

LIFE PROGRAM

Learning Is ForEver

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER



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



Welcome to the 24/25 academic year. We are so excited to welcome back many things from cooler weather to kids back in the classroom. We are also happy to welcome

two new members, a new Chair, and a new Vice-Chair to the advisory committee. The Fall Catalog welcomes over 20 new speakers and over 35 returning. We welcome over 25 chances to gather in person for lectures, book clubs, and movies, and of course, we welcome back the Harvest Dinner. Finally, we welcome back YOU! We are thankful you renewed your membership and hope you are as excited for this new academic year as we are!

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FROM ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR



Cooler nights and shorter days signal the beginning of the academic year. A renewal of the learning process we started in kindergarten. For avid lifelong learners, that's you and me, it's valued and appreciated. With

this catalog, we relish new and varied learning opportunities, old favorites and new presenters, and offerings for a variety of interests as well as especially timely topics. I want to highlight some member-led classes: Steve Frytak and Phil Karsell's Headliners, an in-person opportunity to discuss current events and listen to others; Marita Heller and Betty Spitzmillers' Great Literature Book Group, and Steve Troutman's Generations class and Book Group.

Frank Iossi
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 lifelong 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.

**Time to Renew
Annual
Memberships**

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 Chair: Frank Iossi



I grew up in Davenport, IA and graduated from the University of Iowa. After several years as a newspaper reporter, Linda and I moved to Rochester in 1975. We have a son and daughter. I retired from Mayo Clinic

after 14 years as public relations director and 14 years as state government relations director, plus several years as an Education Division administrator. In the 1980s, I served on the State Board for Community Colleges, appointed by Gov. Perpich to represent the First Congressional District. I also gave the RCC (Rochester Community College) winter commencement address during that time. LIFE is easily the best activity that's happened to me in retirement.

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 a check payable to "RCTC LIFE" to

RCTC Heintz Center
1926 Collegeview Road SE
Rochester, MN 55904

CLASS FORMATS



IN PERSON - The course is held in an RCTC classroom.



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



HYBRID - Live in-person and on Zoom at the same time. We will email the Zoom link before the class if you choose Zoom.

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 before** the class starts. A \$5 processing fee will be retained.

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

Classes by Category

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Languages Different	30
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Signifies in person class

GREAT LITERATURE BOOK GROUP

Marita Heller and Betty Spitzmiller facilitate this discussion group composed of people who love reading and discussing great literature.

This year's group will be reading Samuel Cohen's **50 Essays: A Portable Anthology** (3rd edition). This compact and inexpensive collection of essays includes a core of classic essays from authors such as, but not limited to, Maya Angelou, E.B. White, and Malcolm X.

Over the summer the group will read **The Reading List**, a novel by Sara Nisha Adams, and discuss it at the September meeting. Also, for September, read the **Introduction for Students: Active Reading, Critical Thinking, and the Writing Process** in Cohen's book.

The fall and spring meetings are held in hybrid format where you are invited to meet in person at the Heintz Center or join the group by Zoom. Winter meetings will be held entirely via Zoom.

The class fee will cover September through June. After you register, you may pick up the book from the LIFE office for an additional \$6.00 or secure the book on your own.

This group will meet on the first Thursday of each month, September through June. Come to the class prepared to discuss preselected works of classic literature.

\$40/\$50 Hybrid/Room H1305



10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Thursdays: September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5, January 2, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5

HEADLINERS

Gather, Listen, and Learn! Meet in person once a month to engage in a thoughtful exchange of ideas, opinions, and information with facilitators Steve Frytak and Phil Karsell. This is a place to flex the brain and find gratification in being acknowledged for what you know and be humbled by the knowledge of others. Bring current newspapers/magazine topics or any other topics you would like to discuss. All are welcome; however, you will **need to pre-register**. Class is limited to the first 10 registered each date to keep the group at a size where everyone will have time to express their thoughts. There is not a fee attached to this class.

Room H1415 1:00 PM-3:00 PM



Fridays: September 6, October 4, November 8

INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION: DEVELOPING INSIGHTS AND SKILLS FOR A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

This closed discussion group will meet four times over two months, each addressing an aspect of diversity in interpersonal relationships. Each session will include theoretical concepts as well as group discussion and activity. Progression in the series will move from self-awareness, through discussion of social issues, to skill building, to commitments for personal development. "Homework" assignments will be given to help attendees reflect on learning and prepare for the next session. In addition to the first meeting on September 17th, the group will meet on the 1st, 15th, and 29th of October.

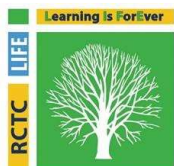
\$48/\$58 Online



10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Tuesdays: September 17, October 1, 15, 29

Questions? 507-280-3157



Time to Renew Your **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

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

LIFE BOOK GROUP

The LIFE Book Group members suggest and select the books they discuss. Steve Troutman facilitates the group's discussions, which are held via Zoom, on the third Friday of each month. You will need to secure your own copies of the selected books. May and June books will be chosen in spring. **The class fee will cover September thru June.**

\$40/\$50 Online 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Friday, September 20

Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future.... by Walter Isaacson



Friday, October 18

These Truths: A History of the United States by Jill Lepore

Friday, November 15

Worse Than Nothing: The Dangerous Fallacy of Originalism by Erwin Chemerinsky

Friday, December 20

Not What It Seems - The Journey to Quantum Gravity by Carlo Rovelli

Friday, January 17

West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

Friday, February 21

The Covenant of Water by Graham Verghese

Friday, March 21

Damnation Spring by Ash Davidson

Friday, April 18

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

RATED R FOR READ!

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. 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?

\$10/\$20 Heintz Center Room H1100

10:00 AM-12:00 PM



Thursday, September 26

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Thursday, October 31

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Thursday, November 21

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Thursday, December 19

In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash by Jean Shepherd

Iran: Axis of Resistance with Henry Berman



Iran is the leader of the Shia Axis of Resistance in the tumultuous Middle East. Its relationship with the Western world (especially the United States) has been frosty since 1979. We will examine the key challenges and issues that face Iran in 2024.

T Sep 3 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

Operation Frequent Wind - Vietnam 1975 with John Landry



The USS Midway's final deployment to Vietnam was not to wage war. It was to rescue more than 3,000 refugees in South Vietnam's final hours of the war. Experience the hair-raising chances taken by U.S. helicopter pilots to fly their dangerous missions. Operation Frequent Wind became the largest rescue mission in U.S. Navy history. A mission that broke rules, set precedents, and gave thousands a second chance at freedom.

T Sep 3 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 ZOOM

Early Defibrillation Program: Improving Survival from Ventricular Fibrillation with



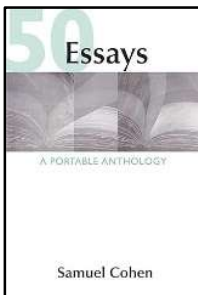
Roger White

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death worldwide. The presenting heart rhythm can be shockable, ventricular fibrillation (VF), or ventricular tachycardia (VT), or it can be nonshockable, such as pulseless electrical activity (PEA) or asystole. Patients whose arrest is caused by a shockable rhythm, most commonly VF, have the greatest chance of survival if the arrest is witnessed by a bystander, prompt and efficient CPR is provided, and a defibrillator (AED) is made available very quickly. This presentation will focus on patients whose initial cardiac arrest rhythm is VF and how our emergency medical system (EMS) is set up to provide rapid defibrillation. First responders can be AED-equipped police officers, fire rescue personnel, or paramedics. How the 911 call is handled and how dispatch proceeds to launch the rescue effort will be described and illustrated. Patient survival from this form of cardiac arrest will be discussed. Changes in the presentation of cardiac arrest and pre-arrest, especially in the younger population, will be discussed.

W Sep 4 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 H1415



Great Literature with Marita Heller & Betty Spitzmiller



Marita Heller and Betty Spitzmiller facilitate this group of people who love reading and discussing great literature. This year they will be reading Samuel Cohen's **50 Essays: A Portable Anthology** (3rd edition). This compact collection of essays includes classic essays from authors such as, but not limited to, Maya Angelou, E.B. White, and Malcolm X. Over the summer the group will read **The Reading List**, a novel by Sara Nisha Adams, and the "Introduction for Students: Active Reading, Critical Thinking, and the Writing Process" in Cohen's book. Fall and spring

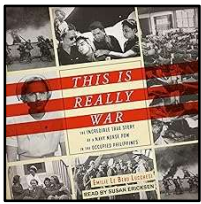
meetings are in hybrid format (in person at Heintz Center or by Zoom); winter is on Zoom. After you register, pick up the book at the LIFE office for \$6 or secure your copy. This group will meet on the first Thursday of each month, September through June. The class fee covers all sessions.

TH Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$40/\$50

Hybrid H1305



This is Really War: The Inspiring True Story of the 12 Navy Nurse POWs in WWII with



Emilie Lucchesi

In 1941, twelve U.S. Navy Nurses were taken prisoner of war in the Philippines by the Empire of Japan. They were soon transferred to a civilian concentration camp in Manila. Under the direction of Chief Nurse Laura Cobb, the nurses maintained rank and provided tireless care to thousands of inmates. In 1943, the nurses bravely agreed to transfer to a countryside prison camp where they would be the only medical care providers. In the new prison camp, the nurses built an infirmary and bravely stood up to guards to protect their patients. This true and inspiring story tells of 12 nurses whose heroism saved thousands of lives. All twelve nursed to the end; all twelve came home.

TH	Sep 5	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Headliners with Steve Frytak & Phil Karsell



Gather, Listen, and Learn! Meet in person once a month to engage in a thoughtful exchange of ideas, opinions, and information with facilitators Steve Frytak and Phil Karsell. This is a place to flex the brain and find gratification in being acknowledged for what you know and be humbled by the knowledge of others. Bring current newspapers/magazine topics or any other topics you would like to discuss. All are welcome; however, you will need to pre-register. Class is limited to the first 10 registered on each date to keep the group at a size where everyone will have time to express their thoughts. There is no fee attached to this class.

F	Sep 6	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	No Charge	H1415
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The Life of Johnny Cash with Michelle Gibbons



Johnny Cash received worldwide fame for being America's beloved musician and outlaw. With his deep, baritone voice and songs of genuine folkloric poetry, he inspired a new style of music. Cash's music intertwined country, rock and roll, rockabilly, blues, gospel, and folk music, inspiring future musicians for years to come. Historical Presenter, Michelle Gibbons, will take you into the life, love, struggles, and stardom of Johnny Cash.

M	Sep 9	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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Civilizational Changes with Todd Lefko



New patterns have developed with nations and movements limiting access to the Internet, trade, and economic supply chains. These include systems in China-Russia, the European Union, and the United States, and emerging patterns in Africa and Southeast Asia. How will these new relationships affect the United States? Is the power of the US decreasing in this new world? What does the idea of "power" mean in the new world?

M	Sep 9	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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How to Use Emotional Intelligence During Election Season with Sue Delazaro



Every day, we wake up and hear about the 2024 election. As we inch closer to Election Day, you can feel emotions rising and stress building. No matter who you are, where you are from, or what you believe in—as humans we share the same biology—we are emotional creatures by nature, meant to help us survive as a species. In this interactive session, you'll learn about emotions, the four skills that make up emotional intelligence (EQ): self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management and how to use our emotions and biological wiring in practical ways to become more aware of our triggers, manage ourselves through difficult situations, and maintain relationships. You'll walk away with eight strategies to manage through the election season. In this workshop, we will stay respectfully focused on this topic of emotions and will not venture into political specifics, personal affiliations, or current events. This session will remain focused on you.

T	Sep 10	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Germans and Their Fuehrer: Insights Into a Mutual Obsession with Anette Isaacs



Addressing a huge and adoring audience at the Party Convention in Nuremberg in 1936, Adolf Hitler stated, "That you have found me among so many millions is the miracle of our time! And the fact that I found you - that is Germany's good fortune!" Join German Historian, Anette Isaacs for an exploration of how this consummate symbiosis of Volk and Führer (People and Leader) came into existence and how it changed and evolved during the course—and especially the demise of the Third Reich.

T	Sep 10	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Gothic: Part 1. An Architecture of Darkness with Taylor Hagood



For this autumn, Dr. Taylor Hagood will be examining one of history's major transcontinental movements, the Gothic in architecture, art, and literature. In this first of a three-lecture series, the focus will be on the origins of the artistic and cultural phenomenon that is the Gothic. The nuances of the term will be defined and its first blooming in the realm of architecture traced, setting the stage for the early literary incarnations of the movement in the eighteenth century. Some of the major figures covered will be Horace Walpole, Ann Radcliff, and Charles Brockton Brown.

W	Sep 11	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Grief and the Chronologically Gifted with Ann Siverling



In many ways, grief is a constant companion in life, but as we age we encounter more and more grief—of many types and durations. In this presentation, we will cover the physical, spiritual, emotional, and cognitive effects of grief, the different types of grief that come with aging, and resources and practices that can aid us in experiencing grief healthily and holistically.

W	Sep 11	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	H1415
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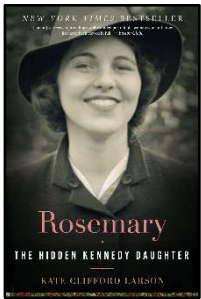
The Rise and Fall of the British Raj: Making and Breaking India, 1757-1947 with Mircea Raianu



The British Empire controlled India for almost two hundred years, playing a crucial role in the political and economic transformation of the subcontinent. It changed how Indians related to each other along the lines of caste, religion, gender, and other markers of identity, and created a bureaucratic and administrative machinery that survives to this day. It built railroads, ports, and cities, and developed industry and agriculture. At the same time, the Raj left behind poverty, famine, inequality, disease, and violence, culminating in the horrors of the Partition that saw India divided into separate nation-states at the moment of independence. This lecture will trace exactly how the British were able to conquer India, how they maintained their rule, and how they were successfully challenged by Indian nationalists. It reflects on the broader lessons we can learn from the age of imperialism in our troubled present.

TH	Sep 12	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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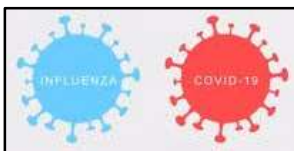
The Life and Legacy of Rosemary, the Hidden Kennedy Daughter with Kate Clifford Larson



In this illustrated lecture, Dr. Kate Larson shares the long obscured and tragic story of Rosemary Kennedy, President John F. Kennedy's strikingly beautiful, intellectually disabled sister. She attended exclusive schools, was presented as a debutante to the queen and king of England, and traveled the world with her high-spirited siblings. Yet Rosemary's disabilities were a secret fiercely guarded by her powerful and glamorous family. Using major new sources, Larson will discuss both the sensitive care her parents, Rose and Joe, gave to Rosemary and then - as the family's standing as public figures grew - the often desperate and duplicitous arrangements they made to control her. When she became increasingly defiant and unmanageable in her early twenties, her father arranged for an experimental lobotomy that went wrong and cruelly destroyed her future. The tragedy, however, ultimately inspired her siblings to direct attention to the plight of the disabled, transforming the lives of millions to this day.

TH	Sep 12	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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Influenza: The 100th Anniversary of the Spanish Flu versus Covid-19 with Anthony Sammarco



In 1918, Boston was in the grip of the Spanish flu, or influenza, affecting not just residents of Massachusetts but the entire world. Please join us as author and historian, Anthony M. Sammarco, takes us through the events that followed the emergence of the first pandemic of the 20th century, including Boston Mayor Andrew Peter's emergency committee's recommendation to indefinitely close schools and all places of public amusement - theaters, movie houses, and concert halls. Mr. Sammarco will explore what we can learn from the parallels between this pandemic and the more recent one, COVID-19.

M	Sep 16	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	\$10/\$20	ZOOM
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Auroras: Nature's Light Show with J. Kelly Beatty



Humans have watched displays of the "Northern Lights" in awe for centuries. Some cultures thought these colorful curtains of light arose as sparks created by the tail of an arctic fox or from epic battles in the night sky. The Sámi of northernmost Europe calls it "the light you can hear." Only recently have scientists been able to fully understand how and why auroras exist. This presentation explores the fanciful explanations for these dancing curtains of light, how powerful bursts from the sun create them, and when/where you're most likely to see an auroral display.

M	Sep 16	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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Intercultural Communication: Developing Insights and Skills for a Diverse Community with



Anita Foeman

This closed discussion group will meet four times with each session addressing an aspect of diversity in interpersonal relationships. Each session will include theoretical concepts, group discussion, and activity. Progression in the series will move from self-awareness, through discussion of social issues, to skill building, to commitments for personal development. "Homework" assignments will be given to help attendees reflect on learning and prepare for the next session. In addition to the first meeting date on September 17, the group will meet on October 1, 15, and 29.

T	Sep 17, Oct 1, 15, 29	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$48/\$58	ZOOM
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Howling Winds with Ric Mixer



Mascots were fairly common on Great Lakes ships, and the animal of choice was a dog. Ric Mixer chronicles some of the most famous storms and the canines that made it through, including the LC Waldo's bulldog in the 1913 Storm, and the pets of the captain and cook that rode 20 miles in a lifeboat with gold medal lifesavers from Charlotte, New York. Soogie, the Coast Guard dog, rode through the same storm that sank the Edmund Fitzgerald! The recent discovery of the Huronton also brings to the surface the legend of the ship's dog by a man who survived over a dozen shipwrecks.

T	Sep 17	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Baron Von Steuben and the Valley Forge Winter with Richard Bell



The hard winter of 1777, when the Continental Army was camped at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, was a turning point in the Revolution, the moment when new drills and regulations turned a ragtag collection of ill-supplied amateurs into a professional fighting force capable of winning a war. This program tells this important story from the perspective of Baron Friedrich Von Steuben, the Prussian immigrant with an unusual home life whom Washington tasked with achieving that critical transformation.

TH	Sep 19	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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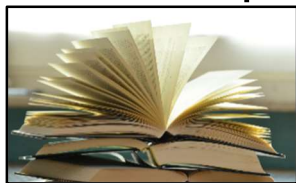
Smokeyjumpers and the CIA with Chuck Sheley



During 25 years from 1950-1975 over 100 Smokejumpers were involved and working for the CIA on various overseas operations. Most are unknown to the citizens of the United States: The Training of Chinese Nationalist Paratroopers for mainland China operations, training and dropping Tibetans back into their country to fight, the Chinese, the Bay of Pigs Operation/Cuba, and a Secret War in Laos, a mirror of the Vietnam War, only longer and mostly unknown.

TH Sep 19 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

LIFE Book Group with Facilitator Steve Troutman



The LIFE Book Group members suggest and select the books they discuss. Steve Troutman facilitates the group's discussions, which are held on ZOOM, on the third Friday of each month. You will need to secure your own copies of the selected books. May and June books will be chosen in spring. The class fee will cover September through June.

September: **Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing...** by Walter Isaacson

October: **These Truths: A History of the United States** by Jill Lepore

November: **Worse Than Nothing: The Dangerous Fallacy of Originalism** by Erwin Chemerinsky

December: **Not What It Seems- The Journey to Quantum Gravity** by Carlo Rovelli

January: **West with Giraffes** by Lynda Rutledge

February: **The Covenant of Water** by Graham Verghese

March: **Damnation Spring** by Ash Davidson

April: **Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Krueger

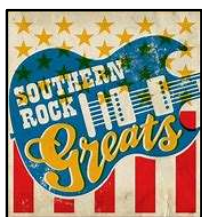
F Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

\$40/\$50

ZOOM



1970s Southern Rock with Paul Koeller



The term "Southern Rock" first appeared in 1972. Come learn about the origins of Southern Rock music, then learn about and listen to some of the famous Southern Rock groups of the 1970s. The class will cover: The Allman Brothers Band, Marshall Tucker Band, Charlie Daniels Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and ZZ Top.

M Sep 23 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 H1415



Los Veteranos: Latinos in WWII with Maddie Roach



Latinos were an important part of U.S. history long before WWII, the war gave Latinos new opportunities and presented them with new challenges. Because Latinos did not serve in segregated units, as African Americans did, their WWII history is sometimes overlooked. Was that history unique, and if so, how? Students will learn about Latino WWII heroes and average soldiers, as well as issues of ethnicity and acculturation on the home front.

M Sep 23 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

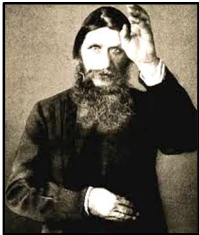
DECLUTTERING 55+ with Michelle Passoff



Too many papers? Too many clothes and other “stuff?” It’s all clutter. In this lecture, we will address what to do with it. But that’s not all. Areas of life we, Baby Boomers, sweep under the carpet to address another day (or never) because they are all too confounding or confronting- and so is clutter. If decisions about the right-for-you exercise and eating regimen, dealing with digital devices, sharing your life story with the next generation, reigniting old and creating new relationships, choosing where to live and what to do in retirement, getting your financial and legal house in order and even planning your funeral have you stumped, this engaging and interactive program will help. This roundtable intends to bring these conversations into the light of day so you can learn, clarify, choose, act, and complete some of these challenging aspects of life as you age. Michelle Passoff, author of **LIGHTEN UP! Free Yourself From Clutter** and the Decluttering 55+ with Michelle Passoff podcast will lead this interactive and compelling class

T	Sep 24	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Murder of Rasputin: The Whodunnit of the 20th Century with Asya Pereltsvaig



On the night of December 16, 1916, a group of conspirators murdered Grigori Rasputin, Russia’s “Mad Monk.” While meant to strengthen the Romanov dynasty, this murder brought on their downfall merely two months later and ushered in a year of two revolutions that ended with the Bolshevik takeover of Russia and the eventual murder of the Tsar and his family. In many ways, Russia and the rest of the world are still dealing with the consequences of that murder. Most narratives in books, films, and even songs about the murder of Rasputin focus on the victim, whereas this interactive conversation will shed new light on the perpetrators of the crime. Who were these men who assembled on that fateful night in the Yusupov Palace in Saint Petersburg and what motivated them to commit that heinous crime? What did the rich debonair Feliks Yusupov have in common with the goggle-eyed, middle-class Englishman Oswald Rayner? What brought the Tsar’s cousin Dmitry Pavlovich and the Duma deputy Vladimir Purishkevich to join the conspirators? Who provided the cyanide to be used in the murder and who shot the fatal shot? And how did these men’s lives unfold after the murder of Rasputin? Our story will take us not only to the magnificent Yusupov Palace in Saint Petersburg but also to the Yusupovs’ estates outside of Moscow and in Crimea, as well as to Oxford, Malta, and Paris.

T	Sep 24	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Forests and Planetary Health with Lee Frelich



The presentation will cover: (1) How forests maintain the environment and biodiversity; (2) Forests and climate change - how they affect and are affected by climate change at local to global scales; (3) The ecological legacy of natural forests and old growth forests, as compared to second growth forests; (4) The importance of disturbances such as logging, wind, and fire for the future of forests and strategies for forest conservation.

W	Sep 25	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	H1415
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1965 by Chad Israelson

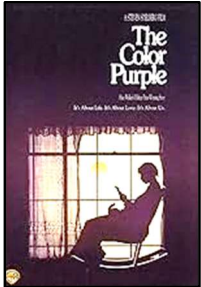


As the 60th anniversary of 1965 approaches please join us in examining the year that defined the 1960s. It may not have been as tumultuous as 1968, however with the escalation of the war in Vietnam, landmark Civil Rights events, and impactful cultural milestones, among other items, it contained all the aspects that would help the '60s earn its reputation as perhaps the most significant decade of the 20th Century.

W Sep 25 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 H1415



Rated R for READ! *The Color Purple* with Kerry & Jamie



The Color Purple is the story of Celie, an African American teenager, living in the South as she grows up enduring an abusive father, teen pregnancy, oppression, and an abusive husband. Alice Walker's book has been banned from schools all over the country due to language, graphic sexual content, and violence and abuse. Its heartbreaking story was made into a movie starring Hollywood stars such as Whoopie Goldberg, Oprah Winfrey, and Danny Glover. Regardless of whether you are an avid reader wanting to discuss the last book you read or a movie buff who enjoys the story played on a screen in front of you, Rated R for READ is the perfect fit. Bring your copy of the book to discuss after the movie or just show up for the movie and snacks. Either way, we hope that when you leave you will be able to confidently answer the question of which is better, the book or the movie?

TH Sep 26 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM \$10/\$20 H1100



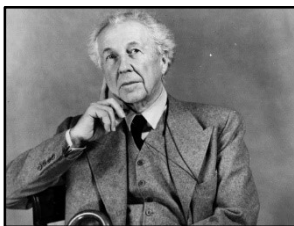
The Vietnam War with Jim Gibbons



The Vietnam War, which was also called the Second Indochina War, occurred from November 1955 through April 1975 and took place in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. It was a war between North and South Vietnam with America being one of several allies to South Vietnam. It was considered to be a war against communism with North Korea being aided by communist allies. Historian, Jim Gibbons will discuss America's involvement in the war and its effect on American lives, viewpoints, and the counterculture movement.

TH Sep 26 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

Frank Lloyd Wright-The Man, The Architect, The Genius with Don Meyer



We will examine FLW's personal life, his professional life, those who influenced him, the elements of his distinct style, and his notable buildings (and maybe some not so notable). FLW had a fascinating career that was at first celebrated, then ridiculed, and then celebrated again!

M Sep 30 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

The Women's Movement and the Minnesota Labor Movement with Peter Rachleff



The labor movement in Minnesota and around the United States-underwent important demographic changes in the 1970s. Women, employed as public employees, teachers, healthcare providers, clerical workers, and more, began to unionize and become significant economic forces. Inspired by the women's movement, they saw unions as vehicles to achieve economic security, workplace respect, and an increased voice in their communities.

Minnesota working women, blue collar and white collar, attracted the attention of working women around the country, and stories of the Willmar 8, women iron miners, the Minneapolis teachers, the University of Minnesota clerical workers, and Minnesota nurses inspired their counterparts from the east coast to the west coast.

M	Sep 30	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Native American Military Service and Cultural Traditions with William Meadows



This presentation highlights Native American Military Service in the US Armed Forces from the American Revolution through contemporary times. It also examines links between contemporary service to older warrior traditions and several ongoing Native cultural traditions associated with military service. These include song, dance, art, veterans and ceremonial organizations, purification rites, social status, and naming ceremonies. Much of the content is based on Dr. Meadows' 35+ years of fieldwork in Native communities.

T	Oct 1	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Norman Invasion of 1066: William's Unlikely Conquest with Jennifer Paxton



The 1066 invasion and occupation of England by Duke William II of Normandy (later known as William the Conqueror) changed the course of history. But the Norman Conquest never should have succeeded. William needed everything to break his way that day - and amazingly, it did. Historian Jennifer Paxton sets the scene for the Norman Conquest by examining the bitterly disputed English succession that led to two invasions of England in a single year, one by the Normans and one by the Vikings. She covers Williams' military campaigns and examines how the initially bitter legacy of the Norman Conquest was transformed, surprisingly quickly, into a new cultural consensus that created the England we know today.

W	Oct 2	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Have questions? Call 507-280-3157.

America's First Ladies with Leslie Goddard



The role of First Lady comes with no job description, no pay, and no written requirements. Yet, America's presidential spouses have wielded great influence and have always been subject to intense public scrutiny. In this fascinating illustrated lecture, historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., explores which First Ladies have rated highest and lowest - or most in-between - with historians. Who do you think was best or worst? Why were some so vilified?

And what might the future hold for the role of American First Lady?

TH	Oct 3	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Headliners with Steve Frytak & Phil Karsell



Gather, Listen, and Learn! Meet in person once a month to engage in a thoughtful exchange of ideas, opinions, and information with facilitators Steve Frytak and Phil Karsell. This is a place to flex the brain and find gratification in being acknowledged for what you know and be humbled by the knowledge of others. Bring current newspapers/magazine topics or any other topics you

would like to discuss. All are welcome; however, you will need to pre-register. Class is limited to the first 10 registered on each date to keep the group at a size where everyone will have time to express their thoughts. There is no fee attached to this class.

F	Oct 4	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	No Charge	H1415
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Learn to ZOOM



Zoom is the video conferencing platform that the LIFE program chooses to use when it offers online classes. Zoom is easy to use and can be accessed from any device with an internet connection BUT for someone who has never used the program it may seem a little overwhelming and complicated. The LIFE program is here to help. Bring the laptop, iPad, tablet, or phone that you plan to watch LIFE

classes and come to the LIFE office and we will help you download the Zoom application, set it up, and learn how to navigate it. When you leave the office, you will feel comfortable with the steps needed to open the link and join classes. The LIFE staff will teach you how to mute and unmute, turn your video on and off, raise your "hand," add to a chat, change your view, and more. When you finish this informational session you will be able to choose an online LIFE class to try at no charge. Take LIFE to the next level and Zoom with us!

M	Oct 7	10:00 AM - 12:00 AM	No Charge	H1305
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Encourage a friend to attend a LIFE class. Their first class is free! Contact 507-280-3157 for information.

Rediscovering An Extraordinary Archaeological Site: An Ancient Stone Quarry Near Rochester with Tom Trow

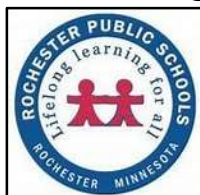


The Grand Meadow Chert Quarry/Wanhi Yukan is emerging as the largest and most visited site in southeastern Minnesota. For 450 years, starting at about 1000AD, many hundreds of people came to a place 25 miles south of Rochester every year, from many different villages in the region. While it may have been a place to meet with friends and relatives, they came especially to acquire a high-quality stone for making tools, like spear points, knives, arrowheads, and scraping tools for cleaning hides. The stone is called 'chert,' which in Europe is known as 'flint.' It comes in many forms and has been an essential material for people all over the world for hundreds of thousands of years. This particular chert has been used for 10,000 years, but only 1000 years ago the demand suddenly increased, and people began digging large pits in the prairie soil to get at even more of it. They dug over 1000 pits, and 88 of those holes in the ground are still visible, left untouched since the last worker walked away hundreds of years ago. It is about to be open to the public for touring. Tom Trow is the archaeologist leading that effort and offers this preview of the site and its unique significance.

M Oct 7 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 H1415



What's Going On With the School Referendum: An Update From Superintendent Kent Pekel

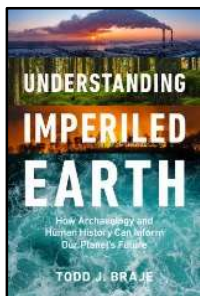


The quality of our schools affects the quality of our community. This November, Rochester Public Schools will be putting a referendum in front of voters. This vote calls for broad community input, but it may be tough to receive correct information about the referendum this election season, with national and state positions also on the ballot. Attend this class and hear directly from Rochester Public School Superintendent Dr. Kent Pekel about the need behind the fall 2024 referendum. This session will allow you to ask your questions directly to the superintendent.

W Oct 9 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM No Charge H1415



Understanding Imperiled Earth: How Archaeology and Human History Inform a Sustainable Future with Todd Braje



From climate change to biodiversity loss, deforestation, and overfishing, we face an uncertain future in the age of humans. And while our current environmental emergency may be the most daunting of contemporary challenges, solutions must come by looking at the past. In myriad ways, the past matters for the future Earth, and archaeology and history must act as critical guides for addressing the crisis we have created. Drawing from examples in my new book, ***Understanding Imperiled Earth*** (Smithsonian Books), I make connections between history and today's hot-button environmental news stories to reveal how the study of our ancient past can help build a more sustainable and resilient future. Find Todd's book at

www.penguinrandomhous.com/books/741007/understanding-imperiled-earth-by-todd-j-braje/

W Oct 9 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 ZOOM

Generations with Steve Troutman

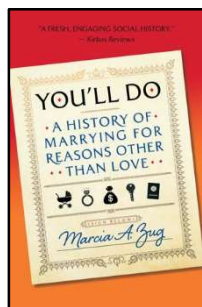


This eye-opening presentation is based on the research and analysis of US history from 1543 through the 1980s. The research identified four, repeating, generational archetypes (whose current iterations are: Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z), each with their cultural paradigm. These archetypes have reappeared throughout history in a repetitious pattern, resulting in recurring 80-year cycles. The recurring pattern illuminates our past societal moods and cultural norms as they shift over time, and enables understanding our present and making predictions. This presentation will include new material from a new book, in 2023, by one of the original researchers. After understanding the generational dynamics, we will dive into what this means for us today and into the future. We will have plenty of time for discussion.

TH Oct 10 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 H1415



You'll Do with Marcia Zug

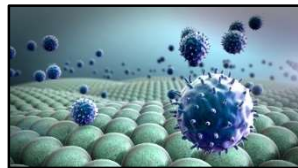


For most of history, marriage was an economic exchange providing tangible benefits to both parties. Today, however, we tend to think the primary motivation for marriage should be love. As a result, we look down upon, or at least sideways at, people who marry out of practical concerns. This prevailing attitude blinds us to the fact that people continue to marry for pragmatic reasons, whether they do so consciously or not because our laws and traditions offer significant economic, social, and legal benefits to those who marry. Professor Zug's historical exploration of American marriage will examine how we regard marriage and why. It will highlight

the numerous, and often surprising non-love reasons to marry while also explaining why people who make such choices should not be condemned. At the same time, the talk will demonstrate how such marriages can indeed be problematic, not because these unions threaten the idealized conception of marriage, but because they frequently result from substantial racial, gender, and economic inequalities that the participants are using marriage to overcome.

TH Oct 10 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 ZOOM

The Cancer Ecosystem: Regarding Cancer as an Invasive Species with Chris Pennell



We are walking ecosystems. The average adult consists of about 60 trillion cells, only half of which are "us" and the rest are bacteria. Emerging data shows that the bacteria we harbor can help or hinder cancer treatments such as immunotherapy. We will discuss the bacterial ecosystems we carry concerning cancer, and extend the ecosystem analogy to consider cancer as an invasive species that adversely affects otherwise healthy microenvironments in our bodies.

M Oct 14 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM \$10/\$20 H1415



Popular Music: Britain in the 1970s with Dr. John F. Lyons



British music became popular around the world in the 1960s but when the leaders of this musical revolution, the Beatles, broke up in 1970, many wondered if British music was on the wane. In the 1970s British music became even more influential and showed even greater creativity. From Glam to Heavy Metal, from Progressive Rock to Punk, no other decade produced as many influential genres of music or as many groundbreaking musicians. Through the use of music, video, and many photographs from the 1970s, this engaging presentation brings to life the British music scene of the 1970s.

M	Oct 14	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Resistance to Plantation Slavery in Early America with Richard Bell



This hard-hitting lecture first explores forms of resistance that were particular to black women on 18th-century southern plantations, using Thomas Thistlewood's long-time sexual partner, an enslaved woman named Phibbah, as a case study. It then pivots to examine the common elements in dozens of slave uprisings or suspected conspiracies in British North America, focusing on the 1739 Stono Rebellion in South Carolina.

T	Oct 15	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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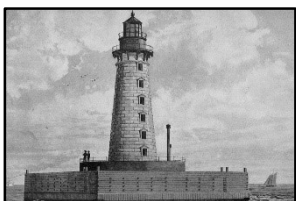
Illinois's Most Haunted Locations-The Scariest Places in IL with Chad Lewis



This presentation takes the audience on a ghostly journey to some of the most haunted places in the state. It covers the entire state, from wandering ghosts in the North Woods, to a haunted B&B in Chicago. From phantom creatures prowling the woods to graveyard apparitions located in your backyard, no place in IL is without its hauntings.

W	Oct 16	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Offshore Outpost with Ric Mixer



Michigan is home to over 120 lighthouses, which not only mark harbors but also guide ships around underwater obstructions. These beacons are located anywhere that ships may travel, meaning many of them are in the middle of the Great Lakes, including the most remote lighthouse in the United States, Stannard Rock. It was here that an explosion ripped through a machinery building, killing the chief keeper and wounding a young electrician sent to the light to perform maintenance. In an exclusive interview, Ric Mixer shares an eyewitness account of the man who was wounded in the explosion with his story of awaiting rescue on the deck with two other men. Ric also shares scientific missions now taking place on these remote outposts, including Spectacle Reef in the Straits of Mackinac. Stories from Lake Superior's Huron Island are also a highlight of this talk, with an interview from a young man whose father was stationed off L'Anse. This presentation is a must for lighthouse fans and people interested in how men survived working on these desolate towers.

W	Oct 16	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Does a Picture Really Paint a Thousand Words? with Katherine Jellison



Jellison will discuss employing photographs in historical research, using images from the Farm Security Administration (FSA) collection at the Library of Congress to explore the nature of American motherhood during the Great Depression.

TH Oct 17 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

The Ratification of the Constitution with Bennett Smith

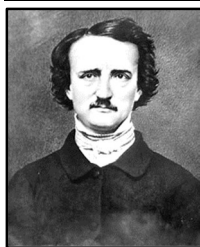


The ratification of the Constitution was a time of profound debate between Federalists and Anti-Federalists as to the powers ascribed to the new national government the Constitution proposed relative to the existing state governments. It was also a unique process based upon special ratifying conventions of the people. This presentation will look at the nature of that debate and the compromises that eventually solved it and paved the way for the ratification of the Constitution. A recommended reading list and handout will be provided.

TH Oct 17 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 H1415



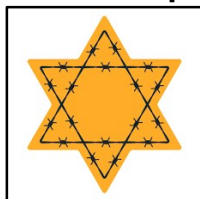
The Life of Edgar Allan Poe with Michelle Gibbons



The master of mystery. The original creator of horror stories. The beloved **Raven** and **Tell Tale Heart** stories give us chills and surprise us with a twisted ending. All of this and more can best be described by one person - Edgar Allan Poe. Michelle will tell you about the intriguing life and mysterious death of the famous American writer, editor, poet, and literary critic, Edgar Allan Poe. Though Poe's life may have been cut tragically short in 1849 at age 40, his numerous works still live on today and are an inspiration to many.

M Oct 21 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 ZOOM

Great Escapes by Howard Kerner



Amazing POWs and death camp inmates found the astonishing courage, determination, and creativity to concoct a plan to break out of their extremely dangerous and horrific Nazi-controlled captivity during World War II. In this astonishing presentation, we will examine the incredible lengths to which some inspiring people went to seek freedom.

M Oct 21 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

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The Gothic: Part 2. A Century of Monsters with Taylor Hagood



The eighteenth century gave birth to the Gothic, the nineteenth century saw it mature. The 1800s saw the birth of both Frankenstein's monster and the world's most famous vampire, Dracula. Not only the works of the British writers Mary Shelley and Bram Stoker but also the German E. T. A. Hoffmann, the French Victor Hugo, the American Edgar Allan Poe, and many more writers embraced Gothic visions. This lecture continues the three-part series on this movement that plumbs the human mind and essence in some of its most vivid and classic forms.

T	Oct 22	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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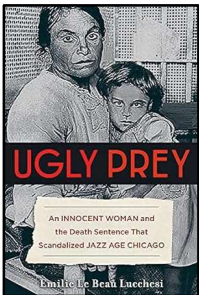
The Extraordinary Lives and Achievements of Russian Emigres with Asya Pereltsvaig



Since February 2022, a large wave of emigrants left Russia, most of them for political reasons. Yet, this is far from being the first wave of emigration from Russia. In the last 200 years, millions of émigrés left Russia on account of their political views, professional careers, and personal circumstances and settled in Paris and Istanbul, London and Shanghai, New York and San Francisco, and beyond. Among them were scientists and engineers, writers and artists, singers and musicians, chess masters and linguists, ballet dancers and figure skaters. Several Russian émigrés were awarded Nobel prizes for their achievements. In this lecture, we'll explore the extraordinary lives of several Russian émigrés of international renown, among them: Elie Metchnikoff, a Nobel prize laureate who popularized yogurt; Sofia Kovalevskaya, a woman who couldn't pursue her chosen profession in Russia; Vladimir Zworykin, a man whose invention completely changed the world we live in; and many others. We will examine what factors forced them to leave their homeland and what contributions they made to the world. We'll also consider how their lives unfolded in immigration, and perhaps even conjecture what might have happened to them had they decided to stay.

T	Oct 22	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Ugly Prey with Emilie Lucchesi



The true story of Sabella Nitti, an innocent woman sentenced to hang in Chicago in 1923 for the murder of her missing husband. There was no motive, no evidence, or identification on the decayed corpse found in a Berwyn sewer. But, prosecutors wanted an easy win, and they portrayed Sabella as a hideous, foreign murderer. With only 95 days remaining before her execution, a team of Italian-American attorneys stepped in to fight for an appeal. Find out the rest of the story of an innocent woman and the death sentence that scandalized Jazz Age Chicago.

W	Oct 23	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Have questions? Call 507-280-3157.

Harvest Dinner: "Samantha Rassels the Women Question" with Jane Curry



Join RCTC's LIFE program for dinner and a show at their annual Harvest Dinner. This year's event will feature performer Jane Curry as Samantha Smith Allen, a 1900s farm wife who "rastles" with questions concerning history's treatment of women's rights denied by the church, women's powerlessness before the law, the need for women's suffrage, social status, role assumptions, and so much more! Doors open at 5:30 pm and a plated dinner consisting of fried chicken breast or a vegetarian entrée with mashed potatoes and country gravy, fresh buttered corn, a homestyle buttered biscuit, apple pie with whipped cream, and lemonade or coffee will be served at 6 pm. Registration deadline is October 8, 2024.

TH Oct 24 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM \$49/\$55 Rochester International Event Center



Learn to ZOOM



Zoom is the video conferencing platform that the LIFE program chooses to use when it offers online classes. Zoom is easy to use and can be accessed from any device with an internet connection BUT, for someone who has never used the program it may seem a little overwhelming and complicated. The LIFE program is here to help. Bring the laptop, iPad, tablet, or phone that you plan to watch LIFE classes on and come to the LIFE office. We will help you download the Zoom application, set it up, and learn how to navigate it. When you leave the office, you will feel comfortable with the steps needed to open the link and join classes. The LIFE staff will teach you how to mute and unmute, turn your video on and off, raise your "hand," add to a chat, change your view, and more. When you finish this informational session you will be able to choose an online LIFE class to try at no charge. Take LIFE to the next level and Zoom with us!

M Oct 28 10:00 AM - 12:00 AM No Charge H1305



Ha! Aaah! The Painful Relationship Between Humor and Horror with David Misch



The genre of horror-comedy has never really, you should excuse the expression, died. Yet humor and horror seem pretty different; one's a pie in the face, the other's an axe in the skull. It's obvious why watching someone being torn asunder would be horrible - but why is the endless suffering of the Three Stooges funny? Could there be congruences between funny and fear, snickers and screams, gore and gags, slapstick and slaughter? (Spoiler alert: Yes)

M Oct 28 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

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

The Life of Alfred Hitchcock with Jim Gibbons



Alfred Hitchcock uncovered a world of the unknown world unknown to previous filmmakers and audiences. He created a world where audiences were put on edge in suspense and where each film's psychological twists and turns made hearts skip a beat. Often deemed, "The Master of Suspense," Alfred Hitchcock knew how to capture your mind and run wild with it. Historian, Jim Gibbons will discuss the life of Sir Alfred Hitchcock touching on his influence on filmmaking, his role as a film producer, and director, and his most popular movies.

T	Oct 29	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Runes and Runic Inscriptions with Loraine Jensen



What are runes? What does runic writing teach about Scandinavian ancestry? This presentation will provide an overview of the thousands of runic inscriptions existing today, primarily in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, but some are being researched in North America. Also reviewed will be examples of runes in pop culture. A new game "Runic Alphabet Bingo" created by Loraine, will be introduced.

W	Oct 30	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	H1415
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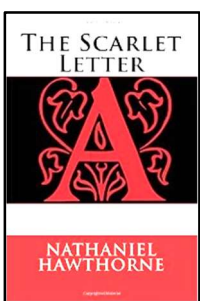
Americas Sweet Candy History with Leslie Godard



Dive into the history of America's favorite candies with historian, Leslie Goddard. From early treats like licorice roots and maple sugar candy to modern Baby Ruths and Hershey bars, we'll explore the companies and brands that have become American icons.

W	Oct 30	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Rated R for READ! *The Scarlet Letter* with Kerry & Jamie



Set during the 1640s in Boston Massachusetts, this classic novel tells the story of Hester Prynne, a young Puritan woman who conceives a daughter through an affair and is consequently punished for adultery. ***The Scarlet Letter*** dives deep into the concept of sin and guilt as well as examines how religion can affect individuals and communities. Regardless of whether you are an avid reader wanting to discuss the last book you read or a movie buff who enjoys the story played on a screen in front of you, Rated R for READ is the perfect fit. Bring your copy of the book to discuss after the movie or just show up for the movie and snacks. Either way, we hope that when you leave you will be able to confidently answer the question of which is better, the book or the movie.

TH	Oct 31	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	\$10/\$20	H1100
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Medieval Science: Exploring Insights and Discoveries with Ilya Dines



This course provides a comprehensive exploration of medieval scientific thought, encompassing various disciplines such as medicine, astronomy, and geography. Participants will delve into the groundbreaking insights and theories proposed by influential figures like Alhazen and Hildegard of Bingen. Through in-depth analysis and interactive discussions, they will uncover the complex network of scientific inquiry that defined the medieval era. This journey into medieval science promises intellectual enrichment. Additionally, it offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage with historical methodologies and scientific concepts, fostering a deeper understanding of the medieval worldview. Join this enlightening exploration, as we discover the wonders of medieval science.

TH	Oct 31	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Magna Carta and Its Legacy with Jennifer Paxton



Magna Carta was granted by King John of England in 1215, but in many ways, it belongs among the founding documents of the United States. The American Founding Fathers regarded the Magna Carta as the cornerstone of liberty that guaranteed the rights of all free men-which is ironic considering that the document arose out of a quarrel among the English king and his barons that largely concerned matters of elite privilege. Historian, Jennifer Paxton traces the transformation of the Magna Carta from a list of concessions granted by an unpopular medieval king into a blueprint for good government and sound judicial practice, including the rights to trial by one's peers and to consent to taxation. Paxton explores the significant influence of this view of the Magna Carta on political thinkers in the American colonies, who were determined to preserve the "rights of Englishmen" to which they believed they were entitled under the Magna Carta.

M	Nov 4	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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History of Hell: A World Obsessed by Hell with Ana Wilson



Hell is part of everyday discussion across cultures, religions, and communities. Finding references to hell in pop culture, music, literature, and other mediums is plentiful! Within certain faith traditions, such as Christianity, hell is a real place where people go when they do not measure up to standards set by their faith community. But, is hell real? That is the question this course contemplates by engaging historical context and the influence of the arts.

M	Nov 4	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	H1415
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The Revolution's POWs: Privateers, Prisoners, and Britain's Black Holes with Richard Bell



Britain's Royal Navy took 11,000 American sailors captive during the Revolutionary War. This talk reconstructs their experiences. It uses as its case study the ordeal of William Russell, a privateer from New England who spent thirty months trying to escape from England's Mill Prison before being transferred to Jersey, a de-masted prison hulk floating in Brooklyn Bay in British-occupied New York. On the Jersey, Russell has to fight for simple survival.

T	Nov 5	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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Daily Life In East Germany: A Look Across the Border with Anette Isaacs



Since the fall of the Berlin Wall 35 years ago, historians have dedicated themselves mostly to East Germany's political system and its oppressive instruments such as the secret police, STASI. Although East Germany was a totalitarian state, there were still 16 million people who were living a more or less normal life. Join German historian, Anette Isaacs for a compelling exploration of daily life in East Germany, its food and culture, education, consumerism (or the lack there of!) and everyday items that were giving the GDR its identity and made it so different from its big capitalist sister, the Federal Republic (West Germany).

T	Nov 5	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Gothic: Part 3. Ghosts of the Gothic with Taylor Hagood



Dr. Hagood's three-part series on the Gothic concludes with a focus on the movement from early in the twentieth century to the present. From the ghost stories of M. R. James, through the weird stories of H. P. Lovecraft and Algernon Blackwood, to the unforgettable dark writings of Stephen King and Ramsey Campbell, the movement has remained strong. Moreover, with the development of American Southern Gothic, the field has diversified with social implications, whether in the hands of William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, or Toni Morrison. Finally, in the current era of social media, the Gothic has emerged in new forms.

W	Nov 6	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Meet Alaska's Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts! with Wayne Stellmaker



For several thousand years Eskimos, Aleuts, and Indians lived in Alaska. Native families lived a substantial life. Their food, clothing, shelter, tools, and transportation came from the environment. Great care was taken to preserve these natural resources. They lived in harmony with nature. In 1971 The U.S. Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. This unique landmark legislation settled Indigenous land claims. It transferred the title to 44 million acres of land to 13 for-profit regional corporations to serve the native people of Alaska.

TH	Nov 7	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	H1415
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Headliners with Steve Frytak & Phil Karsell



Gather, Listen, and Learn! Meet in person once a month to engage in a thoughtful exchange of ideas, opinions, and information with facilitators Steve Frytak and Phil Karsell. This is a place to flex the brain and find gratification in being acknowledged for what you know and be humbled by the knowledge of others. Bring current newspapers/magazine topics or any other topics you would like to discuss. All are welcome; however, you will need to pre-register. Class is limited to the first 10 registered. There is no fee attached to this class.

F	Nov 8	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	No Charge	H1415
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After Suffrage with Katherine Jellison



Dr. Jellison will discuss several controversies that developed in the wake of the 19th Amendment's passage, including the Amendment's failure to guarantee voting rights for most women of color; feminist Crystal Eastman's agenda for post-suffrage America (1920); passage (1921) and expiration (1929) of the Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act; and suffragist Alice Paul's introduction of a proposed Equal Rights Amendment (1923). Jellison's presentation will include a discussion of primary documents.

T	Nov 12	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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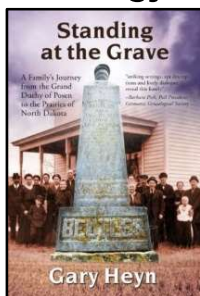
Virtual Tour of MOT Holocaust Exhibit and Survivor Testimonies with Museum of Tolerance



Join the Museum of Tolerance's skilled staff for an hour-long virtual tour of the Holocaust Exhibit, located in California. This exhibit will introduce listeners to the Holocaust and its major themes including the use of propaganda, the effects of dehumanization, and the roles and responsibilities of ordinary people in effecting change through documents and interactive activities. During the last hour of the presentation, you will connect virtually with Holocaust survivors, listen to their stories, and ask questions. This is an unforgettable experience which we have had in the last years. Survivor speakers share photos and artifacts with you online and MOT staff will be there to ensure that there will be time for Q&A.

T	Nov 12	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Genealogy—Standing at the Grave with Gary Heyn



Generally, family histories are a compilation of confusing names, dates, and places. They record the who, what, when, and where of people's lives. They lack a description of how or why. Those books become as cold and removed as the gravestones that mark a life only with the birth and death years separated by a dash. Author Gary Heyn will present how he created a historical narrative from scraps of genealogical data that revived lives that have been covered by dirt for over a century. Among the subjects he will discuss is how a misspelled name during the 1883 Rochester tornado led him to discover the destruction that the farmers of Viola Township suffered that night.

W	Nov 13	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	\$12/\$22	H1415
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Dangerous Domestic Antisemitism from the Right and Left with Richard Weisberg



An in-depth, slides-driven discussion, defining this age-old scourge and trying to make sense of its post-Oct 7th resurgence. The emphasis is not on Islamic versions of the problem but rather left left-wing and right-wing Christianity's contribution to the problem. We will endeavor to see a path forward.

W	Nov 13	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Pascal's Wager: Philosophy, Religion, Probability (and Gambling) with Brendan Shea

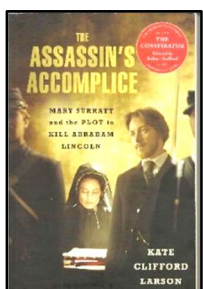


Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century French philosopher, mathematician, and physicist, proposed a simple yet profound question: Is it rational to believe in God, even if we don't have convincing evidence for God's existence? Pascal argued that believing in God is the most pragmatic choice, as it offers the possibility of eternal happiness if God exists, and little to lose if God does not. In this class, we'll examine the logic behind Pascal's Wager and its implications for decision-making, faith, and our understanding of the world. We'll explore the philosophical and theological context in which Pascal developed his argument and discuss the many responses it has inspired over the last few hundred years. But the fun doesn't stop there! We'll also delve into the realm of probability theory and its connection to Pascal's Wager. Through some Pascalian thought experiments, we'll see how concepts like expected value and decision matrices can shed light on the rationality of belief and the nature of risk. To conclude, we'll even touch on the world of gambling and how Pascal's ideas have influenced strategies in games of chance. From the casino floor to the halls of academia, Pascal's Wager has left an indelible mark on our understanding of faith, reason, and the human experience.

TH Nov 14 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 H1415



The Plot to Assassinate Abraham Lincoln, Through the Eyes of Co-conspirator, Mary Surratt



with Kate Clifford Larson

Mary Surratt, a Maryland slaveholding woman-turned-rebel-supporter of John Wilkes Booth, was hanged in July 1865 for her role in President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. For 150 years sympathizers have argued that she was innocent. Smart, arrogant, and devoted to her family and her social and economic status, Surratt's relationship with Booth and his plans defied accepted standards of feminine behavior and enraged the all-male jury that found her guilty. Was she

really culpable, or was she innocent? Her story serves as an interesting lens through which we can observe the work of Booth and his team of conspirators who plotted to reverse the outcome of the Civil War by decapitating the leadership of the United States. Her story, still contested today, is in many ways reflected in ongoing debates about the history and memorialization of the Confederacy and the role of women in historical events.

TH Nov 14 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 ZOOM

Fashionable: The Life and Fame of Edith Head with Michelle Gibbons



Before Brandon Maxwell's designs for Lady Gaga, there were Edith Head's designs for Grace Kelly. With just a sketch and her passion for fashion, Head pursued her talent and transformed the entire Hollywood fashion industry into what it is today. Historical Presenter, Michelle Gibbons, will discuss the life and fame of Edith Head and the famous Hollywood stars she worked with, such as Grace Kelly, Audrey

Hepburn, Ginger Rogers, Ingrid Bergman, and many more. Find out how Head set a trend in the fashion industry, transforming it into the iconic presence it holds today.

M Nov 18 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 ZOOM

IBM and the Nazis with Howard Kerner



Few may know that such American and International corporations as IBM, Ford, and Coca-Cola actively supported Nazi Germany during World War II. In some cases, these companies and others helped facilitate German plans for the implementation of the Holocaust. In this fascinating presentation, we will look into these alliances between international business and the Nazis.

M	Nov 18	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Gilded Age with Chad Israelson



The Gilded Age marked the birth of modern America and laid the foundations for the country's rise in what would be known as the American Century. Mark Twain coined the term Gilded Age to describe a period that may have seemed like an era of growth and progress, but upon further examination revealed significant flaws. See what parallels can be drawn between this timeframe and our own.

T	Nov 19	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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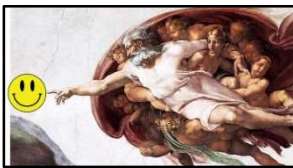
Oaks, Fire, and Climate Change with Heather Holm



Natural landscapes in the US and Canada have been drastically altered by human activities such as infrastructure development, logging, overgrazing, introduction of invasive species, and fire suppression. However, before Euro-American settlement, highly functional and biodiverse oak and/or pine grassland systems dominated throughout much of the continent. With the current threat of climate change, it is crucial to understand the past and present ecological conditions of these landscapes to inform future restoration efforts. The presentation will look into the past to understand grassland systems at the time of Euro-American settlement and discuss how Native Americans managed and influenced the composition of these grassland systems with their regular use of fire. Heather will also discuss the impacts of fire as a strong selective pressure on keystone plants and bees. Pivoting to look into the future using projected climate modeling, the ecological conditions today, focusing on oak ecosystems and grasslands, then paint a picture of what a functional, biodiverse, and resilient landscape may look like in the future, and what actions are needed to achieve these outcomes.

W	Nov 20	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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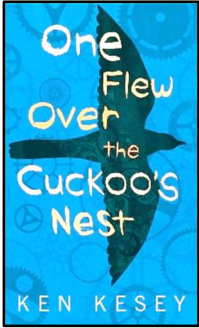
The Theology of "Ha!" with David Misch



Using examples including Amy Schumer, Steve Carell, "Waiting For Godot," Walt Disney, and the novel "The Name of the Rose," this talk discusses whether comedy is fundamentally cruel or empathetic; how religion's search for meaning has a corollary in comedy's search for a punchline; how laughter is like religious ecstasy and transcendence; and how to achieve divinity through fart jokes.

W	Nov 20	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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Rated R for READ! *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with Kerry & Jamie



Before Jack Nicholson, Christopher Lloyd, and Danny DeVito landed in an Oregon psychiatric hospital there was Ken Kesey's best-selling book titled ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***. This psychological novel is not a true story however, the author drew upon his experiences working as an aide in a veteran's hospital talking with the inmates. In his novel, Kesey attempts to share the meaning of madness and the value of self-reliance by introducing you to a few patients and one sadistic nurse! Regardless of whether you are an avid reader wanting to discuss the last book you read or a movie buff who enjoys the story played on a screen in front of you, Rated R for READ is the perfect fit. Bring your copy of the book to discuss after the movie or just show up for the movie and snacks. Either way, we hope that when you leave you will be able to confidently answer the question of which is better, the book or the movie?

TH Nov 21 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM \$10/\$20 H1100



Mona Lisa with Kristin Anderson



The Mona Lisa has been described as the world's most famous painting. The numbers don't lie: visits to see this small image approach ten million annually. In this presentation, we will study the painting in depth and consider its place in Leonardo's career. We'll also view it in the context of Italian Renaissance portraiture, and explore its continuing impact on art and popular culture.

M Nov 25 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

War in the South Pacific with Jim Gibbons



Historian, Jim Gibbons, will discuss the events that took place before, during, and after The War in the South Pacific of World War II. He will discuss some of the war's major battles, including The Battle of Iwo Jima, The Battle of Okinawa, The Battle of the Coral Sea, The Battle of Midway, the attack on Pearl Harbor, and more. Gibbons will discuss some of the main commanders in the war as well as their strategies and ideas. He will explain how several of the battles were the bloodiest in history, causing a great loss of life, and affecting both American and Japanese forces. He will explain how the war was ended by President Truman's dropping of the Atomic Bomb.

M Nov 25 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 ZOOM

Charles Lindbergh-The "Lindy" We Never Knew with Ben Rich



Everyone is aware of Charles Lindbergh's famous flight from New York to Paris in 1927, but very few people are aware of his participation in the development of the U.S. Air Mail system or his role in building Pan Am into a truly international airline. We will look at several other aspects of Lindbergh's life including his political participation in the 1930s and his fearless participation in flying over 50 Pacific combat missions against the Japanese for the Marines and Army Air Corps in WW2.

T Nov 26 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM \$10/\$20 ZOOM

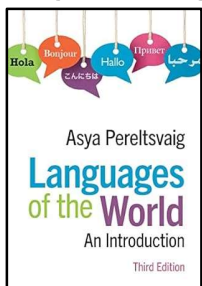
Aircraft Mishap Investigation-A View From the Inside with Ben Rich



A look at the NTSB investigative process from the eyes of an insider. Ben will call upon his participation in seven NTSB investigations to take you through the process by which investigators determine the probable cause to prevent a repeat mishap. We will review the “feel-good” story of USAir 1549 and their safe water landing on the Hudson River while reviewing the lessons learned from this event.

T	Nov 26	11:15 AM - 12:30 PM	\$10/\$20	ZOOM
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Why are Languages so Different with Asya Pereltsvaig

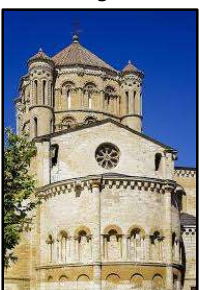


There are over 7,000 languages spoken around the globe today. Why is there such a great variety of tongues in the world? Why do many languages work so differently from English? Why is there a greater density of diverse languages in some places but not in others? How and why do new languages emerge? In this fascinating lecture by Asya Pereltsvaig, author of **Languages of the World: An Introduction**, we will address these and other related questions and will get a glimpse of “exotic” languages you might not have heard about, as well as of relatives of English and

even of English itself.

T	Nov 26	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Revealing the Wonders of Romanesque and Gothic Architecture: An Expedition through Time with Ilya Dines



Embark on a captivating exploration of the architectural wonders of the Romanesque and Gothic periods. This course offers a fascinating insight into the evolution of architectural styles, from the sturdy simplicity of Romanesque structures to the soaring heights and intricate details of Gothic cathedrals. Uncover the historical context, technological innovations, and cultural influences that shaped these magnificent edifices. Engage in enriching discussions, immersive experiences, and insightful lectures that unveil the craftsmanship and symbolism inherent in these masterpieces of stone and glass. Whether you're an avid history buff, an art aficionado, or simply curious about the past, join us on this exhilarating journey through the architectural marvels of the medieval era.

W	Nov 27	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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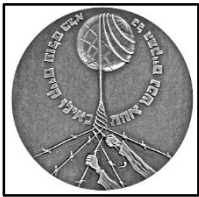
Immigration and the Making and Remaking of Minnesota Labor Movement with Peter Rachleff



From the meatpacking plants of southern Minnesota to the iron mines of the Mesabi Range, immigrant workers have been central to Minnesota's economy and, especially, to the development of our state's labor movement. In the mid-19th century, Irish, German, and Swedish immigrants built and ran our railroads, and they labored in the processing plants and factories that turned raw materials into finished products. In the early 20th century, Finnish, Slavic, and Mexican immigrants provided the labor that fueled the next stages of the industrial revolution. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, Asian, Central American, and African immigrants became the core of our healthcare, retail, and service industries. In all these instances, when confronted with low pay, disrespectful treatment, and difficult working conditions, they organized together, drawing on their collective values, and made their lives better.

M	Dec 2	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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American Heroes with Howard Kerner



Through the years, the Israeli Holocaust Center, Yad Vashem, has awarded some 27,000 Holocaust rescuers around the world the title of "Righteous Among the Nations." These individuals so honored -men, women, and couples- saved multiple Jews. Some European countries have thousands of such rescuers awarded; the U.S. has only five such designees. We will learn about nine brave Americans who displayed courage and compassion during one of history's darkest days.

M	Dec 2	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Tempest in a Tea Pot: The Boston Tea Party with Richard Bell



The Boston Tea Party was a response to the 1773 Tea Act, new legislation designed to reduce tea smuggling within the British Empire and boost the sales of tea imported to the American colonies by the East India Company, a mega-corporation with an all-too-cozy relationship to the British Government. But, of course, it all backfired spectacularly. In this talk, historian Dr. Richard Bell argues that the resulting Boston Tea Party marks the first major protest in America against corporate greed and the effects of globalization.

T	Dec 3	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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'Tis The Season to be Jolly: Holiday Specials and More! with Jim Gibbons



Good cheer? Yes! It's that time of the year again! Family, friends, and loved ones come knocking on your door. The smells of turkey, pumpkin pie, and Christmas trees are in the air! 'Tis the season of goodwill, friendship, peace, and love. Historical Presenter, Jim Gibbons, will step you back in time to the holiday network specials, movies, and the great holiday advertising of the past. Gibbons will bring back the specials of Perry Como, Red Skelton, Jackie Gleason, Nat King Cole, and more.

T	Dec 3	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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London, The Center of the World with Taylor Hagood



In a time zone perfectly positioned between East and West, London sits at the financial nexus of the globe. And that is only one way in which this major and history-rich city maintains its long run of vital relevance. Continuing his intermittent series of travel lectures, Dr. Taylor Hagood delves into London's history, art, music, food, architecture, ghost stories, and much more.

W	Dec 4	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Emotional Intelligence Basics: How to Use This Skill to Enhance Your Life with Sue Delazaro



We all experience ups and downs in life. When times get tough, do you wonder why some people seem to manage themselves and their relationships especially well in times of extremes, stress, change, and unknowns? The answer likely is due in part to their emotional intelligence (EQ), or their skill at being aware of their emotions (and the emotions of others) and managing those emotions to an effective outcome. In this interactive session, you will learn about the four skills that make up

EQ: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management - and discover how to use emotions productively to enhance your life. You'll walk away with eight practical strategies to choose from to develop your EQ.

TH	Dec 5	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Dwight D. Eisenhower: His Life and Legacy with Michael Scheibach



Dwight D. Eisenhower was the mastermind in the fight against Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini, leading the Allies to the ultimate victory in Europe. Eisenhower headed the newly formed North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), created to be a military buffer to Stalin's efforts to spread communism. He then became president of the United States in a decade that saw a Red Scare, expansion of mass consumerism, racial tension, and an ever-escalating Cold War. This presentation looks at the life and times of this extraordinary man.

M	Dec 9	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Origins of American Popular Culture: Movies, Radio, and Music with Dr. John F. Lyons



Popular culture is one of America's greatest exports. Hollywood movies are popular around the world, American radio and its fast-talking deejays became a model for other countries to emulate, and music from Jazz to Country, Blues to Gospel have their roots in the USA. Historian John F. Lyons examines the origins of American popular culture in the first half of the 20th century. Rising affluence, technological innovations, and global alterations ushered in one of the most exciting eras in American history. Through the use of music, video, and photographs from the interwar period, this highly entertaining presentation explains the origins of American popular culture.

M	Dec 9	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Who Won, Who Lost, and Why: Making Sense of the 2024 US Elections with David Schultz



The 2024 elections generated both intense excitement and boredom. But they also raised major questions about American democracy and the role of the U.S. in the world. This talk examines the context of the U.S. elections, explaining who won, why, and what it means going forward for America and the world.

T	Dec 10	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality with National Constitution Center



Center

Explore the Center's compelling exhibit, Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality, as one of our museum educators leads viewers through the exhibit. Learn how constitutional clashes over slavery set the stage for the Civil War, and how the nation transformed the Constitution after the war during the Reconstruction period, taking a particularly close look at the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. Along the way, your guide will highlight the stories of people like Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, and other figures central to the conflict over slavery. You will also get an up-close look at special artifacts on display, including original copies of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, Dred Scott's signed petition for freedom, a fragment of the flag that Abraham Lincoln raised at Independence Hall, a commemorative copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Lincoln and more!

T	Dec 10	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	\$10/\$20	ZOOM
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Inferno: The Great Boston Fire of 1872 with Anthony Sammarco



Inferno: The Great Boston Fire of 1872 was written to commemorate the 150th anniversary of a devastating fire that destroyed sixty-five acres of land in Boston, from Washington Street, between Summer Street and Milk Street, fanning eastward towards the wharves projecting into Boston Harbor. The fire was said to have destroyed 776 buildings in Boston's downtown, causing over \$73 million in damage (or \$1,682,000,000 in 2022 dollars), killing an estimated twenty people, and leading to stricter building regulations in Boston. Fires have always been a constant source of anxiety, but this inferno was cataclysmic and beyond the comprehension of many people. The city of Boston took action and appointed a city architect who would oversee all buildings in the city.

W	Dec 11	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	\$10/\$20	ZOOM
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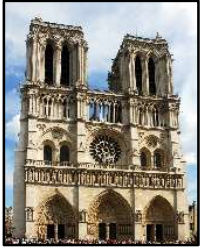
A Newer Look, in Light of World Events, at The Merchant of Venice with Richard Weisberg



An in-depth discussion of this remarkable text, with a focus on the title character and his nemesis, the Jew Shylock, as well as on the beautiful heiress Portia. Some clips from performances by Olivier and Pacino will keep us focused.

W	Dec 11	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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IN FOCUS: Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris with Kristin Anderson



The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris has been famous throughout the centuries as a religious center, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, a place of coronations, and a tourist attraction, among other things. Sadly, it was heavily damaged in a fire in 2019. This presentation will focus on the building's site, its importance as an example of the French Gothic style, the restoration plans of the 19th century, and current efforts to bring the building back to life after the 2019 fire.

TH	Dec 12	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Best and the Brightest: Ranking the Presidents with Michael Scheibach



Each year, the nation's leading political scientists and historians participate in a survey to rank the presidents. This year's Presidential Greatest Expert Survey places Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and George Washington at the top of the list, which has held consistent over the years. But the other presidents tend to move up and down the list. This presentation compares this year's survey with those from previous years and discusses the reasons for the changes.

M	Dec 16	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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I AM an American: Japanese Incarceration in WWII with Maddie Roach



Students explore the story of Eva Hashiguchi, who spent her high school days incarcerated in Jerome, Arkansas. Through her account, witnessed how wartime hysteria and racial prejudice led to one of the darkest chapters of American history. Examine the country's actions to apologize for the injustices committed against Japanese Americans. Hear about the struggles and tremendous accomplishments of the Purple Heart Battalion.

M	Dec 16	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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IN FOCUS: The Portinari Altarpiece with Kristin Anderson



Hugo van der Goes painted the Portinari Altarpiece in the mid-1470s for Maria and Tomasso Portinari, Italians living in Flanders. With rich colors and abundant detail, the triptych shows the Christmas story. The presentation will focus on this complex altarpiece in-depth, allowing for a full exploration of its many elements.

T	Dec 17	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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Search for Le Griffon with Ric Mixer



Le Griffon is the most hunted shipwreck on the Great Lakes. Lost on its maiden run in 1679, owner Robert LaSalle believed his crew mutinied on him, stealing valuable fur cargo and destroying the ship to cover their deed. Debris and Native American stories led most to believe a storm killed the crew and broke the ship apart in Lake Michigan. Historian, Ric Mixer shares in this lecture not only the tragic voyage of the ship, but the stranding of LaSalle, and dozens of Le Griffons have since been 'discovered' but none have proven to be the elusive ship.

T	Dec 17	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	\$15/\$25	ZOOM
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The Life of Betty White with Michelle Gibbons



On December 31, 2021, an unexpected sadness swept across America. America's beloved personality and classy television icon, Betty White, had passed away suddenly, just weeks before celebrating her 100th Birthday. Historical Presenter, Michelle Gibbons, will discuss the life, fame, and accomplishments of Betty Marion White Ludden.

W	Dec 18	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$12/\$22	ZOOM
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The Blessings of Growing Up GEECHEE: A Past to Cherish, a Future to Fulfill with



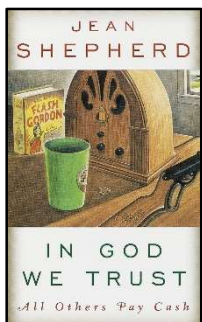
Natasha Robinson

At age eleven Natasha begins her reign as the Gullah Poet, on the small wooden center stage of the Penn Heritage Days Celebration, an annual cultural festival on Gullah Gullah Island (St. Helena Island, South Carolina.) By sixteen, Natasha was widely known throughout South Carolina and had become the original Gullah tour guide for the South Carolina Gullah Festival.

At the age of 17, Natasha was invited by the University of North Carolina to participate in a language learning lecture. As the only Gullah representative in attendance, she engaged and enthralled professors, as many shared future hopes of building curriculums based on the Gullah language and origin(s). A year later, the University of South Carolina also had a lecture focusing on Gullah: dialect/language. Join Natasha for a lecture about the struggles, blessings, trials, and triumphs growing up as a GEECHEE GAL in Gullah Gullah Island.

W	Dec 18	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	\$10/\$20	ZOOM
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Rated R for READ! *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* with Kerry & Jamie



The film ***A Christmas Story*** could easily be called one of the best Christmas movies from the 1980s however, most don't know that the movie is based on a book, ***In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*** written by Jean Shepherd. Shepherd spends 31 chapters telling witty tales about a childhood friend named Flick, an obsession with a Red Ryder B.B. Gun, and more, all narrated through the eyes of a fictional character named Ralph. Join us for this lighthearted and fun way to end the year. Bring your copy of the book to discuss after the movie or just show up for the movie and snacks. Either way, we hope that when you leave you will be able to confidently answer the question of which is better, the book or the movie?

TH	Dec 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	\$10/\$20	H1100
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Encourage a friend to attend a LIFE class. Their first class is free! Contact 507-280-3157 for information.



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 Emerita of Art and Design at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Her courses included 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. **Pages 29 and 34.**



J. Kelly Beatty is an award-winning science journalist and astronomer. During the 1980s he was among the first Western journalists to gain direct access to the Soviet space program. Kelly is a former Senior Editor of Sky & Telescope magazine (serving over 40 years) and former editor of Night Sky magazine. Now retired from the magazine, he remains actively involved in many Sky & Telescope articles, tours, and other projects. He holds a bachelor's degree in geology from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism. Specializing in planetary science and space exploration, Kelly conceived and edited The New Solar System, considered a standard reference among planetary scientists. **Page 11.**



Henry Berman is a retired businessman, working for 34 years at Ecolab, a global company, based in St Paul. He has been a prominent member of the Great Decisions Speaker's Bureau for seven years with a strong interest in the Middle East, Africa, and the emerging nations of Asia. He has given presentations on such varied topics as Saudi Arabia, the Future of the Kurds, Red Sea Security, South Africa- the Legacy of Apartheid, and China in Africa. He has also been a teacher at OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Minnesota) for three years. Courses he has created and led include the Middle East Conflict, the Horn of Africa, and the Philippines-US Relationship. **Page 7.**



Todd Braje is the executive director of the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History after nearly 15 years as a faculty member at San Diego State's Department of Anthropology. Dr. Braje's research focuses on long-term human-environmental interactions, the archaeology of maritime societies, the application of archaeological records to modern environmental management, and the peopling of the Americas. Along with over 100 academic manuscripts, Dr. Braje has published several books, monographs, and edited volumes. His newest book, ***Understanding***

Imperiled Earth: How Archaeology and Human History Can Inform Our Planet's Future (April 2024, Smithsonian Books), explores the ways archaeology and history can act as critical guides for addressing the modern environmental crisis. **Page 17.**



Dr. Kate Clifford Larson is a New York Times and Wall Street Journal best-selling author of critically acclaimed biographies of American women. Her work includes ***Walk With Me: A Biography of Fannie Lou Hamer; Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero; Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter;*** and ***The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill***

Abraham Lincoln. Specializing in 19th and 20th century U.S. Women's and African American history, Larson is also an award-winning consultant for feature film scripts—including Focus Features' *Harriet* starring prize-winning Cynthia Erivo, and Robert Redford's *The Conspirator*—documentaries, museum exhibits, curriculum guides, public history and tourism initiatives, and she appears frequently on local, national, and international media outlets. **Pages 10 and 27.**



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. **Pages 11, 19, 24, and 31.**



Jane Curry is an author, storyteller, performer, and recovering academic. She received her B.A. from Hanover College (Indiana) and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She has edited a critical anthology, also entitled ***Samantha Rastles the Woman Question*** (1983), and is the author of ***Marietta Holley***, (1996), and ***The River's in My Blood; Riverboat Pilots Tell Their Stories*** (1983). She toured for nine seasons with the Minnesota Chautauqua and performs nationally with four other solo shows she has written: *Just Say Know*; *Educating Females for the 21st Century*; *Nice Girls Don't Sweat*; *Miz Wizard's Science Secrets*; and *Sisters of the Quill and Skillet*. Curry lives in Minneapolis with her husband, two cats, and a snowblower. **Page 22.**

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



Sue DeLazaro is the founder of Ideal Culture Lab. Her mission is to share her expertise in emotional intelligence to develop interpersonal skills in others, helping them spot and maximize the dozens of emotions that surface every day to make a positive impact on themselves and the people around them. Sue has worked with hundreds of clients for over 16 years, helping them see the role of their emotions in business, how they show up at work, what is getting in their way, and what adjustments to make to have lasting, valuable changes in life and career. Sue has worked with clients across levels and industries which include manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, insurance, consumer goods, government, and non-profit. Sue has contributed to two books: Wall Street Journal Bestseller, ***Emotional Intelligence 2.0*** (2009) and ***Team Emotional Intelligence 2.0*** (2022), and is an award-winning facilitator, recognized by Training Magazine's "Top 40 Under 40 Trainers." She has her M.S. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from National University and her B.A. in Government from Lehigh University. Sue is also proud to be a student of the Groundlings School of Improvisation in Hollywood, CA, where she first learned about emotional ranges and the "yes-and" approach from the best in the industry. **Pages 9 and 32.**



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. **Pages 24 and 30.**



Dr. Anita Foeman is Professor Emerita of the Communication and Media Department at West Chester University. She received her Ph.D. from Temple University in 1982. Dr. Foeman was one of the first in her field to publish on diversity in the workplace as a positive development, her publication record and consulting work is extensive. For the past two decades, Dr. Foeman's research has examined identity-based on ancestry DNA data. This project has ancestry tested over 3000 individuals and is the most extensive project of its kind. Her work has received coverage in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Here & Now on NPR, the BBC News Hour, National Geographic Magazine, National Geographic Explorer, and NOVA. Her coauthored book ***Who Am I? Identity in the Age of Consumer DNA Testing*** was released in February 2021 and received an award for Most Promising Textbook in 2022. She completed two Wondrium courses, Identity in the Age of Ancestral DNA and How to Talk About Race. She is also working with a research team on people who discover unexpected parentage based on DNA findings. **Page 11.**



Lee E. Frelich is the Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology. He received a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1986. Frelich has authored 220 publications with 336 coauthors from 26 countries, including major works for Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press. He is listed among the top 1% of all scientists in the world in the Ecology and Environment category by the Web of Science. His research has been featured in the news media 580 times, including such venues as The New York Times, Newsweek, and Washington Post. Frelich has provided consulting services on forest management for the U.S. Army, Air Force, National Forest Service, and National Park Service. Current research interests include large-scale fire and wind, earthworm invasion, and climate change in temperate and boreal forests. **Page 13.**



Stephen Frytak is a retired Mayo Medical Oncologist. He previously served on the Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Board. **Pages 8, 16, and 25.**



Jim Gibbons, a Marengo, IL resident and historical presenter, has made a name for himself teaching the importance of history. Using his passion for and strong knowledge of history, Jim offers over 176 riveting presentation topics. Jim has been researching history and historical figures since he was in college. Using his slogan, "Life is no mystery when you know your history," he has a passion for retelling historical stories of presidential, world, and United States history, with a strong emphasis on how history continually repeats. Jim's goal is to not only teach the important parts of history but to point out that if history's warnings are heeded, mankind stands to have a brighter future. **Pages 14, 23, 29, and 31.**



Michelle Gibbons is making a name for herself teaching the importance of history. Through her passion for history and training from her father, Michelle debuted at several locations in early 2020. Michelle received her BA Degree from NIU in 2008 with double majors in Journalism and English and a minor in Political Science. Using her father's slogan, "Life is no mystery when you know your history", her goal is to not only teach the important parts of history but to help others learn its value in today's society. **Pages 8, 20, 27, and 35.**



Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., is an award-winning historian who has been presenting on topics in American history and women's history for nearly twenty years. She holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. from Northwestern University (U.S. History/American Studies/Theater History) as well as master's degrees in both museum studies and in theater. A former museum director, she currently works full-time as a public speaker and author. Her presentations have been seen by audiences in more than thirty states, including scores of universities, museums, libraries, festivals, and civic organizations. **Pages 16 and 23.**



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. **Pages 9, 21, 25, and 32.**



Marita Heller is retired from careers in Education and Human Resources. She has an MA in history from the University of Iowa and in Business administration from Stanford University. **Page 7.**



Gary Heyn is a retired Vice-President of Corporate Governance for Tolomatic a Minneapolis manufacturing company. Raised on a family farm near Elgin, Minnesota he was fascinated by the stories of his great-grandmother Lydia Heyn told about the "olden days". Those afternoons on the front porch sparked a life-long interest in history and genealogy that has resulted in his first book ***Standing at the Grave: A Family's Journey from the Grand Duchy of Posen to the Prairies of North Dakota***. Since his retirement, he has repurposed his time and energy to genealogy focusing on the Province of Posen and that area's connections to Southeast Minnesota. In addition to writing his first book, he also serves as the Treasurer for the Germanic Genealogical Society (GGS) located in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. In 2023 he also was elected the Treasurer for the International Germanic Genealogy Partnership (IGGP). Next spring a German language edition of the book, ***Am Grab Stehend: Die Reise einer Familie aus der Provinz Posen in die Prärien von North Dakota***, will be released. **Page 26.**



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 a thriving habitat for pollinators, birds, mammals, and passive, nature-based opportunities for people. **Page 28.**



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 about 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. **Pages 9 and 25.**



Chad Israelson received his BA from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and his MA from the University of Nebraska. Israelson has taught at RCTC since 1996. He has also taught at UW-La Crosse, Augsburg, and Winona State. Chad won "Outstanding Educator" in 2003 and 2012. Chad recently coauthored the book ***The Political World of Bob Dylan: Freedom and Justice, Power, and Sin*** and has authored ***Kings of North: Photographs and History of the Minnesota Vikings, Football and Family: The Justin Jefferson Story, Small Town, Big Dreams: The Kirill Kaprizov Story***. **Pages 14 and 28.**



Katherine Jellison earned her Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, where she studied with one of the pioneers in the field of U.S. women's history, Linda K. Kerber. She has received numerous research grants and fellowships and is an Ohio University Presidential Research Scholar. Jellison is the author of ***Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913-1963*** (University of North Carolina Press, 1993), ***It's Our Day: America's Love Affair with the White Wedding, 1945-2005*** (University Press of Kansas, 2008), and, with Steven D. Reschly, ***Amish Women and the Great Depression*** (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023). She is also the author of many journal articles and book chapters and frequently provides commentary on gender and politics in The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, NPR, and the BBC. **Pages 20 and 26.**



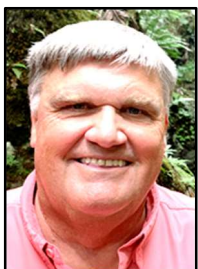
Loraine Jensen is the founder of the American Association for Runic Studies and currently serves as its president. Over the years she has developed extensive networks on runic research, including with Uppsala University in Sweden and the Smithsonian Institution. Those relationships and her expertise as a professional educator resulted in her being selected twice for a prestigious Fulbright Specialist appointment in Sweden. **Page 23.**



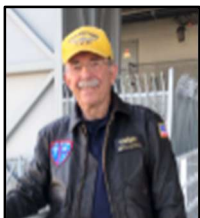
Phil Karsell is a retired Mayo physician. His interests include volunteer medicine for the Salvation Army and recently in Guatemala, making wooden toys for Ronald McDonald House, nature photography, grandchildren, and lifelong learning — science, history, and philosophy. **Pages 8, 16 and 25.**



Howard Kerner received his BA and MA in English from the State University of NY at Albany and did additional graduate work towards his Ph.D. at the University of Virginia. Howard has taught at the high school, college, and university levels for 47 years, has lectured extensively, and has published over 700 articles, many on the Holocaust. His "passion project" since retirement is researching and sharing uplifting and inspiring stories of human goodness during the Holocaust. **Pages 20, 28 and 31.**



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 12.**



John Landry was born in Detroit, Michigan, and subsequently raised in the Detroit area. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Architecture. In 1962 he was a U.S. Navy Commissioned Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI on the USS Wren DD 568 Destroyer US Navy Base Norfolk, VA, and ASW (antisubmarine warfare) as a Division Officer. His deployment included the blockade of Cuba with Destroyer Squadron 2 to search and track Russian submarines. In 1963 he was on the USS Tattnall DDG-19 Guided Missile Destroyer US Navy Base Charleston, SC as an ASW (antisubmarine warfare) Division Officer, Nuclear Weapons officer, 2nd Key Officer to authorize a firing of a nuclear weapon (ASROC). He was also deployed to the "Operation Teamwork" Task Force. Task force orders called for the Naval Task Force to sail above the Arctic Circle and conduct naval operations North of Russia. In 1965 he returned to civilian life. He retired in 2005 from his Architectural Design Management Consulting Company and in 2013 became a Volunteer Docent at the USS Midway Museum. He is a father of three and 'grandpa' to eight. **Page 7.**



Emilie Le Beau Lucchesi, Ph.D. is an author and journalist in Illinois. She is a regular contributor to Discover Magazine. Her work has also appeared in National Geographic, USA Today, The New York Times, and The Atlantic. She is the author of ***Ugly Prey: An Innocent Woman and the Death Sentence that Scandalized Jazz Age Chicago*** (Chicago Review, 2017) and ***This is Really War: The Incredible True Story of a Navy Nurse POW in the Occupied Philippines*** (Chicago Review, 2019). She is the co-author of ***A Light in the Dark: Surviving More than Ted Bundy*** with survivor Kathy Kleiner Rubin (Chicago Review, 2023). **Pages 8 and 21.**

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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 the Chairperson of East-West Connections, an international nonprofit 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 of 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 8.**



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 19.**



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. **Pages 19 and 32.**





Dr. William C. Meadows holds a B.A. from Indiana University (1989) with a double major in anthropology and history and an M.A. (1991) and Ph.D. (1995) degrees in cultural anthropology from the University of Oklahoma. He has performed fieldwork and published in the subfields of cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and archaeology. He has conducted research with many Native American Nations, as well as in Japan, and has carried out archaeological fieldwork in the Midwestern United States. Dr. Meadows has taught at Colorado State University, Indiana State University, and since 2003, Missouri State University. He is the author of six books, five of which focus on Native American veterans: ***Kiowa, Apache, and Comanche Military Societies*** (1999), ***The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II*** (2002), ***Kiowa Ethnogeography*** (2008), ***Kiowa Military Societies: Ethnohistory and Ritual*** (2010), ***Through Indian Sign Language: The First Sill Ledgers of Lt. Hugh L. Scott and Iseeo*** (2015), and ***The First Code Talkers: Native American Communicators in World War I*** (2021). He has published articles on Native American Veterans, Code Talkers, Plains Indian maps, Plains Indian ledger art, language, and other subjects. In 2004, he testified before a congressional senate hearing on The Role of Native American Code Talkers in the United States Armed Forces and spoke at the Library of Congress on Native American Code Talkers in 2005. He has spoken at several openings of the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit on Native American Code Talkers "Native Words, Native Warriors" and other venues. His testimony and research were seminal in the passage of the 2008 Code Talkers Recognition Act (Public Law 110-420), which brought federal recognition and Congressional Gold and Silver Medals for all Native American Code Talkers. Dr. Meadows's research teaches several courses on Native American cultures, World Cultures, Cultural Anthropology, Peoples and Cultures of Japan, Ethnohistory, an ethnographic field school, and a course on Native American Code Talking. Dr. Meadows is the head of the Missouri State Native American Studies Committee. He comes from a family of many US Veterans. **Page 15.**



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 14.**



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 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. **Pages 22 and 28.**



Ric Mixer 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, who dived 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 radio and TV news programs. Mixer'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. **Pages 11, 19, and 34.**



Museum of Tolerance was the recipient of the Global Peace and Tolerance Award from the Friends of the United Nations, the Museum of Tolerance (MOT) is a human rights laboratory and educational center dedicated to challenging visitors to understand the Holocaust in both historic and contemporary contexts and confront all forms of prejudice and discrimination in our world today. **Page 26.**



National Constitution Center is a private, nonprofit organization in Philadelphia that brings together people of all ages and perspectives, across America and around the world, to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. **Page 33.**



Michelle Passoff, the author of **LIGHTEN UP! Free Yourself From Clutter** (HarperPerennial), has been a clutter consultant since 1991 and has led seminars and workshops on letting go of too much 'stuff' as a life management tool throughout the U.S., U.K., and Australia. Michelle is currently a public speaker, workshop leader, and private clutter consultant. For many years, she owned an estate sale company in Tampa Bay, Florida with her husband, Andre Kupfermunz, and before that was a publicist in New York City. **Page 13.**

Have questions? Call 507-280-3157.



Jennifer Paxton is working on a book manuscript entitled ***Chronicle and Community in Twelfth-Century England***, which looks at how medieval English monastic communities used historical texts to assert various claims to power and authority in a rapidly changing political, economic, and spiritual landscape. She focuses on chronicles written at eastern English monasteries in the aftermath of the great upheavals of the Norman Conquest and the civil war of King Stephen's reign, in which monastic compilers deployed every resource at their command to distinguish themselves from rival houses and defend themselves against the sometimes aggressive claims of lay lords and even bishops. Dr. Paxton is also working on a further project that examines changing views of abbatial leadership across the Anglo-Norman world in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. **Pages 15 and 24.**



Kent Pikel is the Superintendent of schools in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Pikel is an educational leader who has worked at the school, district, state, federal, and university levels. Throughout his diverse career, he has sought to bridge research, practice, and policy to help all young people thrive. Before joining Rochester Public Schools, Dr. Pikel spent nine years as President and CEO of Search Institute, an internationally recognized not-for-profit organization that conducts applied research that promotes positive youth development and advances equity. Before joining Search Institute in 2012, Dr. Pikel served as the founding Executive Director of the University of Minnesota's College Readiness Consortium, and as Executive Director of Research and Development in the Saint Paul Public Schools. Early in his career, Dr. Pikel held several senior staff positions during the Clinton Administration, including as a White House Fellow assigned to the Director of the CIA, Special Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of State, and Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Education. Dr. Pikel began his career as a high school teacher in his home state of Minnesota. He holds a B.A. in East Asian Studies from Yale University, a Master's in Education from Harvard University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Minnesota. **Page 17.**



Dr. Christopher Pennell received a Bachelor of Science degree from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY, and his doctorate in Genetics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel (UNC-CH). Subsequently, he did postdoctoral research at both the University of Rochester's Cancer Center in NY and then back at UNC-CH. In the mid-90s Dr. Pennell joined the newly formed Masonic Cancer Center (MCC) at the University of Minnesota (UMN). Currently, Dr. Pennell is the Associate Director of Education at MCC, is co-director of the Inspire Program, a high school-focused STEM education initiative housed in the Institute for Engineering in Medicine at UMN, and is a Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathology. His research focuses on cancer immunotherapy. **Page 18.**



Asya Pereltsvaig 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. **Pages 13, 21, and 30.**



Peter Rachleff, former Macalester College history professor, Emeritus Co-Executive Director, and co-founder of the East Side Freedom Library, in an exploration of these and related questions. Professor Rachleff is the author of ***Hard-Pressed in the Heartland: The Hormel Strike and the Future of the Labor Movement*** (1993). **Pages 15 and 31.**



Mircea Raianu is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland, College Park, focusing on global capitalism and modern South Asia. He is the author of ***Tata: The Global Corporation That Built Indian Capitalism*** (Harvard University Press, 2021). **Page 10.**



Captain Ben Rich is an Aviation Enrichment Speaker with a broad and diverse aviation background including positions as an Airline Captain, Aircraft Accident Investigator, and Air Traffic Control Specialist. Captain Rich's experience includes 39 years and over 15,000 hours of active flying concurrent with 25 years of Aircraft Accident Investigation in addition to 10 years of Air Traffic Control Operations experience. He commanded large Air Force Cargo and Aero Medical Evacuation aircraft as well as several commercial airliners including B-777 Jumbo Jets flying to six continents. He participated in seven National Transportation Safety Board accident investigations and numerous U. S. Air Force investigations plus he was a fully qualified Air Traffic Control specialist in three Control Towers and one Terminal Radar Approach Control. Captain Rich has published numerous aviation articles and still consults part-time as an Airline Operations Subject Matter Expert. **Pages 29 and 30.**



Maddie Roach is the Distance Learning Specialist at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans Louisiana. There she works in the museum's Education Department and delivers online educational programs to learners of all ages. **Pages 12 and 34.**

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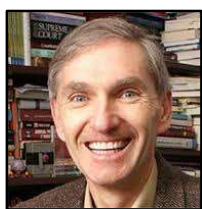
Natasha Robinson is constantly being booked for performances in schools, churches, family reunions, and birthday parties and was also sought out to be a member of The HalleluYah Singers and Beaufort Writers. Outside of being a Claflin alum, with a double major in Elem. Edu. and Theatre, She is a U.S. Veteran with a double MOS (primary Army linguist, secondary Generator Mech/operator) Certified Chef, Motivational speaker, Youth advocate, Licensed Grant Writer, EHS Trainer, 6Sigma Green Belt, Sports Coach (basketball, football, soccer), School Volunteer, Performing Artist, and best of all; MOTHER of 1-Zaire Lordan Saviyah Robinson! The Doctors said I would MOST LIKELY NEVER BEAR CHILDREN. I asked if there was NO POSSIBILITY. " A very very slim possibility if any at all," I was told. Well..."Where stands possibility? Find me at his side!" **Page 35.**



Anthony M. Sammarco is well known for his community service in disseminating the local history of Boston. He has done this through his many books, lectures, and donations to local organizations such as the Boston Athenaeum and the Victorian Society/New England Chapter. Many items from his collection have gone to local archives, such as the Archives and Special Collections at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. He is very serious about history, but he presents his talks entertainingly with a mixture of humor. **Pages 10 and 33.**



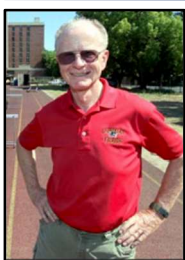
Michael Scheibach, Ph.D., currently teaches for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Miami and Florida International University. He received his doctorate in American Studies from the University of Kansas and taught for several years as an adjunct professor for Kansas City, and Missouri-area colleges before moving to Miami, Florida. Scheibach is the author of five books on the early Cold War and Atomic Age, including **Atomic Narratives and American Youth: Coming of Age with the Atom, 1945-1955; Atomics in the Classroom: Teaching the Bomb in the Early Postwar Era; "In Case Atom Bombs Fall": An Anthology of Governmental Explanations, Instructions and Warnings from the 1940s to the 1960s; Protecting the Home Front: Women in Civil Defense in the Early Cold War; and Atomic Alert: The Atomic Bomb and The Show That May Save Your Life.** He has given presentations at colleges and organizations on a wide range of history topics. **Pages 32 and 34**



David Schultz is Hamline University Distinguished Professor of Political Science and University of Minnesota Professor of Law. A four-time Fulbright scholar, he is the author of more than 45 books and 200+ articles on American Politics, including his new book, **Generational Politics in the United States.** Professor Schultz is a frequent political analyst whose comments appear in the New York Times, Washington Post, and National Public Radio. **Page 33.**



Brendan Shea, PhD, is an Instructor of Philosophy and Computer Science at Rochester Community and Technical College. He's published over 25 academic articles or book chapters, focused mainly on issues in applied ethics, the philosophy of science, or areas where these intersect (such as bioethics or the ethics of artificial intelligence). He's been teaching for over 20 years and has given many LIFE lectures (which he enjoys!). He lives in Rochester, MN, with his wife Annea and son Harry. **Page 27.**



Charles N. "Chuck" Sheley has been a teacher and a track and cross-country coach for Chico Jr. High for over 36 years. Sheley has been a wildland firefighter for the US Forest Service for 34 years, spent two years as an Engine Crewman, 12 years smokejumper in Oregon and Alaska, and 19 years as a Wildfire Crew Coordinator at Mendocino National Forest (Calif). Sheley has been the Vice President of the National Smokejumper Association and Editor of "Smokejumper" magazine since 1999. Among his many notable recognitions for his time running and coaching cross country and track, Chuck was also named Chico Education Hall of Fame "Most Inspirational Teacher" in 1990. **Page 12.**



Ann Siverling works as a Bereavement Coordinator for Mayo Clinic Hospice in Rochester. Before this, she worked as a chaplain for Mayo Clinic Hospice. She has also worked as a music educator and a pastor. Her undergraduate degree is from St. Olaf College, her M. Div degree is from Luther Seminary, and her MBA is from Bethel University. Ann is also certified as a spiritual director and certified in Servant Leadership. In her spare time, Ann likes to do spiritual writing, and reading, walk in the many parks in the Twin Cities, attend plays, concerts, and sporting events, knitting, and spend time with her three delightful grandsons. **Page 9.**



Bennett Smith is an instructor in history and political science at North Iowa Area Community College. He is also an instructor in various lifelong learning programs including the NIACC Lifelong Learning Institute; the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University and the LIFE program at Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minnesota. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in speech communication and a Master of Arts degree in history from Iowa State University. He has also done graduate work at the University of Iowa in Social Foundations of Education. He is from Clear Lake, IA, and currently serves on the Clear Lake City Council. **Page 20.**

Betty Spitzmiller received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Betty is a retired college teacher of courses in writing, literature, classical mythology, and humanities. **Page 7.**



Wayne Stellmaker is a retired teacher from Alaska. Many of his students, friends, co-workers, and neighbors were Alaska natives. **Page 25.**

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Stephen Troutman is a LIFE board member, facilitator, presenter, and life-long learner. At IBM for 33 years, he retired as an Executive Consultant. In the Navy for 23 years, he retired as a Captain. In retirement, for 12 years now, he has been a community volunteer; currently active at LIFE (Learning Is Forever and SCORE (mentors to small businesses). In 2021 he received the Mayor's Medal of Honor for Senior Service. **Pages 12 and 18.**



Tom Trow is a Consulting Archaeologist who started his career at the Minnesota Historical Society, as a field director for the Statewide Archaeological Survey. He was unexpectedly lured away, however, to the University of Minnesota to be their first Director of Community and Cultural Affairs. Twenty years later came another interruption: he was hired to be the Executive In Charge of over 130 documentary television productions at TPT, the PBS station in the Twin Cities. But he has now returned to his archaeological roots, and for the past four years has been working with the Mower County Historical Society on a very special project: a 10,000-year-old Native American site in southern Minnesota. Tom led the team that first recorded that site 40 years ago, and he is leading the project to open the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry to the public because it may be the most important place of its kind in the region. **Page 17.**



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). 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. **Pages 26 and 33.**



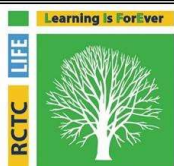
Roger D. White, M.D., is a Professor of Anesthesiology, at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, and a consultant in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine and the Department of Cardiovascular Diseases, Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN. He is the Medical Director of the City of Rochester and Olmsted County Early Defibrillation Program. He was chair of the Board of Directors of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians in 1983 and again in 1994. Dr. White is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Minnesota Society of Anesthesiologists. He is a reviewer for Resuscitation. In 2004 Dr. White received the Hans Dahll Award at the Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update Conference and in 2015 he was made an Honoree of ILCOR, the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation. On-going clinical research includes assessment of patient outcomes following cardiac arrest and evaluation of the performance of biphasic waveforms for defibrillation and cardioversion, Dr. Roger White's bibliography includes 355 publications, the majority about emergency cardiac care. **Page 7.**



Rev. Ana M. Wilson, MDiv, BCC, CT grew up on military bases and lived in Virginia, West Germany (before the wall came down), and Texas before moving to Rochester, MN where she previously served as a Chaplain and currently serves as a Bereavement Coordinator for a local hospice. She is a wife, mother of four, grandmother of two, and an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination. Ana has a Bachelor of Science degree in Math and Science with a Texas Teacher Certificate. She attended Brite Divinity School earning a Master of Divinity degree. She completed her Chaplain residency program at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, TX; is a Board Certified Chaplain; and serves a rural community church. Ana became Certified in Thanatology (CT) through the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) in 2022. **Page 24.**



Marcia Zug is the Miles and Ann Loadholt Professor of Family Law and the University of South Carolina School of Law. **You'll Do** is her second book. Her previous book, **Buying A Bride: An Engaging History of Mail-Order Marriage**, explored the legal history of mail-order marriages. She lives in Columbia, SC with her husband and two daughters. **Page 18.**



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HARVEST DINNER

Samantha 'Rastles' the Woman Question

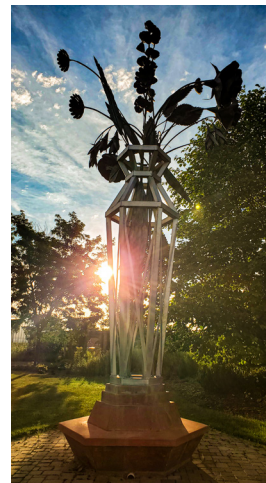
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After dinner, enjoy a one-woman performance portraying Samantha Smith Allen. Samantha "rastles" with questions concerning history's treatment of women, rights denied by the church, women's powerlessness before the law, the need for women's suffrage,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

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