well as special offerings for locals will also be presented. Weather permitting, attendees will spend some time outside.

Lunch and Learn is a place for local residents to meet, chat and interact with speakers doing interesting and important things in this town and state. This enjoyable, informative, weekly community event is free and open to all.

Bring a lunch or come for complimentary coffee, tea, water and a little snack, and join the conversation at 12:30 p.m., or come from 1 to 2 p.m. to hear about The Sedona Philosophy Experience and the new interactive programs they will be offering in Sedona.

Call 649-4275 or visit the Yavapai College website for more information about OLLI or the Lunch and Learn program.