



# LIFE PROGRAM

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JUL/AUG/SEP/OCT 2023

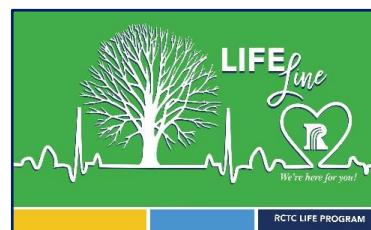


*Providing adult education, insight, and engagement*

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FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION, PLEASE PHONE 507-280-3157

*Supported by Rochester Community and Technical College*



## GREETINGS LIFE PARTICIPANTS!

*LIFE Board Member and incoming Chair Jane Callahan is pictured on this catalog cover. Since Chrisanne is retiring, this catalog includes July thru October classes. Instructor biographies start on page 5 rather than being listed with each class. We have indicated which page the instructor's class(es) can be found after their bio.*

***LIFE memberships need to be renewed for classes after July 1.*** There are nine in-person classes this fall. Trips will only be offered at Community Education – call 507-328-4000 to register.

*As I, Chrisanne, reflect on my years with the LIFE Program I want you to know what an honor it has been to be your Director. We both appreciate your ongoing support and hope to see you at class soon.*

*Chrisanne & Jamie*

Heintz Center

1926 Collegeview Road SE-Box 50



## LIFE PROGRAM TUITION ASSISTANCE

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

## *LIFE Program Gift Certificates Available!*

Please contact Jamie at  
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# LETTER FROM THE LIFE BOARD CHAIR

I hope you are enjoying the lazy, hazy days of summer and looking forward to a gorgeous Minnesota fall. Even though the weather will be terrific (mostly), don't miss the opportunity to enroll in many of the superb classes you'll find listed in this catalog. What a challenge to pick just a few to highlight. In this catalog you'll find both zoom classes as well as varied offerings of in-person classes at the Heintz Center. You can come to the Heintz Center to view the Zoom classes if that works best for you. Just email or call Jamie at [Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu](mailto:Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu) 507-280-3157 to let us know you are coming.

In July, won't you consider enrolling in: *The Restless Genius of Benjamin Franklin* with Richard Bell, PhD from the University of Maryland? In this offering Bell will examine many of Franklin's ideas to make life simpler, cheaper, and easier for himself and everyone else. It turns out that those ideas encompassed not only natural science and engineering, but also all sorts of public works, civic improvements, political trail-blazing, and fresh, new business ideas. This looks like a winner and is offered via Zoom. Also in July, we will hear from Sarah Holger, Lead Interpretive Naturalist at Whitewater State Park. She'll present *The Healing Forest: An Introduction to Nature and Forest Therapy*.

The lineup for August looks equally interesting. One example is Elisabeth Griffith, activist, author, and expert on Women's and Civil Rights who will offer a lecture and conversation about diverse women change agents who fought to advance women's and civil rights. Her presentation is entitled: *Formidable Women and the Fight for Equality, 1920-2020*.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, please consider the class from environmental historian Bart Elmore PhD, History Department, Ohio University as he offers a deep dive into the history of one of the most controversial companies in American history: Monsanto. September also brings two in-person classes at the Heintz Center. On the September 14<sup>th</sup>, Paul Koeller will present *The Women of Rock and Roll – 1960s/1970s*, and on September 26<sup>th</sup> Don Borcharding will present the *History of Oakwood Cemetery*.

Allen Dart, Professional Archeologist, returns to LIFE on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, with his Zoom presentation entitled: *Ancient Southwestern Native American Pottery*. Dr. Marguerite Ragnow, James Bell Library, University of Minnesota Curator will be with us via Zoom to present *Columbus' Big Idea: Sailing West to Reach Asia*, on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Her presentations are always excellent.

Be sure to mark your calendar now for the evening of October 28<sup>th</sup> when we'll gather for the 2023 Harvest Dinner at the Rochester International Event Center. The evening's feature will be Adam Lindquist, National Champion, Living History Presenter. Lindquist will present Mark Twain and Colonel Theodore Roosevelt to tell the story of America between 1890 and 1910. The Colonel will share his insights into shaping America and the famous humorist's take on his actions. The date's already on my calendar. There's lots more to consider. It's great to be a life-long learner so please take some time now to decide which ones will make your day better. I am looking forward to seeing you on Zoom and in-person.



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

*Brenda Dicken  
Peg Farrell  
Tom Gaffey  
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Jane Hallman  
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Chad Israelson  
Debby Jacobsen  
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## **Instructor Biographies**

**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. **Page 30.**

**Kristin Anderson PhD** is a Professor of Art at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Her courses include art history and architectural history surveys as well as more specialized offerings such as American Art, Scandinavian Art, and Women and Art. A graduate of Oberlin College, Kristin has master's degrees in art history (University of Minnesota) and church history (Luther Seminary) as well as a PhD in American Art, Architecture, and Popular Culture from the University of Minnesota. **Page 25.**

**Dr. John O. Anfinson** has been researching, writing and speaking about the upper Mississippi River for over 30 years. He spent the first half of his federal career with the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as a historian and cultural resources program manager. He joined the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service, in 2000, where he served as Superintendent from 2014-2020. John is the author of "The River We Have Wrought: A History of the Upper Mississippi" (2003) and "River of History" (2003). John holds a Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of Minnesota. **Pages 20, 28, & 29.**

**J. Kelly Beatty** is an award-winning science journalist and astronomer. During the 1980s he was among the first Western journalists to gain direct access to the Soviet space program. Kelly is a former Senior Editor of Sky & Telescope magazine (serving over 40 years), and former editor of Night Sky magazine. Now retired from the magazine, he remains actively involved in many Sky & Telescope articles, tours, and other projects. He holds a Bachelors degree in geology from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism. Specializing in planetary science and space exploration, Kelly conceived and edited The New Solar System, considered a standard reference among planetary scientists. **Pages 19 & 22.**

Drawn to music at a young age, **Travis Beck** started piano lessons at age five and began playing for his church's worship services at age 13. A native of Nashua, IA, he once filled in for his childhood piano teacher at the historic Little Brown Church and played for seven weddings over New Years' Eve and New Years' Day. His education includes degrees in music from Wartburg College and Luther Seminary. He currently serves full-time as Director of Worship, Music, & Arts at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN. When he's not busy with his day job, Travis reads non-fiction, drinks coffee, and makes soap. He lives in Rochester with his wife, Samantha, and their daughter, Nora. **Pages 32 & 35.**

**Dr. Richard Bell** received a BA from the University of Cambridge and a PhD from Harvard University. He joined the Department of History and the University of Maryland in 2006, earned tenure in 2012 and promotion to the rank of full professor in 2020. He has published more than a dozen articles and chapters as well as three books. He is presently an Andrew Carnegie Fellow (2021-2023) and has held research fellowships at more than two dozen libraries and institutes including residencies at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Abolition, and Resistance at Yale University and the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. His work has also been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is proud to serve as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, an elected member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and as a board member of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System Foundation. **Pages 14, 19, 21, 26, & 30.**

**John Bieter PhD** is a professor in the History Department and co-founder of the Basque Studies Program at Boise State University. He received a B.A. in Economics/Social Science from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, his M.A. in History from Boise State University and earned his doctoral degree in History from Boston College. He is the co-author of "An Enduring Legacy: A History of the Basques in Idaho" and published "Showdown in the Big Quiet: Land, Myth and Government in the American West" in 2015. John teaches courses on immigration, Basque Studies, and methods of History instruction. **Page 33.**

**Don Borcharding**, current President of the Oakwood Cemetery Board, will present as George Healy. He is a graduate of Iowa State University, with a similar background as George Healy being an Engineer and Surveyor. He retired as president of the Consulting firm of Yaggy Colby, Associates, was previously president of the Minnesota Land Surveyors Association and has awards as Engineer and Surveyor of the Year. He was also an adjunct professor in Surveying at St. Cloud State, and past member of the Minnesota State Licensing Board. He gives frequent presentations on Surveying History as Captain Andrew Talcott and has published two books on Talcott's 1820 Expedition and 1852 Survey of the Iowa Minnesota Border. **Page 28.**

**Jeremy Darst** is a southeastern Minnesota native. He grew up in the area around Rochester. He enjoys exploring and recreating in nature. For the last 15 years he has worked as a Naturalist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He loves learning about the natural world and local history. The favorite part of his job is sharing these things with others. **Page 16.**

Registered Professional Archaeologist **Allen Dart** has worked in New Mexico and Arizona since 1975 for federal and state governments, private companies, and nonprofit organizations. After graduating from UNM in 1973 he worked for the Laboratory of Anthropology at the Museum of New Mexico (now the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture) and the Albuquerque office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs before moving to Arizona to pursue his Master's degree. 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 other organizations for his efforts to bring archaeology and history to the public. **Page 30.**

**Christine DeLucia PhD** is Associate Professor of History at Williams College, and previously was Associate Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College. She received her undergraduate degree in History and Literature at Harvard College in 2006, an M.Litt. in Environmental History at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in 2007, and her Ph.D. in American Studies at Yale University in 2012. She is the author of "Memory Lands: King Philip's War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast," published in 2018 by Yale University Press in the Henry Roe Cloud Series on American Indians and Modernity. In 2019 the book received the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians book award and the Honorable Mention from the National Council on Public History. She has also written for *The Journal of American History*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Early American Studies*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and other publications. She recently held a fellowship at the Newberry Library in Chicago to work on her second book, a study of Native American, African American, and colonial relationships in the Northeast in the era before, during, and after the American Revolution. **Page 23.**

**Bart Elmore PhD** earned his 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 then 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. In addition to serving in the history department, 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. It won the 2020 J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Award. 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, and Salon. **Page 23.**

**Jim Gibbons** has made a name for himself teaching the importance of history. Using his passion for and strong knowledge of history, Jim offers over 120 riveting presentations topics Jim has been researching history and historical figures since he was in college. Using his slogan, "Life is no mystery when you know your history," he has a passion for retelling historical stories of presidential, world, and United States history, with a strong emphasis on how history continually repeats. Jim's goal is to not only teach the important parts of history, but to point out that if history's warnings are heeded, mankind stands to have a brighter future. **Pages 27 & 35.**

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

**Pages 15 & 19.**

**Elisabeth Griffith PhD** earned her PhD from The American University and an undergraduate degree from Wellesley College. She has been a Kennedy Fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics and a Klingenstein Fellow at Columbia Teachers College. Dr. Griffith has spent her career working for women's rights as an activist and an academic, teaching women's history at the secondary and college level and has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, and professional journals. She is currently teaching courses in women's history at the Smithsonian Associates and Politics & Prose. She is the author of "In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton," which was the inspiration for Ken Burns' PBS documentary, Not For Ourselves Alone. **Page 21.**

**Dr. Taylor Hagood** teaches American literature, with specialization in the writing of William Faulkner, African American literature, and the literature and culture of the United States South. His scholarship examines literary and cultural production in an approach informed by postcolonial theory, theorizing of social interaction via secrecy as a cultural item, and disability studies. Hagood's books include Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place, and the Materiality of Myth (2008); Secrecy, Magic, and the One-Act Plays of Harlem Renaissance Women Writers (2010); and Faulkner: Writer of Disability (2014), winner of the C. Hugh Holman Award for Best Book in Southern Literary Studies. Along with these monographs, he edited Critical Insights: The Sound and the Fury (2014) and coedited Undead Souths: The Gothic and Beyond in Southern Literature and Culture (2015) with Eric Gary Anderson and Daniel Cross Turner. Additionally, he has published articles and reviews in numerous journals, including African American Review, Anthurium, College Literature, European Journal of American Culture, Faulkner Journal, Literature Compass, Mississippi Quarterly, Southern Literary Journal, Studies in Popular Culture, and Walt Whitman Quarterly Review. In the way of current work, Hagood is pursuing a number of projects including his latest book "Stringbean: The Life and Murder of a Country Legend." **Pages 16, 17, 25, & 31.**

**Marita Heller MA** is retired from careers in education and Human Resources. She has an MA in history from the University of Iowa and in Business Administration from Stanford University. **Page 22.**



**Scott Hill** was born in Beeville, Texas but moved to Colorado at a very young age. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado and a Master's Degree in American History from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Scott has worked for the Federal Government for over 27 years; 24 of those years with the National Park Service as an Interpretive and Supervisory Park Ranger at eight different NPS units (Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania NMP, Richmond NBP, Petersburg NB, C&O Canal NHP, Ford's Theatre NHS, Appomattox Court House NHP, George Washington Birthplace NM and Thomas Stone NHS.) He also spent two and a half years as a Museum Technician at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. For the last ten years, he has served as the Chief of Interpretation at George Washington Birthplace NM and Thomas Stone NHS. During his NPS experience, Scott has been filmed for C-Span and Fox News about the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre NHS; written an article published in the book, "Oh, Ranger" about Thomas Stone NHS; read the Declaration of Independence (in colonial costume, no less) in front of a large crowd at the Washington Monument on the 4th of July and participated in Civil War Sesquicentennial events at Manassas NB, Antietam NB, Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania NMP and Appomattox Court House NHP as well as a War of 1812 Bicentennial event at Fort McHenry NM and Historic Shrine. For the past eight years, he has also taught U.S. History and American Military History as an adjunct professor at the College of Southern Maryland in LaPlata, Maryland and for four years at Rappahannock Community College in King George, Virginia. **Page 20.**

**Sara Holger** has been an environmental educator since 1994 and has worked as an Interpretive Naturalist for Minnesota State Parks since 1999. She is currently the Lead Interpretive Naturalist at Whitewater. Since 2016 she has been involved in the Park RX effort to promote outdoor activity for health and well-being. She is a founding member of the SE MN Park RX initiative, empowering health care providers to prescribe time outdoors in nature. In 2021, she completed her Nature and Forest Guide Therapy Guide Certification. She has been guiding forest therapy walks throughout the region in an effort to share information about the transforming power of nature. **Page 14.**

German born and raised **Anette Isaacs, MA**, is a Historian and Public Educator who has been presenting hundreds of programs on more than 40 different topics (all pertaining to her native country's history, politics, and culture) all over the United States. Ms. Isaacs studied at Emory University, the University of Vienna and the Freie Universitaet in Berlin and holds Master's Degrees in American Studies, Political Science, and History. **Pages 14, 19, 24, & 31.**

**Loraine Jensen** is the founder of the American Association for Runic Studies, and currently serves as its president. **Page 28.**

**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. **Pages 14, 18 & 29.**

**Paul Koeller** is a retired IBMer and active Mayo Volunteer who loves researching and presenting music and local history topics. He has given numerous history presentations in Rochester and presented about twenty different rock music classes for Rochester Community Ed. **Pages 24 & 33.**

**Todd Lefko** is the President of the International Business Development Council, an import-export firm. He has homes in Minnesota and Moscow and has worked in Russia for more than 25 years. His weekly articles appear in "Rossiske Vesti," a Russian political newspaper, and he is a contributor to "Rusya-Al Youm," the Russian Arabic Television channel for the Middle East. He 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. He is one of the founders and current treasurer of Global Volunteers, and has worked in villages in Jamaica, Mexico, and Guatemala. He is the group's representative at the United Nations. **Page 24.**

**Dr. Richard Leitch** earned his BA in East Asian Studies from Colby College in 1985, and went on to earn an MA in Asian Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign after a two year career on Wall Street. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Illinois in 1995, where he was the recipient of the Harriet and Charles Luckman Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching, and the College of Liberal Arts Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Assistant. He has been a member of the Political Science Department at Gustavus since 1996, where he teaches courses in International Relations, Comparative Politics, Asian Politics, Environmental Politics, and the Politics of Poverty. In 2000 he received the Swenson-Bunn Award for Teaching Excellence at Gustavus, and in 2008 the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching. In 2012 he was included in The Princeton Review's The Best 300 Professors. His research interests include Japanese domestic politics and foreign policy, and he is the co-author of Japan's Role in the Post-Cold War World. **Page 31.**

**Adam Lindquist** is a 3-time National Champion living History performer who portrays Roosevelt across the country to over 125,000 people annually. His work sends him to schools, colleges, Washington D.C. and more. Adam's uncanny resemblance and portrayal of our 26th President will bring the man to life in this fun, educational, and entertaining course. **Page 34.**

**Dr. John F. Lyons** was born in London, England. He lives in Chicago and works as a Professor of History at Joliet Junior College in Illinois where he teaches classes in British and US history. He is a noted public speaker and has spoken to audiences in the US and Europe. Joy and Fear: The Beatles, Chicago and the 1960s (2021) is his fifth book. **Pages 17, 27, & 33.**

**Dr. Christian McWhirter** is the Lincoln Historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum and author of Battle Hymns: The Power and Popularity of Music in the Civil War. He previously served as Editor of the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association and as an Assistant Editor for The Papers of Abraham Lincoln project. His writings on Lincoln, popular music, and the Civil War have appeared in numerous publications, including the New York Times, Chicago Sun-Times, and Washington Post. His most recent publication is a Civil War Monitor article on what Lincoln's taste in music tells us about his worldview. **Page 25.**

**Dr. William C. Meadows** holds a B.A. from Indiana University with a double major in anthropology and history, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in cultural anthropology from the University of Oklahoma. He has performed fieldwork and published in the subfields of cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and archaeology. He has conducted research with many Native American Nations, as well as in Japan, and has carried out archaeological fieldwork in the Midwestern United States. He is the author of six books, five of which focus on Native American veterans: "Kiowa, Apache, and Comanche Military Societies," "The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II," "Kiowa Ethnogeography," "Kiowa Military Societies: Ethnohistory and Ritual," "Through Indian Sign Language: The First Sill Ledgers of Lt. Hugh L. Scott and Iseeo," and "The First Code Talkers: Native American Communicators in World War I." In 2004, he testified before a Congressional Senate Hearing on The Role of Native American Code Talkers in the United States Armed Forces, and spoke at the Library of Congress on Native American Code Talkers in 2005. Dr. Meadows is the head of the Missouri State Native American Studies Committee. He comes from a family of many U.S. Veterans. **Page 21.**

With dozens of appearances in two countries and three states last year, **Ric Mixter** is certainly one of the busiest maritime speakers, rumored to be the most requested historian on the Great Lakes. Visiting museums, libraries, NASA and his live music concert "STORM", thousands of audience members get a new appreciation for our unique inland-sea history through his spellbinding lectures. Millions of television viewers recognize Ric Mixter as a shipwreck researcher, diving over 100 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, including the Edmund Fitzgerald. He has produced over 30 programs for PBS and the Outdoor Channel, and appeared as a shipwreck expert on the History and Discovery Channels. He leads the pack when it comes to sharing our unique underwater resources with the general public, and thousands of dive show patrons and countless school kids know him as the energetic story teller who uses video like no other presenter can. Ric's stories appear in books, magazines (including Michigan History Magazine) and in radio and TV news programs. **Pages 22, 30 & 33.**

**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. **Page 28.**

**Jennifer Paxton PhD** is working on a book manuscript entitled "Chronicle and Community in Twelfth-Century England," which looks at the ways in which medieval English monastic communities used historical texts to assert various claims to power and authority in a rapidly changing political, economic, and spiritual landscape. She is focusing on chronicles written at eastern English monasteries in the aftermath of the great upheavals of the Norman Conquest and the civil war of King Stephen's reign, in which monastic compilers deployed every resource at their command to distinguish themselves from rival houses and defend themselves against the sometimes aggressive claims of lay lords and even bishops. **Pages 18 & 29.**

**Einav Rabinovitch-Fox PhD** is a historian of modern American women's and gender who teaches at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Her research examines the connections between fashion, politics, and modernity, particularly the role of visual and material culture in social movements. Her recent book, "Dressed for Freedom: The Fashionable Politics of American Feminism" explores women's political uses of clothing and appearance to promote feminist agendas during the long 20th century. Her writing has been published in academic journals and books including the Journal of Women's History, the International Journal of Fashion Studies, American Journalism: Journal of Media History, as well as popular media such as The Washington Post, The Conversation, Public Seminar, and History News Network. **Page 32.**

**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. **Pages 18, 23, & 30.**

Crawling into the dens of hibernating black bears in the Rockies, river rafting in China, exploring Antarctica on a Russian research vessel, climbing Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, **Jeff Rennie** traveled the world for more than 20 years as a writer for such prestigious publications as *National Geographic Traveler*, *Reader's Digest*, *Backpacker* and others. His writing on destinations on six continents has twice been awarded gold medals for excellence by the Society of American Travel Writers and includes over 250 magazine articles and 10 books such as *Treasures of Alaska: Last Great American Wilderness* published by National Geographic Books and *Jewels on the Water: Lake Superior's Apostle Islands*. His photography, known for its creative artistry, has been featured in publications such as *Reader's Digest*, *National Geographic Traveler*, and *Backpacker* and was included in an exhibit honoring the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in the Smithsonian Institute's American Museum on Natural History. Currently, he lives in Bayfield where he and his wife act as the Co-Directors of Friends of the Apostle Islands helping the National Park Service protect our beautiful wild places. **Page 35.**

**Tom Rooney**, a retired CPA, has been an employee of the Minnesota Twins for the last ten seasons. For eight seasons he was a game day usher (Sections 116/117; the two best sections in the entire stadium). For the last two seasons he has been a member of the Twins Tour and Education Organization. Tom is also a tour guide at US Bank Stadium. **Pages 26 & 34.**

Referred to as the "Balzac of Boston History" by the *Boston Globe*, **Anthony M. 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 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. He is past president of the Bay State Historical League and served as a incorporator of the New England Baptist Hospital for a decade. He lives in Boston and in Osterville on Cape Cod. **Page 16.**

**Gary Stamm** has entertained and informed people from coast to coast with his portrayal of our 32nd President. His uncanny resemblance and capture of the personality of FDR coupled with his extensive knowledge of the man all team to leave audiences feeling that they have been in the presence of the individual many historians judge to be the greatest person of the twentieth century. **Page 34.**



**Betty L. Spitzmiller PhD**, is a retired college teacher of courses in writing, literature, classical mythology, and humanities. **Page 22.**

**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. **Pages 15 & 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. **Pages 15, 17, 24, & 32.**

**Richard H. Weisberg JD, PhD** was an Obama appointee to the Commission on the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. Richard has helped litigate successfully in American federal courts on behalf of Holocaust survivors and their heirs, providing a measure of justice for World War II victims of anti-Semitism. President Nicholas Sarkozy of France awarded him the Legion of Honor in 2008. The founding director at Cardozo of the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Program and the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy, he writes widely in those areas, including his book "Vichy Law and the Holocaust in France" and essays on First Amendment developments in the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a pioneer in the growing law and literature movement worldwide, and his books "The Failure of the Word and Poethics" have been widely translated. In 2014, he published "In Praise of Intransigence: The Perils of Flexibility." The book argues that a willingness to embrace intransigence allows us to recognize the value of our beliefs, which are always at risk of being compromised. He has visited many undergraduate institutions in the U.S., at law schools around the country, and in France, Denmark and China, where he is an honorary professor of law at Wuhan University. His staging of legal dilemmas in great fictional works has won notices from The New York Times, the National Law Journal, and The New Yorker magazine. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and recipient of Rockefeller Foundation, NEH and ACLS grants. He holds a B.A. from Brandeis University, and his Ph.D. from Cornell is in French and comparative literature. While teaching those subjects on the graduate faculty of the University of Chicago, Professor Weisberg earned his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was an editor of the Columbia Law Review. He has been associated with the firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York and Coudert Freres in Paris. **Page 20.**



**It's Time to Renew Your LIFE Membership for the 2023-24 Academic Year – July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024.**

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Resistance and Redemption Part One: Art in the Holocaust with Howard Kerner MA**

How could a concentration camp inmate during the Holocaust cope with constant visual and auditory ugliness and savagery? Some Jews used their magnificent artistic gifts to create beauty for themselves and their fellow victims. We will examine those extremely talented men and women who understood that the only antidote to destruction was creation! This Part 1 will

focus on visual artists and Part 2 on Mon, Aug 14 will focus on Music (page 18).

**Date(s): Monday, July 10 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **The Restless Genius of Benjamin Franklin with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland**

Franklin's genius is a puzzle. Here is a man with only two years of proper schooling who later received honorary degrees from Harvard, Yale, Oxford, and St. Andrews as well as the eighteenth-century equivalent of a Nobel Prize for Physics. In this talk University of Maryland historian Richard Bell will examine many of Franklin's

ideas to make life simpler, cheaper, and easier for himself and everyone else. It turns out that those ideas encompassed not only natural science and engineering, but also all sorts of public works, civic improvements, political trail-blazing, and fresh, new business ideas.

**Date(s): Tuesday, July 11 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Levi Strauss, the Gold Rush, and the World's most famous pair of pants! with Anette Isaacs MAs**

Everybody loves them, everybody wears them: Jeans are no doubt an iconic garment and they tell the legendary story of the American West. But did you know that they were made world famous by an adventurous Bavarian Jew who combined his marvelous business sense with German ingenuity? Join German

Historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating journey into the days of the Gold Rush and learn about Levi Strauss and his amazing life!

**Date(s): Wednesday, July 12 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **The Healing Forest: An Introduction to Nature and Forest Therapy with Sara Holger, Lead Interpretive Naturalist, Division of Parks and Trails, Whitewater State Park**

Come learn about the healing power of nature and how being outdoors can enhance your physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. We'll explore the science behind what happens in our bodies when we spend time outdoors and we'll practice some simple forest therapy activities you can do at home or in a nearby park.

**Date(s): Thursday, July 13 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Weaving Art: Textiles in the Russian Empire with Carol Veldman Rudie, Docent, Museum of Russian Art**

Before Western art existed, women beautified the ordinary in life, including their textiles. To glimpse the richness of the result, this brief survey samples the artistic weaving and embroidery created by the women of Northern Russia. Explore a bit of the culture that created these artifacts and gain a new appreciation of this form of artistry

**Date(s): Tuesday, July 18 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**



## **On The Good Ship Lollipop: The Life of Shirley Temple with Michelle Gibbons, Historical Presenter**

When times were tough during the Great Depression, there was one tiny, spunky, curly-haired, adorable little girl that American families could count on to put a smile on their face and brighten their hearts. Her name was Shirley Temple.

Shirley Temple, born in 1928 in California, became an actress, singer and dancer at the young age of three. From 1935 to 1938, Temple's movies became number

one at the box office and she received international fame. Some of her most well-known movies include: Heidi; Curly Top; On The Good Ship Lollipop; Bright Eyes and many more. Temple starred in over 40 films and retired from the film industry at age 22. She received many awards including: The Juvenile Academy Award; The Kennedy Center Honors Award; The Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award and many more. Her career and stardom however did not cease there. As an adult, Temple became a United States Ambassador to Ghana and Czechoslovakia and served as Chief of Protocol of the United States. Historian Michelle will discuss the life and many accomplishments of Shirley Temple. Gibbons will explain how through movies, television shows and in person, Temple had an impact that warmed the hearts of many and still continues to today.

**Date(s): Wednesday, July 19 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**



## **Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Topic: Climate Migration with Steve Troutman, Facilitator**

As climate change accelerates and drought and rising sea levels become more common, millions of people in affected regions must uproot themselves and seek safety elsewhere. Who are these affected individuals, and how might the United States aid them, and be affected by the migration?

**Date(s): Wednesday, July 19 Time: 3:30-5:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **100 Years in the Making: The Story of Whitewater State Park with Jeremy Darst, Park Naturalist, Division of Parks and Trails, Whitewater State Park**

Among the oldest state parks, Whitewater's history is one of change. The influence of worldwide events and an evolving park system acted to guide the development of this amazing park. The park we see today was further shaped by the efforts of hundreds of young men and the power of the natural world over the years. During this class we will explore this rich history and learn the story of southeastern Minnesota's first state park.

**Date(s): Thursday, July 20 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **S.S. Pierce: A Boston Tradition with Anthony M. Sammarco**

When Samuel Stillman Pierce opened his store in 1831 at the corner of Tremont and Court Streets in the West End of Boston, he vowed "I may not make money for the next five years, but I shall make a reputation." Pierce went on to become well known as the purveyor of groceries, fancy goods and potent libations to Bostonians in the 19th century, as well as providing provisions to the ships that sailed from Boston Harbor. Bartering with ship captains, he often exchanged his provisions for the delicacies that were brought to Boston from faraway ports. His renowned store catered to the carriage trade and the company he founded would be headed by four generations of the Pierce Family in its immensely successful operations. With its own coat of arms adorning a distinctive red label on canned goods with the motto "Puritas et Cura," and the largest line of privately packed fancy foods in the world, S.S. Pierce & Company sold its wide assortment of delicacies not only at eight New England stores of its own but also through distributors across the United States and worldwide by mail order.

**Date(s): Tuesday, July 25 Time: 10-11:15 am # of Sessions: Location: Zoom**

**LIFE Member Fee: \$9 Non-Member Fee: \$12**



## **Memphis: Home of the Blues with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University**

This mid-South city saw the birth of rock-and-roll as well as the first ever self-serve grocery store and a wonderful culture.

**Date(s): Wed, July 26 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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

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



# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **"Stringbean: The Life and Murder of a Country Legend" with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University**

David "Stringbean" Akeman was a one-of-a-kind entertainer, an old-time musician and comedian who was one of the pioneers of country music. From being Bill Monroe's first banjo player to becoming a member of the Grand Ole Opry to being a founding mainstay of the television program Hee Haw, Stringbean served as a bridge from the early days of the industry to the 1970s

Outlaw Country movement. His tragic murder in 1973 rocked Nashville and the country music family, and the investigation and trial that followed presented a vivid story of good and evil. Coinciding with the publication of his book *Stringbean: The Life and Murder of a Country Music Legend*, Taylor Hagood presents the story of this unique figure.

**Date(s): Wednesday, August 2 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**

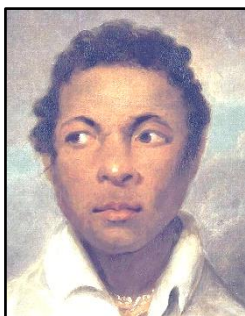


## **60 Years of the Beatles with John F. Lyons PhD, Professor of History, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Joliet Junior College**

Sixty years ago, the Beatles released their first recording in the United States, "Please Please Me." To commemorate this momentous event, John F. Lyons traces the history of the Beatles from their beginnings in the clubs of Liverpool to their demise in the Spring of 1970. With the help of music, video and many unseen photographs from the 1960s, this amusing and informative

presentation draws attention to the many accomplishments of the group and to their influence on American society.

**Date(s): Monday, August 7 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



## **Red on Black: African Experience in Russian Culture with Carol Veldman Rudie, Docent, Museum of Russian Art**

While Russia is rarely associated with African culture, people and experiences, records show that some interesting migrations have happened. Not only are Africans coming to Russia for varying reasons, but African Americans have made their way to the streets of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Trace the stories of this connection and immigration through this presentation to see various Black experiences in the Empire and Soviet Union.

**Date(s): Tuesday, August 8 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Rise and Fall of Roman Britain with Jennifer Paxton PhD, University Honors Program Associate Director, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, History Department, Christian University of America**

The Romans ruled Britain from 43 A.D.– 410 A.D. During those centuries, the Romans drew the island into a tight web of international trade and imperial political intrigue. But the island's conquerors also introduced innovations that eventually transformed this Roman province. Historian Jennifer Paxton explores the complicated impact of Roman rule on Britain. She describes how the response of Britain's Celtic-speaking tribes to the Roman challenge included a revolt in 61 A.D. led by the now-legendary Queen Boudicca of the Iceni, which nearly destroyed the newly founded Roman province. She discusses recent archaeological discoveries that shed new light on how the Romans shaped the economy of Britain by establishing Mediterranean-style agriculture, developing the mining resources of the southwest, and creating a network of roads and settlements that have shaped the British landscape to this day, including Londinium, the vital port on the River Thames. Paxton explores the surprising key role Britain played in third- and fourth-century political upheavals that rocked the wider Roman world and brought on economic decline, civil unrest, and attacks by external enemies. She also describes new archaeological techniques that have illuminated this otherwise dark period, which saw both the arrival of Christianity in Britain and the start of the Germanic settlements that would eventually transform Roman Britain into Anglo-Saxon England.

**Date(s): Wednesday, August 9 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**



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

What would we do without spices? Pumpkin pie, to name just one example, 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 Dr. Marguerite Ragnow, curator of the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota, reveals the little-known history of cinnamon, nutmeg, pepper, and other spices that we find commonplace today.

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

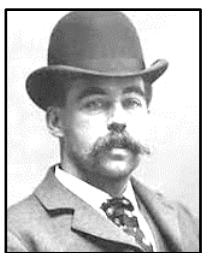


## **Resistance and Redemption Part Two: Music in the Holocaust with Howard Kerner MA**

How could a concentration camp inmate during the Holocaust cope with constant visual and auditory ugliness and savagery? Some Jews used their magnificent artistic gifts to create beauty for themselves and their fellow victims. We will examine those extremely talented men and women who understood that the only antidote to destruction was creation! Part 1 on Mon, Jul 10 will focus on visual artists (page 15) and this part focuses on Music.

**Date(s): Monday, August 14 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **The Murders of H.H. Holmes with Michelle Gibbons, Historical Presenter**

Michelle will discuss the horrific murders of the 1893 World's Fair serial killer, H.H. Holmes. You will learn about Holmes' life, his crimes ranging from forgery to serial murders, and how he was found guilty for only one of the numerous murders. Was H.H. Holmes really the infamous serial killer he was said to be, with a murder castle of torture chambers and trap doors? Or, were these shocking stories intensified over the years? Michelle will explain the facts and fiction of Holmes' murders. She will discuss Holmes' role of the "devil" in Erik Larson's book, "The Devil in the White City."

**Date(s): Tuesday, August 15 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**



## **Amazing Adventure of Bertha Benz and the History of the German Automobile with Anette Isaacs MAs**

The superb reputation of German cars is legendary: Porsche, BMW, AUDI, and Mercedes Benz have millions of fans all over the world and are synonymous with the quality and success of German engineering. But hardly anyone knows that the history of the automobile's origin is, to a great extent, due to Bertha Benz, a young mother of five, who 135 years ago became the first human being ever to drive an automobile over a long distance. German Historian Anette Isaacs introduces you to Bertha Benz and her exciting and history making adventure of 1888!

**Date(s): Wednesday, August 16 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**



## **The Fire of Frederick Douglass with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland**

Frederick Douglass was a visionary—a prophet who could see a better future that lay just beyond reach. His talents were nothing short of extraordinary and he put his exceptional gifts to use in the service of freedom, driving American slavery into the grave. In this talk, we'll explore this many-sided man's life, family, and career, and consider his impact upon our modern struggle to advance the cause of black freedom in the United States.

**Date(s): Thursday, August 17 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29**



## **Galileo's Triumphs and Tribulations with J. Kelly Beatty MS, Senior Editor, SKY & TELESCOPE**

Although he didn't invent the telescope, Galileo Galilei used his knowledge of optics to make instruments of exceptional quality. He then used these to make discoveries that both revolutionized astronomy and put him on a collision course with the Catholic Church. Steadfast in his fact-based approach to observational science, Galileo remained confident that his telescopic observations showed glimpses of the true universe. But he failed to persuade the Church's hierarchy, ultimately forced instead to recant what he knew to be true.

**Date(s): Tuesday, August 22 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**



# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Contentious Moments in Much Discussed Stories About Law with Richard Weisberg JD, PhD, Visiting Professor of Law, University of Pittsburgh, Walter Floersheimer Professor of Constitutional Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University**

Richard will guide us through some of English/American Literatures most controversial "legal scenes," beginning with "The Merchange of Venice" (Act IV), and then Melville's "Billy Budd, Sailor" (Chapter 21), and then

Susan Glaspell's "A Jury of Her Peers" (all 18 pages, available online), and finally Abby Mann's "Judgment at Nuremberg" (screenplay or film adaptation -- easily available).

**Date(s): Wednesday, August 23 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **The New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-1812 with John Anfinson PhD, Author, River District Historian, Retired Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Superintendent**

From December 16, 1811, to February 7, 1812, New Madrid, Missouri, and the surrounding area experienced the most powerful earthquake sequence in U.S. history. Two of the quakes registered at least 7.5 on the Richter scale and one at 7.3. The quakes sent a tsunami upriver higher than some tree tops, caused some land to sink and some to rise up, forced sand and water to erupt from the ground and the river. Firsthand accounts tell of terror and destruction caused by the quakes on the frontier.

**Date(s): Tuesday, August 29 Time: 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



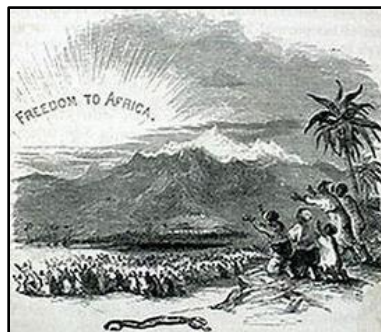
## **The American Colonization Society with Scott Hill, Interpretive Park Ranger and Volunteer Coordinator, George Washington Memorial Parkway and Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial**

Despite attempts to categorize the freeing of enslaved people as humanitarian in nature, men such as James Madison, James Monroe, and the owner of Arlington House, George Washington Parke Custis, wanted to send the freed

enslaved people to Africa in order to create a white United States and remove any possibility of an enslaved uprising. Learn more about some of the people impacted by the American Colonization Society in this program.

**Date(s): Wed, August 30 Time: 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

**LIFE Member Fee: \$7 Non-Member Fee: \$12**





# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Property in Man? Debating the Slavery Politics of the Constitution with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland**

The Constitution is a much beloved document, a charter that many Americans regard with pride, reverence, and awe. Yet, over the past half-century, several historians have argued that many of its innocuous-sounding articles offered a dramatic giveaway to slaveholders. This program will help you determine where the truth

lies. We'll follow the framers of the federal Constitution into their closed-door convention in Philadelphia in 1787 to see how northern delegates and southern delegates wrangled over whether or not slavery could continue to thrive in a nation founded on the principles of liberty and equality.

**Date(s): Tuesday, September 5 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29**



## **Formidable Women and the Fight for Equality, 1920-2020 with Elisabeth Griffith PhD, Activist, Author, Expert on Women's and Civil Rights**

A lecture and conversation about diverse women change agents who fought to advance women's and civil rights. Historian Elisabeth Griffith is an academic, activist, author, and expert on American women's history. Her biography of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "IN HER OWN RIGHT," was hailed by both Oprah and the Wall Street Journal as "one of the five best books on women's history." It was the basis of Ken Burns' documentary on Stanton and Anthony, NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE, his only film about women's history. According to the Los Angeles Times, Betsy's new book, "FORMIDABLE: AMERICAN WOMEN AND THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY, 1920-2020," is a "thorough and thoughtful" account of the struggles of white and Black women to expand their rights. The New York Times review found "FORMIDABLE" an "engaging, relevant, sweeping chronicle. [Griffith delivers a] multiracial, inclusive timeline of the struggles and triumphs of both Black and white women. A profoundly illuminating tour de force."

**Date(s): Wednesday, September 6 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**

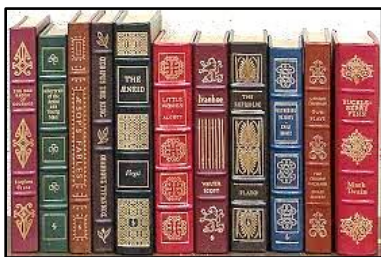


## **The Native American Powwow: Origins and Evolution with Dr. William Meadows, Missouri State University, Dept. of Sociology-Anthropology, Native American Studies**

Native American powwows are the largest, most frequent, widespread social gathering in contemporary Native communities. Based on the author's fieldwork and participation in dances for over forty years, his power-point presentation explores the origin of the Native American Powwow from Plains Indian Military Societies, to reservation influences, to varied forms of contemporary social and contest dancing, dance styles, and regalia, and symbolism.

**Date(s): Wednesday, September 6 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$19 Non-Member Fee: \$29**

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



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

This class is a discussion group (formerly called Great Books) composed of people who love reading and discussing great literature. In 23-24 we'll devote our Sept. meeting to discussing *Paradise Lost* by John Milton, which we'll read over the summer. Then we'll read and discuss

short stories by Flannery O'Connor, Edgar Allan Poe, Katherine Anne Porter, Leslie Silko, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Leo Tolstoy, John Updike, Alice Walker, Eudora Welty, Edith Wharton, and Virginia Woolf and several Shakespearean plays. Our fall meetings and spring meetings will be hybrid in-person at the Heintz Center or by Zoom (your choice) and the winter meetings will be on ZOOM only. Please join us. **The class fee covers the whole year academic year – September thru June.**

**Date(s): Thu, Sep. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 4**

**Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1305 and Zoom**

**LIFE Member Fee: \$40 Non-Member Fee: \$50**



## **Black Holes 101 with J. Kelly Beatty MS, Senior Editor, SKY & TELESCOPE**

You may have learned that black holes are bizarre cosmic objects whose gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape them. And although you might guess that Einstein came up with the concept of black holes, the idea can be traced back to the late 1700s. But Einstein

did develop the notion that three-dimensional space and time are part of a single framework to describe the known universe and how black holes shape it. More recently, gravity-wave "observatories" have detected the ripples in spacetime created when two of these objects collide, and we've even managed to glimpse silhouettes of the most massive black holes known. Kelly Beatty, senior editor at Sky & Telescope magazine, discusses how cosmologists still grapple with precisely what black holes are and how best to study them.

**Date(s): Thursday, September 7 Time: 10-11:15 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **"Briny Depths" with Ric Mixer, Diver and PBS Producer**

the recent discovery of a steamer loaded with salt brought to the surface the importance of Great Lakes salt production to the world. Piping up from a 400 million year old ocean deep beneath the Earth, salt manufacturers found high quality minerals in New York and Michigan. Over 70 ships were lost carrying salt to markets like Superior, Wisconsin. Ric explores several wrecks and gives insight into how fortunes were made and lost.

**Date(s): Mon, Sep 11 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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

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# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **"Seed Money: Monsanto's Past and Our Food Future" with Bartow J. Elmore PhD, History Department, The Ohio University**

Environmental historian Bart Elmore offers a deep dive into the history of one of the most controversial companies in American history: Monsanto. Started as a chemical firm in St. Louis in 1901, this firm became the largest seller of genetically engineered seeds in the world by the 2000s, making everything from Agent Orange and PCBs along the way. Bart weaves these stories together in a narrative that helps us understand how studying this firm's past might help us create a more sustainable food system in the years ahead.

**Date(s): Monday, September 11 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**



## **Opening a Door on History: The Swedish East India Company Archive with Dr. Marguerite Ragnow, James Ford Bell Library, University of Minnesota Curator**

How do we learn the history of anything? By examining the historical record, whether that consists of documents, artifacts and archeological sites, sound or visual recordings. Unlike the British East India Company and the Dutch East India Company, the Swedish East India Company (SEIC) was little known and often neglected by historians outside Sweden. That changed with the acquisition of part of its archives by the James Ford Bell Library. Dr. Ragnow, its curator at the University of Minnesota, will share some of the background and development of the SEIC and what the Bell Library has done to open this unique door on the history of European trade with Asia.

**Date(s): Tuesday, September 12 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**



## **The Itineraries: Knowledge, Sovereignty, and Freedom in the Eighteenth-Century Northeast with Christine DeLucia PhD, Williams College**

Dr. DeLucia is presently writing a book titled "The Itineraries: Knowledge, Sovereignty, and Freedom in the Eighteenth-Century Northeast," under contract with Yale University Press. It traces the intertwined lives of Indigenous, African-American, and Euro-colonial people in the 18th century. The story illuminates how individuals, families, and communities in Revolutionary-era New England related, lived, labored, resisted, and organized in places like Newport, Rhode Island; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; New Haven, Connecticut. It also follows the enduring impacts of these interactions in the twenty-first century. As community members have long attested, these pasts continue to reverberate and shape everyday lives, politics, material conditions, and public histories. These pasts not only haunt the present. They provide maps to different ways of being, dwelling, and organizing for justice.

**Date(s): Tuesday, September 12 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**



# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Should We Fear the Future? with Todd Lefko, Global Minnesota Speaker's Bureau**

We read daily of wars, pandemics, shootings, inflation, economic threats, and layoffs. Much of our world appears dangerous and threatening. Is it? Will our children and grandchildren have a better or worse world? We will discuss how the present challenges can be overcome, and what is required from leaders and every individual to create a better world.

**Date(s): Wednesday, September 13 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



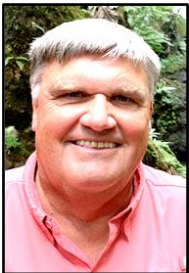
## **The Women of the Third Reich with Anette Isaacs MAs**

"The mission of women is to be beautiful and to bring children into the world."

These words, auspiciously written by Hitler's mouthpiece Joseph Goebbels in 1929, laid out the simple but essential role German women were expected to play in the prospective Third Reich. By examining both the general situation of women in Nazi Germany and the individual lives of wives and girlfriends of the Nazi elite, such as Magda Goebbels, Emmi Goering, Leni Riefenstahl, and the

infamous Eva Braun, German Historian Anette Isaacs will reveal in how far this lofty expectation was met by reality in a racially motivated totalitarian system.

**Date(s): Wednesday, September 13 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**



## **The Women of Rock and Roll - 1960s/1970s with Paul Koeller**

You probably know most of them just by their first names...Aretha, Diana, Tina, Joni, Janis, Grace, Stevie, and more. Come and enjoy some of their music and learning more about them.

**Date(s): Thursday, September 14 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**  
**Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1415**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**



## **Between Cultures: Jewish Artists in the Russian and Soviet Empires with Carol Veldman Rudie, Docent, Museum of Russian Art**

After Catherine the Great took control of a large section of the Polish Commonwealth, the Russian Empire managed what came to be called "The Pale of Settlement". In spite of the restrictions on movement and cultural expression, the Jewish artists created wide-ranging visual artistry to record their lives. This overview demonstrates how much their work enriched the world of their day.

**Date(s): Thursday, September 14 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## LIFE Book Group with Steve Troutman, Facilitator

Your summer read for Sep 15 is "Warmth of other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration" by Isabel Wilkerson.

October's book will be past LIFE presenter and Minnesota author Jonathan Slaght's "Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl." November's book is "Long Petal Of The Sea" by Isabel Allende with our final book of the calendar year being "American Sherlock: Murder, Forensics, and the Birth of American CSI" by Kate Winkler Dawson. **The class fee covers the entire academic year – September thru June.**

**Date(s): Fri, Sep 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 4**

**Location: Zoom**

**LIFE Member Fee: \$40 Non-Member Fee: \$50**



## Music During the Civil War with Christian McWhirter PhD, Lincoln Historian

Music was everywhere in the Civil War. It rang out from parlor pianos, soldiers in the ranks, and even enslaved people voicing their desire for freedom. Join us for a discussion of how music shaped the way Americans experienced the Civil War and how its songs have shaped how we remember the conflict.

**Date(s): Mon, September 18 Time: 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

**LIFE Member Fee: \$5 Non-Member Fee: \$7**



## St. Paul's Summit Avenue with Kristin Anderson PhD, Professor of Art, Augsburg University

Everyone in the Twin Cities knows about Summit Avenue, with its grand homes, its colleges, and the Cathedral of St. Paul. In this fully illustrated presentation, we will learn a bit more about these familiar places, and we will also dig into the avenue's history to understand more about this community treasure.

**Date(s): Mon, September 18 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## The History of the Banjo with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University

A stringed drum on a stick, the banjo was brought from Africa by enslaved people and played in the Caribbean and on southern United States plantations. From such beginnings, the instrument has developed with roots music trends throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, passing through class and

race performances in ways revelatory of American history. That development includes minstrel playing, Appalachian clawhammer, and bluegrass, culminating in the jazz and even classical artistry of such major present-day banjoists as Béla Fleck, Dom Flemons, and MacArthur Fellowship winner, Rhiannon Giddens. A long-time banjo player and recently a banjo builder, Taylor Hagood brings experience and research to this event.

**Date(s): Tue, Sep 19 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Minnesota Sports Goes to Hollywood with Tom Rooney**

Minnesota sports have often been the “star” of Hollywood movies; including the Duluth Eskimos, the “Miracle on Ice” team, and the “Mighty Ducks”. This class covers our sports stories hitting the Silver Screen.

**Date(s): Wednesday, September 20 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

**Location: Zoom**

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



## **The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Lodz Ghetto with Docent, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center**

In 1945, a diary was found in the ashes of a destroyed crematorium in the liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp. It was

written by a 14-year-old Jewish girl named Rywka Lipszyc and documented her life in the Łódź Ghetto between October 1943 and April 1944. Rywka’s diary told stories of a young girl who lost her siblings and parents, but never lost hope or her faith. More than 60 years after its discovery, the diary traveled to the United States, where it was translated to English, supplemented with commentaries, and published. Rywka Lipszyc’s diary, a moving memoir of life and adolescence in the Łódź Ghetto, is the focal point of this exhibition. Selected excerpts of the diary are supplemented by expert commentary from historians, doctors, psychologists, and rabbis. Blended with original artifacts and fleeting candid photographs of others’ lives in the ghetto, these commentaries help us understand the experiences Rywka describes in her diary. Through historical artifacts and documents, interactive touch screens, documentary videos, and exceptionally rare photographs, The Girl in the Diary explores the story of a young girl’s fight for survival in the Łódź Ghetto and reconstructs what might have happened to Rywka after her deportation to Auschwitz and beyond. There are no known photographs of Rywka. We do not know the color of her hair or eyes, the way she smiled or laughed. She exists for us only through the words in her diary. The Girl in the Diary is a tribute to the life of a child who will not be forgotten.

**Date(s): Wednesday, September 20 Time: 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Critical Race Theory: Context, Controversy, Call to Action, with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland**

Suddenly, everyone is talking about Critical Race Theory, a set of premises developed by legal scholars decades ago to interpret America’s institutions in the context of race and civil rights. Yet what exactly is CRT? This talk with University of Maryland Professor of History Richard Bell aims to locate the

origins of CRT, establish its core premises, describe the recent controversy, and introduce participants to a list of practices that CRT scholars believe all of us can adopt to mitigate the worst legacies of slavery in our supposedly post-slavery world.

**Date(s): Thursday, September 21 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Molly Brown Home Tour with Docent, The Historic Denver Inc.'s Molly Brown House Museum, Denver, CO**

Walk (virtually) in Margaret "Molly" Brown's footsteps! Explore the home of the legendary Titanic heroine while learning about the history of Colorado and the Brown family.

**Date(s): Monday, September 25 Time: 11 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

**Location: Zoom**

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



## **The British Invasion of America: Popular Culture of the 1960s and 1970s with John F. Lyons PhD, Professor of History, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Joliet Junior College**

From James Bond to the Beatles from the Avengers to the mini skirt, British movies, music, television, fashion and theatre have had a profound influence on American society. Through the use of music, video and many unseen photographs from the 1960s and 1970s, this highly entertaining presentation

brings to life the British invasion of the American mind.

**Date(s): Monday, September 25 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **The Life of Walter Cronkite with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter**

Walter Cronkite made a name for himself in American Broadcast Journalism, often being called the "most trusted man in America." Cronkite received the most fame from his position as an anchorman for CBS News from 1962 to 1981. During that time, he covered some of America's most important historical events including the Nuremberg trials, Watergate, the Iran hostage crisis, and the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lennon of The Beatles. Cronkite led audiences in

the broadcast of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, breaking the news to a shocked nation. With a tear in his eye and with a slight struggle to not break his composure, Cronkite stated, "From Dallas, Texas, the flash apparently official, President Kennedy died at 1p.m. Central Standard Time, 2:00 Eastern Standard Time, some thirty-eight minutes ago." Historian Jim Gibbons will explain how Cronkite was selected by the United States Army to fly as a member of the Writing 69th during World War II. Gibbons will describe how a man who never walked on the moon was recognized and awarded by NASA. He will explain how Cronkite set a standard for anchors years to come "And that's the way it is."

**Date(s): Tuesday, September 26 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



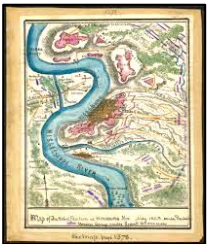
## **History of Oakwood Cemetery with Don Borcharding, President of Oakwood Cemetery Board**

The presentation will cover the creation of the Rochester Cemetery Association, the motivation for establishing a "God's acre sacred to all hearts as the resting place of the dead, whose beauty and quiet shall almost seem inviting to the world-worn and weary". Since George Healy was the central figure of this undertaking, we will explore his life and dedication to the cemetery, including the establishment of the existing Healy Trust and construction of the Healy Chapel. The presentation will also show you monuments of some of the early prominent figures in Rochester's history. Also the establishment of the Van Dusen Mausoleum, Healy Receiving Vault, Allen Mackey Memorial, Granville Woodworth Memorial Gateway, and additional significant monuments.

**Date(s): Tuesday, September 26 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

**Location: Heintz Center H1415**

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



## **Vicksburg and the Mississippi River Campaign, Part I with John Anfinson PhD, Author, River District Historian, Retired Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Superintendent**

Vicksburg is critical to the overall Civil War story and is about much more than the city itself. The story encompasses the whole lower Mississippi River. Part I covers the preliminary battles, including General Ulysses Grant's moves up the Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and Admiral David Farragut's naval attacks up the Mississippi River from the Head of Passes and on to New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Natchez and Vicksburg.

**Date(s): Wednesday, September 27 Time: 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Runes and Runic Inscriptions with Loraine Jensen, American Association for Runic Studies**

What are runes? What does runic writing teach about Scandinavian ancestry? This presentation will provide an overview of the thousands of runestones existing today, primarily in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, but some being researched in North America. Also reviewed will be examples of runes in pop culture.

**Date(s): Wednesday, September 27 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

**Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1100**

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



## **Native American Cultures and Conflicts 1800-1900 with Tom Ostrom, Professor Emeritus, RCTC**

A survey of the language and culture complexities and clashes with Euro-Americans through the 19th century to the present.

**Date(s): Thursday, September 28 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1**

**Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1415**

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



# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023

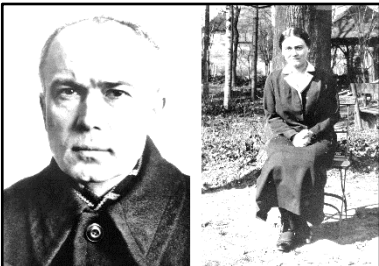


## **The Jacobites' Legacy: From Bonnie Prince Charlie to Outlander with Jennifer Paxton, PhD, Director, University Honors Program, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of History, Christian University of America**

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 that replaced the Catholic King James II of England with his Protestant daughter and son-in-law, William and Mary, left many refusing to accept the loss of the Stuarts' claim to the English throne. The

Jacobites—supporters of James whose name derived from the Latin Jacobus—schemed to reverse the revolution, culminating in Bonnie Prince Charlie's failed invasion of Britain in 1745, the last major effort to restore the Stuart dynasty. The defeat of the Jacobites at the bloody Battle of Culloden dramatically altered the way of life in the Scottish Highlands, which were somewhat unfairly branded as uniformly disloyal to the crown. Historian Jennifer Paxton examines how a dispute between rival branches of the English royal dynasty dominated English and European politics for nearly a century and has inspired popular culture on both sides of the Atlantic, from the novels of Sir Walter Scott in the 19th century to the current Outlander novels and television series. She traces how the Jacobites used material culture, such as portraits, commemorative medallions, and special glassware, to promote Jacobite identity. Paxton also tells the surprising story of a resurgence of interest in Highland culture in the 19th century, which led the British royal family to make their peace with the Jacobite legacy and embrace the romantic mythology associated with their rebellious cousins.

**Date(s): Monday, October 2 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**



## **Heroes of the Holocaust: Priests and Nuns with Howard Kerner MA**

During the Holocaust, it was exceedingly difficult to find an individual or an organization ready to help Jewish victims. Among those few who, at risk of death to themselves and those they rescued, still chose to save Jews were Catholic priests and nuns. This uplifting presentation on human goodness shares the stories of these little-known brave and inspiring men and women.

**Date(s): Monday, October 2 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



## **Vicksburg and the Mississippi River Campaign, Part II with John Anfinson PhD, Author, River District Historian, Retired Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Superintendent**

Part II focuses on General Grant's many failed sorties - his "Bayou Expeditions" - above Vicksburg and his series of battles below city leading to the final attacks on and siege of Vicksburg itself.

**Date(s): Tuesday, October 3 Time: 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Ancient Southwestern Native American Pottery with Allen Dart, Professional Archaeologist, Executive Director (Volunteer), Old Pueblo Archaeology Center**

In this presentation Mr. Dart shows and discusses Native American ceramic styles that characterized specific eras in the US Southwest prior to about 1450, and talks about how archaeologists use pottery for dating archaeological sites and interpreting ancient lifeways. He discusses the importance of context in archaeology, how the things people make change in style over time, and how different styles are useful for identifying different cultures and for dating archaeological sites. His many illustrations include examples of ancient pottery

types that were made throughout the American Southwest from about 2000 to 500 years ago.

**Date(s): Tuesday, October 3 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Prairie School Banks: an Architectural History with Ken Allsen, Architectural Historian**

The architects who rebuilt Chicago after the great fire of 1871 became known as the Chicago School. This was the spawning grounds of an entire generation of young architects. Some of these founded a new progressive style of buildings, later dubbed the "Prairie School". An interesting subset of their projects were a number of smaller Prairie Style banks spread across the Midwest. These include works by Wright and Sullivan, and also other architects following the same progressive philosophy in their designs. This class will explore examples from all of them.

**Date(s): Wednesday, October 4 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Columbus' Big Idea: Sailing West to Reach Asia with Dr. Marguerite Ragnow, James Ford Bell Library, University of Minnesota Curator**

Why did Columbus choose to sail west into the Atlantic to reach China when everyone else was sailing east? Dr. Marguerite Ragnow, curator of the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota, will explore Columbus' idea, why it was successful despite several errors in calculation, and why America was not, in the end, named after him.

**Date(s): Monday, October 9 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **The Heart of John Brown with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland**

"Men, get on your arms; we will proceed to the Ferry," ordered John Brown one October night in 1859. The ferry was Harpers Ferry, home to the largest arsenal of rifles in the United States. Brown hoped to capture Harpers Ferry and arm a nationwide slave revolt. But it all went wrong almost immediately and Brown was hanged having failed to free a single slave. Why, then, University of Maryland

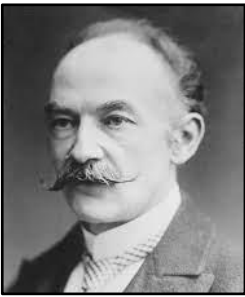
historian Richard Bell asks, was John Brown's raid so significant?

**Date(s): Tuesday, October 10 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## Thomas Hardy and the Fiction of Rural Life with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University

One of the greatest of the Victorian writers, Thomas Hardy chronicled rural life in his fictional Wessex, based on his home in Dorset, England. In Hardy's hands, the lives of shepherds, reedmen, and country maidens achieve vivid and deep significance. In this lecture, Taylor Hagood will present Hardy's life and writing in

all its enduring power.

**Date(s): Wednesday, October 11 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



## Culinaria Germania--the delicious dish on German Food with Anette Isaacs MAs

When thinking about German food bratwurst, sauerkraut, beer, and all kinds of breads are the first things that come to mind. German food and drink are well-known and popular all over the world. But there is so

much more to German cuisine, especially when one takes the regional differences into consideration. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs, M.A. as she takes you on a fascinating, fun -- and delicious-- journey through the culinary wonders of her native country, highlighted by an authentic Kaffeeklatsch with typical German desserts such as the mysterious, yet delectable Bienenstich.

**Date(s): Wednesday, October 11 Time: 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$12 Non-Member Fee: \$19**



## Japanese Culture and Sumo with Richard Leitch PhD, Gustavus Adolphus College

Until recently, sumo was by far the most popular traditional sport in Japan, and not because Japanese found some farcical folly in the spectacle. The near ubiquity of sumo in Japan and its wide appeal is/was because sumo represents ideals that are familiar to all Japanese and, though the context is different, the lives and rituals of sumo wrestlers reflect the everyday life of a "typical"

Japanese. Through a series of videos—interspersed with lecture and discussion—we will appreciate why this was so. Recently, however, sumo's image has been tarnished, and with it some degree of its appeal. Our analysis of sports in Japan will also include thoughts about U.S. sports.

**Date(s): Thursday, October 12 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Women's Rights in America: The History of the ERA with Einav Rabinovitch-Fox PhD, Department of History, Case Western Reserve University**

2023 marks a hundred years since the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first introduced to Congress. Seeking to create equality between the sexes, the continuous fight to ratify the amendment has been at the heart of feminist politics over the last century, and continues to this day as debates over reproductive rights and LGBTQ equality once again take center stage. This talk explores the history of this struggle and how it shaped ideas regarding women's rights,

feminism, citizenship, and equality, examining the debates and arguments over its passing and ratification.

**Date(s): Thursday, October 12 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Celebrate! 20 Years at The Museum of Russian Art with Carol Veldman Rudie, Docent, Museum of Russian Art**

For twenty years, The Museum of Russian Art has been exhibiting art and cultural artifacts from the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. During that time art collectors have contributed to the growth of the museum's permanent collection. This anniversary presentation celebrates this growing collection and, at the same time, provides a glimpse of the

movements created by visual artists throughout the 20th century.

**Date(s): Monday, October 16 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



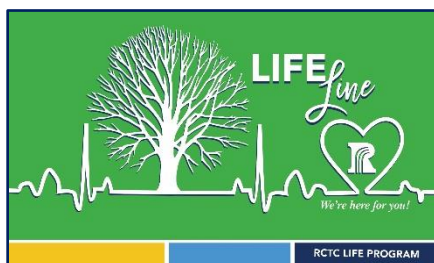
## **Intro to the Bible, Part 1: The Hebrew Bible (Christian Old Testament) with Travis Beck**

The writings that became the Hebrew Bible were written and assembled over time and represent the work of multiple authors, editors, and redactors. What do we know (or think we know!) about how these writings came to be? Who wrote them? What does a "prophet" actually do? What is a psalm? What is the book of Daniel even about? We'll wrestle with these questions and more as we

briefly explore these ancient texts from an academic perspective.

**Date(s): Monday, October 16 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



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# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **Basques History and Culture in Idaho with John Bieter PhD, Acting Director, University Foundations, Department of History, Boise State University**

This presentation applies sociologist Marcus L. Hansen's "Law of Third Generation Return." In short, Hansen argues that children of immigrants wish to forget what the grandchildren want to remember. Bieter traces the opportunities offered and choices made of each generation of American-Basques as they make their way in Idaho. He places this case study of immigration into Idaho against the larger backdrop of American history and

immigration and describes how this group has added to the unique history of our state.

**Date(s): Tuesday, October 17 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Guitar Hits of the 1970s - Name That Tune! with Paul Koeller**

Bring your friends and impress them with your ability to name the title and artist of the greatest guitar hits of the 1970s. At the very least you'll enjoy reliving many of the songs you listened to 50 years ago.

**Date(s): Wednesday, October 18 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

**Location: Heintz Center Rm. H1415**

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



## **"Napoleon's Lumber Fleet" with Ric Mixter, Diver and PBS Producer**

Edward Hines was dubbed the Napoleon of Lumber, buying up land from coast to coast, as well as controlling the largest sawmill on Lake Superior. In 1914 the largest lumber fleet on the lakes was devastated by a storm that sank four of Hine's boats, and damaged three others. Over four million board feet were lost in lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan- enough to build 1200 homes. Ric explores two new finds by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society that were lost with all hands during that tragic November gale.

**Date(s): Thursday, October 19 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **The Irish in America with John F. Lyons PhD, Professor of History, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Joliet Junior College**

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated throughout the United States. But it has not always been so. Irish immigrants who arrived in the United States in the 19th century were treated with contempt. Through the use of primary sources including music, photographs, newspaper articles and cartoons, this informative and entertaining talk helps us understand how the Irish went from despised refugees to an acclaimed ethnic group who made major contributions to every facet of American life.

**Date(s): Monday, October 23 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## Sports and Politicians with Tom Rooney

There are those that consider politics to be the world's most popular spectator sport. Certainly sports and politicians have crossed paths many times throughout history; this course will cover some of those areas. For example, US Presidents have competed in sports and the White House has contained many sporting facilities.

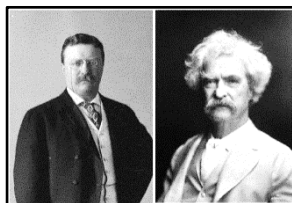
**Date(s): Tuesday, October 24 Time: 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: Location: Zoom**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



## FDR's New Deal & The National Park Service with Gary Stamm

Our 32nd President will personally explore along with you the serious plight our country was in during the 1930s: millions out of work, businesses going under, banks closing, and people losing their homes and farms. In 1933 FDR had to come up with a plan to help our nation. Find out the philosophy behind the New Deal's programs and acts and how effective and challenged they were. Then he will share the story of the National Park Service created in 1916 and its expanding role, including oversight of over 400 parks, forests and historical sites. The NPS has become an important guardian of our nation's natural and historic treasures. Find out FDR's and the New Deal's important contributions to the NPS and its many locations, including those in Minnesota.

**Date(s): Wednesday, October 25 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**  
**Location: Heintz Center H1100**  
**LIFE Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



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

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

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



# RCTC LIFE Program – July thru October 2023



## **The Sweetest Job Ever: My Time in the Candy Industry with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter**

Historical Presenter, Jim Gibbons, will discuss his years as a sales representative for the E.J. Brach & Sons Candy Company. From the enticing chocolate smell of the plant, to the eye-twinkling displays in the stores, Gibbons will present all the tricks of the trade that help you, the buyer, select your treats. Whether it be the candy corn for Halloween, the chocolate bunnies during Easter, or the peppermints during the Holidays, Gibbons will take you back to a time when life

was sweet. He will explain the competitiveness, advertising, aisle appeal and psychological warfare used by candy companies to attract buyers' attention and make you feel like a kid in a candy store.

**Date(s): Monday, October 30 Time: 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Intro to the Bible, Part 2: The Christian Apocrypha & New Testament with Travis Beck**

The writings that became part of the Christian Bible were written and assembled over time and represent the work of multiple authors, editors, and redactors. What do we know (or think we know!) about how these writings came to be? Who wrote them? What are the apocryphal books? Why are the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke

so similar? Who was Paul and how many letters did he actually write? What is the book of Revelation even about? We'll wrestle with these questions and more as we briefly explore these ancient texts from an academic perspective.

**Date(s): Monday, October 30 Time: 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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



## **Ghosts of the Apostle Islands with Jeff Rennie, Author, Photographer**

Sands that sing, lighthouse doors that swing shut seemingly by themselves, sailors drowning, and hermit prowling. Jeff Rennie, author of JEWELS ON THE WATER: LAKE SUPERIOR'S APOSTLE ISLANDS shares the most spine-tingling and mysterious tales of the Apostle Islands. Join us if you dare!

**Date(s): Tue, October 31 Time: 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1 Location: Zoom**

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

**It's Time to Renew Your LIFE Membership for the 2023-24 Academic Year – July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024.**



# LIFE Program Registration Information

Learning Is ForEver

LIFE

RCTC



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

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

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

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

\* **Online registration is now available for LIFE members only with credit card payment!!** Please contact Jamie at [jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu](mailto:jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu).

**Tuition Assistance:** Scholarships are available.

\* Please contact Jamie at 507-280-3157.

## **Cancellation and Refund Policy:**

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

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

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

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

[www.learningisforever.net](http://www.learningisforever.net)

