



LIFE PROGRAM

Learning Is Forever

APR/MAY/JUN 2023



Providing adult education, insight, and engagement

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FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION, PLEASE PHONE 507-280-3157

Supported by Rochester Community and Technical College



LIFE PROGRAM TUITION ASSISTANCE

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



GREETINGS LIFE PARTICIPANTS!

Spring is around the corner! While enjoying spring, please remember **LIFE!** **The Spring only membership is \$10!** There is a variety of subjects in this catalog (including: technology, current affairs, animals, literature, scientific research, history, and art) and five **IN-PERSON** offerings. We welcome you to our RCTC viewing room for class if you prefer to have assistance with participating in an online Zoom class.

Thank you to People's Cooperative Power for awarding RCTC LIFE an Operation Round UP Grant for our 30th Anniversary Party! We hope to see you April 27 to celebrate this milestone. LIFE Board Member Erik Ritman appears on this LIFE catalog cover. We appreciate your ongoing support and hope to see you at class soon.

Chrisanne & Jamie

Chrisanne.pieper@rctc.edu
Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu

LIFE Program Gift Certificates Available!

Please contact Jamie at 507-280-3157.

LETTER FROM THE LIFE BOARD CHAIR

As I write this letter, Minnesota still looks and feels like winter, but we've made it past January and have begun February with our eye on the coming of spring. I hope you've been learning a lot with the LIFE classes you've taken these past weeks. Our Zoom format has allowed us to gather from the warmth and comfort of our homes either in SE Minnesota or from afar. It's never too late to enroll in one of our winter offerings – do that today with one or two additional classes. The good news is that, yet again, the 2023 spring catalog has excellent and varied selections of classes and day trips from which to choose. I encourage you to browse this catalog and then enroll in all that capture your interest. Scholarships are available if it allows you to add more to your list of classes. Contact Chrisanne via email at chrisanne.pieper@rctc.edu if that's helpful for you.

Here's something we've been waiting for – the spring catalog brings an opportunity for **in-person classes at the Heinz Center** in mid-May with three well-regarded instructors: Melonie Shipman, Traveling Naturalist; Chad Israelson, RCTC History Professor; and Tom Ostrom, RCTC Professor Emeritus. Look for the full descriptions in the pages of this catalog. The weather won't be a barrier in May, parking is convenient, and in-person classes allow you to reconnect with other LIFEers and benefit from a more personal connection with the instructor. We'd love to see you in person and fill all the seats in our classroom for each of these wonderful offerings.

Finally, some big, exciting news . . . **LIFE is celebrating our 30th anniversary!** The LIFE Board and staff are pumped about achieving this impressive milestone. We have a special event planned to help us celebrate with you, because it is you, our learners, who make LIFE so very special, and who doesn't love an anniversary party? Mark your calendar and plan to be at the Rochester Event Center on April 27, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. We'll begin with dinner, enjoy a few brief remembrances, and enjoy a presentation entitled "Nashville: Music City" with one of LIFE's favorite instructors Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University. This is an evening sure to please. I hope to see you there!



Enjoy browsing our catalog, see you in class, and think SPRING!

~ Janet Bartz, LIFE Advisory Board Chair, 2022-23



*Jane Callahan
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Peg Farrell
Tom Gaffey
Pamela Haase
Jane Hallman
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Chad Israelson
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Androids: The Team that Built the Android Operating System with Chet Haase, Author

In 2004, Android was two people who wanted to build camera software but couldn't get investors interested. Today, Android is a large team at Google, delivering an operating system (including camera software) to over three billion devices worldwide. This talk, based on ideas covered in the book of the same name, will talk about how Android grew from an idea in a tiny startup into the most widely distributed phone platform in the history of the planet. The session will talk about the history of Android's early development and will answer the question that first got the author interested in telling this story: Why did Android succeed?

Date(s): Monday, April 3 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Chet Haase has been a software developer in Silicon Valley since the early 1990s, working at many of the leading tech firms over those years. In 2010, Chet started on the Android team at Google, where he has worked ever since, as a programmer, a manager, Android's Chief Evangelist, and now, once again, as a programmer on the Android Graphics team. Chet also gives technical talks at software conferences and has been known to write and perform comedy.

Easter Traditions in Boston with Anthony M. Sammarco, Author

Noah Webster describes Easter as "an annual Christian festival in the spring, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus." Though a solemn religious holiday preceded by forty days of Lent and a Holy Week, it would evolve into a day that is celebrated not just with religious services, but also with Easter bunnies and Easter baskets. Easter Sunday traditions have long included dyeing eggs, the wearing of new clothes, baking hot cross buns and attending sunrise and church services. The story of the Easter Bunny became common in the nineteenth century as a symbol of new life. Legend has it that the Easter Bunny lays, decorates and hides eggs. Others brought traditions from Europe. Germans believed, for example, that rabbits laid beautifully colored eggs on Easter. All the while, the chocolate bunnies and eggs serve as a reminder of Easter's ancient origins and Christian traditions. In "Easter Traditions in Boston," Anthony Sammarco revisits the long-held traditions of decorating Easter eggs, decorating an Egg Tree, choosing an Easter bonnet, children's Easter egg hunts, and attending Easter Services before joining the O'Neils and the Houghtons, who annually participated in matching Easter outfits in the Easter Parade on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall in Boston's Back Bay. Bostonians have a shared tradition of this very special holiday and though it was ignored by the Puritans we can fondly remember in this book how our parents and grandparents celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Date(s): Tuesday, April 4 Time(s): 10-11:15 am Member Fee: \$9 Non-Member Fee: \$12



*Referred to as the "Balzac of Boston History" by the Boston Globe, **Anthony Mitchell Sammarco** is a noted historian and author of over seventy books on the history and development of Boston, and he lectures widely on the history and development of his native city. He has received the Bulfinch Award from the Doric Dames of the Massachusetts State House, the Washington Medal from Freedom Foundation, a lifetime achievement from both the Victorian Society and the Gibson House Museum and was named Dorchester town historian by Raymond L. Flynn, mayor of Boston, for his work in local history. He was elected*

a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is a member of the Boston Author's Club, a proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum and the St. Botolph Club in Boston. He lives in Boston and in Osterville on Cape Cod.

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Anne Frank Rediscovered with Howard Kerner MA

Certainly the most famous victim of the Holocaust was young Anne Frank. But how much do we really know about Anne and her family apart from her Diary? Through surprising information and video clips in which relatives and friends reveal the "real" Anne Frank, we will fill in mostly unknown facts about this complex Holocaust victim and her family.

Date(s): Tuesday, April 4 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Howard Kerner received his BA and MA in English from the State University of NY at Albany and did additional graduate work towards his PhD 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.

Turning Twenty in the '20s: A Century of Progress for Young Adult Women with Carol Summerfield Executive Director, The History Center of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff, Lake Forest IL

This program presents what life was like for young women who were in their twenties in the 1920s and compares it to those who enter their 20s in the 2020s, identifying where life across the century is similar and where it has diverged. Young women in both the 1920s and the 2020s could claim to be the best educated generations in U.S. history; to be entering a job market transformed by demographics and technology; to be embracing liberating trends in fashion and figure; and to feel both the prospects and the pressures of a widened scope of experience. Yet their lives were considerably more restricted than life today for young women. From travel to career access, numerous barriers faced in the 1920s have been broken; yet there are barriers still to break.

Date(s): Wed, Apr 5 Time(s): 10-11 am Member Fee: \$5 Non-Member Fee: \$10



Carol Summerfield is the executive director at the History Center of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff managing exhibitions, lectures, and expanding the archival access for the public and researchers. She presents on a variety of historical topics and loves digging into stories and finding the hidden storyline that helps us understand ourselves and our history better. Carol earned her BA in English from Northwestern University.



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Global Famine with Todd Lefko, Global Minnesota Speaker's Bureau

Over 344 million in the world now face food insecurity. Over 900,000 face immediate famine. These numbers are higher than the past. Conflict, food prices and access are among the causes. The lack of proper nutrients affect the future in terms of health, mental capacity, human infrastructure and international security. We think of other nations, but these factors are also affecting Minnesota and the United States. We will discuss the causes and potential solutions. This is one of the major issues facing the world today.



Date(s): Wednesday, April 5 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

Todd Lefko has lectured at universities in Russia, China, Belarus, Germany, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. Mr. Lefko has also taught urban affairs and sociology at the University of Minnesota, and political science, international relations, political philosophy, political campaign management, leadership, organizational development, and public administration at other Minnesota colleges.

Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Group Topic: China and the U.S. with Steve Troutman, Facilitator

For the past ten years, the United States and China have been locked in a competition for who has the greatest global influence. One major point of contention is the status of Taiwanese sovereignty, which has become even more relevant recently with the possibility that Russia's invasion of Ukraine may prompt China to take similar action regarding Taiwan. How will the United States engage a China which is increasingly seeking to expand its sphere of influence?

Date(s): Wednesday, April 5 Time(s): 3:30-5:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



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

The Past, Present, and Future of U.S.-Iran Relations with Richard Leitch PhD, Professor of Political Science, Gustavus Adolphus College

The Shah of Iran. Ayatollah Khomeini. Ayatollah Khamenei. Israel. The US. Democracy protests. Hijab protests. Ayatollah Khatami. Iran's middle class. Nuclear weapons. Sanctions imposed, removed, and reimposed. The who, what, and when, and why it all matters.

Date(s): Thursday, April 6 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Dr. Richard Leitch earned his BA in East Asian Studies from Colby College and went on to earn an MA in Asian Studies from the University of Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Illinois. 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 2012 he was included in The Princeton Review's The Best 300 Professors.

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A Scientist's Passion for Common Loons with James Paruk PhD, Author, Professor of Biology, St. Joseph's College, Maine

Jim will share his knowledge of loon vocalizations, their wintering behavior and conservation concerns.

Date(s): Thursday, April 6 Time(s): 1-2 pm Member Fee: \$5 Non-Member Fee: \$10



James Paruk PhD is one of the world's leading experts on the Common Loon. He has studied breeding and wintering loons across North America for the past 30 years. He recently published a new book on loons that summarizes our state of knowledge about these iconic birds ("Loon Lessons: Uncommon Encounters with The Great Northern Diver") (Available through Amazon or University of Minnesota Press). Paruk is a professor of biology at St. Joseph's College in Standish, Maine, where he teaches ornithology and

animal behavior.

The Writing Life — From Concept to 'What am I Doing?!?' to Publication with Wendy Eckel, Author of the Rosalie Hart Mystery Series

Wendy will take you inside the makings of her award-winning Rosalie Hart cozy mystery series. She will discuss the genre of cozy mystery and how she first decided to write her series. Eckel will also delve into the writing process — the agony and the ecstasy of writing the best book you can, how to find your creative muse, land an agent, the path to getting traditionally published, the value of editing and seeking feedback, the endless maze of modern book marketing, and how and why she is obsessed with cooking and even managed to work a five-day cooking class into her most recent novel, "Mystery at Windswept Farm," the third in the Rosalie Hart series. Eckel encourages questions.

Date(s): Monday, April 10 Time(s): 10 -11 am Member Fee: \$5 Non-Member Fee: \$7



Wendy Sand Eckel is the author of the award-winning Rosalie Hart Mystery Series — her previous books are "Murder at Barclay Meadow" and "Death at the Day Lily Café," which was voted "Best Cozy of 2016" by Suspense Magazine. Eckel, who studied criminology and earned a Master's Degree in Social Work, is an active member of the Mystery Writers of America and the International Association of Crime Writers and lives on Maryland's enchanting Eastern Shore.

Bombs Away with Ric Mixter, Diver and PBS Producer

Ric flies the last missions of Great Lakes B-52 bases. Some bombers are scrapped, others are still flying today in Minot, North Dakota. Ric goes back to biplanes and the Tuskegee Airmen to share the history of flight on the Great Lakes.

Date(s): Monday, April 10 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



With dozens of appearances in two countries and three states last year, Ric Mixter is certainly one of the busiest maritime speakers, rumored to be the most requested historian on the Great Lakes. Visiting museums, libraries, NASA and his live music concert "STORM", thousands of audience members get a new appreciation for our unique inland-sea history through his spellbinding lectures. Millions of television viewers recognize Ric Mixter as a shipwreck researcher, diving over 100 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, including the Edmund Fitzgerald. He

has produced over 30 programs for PBS and the Outdoor Channel, and appeared as a shipwreck expert on the History and Discovery Channels.

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/Jun 2023

Frederick the Great -- Exploring the Life and Times of Germany's King of Kings! with Anette Isaacs MAs

Frederick, the Great -- this legendary Prussian King, born 310 years ago, has been occupying the hearts and minds of historians, politicians, and history buffs for literally centuries. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a multi-layered exploration of the life and times of this truly great King (a contemporary – and critic—of George Washington, by the way) who elevated Prussia from a local to a European Super Power.



Date(s): Tue, Apr 11 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19
Anette Isaacs, MAs, Emory University, University of Vienna, Free University, Berlin, is a German historian and public educator who has taught for OLLIs and other lifelong learning programs for more than a decade.

Set in Stone but Not in Meaning: Southwestern Indian Rock Art with Allen Dart, Professional Archaeologist, Executive Director (Volunteer), Old Pueblo Archaeology Center

Ancient American Indian petroglyphs (symbols carved or pecked on rocks) and pictographs (rock paintings) are claimed by some to be forms of writing for which meanings are known. But are such claims supported by archaeology or by Native Americans? Archaeologist Al illustrates how petroglyph and pictograph styles changed through time and over different parts of the U.S. Southwest both before and after non-Indian peoples entered the region, and discusses how even the same rock art symbol may be interpreted differently from popular, scientific, and modern Native American perspectives.

Date(s): Tuesday, April 11 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Professional Archaeologist Allen Dart has worked in New Mexico and Arizona since 1975 for federal and state governments, private companies, and nonprofit organizations. He is now the executive director of Tucson's nonprofit Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, which he founded in 1993 to provide educational and scientific programs in archaeology, history, and cultures. Al has received awards and honors from the National Park Service and for his efforts to bring archaeology and history to the public.

Separation of Church and State with Timothy R. Johnson PhD, University of MN Department of Political Science and Law

The Supreme Court continues to explore the extent to which the First Amendment commands separation of church and state. But how did it get to where it is today? This talk walks through the Court's history with the establishment clause and the major cases it has decided that focus on this part of the First Amendment.

Date(s): Wednesday, April 12 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Timothy R. Johnson PhD is the Morse Alumni Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Law at the University of Minnesota. He is a nationally recognized expert on U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments and decision making. Johnson has co-authored three books about Supreme Court oral arguments and his work appears in a wide variety of academic journals. His research and commentary have been covered by the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, NPR, C-SPAN, USA Today, ABC, and CNN.

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

The Birth of Rock and Roll: Songs That Defined an Era with Martin Gitlin, Author

This entertaining and enlightening program will take you back to one of the greatest musical eras in American history. Enjoy video presentations of such artists as Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Fats Domino, Buddy Holly, Ray Charles, Jerry Lee Lewis and Bo Diddley with author and pop culture historian Marty Gitlin. Marty will discuss the impact these rock and roll pioneers made on society and pop culture. He will also challenge patrons with trivia questions and interact with a Q&A after the event. This one is a lot of fun so please join in!



Date(s): Wed, April 12 Time(s): 1-2:15 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

Marty Gitlin is a freelance writer and the author of more than 40 books. He has won many awards for his writing, including first place for General Excellence in Journalism from the Associated Press. Gitlin lives with his wife and three children in Cleveland, Ohio.

Twin Studies: The Science Behind the Fascination and Vice Versa with Nancy Segal PhD

This class provides an overview of past and current findings from twin research with real life examples of twins I have studied. I will consider a wide range of topics, e.g., twins raised apart, twins with different fathers and twins who survived the Holocaust. I will also discuss my forthcoming books; also see drnancysegaltwins.org

Date(s): Thursday, April 13 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19



*Dr. Nancy L. Segal received a B.A. degree in psychology and English literature from Boston University (1973), and M.A. (1974) and Ph.D. (1982) degrees in the Social Sciences and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Chicago. From 1982-1991 she was a post-doctoral fellow and research associate at the University of Minnesota, affiliated with the well-known Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart. She is currently Professor of Psychology at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and Director of the Twin Studies Center, which she founded in 1991. Dr. Segal is regarded as a world-class expert on twins and twin research, as evidenced by her prolific scientific writing and numerous invitations to address national and international audiences, both professional and public. Her eighth book on twins, *Twin Children of the Holocaust: Stolen Childhood and the Will to Survive*, an annotated collection of photographs she took at the 40th anniversary reunion of twin survivors and the brutal medical experimentation of Dr. Josef Mengele, will be released in March 2023. Her ninth book, *"Twin Fathers-Gay Sons: The Citizenship Case That Captured the World,"* will be published in August 2023. Dr. Segal's book, *"Deliberately Divided: Inside the Controversial Study of Twins and Triplets Adopted Apart"* was the focus of a July 2022 BBC-TV documentary film released in 200 television stations worldwide; Dr. Segal appeared in this film. A shorter related segment--an interview with Dr. Segal on nature-nurture issues--had over 1.5 million views on YouTube. Her 2012 book, *"Born Together-Reared Apart: The Landmark Minnesota Twin Study"* won the 2013 William James Book Award from the American Psychological Association. Dr. Segal's other books include *"Accidental Brothers: The Story of Twins Exchanged at Birth and the Power of Nature and Nurture,"* *"Twin Mythconceptions,"* *"Someone Else's Twin: The True Story of Babies Switched at Birth,"* *"Indivisible by Two: Lives of Extraordinary Twins,"* and *"Entwined Lives: Twins and What They Tell Us About Human Behavior."**



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To Preserve Slavery? Human Bondage & The American Revolution with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland

In the lead essay of the 1619 Project, Nikole Hannah-Jones contended that “one of the primary reasons the colonists decided to declare their independence from Britain was because they wanted to protect the institution of slavery.” When those twenty-four words first appeared in print in the Times magazine in 2019, they shocked lay readers and many historians as well. This talk examines the 1619 Project’s controversial claim that patriots fought the American Revolution to protect their right to own enslaved people. Is that claim supportable? What’s the evidence? Does any of it hold water?

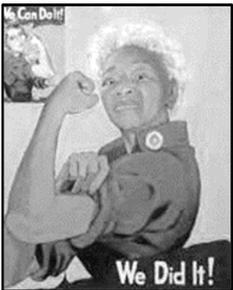
Date(s): Thursday, April 13 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29



Dr. Richard Bell received a BA from the University of Cambridge and a PhD from Harvard University. He joined the Department of History and the University of Maryland in 2006, earned tenure in 2012 and promotion to the rank of full professor in 2020. He has published more than a dozen articles and chapters as well as three books. He is presently an Andrew Carnegie Fellow (2021-2023) and has held research fellowships at more than two dozen libraries and institutes including residencies at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Abolition, and Resistance at Yale University and the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. His work has also

been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is proud to serve as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, an elected member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and as a board member of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System Foundation.

Invisible Warriors: African American Women in WWII with Gregory S. Cooke, Producer and Director



Join us for a special screening of the documentary Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II, which shares the hidden story of Black heroines of the Homefront. The film is an unforgettable conversation among a diverse group of African American “Rosie the Riveters” who recount what life was really like during World War II. They are hard working underdogs of high character who do battle and win. They fled lives as domestics and sharecroppers to empower themselves while working in war production and U.S. government offices. These patriotic pioneers share their wartime memories, recounting their battles against racism at home, Nazism abroad, and sexism everywhere. They represent 600,000 women like themselves who overcame the Great Depression, Jim Crow, sexual degradation, and workplace discrimination to break gender and racial barriers. Black “Rosie the Riveters” were part of a sisterhood of 20 million women who built America’s “arsenal of democracy.” Without all of these women, the United States could not have won World War II. After the film join filmmaker Gregory Cooke for a post-screening discussion.



Date(s): Mon, Apr 17 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25
Gregory S. Cooke has dedicated his career as an educator and historian to help relocate African Americans to the main pages of history. Invisible Warriors is his directorial debut following a successful stint as Associate Director on Choc’late Soldiers from the USA.

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

Country Capitalism: How Corporations from the American South Remade Our Economy and the Planet with Bartow J. Elmore PhD, History Department, The Ohio University

The rural roads to our Amazon economy run, perhaps surprisingly, through the American South. This talk traces the history of southern firms that remade the logistics systems on which we all depend. The talk will center on the environmental history of Delta Airlines and will focus on what we can do to make the airline industry more sustainable.

Date(s): Monday, April 17 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



***Bart Elmore PhD** earned his B.A. in history from Dartmouth College in 2004 and his M.A. and Ph.D. 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 served three years as Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Alabama beginning in 2013 and helped start the department's environmental history program 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" 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. Continuing his research at the nexus of business and global environmental history, Bart finished his second book, "Seed Money: Monsanto's Past and Our Food Future" which details the international ecological history of the Monsanto Company. 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. In addition to these pursuits, Bart works to reach beyond the academy and has contributed to the Washington Post, The Conversation, Huffington Post, Salon, and other popular media outlets.

The 1890's: Susan B. Anthony, Cleveland, and Stars & Stripes Forever with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter

Jim will take you back to a time when Presidents Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, and William McKinley were in office. Gibbons will discuss the tragic Massacre at Wounded Knee of the plains Indians; the Sherman Antitrust Act; medical practices of the time; and women and men's fashion of the decade. He will also explain how Victorianism, the Suffrage Movement, and Susan B. Anthony influenced women of the era. Meanwhile, the Progressive Reform began to flourish and would continue into the 20th Century.

Date(s): Tuesday, April 18 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



***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 120 riveting presentations topics Jim has been researching history and historical figures since he was in college. Using his slogan, "Life is no mystery when you know your history," he has a passion for retelling historical stories of presidential, world, and United States history, with a strong emphasis on how history continually repeats. Jim's*

goal is to not only teach the important parts of history, but to point out that if history's warnings are heeded, mankind stands to have a brighter future.

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The MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension – An Overview of How Forensic Science is Used to Keep Minnesotans Safe with Catherine M. Knutson, Deputy Superintendent of Forensic Science Services, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Forensic Science Services, St. Paul

Forensic science is an integral part of the criminal justice system that applies the neutrality and power of science in the search for justice. This presentation will share information about the various forensic science services provided by the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension which serves as the statewide crime lab. Topics will include forensic DNA technology, firearms examination, latent print analysis, drug and toxicology testing as well as how scientists respond to and process crime scenes across MN. Examples of how forensic science has helped solve some of our state's most complex cases will also be presented.

Date(s): Tuesday, April 18 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Catherine Knutson was named Deputy Superintendent of the BCA's Forensic Science Services Division in 2015. Beginning as a forensic scientist, Knutson has served in a variety of roles as a scientist and manager over the course of twenty-four years with the BCA, after having previously worked as a research scientist for the University of Minnesota. Knutson has served on boards and committees of a variety of professional associations including the Organization of Scientific Area Committees of Forensic Science, the Minnesota Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association, the US Technical Advisory Group to ISO TC 272, the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, among others. Knutson also serves as an adjunct professor for Metropolitan State University, and is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Minnesota.

The Race to Conquer England: 1066 and All That! with Marguerite Ragnow, PhD, Curator, James Ford Bell Library, University of MN

Many people are familiar with William the Conqueror, who is well known for invading England in 1066. Fewer people are aware that there were three claimants fighting for the British crown—and all of them connected to Scandinavia! Join Dr. Marguerite Ragnow, curator of the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota, as she transports us back to Anglo-Saxon England and the curious and fateful circumstances that led to William's victory.

Date(s): Wednesday, April 19 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



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



RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/Jun 2023

Art Crime: Frauds, Forgeries, and Fakes with Robert Wittman, Founder of the FBI's Art Crime Team

Join FBI agent, best-selling author, and art crime expert to uncover the inside stories of the multi-billion dollar worldwide business of art crime where frauds, forgeries, and fakes are the largest component. Drawing on cases he worked on personally in the FBI's National Art Crime Team, he will share stories and details of famous art forgeries. We'll meet a fake Saudi Sheikh with a fake Rembrandt and find out about a forged contemporary piece by Jean Michele Basquiat. We will also dig into a fraud case that rocked PBS's Antiques Road Show years ago. You will learn about legal rulings and protections for art collectors and find out how not to acquire a fake or a forgery! This interactive talk will explore the multi-billion-dollar industry of fakes and forgeries.

Date(s): Wednesday, April 19 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$20 Non-Member Fee: \$30



Robert K. Wittman joined the FBI as a Special Agent in 1988. As a result of specialized training in art, antiques, jewelry and gem identification, he served as the FBI's investigative expert involving cultural property crime. During his 20 year FBI career he recovered more than \$300 million worth of stolen art and cultural property which resulted in numerous convictions. As a result of his unique experience he coauthored the FBI Cultural Property Investigative Manual in 2001. In 2005, he created the FBI's rapid deployment national Art Crime Team. Robert has represented the U.S. throughout the world conducting investigations and instructing international police and museums. In 2010, Mr. Wittman penned his New York Times bestselling memoir "PRICELESS: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures." His second book, "THE DEVIL'S DIARY: Alfred Rosenberg and the Stolen Secrets of the Third Reich" is a worldwide best seller published in 29 languages in 30 countries.

A Conceptual Chart to Connect the Currents of Thought that Caused Today's Crises and the Opportunity to Choose a Paradigm Shift with Hector E. Garcia, Global Minnesota Speaker's Bureau

Curiosity never retires! ...it also leads to innovation and, as French author Françoise Sagan wrote, "Curiosity is the beginning of wisdom." Our world is experiencing a paradox of unprecedented connectivity, resulting from progress in transportation and technological communication, along with alienation, paralysis, and the incapacity among groups with different points of view to engage in constructive human dialogue. How will rich and poor, comfortable, and afflicted, believers in democracy and believers in autocracy, faithful and agnostic, those informed by reason and science and those misinformed for financial or political gain be able to address the following escalating crises: inequality in income and wealth as well as in access to health, justice, and education; impersonal violence and armed conflict; flows of refugees and undocumented immigrants; scapegoating and prejudice; youth anxiety and global warming? Hector will present a comprehensive perspective, which allows viewing connections among these crises and, consequently, the potential for a more human paradigm.

Date(s): Thursday, April 20 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Hector E. Garcia is author of "Clash or Complement of Cultures?: Peace and Productivity in the New Global Reality" and creator of the Cultural Complementarity Paradigm. He was CEO of Mex-US Global, LLC., consultancy in intercultural communications and international strategic alliances; co-founder and Executive Director of Minnesotans for NAFTA; Executive Director of Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs; Executive Director of National Conference for Community & Justice MN/Dakotas; Mexico Liaison for Prudential Bache Securities, NYC, NY; Consultant at Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), part of The Economist magazine's financial group, in Mexico's headquarters for Latin America.

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Moral Attention and Fatigue with A. Rebecca Rozelle-Stone, PhD, Director of the Honors Program, Professor of Philosophy, University of North Dakota

This seminar will consider the insights of French philosopher Simone Weil (1909-1943) on the nature and necessity of moral attentiveness, along with its companion phenomenon, compassion fatigue. What is moral attention? How do we experience attention and compassion/crisis fatigue in our lives? What are contributing factors to fatigue in modern society? (How) can we become more attentive without becoming more emotionally drained?

Date(s): Thursday, April 20 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



A. Rebecca Rozelle-Stone PhD is Director of the University Honors Program and Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Dakota. She earned her B.A. in philosophy at Birmingham-Southern College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy, with emphasis in American and Continental philosophy respectively, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Rozelle-Stone served as the President (2014-2016) of the American Weil Society and has written books and essays on Simone Weil. Aside from this, her research interests include existential philosophy, feminism, the ethics of attention, and the growing field of fatigue studies.



LIFE Book Group with Steve Troutman, Facilitator

The April read will be "Rochester, An Urban Biography" by Virginia Wright Peterson. May's book is "The Seed Keeper" by Dinan Wilson and June's book is "Elephant Whisperer" by Lawrence Anthony. The summer read for our Sep. 19 book club will be "Warmth of other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration" by Isabel Wilkerson.

**Date(s): Fridays, Apr 21, May 19, Jun 16 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Sessions: 3
Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**

Artists Between: World War I and Beyond and The Rise and Fall of Socialist Realism: 1934-1991 with Carol Veldman Rudie, Docent, Museum of Russian Art

Artists Between: World War I and Beyond

Marking a transition time for Russian art, 1914 begins attempts to reform culture and government. Artists of all beliefs and styles react with varying projects before Stalin clearly defines the Soviet state.

The Rise and Fall of Socialist Realism: 1934-1991

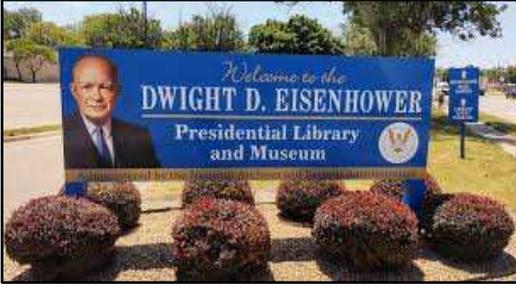
Understanding the world of art in the Soviet Union is also to understand its utopian philosophy and the resulting aesthetic that dominated. 1934 marks the official beginning of what had been a gradual takeover of the socialist realist aesthetic. Exploring this process as well as what happens later is as much a discussion of public norms as it is of art.

Date(s): Mon, Apr 24 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25
Carol Veldman Rudie is the lead 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 PhD work at the University of Minnesota in English literature and art history.



RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

Eisenhower's Leadership with Curator, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum



"The essence of leadership is to get others to do something because they think you want it done and because they know it is worthwhile doing -- that is what we are talking about." ~DDE

There's no doubt that Eisenhower was a competent leader. His leadership during WWII was instrumental in victory for the Allies. Yet when discussing great American presidents, Eisenhower's name was often left out until recently. This presentation will explore

Eisenhower's leadership style and his place among the conversation of great presidents.

Date(s): Monday, April 24 Time(s): 1-2 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

Medicine in Early Minnesota with Rebecca Lofgren, Historic Forestville State Park

Have you ever been to a pharmacy from the late 1800's? Visit Historic Forestville and get a behind the scenes look at the pharmacy that was left at the store when it was closed in 1910. Learn about what ingredients made up the medications left behind, the people that created these medications, and the dangers of medicine in the Victorian era.

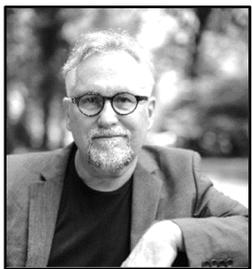
Date(s): Tuesday, April 25 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Rebecca Lofgren is a Program Associate for the Minnesota Historical Society at Historic Forestville and in the National History Day program. Rebecca has an M.Ed. in Environmental Education and has been in the interpretation and education field for nearly 20 years, over 10 of which were with the National Park Service. She held additional positions within the MN Department of Natural Resources and the University of Minnesota. She currently lives with her husband and 2 dogs in Dover, Minnesota.

How Bob Dylan and the Beatles Upset the Status Quo: 1957-1966 with Aaron Leonard, Author

The Beatles and Bob Dylan transformed pop music in the Long Sixties, but they did not do so without a fight. Deeply entrenched forces within the status quo resisted these artists at the point they were most creative and iconoclastic. This lecture will chart the rise of these artists, the opposition they encountered, and how they responded — while anchoring this firmly in the context of the unsettled Cold War. Through the use of video, music, and textual documentation, we will revisit a period of the mid-twentieth century that continues to impact our current world.



Date(s): Tue, April 25 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

Aaron J. Leonard is a writer and historian with a particular focus on the history of radicalism and state suppression. In 2020 he published the "Folk Singers & the Bureau," detailing the FBI and governmental efforts against people such as Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. His current book is "Whole World in an Uproar: Music Rebellion & Repress 1955-1972" extends that story into the sixties. He has a BA in Social Sciences and History magna cum laude, from New York University. He lives in Los Angeles.

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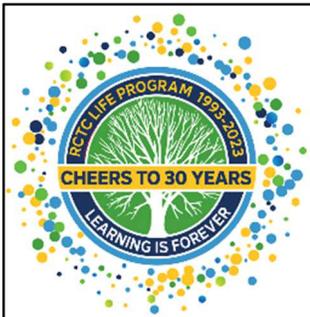
Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Group Topic: Economic Warfare with Steve Troutman, Facilitator



Waging economic warfare consists of a variety of measures from implementing sanctions to fomenting labor strikes. Such tools are utilized by states to hinder their enemies, and in the case of the United States have been used as far back as the early 19th century. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, economic warfare has been the main means for the west to challenge Russia. How effective will these sanctions be at convincing Russia to cease its war?

Date(s): Wednesday, April 26 Time(s): 3:30-5:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

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



LIFE Celebrates 30 Years Presentation "Nashville: Music City" with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University

This now-hipster city has historically blended sophistication with the homespun, being both the "Athens of the South," full of great institutions of higher learning, while also being the capitol of Country Music. The menu for the evening is plated BBQ glazed sliced meatloaf, smoked gouda mac and cheese, grilled vegetables, coleslaw, buttermilk biscuits, and pecan pie. **Registration Deadline: Fri, April 14**

Date(s): Thursday, April 27 Time(s): 5:30 - 8 pm

Member Fee: \$39 Non-Member Fee: \$49

Location: Rochester International Event Center, 7333 Airport View Dr SW

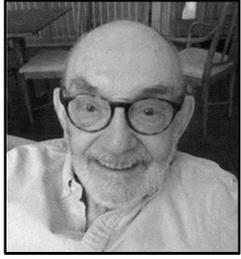


*Dr. Taylor Hagood teaches American literature, with specialization in the writing of William Faulkner, African American literature, and the literature and culture of the United States South. His scholarship examines literary and cultural production in an approach informed by postcolonial theory, theorizing of social interaction via secrecy as a cultural item, and disability studies. Hagood's books include *Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place, and the Materiality of Myth* (2008); *Secrecy, Magic, and the One-Act Plays of Harlem Renaissance Women Writers* (2010); and *Faulkner: Writer of Disability* (2014), winner of the C. Hugh Holman Award for Best Book in Southern Literary Studies. Along*

*with these monographs, he edited *Critical Insights: The Sound and the Fury* (2014) and coedited *Undead Souths: The Gothic and Beyond in Southern Literature and Culture* (2015) with Eric Gary Anderson and Daniel Cross Turner. Additionally, he has published articles and reviews in numerous journals, including *African American Review*, *Anthurium*, *College Literature*, *European Journal of American Culture*, *Faulkner Journal*, *Literature Compass*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Southern Literary Journal*, *Studies in Popular Culture*, and *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*. Hagood's most recent book is "Stringbean: The Life and Murder of a Country Music Legend."*

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What Happened to Woodrow Wilson? with Bob Beery PhD



When we were in school scholars rated Wilson as the 4th greatest president — just behind Washington, Lincoln, and FDR. That was in 1948 and again in 1962 he was still in 4th place. Rankings in 2021 had him in 13th place! So, what happened to Woodrow Wilson over the years?

Date(s): Mon, May 1 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25
Bob Beery PhD, was Rochester Public School's Curriculum Director. He has enjoyed stints as adjunct faculty at the U of M, WSU, RCTC, and St. Mary's University. His professional publications deal with the teaching of history and social sciences.



The British Invasion and American Answer: A Musical Journey with Martin Gitlin, Author

Take a fun and nostalgic journey through the most iconic and greatest era of rock-and-roll history with author and pop culture historian Marty Gitlin. This presentation highlights performance videos of influential British Invasion superstars such as the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Kinks, Hollies, Dave Clark Five and The Who as well as American bands that provided a wonderful reply such as the Beach Boys, Mamas and Papas, Temptations, Byrds, Monkees and Simon & Garfunkel. The program also discusses how these artists influenced pop culture and society, compares and contrasts the music, and includes trivia questions for patrons to ponder (including snippets of songs from which patrons must identify the band!). The presentation will conclude with a question-and-answer period. This program is a lot of fun so join in!

Date(s): Monday, May 1 Time(s): 1-2:15 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

Marty Gitlin is a freelance writer and the author of more than 40 books. He has won many awards for his writing, including first place for General Excellence in Journalism from the Associated Press. Gitlin lives with his wife and three children in Cleveland, Ohio.

Are We Animals? Or Something Special? The history of our attitudes towards animals from the Middle Ages until today with Joyce Salisbury PhD, Professor Emerita, UW-Green Bay

From the moment humans and animals lived together, people have wondered about their relationship. This course looks at our attitudes towards animals from the early Middle Ages when Church Fathers said we are definitively not animals to the late Middle Ages when we were less certain. I will look at animals as property, food, pets and fables, and consider how our modern laws are struggling with how to treat animals.

Date(s): Tuesday, May 2 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Dr. Joyce Salisbury, Professor Emerita from the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, has a PhD in Medieval History from Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is an author of more than ten books on history and religion, most recently Rome's Christian Empress, and The Beast Within: Animals in the Middle Ages, expanded 3rd edition. Salisbury is also a lecturer for the streaming service Wondrium that produces educational DVDs. Her courses "History of Spain: Land on a Crossroad," "Warriors, Queens, and Intellectuals: 36 Great Women before 1400," and "The Middle Ages

Around the World" are very popular. In addition, Salisbury has lectured for the History Channel, PBS, and many other venues around the world.

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Dismantling Implicit Bias: Confronting Media's Role in Suppressing Freedom in a Free Society with Dale Taylor PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Dr. Taylor will describe actual experiences from his own life as well as racially biased news reports to illustrate how the media has created negative impressions that lead to demonized and even criminalized stereotypes of African-Americans that fuel hostile and sometimes lethal reactions to the simple presence of a black person. He will describe how he used his knowledge of neuroscience to conduct a successful campaign to convince the news industry to stop attaching race to every report of a criminal act by a black suspect while omitting race when reporting white crime or when covering positive accomplishments by black citizens.

Date(s): Tuesday, May 2 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Dr. Dale Taylor is President of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Emeriti Faculty Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care, member of the UW-Eau Claire Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Implementation Team, former UW-Eau Claire Liaison to the University of Wisconsin System Design for Diversity and past Chair of the UW-Eau Claire Department of Allied Health Professions. He is a Board Certified Music Therapist, originator of the Biomedical Theory of Music Therapy and author of the book Biomedical Foundations of Music as Therapy as well as numerous chapters in books edited by colleagues. He has been an invited speaker on all five of the world's nonpolar continents and a frequent guest on Wisconsin Public Radio, NPR, Mobilized News and the Free Speech TV network.



Unknown Teen Diarists of the Holocaust with Howard Kerner MA

When most people think of a teenager who kept a diary during the Holocaust, they think of Anne Frank. Few know that over 60 diaries written by teenagers from all over Europe survived during this same period. This intriguing audio/visual presentation introduces you to unknown boys and girls who, with awesome depth of feeling and eloquence, wrote down what they were experiencing and in so doing became historians!

Date(s): Thursday, May 4 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

Howard Kerner received his BA and MA in English from the State University of NY at Albany and did additional graduate work towards his PhD 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.

**Did you know that your first two hour Zoom class at LIFE is free? Contact Jamie at (507)280-3157.
www.learningisforever.net**

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023



Tea: A Medley of History, Anecdotes, and Stories with Anthony M. Sammarco

This lecture is a fascinating look at how tea has been enjoyed over the centuries, from its origins in China and India as the *Camellia sinensis*—an evergreen growing primarily in tropical and sub-tropical climates—

to its adoption by Britain and its colonies in the eighteenth century as the drink of choice. Once the drink of choice in Britain and its colonies, it even was once

part of the Boston Tea Party during the American Revolution.

Date(s): Monday, May 8 Time(s): 10-11:15 am Member Fee: \$9 Non-Member Fee: \$12

Referred to as the “Balzac of Boston History” by the *Boston Globe*, **Anthony Mitchell Sammarco** is a noted historian and author of over seventy books on the history and development of Boston, and he lectures widely on the history and development of his native city. He commenced writing in 1995, and his books have made the bestsellers list. Anthony teaches the popular course *Boston History* at the Boston University Metropolitan College. He has also taught at The Urban College of Boston since 1997, where his courses led to him being named Educator of the Year. He has received the Bulfinch Award from the Doric Dames of the Massachusetts State House, the Washington Medal from Freedom Foundation, a lifetime achievement from both the Victorian Society and the Gibson House Museum and was named Dorchester town historian by Raymond L. Flynn, mayor of Boston, for his work in local history.

The Visual Anthropology of Photographer John Collier, Jr.: From the Amish to the Navajo with Katherine Jellison PhD, Ohio University, College of Arts and Sciences

In March 1942, John Collier, Jr., the son of President Roosevelt’s Commissioner of Indian Affairs, traveled to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to photograph the county’s Amish community. As an employee of Roosevelt’s Farm Security Administration, Collier’s assignment was to record daily life among the Amish and related groups and to document the impact of federal relief programs within the community. By developing a method he called “working from the outside in,” Collier was able to respect Amish cultural practices and religious beliefs while at the same time creating photographs that communicated the basic contours and practices of Amish life. Following World War II, Collier took the collaborative methods he developed in Lancaster County to the American Southwest and created the photographic portfolio for which he is best known: his culturally sensitive portraits of Navajo life. Jellison’s presentation will center on the photographs themselves, critics’ analyses of the photos, and Collier’s own accounts of his work.

Date(s): Tuesday, May 9 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Katherine Jellison PhD is Professor of History at Ohio University, where she teaches courses on U.S. women’s and gender history. Her publications include *Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913-1963* (University of North Carolina Press, 1993) and *It’s Our Day: America’s Love Affair with the White Wedding, 1945-2005* (University Press of Kansas, 2008), both of which include “guest appearances” by a few first ladies. She also wrote the biography of Jacqueline Kennedy in *Katherine A.S. Sibley, ed., Blackwell Companion to First Ladies* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016). She frequently appears in print and on

television and radio as a commentator on first ladies and their role in U.S. politics and history.

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The Dark Treason of Benedict Arnold with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland

Benedict Arnold is the most famous turncoat in American history. He was a skilled officer in George Washington's Continental Army who began secretly communicating with British intelligence agents, giving them insider information, and dramatically defecting to their side in return for a mountain of cash. Historian Richard Bell reconstructs the life and times of Benedict Arnold, the reasons for this treason, and the larger problems of betrayal and desertion that dogged the Continental Army

throughout the war.

Date(s): Thursday, May 11 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29

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

New Middle East Alignments-How Friends and Enemies in the Region are Changing with Henry Berman MBA, Global Minnesota's Speaker's Bureau

We will examine the Middle East Region through the prism of EVOLVING ALIGNMENTS. Rival blocs have changed in recent years and that raises many interesting open questions. Will these changes impact overall regional tensions? Who are friends with whom and how durable are these alliances? How should US policy in the Region be impacted? A prime example of a relevant alignment change to be reviewed will be the ABRAHAM ACCORDS, which resulted in the normalization of diplomatic relations of former enemies. Can changes like this truly last in the most volatile region on the planet?

Date(s): Monday, May 15 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



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 7 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 3 years. Courses he has created and led include Middle East Conflict, the

Horn of Africa and the Philippines-US Relationship.

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

Tenacious Beasts: Wildlife Recoveries that Change How We Think About Animals with Christopher J. Preston PhD, Author, Professor of Philosophy, Montana State University

The future of wildlife looks bleak. We stand on the cusp of the sixth mass extinction. Yet within the biodiversity crisis, some species are recovering well. Bison, humpback whales, beavers, and wolves are among the species that have shrugged off their brush with extinction. This lecture will consider some of these recoveries and ask what they have to teach. A species that returns offers a new chance to see it with fresh eyes. We will consider updated ways to think about wildlife, looking for a more promising future between people and animals.

Date(s): Monday, May 15 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Christopher J. Preston PhD is a writer and professor based in Missoula, MT. His work at the University of Montana centers on wildlife, technology, and climate change. His new book, “Tenacious Beasts: Wildlife Recoveries That Change How We Think About Animals” investigates a number of species back from the brink of extinction. He meets the scientists, indigenous leaders, and activists responsible for their return and uncovers what these species have to teach. Christopher grew up on England’s south coast before moving to the Rockies for graduate school. He has a long association with fisheries and wildlife in Alaska. He has written for The Atlantic, Smithsonian Magazine, Discover, The Conversation, Aeon, Slate.com, and The BBC. His award-winning book, “The Synthetic Age: Outdesigning Evolution, Resurrecting Species, and Reengineering Our World,” has been translated into six languages. He gives talks in state parks, libraries, and breweries across Montana to audiences interested in conservation and technology. In early 2023, he won an annual award from the International Society for Environmental Ethics for his work as a public philosopher.



“Mad” Ludwig II of Bavaria: Inside the Life and Mind of Germany’s Fairy-tale King! with Anette Isaacs MAs

Although he once famously said: “I wish to remain an eternal enigma to myself and to others”, King Ludwig II is perhaps the most illustrious of all Germans. Best known as an eccentric whose love for art (especially the music of Richard Wagner) and architecture is legendary, the young King had a charmed but also tragic existence. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs, M.A., as she unravels this “eternal enigma” and presents you with mesmerizing insights into the Fairy-tale King’s truly extraordinary life!

Date(s): Tuesday, May 16 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19

Anette Isaacs MAs, Emory University, University of Vienna, Free University, Berlin, is a German historian and public educator who has taught for OLLIs and other lifelong learning programs for more than a decade.



RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

First Lady Fashion: The Victorians followed by Truth Seeker with Lisa Meade, Ranger, First Ladies National Historic Site, OH

First Lady Fashion: The Victorians

Can you imagine wearing a 3-foot wide skirt or being squeezed into a tight corset? We'll learn all about the fashion trends first ladies of the Victorian era suffered through.

Truth Seeker

Since first ladies have an obvious interest in being remembered well, should we trust everything they say? We'll examine some controversial aspects of first lady history and get to the bottom of some mysteries.



Date(s): Tuesday, May 16 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$13 Non-Member Fee: \$21
Ranger Lisa Meade leads the Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Services Division at First Ladies National Historic Site. With a background in sociology, Lisa believes through learning the stories of First Ladies, we can not only better understand the history and culture of the United States, but also better understand ourselves.

Loony Tunes with Melonie Shipman, Traveling Naturalist

Meet one of Minnesota's best ambassadors, the Common Loon, in an uncommon presentation. Translate their beautiful calls, float through their unique lifestyle and be introduced to their equally beautiful and unique relations. Revered by Native cultures and now a symbol of vanishing wilderness the loons have much to teach us still. **In-Person at Heintz Center Rm. H1415.**

Date(s): Wednesday, May 17 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15



*Combine dressing up as a World War II soldier in the Aleutian Islands, working with Native culture-keepers at a seal harvest, leading nature hikes, sneaking up on shorebirds, presenting over 20 nature-related slide programs and you will have a small bit of Melonie's, the Traveling Naturalist's, professional background and experience. Add to this personal experiences with wild nature from the grey whales of Baja, Mexico to dog sledding vacations to sea kayaking expeditions in remote locations. **Melonie Shipman** has been a handler for the Iditarod, a wolf pup care assistant, and a polar bear study participant. She brings a diverse and personal variety of firsthand information and stories to her programs.*



Quill Work with Melonie Shipman, Traveling Naturalist

Look beyond their prickly reputation and you will find an engaging animal, unique to the forests in which it lives. Native cultures considered them a significant winter emergency food source. The shed quills are the basis of some of the best known native crafts. From working with a non-releasable porky to teaching birch bark and quill embroidery, Melonie has found many endearing traits of this little-known treetop dweller. You will too! **In-Person at Heintz Center Rm. H1415.**

Date(s): Wednesday, May 17 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

***Melonie Shipman** has been a handler for the Iditarod, a wolf pup care assistant, and a polar bear study participant. She brings a diverse and personal variety of firsthand information and stories to her programs.*

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023



Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Group Topic: Politics in Latin America with Steve Troutman, Facilitator

Electoral results in Latin America over the past four years have led many observers of the regional/political scene to discern a left-wing surge in the hemisphere, reminiscent of the so-called “Pink Tide” that swept the area some 20 years ago. But how much do these politicians actually have in common? What implication does their ascendancy

have for the region?

Date(s): Wednesday, May 17 Time(s): 3:30-5:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

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



Dog On It! with Melonie Shipman, Traveling Naturalist

From their wolf ancestors they carry their pack behaviors. From the breed groups they carry skills and personalities. They support, serve and play with us. We rescue, foster and rehome them. Explore the many sided relationship that pet dogs have with

humans and learn the steps that bring dogs from the streets of Turkey and puppy mills into their forever homes. **In-Person at Heintz Center Rm. H1415.**

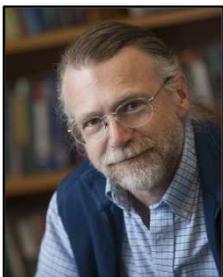
Date(s): Thursday, May 18 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

Melonie Shipman has been a handler for the Iditarod, a wolf pup care assistant, and a polar bear study participant. She brings a diverse and personal variety of firsthand information and stories to her programs.

Revisiting The Republic of Nature: An Environmental History of the United States with Mark Fiege PhD, Author, Professor of American West, Environment, United States, North America, Montana State University

Environmental historian Mark Fiege revisits the premise introduced in “The Republic of Nature” that nothing in the nation's past can be considered apart from the natural circumstances in which it occurred, reframing American history and presenting well-known historical events and themes in a dramatically new way.

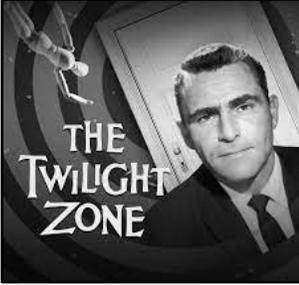
Date(s): Thursday, May 18 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



*Dr. Mark Fiege is the Wallace Stegner Chair in Western American Studies at Montana State University. Born and raised in western Washington, he was educated at Western Washington University, Washington State University and the University of Utah. For twenty-two years he served on the faculty of Colorado State University, Fort Collins, where he co-founded the Public Lands History Center. His published work includes *Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in the American West* (1999), *The Republic of Nature: An Environmental History of the United States* (2012) and *National Parks Beyond the**

Nation: Global Perspectives on “America’s Best Idea” (2016), co-edited with Adrian Howkins and Jared Orsi. He is now working on a history of the U.S. national parks and the National Park Service, with emphasis on the far West and the Pacific.

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023



Rod Serling and The Twilight Zone with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter

Jim will discuss "The Twilight Zone" and the amazing works and life of genius creator, Rod Serling. Gibbons will explain the many accomplishments and awards that Serling received over his lifetime for his screenwriting, television production, and narration, including being inducted into The Television Hall of Fame in 1985. He will discuss the movies, writings, and other works of Serling; his military background; and his fight for change in issues of television censorship, politics, racism and more.

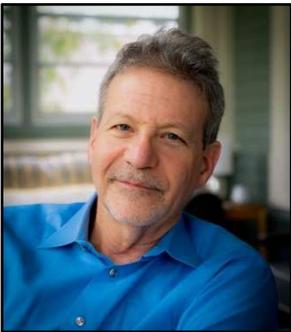
Date(s): Monday, May 22 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

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 120 riveting presentations topics Jim has been researching history and historical figures since he was in college. Using his slogan, "Life is no mystery when you know your history," he has a passion for retelling historical stories of presidential, world, and United States history, with a strong emphasis on how history continually repeats. Jim's goal is to not only teach the important parts of history, but to point out that if history's warnings are heeded, mankind stands to have a brighter future.

The Lost Brothers: The Backstory of a Minnesota true-crime book with Jack El-Hai, Author

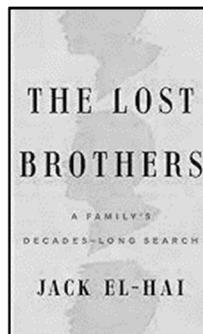
What goes into the writing of a true-crime book? Jack El-Hai, author of *The Lost Brothers: A Family's Decades-Long Search* (University of Minnesota Press), tells how he found, researched, and wrote this heartbreaking true tale of a Minnesota family has spent the last 72 years searching for three brothers who vanished on their way to their neighborhood park in Minneapolis. Jack explains the questions he sought to answer, the people he interviewed to find information, and the reasons why this story has lodged in his mind for decades. He will also offer tips on writing true-crime stories and discuss why the true-crime genre is so popular.

Date(s): Tuesday, May 23 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

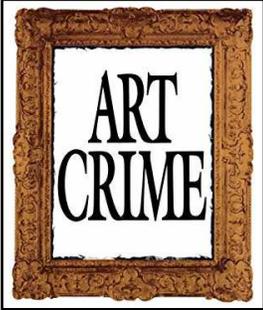


Jack El-Hai is a writer of nonfiction books, longform narratives, podcasts, and the free monthly Damn History newsletter for writers and readers of popular history. He covers history, medicine, science, crime, and anything else that hooks him – and that he hopes will hook you. In addition to his newest book "The Lost Brothers," he has written "The Nazi and the Psychiatrist," "Non-Stop: A Turbulent History of Northwest Airlines," and "The Lobotomist: A Maverick Medical Genius and His Tragic Quest to Rid the World of Mental Illness." His articles have appeared in Smithsonian, The Atlantic, GQ, Wired, Scientific American Mind, Topic, Longreads, The Washington Post

Magazine, and many other publications. Several of his nonfiction stories have been optioned for the screen and stage.



RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023



Art Crime: Looting and Destruction of the World's Ancient Treasures with Robert Wittman, Founder of the FBI's Art Crime Team

Join Robert Wittman on his journey around the world as the Senior Investigator and founder of the FBI National Art Crime Team – catching and convicting the tomb robbers, thieves, looters, and criminals who are the financial engine of the international illicit artifact industry. During this interactive talk, Mr. Wittman lifts the veil of government secrecy about tomb robbers in Peru smuggling through Miami, the recovery of stolen artifacts taken from the Baghdad Museum during the Iraq War, and the destruction of ancient artifacts by ISIS and the Taliban. This seminar is ripped from the front pages of today's newspapers. Led by an expert on art fraud, award-winning author, and former FBI agent, Robert K. Wittman, this interactive seminar will explore the multi-billion-dollar industry surrounding modern-day treasure hunting. Join us to hear about his illustrious career in the FBI National Art Crime Team and the many national treasures he has rescued from destruction and stealth.

Date(s): Tuesday, May 23 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$20 Non-Member Fee: \$30



Robert K. Wittman joined the FBI as a Special Agent in 1988. As a result of specialized training in art, antiques, jewelry and gem identification, he served as the FBI's investigative expert involving cultural property crime. During his 20 year FBI career he recovered more than \$300 million worth of stolen art and cultural property which resulted in numerous convictions. As a result of his unique experience he coauthored the FBI Cultural Property Investigative Manual in 2001. In 2005, he created the FBI's rapid deployment national Art Crime Team. Robert has represented the U.S. throughout the world conducting investigations and instructing international police and museums. In 2010, Mr. Wittman penned his New York Times bestselling memoir "PRICELESS: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures." His second book, "THE DEVIL'S DIARY: Alfred Rosenberg and the Stolen Secrets of the Third Reich" is a worldwide best seller published in 29 languages in 30 countries.

The Greatest Albums of the 1960s with Chad Israelson MA, RCTC History Professor

We all know that the 1960s contained some of the greatest music ever recorded. As the decade progressed, the LP became the dominant musical format and a means of artistic statement by those creating them. We will listen to tracks from these albums, assess their musical and social significance, discuss the stories behind their creation, and generally have a good time. **In-Person at Heintz Center Rm. H1100.**

Date(s): Wednesday, May 24 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



Chad Israelson received his BA from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and his MA from the University of Nebraska. Israelson has taught at RCTC since 1996. He has also taught at UW-La Crosse, Augsburg, and Winona State. Chad won "Teacher of the Year" in 2003, 2011, and 2012. Chad recently coauthored the book "The Political World of Bob Dylan: Freedom and Justice, Power and Sin." Chad is on the RCTC LIFE Board.



RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

“The Human Calling: Three Thousand Years Of Eastern And Western Philosophical History” with Daofeng He

“The Human Calling” is a vigorously researched and profoundly spiritual narrative history of the world’s religious movements as they relate to society’s collective understanding of the duties they have to fellow people and looks ahead to what lessons from history can be applied as people navigate a technological age. Focusing on the rise and fall of spiritual movements in both the East and West, “The Human Calling” examines what the world’s major religions have historically offered, asks what people are here for outside of pure survival, and makes the persuasive argument for Christianity as the best leader to guide individuals on the path toward better caring for one another—our human calling. “The Human Calling” takes readers through humanity’s three great thought movements: The first is the Axial Age, the source of the first great human reflection on public spirit and public “order.” The second is the 12th-17th centuries, wrestles with the question of whether people can attain individual rationality in God’s order. The third delves into the independent reasoning societies of the 20th and 21st centuries and looks forward to what people want their third great reflection on God’s plan to be during their own period of societal flux.



Date(s): Thu, May 25 Time(s): 10-11 am Member Fee: \$5 Non-Member Fee: \$7
Daofeng He is an entrepreneur, economist, philanthropist, and policy researcher. He was born in Yunnan, a rural province in southwest China, and currently resides in Bethesda, MD. In the U.S., Mr. He has appeared on CBS, and Fox News and the podcast “Veteran’s and Community Healthy” by Sunday Magazine to discuss his COVID-19 rescue efforts, which he described as asking God’s calling to help fellow Americans. Through his

Maryland-based family foundation, he launched the Life Preservation Initiative (LPI) in March 2020 to donate 1,000,000 sets of PPE to frontline healthcare workers and vulnerable communities in the fight against COVID-19. The LPI collaborated with Christian organizations such as the Salvation Army, Bowery Mission, and the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn. The LPI and Mr. He have been covered in 23 press outlets including NBC, ABC, and New Evangelization Television. In 2019, Mr. He received the President’s Volunteer Service Award from the White House for his outstanding service to fellow Americans and those most in need. Mr. He received three more awards, including the UN’s NGO/Department of Public Information’s Outstanding Achievement Award for International Alleviation, the Global Outstanding Social Entrepreneur Award at the Global Corporate Social Responsibility Summit in NY, and the International Leadership Foundation’s Leadership Award in Washington.



Ten Spices that Changed the World with Dr. Marguerite Ragnow, Curator, James Ford Bell Library, University of Minnesota

What would we do without spices? Pumpkin pie wouldn’t be the same. Did you know that all of the spices in this tasty treat were important trade commodities in the Age of Sail? Join us as Marguerite reveals the little-known history of cinnamon, nutmeg, pepper, and other spices that we find commonplace today.

Date(s): Thursday, May 25 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

Dr. Marguerite Ragnow is the curator of the James Ford Bell Library, which documents the history and impact of global trade and cultural exchange in the premodern era, before ca. 1800. She also is on the graduate faculties of History, Early Modern Studies, and Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota. Dr Ragnow is the co-author of “Tulips, Chocolate & Silk. Celebrating 65 Years of the James Ford Bell Library,” which was a finalist for the 2020 Minnesota Book Award in the Minnesota Non-Fiction category and also is a finalist for a Midwest Book Award.

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

Following the Yellow Brick Road: The Life of Judy Garland with Michelle Gibbons, Historical Presenter

For Judy Garland, her life consisted of many steps. Just as her character Dorothy did, in real life Garland followed the ups and downs of the yellow brick road in her rise to fame. Michelle will discuss the beautiful yet tragic life of Judy Garland. Gibbons will explain how Garland would receive worldwide fame for her role as Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz*. She will explain how she went on to star in other notable movies such as *Meet Me in St. Louis*; *The Harvey Girls*; *Easter Parade*; and *Summer Stock*. Gibbons will discuss how Garland was let go from MGM in 1950 for personal struggles, yet went on to star in the Emmy-nominated television show, *The Judy Garland Show* and was the first female to receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement. She was also awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award after her death, was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame and was placed on the Top 10 Greatest Female Stars of the American Cinemas list by the American Institute.

Date(s): Tuesday, May 30 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Sessions: 1 Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19



Michelle Gibbons, an Illinois resident and Historical Presenter, has made a name for herself teaching the importance of history. Through her passion for history and training from her father, Michelle debuted at several locations in 2019 with her popular program, "Following the Yellow Brick Road: The Life of Judy Garland." Michelle now offers a variety of programs both virtually and in-person nationwide, with some of her most popular programs offered on the lives of: Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Helen Keller; Eleanor Roosevelt; Johnny Cash; Robin

Williams; Edgar Allan Poe; Charles Dickens; and topics such as The 1990's Decade; The 2000's Decade; The 1969 Woodstock Music Festival; The Oklahoma City Bombing; and many more. Michelle received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Northern Illinois University in 2008 with double majors in Journalism and English and a minor in Political Science. Using her father's slogan, "Life is no mystery, when you know your history," her goal is to not only teach the important parts of history, but to help others learn its value in today's society.



New Orleans: The Big Easy with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University

This exotic city has lured some of the most colorful people in history. Learn about the great jazz musicians, the city's fencing history, its redlight district, and its great writers in this rollicking performance.

Date(s): Wednesday, May 31 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

Dr. Taylor Hagood teaches American literature, with specialization in the writing of William Faulkner, African American literature, and the literature and culture of the United States South. His scholarship examines literary and cultural production in an approach informed by postcolonial theory, theorizing of social interaction via secrecy as a cultural item, and disability studies. Hagood's books include "Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place, and the Materiality of Myth;" "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 Literary Studies. Along with these monographs, he edited "Critical Insights: The Sound and the Fury" and coedited "Undead Souths: The Gothic and Beyond in Southern Literature and Culture" with Eric Gary Anderson and Daniel Cross Turner. He has published articles and reviews in numerous journals, including African American Review, Anthurium, European Journal of American Culture, Faulkner Journal, Literature Compass, Mississippi Quarterly, Southern Literary Journal, Studies in Popular Culture, and Walt Whitman Quarterly Review. Hagood's most recent book is "Stringbean: The Life and Murder of a Country Music Legend."

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

City of the Sun: The Ancient City of Cahokia with Linda Sinco, Site Interpretive Coordinator, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Park

Join Linda as she discusses the ancient City of Cahokia, a site in present-day Illinois which was inhabited by Native Americans from about 700 to 1400. An ancient metropolis, it was an artistic, cultural, and power center during the Mississippian period, and its inhabitants created the largest earthworks in North America.

Date(s): Thursday, June 1 Time(s): 10-11 am Member Fee: \$5 Non-Member Fee: \$7



Linda Sinco earned an Associate Degree from Longview Community College and a Bachelor of Arts from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association of Interpreters and a member of the Cahokia Archaeological Society. Linda first came to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site as a visitor, then as a Seasonal Interpreter. She worked for the Glen Carbon Heritage Museum as Museum Coordinator and Cahokia Mounds Museum Society prior to her current position as Site Interpretive Coordinator. In the position of Site Interpretive Coordinator, Linda's duties include Educational Programming, Volunteer Coordinator, Event Planning, Tour Guide training, supervising Seasonal Interpreters, writing brochures, and cataloging artifacts. She strives to share her enthusiasm and knowledge of Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site.



Cranberries: New England's Bounty with Anthony M. Sammarco, Author

Native Americans introduced European settlers to cranberries near what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. They used the versatile fruit for food, dye, and medicine. The settlers learned to harvest wild cranberries and came to rely on them for nutrients and for bartering with their Native American neighbors. By the late 18th century they were used to cure scurvy and by the 20th century cranberries were big business from juice as well as sauce and would become inseparable from turkey at Thanksgiving.

Date(s): Monday, June 5 Time(s): 10-11:15 am Member Fee: \$9 Non-Member Fee: \$12

*Referred to as the "Balzac of Boston History" by the Boston Globe, Anthony Mitchell Sammarco is a noted historian and author of over seventy books on the history and development of Boston, and he lectures widely on the history and development of his native city. He commenced writing in 1995, and his books *Lost Boston*, *The History of Howard Johnson's: How A Massachusetts Soda Fountain Became a Roadside Icon*, *Jordan Marsh: New England's Largest Store* and *The Baker Chocolate Company: A Sweet History* have made the bestsellers list. Mr. Sammarco teaches the popular course *Boston History* at the Boston University Metropolitan College. He has also taught at The Urban College of Boston since 1997, where his courses led to him being named *Educator of the Year*. He wrote the book *Boston's Immigrants* for the widely diverse ethnic base of students to use in his course on Boston immigration; he serves on the Leadership Council. He has received the Bulfinch Award from the Doric Dames of the Massachusetts State House, the Washington Medal from Freedom Foundation, a lifetime achievement from both the Victorian Society and the Gibson House Museum and was named Dorchester town historian by Raymond L. Flynn, mayor of Boston, for his work in local history. He was elected a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is a member of the Boston Author's Club, a proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum and the St. Botolph Club in Boston.*

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023



Queen Victoria and Albert-The People behind the Public Legacy with Andrew O'Brien MS

Theirs was the love affair of the century. First cousins who married in their prime and had nine children. However, jealous of her role of monarch, is Albert attempting to make himself co-ruler of Britain? The love story came to an end with Prince Albert's unexpected death, and Victoria will spend the remainder of her life mourning for her German prince.

But, her later years include a long term relationship of 19 years with her Scottish servant and 14 years with her Indian servant.

Date(s): Monday, June 5 Time(s): 2-4 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

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 UK, he taught middle school for 21 years in Maryland. Recently retired, Andrew and his wife live in North Carolina and St. Petersburg, FL.



A Powerful Presentation: The Sporting Events that Changed America with Martin Gitlin, Author

This enlightening and enjoyable program will entertain and illuminate sports fans or anyone interested in American or world history. It is hosted by Martin Gitlin and is based on his highly acclaimed book titled "Powerful Moments in Sports: The Most Significant Sporting Events in American History." The program features exciting

videos of sporting events through more than 100 years that greatly impacted society and/or the sports themselves. Included are the sale of Babe Ruth to the Yankees that kicked off the greatest dynasty in American sports history, Jesse Owens at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, the 1958 NFL Championship Game that launched pro football into prominence, the famed Battle of the Sexes between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs, the Magic Johnson-Larry Bird rivalry that brought the NBA back to life and much more, This presentation features a lot of fun trivia questions for patrons to ponder as well. A Q&A session follows. This will be fun and thought-provoking so join in!

Date(s): Tuesday, June 6 Time(s): 1-2:15 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

Marty Gitlin is a freelance writer and the author of more than 40 books. He has won many awards for his writing, including first place for General Excellence in Journalism from the Associated Press. Gitlin lives with his wife and three children in Cleveland, Ohio.

Washington, DC : An Architectural History with Ken Allsen

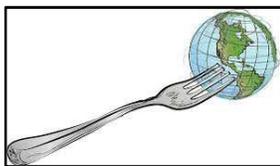
The District of Columbia was established in 1793 to serve as the site of a permanent capital for a new republic. A city plan was established and new buildings began to rise. Two of these were the US Capitol and the White House, but there were others as well. For early architects in America, it was an opportunity to create legacies that would long survive them. This class will trace the design, construction and reconstruction of key buildings in the early years of the city's history.

Date(s): Wed, June 7 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

Ken Allsen is a freelance architectural historian, author and artist. He has taught LIFE classes for a number of years covering topics in architectural and local history. He also volunteers at the History Center of Olmsted County, Mayo Clinic Archives and Assisi Heights.



RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/Jun 2023



Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Group Topic: Global Famine with Steve Troutman, Facilitator

Fears of global food shortages have followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted grain shipments from the major grain producer. But what about countries and regions that were suffering before this impending shortage? How is famine defined, and how is it different from simple food shortages? What if any remedies are there?

Date(s): Wednesday, June 7 Time(s): 3:30-5:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

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



A Royal LEGACY: Queen Victoria's DAUGHTERS with Andrew O'Brien MS

Learn the surprising stories about Victoria's daughters. Vicky was the mother of the Kaiser who had to smuggle her letters back to England because of her son. Alice would lose her dowry during the war of German Unification. Louise was an accomplished sculptor and her royal archive is mysteriously sealed to outsiders. Beatrice was the executor of Queen Victoria's diaries, who would erase the evidence of a relationship between her mother and John Brown. Helena would live a quiet life with a Danish prince who was mistaken for her father.

Date(s): Monday, June 12 Time(s): 2-4 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

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 UK, he taught middle school for 21 years in Maryland. Recently retired, Andrew and his wife live in North Carolina and St. Petersburg, FL.



The History of Modern Weddings with Katherine Jellison PhD, College of Arts and Sciences, Ohio University

For years, white-gowned bride, multi-tiered white cake, and shiny gold rings have been the central icons for a grand American tradition that remains vibrant despite changing times. Based on her 2008 book "It's Our Day: America's Love Affair with the White Wedding, 1945-2005," Katherine will provide a comprehensive cultural history of American weddings since World War II, examining the development of our precise and expensive standards for celebrating weddings and the staying power of this phenomenon in the face of enormous social, political, and economic upheaval.

Date(s): Tuesday, June 13 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

Katherine Jellison PhD is Professor of History at Ohio University, where she teaches courses on U.S. women's and gender history. Her publications include "Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913-1963" and "It's Our Day: America's Love Affair with the White Wedding, 1945-2005," both of which include "guest appearances" by a few first ladies. She also wrote the biography of Jacqueline Kennedy in Katherine A.S. Sibley, ed., *Blackwell Companion to First Ladies*. She frequently appears in print and on television and radio as a commentator on first ladies and their role in U.S. politics and history.

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

The Languages We Speak and How We Look at Them with Ari Hoptman PhD, Professor of Germanic Philology, University of Minnesota

Why are languages different from each other? And why are some languages more similar? How do we know what we know about them and when did we start knowing it? Is linguistics a science, like chemistry? In this talk, we will touch on some of these topics and see where they lead us.



Date(s): Wed, June 14 Time(s): 1-2 pm Member Fee: \$7 Non-Member Fee: \$10

Ari Hoptman is a senior lecturer at the University of Minnesota, and has been since his hair was black. His main area of interest is the teaching of German, especially with regard to understanding its grammar. He also worked for years as an assistant on an etymological dictionary of English. His graduate work was in historical Germanic linguistics, and his doctoral thesis topic is a little too obscure and dull for words, but he made a go of it. In his spare time, Ari is a playwright and an occasional actor.



Juneteenth: The Destruction of Slavery in the Civil War with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland

Over the course of four years, enslaved people worked to turn the Civil War into a freedom war. Slowly but surely, they pushed President Abraham Lincoln and his commanders in the field toward embracing emancipation as a war aim and to compel them to take the giant steps forward needed to abolish slavery once and for all. On June 19, 1865, the federal government finally met that objective, declaring slavery dead across the country. This momentous event marked a new birth of freedom—an occasion we now commemorate as Juneteenth.

Date(s): Thursday, June 15 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29

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

**Spring 2023 LIFE Membership is \$10!
Expires 6/30/23**

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023



Schindler's List Revisited: Unknown Facts with Howard Kerner MA

For almost 30 years, Stephen Spielberg's masterpiece film Schindler's List has been the public's main source of information about this mysterious man who rescued some 1200 Jewish people from the Holocaust. But, there is so much more to know about Schindler and the novel on which the film was based. In this program we will learn lots of fascinating, unknown facts about Oskar Schindler's childhood, adulthood, marriage and older years, truths that are not included in the movie. To fully appreciate the class, we recommend that you watch/rewatch the film Schindler's List before this presentation.

Date(s): Tuesday, June 20 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

Howard Kerner received his BA and MA in English from the State University of NY at Albany and did additional graduate work towards his PhD 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.

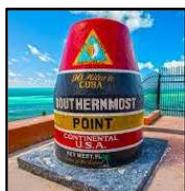
Minnesota Aviator, Author, and Political Activist Charles Lindbergh vs FDR with Tom Ostrom, Professor Emeritus, RCTC

The life and times of Charles A. Lindbergh. His careers as an aviator, scientist, author, political activist, and clash with President Franklin Roosevelt. **In-Person at Heintz Center Rm H1415.**



Date(s): Tue, June 20 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

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.



Key West: the Conch Republic with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University

Hear about the obscure as well known history --from Ernest Hemingway to Tennessee Williams, from Vicente Ybor to Henry Flagler, along with the zany, beautiful, and haunted happenings of this island city.

Date(s): Wednesday, June 21 Time(s): 10 am-Noon Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

Dr. Taylor Hagood teaches American literature, with specialization in the writing of William Faulkner, African American literature, and the literature and culture of the United States South. His scholarship examines literary and cultural production in an approach informed by postcolonial theory, theorizing of social interaction via secrecy as a cultural item, and disability studies. Hagood's books include "Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place, and the Materiality of Myth;" "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 Literary Studies. He has published articles and reviews in numerous journals, including African American Review, Anthurium, European Journal of American Culture, Faulkner Journal, Literature Compass, Mississippi Quarterly, Southern Literary Journal, Studies in Popular Culture, and Walt Whitman Quarterly Review. Hagood's most recent book is "Stringbean: The Life and Murder of a Country Music Legend."

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023

John F. Kennedy in Berlin: Revisiting a Momentous Trip! (60th anniversary) with Anette Isaacs, MAs



2023 marks the 60th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's epoch-making visit to Berlin. For almost 45 years the German Metropolis, divided by a 98-mile-long concrete wall, was synonymous with the Cold War in Europe. Join German historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating look back at this special Wednesday in June of 1963 that was so tremendous that it inspired the President to turn to his aide Ted Sorensen and say: "We'll never have another day like this one, as long as we live."

Date(s): Wednesday, June 21 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19

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



Cowboy and Hero: The Life of John Wayne with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter

Born as Marion Mitchell Morrison in May 1907, he became an actor and filmmaker, under the stage name, John Wayne and nicknamed Duke. After losing his football scholarship to the University of Southern California in a

bodysurfing accident, Wayne appeared in small acting gigs and several B rate movies that were mostly Westerns. When Wayne appeared in the movie Stagecoach in 1939, his fame skyrocketed into stardom. From there, Wayne went on to star in over 140 movies and took on a powerful screen presence. Historian Jim Gibbons will discuss Wayne's life, rise to fame, Western roles and devastating death. Gibbons will discuss how The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence and fought for a woman's hand in marriage also became a one-eyed marshal in True Grit. He will discuss how Wayne acted alongside many other famous stars of the era, such as James Stewart, Dean Martin, Kirk Douglas, Lee Marvin, and many more.

Date(s): Thursday, June 22 Time(s): 10-11:30 am Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19

***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 120 riveting presentations topics Jim has been researching history and historical figures since he was in college. Using his slogan, "Life is no mystery when you know your history," he has a passion for retelling historical stories of presidential, world, and United States history, with a strong emphasis on how history continually repeats. Jim's goal is to not only teach the important parts of history, but to point out that if history's warnings are heeded, mankind stands to have a brighter future.*

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023



A Royal SCANDAL: Queen Victoria's SONS with Andrew O'Brien MS

Learn about Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's sons from the scandalous affairs of the Prince of Wales to the alcoholism of Prince Albert's favorite son. Which of her sons was Victoria's favorite child and why? How did the royal family cover up the hemophilia of another son and his involvement in the scandal surrounding the illegitimate pregnancy of his favorite sister?

Date(s): Monday, June 26 Time(s): 2-4 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25

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 UK, he taught middle school for 21 years in Maryland. Recently retired, Andrew and his wife live in North Carolina and St. Petersburg, FL.

Stonehenge: An Epic Enigma with J. Kelly Beatty, Senior Editor, SKY & TELESCOPE

Some 5,000 years ago, a Neolithic civilization erected the world's most famous standing-stone monument in southern England — yet why and how they built it remains a mystery.

Date(s): Tuesday, June 27 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25



J. Kelly Beatty is an award-winning science journalist and astronomer. During the 1980s he was among the first Western journalists to gain direct access to the Soviet space program. Kelly is a former Senior Editor of Sky & Telescope magazine (serving over 40 years), and former editor of Night Sky magazine. Now retired from the magazine, he remains actively involved in many Sky & Telescope articles, tours, and other projects. Kelly is also involved in his personal pursuit of protecting night skies and his projects to inform the public about

astronomy. He holds a Bachelors degree in geology from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism from Boston University. He also taught astronomy for six years at the Dexter Southfield School in Brookline, Massachusetts. Specializing in planetary science and space exploration, Kelly conceived and edited The New Solar System, considered a standard reference among planetary scientists.



Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Group Topic: Iran at Crossroads with Steve Troutman, Facilitator

By the fall of 2022, Iran was in a state of turmoil due to widespread protests against government-enforced wearing of the hijab, a failing economy, an ineffective new president, and the looming succession of the country's leader, Ayatollah Khamenei.

Abroad, renewal of the Iran nuclear deal seemed doubtful and tensions remain high between Iran, Israel, and Arab states. Many Iranians have lost hope of a better future, and the country seems at a crossroads. How should the United States deal with it?

Date(s): Wednesday, June 28 Time(s): 3:30-5:30 pm Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15

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

RCTC LIFE Program – Apr/May/June 2023



America's Birth Certificate: The Declaration of Independence with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland

The Declaration of Independence is a peculiar thing. It's a literary masterpiece that was written jointly by a committee of fifty people. And what is it exactly and who is it aimed at: the American people, or King George, or someone else? What did people at the time make of it? What did it change? Why does it matter? In this talk, we will tackle the fascinating origins, misunderstood purpose, and extraordinary global legacy of the Declaration of Independence.

Date(s): Thursday, June 29 Time(s): 1-3 pm Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29

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

Registration Information



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

requirements, no term papers, no tests—everyone succeeds!

All ages are welcome! You can attend from any location! Gift Certificates are available!

Location: LIFE will offer classes online via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Some classes will be in-person at the Heintz Center which is located at 1926 Collegeview Road SE.

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

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

* **Online registration is available for LIFE members only with credit card payment!!**

www.learningisforever.net. Please contact Jamie at jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu.

Tuition Assistance: Scholarships are available. Please contact Chrisanne at chrisanne.pieper@rctc.edu

Cancellation and Refund Policy: **Class refunds if you cancel:** will only be given **5 business days prior** to the class start—a \$5 processing fee will be charged. **If the LIFE Program cancels a class, NO processing fee will be charged. If RCTC is closed due to weather, the LIFE classes will be canceled and rescheduled, if possible. If Rochester Public Schools are closed and RCTC is open, we will hold our LIFE class.**



RCTC LIFE Program – Spring Trips



Saint Paul's Gangster Tour

The famous crook's tour! Explore with us the sites of nightclubs, kidnappings, and gun battles associated with the 1930's gangsters like John Dillinger, Ma Barker and Babyface Nelson. See the sights where the gangsters lived it up as they planned and executed some of the most notorious crimes ever perpetrated in the upper Midwest.

Your guide takes you past the most infamous gangster hideouts and the famous nightclubs where many gangsters spent time socializing with the public. DeGideo's on West 7th Street will be our lunch stop - another notorious mobster hangout at the time! Fee includes coach transportation, buffet lunch at DeGidio's, and tour guide. **No refunds after March 20.**

Date(s): Fri, April 14 Time(s): 9 am-4 pm Member Fee: \$96 Depart RCTC Sports Center Parking Lot

Twin Cities Literary History Tour with Augsburg College's Kristin Anderson (LIFE PROGRAM ONLY TRIP)



Join LIFE Program presenter Taylor Hagood as LIFE introduces him to Minnesota! We will visit sites related to Twin Cities' literary history on this bus tour of historical and cultural locations in St. Paul and Minneapolis. We will see places associated with important writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sinclair Lewis, August Wilson, Bob Dylan, and even Henry Wadsworth Longfellow as we travel to areas around Rice Park, Summit Avenue, downtown Minneapolis, and Minnehaha Regional Park. Lunch at the historic

Waldmann Brewery and Wurstery, a restored 1857 lager saloon in St. Paul. Fee includes coach transportation, lunch, and tour guide Kristin Anderson PhD. **No refunds after March 20.**

Date(s): Wed, Apr 26 Time(s): 9 am-6 pm Member Fee: \$99 Depart RCTC Sports Center Parking Lot



"Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help" at The Ives Auditorium in Bloomington

Take a trip back to 1973 with the Irish Catholic O'Shea family in the uproarious INCIDENT AT OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP. This boisterous and moving new memory play introduces us to young Linda, as she recalls a week she'll never forget. When Linda's mother instructs her to tell her sister about the birds and the bees, things quickly snowball into a potential crisis after the conversation is overheard by the parish priest. Secrets are unintentionally revealed, and a quick-witted group of women realize what really matters as they work to

protect their family reputation and each other. This wild and tender comedy explores the foolishness of first love and ultimately, the power of family. "A family comedy that will keep audiences laughing from start to finish, whether they grew up Catholic or not." - Broadway World Fee includes coach transportation, theatre ticket, and lunch at the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center (Creamy Chicken Breast, served with Roasted Red Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Coleslaw, Dinner Rolls, Assorted Dessert - Chef's Choice, Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Hot Tea). **No refunds after April 15.**

Date(s): Wed, May 3 Time(s): 10 am-5 pm Member Fee: \$96 Depart RCTC Sports Center Parking Lot



RCTC LIFE Program – Spring Trips



"The PROM" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

Throw on a corsage, grab your dance partner, and throw up those jazz hands because...you belong at the Prom! Chanhassen Dinner Theatres is thrilled to bring audiences a brand-new Broadway musical that Variety calls, "so full of happiness that you think your heart is about to burst!" Four fabulous fading Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage. When they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town Indiana prom – and the press is involved – they know that it's time to put a spotlight on the issue...and themselves. The town's parents want to keep the dance on the straight and narrow, but when one student just wants to bring her girlfriend to the prom, the entire town has a date with destiny. Now, Broadway's brassiest are coming to join the fight and they're ready to kick-ball-change the world! Tony nominated for Best Musical and winner of Best Original Score, The Prom has winning comedy and song, and a playful book (loosely based on a true story) that will remind you of what Broadway heart and fierceness are all about. Fee includes coach bus transportation, theatre ticket and lunch (choice of seven entrees). **No refunds after March 20.**

Date(s): Wed, May 10 Time(s): 9:30 am-5:30 pm Member Fee: \$106 Depart RCTC Sports Center Lot



"The Defeat of Jesse James" at the St. Paul History Theatre

Every year, the town of Northfield reenacts the events that took place on September 7, 1876, when The James Gang attempted to rob the First National Bank. The townspeople said NO! It's a story of heroic sacrifice and small-town grit, performed by volunteers on horseback firing blanks. But this year, volunteer Finn Dahlberg finds himself in a reenactment with a twist: It is September 7, 1876! The robbers are real and so are the bullets, as Finn is transformed into Joseph Heywood, the bank cashier who gave up his life rather than open the safe! With only 90 minutes to go before the James Gang rides into town, the heat is on! From the team behind the hit musical, GLENSHEEN, THE DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES is "Back to the Future" meets "High Noon," a time-warping, nail-biting, sidesplitting ride. Lunch choices: 8 oz. sirloin, broiled walleye, or Tuscan medley all served with relish tray, dinner salad, baked potato, garlic toast, celebration cake, and coffee. Fee includes coach transportation, theatre ticket, and lunch at Mancini's Char House (choice of 8 oz. sirloin, broiled walleye, or Tuscan medley all served with relish tray, dinner salad, baked potato, garlic toast, celebration cake, and coffee). **No refunds after April 1.**

Date(s): Thu, May 11 Time(s): 8 am-4 pm Member Fee: \$106 Depart RCTC Sports Center Parking Lot



"Million Dollar Quartet" at the Old Log Theatre

Based on actual events, Million Dollar Quartet tells the story of the fateful December night when four legends of rock and roll found themselves in a Memphis recording studio...together. Along with well-worn favorites like Blue Suede Shoes, Great Balls of Fire, and Walk the Line, this Tony-Award® winning musical highlights the secrets, broken promises, trials, and triumphs behind the scenes of the recording industry in the 50s. Fee includes coach transportation, lunch (choice of: bone-out short rib with mashed potatoes, green beans and au jus; chicken breast with roasted red potatoes, green beans and a sherry cream sauce; or vegetarian pasta made with house marinara and fresh vegetables; all served with potatoes, seasoned vegetables, dinner rolls, coffee/tea, and dessert), and theatre ticket. **No refunds after May 1.**

Date(s): Thu, June 8 Time(s): 9:30 am-5:30 pm Member Fee: \$96 Depart RCTC Sports Center Parking Lot