

June/July 2020

RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Classes



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RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program



Todd Lefko is the President of the International Business Development Council, an import-export firm. He has homes in MN 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 U of MN, and political science, international relations, political philosophy, political campaign management, leadership, organizational development, and public administration at other MN 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.

[Red Sea Security with Todd Lefko](#)

The Red Sea region has become a focal point of international involvement and intrigue. With almost a third of world oil shipments, the Red Sea reflects energy issues, world economics, the fight against terrorism and the growing influence of Iran in the Region. With continued tension between the United States and Iran, fights in the Horn of Africa, Yemen and the Middle East, the Red Sea is a potential ignition point for world Conflict. We will discuss the importance of the Region, the actors, the current fights and how it remains a central point for American involvement.

Date: Friday, June 12 Time: 10 am-Noon

Online Fee: \$15

[Human Trafficking and Modern Security with Todd Lefko](#)

With over forty million slaves remaining worldwide, modern slavery continues. The world has developed laws, regulations and institutions for limitation and control, but the issue continues in the United States and across the world. We will discuss the impact of trafficking and slavery and what can be done for control. It has no place in a civilized society or world, but unfortunately remains the life for millions of children, women and men.

Date: Friday, June 12 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$15

RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program



Lee E. Frelich is Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology. He received a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1986. Frelich has authored more than 150 publications with 160 coauthors from 19 countries, including major works for Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press. His research has been featured in the news media hundreds of times, including such venues as The New York Times, National Geographic, Newsweek, and CBS Radio Osgood Files.

[Invasion of the Earthworms with Lee Frelich PhD, Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology](#)

Invasive earthworms from Europe change the structure of the soil by consuming the leaf litter (duff), leading to changes in availability of water and nutrients, in turn causing the plant community to change. These changes have wide-ranging cascade effects of interest to society, including impacts on forest productivity, climate change, conservation of native plants, human and crop health, and forest fires. New research on the recent Asian earthworm invasion will also be discussed.

Date: Monday, June 15 Time: 10 am-Noon

Online Fee: \$15

[400 Years of Fire and Wind in the BWCAW with Lee Frelich PhD, Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology](#)

Minnesota's Boundary Waters are world famous for studies of large natural disturbances. We will examine the landscape patterns that fires have created, as well as large fluctuations in fire frequency, over the last 400 years. In recent years changing climate has resulted in new disturbance types, including the big blowdown of 1999, and the return of large fires in the 21st century. We will discuss how the forests are responding to all of these changes.

Date: Monday, June 15 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$15



RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program



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

[The Gilded Age with RCTC Professor Chad Israelson MA](#)

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

Date: Tuesday, June 16 Time: 9-11 am

Online Fee: \$13



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.

[Theodore Roosevelt Exploration of Ethics in Government, a Perspective with Adam Lindquist](#)

Some critics call Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson the most destructive Presidents to the role, over stepping boundaries intended by the Constitution. We will explore these comments and the ethics of Theodore Roosevelt and his use of power while President and how it influences today. Emphasis will be made on his policies and the issues of the day, with examining parallels for today from class participation.

Date: Tuesday, June 16 Time: 1-2:30 pm

Online Fee: \$15



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

[Great Decisions 2020 Discussion Group Topic: India and Pakistan with Steve Troutman](#)

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode a wave of Hindu nationalism to a historic reelection in 2019. His first order of business was to revoke the special status granted to the Kashmir region, inflaming the rivalry between India and Pakistan. How will the Kashmir situation affect the region, both economically and politically?

Date: Tuesday, June 16 Time: 3-5 pm

Great Decisions Online Fee: Complimentary

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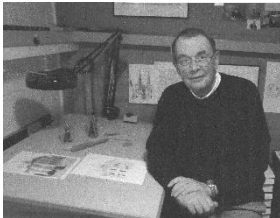
Don Mitchell obtained an M.S. degree in Conservation Biology from the U of M and has conducted field studies of hummingbirds and the plants they pollinate in MN, WI, CO, and CA. He is a federally-permitted hummingbird bander and has served as VP of the MN Ornithologists' Union. He is a Master Gardener and attracts hundreds of hummingbirds annually to his garden near the Mississippi River in Red Wing, Minnesota.

[Hummingbird Biology and Attracting Hummingbirds to your Garden with Donald Mitchell MS](#)

Donald Mitchell will give a presentation about strategies for turning your yard into a hummingbird haven. He will provide specific recommendations for plants and feeders that work to attract hummingbirds to Minnesota gardens. He will also provide insights regarding hummingbird biology derived from his 20 years of studying wild hummingbirds and the plants they pollinate. These insights will help you understand why certain strategies for attracting hummingbirds work while others fail.

Date: Wednesday, June 17 Time: 10-11:30 am

Online Fee: \$9



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.

[Medieval Churches of England with Ken Allsen](#)

Large medieval abbey churches and cathedrals of England were first built around the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066. This great wave of building spread all over the English countryside through a number of centuries. This class will survey a number of notable examples and explore the attributes and styles that distinguish them from other large European churches of the same era.

Date: Wednesday, June 17 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$13

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After retirement from IBM, **Bill Bakken** attended MSU-Mankato and received an MA in History in 1996. His focus of study was Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman England. He taught a wide selection of history courses at RCTC as a part-time instructor from 1996 until retirement in 2008 and a wide variety of LIFE classes since. His interests include reading science fiction, adventure, and Biblical History, research and collection of North Dakota Pottery and snorkeling and underwater photography.

The Kensington Rune Stone with Bill Bakken MA

The Kensington Rune Stone has been controversial since it was first made public in 1898. Articles appear on a regular basis attempting either to prove or disprove the authenticity of the stone. This class will briefly examine the history of the Kensington Rune Stone and then look at the text of the stone itself for evidence of the likelihood that it is a genuine article.

Date: Thursday, June 18 Time: 10-11 am

Online Fee: \$5



Sarah Ruble is a professor of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College. She attended Seattle Pacific University and Duke University before settling in the Midwest. She is the author of "The Gospel of Freedom and Power: Protestant Missionaries in American Culture Since 1945" (University of North Carolina Press) that focuses on the discussions about missionaries in post-World War II American culture.

Religion in the U.S. Since 1945 with Sarah Ruble PhD

Since the end of World War II, religion in the United States has undergone significant change. This course will look at some of the key developments in U.S. religion in 1945, from what seemed to be a consensus about religion during the 1950s--it was part of a larger stance against ungodly communists--to the fracturing of religion amid the changes of the 1960s and 1970s to the continued divisions among and between religious groups today.

Date: Thursday, June 18 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$15



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

LIFE Book Group with Facilitator: Steve Troutman

June's book will be "The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why It Matters" by Thomas M. Nichols. The summer read for September is "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover.

Date: Friday, June 19 Time: 10 am-Noon

Online Fee: Complimentary

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Mark Canning was born in Munich of American parents but grew up in Minnetonka. (His dad was the Managing Editor of the Star). After graduation from college in 1977, he went overseas and only moved back last spring. Most of those 41 years were spent with the State Department as a diplomat. He lived in, and had to study the languages of, Poland, South Africa, Zambia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Korea, and China. He also worked as a college lecturer and radio news announcer (Taiwan), soldier (Korea) and student (London, the Soviet Union). Mark retired from the State Department on April 1, 2018. Since then he has taught Chinese at Concordia College, given lectures on North Korea, been a panelist at Twin Cities Public Television, and mentored an exercise for the Army War College based on the North Korean nuclear talks. Mark is married and has four grown kids who grew up overseas, but now live in the Twin Cities. He loves cycling and has raced on four continents.

The State of US Diplomacy, a view from the inside. with Mark Canning, Retired U.S. Diplomat and Deborah Canning

Diplomats usually spend their lives working behind the scenes. What are these lives like? Where do they live? What's it like for spouses, kids, and pets? What is the role of locally hired colleagues? How are assignments made? How do you learn the required foreign languages? What's it like to move back to the States after living overseas for so many years? Mark and his wife, Deborah, who also worked at embassies overseas, spent more than three decades abroad, during which they raised four kids. They will talk about their experiences and answer all your questions.

Date: Tuesday, June 23 Time: 10 am-Noon

Online Fee: \$15

The April Fool's Crisis with Mark Canning, Retired U.S. Diplomat

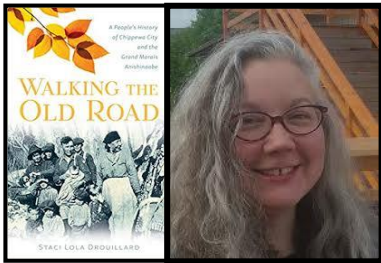
On April 1, 2001, a US reconnaissance plane and a Chinese fighter jet collided in the skies south of China. The Chinese pilot died and the US plane made an emergency landing at a Chinese air base, where the crew was detained and the plane was thoroughly investigated. I was one of a small team sent to negotiate the return of the crew and plane. How was this crisis, just three months into George W. Bush's first term, handled? How has the US - China relationship changed since then? How might the next crisis be handled?

Date: Tuesday, June 23 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$15



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Staci Lola Drouillard, a descendant of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Anishinaabe, is the development director at WTIP Community Radio in Grand Marais, Minnesota, and was for many years the producer of two original radio series, Walking the Old Road: The History of Chippewa City and the Grand Marais Chippewa and Anishinaabe Way, an exploration of contemporary Ojibwe life through interviews and storytelling.

Recovering the Lost History of Chippewa City with Staci Drouillard

At the turn of the nineteenth century, one mile east of Grand Marais, Minnesota, you would have found Chippewa City, a village that as many as 200 Anishinnabe families called home. Today you will find only Highway 61, private lakeshore property, and the one remaining village building; St. Francis Xavier Church. *In Walking the Old Road: A People's History of Chippewa City and the Grand Marais Anishinaabe*, the author Staci Lola Drouillard walks you through the story of that lost community, reclaiming for history the Ojibwe voices that have for so long, and so unceremoniously, been silenced.

Date: Wednesday, June 24 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$15



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.

Cyber Conflict: The Boogeyman Is Real, and He Is In Your Phone with Richard Leitch PhD

Nation-states no longer have to rely on conventional military means to get what they want in conflict with others; they can attack an opponent's technological infrastructure through cyberwarfare with debilitating effects. But nation-states are not the only actors whose security is at risk, nor are they the only actors in this new form of conflict. Individuals and groups of individuals can also be both the perpetrators and target of malicious intent, and the consequences of their actions are real. Will the planned global rollout of the 5G network enhance or compromise security, and how is it related to contemporary international relations?

Date: Thursday, June 25 Time: 10 am-Noon

Online Fee: \$15

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The Philippines: Past, Present, and Prognostications of the Future with Richard Leitch PhD

The Philippines comprises more than 7,000 islands of diverse peoples who have experienced profound shifts in government rule over more than a century. In brief, the US replaced Spain as colonial administrators at the end of the 19th century, a period usurped by Japanese occupation during World War II, followed by postwar independence and the Cold War despotic rule of Ferdinand Marcos, the appearance of a fledgling Aquino(s) democracy, and at present the strongman rule of Duterte. What are the pressing domestic and international issues facing this nation-state archipelago?

Date: Thursday, June 25 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$15



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

Great Decisions 2020 Discussion Topic: Red Sea Security with Steve Troutman

The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the U.S. building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? How important is Red Sea security for global security? Can the region be a place of global cooperation?

Date: Tuesday, June 30 Time: 3-5 pm

Great Decisions Online Fee: Complimentary

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Rylee is the Executive Director of the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, a grassroots organization dedicated to saving a disappearing Lake Pepin. She received her Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, with a focus on water

resources in Minnesota. In 2017 Rylee was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to represent environmental organizations on Minnesota's Clean Water Council. Rylee currently serves as chair of the Minnesota Environmental Fund's Board of Directors and formerly served on the board of the Minnesota Conservation Federation.

[A Disappearing Lake Pepin, and Impacts on the Upper Mississippi River with Rylee Main, Executive Director](#)

Lake Pepin is disappearing from sediment accumulation that is 10x greater than normal. Annual sediment loads - equivalent to a city block filled to the height of the Foshay Tower - are wreaking havoc on communities, recreation, and fish and wildlife in Lake Pepin. There is a statewide focus to clean up the Minnesota River, which contributes 75-90% of the sediment, and yet sediment loads are not diminishing. This class will focus on how Minnesota's changing hydrology is outpacing mitigation efforts, how impairments in Lake Pepin demonstrate broader challenges on the Upper Mississippi River, and the emerging solutions that can help protect ecological systems and navigation on the river.

Date: Tuesday, July 7 Time: 1-2:30 pm

Online Fee: \$5



Ivan is passionate about everything sustainable. He renovated an 1890 home into a near net-zero energy home with many technologies incorporated into it. He completed a Permaculture Design course in 2018. Ivan is looking forward to facilitating this offering.

["RetroSuburbia: the Downshifter's Guide to a Resilient Future" Book Club with Ivan Idso](#)

The pandemic provides a unique opportunity to leverage positive changes that decades of sustainability discourse have failed to achieve. Part manual and part manifesto, this 592 page book shows how we can downshift and retrofit our homes, gardens, communities and, above all, ourselves to be more self-organized, sustainable and resilient into an uncertain future. It promises a challenging but exciting mix of satisfying work, a more meaningful way of living and hope for the next generation. RetroSuburbia is divided into three main sections: the Built, the Biological and the Behavioral along with the introductory section 'Setting the scene'. We will meet weekly for 3 months to get through the book at a reasonable pace. The book is available at <https://retrosuburbia.com/> either online at a price of "Pay what you feel" (can afford) or the hardcopy version for AUD \$85.00 (\$55 USD).

Date: Tuesdays, Jul 7-Sep. 29 Time: 7-8:30 pm

Online Fee: \$5

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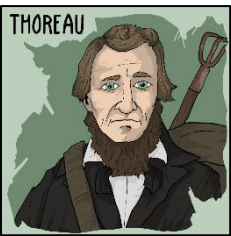
Paul is a retired IBMer and active Mayo Volunteer who loves researching and presenting music and local history topics. He has given numerous history presentations in Rochester and presented about twenty different rock music classes for Rochester Community Education.

[Mayo Buildings - The Stories Behind the Names with Paul Koeller](#)

You've driven by the Mayo Clinic buildings many times. You've probably even had appointments at the various buildings. You know the building names, but do you know the stories behind the names? Join Paul Koeller as he shares photos of the various Mayo Clinic buildings and tells you something about the people who helped make the buildings possible.

Date: Wednesday, July 8 Time: 1-2:30 pm

Online Fee: \$10



Vaunceil Kruse, MAE, taught AP English in a small diverse high school in Illinois for over twenty years. After retirement she served as Communications Coordinator for NAMI Wisconsin. She has a Master's Degree in Education with a Specialty in English from Olivet Nazarene University.

[Thoreau on Solitude with Vaunceil Kruse MAE](#)

A look at Thoreau's thoughts on solitude and the healing effects of walking in nature drawn from Walden, his journals and essays.

Date: Thursday, July 9 Time: 1-2:30 pm

Online Fee: \$10

RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program



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[Great Decisions 2020 Discussion Topic: Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking with Steve Troutman](#)

Almost every nation has enacted laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsor a large variety of projects to curb trafficking and slavery. Billions of dollars have been allocated to these efforts. What is the international community doing to combat slavery and trafficking? What are the experiences like for those being trafficked?

Date: Tuesday, July 14 Time: 3-5 pm

Online Fee: Complimentary



Dave Battistel is a history teacher and instructional leader at St. Patrick High School in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Since 1994 he has been actively researching and writing about the history of the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway, as well as its associated ventures (silver and iron mining and logging). He is currently writing a book on the Gunflint & Lake Superior Railroad.

[Gunflint & Lake Superior: Ontario's Private American Railroad with Dave Battistel](#)

This is the story of a Wisconsin logging company whose headquarters was located in Port Arthur (Thunder Bay) and for many years was the largest employer in the city. It incorporated and built a railroad in Minnesota to harvest timber, and in the process created one of the most unique logging operations in North America. The railroad had no American terminus or connection; its only access was through Canada. The logs cut in Minnesota were transported to Port Arthur to be processed into lumber and then were shipped primarily to a burgeoning construction market in western Canada.

Date: Wednesday, July 15 Time: 10 am-Noon

Online Fee: \$13

RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program



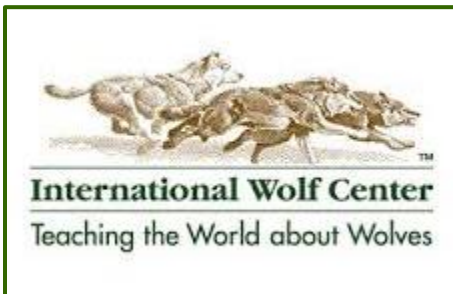
Dorothy has been a presenter of this American History event for over 35 years. Her interactive class assists the participants in understanding the why, how, and results of moving over 400,000 children across our nation. For her efforts, she has been honored twice by the National Orphan Train Complex Board for continuing the story.

[A Historic Ride on the Orphan Trains with Dorothy Lund Nelson](#)

If you enjoy learning about historical events, this class is for you! Dorothy A. Lund Nelson will guide you through a part of American history when many children were “placed out” into homes across our country. Over a period of 75 years, over 250,000 children traveled by train to find new parents and families. Attend and learn why the children traveled, what conditions they left behind, and who assisted them in finding a new family. Through a presentation, videos, and many Orphan Train Riders’ stories, you will find that you’ll want to learn more!

Date: Thursday, July 16 Time: 10-11:30 am

Online Fee: \$9



Wolf Center Educators come from all over the U.S. and have diverse backgrounds in biology, wildlife management and conservation education. Our educators work closely with wolf researchers and biologists, and are committed to providing quality science-based education about wolves through engaging and interactive programs.

[Wolf 101 and Wolf Research with International Wolf Center](#)

In Wolf 101 the International Wolf Center staff will cover the basics of gray wolf biology and behavior. Join us as we address a variety of topics including where wolves live, what they eat, and how they have adapted to different environments. This interactive program is a great introduction to the world of gray wolves! The second part of this class will be Wolf Research. Discover how wolf researchers have learned to track wolves! Join the International Wolf Center staff as we look at the history and methods behind tracking wolves. We will explore the reasons why wolves are tracked, what radio telemetry is and what information is gathered once they are found. What do you think we can learn from them? The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in their future.

Date: Monday, July 20 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$15

RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program



David Jones, a resident of Minneapolis, has been presenting on historical topics to a wide range of audiences since 1996. He has made more than 750 presentations to over 20,000 people. He is a native of St. Peter, MN and a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College

[Charles Lindbergh: Triumph, Tragedy, and Controversy with David E. Jones](#)

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first pilot to fly solo from New York to Paris. This feat made him one of the biggest celebrities of his time. However, his life following the flight was filled with tragedy and controversy. Join us to explore the complicated life of a complex man.

Date: Wednesday, July 22 Time: 1-2:30 pm

Online Fee: \$10



Ron has shared his amazing story with corporations, business organizations, and school children throughout America. As one corporate executive said, "Yours is a story that only happens in dreams." Ron has been featured on The MLB Network Documentary "Letters from Jackie", The National Baseball Hall of Fame, USA Today, CBS Evening News, ESPN, CBS Radio, NPR's "The Story" with Dick Gordon, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Chicago Sun Times, and Los Angeles Times. His story has also been made into a play written by Oscar winning author Eric Simonson.

[A Kid and a Baseball Legend with Ron Rabinovitz](#)

Ron was eight years old when he first met his hero Jackie Robinson at a Milwaukee Braves/Brooklyn Dodgers game in Milwaukee in 1953. Jackie and Ron maintained a one-on-one close relationship and friendship from that time on. Ron's story is of a kid, his larger than life hero, and the lessons he learned. His story is that of dreams coming true, mutual respect, and "paying it forward". It's a beautiful story of a friendship between a baseball legend and a boy. Ron shares the poignant, emotional, and heartfelt letters that provide a unique insight into Jackie Robinson's soul. Invite your grandkids to join you!

Date: Thursday, July 23 Time: 1-2:30 pm

Online Fee: \$12

RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program



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[Great Decisions 2020 Discussion Topic: U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle with Steve Troutman](#)

Combatting illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the administration, which hold the nations responsible for the large flow of migrants from Latin America to the U.S. With funds from the U.S. cut, how can the Northern Triangle countries curtail migration?

Date: Tuesday, July 28 Time: 3-5 pm

Online Fee: Complimentary



Claire is an attorney at the Yanowitz Law Firm, PLLC. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate and trust administration. She drafts wills, trusts, healthcare directives and powers of attorney. She works to protect family wealth, set up plans that ensure spouses are cared for, minimize taxes, and achieve charitable goals.

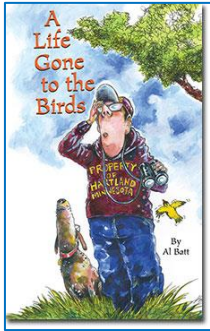
[Getting Your Affairs in Order in the Wake of COVID-19 with Claire Langton-Yanowitz](#)

Claire will discuss simple steps people can take in order to make it easier for family members to transfer assets when a loved one dies. She will also outline common mistakes people make. Claire will compare the difference between a will and a trust and what documents people should have in place in the even they become incapacitated.

Date: Wednesday, July 29 Time: 10-11 am

Online Fee: \$8

RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program



Al Batt of Hartland, Minnesota is a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. Al writes humor and nature columns for many newspapers and does regular radio shows about nature. He writes a number of popular cartoon strips that are syndicated nationally and is author of the book, "A Life Gone to the Birds." He is a columnist for "Bird Watcher's Digest" and writes for a number of magazines and books. He is a trustee of the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, Alaska. Al hosted TV shows for many years and speaks at various festivals, conferences and conventions all over the world. He has received the Ed Franey Conservation Media Award from the Izaak Walton League, the Thomas Sadler Roberts Award from the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union for lifetime contributions to birding and was recognized by Bluebirds Across Nebraska for outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation. Al speaks to anyone who will listen. His mother thinks he is special.

Show-and-tell: It's your story. with Al Batt

Please join Al for show-and-tell. All you need do is to show up and tell a short story about the good old days, one of which could be today. Everyone will still like you even if you just listen.

Date: Thursday, July 30 Time: 1-2 pm

Online Fee: \$10



Teaching American Indian history and the environment, Mercedes Tuma-Hansen presents programs at schools, parks, museums, and as a public speaker. Starting at the Minnesota Historical Society, she developed a national award-winning museum education program. Now she has over 15 years of living history experience. Teaching about everyday life in the past and letting people try their hand at skills like birch bark basket making, net making, processing wild nuts, and creating traditional art with a modern twist gives people an opportunity to experience history. These programs engage participants in history by connecting the past to our modern lives.

Bangalore, India Travel Tale with Mercedes Tuma-Hansen

India had been on Mercedes' bucket list for ages. In 2017 she finally had a chance to tag along with her boyfriend (now husband) on his business trip to Bangalore, a business city with few tourists in the south of India. Without an agenda I walked the city, smiled at local people who were as curious about me as I was about them, and found community in a foreign land. This is her story of connection with the rich culture and beautiful people of India.

Date: Friday, July 31 Time: 1-3 pm

Online Fee: \$15

RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) Program

- \$15 Red Sea Security....pg 1
- \$15 Human Trafficking....pg 1
- \$15 Invasion of the Earthworms...pg 2
- \$15 400 Years of Fire & Wind in the BWCAW....pg 2
- \$13 The Gilded Age....pg 3
- \$15 Theodore Roosevelt Exploration of Ethics in Government, a Perspective....pg 3
- Complimentary Great Decisions 2020 Discussion Topic: India and Pakistan....pg 3 (NEW)
- \$9 Hummingbird Biology and Attracting Hummingbirds to your Garden...pg 4
- \$13 Medieval Churches of England....pg 4
- \$5 The Kensington Rune Stone....pg 5
- \$15 Religion in the U.S. Since 1945 with Sarah Ruble PhD...pg 5 (NEW)
- Complimentary LIFE Book Group....pg 5
- \$15 State of US Diplomacy, a view from the inside...pg 6
- \$15 The April Fool's Crisis....pg 6
- \$15 Recovering the Lost History of Chippewa City with Staci Drouillard...pg 7 (NEW)
- \$15 Cyber Conflict: The Boogeyman Is Real, and He Is In Your Phone....pg 7
- \$15 The Philippines: Past, Present, and Prognostications of the Future....pg 8
- Complimentary Great Decisions 2020 Discussion Topic: Red Sea Security....pg 8
- \$5 A Disappearing Lake Pepin, & Impacts on the Upper Mississippi River with Rylee Main, Executive Director...pg 9 (NEW)
- \$5 "RetroSuburbia: the Downshifter's Guide to a Resilient Future" Book Club with Ivan Idso...pg 9 (NEW)
- \$10 Mayo Buildings - The Stories Behind the Names with Paul Koeller...pg 10 (NEW)
- \$10 Thoreau on Solitude with Vauceil Kruse MAE...pg 10 (NEW)
- Complimentary Great Decisions 2020 Discussion Topic: Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking with Steve Troutman..pg 11
- \$13 Gunflint & Lake Superior: Ontario's Private American Railroad with Dave Battistel...pg 11 (NEW)
- \$9 A Historic Ride on the Orphan Trains with Dorothy Lund Nelson...pg 12 (NEW)
- \$15 Wolf 101 and Wolf Research with International Wolf Center...pg 12 (NEW)
- \$10 Charles Lindbergh: Triumph, Tragedy, and Controversy with David E. Jones...pg 13 (NEW)
- \$12 A Kid and a Baseball Legend with Ron Rabinovitz...pg 13 (NEW)
- Complimentary Great Decisions 2020 Discussion Topic: U.S. Relations with the N. Triangle with Steve Troutman.pg 14
- \$8 Getting Your Affairs in Order in the Wake of COVID-19 with Claire Langton-Yanowitz...pg 14 (NEW)
- \$10 Show-and-tell: It's your story. with Al Batt...pg 15 (NEW)
- \$15 Bangalore, India Travel Tale with Mercedes Tuma-Hansen...pg 15 (NEW)



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Check payment to RCTC LIFE Required – No Credit Cards Accepted. (If you have been a LIFE Member, **you can register online with a credit card** at www.learningisforever.net. If you are **new** to LIFE and would like to register online, please email Jamie at Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu for login information.)

Send this form/your check to RCTC LIFE, 851 30th Ave SE-Box 50, Rochester, MN 55904

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