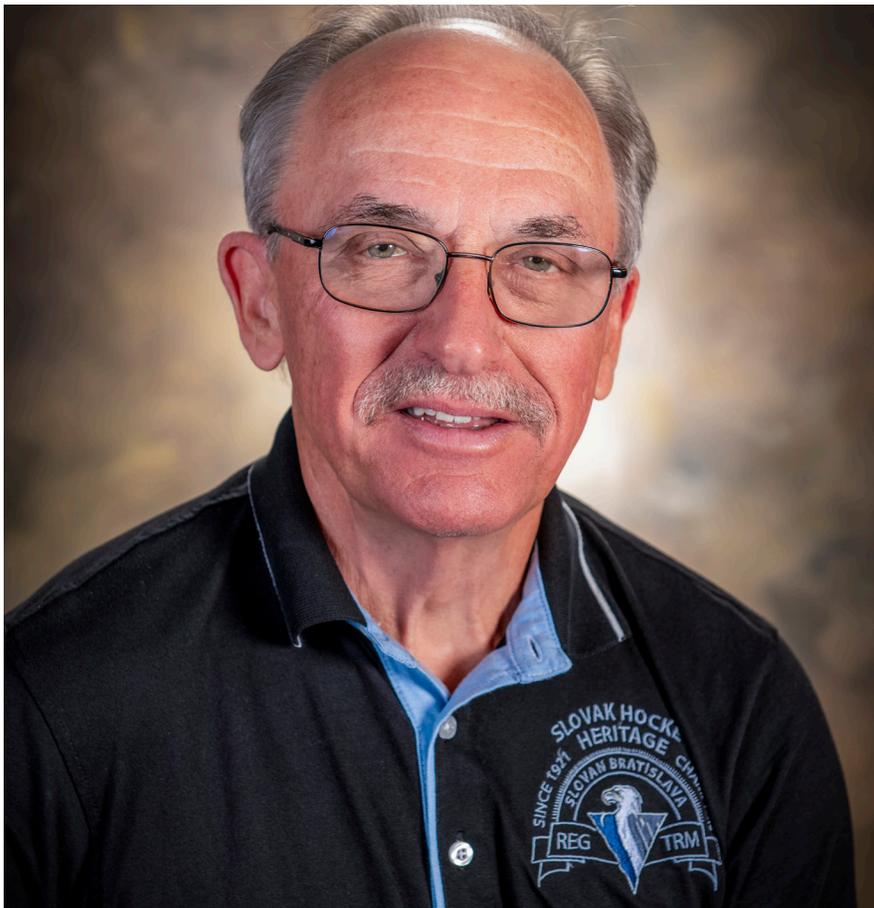




LIFE PROGRAM

Learning Is ForEver

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2024



Visit us online!

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



This catalog features a book group that will wrap up the year reading Shakespeare, a second book group that is finishing strong with three best sellers, an on-line study group

that tackles curriculum by Great Decisions, an Ice Cream Social and over 85 one-off lectures covering topics from baseball, current affairs, and everything in between! If you don't see what you're looking for join us for Headliners, where you get to pick the topics to be discussed. See you in class!

Kerry Novotny
Sr. Programs Director
Kerry.Novotny@rctc.edu
507-280-3157

Jamie Schroeder
Administrative Assistant
Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu
507-280-3157

FROM ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR



It's Spring! Now that the holidays are over, the celebrations have been held and the presents given, it feels like life is returning to normal. One thing I love doing is picking out a new calendar for the year and

recording the LIFE classes I have signed up for. I like a calendar where a page is a whole month. That way I can see the flow of each week running into the next one. Some of the things on my calendar are really chores or obligations but not the LIFE classes. They bring me happiness and I look forward to them.

I hope your calendar is full of fun things this year. I also hope there are several LIFE classes recorded there as well. I'll see you in class.

Jane Callahan
LIFE Advisory Board Chair

ABOUT LIFE

As part of the Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) outreach effort, Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) provides stimulating educational programs and encourages social and personal growth for life-long learners in our growing and diverse community. This is accomplished through a variety of affordable courses including lectures, discussion groups, and other learning opportunities, all in an accessible setting. LIFE offers lectures covering Current Affairs, History, Humanities, Science/Math/Technology and Personal Interest/Sports. There are no educational requirements, no term papers, and no tests! Everyone succeeds! 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 is \$25 per person and covers the academic year. An additional fee is charged per course. There are no refunds on LIFE Membership purchases.

**Spring
Memberships
now
\$10.00**

TUITION ASSISTANCE

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

GUEST POLICY

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

PICTURED ON THE COVER

Board Member: Joe Wieners



"Born and raised in Hastings, MN, I am the oldest of seven. I attended St. Thomas College for four years and then the U of MN Law School from which I

graduated in 1973, I began my career in teaching and practicing law with a concentration in public service positions. I was Kasson City Attorney for four years, Dodge County Attorney for nine years and a District Court Judge primarily in Olmsted County for 24 years. After retirement, my wife, a retired RCTC librarian, introduced me to LIFE. I think of myself as having eclectic interests and a few passions and I enjoy learning. LIFE presents a wealth of timely and varied courses that feed my interests and that I very much enjoy. In the process, I have enjoyed learning from both presenters and fellow class attendees."

WAYS TO REGISTER



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

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



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



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

RCTC Heintz Center
1926 Collegeview Road SE
Rochester, MN 55904

CLASS FORMATS



IN PERSON - Course is held in an RCTC Classroom.



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



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

GIFT CERTIFICATES

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

CLASS RECORDINGS

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

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

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

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

Classes by Category

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Iran/Mideast	6
Two State Solution	7
Pandemic Prepared*	10
Who Gets Ventilator.....	10
UN Climate Talks.....	11
NATO's Future*.....	11
Bayard Rustin.....	11
Headliners.....	4, 12, 19, 26
How Do Wars End?	14
U.S./China Trade*	15
Science Across Borders* ...	17
High Seas Treaty*.....	18
Climate Technology*	20
Biden/Trump Redo	21
U.S.-Taiwan-China.....	22
Mideast Realignment*.....	23
Putin's Propaganda	25
Indonesia*.....	25
Saudi Arabia	25
2023 Supreme Court	25

NOTE

Classes followed by a * are part of the Great Decisions Discussion Group.

HISTORY

British Life	5
Hormel Workers	5
Discrimination	5
Women of Mayo	8
General Custer.....	8
Titanic	8
Margarete Steiff.....	9
OKC Bombing.....	9
Protectors	9
Ida B. Wells-Barnett.....	10
Polish Traditions	11
Trading Letters	11
Midway Story	12
Britain Under Roman	13
Lincoln Assassination	14
Harry Truman.....	14
Bombs Away	15
Hubert Humphrey.....	15
Margaret Thatcher.....	16
Newer World	16
The "Bully" Life.....	16
Brewers/Mayo.....	17
Statue of Liberty	17
Maps	18
Women Rescuers	18
Bonnie & Clyde	18
FDR	18
Rochester	20
MN Experimental City	20
Marilyn Monroe	21
Operation Freedom.....	21
D-Day	22
Plummer Building.....	22
The King of Storms: 1913 ...	22
Holocaust Rescuers.....	23
American Revolution.....	23
John F. Kennedy	23
Transatlantic Slave Trade....	24
Slavery & Revolt.....	24
One Min to Midnight	24
Niagara Cave	25

HUMANITIES

Great Literature	4
LIFE Book Group.....	4
Rock Groups 60s/70s	6
Rock in Windy City.....	6
The Greatest Show	7
Florida Noir	15
Hagia Sophia	17
British Music 1960s	17
Art in War.....	19
Next Generation	19
All Things Considered.....	20
Music of San Francisco.....	21
T.S. Eliot	23
Art of the Vikings	24

PERSONAL INTEREST / SPORTS

Women in Baseball.....	5
Ice Cream Social.....	7
Grief Beliefs.....	8
Pencils	9
Base Ball before Baseball....	13
Toni Stone	13

SCIENCE/MATH/TECH

Relationships with El	6
LGBTQIA+.....	7
Fear in Heavens.....	10
Archaeological View.....	12
Climate Action	13
Neanderthals.....	14
Making People Happy.....	16
Age of Ancestry DNA	19
Women in Science.....	19

GREAT LITERATURE BOOK GROUP

Marita Heller and Betty Spitzmiller facilitate this book group that will meet the first Thursday of each month, September through June. Come to the discussion prepared to discuss preselected works of classic literature. For the spring sessions, we turn our attention from **The Art of the Short Story**, and instead focus on two works by Shakespeare: **King Lear** and **Othello**. Please make sure that your copy of the plays has the acts and line numbers. The class fee covers the rest of the academic year, April, May, and June.

\$10/\$20 Room H1305 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

April 4 King Lear
May 2 Othello
June 6 Othello



LIFE BOOK GROUP

Steve Troutman facilitates this book group that will meet via ZOOM the third Friday of each month, September through June. Come prepared to discuss the preselected novels which were selected by the group. To participate in this group, you will need to secure a copy of the selected works. The adjusted class fee will cover the rest of the academic year, April, May, and June.

\$10/\$20 Online 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

April 19

Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon.

Melissa L. Sevigny



May 17

The Blue Machine: How the Ocean Works.
Helen Czerski

June 21

Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare: The Mavericks Who Plotted Hitler's Defeat
Giles Milton

HEADLINERS

Gather, Listen, and Learn! Meet in person once a month to engage in a thoughtful exchange of ideas, opinions, and information with facilitators Steven 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, however a donation is appreciated.



Room H1415

April 26, May 24, June 28 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading an excerpt from the Great Decisions booklet prior to the meeting date. At the discussion you will watch a short video from the Great Decisions curriculum and then participate in a facilitated group discussion. Fee covers all eight discussion dates, as well as a copy of the 2024 Great Decisions booklet.

Register by April 1



\$75/\$85 Online 3:15 PM-5:00 PM

April 17 Pandemic Preparedness
April 24 NATO's Future
May 8 U.S. / China Trade Rivalry
May 20 Science Across Borders
May 22 High Seas Treaty
May 29 Climate Technology/Competition
June 12 Mideast Realignment
June 26 Understanding Indonesia



Women in Baseball with Kristin Anderson

As players, fans, umpires, architects, and owners, women have been active in baseball for centuries. We will learn about baseball's most famous fan, Katie Casey, and see some important examples of Minnesota women in baseball.

M Apr 01 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



British Life Below Stairs: Domestic Servants during Victorian Era - Present Day with Andrew O' Brien

Domestic servants were an essential and yet somehow invisible part of British homes. Unlike the somewhat cozy world of Downton Abbey, most domestic servants led lives of ceaseless drudgery and petty humiliation. For example, maids and footmen were not called by their given names, but were assigned a name that went with the job title. What held the world together was the threat of a poor character reference. Join me as we explore why footmen could not have facial hair and why housekeepers were referred to as Mrs. even though they were unmarried.

M Apr 01 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Hormel Workers and the Past, Present, and Future of Minnesota's Labor Movement - Peter Rachleff

In August 1985 the nation's attention turned to Austin, Minnesota, where 1,700 meatpacking workers prepared to launch a strike against the George A. Hormel Company in what was widely seen as the most significant labor-management conflict since the Professional Air Traffic Controllers' strike of 1981, and as a harbinger of the change in the direction of American labor relations since the election of Ronald Reagan. From coast-to-coast, factory floors to corporate boardrooms, front pages to the drinking fountains, it was seen as history in the making. In 1993, the story would become the subject of Barbara Kopple's Academy Award-winning documentary, "American Dream." How did a small town in southern Minnesota come to occupy such a large place in our country's labor history? What roles have meatpacking unions and the labor movement played in the Minnesota economic and political landscape? How have those roles impacted the influence of Minnesota's labor movement on our nation's economic and political landscape? And, now, nearly forty years later, what impact might this history have on the emergence of a new labor movement, based in very different industries and led by workers who are very different from those meatpacking workers?

T Apr 02 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



The History of Discrimination in America with Michael Scheibach

The first African slaves arrived in America in 1619, and slavery soon became part of the fabric of American society until it finally ended in 1865. Discrimination against Black Americans continued, however, and remains a reality in our society. Blacks are not the only victims of discrimination, however. Ethnic and religious discrimination also has plagued the nation from its earliest beginnings. This multimedia presentation takes a sweeping look at the history of discrimination in all its forms and provides insights into where we are as a nation today.

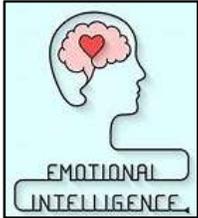
T Apr 02 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Rock Groups of 1960s and 1970s Name Origins with Paul Koeller

You've probably wondered how many of your favorite rock groups of the 1960s and 1970s came up with their name. What's the significance of "Three Dog Night," "Steely Dan," and many more? Why did Crosby Stills Nash and Young choose to use just their names? Come learn the stories behind the names and enjoy listening to some of their music.

W Apr 03 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415 



Improving Your Relationships with Emotional Intelligence with Sue DeLazaro

You may have been told at one point or another to "leave your emotions at home" or "check your emotions at the door" so they didn't interfere with your task at hand. These statements are not just timeless and cliché – they are also biologically impossible! In *Improving Your Relationships With Emotional Intelligence*, you will learn about the important role of emotions, why you can't turn them off, and what you can do to make your emotions work for you – not against you. You'll learn about the four skills that make up emotional intelligence (EQ): self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship management, and how to develop this important skill for better understanding of yourself as well as improved relationships with others.

TH Apr 04 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Iran and the Middle East featuring Gaza and Israeli War with Todd Lefko

We face growing threats in the Middle East, from the Israeli-Palestinian war, the activities and instability of Iran, the growing threat of proxies in Yemen, Lebanon, and Syria and the disruption of world trade. The choices we make will determine the economic, political and social future of not only the region, but the world. What can and should the United States do in this region?

M Apr 08 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Rock 'n' Roll in the Windy City, 1945-1963 with Dr. John F. Lyons

Chicago played an important part in the history of rock 'n' roll music. Southern and midwestern migrants, some of whom settled in Chicago and others who simply passed through the area before pursuing a career elsewhere, produced some of the most innovative and vibrant music of the era. Entrepreneurs launched new record labels, radio stations, teen clubs and record hops to showcase the hundreds of musical acts that emerged in the area. Some performers achieved national success but the city and its suburbs also acted as a cultural cauldron as it yielded hundreds of lesser-known acts that made their mark on the local music scene. Dr. John F. Lyons examines the origins, progression and diversity of this groundbreaking music scene through the eyes of the musicians, deejays and label executives who made Chicago such an exciting and enriching place in the postwar period.

M Apr 08 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



The Two State Solution with Henry Berman

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been the most difficult situation in the Middle East since World War 2. Many leaders have stressed the need more than ever for a Palestinian State, moving forward on the "day after" this tragic ISRAEL-HAMAS war ends. Can the dynamics from this war add any oxygen to at least a conversation that could lead to some positive developments? What is a realistic expectation? Can the United States play an increased role?

T Apr 09 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Engaging the Rainbow: Understanding LGBTQIA+ Identities with Laura Ellingson

This course provides a safe space to learn about a wide range of gender identities and sexualities. Using a simple model, participants will explore the intersection of biological sex with gender, sexuality, and culture. We will cover identities such as transgender, nonbinary, gender fluid, queer, intersex, asexual, and others that you may have wondered about but weren't sure whom to ask. We will also discuss issues such as pronouns, name changes, what types of questions are okay to ask, and strategies for straight (heterosexual) and typically gender (cisgender) individuals to be good allies to the LGBTQIA+ community.

T Apr 09 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



The Greatest Show on Paper and Stone: Carnival and Circus Litography, 1880-1940 with Taylor Hagood

When Parisian print dealer, Edmond Sagot, glimpsed the market for Henry Toulouse-Lautrec's posters of Montmartre nightlife, a realization emerged of the distinct and colorful carnivalesque appeal of posters as both advertisements and works of art. Such a mixture of high and low pleasures formed the essence of La Belle Époque, and the relatively new form of lithography lent itself well to capturing the era's blend of carnival and circus. Jules Chéret, Alphonse Mucha, and many other European artists mastered the form. Meanwhile, in the United States, such companies as Strobridge and Otis carried forward that momentum in visually defining the nation's traveling productions deep into the first half of the twentieth century. In this lecture, Dr. Taylor Hagood explores the medium of lithography and the technical, cultural, and historical forces that wedded it to European and American entertainment and produced a body of visual work at once edgy and nostalgic.

W Apr 10 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



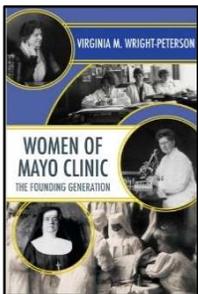
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Enjoy a variety of ice cream and toppings, visit, and explore the new spring LIFE catalog. This is an opportunity to connect in person after only visiting through our computers over the winter.

W Apr 10 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM \$5/\$15 Room H1415



Have questions? Call 507-280-3157.



Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation with Virginia Wright-Peterson

This book traces the fascinating stories of more than forty women — mothers, sisters, wives, physicians, Franciscan Sisters, nurses, librarians, secretaries, a janitress, an interpreter, a sculptor, and others — who were instrumental in establishing the medical center despite disease, war, and the hardships of life in the remote Midwest from the 1850s to 1943. Mayo Clinic would not be the medical center it is today without the contributions of these women. The inspirational stories trace the evolution of the renowned medical center and provide insight into how these women were able to be so successful.

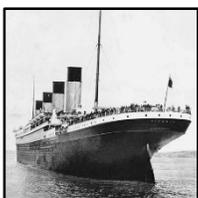
TH Apr 11 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Online



General George Armstrong Custer in the Civil War (1861-1865) and at the Little Big Horn (MT) 1876 with Tom Ostrom & Gene Simonson

Ostrom will cover the life of the famous Civil War general and victory over the Confederacy. Simonson will cover the battlefield, tactics, weapons and defeat of Custer by Native Americans (Sioux and Cheyenne) at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, MT in 1876.

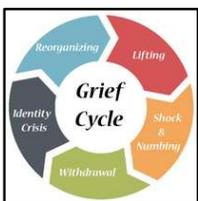
TH Apr 11 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415 



The Titanic with Jim Gibbons

April 14, 1912, one of the deadliest peacetime maritime disasters in history took place—the sinking of the infamous British passenger liner, the RMS Titanic. By the morning of April 15th, within a little over a two and a half hour time span 1500 people perished. Historian, Jim Gibbons will discuss how not heeding warnings, a faulty evacuation plan, the lack of lifeboats and pressing time, as irony would have it, were all just the tip of the iceberg in this devastating historical tragedy.

M Apr 15 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

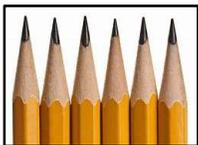


Grief Beliefs, Truths and Myths with Ana Wilson

Ever feel like you are not fitting into the expectations of society's grief beliefs? Is your grief journey taking longer than you expected? Wondering why people stopped talking about your loved one or why they say things that can be so hurtful even if they are trying to be kind? You are not alone. This class will offer understanding on the myths and truths of grief, different types of grief, and how to help yourself and others during your/their grief journey.

M Apr 15 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Hybrid - Room H1100 





Learning History Through Pencils with Bill Bean

The history of pencils and other writing tools will be discussed, including the evolution of the pencil to its present form. Methods of discovering the age of a pencil with business advertising will be illustrated with Rochester area pencils.

Similarities with collecting coins and stamps will be pointed out. Unusual and humorous types of pencils from the presenter's collection will be displayed or shown in pictures, and also art made with and of pencils. The organization known as the American Pencil Collectors Society will be described. The presenter will discuss his recent participation in helping another collector set a new Guinness world record. This program is an updated version of his 2018 presentation.

T Apr 16 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415



Margarete Steiff - The Woman Behind the Teddy Bear! with Anette Isaacs

It is common knowledge that President Theodore Roosevelt was the namesake of the iconic Teddy Bear. Hardly anyone knows, though, that this delightful toy was invented by an amazing woman who overcame terrible sickness and incredible challenges and turned her tiny workshop into one of the most recognizable international brands--and all that in the male dominated world of the 19th century!

Join German historian Anette Isaacs as she relates the story of the truly awe-inspiring life of toy maker and business maven Margarete Steiff!

T Apr 16 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

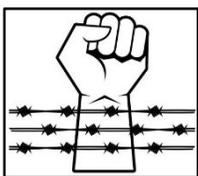


Oklahoma City Bombing with Michelle Gibbons

On April 19, 1995, what would be known as the deadliest act of domestic terrorism would take place—The Oklahoma City Bombing. At 9:02a.m. on April 19th, an orchestrated truck bomb would hit the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 people, including 19 young children, and injuring over 800 more people. The bomb, organized

by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, would cause over \$652 million in damage to hundreds of buildings, cars and more within a 16-mile radius of the origin. Historical Presenter, Michelle Gibbons, will discuss the Oklahoma City Bombing and the tragic events that took place before, during and after the attack. Gibbons will explain how the site of the attack was made into a reverent national memorial, forever changing Oklahoma and the nation's history.

W Apr 17 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$15/\$25 Online

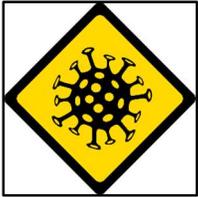


Protectors: Muslim Resisters and Rescuers of the Holocaust with Howard Kerner

While Christian rescuers in WWII are virtually unknown, even less recognized and celebrated are the extraordinary Muslim resisters and rescuers that saved thousands of Jews and other persecuted people. Learn about an aspect of Islam

called "Sufism" and the cultural/religious concept of Besa and how these influenced diplomats and many others to save Jews at the risk of their own lives. This inspiring course uses films, lectures and discussion to understand and celebrate the beauty of Muslim goodness during the Holocaust.

W Apr 17 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



GREAT DECISIONS: Pandemic Preparedness with Steve Troutman

Looking back at the Covid-19 pandemic, there are many lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international policies. Although this pandemic seems to have waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics? Will countries cooperate, and will a consensus emerge on how to manage global health challenges?

W Apr 17 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Fear and Loathing in the Heavens: How the 1910 Return of Halley's Comet (almost) Destroyed Civilization with Richard Goodrich

In 1705, Edmond Halley liberated humanity from the belief that comets were portents of doom; two centuries later, when Halley's Comet returned to its perihelion, newspapers, misguided theorists, and shameless con men managed to reignite that fear. When astronomers announced that the earth would pass through the comet's tail, opportunists exploited human anxiety—often with fatal consequences. Join Dr. Richard J. Goodrich, author of **Comet Madness: How the 1910 Return of Halley's Comet (almost) Destroyed Civilization**, for an entertaining lecture about the comet's 1910 return and the reasons many believed the earth would not survive this deadly encounter.

M Apr 22 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Online



The Enduring Legacy of Ida B. Wells-Barnett with Robbie Morganfield

Ida Bell Wells-Barnett was born into slavery in 1862. One of eight children growing up in a small town in Mississippi, Ida became the head of the household at the age of 14 after her parents died of Yellow Fever. From her humble beginnings, she evolved: to an educator, to an early civil rights activist, to a journalist, to a founder of the NAACP, to a Pulitzer Prize awardee (posthumously nearly a century after her death). She has been credited with setting standards that continue to infuse and influence investigative journalism. Dr. Robbie Morganfield, Executive Director of the Ida B Wells Society for Investigative Reporting at Morehouse College, will fill in the rest of the details as he recounts the history of a little girl who grew up to fight for a better world to live in.

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



Who Should Get the Ventilator: Principles for Distributing Scarce Medical Resources in Public Health Ethics with Sam Director

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us as a society to contemplate many issues in public health ethics. This sparked fierce, and often uncivil, debate about how our society should approach these issues. One such debate concerned how we should distribute scarce medical resources (i.e. vaccines, ventilators, internal organs, etc.). In this lecture, we will explore moral principles for the distribution of scarce medical resources. We will discuss the arguments for and against a variety of different principles. These principles cover a wide array of possibilities, including "distribute resources equally," "distribute resources to the neediest first," "distribute resources on a first come first serve basis," "distribute resources to those who most deserve them," and many more.

T Apr 23 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Polish Traditions of YesterYear with Jennifer Galazka

Join us for a look back into time as we discuss and discover the Polish traditions of yesteryear and how they are still practiced today. Find out interesting information about the first star in the sky and its meaning. Also, why must the eldest person start an ongoing tradition? What is the chalk above Polish Catholic's doorways, and why is it there? Learn that and more about the holiday seasons in the Polish Catholic Traditions. This class will be focused on the Christmas and Easter Traditions.

T Apr 23 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



What Happened at the Most Recent UN Climate Talks in Dubai? with Bart Elmore

Come learn about the most recent UN Climate talks that took place in December in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Our guide for the conversation will be Professor Bart Elmore of Ohio State University, who took ten students from Columbus to the UN talks. He'll walk us through the history of the climate negotiations and offer some thoughts on the promise and problems encountered in Dubai.

W Apr 24 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Trading Letters: Seeing the World through Merchant Correspondence with Marguerite Ragnow

In the days before modern technology, it could take people — and letters — six months or more to reach their destination. Imagine conducting business at that pace! It was a waiting game, too, for merchant families as news of their loved ones was scant, scarce, and often disastrous. Join Marguerite Ragnow of the James Ford Bell Library for a glimpse into the merchant life, both at home and abroad.

W Apr 24 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



GREAT DECISIONS: NATO's Future with Nick Hayen

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has come under increased scrutiny, not because NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors. Will expanding membership in NATO protect countries, or will it further provoke Russia?

W Apr 24 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Bayard Rustin: Troublemaker for Justice with Mike Long

This class will explore and analyze the life and legacy of Bayard Rustin. Beginning with Rustin's childhood in West Chester, Pennsylvania, the class will focus on periods of his life when Rustin protested for peace and racial and economic justice. The main focus will be on Rustin's work in the civil rights movement, particularly his work with Martin Luther King, Jr., his role in organizing the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and his creation of the "Freedom Budget for All Americans." Special attention will be given to the ways that Rustin was marginalized in the peace and civil rights movements because of his sexuality and his radical politics.

TH Apr 25 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



The Midway Story with John Landry

This is the legendary story of the longest serving aircraft carrier in the U.S. Navy, The USS Midway CV-41. She sailed the oceans of the world ... Atlantic, Pacific, Indian and Arctic for 47 years between 1945 and 1992. The Midway was the engineering marvel of its time. At its commissioning in 1945 it was the largest ship in the world and was too big to pass thru the Panama Canal. In this presentation, come sail with us as we chronical the life of the USS Midway serving in times of war and conflict and performing humanitarian missions in times of need. The USS Midway served during a period of time in our history that included the Korean War, Quemoy – Matsu Island conflict with China, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War and in 1991 she served as the U.S. Flagship in Operation Desert Storm in the Middle East.

TH Apr 25 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM \$10/\$20 Online



Headliners with Facilitators Steve Frytak and 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 Steven 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, however a donation is appreciated.

F Apr 26 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Room H1415 



An Archaeological View on City Life, Past and Present with Monica L. Smith

Six thousand years ago, there were no cities on the planet. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas, and that number is growing. Weaving together archaeology, history, and contemporary observations, I'll talk about the surprising turn that our species took from a world of small villages to a world of interconnected mega-cities. Cities today are internationally networked places that draw people of all ages for distinctive employment, education, and entertainment opportunities. People in ancient times made the same calculations: despite what might seem to be obvious disadvantages (crowding, pollution, and the high cost of living), our premodern urban counterparts came for the new and enticing configurations of cities including markets, neighborhoods, and sporting events as well as an enticing abundance of consumer goods and the entrepreneurial spaces of accelerated production. Cities were the places of the first writing, the first emergence of the middle class, and the development of distinctive types of infrastructure that linked people together to create an irresistible social phenomenon.

M Apr 29 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Online



Britain Under Roman Occupation with Andrew O'Brien

To the Roman world, Britain was an unknown and mysterious land across the sea when Julius Caesar invaded in 55–54 B.C.E. By 410 C.E., the last Roman soldier had deserted or fled. Nevertheless, Rome left its mark. Romans brought their own technology (roads, bridges & baths)! Explore the role of slavery, the Roman villa, religion, language, numbers and writing. Finally, this presentation will examine the reason for the collapse of the Roman Britain and its impact on the native people.

M Apr 29 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Climate Action and Clean Energy in Minnesota with J. Drake Hamilton

Minnesota leads the country in affordable, reliable, equitable energy that is making a better Minnesota for everyone. In 2023, 100% clean electricity became law, committing all MN utilities to provide customers with 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040. The state also has new, ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals and investments. Together with the U.S. Congress, Minnesota has invested in an historic effort to prepare Minnesotans for the climate changes already evident and those anticipated.

T Apr 30 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Base ball before it was Baseball with Corky Gaskell

The Roosters Base Ball Club of Rochester have played BASE BALL not BASEBALL, every summer for the past 27 years right here in our hometown. This 19th century base ball team is dedicated to preserving the history of the game as it was played in the mid 19th century. Corky Gaskell, aka Goose, is the former captain of the team and will be with us in person to take you back to a simpler time in history. A time just before the Civil War era when all you needed for a great afternoon was a grassy area, a bat and a ball. Goose, will walk you through the history of the game as it was played during the mid 19th century as well as bring replicas of the uniforms and equipment.

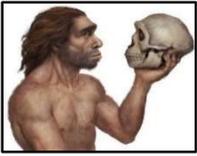
T Apr 30 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Room H1415 



Minnesota's Own: Toni Stone, First Woman to Play Professional Baseball in the Negro League with Martha Ackmann

Baseball historians call Toni Stone, the "best baseball player you never heard of" and "the female Jackie Robinson." She played second base for the Negro League's Indianapolis Clowns and the legendary Kansas City Monarchs in the early 1950s. Her athletic abilities were extraordinary and - at one point in the 1953 baseball season - she batted the fourth in the league, behind Hall of Famer, Ernie Banks. Toni grew up in the Rondo neighborhood in St. Paul, and considered Minnesota her home. Our speaker will be Martha Ackmann, the author of "**Curveball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone.**" Her book was the basis for the award-winning play, TONI STONE, written by playwright Lydia Diamond. The Wall Street Journal named TONI STONE the best new American play of 2019.

W May 01 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM \$10/\$20 Online



Did Neanderthals Have Language? with Asya Pereltsvaig

What makes human language unique? How did it evolve? Which of our ancestors already had it? In this lecture, we'll probe into these questions, exploring the seemingly meager evidence coming from archeological digs. In this lecture, we will explore the latest findings in biology, paleoanthropology, genetics and linguistics that shed new light on this fascinating topic. Our focus will be on Neanderthals, our closest biological "cousins", who mysteriously died out shortly after Homo sapiens populated Europe. Was it our language and Neanderthals' lack thereof that caused their extinction? Or did they have language after all? And most importantly, how can we study such an intricate issue, if all we have left from the Neanderthals are their bones, stone tools, burial sites and other bits and bobs?

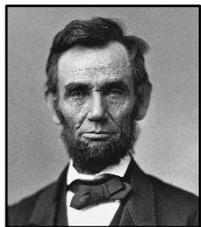
TH May 02 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Russia-Ukraine and How Do Wars End with Todd Lefko

The war continues. The fighting will end with a number of possible outcomes. It will continue to involve the US, Europe, Iran, and China. How can we bring the fighting to an end? Will there be winners and how will international political changes determine the direction and possible settlement?

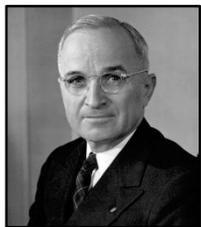
M May 06 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Lincoln Assassination with Rachel Fabian

This presentation will discuss the main members of the Lincoln Assassination Conspiracy, including David E. Herold, Lewis Powell, George Atzerodt, John Surrat, and John Wilkes Booth. We will look at what their lives were before the assassination, the development of the conspiracy/what pushed them to bring about that tragic day, and the consequences faced after the assassination.

M May 06 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Room H1415

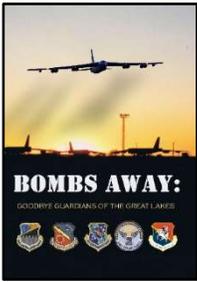


The Life of Harry Truman with Jim Gibbons

When all the press, the pollsters, and even his mother-in-law felt that he had no chance, a Missouri farmer named Harry S. Truman overcame all odds to achieve the title of the 33rd President of the United States. Listen to Historical Presenter, Jim Gibbons, recount moments of Harry's life including details regarding his marriage, the dropping of the Atomic Bomb, firing General Douglas McArthur, and the "whistle-stop, give 'em hell" speech campaign. Find out why, even with all odds pointed towards Dewey as the sure presidential winner, voters were wild about Harry!

T May 07 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

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



Bombs Away: Airforce History on the Great Lakes with Ric Mixter

The Great Lakes have been home to military installations since 1755, and planes have flown from this region since the first engine aircraft took to the sky. Bombs Away chronicles the most famous missions of four air bases; Sawyer, Wurtsmith, Selfridge and Kincheloe, which was home to nuclear armed B-52s from 1961 to 1977. This base was also among the first for a missile defense network called BOMARC that once shielded North America from Soviet threats. Ric’s lecture features the Tuskegee Airmen, bomber activity in Vietnam, and long-range missions that quickly ended the war in Iraq. Also highlighted is bomber production in Michigan, where “Rosie the Riveter” assembled B-24 Liberators used in World War II.

T May 07 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Online



Florida Noir: When the Sunshine State Goes Dark with Taylor Hagood

Crime is bad enough in the fog of Victorian London or the inner cities of any era, but it takes on a particularly bad flavor in broad sunny daylight among palm trees. When hard-boiled crime fiction writers from Raymond Chandler to James Ellroy wrote about Los Angeles crime they established a unique genre that played out ultimately in Film Noir. That genre’s cousin is Florida Noir—the hard-edged crime stories of the otherwise soft winter playground of the southeast. This lecture will look at the history of noir writing in Florida from its beginning with Theodore Pratt and Brett Halliday to its present-day practitioners.

W May 08 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



GREAT DECISIONS: U.S. / China Trade Rivalry with Nick Hayden

China's economic rise and its current policies of increasing the role of the state in the economy have lead some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how effective can it be?

W May 08 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Hubert H Humphrey, Mayor, Senator, and Vice President with Tom Ostrom

HHH was the ebullient, eclectic and respected Minnesota DFL mayor, professor, senator, and vice president, whose life spanned from 1911-1978. He was congenial, energetic, and courageous, yet unfairly criticized on several fronts. A master debater and speaker, praised and criticized for those achievements as well. The Vietnam War in the administration of LBJ was a key controversy.

TH May 09 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Room H1415



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Making People Happy: A Brief History of Utilitarian Ethics with Brendan Shea

Utilitarianism is an approach to ethics that holds we ought to maximize overall happiness, or minimize overall suffering. This class will provide an overview of utilitarian ethics, from its ancient antecedents (Epicurus and Mozi) to the "classic utilitarians" of the 19th century (Mill, Bentham, and Sidgwick) to modern times ("Effective Altruism"). Learners will come away with a better idea of the strengths and weaknesses of this approach to making decisions, and to appreciate the impact that these ideas have made on society.

M May 13 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415 



A Very British Politician: Margaret Thatcher with Andrew O'Brien

Margaret Thatcher, the "Iron Lady" of British politics, who set her country on a rightward economic course, led it to victory in the Falklands war and helped guide the United States and the Soviet Union through the cold war's difficult last years, is considered, alongside Churchill, Britain's greatest prime minister. From her passion for free markets to her role as the West's first female political leader, Margaret Thatcher was loved and loathed in equal measure. Join me as we explore the life and times of this fascinating political leader.

M May 13 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



The Newer World: The American Revolution and the Odyssey to Australia with Richard Bell

The loss of 13 American colonies shut off a transatlantic passage that the British government had previously used to dump convicted criminals in the colonies in huge quantities. In the wake of independence, the British government urgently began to search for a site for a new penal colony somewhere else. After seven tries and failures elsewhere in its empire, the ministry eventually established a new penal colony near Botany Bay, New South Wales, in 1788.

W May 15 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Online



A "Bully" Life - Theodore Roosevelt, His Times, and His Legacy with Scott Hill

Theodore Roosevelt packed a great deal into his short 60-year life, a "cowboy", Police Commissioner, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Spanish-American War hero, Vice-President, and President. There are many who find Roosevelt to be one of America's most fascinating and commendable individuals with his image atop Mount Rushmore and an island named for him in Washington, D.C. Yet his detractors, and there are many, say that Roosevelt was an arrogant, self-centered, loudmouth and braggart, who was also a racist and sexist in his relations with women. So, who was Theodore Roosevelt? This program will aim to find the real Theodore Roosevelt.

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

Questions? 507-280-3157



Brewers Schuster and the Doctors Mayo of Rochester, MN with Christopher Boes

In the early 1900s Schuster Brewing Company was one of Rochester's more successful and prominent businesses. With almost 50 employees, Schuster Brewing produced millions of bottles of beer and was shipping their product all over the country. Meanwhile, down the street, Mayo Clinic, with roughly the same number of employees, was making their own news and breakthroughs in medicine. By 1922, one set of brothers would close their doors while the other would go on to lay the foundation of the current Mayo Clinic Campus. This lecture will compare the two fathers and two sets of brothers, listing their similarities and their differences, their successes, and their local, regional, and national impacts. It is a tale of two families, both dedicated to Rochester, with one ultimately becoming more successful than the other.

TH May 16 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM \$10/\$20 Online



In Focus: Hagia Sophia in Istanbul with Kristin Anderson

For over a thousand years, this amazing building has been at the intersection of politics, religion, and culture. Known for its remarkable engineering, it has been widely influential in both the Christian and Islamic traditions. This presentation looks closely at Hagia Sophia's design, construction, materials, decoration, and acoustics—and especially at its changing use over time.

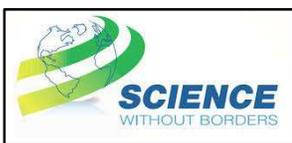
M May 20 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Popular Music: Britain in the 1960s with Dr. John F. Lyons

The 1960s saw a revolution in popular music in Great Britain. While most British pop musicians in the early part of the decade relied heavily on American templates, soon they branched out to create their own distinctive sounds. From Beat to Psychedelia, Blues to solo female singers, British music became popular around the world. Through the use of music, video and photographs from the 1960s, Dr. John F. Lyons revisits the British music scene of the 1960s.

M May 20 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



GREAT DECISIONS: Science Across Borders with Steve Troutman

Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a nation's national security? Is there a middle ground between sharing information and denying access? How can we regulate cooperation?

M May 20 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Statue of Liberty: Two Decades of Effort, Almost Impossible Odds with David Jones

The Statue of Liberty stands proudly in New York Harbor, but how did the Statue come to be? What does it symbolize? Join us for a compelling look at the idea, the construction and the meaning behind one of the most recognizable symbols in the world.

T May 21 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM \$10/\$20 Room H1415





Maps and the Discovery of America with Marguerite Ragnow

Join Dr. Marguerite Ragnow, curator of the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota, as she leads you on a voyage of discovery through the early maps of the Americas. See the map that "named" America, California depicted as an island, the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains depicted running east to west, and the various locations of the Mississippi River as early cartographers charted our ever-changing knowledge of the New World.

W May 22 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Wonderful Women Rescuers of the Holocaust with Howard Kerner

During the 1940's, when women were expected to be seen but not heard, we will learn about inspiring, though little-known women who defied their times and whose extreme courage and goodness saved thousands of Jews from the Holocaust!

W May 22 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



GREAT DECISIONS: High Seas Treaty with Nick Hayden

Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?

W May 22 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Life and Love of Bonnie and Clyde: Partners in Crime 'Til The End with Michelle Gibbons

Bonnie Parker was a poor, young waitress who daydreamed of a life full of adventure and true love. Clyde Barrow was a handsome, bold, and passionate young man that led a dangerous life. Together, Bonnie and Clyde become one of the Depression era's most infamous criminal couples as they embark on a life of crime, bank robberies, kidnapping and murder. Listen to historical presenter, Michelle Gibbons, explore the lives of the couple who terrorized and captivated the central United States before ultimately going down in a hail of police bullets.

TH May 23 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Online



FDR with Bennett Smith

This presentation will examine the life and Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. FDR was elected to the Presidency a record four times and led the country through the two most difficult episodes of the twentieth-century, the Great Depression and World War II. A recommended reading list and handout will be provided, and there will be a question and answer session after the lecture.

TH May 23 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415





Headliners with Facilitators Steve Frytak and Phil Karsell

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F May 24 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Room H1415 



Identity in the Age of Ancestry DNA with Anita Foeman

Millions of people have now taken ancestry DNA tests. And still, many are surprised by what they find and have trouble even understanding what results do and do not mean. In this session, I will share some of the first work investigating ancestry DNA testing and identity. I will share my original research based on more than 3000 test takers over the past 20 years. I will discuss the nature and evolution of popular ancestry DNA tests for the individual and culture at large and how these tests can be used to generate cross cultural communication.

T May 28 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Women in Science: A Historic Literature Review with BiBi Singh

This class provides an overview of women in science, including their contributions, challenges and achievements. The class will include topics such as the impact of gender on scientific research and challenges experienced by women in science from past to present.

T May 28 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Art in War: Soviet Artists during World War II with Carol Veldman Rudie

The Great Patriotic War reached deep into Soviet landscape both physically and culturally. What artists did to capture the efforts and effects of the conflict before, during and after the war helped shape the Soviet perspective of its role in the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany. Using the siege at Leningrad as an example, this presentation highlights some of those artistic contributions.

W May 29 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415 



The Next Generation: A Perspective Through Soviet Art with Carol Veldman Rudie

Young people have always been a theme in art. But never was this truer than in the Soviet era after the ravages of World War II. Explore the history of Soviet art through artists' treatment of children to learn why this subject matter is so important. An overview of educational practices and the general treatment of children enrich an understanding of the art.

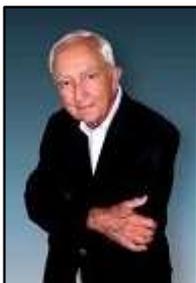
W May 29 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415 



GREAT DECISIONS: Climate Technology and Competition with Nick Hayen

Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the "common enemy" of climate change?

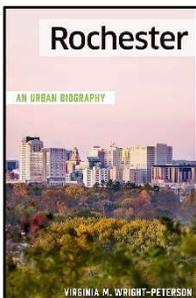
W May 29 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



"All Things Considered" with Jim Voegeli

Don Voegeli was the prolific composer who wrote the theme music for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered". This theme song is still being used by NPR after almost 50 years. Join us for an in-person lecture given by Don's son Jim Voegeli. Jim will tell you all about his father, a University of Wisconsin professor, who worked as a music director and in other roles during his 41-year career at Wisconsin Public Radio. Hear sound clips and samples of music that Don wrote for public broadcasting, national jingles in the 1950's and 60's, theater, television, and educational films. As a bonus, everyone attending will be given a four CD set of music as well as a booklet containing a detailed history and linear musical notes.

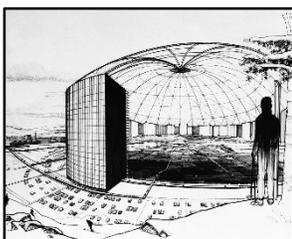
TH May 30 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Room H1415



Rochester: An Urban Biography with Virginia Wright-Peterson

Whether you have lived in Rochester your entire life or you are new to town, Virginia will share stories and information about Rochester that you probably haven't heard. Virginia will share the stories of real people who contributed to making Rochester what it is today and the challenges they encountered. She focuses on narratives from the past that explain aspects of our present community and illustrate how the actions we take or avoid are likely to have an impact on the future of Rochester. Which side of history will you be on?

TH May 30 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Online



Minnesota Experimental City with Todd Lefko

The dream was clear. To build the perfect city, which adapted to new technology, climate preservation and humans living close to nature. It was going to be the world model for the future, and it was going to be in Minnesota. The Minnesota Experimental City reflected the belief that we controlled the future and our environment. The dream of MXC failed. We will discuss the dream and what we learned from the process.

M Jun 03 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online

Questions? 507-280-3157



The Life of Marilyn Monroe with Michelle Gibbons

Her popularity as an actress soared in the 1950's and 1960's until her sudden death; but today, her fame, popularity, and beauty still live on. She is someone who both men and women still put on a pedestal for having the perfect look. But who exactly was Marilyn Monroe? Yes, she was known for her beauty, but what about the person she was on the inside? Historical presenter, Michelle Gibbons, will take you inside the life of the iconic Marilyn Monroe. From movies, looks, alleged relationships, and her untimely death, Gibbons will share with you her life before, during and after the fame and reveal to you why she is still iconic today.

M Jun 03 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Online



Biden vs Trump Redo? An Election Like No Other in American History with David Schultz

The 2024 election proves to be the most unique, contentious, and unpredictable in American history, and it is one few Americans want to see. This talk examines why it looks like it will be Trump versus Biden again, how political scientists view the race, and what factors make this so difficult of a race to predict.

T Jun 04 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$15/\$25 Online



Operation Freedom - The Berlin Airlift (75th Anniversary) with Anette Issacs

It was perhaps one of the greatest adventures in American military history: the Berlin airlift of 1948/49! When Soviet troops closed all access routes to West-Berlin by land, sea, and rail, thus threatening the lives of 2.5 million people, American General Lucius D. Clay did not hesitate, organizing a bold and fantastic bridge across the sky, involving 700 planes and more than 250,000 flights over a period of 14 months! Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating discussion of this exciting time in her country's postwar history.

T Jun 04 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



The Music and Culture of San Francisco in the 60s and 70s with Paul Koeller

Enjoy a class reliving the culture and music of San Francisco and the Bay Area in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Learn about The Summer of Love, Haight-Ashbury, 1967 Monterey Music Festival, 1969 Altamont Concert, and more. Enjoy the music of artists like Jefferson Airplane, Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, Santana, CCR, The Doobie Brothers, and many more.

W Jun 05 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Room H1415 

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



D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy with Jim Gibbons

D-Day, the invasion of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944, is the beginning of Operation Overlord. The Western Allies will launch the largest amphibious invasion in history. This is an effort to liberate mainland Europe from Hitler's Nazi occupation during World War II. Historian Jim Gibbons will present the story of D-Day and show you the beginnings of what led up to this invasion. Allied timing had to be precise on everything, including the month, moon, tides of the ocean, and weather, because the fate of the world was in the balance.

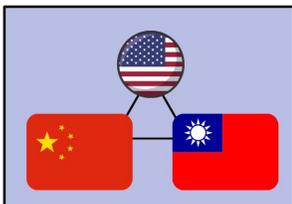
TH Jun 06 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Plummer Building with Renee Ziemer

The Plummer Building has been an icon in the Rochester community since 1928. In this course, Renee Ziemer will introduce you to Dr. Henry Plummer and his engineering masterpieces of the original 1914 Mayo Clinic Building and the current-day Plummer Building. Dr. Plummer's impact on the design of the Plummer Building and why the building is named in his honor. We will explore details about the building's design plans that include functional aspects and artistry. Learn why the building holds so much appeal after 95 years.

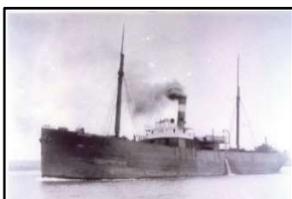
M Jun 10 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM \$10/\$20 Online



The US—Taiwan—China Triangle: Prognostications of the Future with Richard Leitch

A new President in Taiwan. A returned or continued President in the US. A President-for-life in China. Domestic challenges in each. Geopolitical challenges beyond. We will analyze each part of this triangular relationship and also speculate about the future.

T Jun 11 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



The King of Storms: 1913 with Ric Mixer

It's called the "King of Storms" for good reason. Twelve ships were lost in a single weekend from a storm that encompassed four Great Lakes, and each lake had a ship vanish with all hands. Goderich Ontario was the epicenter for the disaster, as bodies came ashore from six of the ships lost to the wind's fury. Port Huron was littered with ships that ran aground, including the HB Smith, who's crew were the last to see the freighters Regina, Scott, Price, and Wexford. Ric Mixer shares the only television interview with the wheelsman of the Hawgood, along with a young man who joined his buddy for a ride down the lakes on the Turret Cape. Ric also dives many of the ships lost and shares several messages found in bottles. Many were hoaxes, but one was terrifyingly real from the Plymouth.

T Jun 11 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Online



T.S. Eliot: The Life of a Modernist Poet with Taylor Hagood

This lecture presents the life and work of one of the most important English-speaking writers of the twentieth century. The St. Louis born T. S. Eliot eventually became a British citizen and helped shape Modernist transatlantic literature as both a writer and an editor. His writing made an impact on the broader culture, not least in its being the foundation of the beloved musical Cats. Eliot's poetry has often presented challenges, but this lecture will make his writing and aesthetic as clear as possible while presenting the fascinating developments of his life story.

W Jun 12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Holocaust Rescuers: Daring Diplomats and Public Officials with Howard Kerner

While many diplomats & other public officials during World War II ignored the human catastrophe all around them, some daring and brave ones risked their careers and lives to create ingenious plans to outsmart the Nazis. In so doing, they saved hundreds of thousands of persecuted people. In this uplifting audio/video program, we will examine the brilliant goodness of these inspiring altruists.

W Jun 12 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



GREAT DECISIONS: Middle East Realignment with Nick Hayen

The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

W Jun 12 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



The American Revolution and the Pursuit of Happiness in the African Diaspora with Richard Bell

During the American Revolutionary War, the British military made big promises to enslaved Americans. In return for taking up arms against the patriots, enslaved people won pledges from British commanders that they would free them when Britain won the war. So, what happened when Britain instead lost? This talk explores these Black fugitives' extraordinary odyssey through what was left of Britain's global empire after 1783 to examine the ways they tried to pursue happiness and forge an African American diaspora.

Th Jun 13 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Online



John F Kennedy, War Hero, Congressman, President and Assassination Victim with Tom Ostrom

JFK was a controversial, popular war hero, member of congress, senator, and president. His controversial life, foreign and domestic policies, life and assassination are still being debated.

TH Jun 13 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Room H1415

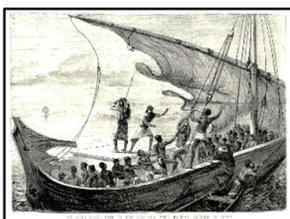




The Art of the Vikings with Kristin Anderson

Famous for fighting, raiding, trading, and exploring, the Vikings also had a lively visual culture. They used wood, precious metals, stone, and textiles to create beautifully intricate objects and decoration on everything from ships to swords. Explore Viking art in this richly illustrated presentation.

M Jun 17 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



African Resistance to the Transatlantic Slave Trade with Richard Bell

The Transatlantic Slave Trade was the largest forced migration in human history. In all, more than 12 million African men, women, and children were kidnapped, enslaved and made to board European ships destined for the New World. However, this talk turns this history inside out, examining the huge varieties of African resistance to this 400-year-long nightmare first within Africa itself and then aboard those nightmare ships on their way across the Atlantic.

T Jun 18 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM \$12/\$22 Online



If it be not a sin... 'Slavery & Revolt in the Americas' with Marguerite Ragnow

The ownership of people by other people is a practice as old as human history, but in the early modern period slavery may have reached new lows.

Slave ownership became predicated on race and religion, especially with respect to the exploitation and settlement of the New World. Curator Marguerite Ragnow will draw on materials in the Bell Library collection to illustrate the complexities of slavery, which continue to resonate in today's society.

T Jun 18 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



One Minute to Midnight with John Landry

October 1962, the world faced the threat of a thermonuclear war that was eerily avoided at "One Minute to Midnight." This is a story of the specter of nuclear war between Russia and the United States over Russian nuclear missiles secretly installed in Cuba. In 1959, Fidel Castro and his band of revolutionaries, removed the Cuban dictator from power and set up a socialistic state. This move eventually evolved into a political and ideological conflict with the United States that continued to gain momentum as John F. Kennedy secretly began plans to remove Castro from power. Aware of the US's plans, Castro turned to Russia for help. In his presentation, John Landry, will tell you about the "eyeball to eyeball" nuclear / military confrontation between Russia and the United States including the many perilous tipping points that almost brought the world to a thermonuclear war as the clock approached "One Minute to Midnight".

TH Jun 20 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \$12/\$22 Online



Propaganda in Putin's Russia with Asya Pereltsvaig

Putin's propaganda machine was first put in place already in the first year of Putin's presidency and has had a significant impact on what many Russians think, believe, and do. In this talk, we'll explore how the propaganda machine in Russia works, what its key instruments are, how it impacts people subjected to it, and why it has been so successful. We'll also consider the question of whether there's similar propaganda in the US, and if so, how to avoid becoming its victim.

M Jun 24 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Celebrating 100 Years of Discovery at Niagara Cave with Aaron Bishop

Located in southeast Minnesota's Karst Region, near the town of Harmony, Niagara Cave was discovered in 1924 when three pigs disappeared from a landowner's pasture. Boasting an underground stream, waterfall, 450 million-year-old fossils, speleothems, and even a subterranean wedding chapel, Niagara Cave provides one-hour guided tours and has been rated among the top ten caves in the United States numerous times. The cave has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors, including families experiencing their first time underground, experienced spelunkers, and students of science seeking to learn more of our region's past, present, and future. This conversation will cover the history of Niagara Cave and delve into the geology of southeast Minnesota's Karst Region and the Driftless.

W Jun 26 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



GREAT DECISIONS: Understanding Indonesia with Steve Troutman

Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world's largest democracies, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN, why does it fly below the radar? What are current issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can the country play in Asia?

W Jun 26 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Saudi Arabia in Transition with Henry Berman

This fascinating country, when established in 1932, was one of the poorest on the planet. Now it is widely regarded as not only the richest, but also most consequential. Its arc of influence will likely only increase further as "Day After" conversations proceed, regarding the tragic conflict in Gaza. What does the future have in store for the Desert Kingdom?

TH Jun 27 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



2023 Supreme Court Term in Review with Timothy Johnson

The October 2023 term of the U.S. Supreme Court had a variety of highly controversial and important decisions. Professor Timothy Johnson will give an overview of these cases and also offer a preview of what may take place when the Court reconvenes in October 2024.

TH Jun 27 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM \$15/\$25 Online



Headliners with Facilitators Steve Frytak and 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 Steven 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, however a donation is appreciated.

F Jun 28 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Room H1415 



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

Need assistance watching a class on Zoom?

Prefer to watch an Online class in person with others?

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

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Instructor Biographies



Martha Ackmann is a journalist and author who writes about women who have changed America. Her books include: *The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women and the Dream of Space Flight*; *Curveball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone*; and *These Fevered Days: Ten Pivotal Moments in the Making of Emily Dickinson*. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, the Paris Review, and many other publications around the country. She has been featured on the Today Show, CNN, the BBC, and National Public Radio. Ackmann holds a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts and taught for 30 years at Mount Holyoke College. **Page 13.**



Kristin Anderson is a Professor of Art at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Her courses include art history and architectural history surveys as well as more specialized offerings such as American Art, Scandinavian Art, and Women and Art. A graduate of Oberlin College, Kristin has master's degrees in art history (University of Minnesota) and church history (Luther Seminary) as well as a Ph.D. in American Art, Architecture, and Popular Culture from the University of Minnesota. **Pages 5, 17, 24.**



Bill Bean has been collecting pencils for about 35 years and has an estimated 45,000 wood pencils, mechanical pencils, ball point pens, and other writing tools. He has made presentations to school classes, church groups, and senior centers. While living in Eau Claire, WI, his collection was featured in a local newspaper and on a television station. He has been president and vice-president of the American Pencil Collectors Society. He was featured in an Off 90 program on KSMQ and recently in Rochester Magazine and the Post Bulletin. **Page 9.**



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 16, 23, 24.**



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, 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 Middle East Conflict, the Horn of Africa and the Philippines-US Relationship. **Pages 7, 25.**



Aaron Bishop is a co-manager of Niagara Cave alongside his brother in this family business. He has been exploring the cave since his first visit when he was only four years old (when he could fit in a lot more places than he can now). He and his wife, Amy, live on a farm a mile north of the cave. Aaron uses his geology degree to help interpret the underworld to visitors, as well as provide context regarding the connections between land-use practices and groundwater quality in the Karst Region. **Page 25.**



Chris Boes is a Professor of Neurology as well as History of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He is currently the medical director of the W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine at Mayo Clinic and chairs the Mayo Clinic Historical Committee. Boes is past-president of the American Osler Society. **Page 17.**



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. **Page 6.**



Sam Director is an assistant professor of philosophy at Florida Atlantic University. Prior to coming to FAU, he was a postdoctoral research fellow at Brown University's Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He completed his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Colorado. He has published widely on issues in biomedical ethics and political philosophy. **Page 10.**



Laura L. Ellingson, Ph.D., is the Patrick A. Donohoe, S.J. Professor of Communication at Santa Clara University where she teaches courses in gender studies, health communication, and qualitative methods. Dr. Ellingson is a Distinguished Scholar of the National Communication Association who has published six scholarly books and over fifty articles in academic journals and chapters in handbooks and collections. Dr. Ellingson began teaching about gender and sexuality to foster respectful, inclusive communities for her many LGBTQIA+ students and queer nieces/nephews. A proud ally, she enjoys teaching people of all ages through lifelong learning courses. **Page 7.**



Bart Elmore earned his B.A. in history from Dartmouth College in 2004 and his M.A. (2007) and Ph.D. (2012) from the University of Virginia, specializing in global environmental history and American history. In 2012, he accepted the Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowship in Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy at the University of California, Berkeley. He then served three years as Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Alabama beginning in 2013 before joining the OSU faculty in 2016. He was an Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fellow at New America in 2017-2018. Bart is a core faculty member of the Sustainability Institute at OSU. His first book, ***Citizen Coke: The Making of Coca-Cola Capitalism*** (W. W. Norton, 2015) won the Axiom Business Book Award for best business commentary in 2015 and the Council of Graduate Schools 2016 Gustave O. Arlt Award in the Humanities. His second book, ***Seed Money: Monsanto's Past and Our Food Future*** (W. W. Norton, 2021), won the 2020 J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Award and was a finalist for both the American Society for Environmental History's George Perkins Marsh Prize and the 2022 Hagley Prize in Business History. In 2022, Bart was awarded the Dan David Award, the largest history prize in the world described by the Washington Post as a new "MacArthur-style 'genius grant.'" He currently edits the ***Histories of Capitalism and the Environment Series*** at West Virginia University Press. When not at his desk or teaching, he spends his time paddling down streams, biking up whatever hills he can find, and wandering trails in the mountains. **Page 11.**



My name is **Rachel Fabian**. I am from Winona, MN, where I am currently working as a Government Business Analyst with Fastenal Company. My education history includes a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bethany Lutheran College, and I am currently working on my MBA at Saint Mary's University. I am currently the Vice President of the Hiawatha Valley Civil War Round Table, which meets at the Winona County Historical Society. Our group meets the second Saturday of each month from September - May. I am simply someone that has a passion for history and enjoys researching lesser-known topics as there is always something new to learn. **Page 14.**



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 19.**



Stephen Frytak is a retired Mayo Medical Oncologist. He previously served on the Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Board. **Pages 4, 12, 19, 26.**



Jenni Galazka is a Polish-Catholic American who loves all Polish Traditions. She has been learning the customs and traditions passed down to her by her Babcia (Grandmother) and Ciotka's (Aunts) since she was very young! In addition, Jenni attends one of the few Polish Catholic Churches in Michigan where she can teach you the meaning of the traditions of the Polish Catholic. We hope you can join her and enjoy learning about the customs and traditions of Polish Catholics. Jenni has her Master's Degree in Nonprofit Management and is starting a nonprofit Pet Food Pantry to assist the community! **Page 11**



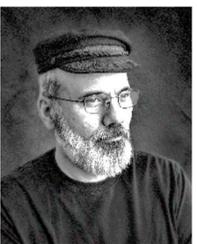
Corky Gaskell started playing with the Rooster's Base Ball club in 2009. He was named Captin of the team in 2012 and took over the general management of the club in 2017, after the passing of the founder, Mary Jan Schmitt. Corky has served as a Board member, Rules and Customs committee member, and the New Member Club Adisor for the National Vintage Base Ball Association (VBBA). Corky is also a member of the Society of American Baseball research (SABR) since 2019. **Page 13.**



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 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. **Pages 8, 14, 22.**



Michelle Gibbons is making a name for herself teaching the importance of history. Through her passon 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 fathers 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 9, 18, 21.**



Richard J. Goodrich (Ph.D., University of St Andrews) is an author and historian. After twenty years as a history professor in Britain and the United States, Richard resigned his teaching post to pursue a full-time writing career. His interests range from Ancient History (the Roman Empire and early Church history) to the modern age. **Page 10.**



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 7, 15, 23.**



J. Drake Hamilton is Fresh Energy's senior director of science policy. An expert in climate and energy policy at the state and national levels, her responsibilities include scientific analysis and policy development of clean energy solutions to climate action that will maximize economic opportunities for Minnesota. J. represents Fresh Energy at global climate summits and spoke on the global stage in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Minnesota's nation-leading climate policies. She was appointed by Governor Tim Walz to a five-year term on his Advisory Council on Climate Change. J. earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in physical geography from Dartmouth College and the University of Minnesota. Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine named Hamilton "one of Minnesota's 100 influential people who make things happen." J. also grows organic peaches, pears, grapes, apples, and plums that have won 50 ribbons—mostly blue!--at the Minnesota State Fair. **Page 13.**



Nicholas Hayen is the Marketing & Communications Manager, with Global Minnesota since February 2022. Nick manages Global Minnesota's external communications and marketing strategy including newsletters, social media, website updates, media relations, The World Thread blog, and The Global Minnesota Podcast. Nick has a passion for international affairs education and the promotion of global engagement. In particular, Nick strives to help Minnesotans understand how global events and issues matter locally. He firmly believes that we can all become better citizen diplomats when we translate the benefits of international connections and global engagement for all Minnesotans. In this role, Nick helps to grow and expand Global Minnesota's audience via email marketing campaigns, social media promotion, media outreach, and by telling the compelling stories of Minnesota's international connections. Nick originally grew up in the small town of Mitchell, South Dakota. He completed his undergraduate degree in World History from South Dakota State University. After completing a Master's degree in Middle East History with an emphasis on International Relations from the University of Utah, Nick and his family moved to Minnesota in 2014. Nick currently also serves as President Emeritus of the Minnesota International NGO Network (MINN) and sits on the Minnesota Advisory Committee for the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. In what little spare time he has, Nick enjoys biking, gardening, and collecting vinyl records. **Pages 4, 11, 15, 18, 20, 23.**



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 4.**



Scott Hill was born in Texas and raised in Colorado. Scott is currently an interpretive park ranger in the south district of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Scott holds a bachelor's degree in History from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado with a minor in criminal justice, and a master's degree in American History from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Scott has worked for the National Park Service for more than 28 years at nine different park units and for the federal government for 31 years, including an almost three-year period working at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Scott's loves include his wife, Vickie, who is a Contract Specialist at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, his step-daughter, Ashleigh, his two granddaughters, Brooklyn and Isabella, and all Colorado sports teams, collegiate and professional. **Page 16.**



Anette Isaacs, German born and raised, is a historian and public educator who has been presenting hundreds of programs on more than 40 different topics (all pertaining to her native country's history, politics, and culture) all over the United States. She holds Master's Degrees in American Studies, Political Science, and History and is currently serving as the Director of OLLI at FIU (Florida International University) in Miami, FL. **Pages 9, 21.**



Timothy R. Johnson is the Morse Alumni Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Law at University of Minnesota. He is a nationally recognized expert on U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments and decision making. During his career Johnson has co-authored three books about Supreme Court oral arguments and his work appears in a variety of academic journals. In addition, his research and commentary have been covered by The Economist, The Guardian, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, NPR, C-SPAN, USA Today, ABC, CNN, and The National Journal. Beyond research, Johnson has won multiple college level and university wide awards for teaching and was named the 2018 American Political Science Association's Distinguished Teacher. **Page 25.**



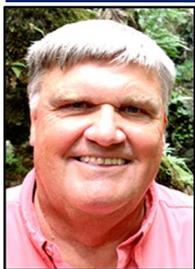
David Jones, a resident of Minneapolis, has been presenting on historical topics since 1996. He has made more than 1,500 presentations to over 40,000 people. He is a native of St. Peter, MN and a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College. **Page 17.**



Phil Karsell is a retired Mayo physician. His interests include volunteer medicine for Salvation Army and recently in Guatemala, making wooden toys for Ronald McDonald House, nature photography, grandchildren, and lifelong learning — science, history, philosophy. **Pages 4, 12, 19, 26.**



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 9, 18, 23.**



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 Education. Paul also loves traveling and gardening. **Pages 6, 21.**



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, 24.**



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 eighteen years and has written over 700 articles in Rossiske Vesti and other newspapers and magazines. Todd is on the Editorial Board for the Russian Historical Reporter and has been the English editor for four Russian books. Todd is Chairperson of East-West Connections, an international non-profit, focused on citizen diplomacy. He has taught over 4400 students at the University of Minnesota and other Minnesota colleges. He has lectured at universities in Russia, Germany, China, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Todd is a Fellow for the Caux International Roundtable. He is also a member of the Technical Advisory Committee at the Almaty Management University in Kazakhstan. Todd holds a BA in History, an MA in Public Administration and the coursework for a Ph.D. in Urban History from the University of Minnesota. He has also studied Public Policy as a Bush Fellow at Harvard University, and Urban Planning at the University of Manchester, England. He is one of the Founders of Global Volunteers and has served as their Treasurer and Representative at the United Nations. Todd has also been a member of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Council, the Regional Transit Board and the Minnesota Experimental City Authority. **Pages 6, 14, 20.**



Dr. Richard Leitch earned his BA in East Asian Studies from Colby College in 1985 and went on to earn an MA in Asian Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign after a two year career on Wall Street. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Illinois in 1995, where he was the recipient of the Harriet and Charles Luckman Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching, and the College of Liberal Arts Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Assistant. He has been a member of the Political Science Department at Gustavus since 1996, where he teaches courses in International Relations, Comparative Politics, Asian Politics, Environmental Politics, and the Politics of Poverty. In 2000 he received the Swenson-Bunn Award for Teaching Excellence at Gustavus, and in 2008 the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching. In 2012 he was included in The Princeton Review's The Best 300 Professors. His research interests include Japanese domestic politics and foreign policy, and he is the co-author of *Japan's Role in the Post-Cold War World*. **Page 22.**



Michael G. Long is the editor of *Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics* and *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters*. Long is also the coauthor of *Troublemaker for Justice* (a Rustin biography for young adults) and the author of a picture book titled *Unstoppable: How Bayard Rustin Organized the March on Washington*. **Page 11.**



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 6, 17.**



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, diving over 100 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, including the Edmund Fitzgerald. He has produced over 30 programs for PBS and the Outdoor Channel, and appeared as an expert on the History and Discovery Channels. He leads the pack when it comes to sharing our unique underwater resources with the general public, thousands of dive show patrons, and countless school kids. Ric's stories appear in books, magazines (including Michigan History Magazine) and in radio and TV news programs. 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 15, 22.**



Dr. Robbie R. Morganfield became the executive director of the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting at Morehouse College on Aug. 1, 2023. A former award-winning journalist, Morganfield served as a staff writer for daily newspapers in Fort Lauderdale, Detroit, Tulsa, and Houston, before becoming a specialty editor and assistant managing editor in Fort Worth. He has served as endowed professor and chair of journalism and mass communication programs at North Carolina A&T State University and Grambling State University. He also served as executive director of the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute at Vanderbilt University and has taught journalism and mass media courses at several universities, including the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, St. Augustine's University, and the University of Maryland at College Park. While pursuing his doctorate, he served as a pastor in the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Morganfield specializes in news reporting, research methods and media representation of race, religion, and culture. He holds a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Mississippi, M.A. in Journalism from The Ohio State University, Master of Divinity from Texas Christian University, and Ph.D. in Journalism and Public Communication from the University of Maryland. **Page 10.**



Andrew O'Brien was born in the U.K. and graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in History from Oxford University. Andrew also has a teaching degree from London University and a Masters in teaching from Johns Hopkins University. After teaching in the U.K., he taught middle school for 21 years in Maryland. Recently retired, Andrew and his wife live in North Carolina. **Pages 5, 13, 16.**



Tom Ostrom is a retired RCTC instructor who taught U.S. history, anthropology and geography. He is the author of several books on U.S. Coast Guard history, and taught several LIFE courses. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, and co-hosted a talk show on KROC radio. **Pages 8, 15, 23.**



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 14, 25.**



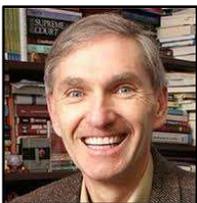
Peter Rachleff, former Macalester College history professor, Emeritus Co-Executive Director and co-founder of the East Side Freedom Library, in an exploration of these and related questions. Professor Rachleff is the author of *Hard-Pressed in the Heartland: The Hormel Strike and the Future of the Labor Movement* (1993). **Page 5.**



Dr. Marguerite Ragnow is the curator of the James Ford Bell Library, which documents the history and impact of trade and cultural exchange around the world before ca. 1800 CE. She also is on the graduate faculties of History, Early Modern Studies, and Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota, and recently taught the undergraduate course "The Viking World: Story, History, Archaeology." Dr. Ragnow is a Fellow of the Society for the History of Discoveries, for which she has also served as president and editor of its journal, *Terrae Incognitae*. She currently is on the editorial board of *The Portolan*, the journal of the Washington Map Society. She most recently contributed the chapter "Ideal and Idealized Explorer Typologies, 500 CE to 1500 CE" to volume 2 of ***The Cultural History of Exploration*** (forthcoming 2024). **Pages 11, 18, 24.**



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, Missouri-area colleges prior to 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. **Page 5.**



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 21.**

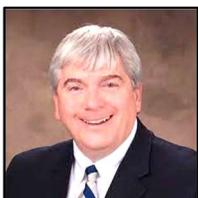


Brendan Shea, PhD, is an Instructor of Philosophy and Computer Science at Rochester Community and Technical College. He's published over 25 academic articles or book chapters, focused mainly on issues in applied ethics, the philosophy of science, or areas where these intersect (such as bioethics or the 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 16.**





Dr. Singh has served as faculty and administrator at the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine from 2007 - 2023. Dr. Singh's Bachelor of Science degree was received from St. Francis College located in Brooklyn Heights, NY. Dr. Singh's role in the School of Podiatric Medicine was Pre-Clinical and Clinical Science Integration, as well as Assistant professor of Podiatric Medicine. Upon completion of residency training, her role was Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Anatomy Lab Director until 2018. During her career she has served on the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Curricular Guide Committee, the National Board of Podiatric Examiners, editor for the Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association and Florida Academy of Science. **Page 19.**



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, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Drake University and the LIFE program at Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, MN. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in speech communication and a Master of Arts degree in history from Iowa State University. **Page 18.**



Monica L. Smith is professor in the Department of Anthropology and in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA. Along with her Indian colleague R.K. Mohanty she has had a twenty-year career of excavating archaeological sites in eastern India; other field experience includes archaeological excavations and surveys in Bangladesh, Egypt, England, Italy, Madagascar, Tunisia, and Turkey. Her books include ***Cities: The First 6,000 Years*** and ***A Prehistory of Ordinary People***. **Page 12.**

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 4.**



Stephen Troutman is a Futurist and frequent speaker on a number of diverse topics. At IBM for 33 years, Steve retired as an Executive Consultant in 2010. In the US Navy Reserve for 23 years, he was Commanding Officer of four units, and attained the rank of Captain. He has been a Futurist since 1999. He is an active volunteer serving on several Boards and as a SCORE Mentor to small business. He currently serves on the Advisory LIFE Board. **Pages 4, 10, 17, 25.**



Carol Veldman Rudie is a docent and the coordinator of outreach education at The Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis. She regularly leads classes and speaks on topics of Russian art. A former college teacher, she has done Ph.D. work at the University of Minnesota in English literature and art history. **Page 19.**



Jim retired after a 30-year career as an attorney. He lives in Rochester and is a volunteer at Mayo Clinic and Assisi Heights and has volunteered at Olmsted Medical Center. His picture shows his late dog who together did therapy dog volunteering for 11 years. Jim grew up in Madison, WI where his father, Don, worked for Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR) based at the University of Wisconsin.

After his father's death Jim discovered most recordings of his father's music were destroyed or missing at WPR and National Public Radio. He embarked on a six-year project to professionally digitize recordings from WPR and find recordings from alternative sources. The recordings and other artifacts are now part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Archives. There are many CDs in the collection, including a four-CD set that is a compilation of various types of music. This compilation borrows the name of a children's song that his father wrote, "Beautiful and Lovely."



Rev. Ana M. Wilson grew up a "military brat" and lived in Virginia, West Germany (before the wall came down), and Texas before moving to Rochester, MN where she became the Night Chaplain for Mayo clinic and now a Bereavement Coordinator for Mayo Clinic Hospice. She is a wife, mother of four, 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 also attended Brite Divinity School where she earned her Master of Divinity degree. She completed her Chaplain resident 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. Through all her work, Ana found bereavement, death, and dying care the most meaningful. Whether sitting with someone as they took their last breaths, helping the dying and their loved ones say their final goodbyes, or offering long term care after death to those on their grief journey; Ana felt at home and found her passion sitting in the sacredness of grief. **Page 8.**



Virginia M. Wright-Peterson, Ph.D. is an activist through her writing, committed to researching and sharing powerful stories from the past that have the potential to enlighten our understanding of today and inform the choices we make that will impact the future. Virginia held administrative roles for nearly twenty years at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and Arizona. She is currently Vice Chancellor of Finance and Campus Resources at University of Minnesota Rochester. She also taught writing and humanities for fifteen years. In search for a broader perspective, Virginia deployed to a military base in Iraq with the American Red Cross and taught as a Fulbright Scholar at University of Algiers. Virginia is the author of ***Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation*** (translated into Chinese), ***A Woman's War, Too: Women's Work During WWII*** and ***Rochester: An Urban Biography***. All three books have been finalists for the Minnesota Book Award. **Page 8, 20.**



Renee Ziemer serves as the History and Heritage Program Manager at Mayo Clinic. She has supervisory responsibility for the enterprise historical units in Arizona, Florida, and Rochester as well as Heritage Days. Renee enjoys sharing Mayo Clinic's history and heritage with others. Renee serves on several Mayo Clinic committees including Mayo Clinic Historical Committee, Arizona and Florida Historical Activities Subcommittees, and Heritage Days Committee and is secretary of Mayo Clinic History of Medicine Society. Renee is an assistant professor of History of Medicine. **Page 22.**

Ice Cream Social

HERE'S THE
SCOOP!

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 10, 2024
2:00 TO 4:00PM

Enjoy a variety of ice cream and toppings, visit, and explore the new spring LIFE catalog. This is an opportunity to connect in person after only visiting through our computers over the winter.



Find registration information inside this catalog.



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