



LIFE PROGRAM

Learning Is ForEver

JULY/AUGUST 2024



Providing adult education, insight, and engagement

www.learningisforever.net | facebook.com/RCTCLIFE

FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION, PLEASE PHONE 507-280-3157

Supported by Rochester Community and Technical College

Welcome to Learning Is ForEver at RCTC

FROM THE OFFICE



SUMMER! It is finally here! Time to fire up the grill, cut the grass, and bask in the summer sun. One thing to keep in mind is that the LIFE program is still offering a variety

of fun and exciting classes all summer long. Whether you enjoy in-person or online we hope you will find something that sparks your interests. In between the covers of this catalog you will find ten different in-person opportunities, a new type of book/film club, 20 of our tried-and-true presenters, 10 brand new presenters, and an OWL!

What are you waiting for? Get out and enjoy what LIFE has to offer!

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FROM ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

The sunny days are coming, and we will all be spending more time outdoors. But on that rainy day or in the oppressive heat there is

nothing better than having a Zoom class to watch. Our summer schedule is simplified with only one class a day and no classes on Friday. (We know you will all be taking long weekends away visiting.) There are classes for everyone whether you want to study Michelangelo or Bigfoot or learn how to attract bees. So, take a look and sign up to add to the summer fun!

Jane Callahan
LIFE Advisory Board Chair

ABOUT LIFE

As part of the Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) outreach effort, Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) provides stimulating educational programs and encourages social and personal growth for life-long learners in our growing and diverse community. This is accomplished through a variety of affordable courses including lectures, discussion groups, and other learning opportunities, all in an accessible setting. LIFE offers lectures covering Current Affairs, History, Humanities, Science/Math/Technology and Personal Interest/Sports. There are no educational requirements, no term papers, and no tests. Everyone succeeds and all are welcome!

LOCATION

All LIFE classes are held online via Zoom or in person at the RCTC Heintz Center located at 1926 Collegeview Road SE, Rochester.

BECOMING A MEMBER

All individuals participating in LIFE classes are required to either be a LIFE member or pay an increased fee as a non-member. Membership for the academic year (July-June) is \$25 per person. Additional fees are charged per course. There are no refunds on LIFE membership purchases.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Tuition assistance is available. Contact the LIFE office for more information.

GUEST POLICY

Members may bring a guest (an individual who is NOT currently a LIFE member) to a session at no charge. Contact the LIFE office for more information.

PICTURED ON THE COVER

Board Member: Julie Stenehjelm with husband Dean Stenehjelm



We are Rochester natives and products of JM, RCTC (was RSJC back then), and Winona State. No, we were not high school sweethearts.

We have two grown sons with families; neither live in Rochester. Julie taught mostly kindergarten for 35 years, the last 19 years at Sunset Terrace Elementary. Dean ran the YMCA for 34 years and did fundraising for his 15-year encore career as the Foundation Leader at the Rochester Senior Center and then Samaritan Bethany Care Community.

Julie is on the LIFE board for a third term, and Dean, being newly retired, is a LIFE member enjoying classes, now at his leisure. We like to travel abroad each year with our tandem bicycle learning about the county, its people, and history. This past January we tandem biked and explored New Zealand.

WAYS TO REGISTER



ONLINE - Available for **LIFE** members with credit card payment at www.learningisforever.net.



MAIL - Include registration forms and check payable to "RCTC LIFE"

RCTC LIFE Program
851 30th Avenue SE, Box 50
Rochester, MN 55904



IN PERSON - Bring check payable to "RCTC LIFE" to

RCTC Heintz Center
1926 Collegeview Road SE
Rochester, MN 55904

CLASS FORMATS



IN PERSON - Course is held in an RCTC classroom.



ONLINE - Live meeting online. We will email the Zoom link prior to the class.



HYBRID - Live in-person and on Zoom at the same time. If you choose Zoom, we will email the Zoom link prior to the class.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

LIFE gift certificates make wonderful retirement, birthday, thank you and holiday gifts! They are available in any amount. Contact the LIFE office for more information.

CLASS RECORDINGS

Miss a class you wished you could have attended? Want to learn about a topic that was offered previously? Want to share a previous class with a friend? We've got you covered! You can purchase the recording of many of our lectures for only \$10/recording/person. Recordings are kept in our archive for up to one year. Contact the LIFE office for more information.

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

Cancellation requests must be made **five business days prior** to the class start. A \$5 processing fee will be retained.

- In the event the LIFE Program cancels, a full refund will be issued.
- If RCTC classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, all LIFE classes will be cancelled (and rescheduled if possible).
- If Rochester Public Schools are closed but RCTC remains open, LIFE will hold class.

Classes by Category

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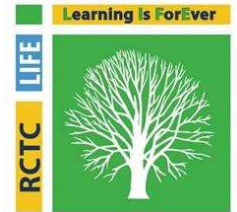
The Science of "Ha"5
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Attracting Bees 10
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Signifies in person class

Time to Renew Your

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Renew at www.learningisforever.net or by using the paper registration form.



JUNE CLASS CHANGES

Wednesday 5 Great Decisions: Pandemic Preparedness,
3:15 - 5:00 pm (was scheduled for April 17)

Tuesday 18 If it be not a sin... 'Slavery & Revolt in the Americas'
will be held **IN PERSON**

Thursday 27 Saudi Arabia in Transition will end at 11:45 am
(was scheduled to end at noon)

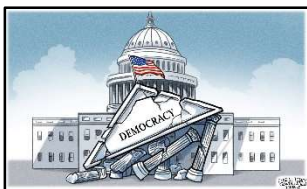
War and Conflict with Todd Lefko



War in different forms becomes our method of deciding power. We have the weapons to destroy everyone on earth, but fear their use. We understand that in many conflicts, there are no longer "winners." We have created a process in which everyone loses, but yet we continue to fight. Join presenter, Todd Lefko as he discusses how war has changed, the possible alternatives, the consequences of conflict and ponder if it is possible to build a system where everyone benefits - in a world which appears to be dividing, rather than cooperating on common issues.

M	July 8	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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The Decline of Global Democracy with Richard Leitch



Pundits claimed the end of the Cold War proved democracy's supremacy over all other forms of government. Naturally, therefore, it was expected democracy would proliferate and become established throughout the world. But more than three decades later, those hopeful predictions have been challenged by democratic backsliding and the rise of authoritarianism.

Why? Is democracy losing its appeal, or did democracy have no chance against the ambitions of autocrats? Why does it matter?

T	July 9	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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Unveiling the Bestiary: Exploring Myth, Morality, and Medieval Imagination with Ilya Dines

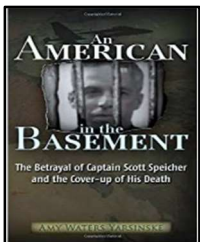


Medieval bestiaries held a place of prominence as one of the most beloved literary genres during the Middle Ages, captivating the hearts and minds of individuals across all levels of society. Serving as indispensable educational aids, they guided Christian learners through the labyrinthine mysteries of the world and the intricacies of the Latin language. These manuscripts, adorned with rich illustrations, served not

only to document animal descriptions but also as cultural commentaries and sources of artistic inspiration. Drawing parallels to modern genres like illustrated fantasy, such as the Harry Potter series, participants will explore the enduring influence of bestiaries on art, literature, and popular culture. This lecture promises an enriching journey through the captivating realm of bestiaries, suitable for all with an interest in medieval history, art, or literature.

W	July 10	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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An American in the Basement with Amy Waters Yarsinske

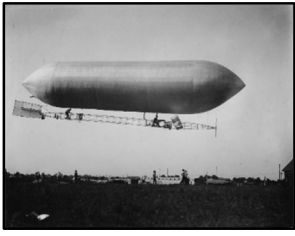


An American in the Basement attempts to document the abandonment of U.S. Navy Captain, Michael Scott Speicher, by the U.S. government after he was shot down over Iraq. Author Amy Waters Yarsinske shares Speicher's story as well as a chain of betrayals and cover-ups that have cost many an American serviceman their lives. Yarsinske will share with you the history of America's prisoners of war and missing in action, dating back to our nation's beginnings, revealing information that

the American public was never meant to know.

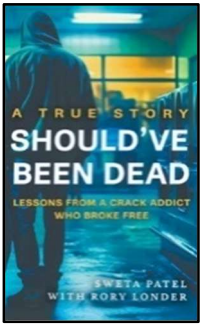
Th	July 11	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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Lighter-than-Air: West Coast Aviators and the Dawn of Flight with Richard Goodrich



Although the claim that the Wright brothers made America's first powered flight is well-entrenched in history books, two months before Orville Wright lifted off the sands of Kitty Hawk a physician named August Greth flew the country's first motorized aircraft—a dirigible—over San Francisco. Greth's audacious feat inspired imitators; soon men like Tom Baldwin, Roy Knabenshue, and Lincoln Beachey dueled for aerial supremacy in their own airships. Unlike the Wrights, who refused to offer a public demonstration of their flying machine, the California aviators barnstormed across the country, performing at fairs and expositions and thrilling millions with their daring flights. Based upon his new book, ***L.A. Birdmen***, historian Richard Goodrich offers an entertaining account of the contributions of these West Coast pilots and explains why, in the first decade of the twentieth century, these men rather than the Wright brothers were America's pilots.

M	July 15	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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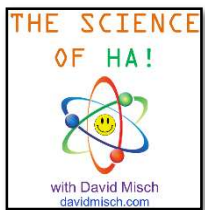
Should Have Been Dead with Rory Londer

Rory felt the flip of a switch inside when he tried crack cocaine for the first time. He knew he needed more. For nearly two decades, he chased after this love, even though it meant couch hopping, living out of motels and his car, and wandering the streets of Rochester. When Rory was ready to turn things around, feelings of failure and shame weighed him down. His words will echo loudly as he shares about his drug use, recovery, cancer, and resiliency. As you listen, you'll laugh along with Rory's storytelling, perhaps be moved to tears at times, and leave with hope. At the heart of his talk is a reminder that everyone has a story. How can you move through the discomfort, engage with those around you, and leave an impact?

T	July 16	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$12/\$22	Room H1415
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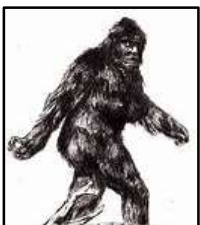
The Science of "Ha" with David Misch



Science has some impressive achievements: splitting the atom, charting the cosmos, plumbing the mysteries of life itself. But it's not very funny. Artificial intelligence can generate programmed quips but its original jokes are mostly childish word-play. With the help of Monty Python, Indiana Jones, Amy Schumer, HAL 5000 and R2D2, learn how and why our superior human humor evolved from reflex to strategy to favored evolutionary trait, and how humankind's need for meaning is the catalyst for all humor...and all science.

W	July 17	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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BIGFOOT 101 with Ryan Golembeske



An entertaining and educational history of America's favorite monster called Bigfoot. Whether you are a believer, on the fence about it, or a skeptic - this informative talk will open your mind to the possibility that relic hominids still exist.

Th	July 18	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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The Last of the Romanovs: Russia on the Eve of the Revolution with Asya Pereltsvaig



This year marks the 130th anniversary of the enthronement of Nikolai II of Russia, the last Tsar in the Romanov dynasty, and the 120th anniversary of the birth of his only son Alexei, the would-be tsar who was ill with hemophilia and later brutally murdered by the Bolsheviks. In this lecture, we'll take a sweeping look at Russia at the time of the last of the Romanovs and on the eve of the Bolshevik revolution, from the royal family down to peasants, who still constituted the majority of the Russian population despite rapid industrialization and urbanization. The lecture is

richly illustrated not only by photographic images but by rare documentary footage of the Romanov family and historical events of that period.

M	July 22	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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Michelangelo--Has Anybody Had More Passion? with Don Meyer



Examine and explore the works of Michelangelo in sculpture, painting and architecture. We all know him as a sculptor and painter, but he also wanted to be remembered for his architecture. Learn in detail about the extraordinary passion he brought to his art.

T	July 23	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Room H1415
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Germany and Israel: A Story of Guilt and an Unlikely Friendship with Anette Isaacs



In 1965 Germany and Israel reluctantly entered into diplomatic relations. What at first glance seems to be a rather unlikely relationship – especially in light of the shared history – has evolved over time into a blossoming friendship and successful economic bond. In order for this to happen

Germany had to face its Nazi legacy and subsequent collective guilt. Join German historian Anette Isaacs as she discusses how her native country has attempted to cope with the guilt of causing the Holocaust and how this painful but necessary process heralded a new era in German – Israeli relations.

W	July 24	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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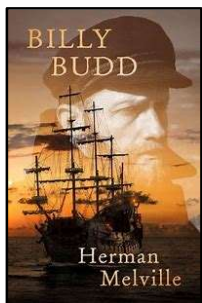
Making Donations Well: Find Information on Charities Important to You with Todd Packer



Do you want to support good causes that align with your values but face challenges trying to find reliable information on charities via the internet? In this interactive session, participants will learn how to effectively manage the overwhelming amount of data online to locate resources to help make wise and effective decisions to offer time, talent and treasure to non-profit organizations. Please join us for a fun and engaging session to learn how to find what you need to make our world a better place!

Th	July 25	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$12/\$22	Online
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A Discussion of Melville's Great Short Novel: *Billy Budd, Sailor* with Richard Weisberg



2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the posthumous publication of one of the greatest short stories ever written, Herman Melville's ***Billy Budd, Sailor***. It is fitting that we read the tale together at this juncture. The plot, which involves beauty, envy, and distorted law on board a fictional British warship during the time of the French Revolution, joins with all the other complexities we expect when reading Melville. The story is likely to change your view of things.

M July 29 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Online

Poverty Island with Ric Mixer



Few islands in our Great Lakes bring as much mystery as Poverty Island in northern Lake Michigan. True to its name, it is a tangle of impenetrable woods with a boulder filled coastline that makes it nearly impossible to land on. Here a remote lighthouse was constructed to help guide ships from the iron mines of Michigan to the steel mills at the foot of the lake. Ric Mixer

shares the ships lost off this offshore outpost, along with the tale of a gold laden ship that was lost here during the Civil War. A half dozen explorers have spent their lifetimes pursuing five chests of treasure here, but is it real?

T July 30 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Online

Fire! The Inside Story of the Boston Massacre with Richard Bell



By March 1770, the people of Boston had lived almost 18 months under British military occupation. The town was a powderkeg—and on Monday, March 5, it exploded. Shots rang out on King Street and when the smoke from soldiers' muskets cleared, five local men lay dead and dying on the snowbound street. In this program, historian Richard Bell will draw on the

latest scholarship to explore the Boston Massacre from all its many sides.

W July 31 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Online

Chaplaincy: Emotional & Spiritual Support for First Responders with Salt and Light Partners



First Responders choose a career of service to their communities despite the tragedy and trauma that they see each day. This exposure to trauma impacts the first responder as well as their family. Salt & Light Partners provides chaplaincy support for first responders in Olmsted County. Join us as we learn how chaplains care for our police, firefighters and sheriff's deputies while they keep our community safe.

Th August 1 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM \$10/\$20 Room H1415



Have questions? Call 507-280-3157.

Turn Left at Greenland: A Hard Day's Night in Transnational Perspective with

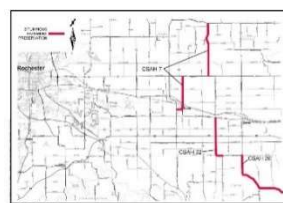
Dr. John F. Lyons



The Beatles first movie, *A Hard Day's Night*, premiered in London on July 6, 1964. Through the use of videos, photographs and music, historian John F. Lyons shows how the response to the movie varied greatly across the globe. After seeing *A Hard Day's Night*, many youngsters became devoted fans of the group, and others felt inspired to pick up musical instruments and form Beatle-like bands. But perturbed by the risqué and irreverent dialogue and the public display of emotion by female fans, some countries refused to even exhibit the Beatles' debut movie; others made cuts before it was shown; and a few restricted viewings to adult audiences.

M August 5 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

How Township and Section Lines Were Created in Olmsted County as Told by Captain Talcott! with Don Borcharding



Don Borcharding will be in the classroom portraying Andrew Talcott for a two-hour presentation. The first hour of the lecture will cover the members of Andrew Talcott's state line survey crews, and instruments and procedures used to establish the Iowa Minnesota Border. Hour two of the presentation will focus on the members of the survey crews who established the county and township boundaries in Olmsted County and instruments and procedures that they used.

T August 6 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415



Rome: The Eternal City with Taylor Hagood



In a new international direction for his travel lectures, Taylor Hagood presents Rome, Italy. Combining history, art, literature, restaurant recommendations, and even ghost stories, this lecture brings the "Eternal City" to life. The great metropolis of the Caesars, Caravaggio, and Bernini will emerge in all its resplendent glory in this entertaining educational event.

W August 7 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

Decluttering with Jonah VanProosdy



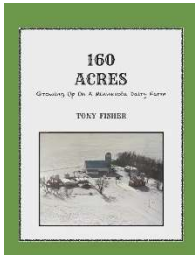
Downsizing and moving expert, Jonah Van Proosday, understands that planning a downsize and move can feel challenging especially for those who haven't done so in decades. That is why he has been serving seniors in our area since 2006 with their downsizing, move planning, packing and unpacking needs. Join Jonah as he shares with you tips on planning a downsize, decluttering and/or move.

TH August 8 10:00 AM - 11:30 PM \$12/\$22 Room H1415



Encourage a friend to attend a LIFE class. Their first class is free! Contact 507-280-3157 for information.

160 Acres: Growing Up on a Minnesota Dairy Farm with Tony Fisher



Discover what life was like growing up on a Minnesota dairy farm. Work hard and play hard alongside the Fisher family during the dairy farming boom years of the 1960s and 1970s; a time when a family could earn a good living off of 160 acres of land and milking thirty dairy cows. It was also a time when farm kids had to work just as hard as adults to keep the farm solvent. Listen to some of the true stories about those kids milking cows, driving tractors, baling hay, fixing machinery, raising livestock and butchering pigs. You'll also hear about some wild adventures riding livestock, driving a school-bus, and rebelling against a strict father. Listen and join the discussion about a colorful way of life that has now disappeared across most of the country.

M	August 12	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	\$12/\$22	Online
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1970s Male Singer/Songwriters with Paul Koeller



The early 1970s was the era of great singer/songwriters. Spend the morning learning and listening to the music of four great artists. The class will cover: Jim Croce, Harry Chapin, Gordon Lightfoot, and John Denver.

T	August 13	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Room H1415
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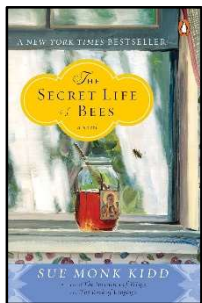
The Warrior Tradition: American Indians in WWII with Maddie Roach



In addition to the most famous group of American Indians, the Navajo code talkers, uncover surprising and lesser known stories of these warriors in uniform. Hear segments from the museum's oral history collection, including Medal of Honor recipient Van Barfoot, and the last surviving Crow war chief Joe Medicine Crow. With a focus on language and symbols, explore how the code talkers used their once suppressed languages to successfully transmit code on the battlefield, attempt to crack the "unbreakable" Navajo code, and discuss why native language and terminology are still relevant today.

W	August 14	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	Online
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Rated R for READ! Secret Life of Bees with Kerry & Jamie



Whether you are an avid reader wanting to discuss the book you just read or a movie buff that enjoys the story played out on a screen in front of you, this is the class for you. You are invited to enjoy themed snacks as you watch a movie that has been based on a novel. After the movie wraps up, we will spend time discussing both the book and the movie and ultimately decide which we prefer. Movie goers are encouraged to read the selected book prior to the viewing date, however, if you would rather just come and enjoy the show, snacks, and fellowship, that is fine too. Anyone wishing to participate in the discussion after the movie will need to secure their own copy of the book. For the month of August, we will be reading the book **The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd and watching the movie titled the same. Don't miss your chance to combine the introvert in you with the extrovert and finally answer the question as to which is better, the book or the movie?

Th	August 15	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	\$10/\$20	Room H1100
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Attracting Bees and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants with Heather Holm



Most insects have a positive impact in our landscapes. Native plants can be selected to attract specific bees and beneficial insects including predatory and parasitic wasps, beetles, flies, true bugs, and lacewings. Learn about the predator-prey relationships of these flower-visiting beneficial insects and how they help keep problem insect populations in balance. The life cycles, diversity, and nesting habitat of native bees will also be covered along with examples of native plants for different site conditions.

M August 19 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

Exploring 13,000 years of Native American Life in Southeast Minnesota with Constance Arzigian



Native Americans have lived in southeast Minnesota for at least 13,000 years, adapting to its landscape and resources and creating a very successful life. Archaeologists have documented past lifeways in this region, starting with big game hunters at the end of the ice age, all the way up to farmers at 1600 AD at the time of contact with Europeans. With images and artifacts, we'll explore this record of the past, consider how life has changed, and how people have adapted.

Th August 22 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415



Bible Women by Women Artists with Kristin Anderson



Although often indistinguishable from similar portrayals by their male colleagues, the images of Biblical women by female artists are sometimes distinctly different. In this slide presentation, we will see how the particular vision of women artists created fascinating perspectives on familiar religious characters and stories.

M August 26 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

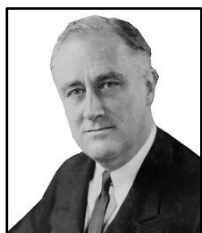
Midwest Lumberjack Legends and Lore with Chad Lewis



From Paul Bunyan to the Hodag, this program is filled with all of the lumberjack traditions, superstitions, and legends. Filled with tall tales of mysterious creatures lurking in the woods, boasts of supernatural feats, and every yarn told in-between, this program celebrates our lumberjack history.

T August 27 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

Inside FDR with Gary Stamm



Historians consistently rank Franklin Roosevelt as one of the three greatest president of our country. "Inside FDR" goes beyond his leadership of our country through the Great Depression and WWII as the man himself answers questions that shed information that we don't learn in history class. Among his topics are: his hobbies, his enemies, his "firsts," his childhood, his favorite quotes, what he considers his greatest accomplishments and failures and much more. This is truly a relaxed chat with Mr. Roosevelt. And at the end of the presentation he will introduce someone who will give you a look "behind the creative curtain."

W August 28 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Room H1415



Owl Detectives and Meet and Greet with RUBY! with International Owl Center



Few people are lucky enough to experience owls in a full-sunlight, field guide pose. This program will teach you how to identify our local owls the way most of us experience them: by size, shape, sound and silhouette. Pay attention because there is a quiz at the end! Ruby the Great Horned Owl will come along to help you learn more about her kind.

Th August 29 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

\$15/\$25

Room H1415



Interested in an online class but don't have the technology?

Need assistance watching a class on Zoom?

Prefer to watch an online class in person with others?

We welcome you to our RCTC viewing room for class if you prefer to have assistance with participating in an online Zoom class. Contact the LIFE office for more information.

Instructor Biographies



Kristin Anderson is a Professor of Art at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Her courses include art history and architectural history surveys as well as more specialized offerings such as American Art, Scandinavian Art, and Women and Art. A graduate of Oberlin College, Kristin has master's degrees in art history (University of Minnesota) and church history (Luther Seminary) as well as a Ph.D. in American Art, Architecture, and Popular Culture from the University of Minnesota. **Page 10.**



Dr. Connie Arzigian is a Teaching Professor in the Archaeology and Anthropology Department at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has worked in Wisconsin since 1988. In 2010 she led a regional archaeological survey of Olmsted county. Her focus of research is on Midwestern archaeology and paleoecology, examining subsistence and settlement systems, and the origins of agriculture. **Page 10.**



Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of ***Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home*** which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. He is a Trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture and a fellow of the Royal Historical

Society. **Page 7.**



Don Borcharding is a retired Professional Engineer and Surveyor previously licensed in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. He is a graduate of Iowa State University, retired President of Yaggy Colby Associates, past president of the Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors, past member of the Minnesota State Professional Licensure Board, and the past adjunct professor at St. Cloud State University. He has received professional awards as both Minnesota Surveyor and Engineer of the Year. Don has spent over 40 years researching "Surveying History" and gives frequent presentations as Captain Andrew Talcott (1797-1883). **Page 8.**



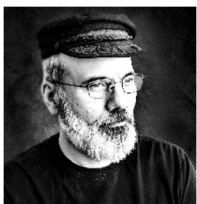
Ilya Dines is a distinguished medievalist and classical philologist. He earned the prestigious Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress in 2015. From 2011 to 2013, he directed the medieval Latin and vernacular manuscripts project at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem. Since 2015, he has been describing medieval manuscripts and rare books at the Library of Congress. One of his notable works is **Apocalyptic Cartography**, co-authored with Chet Van Duzer, which delves into fifteenth-century maps foreseeing the world's transformation during the prophetic Apocalypse. Furthermore, Dr. Dines authored **Westminster Bestiary: Text and Commentary**, offering insights into Westminster Abbey Ms 22, a thirteenth-century bestiary celebrated for its distinctive imagery and iconography. Dr. Dines also holds the position of chief paleographer at the Lazarus Project, an initiative affiliated with the University of Rochester, dedicated to the restoration of damaged manuscripts using multispectral imaging. **Page 4.**



Tony Fisher was born in 1962 and grew up on the Fisher dairy farm near Veseli, Minnesota, along with one brother and two sisters. Tony received a BA degree in Zoo Animal Management and was employed by the Minnesota Zoo for 35 years, retiring as the Director of Animal Collections in 2022. He currently lives with his beautiful wife, Kathy, on a small farm near Northfield, Minnesota riding his horses and roping almost every day. **Page 9.**



Ryan Golembeske (RPG) has built a life on the fringe thanks to Scooby Doo, Saturday creature features and the X-Files. Along his weird and wonderful journey he has had the honor of working on the hit TV show Finding Bigfoot and even being cast on the new hit TV show Expedition Bigfoot. He has filmed everywhere in his pursuit of cryptids from the highlands of Borneo to the Amazon jungle. He has also chased ghosts on Indian reservations and explored the world famous Conjuring House. He is currently the Master of Ceremonies for major bigfoot conferences and makes paranormal documentaries with his company OutKast Paranormal. Check out The Skunk Ape Experiments 1 and 2, Ci'tonga Bigfoot Spirits and Faith and The Conjuring House Experiments on Amazon to learn more. As an avid citizen-scientist, devote cryptozoologist and loving father of four - RPG's intention is to help guide our technology obsessed culture back to nature by sharing his passion for its many unsolved mysteries. Stay curious - The world is full of wonder for those that wonder about the world. **Page 5.**



Richard J. Goodrich (Ph.D., University of St Andrews) is an author and historian. After twenty years as a history professor in Britain and the United States, Richard resigned his teaching post to pursue a full-time writing career. His interests range from ancient history (the Roman Empire and early Church history) to the modern age. **Page 5.**



Taylor Hagood has been lecturing in the LIFE program since 2021. A professor of American literature at Florida Atlantic University, he lectures on a range of topics in literature, art, music, history, and travel. He is the author of multiple books, including the biography/true crime ***Stringbean: The Life and Murder of a Country Music Legend***; ***Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place***, and the ***Materiality of Myth; Secrecy, Magic***, and the ***One-Act Plays of Harlem Renaissance Women Writers***; and ***Faulkner, Writer of Disability***, winner of the C. Hugh Holman Award for Best Book in Southern Studies. **Page 8.**



Heather Holm is a pollinator conservationist and award-winning author of four books: ***Pollinators of Native Plants*** (2014), ***Bees*** (2017), ***Wasps*** (2021), and ***Common Native Bees of the Eastern United States*** (2022). Both ***Bees*** and ***Wasps*** have won multiple book awards including the American Horticultural Society Book Award (2018 and 2022 respectively). Heather's expertise includes the interactions between native pollinators and native plants, and the natural history and biology of native bees and predatory wasps. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Minneapolis Star Tribune, and many local publications. Heather is also an accomplished photographer and her pollinator photos are frequently featured in print and electronic publications. In her spare time, she is an active community supporter, writing grants, and coordinating and participating in volunteer ecological landscape restoration projects. The latest project is a 13-acre oak savanna restoration that will provide thriving habitat for pollinators, birds, mammals, and passive, nature-based opportunities for people. **Page 10.**



The International Owl Center is the only all-owl education center in the United States. The goal of the Owl Center is to educate, inspire and empower people. We have lots of displays where people can learn more about these fantastic feathered creatures and what you can do to help them. Our educator, Jo Severson, has worked as an educator at the Center for eight years, after graduating from Winona State University with a degree in Ecology in 2013. **Page 11.**



Anette Isaacs, German born and raised, is a historian and public educator who has been presenting hundreds of programs on more than 40 different topics (all pertaining to her native country's history, politics, and culture) all over the United States. She holds Master's Degrees in American Studies, Political Science, and History and is currently serving as the Director of OLLI at FIU (Florida International University) in Miami, FL. **Page 6.**



Paul Koeller is a retired IBMer and active Mayo Volunteer who loves researching and presenting music and local history topics. Paul has given numerous history presentations in Rochester and presented about twenty different rock music classes for Rochester Community Education and RCTC's LIFE program. Paul also loves traveling and gardening. **Page 9.**



Todd Lefko is President of the United Filtration Company, an import-export firm dealing with water purification equipment, art, linen, kilns, and new technologies in agri-business. He has worked in Russia for over 35 years and has homes in both Moscow and Minnesota. He was the weekly columnist for *Rossiske Vesti*, the political newspaper of the Russian Presidential Administration for 18 years and has written over 700 articles in *Rossiske Vesti* and other newspapers and magazines. Todd is on the Editorial Board for the *Russian Historical Reporter* and has been the English editor for four Russian books. Todd is Chairperson of East-West Connections, an international non-profit focused on citizen diplomacy. He has taught over 4400 students at the University of Minnesota and other Minnesota colleges. He has lectured at universities in Russia, Germany, China, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Todd is a Fellow for the Caux International Roundtable. He is also a member of the Technical Advisory Committee at the Almaty Management University in Kazakhstan. Todd holds a BA in History, an MA in Public Administration and the coursework for a Ph.D. in Urban History from the University of Minnesota. He has also studied Public Policy as a Bush Fellow at Harvard University, and Urban Planning at the University of Manchester, England. He is one of the Founders of Global Volunteers and has served as their Treasurer and Representative at the United Nations. Todd has also been a member of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Council, the Regional Transit Board and the Minnesota Experimental City Authority. **Page 4.**



Dr. Richard Leitch earned his BA in East Asian Studies from Colby College in 1985 and went on to earn an MA in Asian Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign after a two-year career on Wall Street. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Illinois in 1995, where he was the recipient of the Harriet and Charles Luckman Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching, and the College of Liberal Arts Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Assistant. He has been a member of the Political Science Department at Gustavus since 1996, where he teaches courses in International Relations, Comparative Politics, Asian Politics, Environmental Politics, and the Politics of Poverty. In 2000 he received the Swenson-Bunn Award for Teaching Excellence at Gustavus, and in 2008 the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching. In 2012 he was included in The Princeton Review's The Best 300 Professors. His research interests include Japanese domestic politics and foreign policy, and he is the co-author of ***Japan's Role in the Post-Cold War World***. **Page 4.**



Chad Lewis is a paranormal researcher and author for Unexplained Research L.L.C. Lewis holds a master's of science degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He had trekked across the world in search of the paranormal. From tracking vampires in Transylvania and chasing the Chupacabras in Puerto Rico, to searching for the elusive monster in Loch Ness, and pursuing ghosts in Ireland's castles, Lewis brings more than 14 years of research experience to his presentations. Lewis has been featured on the Discovery Channel's "A Haunting," ABC's "World's Scariest Places" and hundreds of radio interviews, TV appearances and newspaper articles. Lewis is the author of the **Hidden Headlines** series and also the co-author of the **Road Guide to Haunted Locations** book series. Lewis has presented at hundreds of libraries, universities, schools and private functions for crowds of seven to 700. **Page 10.**



Rory Londer felt the flip of a switch inside when he tried crack cocaine for the first time. He knew he needed more. For nearly two decades, he chased after this love. Even if it meant couch hopping, living out of motels and his car, or worse, wandering the streets. When he was ready to turn things around, feelings of failure and shame weighed him down. He encountered people in his life who lifted him and gave him a sense of worth. He has given back to the recovery community ever since. He's real, raw, honest, and straight-forward. His words will echo loudly if you're affected by addiction, sitting in self-pity, or paralyzed by fear. His words will move you to act. **Page 5.**



Dr. John F. Lyons was born in London, England. He lives in Chicago and works as a Professor of History at Joliet Junior College, where he teaches classes in British and US history. He has appeared on podcasts and radio shows discussing popular music and is a noted public speaker who has spoken to audiences in the US and Europe. **Joy and Fear: The Beatles, Chicago and the 1960s** is his latest book. **Page 8.**



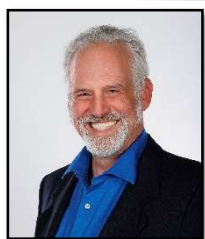
Don Meyer and his wife, Kris, moved to Rochester in November 2023. He retired after working as an architect in Forest City, Iowa for 12 years, in the fundraising profession for 23 years at Waldorf University and for 13 years at Wartburg College. Don has also served the community of Waverly as Past President of the Waverly Historic Preservation Commission. Don also serves on the Waldorf University Foundation Board. His hobbies include music, fishing, and baseball. Don and his wife, Kris, have two grown children and one grandson. **Page 6.**



David Misch is a former stand-up comedian, screenwriter ("Mork and Mindy," "Saturday Night Live," "The Muppets Take Manhattan"), author of **Funny: The Book**, ("A Beginner's Guide To Corruption"), teacher (his own courses on comedy at USC and musical satire at UCLA) and lecturer at Yale, Columbia, the Smithsonian, 92nd St. Y (NYC), Oxford University, Trinity College Dublin, University of Sydney, VIEW Cinema (Torino, Italy) and San Miguel (Mexico) Writers' Conferences, Raindance Film Festival (London), Austin Film Festival, American Film Institute, Writers Guild of America, Sony, DreamWorks, Lucasfilm, Disney, Second City, Actors Studio. More at davidmisch.com. **Page 5.**



Ric Mixter is one of the busiest maritime speakers, rumored to be the most requested historian on the Great Lakes. Visiting museums, libraries, NASA and his live music concert "STORM", thousands of audience members get a new appreciation for our unique inland-sea history through his spellbinding lectures. Millions of television viewers recognize Ric as a shipwreck researcher, diving over 100 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, including the Edmund Fitzgerald. He has produced over 30 programs for PBS and the Outdoor Channel, and appeared as an expert on the History and Discovery Channels. He leads the pack when it comes to sharing our unique underwater resources with the general public, thousands of dive show patrons, and countless school kids. Ric's stories appear in books, magazines (including Michigan History Magazine) and in radio and TV news programs. Mixter's YouTube videos have over three million views, covering shipwrecks in four of the Great Lakes and adventures in several foreign lands. With over 20 years of stories on historical preservation, Ric was awarded the 2009 Award for Historic Interpretation by the Association for Great Lakes Maritime Historians. In 2011 he was elected to their board of directors. Ric was also the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association's third president. He has hosted the largest dive show in Ontario and also MC'd the midwest's largest show in Chicago. He was a frequent speaker at Ghost Ships in Milwaukee and Michigan's largest show "Great Lakes Shipwrecks," held annually in Ann Arbor. **Page 7.**



Todd Packer, CF APMP, Principal Consultant and Founder of Todd Packer and Associates, LLC, is dedicated to helping organizations find resources to launch new initiatives that achieve security, prosperity and innovation. Since 1999, Todd's commitment to innovation excellence uses research-based, outcome-focused creative problem-solving, business planning and proposal development services to help organizations and leaders to identify needs, develop ideas, manage projects and find new sources of growth and revenue. With a master's degree from the University of Chicago and over twenty years' experience with improving performance in international, multi-cultural environments, his innovative techniques have helped individuals from corporations, universities, non-profit institutions and health-care facilities in the U.S., Canada and India. Committed to lifelong learning, he looks forward to sharing his expertise with the participants in RCTC's Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) program! **Page 6.**



Asya Pereltvaig received a degree in English and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from McGill University. She taught at Yale, Cornell, and Stanford universities, and has been teaching in lifelong education programs since 2010. Her expertise is in language, culture, and history, and the relationship between them. Asya has published five scholarly books with Cambridge University Press. Asya is a popular instructor for several Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes around the country and was the faculty host for the OLLI trip to the Baltic countries and St. Petersburg in July 2017. **Page 6.**



Salt & Light Partners exists to provide emotional and spiritual support to first responders and their families through workplace chaplaincy. We create a community where care of the spirit and heart are part of agency wellness programs. Salt & Light Partners currently has 16 chaplains serving the Rochester Police Department, Rochester Fire Department, Olmsted County Sheriff's Office, and the Winona Area Ambulance Service. The work of a first responder has a ripple effect on the mind and the heart of those who do the work. They deserve support and care from people who are a part of their agency, culture and community. **Page 7.**



Maddie Roach is the Distance Learning Specialist at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans Louisiana. There she works in the museums Education Department and delivers online educational programs to learners of all ages. **Page 9.**



Gary Stamm has entertained and informed people from coast to coast with his portrayal of our 32nd President. His uncanny resemblance and capture of the personality of FDR coupled with his extensive knowledge of the man all team to leave audiences feeling that they have been in the presence of the individual many historians judge to be the greatest person of the twentieth century. **Page 10.**



Jonah Van Proosdy has been married to his best friend, Eden Van Proosdy, since 2012. They have five children and love investing in church, family, and the community. Jonah has been with A Smooth Move for over six years and managing the company for three. Downsizing is something that Jonah takes seriously because he sees the impact it has on the clients ASM serves. When someone is thanking their team for the work they do (work that seemed insurmountable to them), it is the real payment for the service they provide. Giving away information that can remove barriers in the aging community is what drives Jonah to share their time-tested tools for downsizing. **Page 8.**



Encourage a friend to attend a LIFE class. Their first class is free! Contact 507-280-3157 for information.



Amy Waters Yarsinske is the author of several best-selling, award-winning nonfiction books, notably ***An American in the Basement: The Betrayal of Captain Scott Speicher and the Cover-up of His Death***, which won the Next Generation Indie Book Award for General Non-fiction in 2014. She is also the author of two books about NAS OCEANA. To those who know this prolific author and Renaissance woman, it's no surprise that she became a writer. Amy's drive to document and investigate history-shaping stories and people has already led to publication of over 85 non-fiction books, most of them spotlighting current affairs, the military, history and the environment. Amy graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and Economics, and the University of Virginia School of Architecture, where she earned her Master of Planning and was a DuPont Fellow and Lawn/Range resident. She also holds numerous graduate certificates, including those earned from the CIVIC Leadership Institute and the Joint Forces Staff College, both headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia. Amy serves on the national board of directors of Honor-Release-Return, Inc. and the board of experts [non-fiction] of the National Association of Independent Writers and Editors (NAIWE). She is a member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA), Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), Authors Guild, the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association (NCLHA), and the Western North Carolina Historical Association (WNCHA), among her many professional and civic memberships and activities. **Page 4.**



Richard H. Weisberg is the Walter Floersheimer Professor of Constitutional Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University. He was an Obama appointee to the Commission on the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. Professor Weisberg has helped litigate successfully in American federal courts on behalf of Holocaust survivors and their heirs, providing a measure of justice for World War II victims of anti-Semitism.

President Nicholas Sarkozy of France awarded him the Legion of Honor in 2008. The founding director at Cardozo of the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Program and the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy, he writes widely in those areas, including his book ***Vichy Law and the Holocaust in France*** and essays on First Amendment developments in the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a pioneer in the growing law and literature movement worldwide, and his books ***The Failure of the Word and Poethics*** have been widely translated. In 2014, he published ***In Praise of Intransigence: The Perils of Flexibility*** (Oxford University Press). The book argues that a willingness to embrace intransigence allows us to recognize the value of our beliefs, which are always at risk of being compromised or equivocated. He has visited many undergraduate institutions in the U.S., at law schools around the country, and in France, Denmark and China, where he is an honorary professor of law at Wuhan University. His staging of legal dilemmas in great fictional works has won notices from The New York Times, the National Law Journal, and The New Yorker magazine. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and recipient of Rockefeller Foundation, NEH and ACLS grants. He holds a B.A. from Brandeis University, and his Ph.D. from Cornell is in French and comparative literature. While teaching those subjects on the graduate faculty of the University of Chicago, Professor Weisberg earned his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was an editor of the Columbia Law Review. He has been associated with the firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York and Coudert Freres in Paris. **Page 7.**



2024 HARVEST DINNER

Samantha 'Rastles' the Woman Question

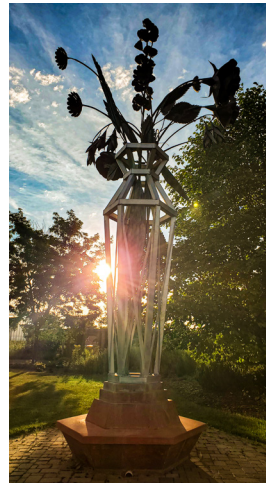
SAVE
the
DATE

Thursday, October 24

5:30 - 8:00 pm

Rochester International
Event Center

After dinner enjoy a one-woman performance portraying Samantha Smith Allen. Samantha "rastles" with questions concerning history's treatment of women, rights denied by the church, women's powerlessness before the law, the need for women's suffrage, social status, role assumptions, and more.



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