

NOV/DEC 2023

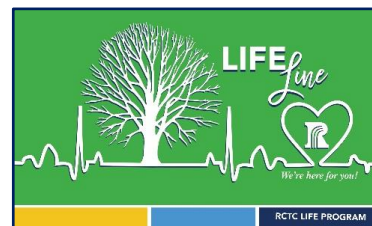


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FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION, PLEASE PHONE 507-280-3157

Supported by Rochester Community and Technical College



GREETINGS LIFE PARTICIPANTS!

LIFE Board Member Randy Nelson is featured on the cover of this catalog.

We have a new LIFE director! Get to know Kerry Novotny on page 3.

Instructor biographies start on page 5 rather than being listed with each class. Listed after their biography is the page the instructor's class(es) can be found.

LIFE memberships need to be renewed!

There are **seven in-person classes** in this catalog.

Trips will only be offered at Community Education – call 507-328-4000 to register.

We appreciate your ongoing support and hope to see you at class soon.

Kerry and Jamie

Heintz Center

1926 Collegeview Road SE-Box 50
Rochester, MN 55904



LIFE PROGRAM TUITION ASSISTANCE

LIFE Program tuition assistance is available as a result of a donation by a LIFE participant. For more information, please contact Jamie at 507-280-3157.

LIFE Program Gift Certificates Available!

Please contact Jamie at
507-280-3157.

LETTER FROM THE LIFE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to the November/December Catalogue! For many of us this is a busy time of year. Between Thanksgiving and religious holidays and New Year's, there is plenty to do. I am busy with menu planning and gift planning and decorating. It's great to have friends in and to do things with family.

But I always sign up for some of LIFE's classes as well. It provides me with a time to sit and think about other things for a while in my busy week. A good lecture can transport you to another time and place. And I always love learning new things. The world is full of wonders waiting to be discovered.

I also enjoy that some of the lectures deal with the holidays themselves. Learning more about the origins of Thanksgiving or the music of Christmas is fun for me during this time of year. But like singing a Christmas Carol, I really prefer to take such classes during these two months. It a seasonal thing. So take a look at all the offerings in the course catalogue for these two months.



I am certain there will be several that appeal to you. I know I will make time for many of them. Alongside the hectic holiday planning.
See you in class!

Jane Callahan, LIFE Advisory Board Chair, 2023-24



*Janet Bartz
Brenda Dicken
Peg Farrell
Tom Gaffey
Pamela Haase
Jane Hallman
Chad Israelson
Debby Jacobsen
Phil Karsell*

2023-24 LIFE ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS

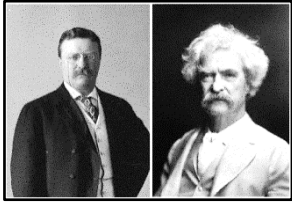
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HARVEST DINNER 2023



Harvest Dinner 2023: Theodore Roosevelt and Mark Twain with Adam Lindquist, 3-Time National Champion, Living History Presenter

Mark Twain and the Colonel tells the story of America between 1890 and 1910 through the involvement of the era's two most vital participants: Mark Twain and Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Roosevelt will share his insights into shaping America and the famous humorist's take on his actions. At this pivotal moment in our history, the previously frontier-driven expansion of America was being replaced by an America that had begun to legitimately think of itself as a world power, and a dominant presence and leader on the international stage. No longer merely a successful experiment in democracy and republicanism, America saw tensions arise between those focused on which areas of American life necessitated radical progress, and which required devout preservation. Tensions like these manifested nowhere more tellingly than between our greatest humorist and our youngest President, whose warring visions of what America could and ought to be were radically different, but nevertheless laid the bedrock for modern America – its arguments, achievements, and aspirations – as we came to see it through the twentieth century, and to the present day. Adam Lindquist is a performer who portrays Roosevelt across the country to over 125,000 people annually. Dinner will be a salad- greens with pickled beet, goat cheese and walnuts with champagne dressing; entree- southern fried boneless chicken breast with country gravy, mashed potatoes and green beans; and dessert- fresh baked apple pie with caramel drizzle and a beverage. **Registration Deadline: October 16. Register Today!**

Date(s): Thu, October 26 Time: 5:30-8 pm Location: Rochester International Event Center
LIFE Member Fee: \$39 Non-Member Fee: \$49

NEW LIFE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



"Hello, my name is Kerry Novotny and I will be the RCTC LIFE Program Director starting September 5th. As a lifelong learner myself, I understand the importance of having access to experiences, opportunities and classes that span broad subject matter. My passion as a coordinator comes from being able to help others explore ideas and concepts that are new to them and may shift their thinking or abilities. I am excited for the opportunity to work with the Life Program because I want to be part of the process or recruiting, coordinating, and ultimately offering affordable opportunities for everyone to be able to learn something new.

I am coming to RCTC from the Rochester Public School District where I worked as a Middle School Enrichment Coordinator and a School Age Child Care Lead for the past 17 years. In addition to my role in childcare, I have also been a coach for the John Marshall girl's lacrosse team, GO ROCKETS, since it became a sanctioned sport in 2009. I hold a BA in Elementary Education from Winona State and a Master's Degree in Counseling and Psychological Services from St. Mary's University.

When I am not coaching or chasing other people's kids, I spend my time chasing my own two daughters (ages 6 and 9), enjoying the calmness of a quiet morning reading with my coffee, or attending concerts, professional sporting events, or any other social outing."

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Instructor Biographies

Kristin Anderson PhD is a Professor of Art at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Her courses include art history and architectural history surveys as well as more specialized offerings such as American Art, Scandinavian Art, and Women and Art. A graduate of Oberlin College, Kristin has master's degrees in art history (University of Minnesota) and church history (Luther Seminary) as well as a PhD in American Art, Architecture, and Popular Culture from the University of Minnesota. **Pages 13 and 16.**

Dr. John O. Anfinson has been researching, writing and speaking about the upper Mississippi River for over 30 years. He spent the first half of his federal career with the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as a historian and cultural resources program manager. He joined the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service, in 2000, where he served as Superintendent from 2014-2020. John is the author of "The River We Have Wrought: A History of the Upper Mississippi" (2003) and "River of History" (2003). John holds a PhD in U.S. History from the University of Minnesota. **Page 12.**

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 Bachelors 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.**

Dr. Richard Bell received a BA from the University of Cambridge and a PhD from Harvard University. He joined the Department of History and the University of Maryland in 2006, earned tenure in 2012 and promotion to the rank of full professor in 2020. He has published more than a dozen articles and chapters as well as three books. He is presently an Andrew Carnegie Fellow (2021-2023) and has held research fellowships at more than two dozen libraries and institutes including residencies at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Abolition, and Resistance at Yale University and the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. His work has also been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is proud to serve as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, an elected member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and as a board member of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System Foundation. **Pages 14 and 19.**

Thomas Emmert, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Gustavus Adolphus College, is an historian of Russia and Eastern Europe. Professor Emmert received his B.A. in history from St. Olaf College and his M.A. and PhD in Russian and Balkan history from Stanford University. He has had visiting appointments at the University of Zagreb, the University of Minnesota and Stanford University. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, he has been awarded research fellowships from the Fulbright Program, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the National Council For Eurasian and East European Research. His publications include "Serbian Golgotha: Kosovo, 1389" (1990) and, most recently, "The Scholars' Initiative: Confronting the Yugoslav Controversies" (2009), a collaborative project of scholars from around the world dedicated to providing an objective analysis of what happened to Yugoslavia at the end of the 20th Century. For 38 years Professor Emmert taught popular courses in Western Civilization, the Balkans, Imperial and Modern Russia,

the Ottoman Empire, and a highly regarded seminar on Stalin for senior history majors. He has taken students to Europe on several study tours, and has served as director and professor for a number of American undergraduate semester Programs in Zagreb and Berlin. Professor Emmert also has had the pleasure of leading many alumni travel/study programs in Europe. **Page 12.**

Jim Gibbons has made a name for himself teaching the importance of history. Using his passion for and strong knowledge of history, Jim offers over 120 riveting presentations 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. **Page 19.**

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. **Page 12.**

Leslie Goddard, PhD, is an award-winning historian, author, actress and lecturer who has been presenting on topics in American history and women's history for twenty years. She holds an interdisciplinary PhD from Northwestern University 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. Born in Illinois, Leslie is known nationally for her work bringing women's history alive. Her repertoire of famous women includes television personality and cook Julia Child, aviator Amelia Earhart, first ladies Eleanor Roosevelt and Jackie Kennedy, film star Bette Davis, novelist Louisa May Alcott, Titanic survivor Violet Jessop, and modern artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Her acclaimed portrayal of art collector and Chicago socialite Bertha Honore Palmer won the Philip A. Danielson Award from Westerners International. Each year, she presents more than 400 performances and lectures for public libraries, professional associations, colleges and university, business and corporate events at historical societies and museums. She performed as a Road Scholar with the Illinois Humanities Council and has served on the board of directors of the Illinois State Historical Society, the Illinois Association of Museums, and the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. During more than a decade working as a museum educator and exhibit developer, she developed a passion for mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century American history, popular culture, vintage clothing, and biography. She served as director of the Graue Mill and Museum in Oak Brook, IL, before founding her own business as a full-time solo performer and lecturer. A lifelong resident of Illinois, she is the author of three books on Chicago history: Remembering Marshall Field's, Lost Chicago Department Stores and Chicago's Sweet Candy History. She graduated with an undergraduate degree in theater and English from Stanford University and lives in the Chicago suburbs with her husband Bruce and their two black pugs. **Page 18.**

Dr. Taylor Hagood teaches American literature, with specialization in the writing of William Faulkner, African American literature, and the literature and culture of the United States South. His scholarship examines literary and cultural production in an approach informed by postcolonial theory, theorizing of social interaction via secrecy as a cultural item, and disability studies.

Hagood's books include *Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place, and the Materiality of Myth* (2008); *Secrecy, Magic, and the One-Act Plays of Harlem Renaissance Women Writers* (2010); and *Faulkner: Writer of Disability* (2014), winner of the C. Hugh Holman Award for Best Book in Southern Literary Studies. Along with these monographs, he edited *Critical Insights: The Sound and the Fury* (2014) and coedited *Undead Souths: The Gothic and Beyond in Southern Literature and Culture* (2015) with Eric Gary Anderson and Daniel Cross Turner. Additionally, he has published articles and reviews in numerous journals, including *African American Review*, *Anthurium*, *College Literature*, *European Journal of American Culture*, *Faulkner Journal*, *Literature Compass*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Southern Literary Journal*, *Studies in Popular Culture*, and *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*. In the way of current work, Hagood is pursuing a number of projects including his latest book "Stringbean: Life and Murder of a Country Legend." **Pages 13 and 18.**

Marita Heller MA 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 10.**

German born and raised **Anette Isaacs, MA**, is a Historian and Public Educator who has been presenting hundreds of programs on more than 40 different topics (all pertaining to her native country's history, politics, and culture) all over the United States. Ms. Isaacs studied at Emory University, the University of Vienna and the Freie Universitaet in Berlin and holds Master's Degrees in American Studies, Political Science, and History. **Pages 13 and 18.**

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 "Teacher of the Year" in 2003, 2011, and 2012. Chad recently coauthored the book "The Political World of Bob Dylan: Freedom and Justice, Power and Sin." Chad is on the RCTC LIFE Board. **Page 11.**

David Jones, a resident of Minneapolis, has been presenting on historical topics since 1996. He has made more than 2,000 presentations to over 50,000 people. **Page 13.**

Paul Koeller is a retired IBMer and active Mayo Volunteer who loves researching and presenting music and local history topics. He has given numerous history presentations in Rochester and presented about twenty different rock music classes for Rochester Community Ed. **Page 10.**

John Landry was born in Detroit, Michigan and subsequently raised in 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 Tattnell 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 for 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. **Pages 12 and 17.**

Dr. John Leisenring is an Emeritus Professor from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in the Areas of Trombone and Jazz Studies. Well known nationally and internationally as both a performer and teacher, Dr. John Leisenring has performed in 37 states and 11 foreign countries. Dr. Leisenring is a performer equally proficient in classical and jazz music, with additional expertise in electro-acoustic music. He retired from the Conservatory of Music, University of Missouri at Kansas City, in 2000, after having served there as Professor of Music from 1971. He previously taught at the University of Texas- Austin. From 1978 through 2000, he was a faculty member with the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Camps. University level courses taught include the History and Development of Jazz, the History and Development of Rock and Roll, Jazz Pedagogy, three levels of Jazz Improvisation, and jazz bands and jazz combos. As a jazz trombonist, he has appeared in festivals and concerts in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Switzerland and Denmark as well as throughout the United States, including twice at the Newport Jazz Festival. Leisenring moved to Minnetonka, MN in 2021, and settled into a richly deserved retirement. **Page 14.**

With dozens of appearances in two countries and three states last year, **Ric Mixter** is certainly 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 Mixter as a shipwreck researcher, diving over 100 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, including the Edmund Fitzgerald. He has produced over 30 programs for PBS and the Outdoor Channel, and appeared as a shipwreck expert on the History and Discovery Channels. He leads the pack when it comes to sharing our unique underwater resources with the general public, and thousands of dive show patrons and countless school kids know him as the energetic story teller who uses video like no other presenter can. Ric's stories appear in books, magazines (including Michigan History Magazine) and in radio and TV news programs. **Page 11.**

Jennifer Paxton PhD is working on a book manuscript entitled "Chronicle and Community in Twelfth-Century England," which looks at the ways in which 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 is focusing 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. **Page 15.**

Dr. Marguerite Ragnow is the curator of the James Ford Bell Library, which documents the history and impact of global trade and cultural exchange in the premodern era, before ca. 1800. She also is on the graduate faculties of History, Early Modern Studies, and Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota. The immediate past president of the Society for the History of Discoveries and past editor of its journal, *Terrae Incognitae*, Dr Ragnow is the co-author (with photographer Natasha D'Schommer) of "Tulips, Chocolate & Silk. Celebrating 65 Years of the James Ford Bell Library," which was a finalist for the 2020 Minnesota Book Award. **Page 17.**

Maddie Roach is the Distance Learning Specialist at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans Louisiana. There she works in the museums Education Department and has for two years now delivering online educational programs to learners of all ages. **Page 15.**

David J. Silverman PhD, (Princeton, 2000) specializes in Native American, Colonial American, and American racial history. His most recent book is "This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving." He is also the author of "Thundersticks: Firearms and the Violent Transformation of Native America;" "Brethren: The Brothertown and Stockbridge Indians and the Problem of Race in Early America," and "Faith and Boundaries: Colonists, Christianity, and Community among the Wampanoag Indians of Martha's Vineyard, 1600-1871." His essays have won major awards from the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the New York Association of History. **Page 14.**

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. 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 currently serves on the Clear Lake City Council. **Page 17.**

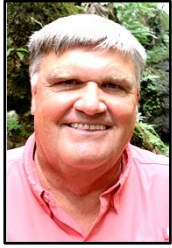
Betty L. Spitzmiller PhD, is a retired college teacher of courses in writing, literature, classical mythology, and humanities. **Page 10.**

Stephen Troutman is a Futurist, perpetual student, and frequent speaker on diverse and sometimes esoteric topics. At IBM for 33 years, Steve retired as an Executive Consultant in 2010. In the US Navy Reserve for 23 years, he was Surface Warfare Officer, Commanding Officer of four units, and attained the rank of Captain. He has been a Futurist since 1999. He served on the LIFE Advisory and was awarded, in 2021, one of the Rochester Mayor's Medals of Honor for his support of the LIFE program and his other volunteer activities. **Page 14.**

Rabbi Michelle Werner was ordained in 2006 at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute for Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her path to HUC and the rabbinate has been international, eventful and, at times, unconventional. Originally from New York, Rabbi Werner studied English literature and received an A.B. with honors from Kenyon College, in Gambier, Ohio and a Masters in English literature from University of California Santa Barbara. She also holds a Graduate Diploma from the University of Otago, Dunedin New Zealand and Masters in Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR. Prior to attending rabbinical school, Rabbi Werner lived abroad for twenty years, including in France, as well as New Zealand, and Luxembourg and then did her first year of rabbinical studies in Israel. While in France, she worked at the American University in Paris and at the School of Culinary Arts and Hotel Management. **Page 16.**

Virginia M. Wright-Peterson's first book, "Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation," was a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award in 2017 and a Chinese translation was released in 2018. Her second book, "A Woman's War, Too: Women at Work During WWII" reveals vivid stories of contribution and sacrifice, including women serving in every branch of the military and working in vital roles in factories, shipyards, mines, homes, and communities. Many women relocated during the war years, and they were present at every important battle of the war overseas. She has searched for stories that challenge our understanding of ourselves and our world. She has been especially committed to collecting, preserving, and sharing women's stories often missing in published histories, including the daily news. In her search for a broader perspective, she deployed to a military base in Iraq with the American Red Cross and taught as a Fulbright Scholar at University of Algiers. Virginia Wright-Peterson has a PhD in English and currently serves in administration at University of Minnesota Rochester. **Page 15.**

RCTC LIFE Program – Nov/Dec 2023



The Day The Music Died with Paul Koeller

Enjoy reliving the stories and music of some of the famous musicians who died way too young; including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, Otis Redding, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, Cass Elliot, Duane Allman, Brian Jones, Jim Croce, Harry Chapin, Bob Marley, Kurt Cobain, and more.

Date(s): Wednesday, November 1 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1

Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1415

LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$15



"I'll Have What She's Having": The Jewish Deli with Docent, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

More than a place to get a meal, the Jewish deli is a community forged in food. "I'll Have What She's Having": The Jewish Deli explores how Jewish immigrants, mostly from Central and Eastern Europe, imported and adapted traditions to create a uniquely American restaurant. Organized by the Skirball Cultural Center, the exhibition reveals how Jewish delicatessens became a cornerstone of American food culture. Get a taste of deli history through neon signs, menus, advertisements, uniforms, photographs, and film and TV clips.

Date(s): Wednesday, November 1 Time: 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



Great Literature with Marita Heller MA, Betty Spitzmiller PhD, Facilitators

This class is a discussion group (formerly called Great Books) composed of people who love reading and discussing great literature. In 23-24 we'll read and discuss short stories by Flannery O'Connor, Edgar Allan Poe, Katherine Anne Porter, Leslie Silko, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Leo Tolstoy, John Updike, Alice Walker, Eudora Welty, Edith Wharton, and Virginia Woolf and several Shakespearean plays. Our fall meetings and spring meetings will be hybrid (in person at the Heintz Center) or by Zoom (your choice) and the winter meetings will be on ZOOM only. Please join us. The class fee covers the whole year.

Date(s): Thursdays, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 2

Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1305 and Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$32 for 8 months Non-Member Fee: \$42 for 8 months

RCTC LIFE Program – Nov/Dec 2023



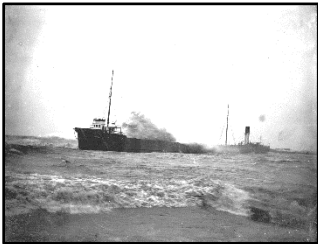
The Dark Side of Light Pollution with J. Kelly Beatty, Senior Editor, SKY & TELESCOPE

Light pollution has become a pervasive and ugly consequence of our 24/7 society. Few of us can enjoy a star-spangled night sky any longer, thanks to the glowing pall caused by all the lights that line roadways, parking lots, and backyards. More ominously, a growing body of research finds that excessive light at night disrupts nocturnal ecosystems, sometimes

dramatically. It can also inhibit the production of melatonin, a compound produced as we sleep—and only in darkness— that seems to play multiple roles in maintaining general human health. The situation has not been helped by the widespread rollout of light-emitting diodes, or LEDs. Fortunately, the spread of light pollution can be halted and even reversed. Join us as Kelly discusses how we can safely light up our homes, businesses, and communities without wasting energy, disturbing the neighbors, or creating an unhealthy environment for humans and wildlife.

Date(s): Thursday, November 2 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19



Gales of November with Ric Mixer, Diver and PBS Producer

The witch of November has terrorized the Great Lakes since the first Americans paddled the shorelines. Fed by moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and chilled by an Arctic jet stream, these storms wreak havoc on the lakes and bring notorious storms that have sunk the largest freighters lost on the inland seas. In this very popular lecture, Ric Mixer shares not only insight and rare survivor interviews from autumn

gales, but also first-hand accounts of dives to freighters lost to the winds. From his dive to the Edmund Fitzgerald and help in rediscovery of the Carl Bradley to the unique destruction of the Daniel J Morrell and miraculous survival of Dennis Hale, Ric Mixer shares details and underwater footage that you've never seen in any other lecture on the topic. Chronicling modern storms from 1905 to 1975, this lecture is very popular anywhere in the Midwest, as it features many of the wrecks that have been chronicled in countless books. Ric shares what it's like to dive the shipwrecks from submarines and with SCUBA and he brings 30 years of award-winning research to the podium. Included in this are his exclusive interviews with two sailors who took on 126 mile per hour winds during the 1940 Armistice Day Storm.

Date(s): Monday, November 6 Time: 10-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



The Legacy of the JFK Assassination with Chad Israelson MA, RCTC History Professor

November 22nd will mark the 60th anniversary of the Kennedy assassination. It has taken on mythic status in the nation's history. This course will not attempt to prove or disapprove any one theory about the events of that day but rather will examine the impact of the assassination, its place in the collective national psyche, and address some of the questions that remain about lone gunman vs conspiracy.

Date(s): Monday, November 6 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1100

LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

RCTC LIFE Program – Nov/Dec 2023



Russia, 1917-1921 with Thomas Emmert PhD, Smithsonian Historian

In June 2023, Vladimir Putin warned that Russia was flirting with a civil war just as it had in 1918 following the Bolshevik Revolution. We will examine the turbulent years of that bloody civil conflict that helped to determine the future totalitarian character of the Soviet Union. Is Putin heir to that legacy as well?

Date(s): Tuesday, November 7 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom
LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



The 1893 Chicago World's Fair with Michelle Gibbons, Historical Presenter

The year is 1893 and the city of Chicago is booming. Chicago is told it will be the city chosen among several others to officially hold the World's Columbian Exposition, celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival. The fair will mark a turning point in Chicago's history, bringing diverse cultures to the area as well as architecture, the arts, sanitation and more. It will also help bring an industrial boom to the city, bringing those from all over the world to what would become a key melting pot city in America. Michelle Gibbons, will discuss the turn of events that took place at the World's Columbian Exposition, later to be called the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Gibbons will explain how Thomas Edison brought his new inventions to the fair.

Date(s): Tuesday, November 7 Time: 1-2:15 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom
LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



The Battles For and Against Nature in the Lower Delta with John Anfinson PhD, Author, River District Historian, Retired Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Superintendent

Seventy-five miles above Baton Rouge, the Corps of Engineers is intent on stopping the geologic clock, determined to block nature from letting the Mississippi River change course and abandon Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Where the delta meets the Gulf, engineers are doing everything they can to prevent the Gulf from eating away the delta.

For a variety of reasons, the engineers and the delta have been losing this battle. This presentation is about these battles for and against nature, one to keep the Great River locked on its current path and the other to save its delta.

Date(s): Wednesday, November 8 Time: 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom
LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



The Floating City at Sea followed by Beef Stew for 2500 with John Landry, USS Midway Museum Speakers Bureau, US Navy Veteran

Did you know that only about 5% of the USS Midway's 4,500 crew were pilots? That the other 95% operated a floating city at sea—restaurants, barber shops, city utilities, convenience stores, police, hospital, newspaper, hotels, laundry and much more—so that the pilots could launch when the nation called. Explore this floating city at sea, all within the confines of three football fields!

Date(s): Thursday, November 9 Time: 1-2:15 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom
LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

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The St. Anthony Park Neighborhood with Kristin Anderson PhD, Professor of Art, Augsburg University

Developed as a nineteenth century “railroad suburb” situated between Minneapolis and St. Paul, St. Anthony Park is one of the best-known neighborhoods in the Twin Cities. With lively business districts, lovely houses, interesting parks, and a small industrial area, St. Anthony Park and its neighbors—the University Grove, the St. Paul Campus, and the State Fairgrounds—tell a fascinating story of community and development.

Date(s): Monday, November 13 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Margaret Mitchell and “Gone with the Wind” with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department Florida Atlantic University

In 1936, the publication of “Gone With the Wind” amounted to a cultural phenomenon. It sold and sold and sold. But its reluctant author, Margaret Mitchell, almost did not get it to the editor who saw what a smash hit it would be. In this lecture, we will follow the life of Mitchell up to the climax of her one great novel. We will then revisit the book and the 1939 film that also took the world by storm and became a cultural icon. We will consider how Mitchell developed her strong and passionate character, Scarlett O’Hara, as well as the unforgettable Rhett Butler. Those two characters have greatly outlived their author,

whose life was cut tragically short. The lecture will close with a look at the prequels, sequels, adaptations, and retellings of this classic story.

Date(s): Tuesday, November 14 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Nazi Hunter Fritz Bauer—A Heroic Story! with Anette Isaacs MAs

It has become common knowledge that Adolf Eichmann was captured by Mossad agents in Argentina and brought to justice in Israel. But hardly anyone is familiar with the fact that it was a German Jew, the Hessian attorney general Fritz Bauer, who provided pivotal information about Eichmann’s whereabouts in South America to the Israeli authorities. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs as she pays homage to Bauer, this true hero who died 55

years ago, and who confronted post-war German society with its guilt -and denial thereof- by almost single-handedly initiating the Auschwitz Trials of the mid 1960s.

Date(s): Wednesday, November 15 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19



Mount Rushmore with David E. Jones, Historical Presenter

Today, more than 2 million people each year visit Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Fourteen years, four hundred workers, 450,000 tons of rock, nearly one million dollars. Those are some of the statistics behind the carving of Mount Rushmore. The story is even more interesting.

Date(s): Thursday, November 16 Time: 10-11:15 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

RCTC LIFE Program – Nov/Dec 2023



The French Alliance and the Road to Yorktown with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland

The Siege of Yorktown in October 1781 was a decisive win for George Washington's Continental Army. Yet it was also a triumph for the unlikely wartime alliance forged between patriot revolutionaries and the French King Louis XVI. University of Maryland historian Dr. Richard Bell explores the inside story of this essential alliance as it evolved from small-scale privateering and gun-running into a military partnership that achieved a stunning joint victory at the Yorktown, the climactic battle of the American Revolution.

Date(s): Thursday, November 16 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29



LIFE Book Group with Steve Troutman, Facilitator

November's book is "Long Petal Of The Sea" by Isabel Allende with our final book of the calendar year being "American Sherlock: Murder, Forensics, and the Birth of American CSI" by Kate Winkler Dawson. If you register now, you pay a fee for the entire Nov thru Jun academic year.

Date(s): Fridays, Nov 17 and Dec 15 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 8 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$32 Non-Member Fee: \$42



"This Land Is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving" with David Silverman PhD

400+ years after the first Thanksgiving, a new look at the Plymouth colony's founding events, told for the first time with Wampanoag people at the heart of the story. This unsettling history reveals why some modern Native people hold a Day of Mourning on Thanksgiving, a holiday which celebrates a myth of colonialism and white proprietorship of the United States. "This Land Is Their Land" shows that it is time to rethink how we, as a pluralistic nation, tell the history of Thanksgiving.

Date(s): Monday, November 20 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$25 Non-Member Fee: \$35



New Orleans Jazz Funerals: The Roots of American Music with Dr. John Leisenring

As the happy music of the brass band fades into the streets of the French Quarter, with the dancing feet of the second line following, we'll examine how the music of the New Orleans Jazz Funerals represent a microcosm of the roots of American Music. Through the beginnings of Ragtime, the Blues, and on to the wonderful music played by Louis Armstrong, the amalgam of European and African music that is OUR music will be explored and discussed. And always remember -- "To Meditate Is To Dance!"

Date(s): Monday, November 20 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1415

LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

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The War That Changed Your World: Science & in WWII with Maddie Roach, Distance Learning Specialist, The National WWII Museum

Today's televisions, computers, and cell phones can all trace their origins to technological advancements realized during WWII. Students learn about radar, penicillin, blood plasma, computers, and the atomic bomb; and how these inventions continue to affect their lives today.

Date(s): Tuesday, November 28 Time: 1-2:15 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



King Arthur: Fact and Fiction with Jennifer Paxton PhD, Director, University Honors Program, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of History, Christian University of America

Historian Jennifer Paxton examines the evidence for and against the existence of a warrior leader named Arthur, who supposedly stemmed the tide of the Anglo-Saxon advance into Britain in the late 5th century in the chaotic aftermath of the collapse of Roman rule. How much can history tell us about "King" Arthur, and how has his legend developed in the past millennium and a half?

Date(s): Wednesday, November 29 Time: 10am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



"A Woman's War, Too" with Virginia M. Wright-Peterson, PhD

World War II was a total war, devouring the military and civilian resources of nations. Women in Minnesota—like women across the country—made bold, unconventional, and important contributions to the effort. They enlisted in all branches of the military and worked for the military as civilians. They labored in factories, mines, and shipyards. They were also tireless peace activists, and they worked to relocate interned Japanese American citizens and European refugees. They served as cryptologists, journalists, pilots, riveters, factory workers, nurses, entertainers, and spies. In 1938, before the United States joined the conflict, a Minnesota woman was covering the war in Europe as a reporter. Another was a military nurse at Pearl Harbor when the bombs fell. Minnesota women witnessed the fall of France, the defeat of Axis forces in North Africa and Italy, the Battle of the Bulge, D-Day and the invasion of Normandy, the liberation of France and of the concentration camp at Dachau, and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. In this rich chronological account, Virginia M. Wright-Peterson reframes our understanding of the war through the specific and powerful stories of individual women. It was their war, too.

Date(s): Thursday, November 30 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

Encourage a friend to take a LIFE Class – their first Zoom class is free! Contact Jamie for the Zoom link!

RCTC LIFE Program – Nov/Dec 2023



“Sistine Chapel” followed by “Raphael’s Sistine Madonna” with Kristin Anderson PhD, Professor of Art, Augsburg University

The Sistine Chapel

One of the best-known spaces in the Christian tradition, the Sistine Chapel is recognized for the famous paintings done by Michelangelo. Yet the ceiling and the Last Judgment projects were only two parts of a more complex design, done by multiple artists over a few generations. This presentation looks at the entire plan for the Sistine Chapel’s floor-to-ceiling decoration.

Raphael’s Sistine Madonna

Many people are familiar with the cute angels in Raphael’s 1513 painting, even though most wouldn’t recognize the rest of the image, much less know its fascinating story. This presentation focuses on the meaning and purpose of Raphael’s famous Sistine Madonna.

Date(s): Monday, December 4 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



The First Amendment with National Constitution Center Staff

On September 6, 2023, the National Constitution Center will open its newest gallery, The First Amendment. Protecting some of our most cherished freedoms—religious liberty, free speech, a

free press, the freedom of assembly, and the right to petition—the First Amendment is a pillar of democracy and the American way. The gallery will offer a fresh perspective on the history of the First Amendment and how it impacts us today. The 1,500-square-foot exhibit will feature more than 20 artifacts highlighting all five freedoms, including handwritten case notes from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis; the anti-Vietnam War armband worn by the Tinker family, the centerpiece of the student speech case, Tinker v. Des Moines; The New York Times’ publication of the classified “Pentagon Papers;” and a pennant from the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. To highlight the importance of free speech and a free press, the exhibit will also include recorded video interviews with the plaintiffs from key First Amendment cases.

Date(s): Tuesday, December 5 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19



The True Story of Hanukkah and its Significance Today with Rabbi Werner, B’nai Israel Synagogue

Discover the customs and food traditions of Hanukkah as well as the real story and its implications for our world.

Date(s): Tuesday, December 6 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1

Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1403 and Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

RCTC LIFE Program – Nov/Dec 2023



Treasure in the Caverns: Storage and Care of Rare Materials at the U of MN Libraries with Marguerite Ragnow, PhD, Curator, James Ford Bell Library, University of MN

Curator Marguerite Ragnow will lead you on a virtual tour of the underground storage facilities where rare materials are kept, talk about the new storage facility currently under construction, and discuss the many issues involved in caring for the rare materials at the U.

Date(s): Wednesday, December 6 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom
LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 with John Landry, USS Midway Museum Speakers Bureau, US Navy Veteran

In the early 1900's a string of Islands and Spanish territories became US and pointed at the heart of Japan, too close for comfort. Following WWI Japan was awarded the administration of the Marshall and Gilbert Islands. Japan negotiated a promise from the US to not militarize islands under US control. Japan signed a Treaty to limit

warship construction. The gradual erosion of civilian government authority in Japan coincided with the rise of military authority. Japan became increasingly aggressive to neighboring nations of Manchuria, Korea and China. By 1940 Japan had two-million-man army and navy; the US in comparison had 450,000 soldiers and 215,273 naval personnel. US armed forces ranked 16th largest in the world behind Romania. In spite of the difference in manpower Japan hesitated to push the US into war until a young, US educated admiral named Yamamoto conceived a plan to crush the US and set the entire Pacific basin aflame and destroying the US fleet at Pearl Harbor. The Japanese Imperial Council finally approved Yamamoto's plan July 1941. Final preparations were completed, and the Fleet of 6 Japanese carriers and surrounding ships sailed under radio silence November 26, 1941, headed north of Hawaii to await the final order to attack and destroy the US fleet in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942. But the carriers were not at Pearl Harbor, a crucial error by Japan.

Date(s): Thursday, December 7 Time: 1-2:15 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom
LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858 with Bennett Smith MA

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas carried on a series of seven debates in 1858 while running for the Senate seat from Illinois that are some of the most important clashes of political ideas in the history of America. The key issues in the debates were slavery or more specifically the extension of slavery into the Kansas and Nebraska territories, and the 1857 Dred Scott Supreme Court decision that Lincoln believed could lead to the nationalization of slavery. The stakes could not have been higher,

and even though Lincoln lost the election in 1858, his reputation and stature grew significantly as a result of the publication of the debates. The outcome was that he was able to secure the presidential nomination for the Republican Party. Douglas's views on "popular sovereignty" split the Democratic Party into northern and southern factions, and that created a wide enough opening for Lincoln to win the election of 1860. Please join us for a look at the historical significance of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. A recommended reading list and handout will be provided, and there will be a question and answer session after the lecture.

Date(s): Thursday, December 7 Time: 2:30-4:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom
LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

RCTC LIFE Program – Nov/Dec 2023



Midcentury Christmas: Fads and Fun from 1945 to 1970 with Leslie Goddard, PhD

Christmas in America from the 1940s through the 1960s meant aluminum trees, department store Santas, and cartoon specials on TV. Every kid in the suburbs had to have an Easy Bake Oven, a G.I. Joe, or a Slinky. The coolest houses had rotating color wheels for their trees. Historian Leslie Goddard explores this optimistic era in a new illustrated lecture, using photographs, advertisements, greeting cards, and catalogs to explore why this era was a turning point for how we celebrate the holidays.

Date(s): Friday, December 8 Time: 10-11:15 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



Holiday Movie: Operation Christmas Drop

Join us for a holiday movie, hot cocoa, and cookies. Operation Christmas Drop: Congressional aide Erica forgoes family Christmas to travel at her boss's behest. At a beach side Air Force base, she clashes with Capt. Andrew Jantz, who knows her assignment is finding reasons to defund the facility.

Date(s): Monday, December 11 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1100

LIFE Member Fee: \$5 Non-Member Fee: \$10



The Fireside Poets with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University

You know their names: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Greenleaf Whittier, William Cullen Bryant, James Russell Lowell. They were the poets of your parent's generation, but you might just like them yourself. One of them, Longfellow, definitely hits close to home for Minnesotans, with The Song of Hiawatha. In this December lecture—a good time for the fireside—we will take a tour of the lives and works of these nineteenth-century American poets whose works are highly readable, often comforting, and part of the historical fabric of the nation.

Date(s): Tuesday, December 12 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Frohe Weihnachten: Unwrapping the Charms of German Christmas Traditions - with Anette Isaacs MAs

Uncover the rich history and cultural significance behind cherished customs such as the Advent calendar, Christkindlmarkt, and St. Nicholas Day. Delve into the heartwarming tales of the Christkind and the festive decoration of the

Tannenbaum, while also exploring the delectable delights of traditional holiday treats like Lebkuchen and Stollen. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs and journey through time and tradition, exploring how Germany's unique customs have shaped the magic of Christmas celebrations worldwide.

Date(s): Wednesday, December 13 Time: 2-3:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19

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RCTC LIFE Program – Nov/Dec 2023



The Battle of the Bulge with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter

When the Germans launched a surprise attack in World War II on the morning of December 16, 1944, this would take the Americans completely off guard and would become a great loss for American troops. The attack was one of the last of the German offensive campaigns on the Western Front, spanning from eastern Belgium, northeast France and Luxemburg from December 1944 to January 1945. This would become one of the largest and bloodiest single battles fought during World War II by the United States Armed Forces. It became known as

The Battle of the Bulge. Also known as the Ardennes Counteroffensive, the intention of the battle was to split Allied lines, allow the Germans to take control and force the Western Allies to sign a Peace Treaty that would benefit the Axis Powers. American casualties were over 75,000 and German casualties were over 100,000. Historian Jim Gibbons will discuss the events that took place before, during and after The Battle of the Bulge and will discuss the major commanders, strategies and turning points in the battle. Gibbons will explain why the battle was significant to American history, and why to this day, it is seen as one of the most brutal battles and second deadliest.

Date(s): Thursday, December 14 Time: 10-11:15 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

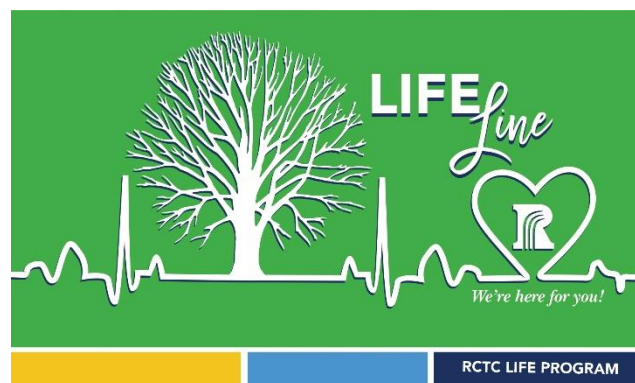


Guns, Ships, and Cows: The Spanish in the American Revolution with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland

Between 1779 and 1782, Spanish rangers from Texas herded 10,000 cows over 500 miles to Louisiana to help feed Spanish soldiers fighting the British in the American Revolutionary War. Spain had joined the war on the patriots' side in 1779 and would spend the next four years contributing a deluge of fresh soldiers, sailors, ships, and cows to the war effort. University of Maryland historian Dr. Richard Bell explores this hidden history of Spain's participation in the American Revolution.

Date(s): Monday, December 18 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom

LIFE Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29



LIFE Program Registration Information

Cost / LIFE Membership: All individuals participating in LIFE classes are required to either be LIFE members or pay an increased fee as a non-member. Membership for the academic year is **\$25** per person and is **in effect 7/1 through 6/30 each academic year**. No Membership refunds. An additional fee is charged per course or event. The only prerequisite is an active interest in learning. There are no educational requirements, no term papers, no tests—everyone succeeds! **All ages are welcome! Gift Certificates are available!**

Location: LIFE offers the majority of classes online via Zoom and several classes each term in-person at Heintz Center – 1926 Collegeview Road SE.

Registration: To register for any of the activities in this catalog

* Return the registration form by mail to RCTC LIFE Program, 851 - 30th Avenue S.E.-Box 50
Rochester, MN 55904-4999 – **CHECK PAYMENT TO 'RCTC LIFE' is REQUIRED.**

* **Online registration is now available for LIFE members only with credit card payment!!** Please contact Jamie at jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu.

Tuition Assistance: Scholarships are available.

* Please contact Jamie at 507-280-3157.

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

Class refunds if you cancel: will only be given **5 business days prior** to the class start—a \$5 processing fee will be charged.

If the LIFE Program cancels a class, NO processing fee will be charged.

If RCTC is closed due to weather, the LIFE classes will be canceled and rescheduled, if possible.

If Rochester Public Schools are closed and RCTC is open, we will hold our LIFE class.

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