

# LIFE PROGRAM

*Learning Is Forever*

**JAN/FEB/MAR 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!

Wow, what a year we have had at LIFE! We have certainly Zoomed to learn a lot from folks we didn't even know existed. Winter 2023 takes us to the UK and Poland. We hope you will join as we 'travel' to new places and meet and enrich our lives with presenters from all over the world. Board member Peg Farrell graces our cover this season. Thank you to People's Cooperative Power for awarding RCTC LIFE an Operation Round UP grant for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Save the date – Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party! Have a wonderful holiday season. We thank you for your support.

*Chrisanne & Jamie*

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[Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu](mailto:Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu)

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 1926 Collegeview Road SE-Box 50  
 Rochester, MN 55904



## LIFE PROGRAM TUITION ASSISTANCE

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

## LIFE Program Gift Certificates Available!

Please contact Jamie at 507-280-3157.

# LETTER FROM THE LIFE BOARD CHAIR

There's a song entitled *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* which especially resonates for some of us in MN. But winter doesn't need to be bleak if you are an active participant in the LIFE program. The wintertime is just perfect for participating in LIFE via Zoom. If you stay in the northland, you'll be warm and cozy in your home and avoid the cold temps, the snow and the ice. If you are a snowbird, you can keep up with LIFE and "travel to be with us" with just click of the Zoom link!

This catalog is filled with an amazing variety of options. You'll find classes offered by 34 (by my count) first time instructors. I can't highlight them all so here's one from each month of catalog. On January 10, we will welcome author Tim McMahon who will share "The History of Curling: 500 Years of Throwing Rocks at Houses". In February mark your calendar for the morning of the 28th and enroll in a unique opportunity for "An Auschwitz Virtual Live Tour" with Dr. Jerry Wojcik, docent of the Auschwitz Museum in Poland. "Condor's Flight/The Land that Shapes Us" will be presented by the Distance Learning Rangers, Grand Canyon National Park on March 16. The remaining first-time LIFE instructors have classes just as varied and interesting as these. Check them out.

No worries, there's still lots of opportunities to welcome back many of our favorite instructors. Here's just a very brief sampling: "Economic Warfare" with Todd Lefko, Richard Bell presenting "The Citizen's Guide to the 1619 Project", Marguerite Ragnow presenting "America in Early Maps", "The Architecture of Thomas Jefferson" with Ken Allsen, and "Great Decisions" led by Steve Troutman. Other returning speakers include: Andrew O'Brien, Carol Veldman Rudie, Taylor Hagood, Timothy R. Johnson, Anthony Sammarco, Chad Israelson, and Annette Isaacson, to name just a few. There's more so look through the catalog and pick your favorite!

Travel by coach bus is safe and convenient in January, February, and March and we've got several day trips from which to choose. How about "The Defeat of Jessie James" at the History Theatre, or Saint Paul's Gangsters Tour, or maybe "The Prom" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre? Check the catalog for their dates and more trip options.



As I stated earlier, winter is an excellent time to be engaged with the LIFE program. I hope you'll take advantage of several of the many, many options you'll find in this catalog and fill your winter with lifelong learning. Scholarships are available; to access one just contact Chrisanne at [chrisanne.pieper@rctc.edu](mailto:chrisanne.pieper@rctc.edu). I hope to see each of you several times over the winter months.

~ Janet Bartz, LIFE Board Chair, 2022-23

Jane Callahan  
Brenda Dicken  
Peg Farrell  
Tom Gaffey  
Pamela Haase  
Jane Hallman  
Judy Haugen  
Chad Israelson  
Debby Jacobsen

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- 24 "Our Jane: Why We Are Always On a First-Name Basis with Jane Austen" with Ann Campbell PhD, Boise State
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- 32 A Very British Love Story: Wallis Simpson & King Edward VIII with Andrew O'Brien MS
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# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

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## **"Agent Orange and the Legacies of the Vietnam War" with Dr. Edwin Martini, Dean, Merze Tate College, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning, Western Michigan University**

From 1961-1971, the United States and its allies sprayed more than 20 million gallons of herbicides over Southeast Asia. Sixty percent of those chemicals consisted of Agent Orange, a combination that was later shown to potentially cause cancer and birth defects. In this presentation, we will explore the complex histories that led to the decision to weaponize herbicides during the Vietnam War, and discuss the long-term consequences of Agent Orange and related chemicals on human and environmental health.

**Date(s): Wednesday, January 4 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Dr. Ed Martini is Professor of History at Western Michigan University, where he currently serves as Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and Dean of Merze Tate College. He is the author and editor of several books, including Invisible Enemies: The American War on Vietnam, 1975-2000 (2007), Agent Orange: History, Science, and the Politics of Uncertainty (2012), and At War: The Military and American Culture in the Twentieth Century and Beyond (2018, with David Kieran). Martini is currently working on a global history of napalm and serves as co-editor of the University of Massachusetts Press book series, "Culture and Politics in the Cold War and Beyond."*

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## **"The 1893 Chicago World's Fair" with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter**

Jim will discuss the turn of events that took place at the World's Columbian Exposition, later to be called the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Gibbons will explain how Thomas Edison brought his new inventions to the fair. He will discuss how author L. Frank Baum wrote the book, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" based on the magic and beauty he saw in Edison's inventions and other influences at the fair. While the fair brought to light many new inventions, cultures, and literary works, it also cast darkness among the city as America's first well-known serial killer, Dr. Henry Howard Holmes (also known as H.H. Holmes), confessed to murdering between 27-200 people in his hotel. The book, "The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America," would later be written by author Erik Larson based the H.H. Holmes murders. On a lighter note, the inventions and magic can still be found in Chicago's last-standing building of 1893, The Museum of Science and Industry, where families, adults and children can learn and explore technology, history, and culture of the past and present.

**Date(s): Thursday, January 5 Time(s): 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1**

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



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

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## **"Funniest Moments in Films" with Martin Gitlin, Author**

Join award-winning author and pop culture historian Marty Gitlin for The Funniest Moments in Film - the biggest belly-laughs in movie history. This interactive presentation highlights the best of the best from the silent era to the modern era. Marty will show videos of the best laugh-out-loud scenes from the 1920s to today, including snippets of such stars as Harold Lloyd, Groucho Marx, Woody Allen, Peter Sellers, Mel Brooks, Dustin Hoffman and Robin Williams. You will be entertained by the funniest moments in such comedies as Some Like it Hot, The Producers, Blazing Saddles, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Naked Gun, Tootsie, Planes, Trains and Automobiles and The Birdcage. He will discuss why they are considered the funniest ever and impact they made



on pop culture. It will include plenty of fun trivia questions and will be followed by a Q & A period.

**Date(s): Thursday, January 5 Time(s): 1-2:15 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

## **"British Houses of Parliament" with Andrew O'Brien MS**

Dive into the mother of all parliaments. Learn how Parliament evolved from a King's council during the Anglo-Saxon period to the modern body that we know today. Do you know why the seats face each other instead of facing forward? Did you know that a secret passage, dating from 1660, was uncovered just this year? Learn why a famous suffragette hid in a cupboard on the night of the 1911 Census, and why the House of Commons provides its members with free snuff.



**Date(s): Monday, January 9 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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



## **"Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg" with Docent, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center**

Based on the New York Times bestselling book and Tumblr page of the same name, "Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg" is the first-ever museum exhibition focused solely on this judicial icon, whose image graces mugs, t-shirts, posters, and bobbleheads. The exhibit is a vibrant exploration of Justice Ginsburg's life and her numerous, often simultaneous roles as a student, wife, mother, lawyer, judge, women's rights pioneer, and Internet phenomenon. Whether you're a fan or a legal scholar, don't miss this blockbuster exhibit!

**Date(s): Monday, January 9 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

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## **"The History of Curling: 500 Years of Throwing Rocks at Houses" with Tim McMahon, Author**

Tim's presentation will include an explanation of the Scottish origins of the sport, how it eventually found its way to Minnesota, and stories about the generations of curling through today. There will be an opportunity for Q & A during and after the presentation.

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

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



*Tim McMahon comes from a family of curlers who have enjoyed the sport for 60 years. He is co-author of "100 Roaring Years on Selby Avenue: The St. Paul Curling Club." The book chronicles the history of the St. Paul Curling Club, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the largest curling club in the United States, with over 1,200 members. Club members have competed in national, international, and Olympics competitions. The book tells the story of a classic building and a pastime steeped in Minnesota history, from the first bonspiels on the Mississippi River in 1893 to the 2012 centennial of the Selby Avenue clubhouse.*

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## **"Norwegians in Logging Camps" followed by "The Significance of Ole Rolvaag for Today" with Glenn L. Borreson, Author, Retired Pastor**

### **NORWEGIANS IN LOGGING CAMPS: Immigrants in the Wisconsin Pineries**

The story of logging in the great pineries of northern Wisconsin is familiar to many of us since we were elementary students hearing of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. An old yellowed photo in Glenn's possession has led him to learn the role of Norwegians, especially immigrants and their families, in the state's logging action. Be prepared to hear their stories, old and new, serious and funny, as Norwegian-Americans worked in winter logging camps in Wisconsin.

### **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OLE ROLVAAG FOR TODAY**

Born in 1876, the year of America's centennial, Ole Rolvaag came from a Norwegian fisherman's family to become one of our country's foremost writers on immigrant life. His fame came with the publishing of *Giants in the Earth* which became a Book-of-the-Month Club selection in June 1927. This book was the first of a trilogy following the progress of a Norwegian family immigrating to the Dakota Territory. Glenn Borreson lifts up episodes in all three books of the trilogy to illustrate how contemporary are themes from Rolvaag in America life yet today. From the costs of emigration to becoming American, Rolvaag tells a good story worth reading again.

**Date(s): Tuesday, January 10 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Glenn Borreson is a retired Lutheran pastor, ordained in 1971 in North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, rural Ettrick, Wisconsin. A graduate of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, he has served congregations in Decorah, Iowa, and South Wayne, Elroy, Mauston, and Holmen, Wisconsin. After he retired, he began researching his family history, a move that led to preparing and presenting programs on his Norwegian-American heritage. The Wisconsin Magazine of History published his article on the history of ski*

*jumping in western Wisconsin, and his book on Trempealeau County ski jumping, *Look Out Below*, came off the press the summer of 2016. Besides doing historical research, he also enjoys flat plane woodcarving and confesses he reads too many mysteries.*



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## "Streetcars in Minnesota" with Aaron Isaacs, Minnesota Streetcar Museum

Before automobiles came to dominate transportation, every town wanted a streetcar system. Minnesota Streetcar Museum historian Aaron Isaacs will tell the story of streetcars in Minnesota and what it was like to ride them.



**Date(s): Wednesday, January 11 Time(s): 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Aaron Isaacs has volunteered at the Minnesota Streetcar Museum for 47 years, serving as its historian and one of a hundred motormen. He has written four books on Minnesota streetcars and edits the museum's quarterly history magazine. He lives in Minneapolis.*

## "Healthy Aging Through Application of Principles from Music Neuroscience" with Dale Taylor PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Dr. Taylor will describe how emerging research by neuroscientists is resulting in a growing list of both clinical and home-based applications of music to achieve advantages such as pain management, immune function enhancement, cognitive maintenance, and recovery from traumatic brain injury to name a few. He will describe his recent work on the use of event related potentials in the brain (such as mismatch negativity) to serve as biomarkers as well as his relationship with the Wisconsin Medical Society that resulted in the creation of "Advance Music Planning" for seniors.

**Date(s): Wednesday, January 11 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Dr. Dale Taylor is President of the UW-Eau Claire Emeriti Faculty Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care, member of the UW Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Implementation Team, and former UW-Eau Claire Liaison to the University of Wisconsin System Design for Diversity. He is a Board Certified Music Therapist, originator of the Biomedical Theory of Music Therapy and author of the book "Biomedical Foundations of Music as Therapy" as well as numerous chapters in books edited by colleagues.*

## "South Africa and the Tragic Legacy of Apartheid" with Henry Berman MBA, Global Minnesota Speaker's Bureau

We will examine the evolution of apartheid in South Africa from an informal approach to governance to a system of state-sponsored RACISM- a gradual process over several hundred years. Its demise in 1991 led to a relatively peaceful transition to an inclusive democracy, thanks to the leadership of Nelson Mandela. We will close with a review of the challenges of the modern



state since that pivotal time.

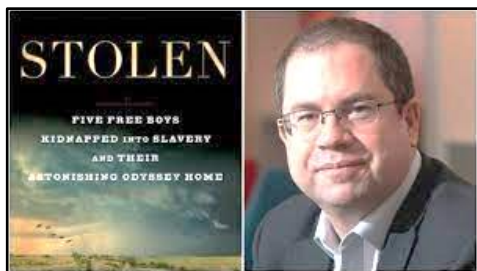
**Date(s): Thursday, January 12 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Henry Berman is a retired businessman, working for 34 years at Ecolab, a global company, based in St Paul. He has been a prominent member of the Great Decisions Speaker's Bureau for 7 years with a strong interest in the Middle East, Africa and the emerging nations of Asia. He has also been a teacher at OLLI*

*(Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Minnesota) for three years.*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"STOLEN: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home" with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland**

Join us for a talk with Dr. Richard Bell, the author of *Stolen*, a new book that tells the incredible story of five boys whose courage forever changed the fight against slavery in America. Their ordeal shines a glaring spotlight on the Reverse

Underground Railroad, a black-market network of human traffickers who stole away thousands of legally free African Americans to fuel slavery's rapid expansion in the decades before the Civil War.

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

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

*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.*

## **"Economic Warfare" with Todd Lefko, Global Minnesota Speaker's Bureau**

Warfare has become more complex. Sanctions, the strength of the dollar, access to international funding, limitations on bank transfers, controls on international expenditure are now central factors of modern warfare. We will discuss how this affects the United States, other nations, and the idea of world power.

**Date(s): Friday, January January 13 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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



*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.*

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## **"America in Early Maps" with Marguerite Ragnow PhD, Curator, James Ford Bell Library, University of MN**

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

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

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



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

*Book Award in the Minnesota Non-Fiction category and also is a finalist for a Midwest Book Award.*

## **"Tools of the Trade" with Candace Summers, Director of Community Education, McLean County Museum of History, IL**

This program explores tools from the late 1800s to today. Included are devices used on the farm, in the office, or at the grocery store. Reminisce about times past with memories of the old hand drill, candlestick telephone, scythe, typewriter, and hog scraper!

**Date(s): Tuesday, January 17 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Candace Summers, Director of Community Education and lead coordinator for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk, has worked at the McLean County Museum of History over 17 years. Each year she helps to educate over 21,000 people in Central Illinois through a wide variety of educational programs. About 10,000 of those individuals are school children and senior citizens who receive in-depth educational programs free of charge. Summers has over fifteen years of experience working in museum education with age groups ranging from K-12 to adults and over twenty years of historical research experience. She has extensive leadership and training experience and has helped other museums*

*and organizations launch their own cemetery walks. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology from the University of Evansville in Evansville, IN. She obtained a Master of History in 2006 from Illinois State University. Summers began her career at the Museum in 2005 as an intern in the Education Department and has worked there ever since.*

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# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **“Light on Light: Russian Impressionism” with Carol Veldman Rudie, Docent, Museum of Russian Art**

While the play of light on objects has always fascinated artists, French impressionists took this preoccupation to new levels. So did Russian artists. While experimenting with French concepts, the northern painters quickly adapted their insights to the qualities of light in their own environments. Landscapes, still lifes, and portraits are filled with the reflected light that these painters saw. Impressionistic influences lasted into the Soviet era as well. Trace this continuing influence through the examples in this presentation.



**Date(s): Wednesday, January 18 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1  
Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**

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

## **“Unsolved Mysteries- the Shipwreck Thomas Hume” with Valerie van Heest, Author, Historian, Underwater Explorer**

On May 21, 1891, the lumber schooner Thomas Hume and its crew of seven sailed out of Chicago, into a spring storm, never to be seen again. The vessel’s owners, Charles Hackley and Thomas Hume of Muskegon, Michigan, could not believe the sturdy lumber hooker could be overcome by rough water. Perhaps a freighter hit it, sank it, then steamed north. Or maybe the crew stole the Hume, repainted it, and sailed away under a different name. The disappearance of the Thomas Hume lingered as one of the great unsolved mysteries of the Great Lakes. In recent years, it even became fodder for UFO stories on the Internet. More than a century after its disappearance, the discovery of the wreck of the Thomas Hume solved the mystery of its disappearance. However, the collection of shoes, clothing, jewelry, coins, and tools found inside generated even more questions. An archaeological investigation by Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates and the Lakeshore Museum Center has attempted to solve the riddles posed by the shipwreck. After survey dives, historical research, and detective-like reasoning, the team pieced together not only the Thomas Hume’s career, but how its crew lived, worked, and died on the lake.

**Date(s): Wednesday, January 18 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1  
Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



*Valerie van Heest is an underwater explorer and historian who has been involved in the discovery and archaeological documentation of numerous historic Great Lakes shipwrecks. Combining her passion for maritime history with her professional writing and design experience, Valerie shares her adventures through award-winning books, films, lectures and museum exhibits in ways to educate, entertain and inspire. She is an inductee in the Women Divers Hall of fame and the recipient of a Michigan State History Award for her work preserving and promoting the state’s submerged maritime history.*

*Valerie has written six books and numerous magazine articles. She is a regular presenter at museums, libraries, and film festivals sharing the dramatic stories of mysteries on the Great Lakes.*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **"The Beautiful Ones: Working with Prince on His Memoir" with Dan Piepenbring, Author**



In early 2016, Prince began work on an autobiography that was cut short by his tragic death that April. Prince's co-writer discusses how he got the job, Prince's ambitious plans for the book, and what it reveals about his career and his childhood in Minneapolis.

**Date(s): Thursday, January 19 Time(s): 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

**Dan Piepenbring** is a writer in New York. He's the co-author of "CHAOS: Charles Manson, the CIA, and the Secret History of the Sixties," and his essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The Paris Review*, and other magazines.

## **"La Belle Epoque, Part 1" with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University**

This first lecture of a series on turn-of-the-twentieth century Paris focuses on the historical forces that brought about this beautiful era of culture, music, literature, and art. In fact, it was era that was not always quite so beautiful as its cognomen sounds. This lecture will range from the political moment of war with Prussia, the Commune, and scientific, technological, and political developments of the era.

**Date(s): Thursday, January 19 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

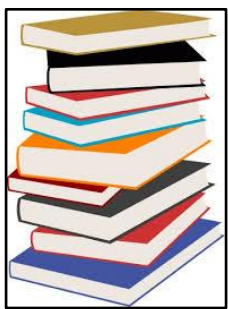
**Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**



**Dr. Taylor Hagood** teaches American literature, with specialization in the writing of William Faulkner, African American literature, and the literature and culture of the United States South. His scholarship examines literary and cultural production in an approach informed by postcolonial theory, theorizing of social interaction via secrecy as a cultural item, and disability studies. Hagood's books include "Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place, and the Materiality of Myth" (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.

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"LIFE Book Group" with Steve Troutman, Facilitator**

January's book is "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean. February's read will be "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings: A Memoir" by Maya Angelou. The book for March will be "How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World & Everything in It" by Arthur Herman.

**Date(s): Fri, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 17 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 3  
Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**

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



## **"Germany's Last Emperor: Kaiser Wilhelm" (Queen Victoria's Grandson) with Andrew O'Brien**

Almost strangled at birth, Wilhelm was a troublesome character from a young age. As heir to the kingdom of Prussia and later the Empire of Germany as first grandchild of Queen Victoria, Wilhelm was ideally placed to bring peace between the two countries. And yet, he would do much to fan the flames of resentment across the continent of Europe. Within his family, Wilhelm attacked his parents for their liberal ideas, a breach that would lead Wilhelm to blame his

mother for causing his father's death. Of course, Wilhelm is most remembered for his role as emperor of Germany during World War One. Almost tried as a war criminal in 1918, Wilhelm fled to the Netherlands where he saw the rise of Nazi Germany, a force that he believed would restore him to the throne. Join me as we explore the life of this most remarkable man.

**Date(s): Monday, January 23 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

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# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **"The Beatles, Chicago, and the 1960s" with John F. Lyons PhD, Professor of History, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Joliet Junior College**

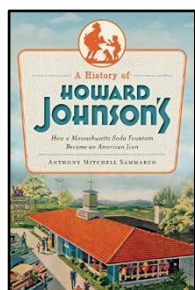
John F. Lyons examines the impact of the Beatles on the Chicago metropolitan area. Through the use of music, video and many unseen photographs from the 1960s, this highly entertaining presentation reveals untold stories of the Beatles' visits to Chicago, highlights the unique connections between the Fab 4 and the Windy City and discusses the diverse cast of characters who were engulfed by the whirlwind of Beatlemania. Attendees will be entertained and, at the same time, learn more about the important role Chicago played in the Beatles story.



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

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

*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.*



## **"The History of Howard Johnson's: 28 Flavors of Ice Cream!" with Anthony M. Sammarco**

Howard Johnson created an orange-roofed empire of ice cream stands and restaurants that stretched from Maine to Florida, and all the way to the West Coast. With a reputation for good food at affordable prices, hungry customers would regularly return for more. The attractive white Colonial Revival restaurants, with eye-catching porcelain tile roofs, illuminated cupolas and sea blue shutters, were described in "Reader's Digest" in 1949 as the epitome of "eating places that look like New England town meeting houses dressed up for Sunday." Highlighted in television shows such as Mad Men and films Netflix's 2019 The Irishman, it's obvious that Howard Johnson's occupies an indelible and pleasant place popular culture. Boston historian and author Anthony M. Sammarco recounts how Howard Johnson introduced twenty-eight flavors of ice cream, the "Tendersweet" clam strips, grilled frankforts and a menu of delicious and traditional foods that families eagerly enjoyed when they traveled.

**Date(s): Tuesday, January 24 Time(s): 10-11:15 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Referred to as the "Balzac of Boston History" by the Boston Globe, Anthony Mitchell Sammarco is a noted historian and author of over seventy books on the history and development of Boston. He commenced writing in 1995, and his books "Lost Boston," "The History of Howard Johnson's: How A Massachusetts Soda Fountain Became a Roadside Icon," "Jordan Marsh: New England's Largest Store" and "The Baker Chocolate Company: A Sweet History" have made the bestsellers list. Mr. Sammarco teaches the popular course Boston History at the Boston University Metropolitan College. He has also taught at The Urban College of Boston since 1997, where his courses led to him being named Educator of the Year. He wrote the book "Boston's Immigrants" for the widely diverse ethnic base of students to use in his course on Boston immigration; he serves on the Leadership Council.*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## "History through Film" with Katherine Jellison PhD, Ohio University, College of Arts and Sciences

Sharing film clips from a variety of big-screen motion pictures, Jellison will discuss what entertainment films get right and what they get wrong in their depictions of historical events. From Hollywood westerns to romances, and every genre in-between, the film industry has a decidedly mixed record when it comes to representations of U.S. history.

**Date(s): Tuesday, January 24 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Dr. Katherine Jellison is Professor of History at Ohio University, where she teaches courses on U.S. women's and gender history. Her publications include "Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913-1963" (University of North Carolina Press, 1993) and "It's Our Day: America's Love Affair with the White Wedding, 1945-2005" (University Press of Kansas, 2008), both of which include "guest appearances" by a few first ladies. She frequently appears in print and on television and radio as a commentator on first ladies and their role in U.S. politics and history.*

## "Religious Freedom" with Timothy R. Johnson PhD, University of MN Department of Political Science and Law

The Supreme Court continues to explore the freedom of religion clause in the First Amendment. But how did it get to where it is today? This talk walks through the Court's history with religion and the major cases it has decided that focus on this clause.

**Date(s): Wednesday, January 25 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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



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

*university wide awards for teaching and was named the 2018 American Political Science Association's Distinguished Teacher.*





# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **“St. Paul Winter Carnival History” with Kate Roberts PhD, Minnesota Historical Society**

Kate Roberts will share history, stories, and some not-too-challenging trivia questions about the Saint Paul Winter Carnival. The Saint Paul Winter Carnival was founded in 1886 by city leaders to combat the notion that St. Paul was, in the words of a New York correspondent, “another Siberia, unfit for human habitation.” The carnival is known for many things, including parades, winter sports contests, Vulcans and Klondike Kates, and ice palaces. Kate will trace the origin and evolution of some of the carnival’s most noteworthy traditions, and will leave plenty of time for attendees to ask questions and to share their own stories of this Minnesota festival.

**Date(s): Wednesday, January 25 Time(s): 1-2:15 pm # of Sessions: 1**

**Member Fee: \$7 Non-Member Fee: \$10**



*Kate Roberts is Senior Exhibit Developer at the Minnesota Historical Society. Born and raised in Moorhead, Minnesota, Kate received her BA in Humanities and Arts Management from Minnesota State University Moorhead, and her MA and PhD in Art History from the University of Minnesota. She joined the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society’s exhibits department in 1989, and has since led the development of dozens of large and small exhibits at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Mill City Museum in Minneapolis, and at historic sites*

*throughout Minnesota. Kate is a frequent lecturer on museum studies history and practice, and a regular presenter at professional conferences. She is the author of numerous journal articles as well as the books Minnesota 150: The People, Places, and Things That Shape Our State (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2007) and Toys of the '50s, '60s, and '70s (co-authored with Adam Scher; St. Paul: MNHS Press, 2014). She lives in St. Paul, where she enjoys reading in winter, gardening in summer, and walking her dog, Tulip, along the Mississippi River year-round.*

## **“The Story of Feet: Why Your Feet Do What They Do, and What YOU Can Do About It” with Sheila Buehler, APRN, CNP, CFCS, Owner of Foot Care Professionals**

This presentation is about an hour long and educates the audience on the following topics: Basic Foot Structure Changes to the feet over time (skin, bones, nails) Role of comorbidities (other health issues ie diabetes) in foot health General Foot Care: how to choose shoes, when to consider inserts, etc Foot structure concerns (bunions, hammertoes) Self care measures (cream, shoes, accommodative devices) When to seek professional care Open time for questions The goal is to educate people so they can help themselves, avoid pain and complications, and to answer questions they may have regarding their feet, which become more of a concern as we age.

**Date(s): Thursday, January 26 Time(s): 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Sheila Buehler APRN, CNP, CFCS is an adult nurse practitioner and certified foot care specialist who is seeking to improve the foot health of Rochester and surrounding community. As owner of Foot Care Professionals, LLC, a key goal is community education about how each person can manage their unique, ever-changing feet to prevent pain and avoid complications for a variety of foot issues. Our feet aren't a problem for us- until they are...or we can't reach them. With 27 years of medical experience including 4 1/2 years in podiatry, Sheila is here to show you what YOU can do to live well with your feet, and when to seek professional help.*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **"Only Hope: My Mother and the Holocaust Brought to Light" with Irving Lubliner MA, Professor Emeritus at Southern Oregon University**

Before she passed away in 1974, Felicia Bornstein Lubliner wrote about her internment in Polish ghettos and two Nazi concentration camps, Auschwitz and Gross-Rosen. Her powerful stories have recently been published by her son, Irving Lubliner, Professor Emeritus at Southern Oregon University. He will share excerpts from "Only Hope: A Survivor's Stories of the Holocaust," shedding light on his mother's experiences and indomitable spirit, as well as his experience as a child of Holocaust survivors and his process in bringing the book to fruition. The instructor will pause during and after his presentation to invite questions and discussion.

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

**Member Fee: \$13 Non-Member Fee: \$21**



*Irving Lubliner teaches math, blues harmonica, and literature courses for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Southern Oregon University, where he has also served on the Council of Directors. During his 40-year career as a mathematics educator, he taught at all levels (kindergarten through graduate school), led seminars for teachers in 39 states, and gave over 350 conference presentations, including several keynote addresses. In 2019, he created Felabra Press and published his mother's writings about her experiences during the Holocaust, the book that will serve as the theme for this presentation.*



## **"Last Czarina of Russia: Alexandra" (Queen Victoria's Granddaughter) with Andrew O'Brien MS**

Destined to rule alongside her husband, the Autocrat of all the Russias, Alexandra found life in St. Petersburg to be quite different from what she learned at the court of her grandmother, Queen Victoria. In Russia, the czarina was shunned by other members of the court because of her shyness and poor French. Instead, Alexandra found strength in her marriage and through the love of her five children. Determined that her son would succeed his father to the throne led her and the dynasty toward disaster in the form of a Rasputin and revolution. Join me as we explore Alexandra and her beginnings in Germany and England to her death in a cellar in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

**Date(s): Monday, January 30 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

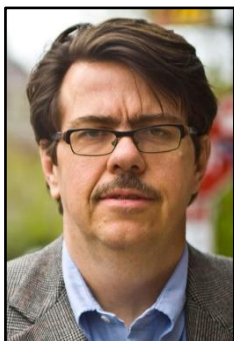
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## **“Rollingstone, Minnesota: A Village in the Sixties” with Kevin Fenton MFA, JD, Author**

What happens to a family when it loses its farm? What happens to a village when it loses its school? Kevin Fenton’s presentation, based on his memoir *Leaving Rollingstone*, explores not just his story but the fate of his family, their farm, and a remarkable village just forty miles west of Rochester.

**Date(s): Monday, January 30 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Kevin Fenton is the author of “Merit Badges,” which won the AWP Award for the Novel and a 2011 Friends of American Writers Award as one of two distinguished books by emerging Midwestern writers and the memoir “Leaving Rollingstone,” which the StarTribune described as “a treasure” and which Patricia Hampl called “an indispensable work of American autobiography.” Raised in the Winona area, Fenton lives in Saint Paul with his wife Ellen and greyhound, Evie. He holds a B.A. from Beloit College, an MFA from the University of Minnesota, and a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School. For more than two decades, he has worked as an advertising writer and creative director.*

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## **“The Early History of Seaport Alexandria: New Insights from Archaeology” with Dr. Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist for Alexandria, Virginia**

Dr. Eleanor Breen will discuss the recent discoveries on the Alexandria, Virginia waterfront, describing the process that led to these findings and providing a fascinating glimpse into what life was like in the 18th-century town. Block by block, project by project, the remains of wharves, warehouses, dwellings, industries, privies, and of course four ships have begun to emerge from the waterlogged depths at the river’s edge. Even as individual features and artifact assemblages, these finds are highly significant, but when taken together along with a wealth of historical documentary data, a maritime cultural landscape is taking form. This presentation offers a tour of the archaeological evidence of the diverse neighborhoods, bustling wharves, and massive land-making efforts that characterized the Alexandria seaport at the turn of the eighteenth century.

**Date(s): Tuesday, January 31 Time(s): 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Dr. Eleanor Breen is a historical archaeologist with two decades of experience on sites in the mid-Atlantic region. As City Archaeologist, Eleanor currently directs the renowned public archaeology program and museum that preserves and interprets the buried history of the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Eleanor came aboard at an exciting time in the program’s 40-year history as waterfront excavations yielded ships, artifacts, and features pertaining to Alexandria’s maritime heritage. Before coming to the city, Eleanor directed the archaeology program at George Washington’s Mount Vernon where her work focused on archaeological collections online and the site of Washington’s whiskey distillery, among other projects. Eleanor holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Eleanor currently serves as immediate past president of the Council of Virginia Archaeologists and was recently appointed to the Department of Historic Resources State Review Board. She and her family live in a historic neighborhood of Alexandria.*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **"The New Promised Land: an Update on the Migrants and Refugees in Germany" with Anette Isaacs MAs**

Six years ago, wars in the Middle East and economic hardship in many other countries were responsible for the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. Over a million of the refugees and migrants set their sights on Germany which seemed to become a new promised land.



Anette will discuss how her home country has dealt with the huge task of absorbing this enormous influx of people and how the refugees are faring in today's Germany!

**Date(s): Tuesday, January 31 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

## **"White Flag" with Judy Mandel MFA, New York Times bestselling author**

Raising the white flag is a universal symbol of surrender, a symbol of the hope that our vulnerability will be shielded from further harm and we can finally lay down our burden. What separates those who summon the inner strength to ask for help from those who can never unfurl their banner? These are the questions that haunt Judy L. Mandel in her searingly honest memoir about loss and addiction, "WHITE FLAG." "WHITE FLAG" is the further exploration of the author's family, so movingly portrayed in her previous New York Times bestselling memoir, "Replacement Child."

**Date(s): Wednesday, February 1 Time(s): 10-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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



**Judy L. Mandel**, a former reporter and marketing executive, holds an MFA in creative writing from Stony Brook University. Her essays, articles and short stories have appeared on Kveller.com, 34th Parallel, The Tishman Review, Connecticut LIFE, ASJA Monthly, Complete Wellbeing Magazine, Connecticut Authors and Publishers Magazine, The Southampton Review, American Writers Review and other publications. Her first book was the New York Times bestseller, *Replacement Child*. She is co-founder of the Replacement Child Forum. A portion of this book's proceeds will be donated to Magnolia New

Beginnings, Inc., an organization that advocates for those living with substance use disorder (SUD), their families and loved ones.

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# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

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## **“History of the Soo Locks” with Ric Mixter, Diver and PBS Producer**

Ric takes you beneath the locks for a rare look at the Poe and the construction now going on to augment the busiest waterway in the world. Included are the stories behind six locks and the controversy and struggles to create them.

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

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



*With dozens of appearances in two countries and three states last year, **Ric Mixter** is certainly one of the busiest maritime speakers, rumored to be the most requested historian on the Great Lakes. Visiting museums, libraries, NASA and his live music concert “STORM”, thousands of audience members get a new appreciation for our unique inland-sea history through his spellbinding lectures. Millions of television viewers recognize Ric Mixter as a shipwreck researcher, diving over 100 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, including the Edmund Fitzgerald. He has produced over 30 programs for PBS and the Outdoor Channel, and appeared as a shipwreck expert on the History and Discovery Channels. 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. Mixter’s YouTube videos have over 3 million views, covering shipwrecks in four of the Great Lakes and adventures in several foreign lands. With over 20 years of stories on historical preservation, Ric was awarded the 2009 Award for Historic Interpretation by the Association for Great Lakes Maritime Historians. He was a frequent speaker at Ghost Ships in Milwaukee and Michigan’s largest show “Great Lakes Shipwrecks,” held annually.*

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## **“The Coming Age of Chinese World Leadership?” with Richard Leitch PhD, Professor of Political Science, Gustavus Adolphus College**

LIFE members have known only U.S. world leadership during their lifetime. But what is the potential for Chinese world leadership, what might it look like, and why should “we” (however defined) care? Are we already in a transition period from U.S. to Chinese world leadership?

**Date(s): Thursday, February 2 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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



***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 PhD 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. He was included in 2012 The Princeton Review’s The Best 300 Professors.*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## The 1619 Project

### "The Citizens' Guide to the 1619 Project" with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland

By now, it seems everyone has an opinion about The 1619 Project, a special edition of The New York Times' Magazine that tried to focus readers' attention upon the continuing legacies of race slavery in American life. Legislators in several states have since passed laws to ban it from school curriculums, along with the teaching of Critical Race Theory—or CRT—a set of premises developed by legal scholars in the 1990s to interpret America's institutions in the context of race and civil rights. In this four-part course, University of Maryland historian Richard Bell will take us back to basics. We'll push past the headlines and talk candidly about what The 1619 Project says and doesn't say, and what CRT means for the teaching of American history. To do so, we will get as close as we can to the subjects—like the American Revolution, the Constitution, Abraham Lincoln, and Reconstruction—around which so many of these debates have swirled.

**Date(s): Thursday, February 2 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Dr. Richard Bell received a BA from the University of Cambridge and a PhD from Harvard University. He 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.*



### "La Belle Epoque, Part 2" with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University

The second part of a three-part series, focus here will be given to the music, dance, and entertainment of the era. La Belle Epoque saw a wide range of music, from the dance tunes on Montmartre to the intricate and groundbreaking composing of Debussy, Ravel, and Satie. Attention will also be given to the moment's legendary ballet

as well as the cabaret dance scene and the curious and forgotten performers of the era.

**Date(s): Friday, February 3 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"British Life in the Victorian Age: Aristocrats and the Elites" with Andrew O'Brien MS**

Learn the social protocols of this fabulously wealthy, landed aristocracy. Learn how to enter a dining room correctly. Explore how a hostess can signal using her dinner napkin. Know why your dinner conversation changes after each course. This lecture will focus on social engagement, BUT everything is in the preparation.

Learn how to dress for dinner. Explore the Victorian fads for dieting and exercise.

**Date(s): Monday, February 6 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

## **"The Mystery of Margaret: Unraveling the Story of Harriet Tubman's "Daughter" and Her Ties to the Seward Family" with Jeff Ludwig PhD, Director of Education, Seward House Museum**

Based on original research into Harriet Tubman, this class follows her story from enslavement in the Antebellum South to her relationship with the Seward family of Auburn, NY during her years as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. It does so through the unique lens of Margaret Stewart, a young child very close to Tubman who was entrusted to the Seward family during the Civil War. The course concludes with a look at Harriet Tubman's life as a resident of Auburn throughout the second half of her life. Class will include a tour of the Seward House - the historic home of William Henry Seward; New York State Senator, two time New York State Governor, US Senator, and

Secretary of State during the Lincoln and Johnson administrations.

**Date(s): Monday, February 6 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

**Jeff Ludwig PhD** is the Director of Education at the Seward House Museum in Auburn, NY. He holds a PhD in History from the University of Rochester and previously worked in the Office of the City Historian of Rochester (NY). Jeff has taught history classes at SUNY Geneseo and other colleges.



# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

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## **"For You the War is Over: Life Behind the Stalag Luft Wire" followed by "The Eighth Air Force: From Seven Men with No Planes" with Heather Thies, Director of Education, Mighty 8th National Museum**

### **"For You the War is Over: Life Behind the Stalag Luft Wire: POWS held in Germany"**

"For You the War is Over." These were often the first words a downed airmen heard when captured. Then what happened? Using personal stories and artifacts from the collection, we will discuss capture, interrogation, and the notification of families back in the US. One of the number one topics of conversation in a POW camp was food and its scarcity. What did the POWs eat? How did they stay busy? How were they liberated? Join us to learn more about the 8th Air Force Prisoner of War experience.

### **"The Eighth Air Force in the ETO: From Seven Men with No Planes to the Largest, Most Powerful Air Force"**

On January 28, 1942, the charter for the Eighth Air Force was created in a former National Guard Armory in Savannah, Georgia. Its main objective was two-fold: first, to cripple Hitler's war making capabilities by destroying factories and taking out transportation lines; and second, to clear the skies of the Luftwaffe so that an allied landing on continental Europe would be possible. Join us to learn more about how the Eighth Air Force grew from seven men with no airplanes in 1942 to the largest most powerful air force on earth by 1945.



**Date(s): Tuesday, February 7 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Heather Thies is the Director of Education and Director of Volunteers at the Mighty 8th Museum. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History from University of California at Santa Barbara. She earned her Master of Arts in Public History from University of California at Riverside emphasizing in Nineteenth Century America and Museum Studies. She has been at the museum for over 16 years.*

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## **"Our Jane: Why We Are Always On a First-Name Basis with Jane Austen" with Ann Campbell PhD, Boise State**

The presentation will focus on the comforting qualities of Jane Austen's novels, especially in challenging times.



**Date(s): Tuesday, February 7 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Ann Campbell PhD has published articles about family, courtship and marriage and pedagogy in *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, *Eighteenth-Century Women*, *Aphra Behn Online* and *Digital Defoe*. She also has a forthcoming book, *Families of the Heart: Surrogate Relations in the Eighteenth-Century British Novel*, with Bucknell University Press.*



# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **“Becoming the King: A Day in the Life of the Budweiser Clydesdales” with Amy E. Trout Supervisor, Warm Springs Ranch, Home of the World-Famous Budweiser Clydesdales, MO**

Just in time for the Super Bowl! Have you ever wondered how the iconic Budweiser Clydesdales came to be part of Anheuser-Busch? Learn about the greatest story in American Marketing History. Starting with their humble beginnings in Scotland to the modern state of the art breeding and training facility in Missouri. See how it all begins with the birth of the foal at Warm Springs Ranch all the way thru making the hitch. This class will show how all three of our Hitches travel across the Country to some of the most exciting events.

**Date(s): Wednesday, February 8 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Amy Trout is an expert in Animal Husbandry who currently manages the Budweiser Clydesdale breeding and training facility in Boonville, MO. She is experienced in many forms of Media & Public Relations. She has hosted an Educational Video series for Grant’s Farm that has had over 40K Views. She was also featured on an RFD television Show FarmHer, Season 3 Episode 1. Her background also includes teaching and coaching high school academics and athletics. She has spent 19 years as an ambassador for Anheuser-Busch and the Budweiser Clydesdales, even taking them internationally to China in 2014. Personally, she grew up on a small working farm in Virginia. Her family farmed with draft horses, milked dairy goats along with raising a flock of sheep. Showing cattle, sheep, and hogs in FFA events was a great experience for her growing up and it taught her responsibility at a very*

*young age. In recent years she have raised Flemish Giant Rabbits and European Great Danes of excellent quality. Amy is passionate about animals and their care. This has made her a very efficient and effective manager. Most importantly she is a mother to two great kids, Wyatt 9 and Clara 7.*



## **“Life in the Victorian Age: Poor and Working Classes” with Andrew O'Brien MS**

We will explore what life was like for poor Victorians including their diet, daily schedule and clothing. Do you know what was the most dreaded occupation? Workhouses took in destitute whole families, but immediately separated them. Learn about Victorian hygiene.

Do you know how everyone woke up at 4 am?

**Date(s): Monday, February 13 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Andrew O'Brien was born in the U.K. and graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in History from Oxford University. Andrew also has a teaching degree from London University and a Masters in teaching from Johns Hopkins University. After teaching in the UK, he taught middle school for 21 years in Maryland. Andrew and his wife live in N. Carolina and St. Petersburg, FL.*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



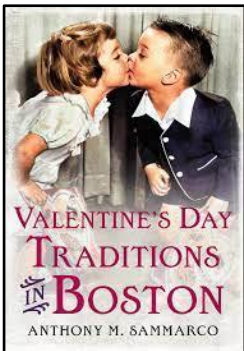
## **"What's Cooking? Gadgets from Around the Kitchen" with Candace Summers, Director of Community Education, McLean County Museum of History, IL**

The kitchen was (and still is) the center of life in any household. This program features a wide variety of kitchen objects, from cherry pitters to milk bottles, cake pans to coffee tins, aprons to cookbooks. The list goes on and on!

**Date(s): Monday, February 13 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

**Candace Summers**, Director of Community Education and lead coordinator for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk, has worked at the McLean County Museum of History over 17 years. Each year she helps to educate over 21,000 people in Central Illinois through a wide variety of educational programs. About 10,000 of those individuals are school children and senior citizens who receive in-depth educational programs free of charge. Summers has over fifteen years of experience working in museum education with age groups ranging from K-12 to adults and over twenty years of historical research experience. She has extensive leadership and training experience and has helped other museums and organizations launch their own cemetery walks. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology from the University of Evansville in Evansville, IN. She obtained a Master of History in 2006 from Illinois State University. Summers began her career at the Museum in 2005 as an intern in the Education Department and has worked there ever since.



## **"Valentine's Day Traditions in Boston" with Anthony M. Sammarco**

Valentine's Day Traditions in Boston is a fun and interesting way to recall the holiday from the exchange of Valentine cards in day school to the cards, candy, and flowers we sent or received as adults to and from our valentine. From Ancient Rome with the pagan festival of Lupercalia to the worldwide celebration of the holiday, we revel in its history and evolution through the centuries as a day of love. Today, Esther Allen Howland is honored with the nickname "Mother of the American Valentine," with many citing her small card factory as the start of a multi-million-dollar industry. Beginning in 2001, the Greeting Card

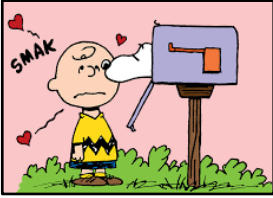
Association has annually given the "Esther Howland Award for a Greeting Card Visionary," and they estimate that 200 million valentines are sent each year in the United States. He will discuss the history of St. Valentine's Day from Lupercalia, an ancient Roman festival celebrated on February 15 to ensure fertility for the people, fields, and flocks to the annual exchange of cards, candy, and flowers. Beginning with Esther Howland who produced delicate and fanciful Valentine's Day cards in the nineteenth century through to major card companies such as Hallmark, Norcross, Gibson, and Rust Craft, Americans exchange millions of cards annually. The book also discusses the more outré Sailor's Valentines, Vinegar Valentines, and Krampus Valentines.

**Date(s): Tuesday, February 14 Time(s): 10-11:15 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

Referred to as the "Balzac of Boston History" by the Boston Globe, **Anthony Mitchell Sammarco** is a noted historian and author of over seventy books on the history and development of Boston, and he lectures widely on the history and development of his native city.

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"Charles M. Schulz: An American Cartoonist" with Jessica Ruskin, Education Director, Charles M. Schulz Museum, CA**

Take a pictorial journey through Charles M. Schulz's life and career and learn why Peanuts is one of the most popular and influential comic strips ever. This multi-disciplinary exploration of the creative process touches on history, visual arts, and language arts and includes a fun, hands-on, how-to-draw Snoopy lesson at the end. So get your pencil, paper, and questions ready!

**Date(s): Tuesday, February 14 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

**Member Fee: \$7 Non-Member Fee: \$9**



## **"Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory." with Docent, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center**

When you've lost everything, a single object can take on extraordinary meaning. Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory., an award-winning exhibition from Illinois Holocaust Museum, reflects upon individual stories of survivors of the Holocaust and genocides & conflicts in Armenia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Iraq, Syria, Rwanda, and South Sudan, told through photographs and personal narratives. The exhibit features stunning collaborative artworks by celebrated photographer Jim Lommasson and survivors of genocide and their families. The objects in this exhibition have traveled the world, sometimes seeing great tragedy, having narrow escapes, and representing fragments of home, love, family, and identity. They are a reflection of their owners' journeys and family histories. And though the objects and memories start from very different origins, common threads bind them all together. They are the commonality of an immigrant experience - an American experience.

**Date(s): Wednesday, February 15 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



## **"The Life of Alex Trebek: A Jeopardy! Legend" with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter**

Jim will discuss the life of Alex Trebek, a Canadian-American television game show host and television personality whose energy and enthusiasm brought joy to many Americans. Gibbons will discuss Trebek's longstanding career with Jeopardy! and its 37 seasons until his death in 2020. He will explain Trebek's life and fame before, during, and after Jeopardy! He will discuss additional shows Trebek hosted including: Double Dare; Battlestars; Classic Concentration; To Tell the Truth; and many more. Trebek also received eight Emmy's for his game show hosting. Though Trebek will forever be known for his role in Jeopardy!, he will also be remembered for his compassion towards others. Trebek's generosity and dedication to the greater good was well-known through the help he provided to many children and families living in poverty.

**Date(s): Thursday, February 16 Time(s): 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Jim Gibbons, a Marengo, IL resident and historical presenter, has made a name for himself teaching the importance of history. Using his passion for and strong knowledge of history, Jim offers over 120 riveting presentations topics.*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## “From the Scraps of My Life in the Mississippi Delta” with Janice Coleman PhD, Department of English, Alcorn State University

Everyone loves to hear stories, and everyone loves the feel and the memories quilts and other homemade patchwork bring to mind. This combination of narrative and the nostalgia a patchwork coverlet evokes inspires people to talk about the quilts, dolls, and clothes their elders used to make for them. In her presentation, Dr. Coleman brings evokes these feelings in her audiences by choosing patchwork pieces that are relevant to the occasion and then telling the stories they pass on. Sometimes, Dr. Coleman presents in character. For example, if she is teaching Eudora Welty’s “A Worn Path,” she may present in character as the protagonist Phoenix Jackson. In closing, Dr. Coleman always encourages audience members to consider the scraps of their own lives (old quilts and other coverlets, faded tee-shirts and jeans, worn shirts, skirts, and dresses) as materials that they can use to create their own meaningful patchworks. Dr. Coleman believes these recycled or re-purposed items can become priceless when they are recognized as part of the thread that runs through a family history. “With my scraps, I demonstrate the transformation between what they were and the art they have become,” says Dr. Coleman.

**Date(s): Thursday, February 16 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Dr. J. Janice Coleman is a Professor of English at Alcorn State in Lorman, Mississippi, which is located nearly an equal distance between the two Mississippi River towns of Natchez and Vicksburg. She received a B. A. in English from Alcorn State, an M. A. in Popular Culture from Bowling Green State, and a doctorate in English from the University of Mississippi. A patchwork artist and storyteller, she weaves the stories of the people in Mississippi, particularly her Delta, into the works that she creates. For more than forty years, she has been developing an exhibit entitled “Quilts and Other Quadrilaterals.” In addition to quilts, this exhibit includes pillows,*

*pincushions, tote bags, table cloths, and cotton sacks—big and small. In the classroom, she relies on the process of quilting to help her clarify the process of writing. “It’s all about putting those ideas for writing and those scraps of fabric into a logical order,” she says. Sometimes her quilt-making is inspired by works of literature. She spent three years on a quilt set that retells the story of Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*. She has also designed and made the complete dress ensemble of Phoenix Jackson, the protagonist in Eudora Welty’s “A Worn Path.” One of her students once advised another: “If you want to get an A in Dr. Coleman’s class, all you have to do is compliment her on her quilts.” “Don’t you believe that!” she says, but she admits that she does like the recognition that her patch-working brings her. States Dr. Coleman, “I sew the life that I know and the lives of others whom I have met on the flat lands of the Mississippi Delta.” A native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, Dr. Coleman now lives on a hill in Vicksburg.*



# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **“Abraham Lincoln and Self-Improvement” with Christian McWhirter PhD, Lincoln Historian**

Abraham Lincoln’s story is one of the most remarkable in American history. Born in a frontier cabin, he eventually reached the highest office in the nation. Lincoln’s path was not always straight, but his life presents an inspiring and tragic story of determination and willingness to learn. Join Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Lincoln Historian Christian McWhirter for a discussion of what lessons we can learn from Lincoln’s life.

**Date(s): Tuesday, February 21 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*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.*



## **“Across Multiple Cultures: Visual Expression in Ukraine” with Carol Veldman Rudie, Docent, Museum of Russian Art**

Modern Ukraine evolved from a wide mix of political and cultural influences. These influences blend with a variety of visual themes in its painting tradition. Tracing this complex history probes how artists from both East and West Ukraine skillfully communicate their cultural roots.

**Date(s): Wed, February 22 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

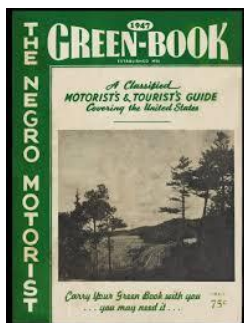
**Member Fee: \$15 Non-Member Fee: \$25**

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



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# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

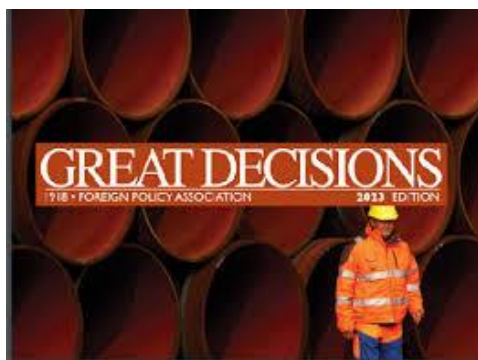


## **"The Negro Motorist Green Book" with Docent, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center**

The Negro Motorist Green Book highlights the history of "The Green Book," the annual guide created in 1936 by Harlem postman Victor Green, that provided African American travelers with information on restaurants, gas stations, department stores and other businesses that welcomed Black travelers during the Jim Crow era. Developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in collaboration with award-winning author, photographer, and cultural documentarian, Candacy Taylor, Green Book offers an immersive look at the reality of travel for African Americans in mid-century America, and how the guide served as an indispensable resource for the nation's rising African American middle class. In an era of Jim Crow laws and "sundown towns" – communities that explicitly prohibited African Americans from staying overnight – "The Green Book" offered critical, life-saving information and sanctuary. The exhibition includes artifacts from business signs and postcards to historic footage, images, and firsthand accounts that illustrate not just the apprehension felt by African American travelers, but also the resilience, innovation, and elegance of people choosing to live a full American existence. It brings focus to a vibrant parallel world of African American businesses, the rise of the Black leisure class in the United States, and the important role "The Green Book" played in facilitating the second wave of the Great Migration.

**Date(s): Wednesday, February 22 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



## **"Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Group--8 Part Series" with Steve Troutman, Facilitator**

The topics for this year, in the order we will discuss them, are Energy Geopolitics, War Crimes, China and the U.S., Economic Warfare, Politics in Latin America, Global Famine, Iran at a Crossroads, and Climate Migration. Fee includes Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions 2023 book. The group will meet every third Wednesday. You have the option of registering for individual topics. **Register by January 20.**

**Date(s): Wed, Feb.22, Mar. 15, Apr. 5, 26, May 17, Jun 7, 28, Jul 19**

**Time(s): 3:30-5:30 pm # of Sessions: 8**

**Member Fee: \$65 Non-Member Fee: \$80**

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Group Topic: Energy Geopolitics" with Steve Troutman, Facilitator**

Access to oil and gas has long held an influence over the politics of individual nations and their relations with others. But as more countries move toward sustainable energy, and supply chain shortages affect the availability of oil and gas, how will this change the way in which the United States interacts with the outside world?

**Date(s): Wednesday, February 22 Time(s): 3:30-5:30 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

## **"New Approaches to Treating and Monitoring Alzheimer's Disease" with Gregg B. Fields PhD, Executive Director, Institute for Human Health & Disease Intervention, Cancer Center of Excellence Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Florida Atlantic University**

580,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease (AD) in Florida. By 2025, that number is expected to increase by 24% to 720,000. AD is a neurodegenerative disease with neuropathological hallmarks of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. There are several binding monoclonal antibodies, including aducanumab (FDA approved), lecanemab (phase 3 trials), gantenerumab (phase 3 trials), and donanemab (phase 2 trials), which lower plaque and/or improve clearance of oligomers. FAU is partnering with Delray Medical Center in the State of Florida funded project "Research University Alzheimer's Research Using Exablate Neuro focused Ultrasound." Magnetic resonance-guided focused ultrasound technology has been utilized in early AD patients to demonstrate (a) reversible and safe blood-brain barrier opening, (b) spatially precise blood-brain barrier opening, and (c) improved delivery of gadolinium-based contrast agents. The FAU/Delray Medical Center team is one of six clinical trial sites in the USA that will be utilizing MRgFUS technology to improve drug delivery to the brains of AD patients. Diagnosis of AD has typically involved positron emission tomography brain scans utilizing amyloid [18F]-tracers and/or analysis of cerebrospinal fluid following lumbar punctures. More recently, less invasive and less expensive blood-based biomarkers have emerged. However, the present combination of biomarkers is insufficient when one considers the analysis of AD treatments. We are developing a panel of biomarkers that can be used to evaluate the potential effectiveness of therapeutic interventions and provide mechanistic insight into the success or failure of such interventions.



**Date(s): Thursday, February 23 Time(s): 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

**Gregg B. Fields** is the Executive Director of the Institute for Human Health & Disease Intervention (I-HEALTH) and a Full Professor in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at Florida Atlantic University. He is also Co-Director of the Memorial Cancer Institute Florida Atlantic University (MCIFAU) Florida Department of Health Cancer Center of Excellence. The Fields research group has focused on extracellular protease-based diseases, with particular attention paid to tumor metastasis, arthritis, and neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Fields is a fellow of the National Academy of

Inventors and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has authored or coauthored more than 300 scientific publications and has presented more than 190 invited lectures.

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"A Very British Love Story: Wallis Simpson & King Edward VIII" with Andrew O'Brien MS**

The course will cover the dramatic relationship of King Edward VIII and American, Wallis Simpson, focusing on their courtship and its impact on the royal family, the abdication and its impact on Britain, their wedding, the scandal during the Second World War, and their post-war life in Paris until her death in 1986.

**Date(s): Monday, February 27 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

## **"An Auschwitz Virtual Live Tour" with Dr. Jerzy Wojcik, Docent, Auschwitz Museum, Poland**

One of history's darkest moments brought to life...An Auschwitz Virtual Live Tour provides a unique learning experience about the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp, using historical footage, Holocaust survivor testimonies, panorama pictures and modern animation combined with virtual reality tools to teach about the horrors that happened in the world's most infamous concentration camp. The group tours are live, led by expert tour guides in Poland who can answer questions and interact with participants during the tour. Visit an historical testament of one of humanity's deepest failures in this most faithful representation of an in-person visit to the Auschwitz memorial site.

**Date(s): Tuesday, February 28 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Jerzy Wójcik had been guiding tours of Auschwitz-Birkenau for 14 years when the coronavirus pandemic put a temporary halt to his activities. He took advantage of his forced hiatus by creating what he believes is a first-of-its kind virtual, interactive tour of the concentration camp using a combination of pre-existing digital resources, including the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum's virtual reality panorama, archival historical footage, and recordings from drone flights, all of which form the backdrop to Wójcik's commentary. The result is a powerful educational tool that is teaching the lessons of the Holocaust to a much wider audience than he normally would have reached.*





# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **"Philosophical Thought Experiments" with Brendan Shea PhD**

In this talk, we'll discuss some famous philosophical experiments by contemporary philosophers on various issues. Examples include:

1. What can a famous, unconscious violinist teach us about abortion?
2. Did Mary see red? What does this show about the brain and mind?
3. Are we living in a computer simulation? How can we know?
4. Can the "veil of ignorance" help us understand what is "fair"?

The talk can provide an "introduction" to contemporary philosophy for those who don't know much about it and some food for thought for more seasoned "veterans." I hope to see you there!

**Date(s): Tuesday, February 28 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



***Brendan Shea PhD**, is an Instructor of Philosophy at RCTC. He also serves as a Resident Fellow at the Minnesota Center for Philosophy at UM-Twin Cities, and as a Public Member on the Institutional Biosafety Committee at Mayo Clinic. Brendan has published numerous articles and book chapters concerning ethics, the philosophy of science, the history of philosophy, and other issues. He currently lives in Rochester with his wife Anne and son Harry.*



## **"The Real Pirates of the Caribbean" with Marguerite Ragnow PhD, Curator, James Ford Bell Library, University of MN**

The exploits of real-life pirates operating in the Caribbean—Blackbeard, Captain Kidd, Henry Morgan and so many others—are just as exciting as those pirates celebrated on the silver screen by actors from Errol Flynn to Johnny Depp. Join Marguerite Ragnow, curator of the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota,

as she takes us on a high seas adventure through the tales of some of the real pirates captured within the pages of rare books.

**Date(s): Wednesday, March 1 Time(s): 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **“Women in the KKK in Colorado” with Betty Jo Brenner, Colorado Humanities**

In the 1920s, from Maine to California, in the cities and in rural communities, large numbers of men and women joined the Ku Klux Klan to promote the cause of 100% Americanism. They believed America needed to be saved from the influences of recent immigrants, blacks, Catholics and Jews. In Colorado, Klan membership numbers reached as high as 35,000 men and 11,000 women. Little has been written about the women of the Ku Klux Klan in Colorado or its leader, Laurena Senter, a pillar of the Denver community until her death in 1986. This presentation will provide context for understanding the evolution of the Klan into mainstream America in the 1920s and the making of this social movement in Colorado, focusing on the women.

**Date(s): Wednesday, March 1 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Betty Jo Brenner was the History Programs Coordinator for Colorado Humanities for 23 years. As Coordinator, Betty Jo was responsible for teacher institutes, Smithsonian traveling exhibits, living history programs and speakers, and numerous library discussion programs highlighting historical events. Betty Jo is now an independent Public Historian, currently working on a book about the Women of the Ku Klux Klan in Colorado. Betty Jo holds a Masters Degree in American History from the University of Colorado at Denver.*

## **“How did Slavery Begin in English North America?” with Bob Beery PhD**

If the Mayflower Pilgrims who came in 1620 and the adventurers arriving on the Susan Constant at Jamestown in 1607 tell us something about our unique society, so do the Africans who arrived on the White Lion in 1619. Those African captives arrived at a critical time in the struggling colony.



Just how slavery evolved during the precarious first century of colonization is still being explored by historians.

**Date(s): Thursday, March 2 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Bob Beery PhD, was Rochester Public School’s Curriculum Director. He has enjoyed stints as adjunct faculty at the University of Minnesota, Winona State University, RCTC, and St. Mary’s University. His professional publications focus on the teaching of history and social sciences.*



# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



**"From Genes to Ecosystems: Insights from the SPRUCE Project in Northern Minnesota" with Paul J. Hanson PhD, Corporate Fellow; Bryan Piatkowski PhD, Distinguished Fellow; Jun Lee PhD, Post-Doctoral Research Associate; Dave Weston PhD, Senior Staff Scientist, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN**

In this course we will discuss recent findings from the SPRUCE experimental system, a bold project run by the Department of Energy in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. The goal of SPRUCE (Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Changing Environments) is to assess how northern peatland ecosystems will respond to increased temperature and carbon-dioxide. You will learn about ecosystem-level processes related to nutrient and carbon cycling, the contribution of Sphagnum peat mosses and their associated microbes to peatland ecosystems, and how genetic factors influence plant-microbe symbiosis and nutrient cycling dynamics. We will integrate these three topics to demonstrate how the activity of genes at the molecular level can scale to impact processes at the ecosystem level through their effects on plant-microbe interactions. The only course prerequisite is curiosity!

**Date(s): Thursday, March 2 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

**Dr. Paul Hanson** is a Corporate Fellow of the Environmental Sciences Division and the Climate Change Science Institute of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He has a BA degree in biology from St. Cloud State, and both MS and PhD degrees from the University of Minnesota in plant and forest tree physiology. He has authored or co-authored over 230 journal articles and book chapters and has co-edited (and authored) a book titled "North American Temperate Deciduous Forest Responses to Changing Precipitation Regimes." Paul has over 36 years of professional research experience conducting environmental effects studies related to energy technologies and their use.

**Dr. Bryan Piatkowski** is an evolutionary biologist and works as a Distinguished Staff Fellow in the Biosciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He earned his PhD in Biology from Duke University where he studied the evolution and ecology of Sphagnum peat mosses, a group of plants that have extraordinary impacts on global carbon cycling. Bryan also holds a BS in Biology from Roanoke College and an MS in Plant Biology from Southern Illinois University. His research broadly aims to understand the dynamic relationship between organisms and their environment. Toward this end, Bryan integrates experimental and computational techniques to gain a predictive understanding of plant evolution in the context of environmental change. **Dr. Jun Lee** has been a postdoctoral research associate within the Biosciences Division at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) since 2020. He received his PhD in Forest Genetics from Purdue University, studying a threatened forest tree species (*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.) to develop transgenic trees with insect-resistance and reproductive-sterility. His research interests are to improve plant productivity and resource use efficiency, with a primary focus on enhancing resistance or tolerance to biotic and abiotic stressors. **Dr. Dave Weston** is a senior staff scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and DOE Early Career Awardee within the Biological Sciences Division. His research is motivated by the question, how do symbiotic interactions shape the response and recovery of complex biological systems to changing environmental conditions? Host-microbiome interactions influence nearly every facet of our lives – from human health to energy and food crop production, and even major evolutionary events.

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"A Very British Hero or Villain: Lawrence of Arabia" with Andrew O'Brien MS**

Archeologist, army officer, diplomat, and writer, T.E. Lawrence was a Renaissance man in every sense. However, his role in the Arab Revolt and the Sinai and Palestine Campaign against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War was controversial and would make him famous throughout the world. Many of his Arab friends would feel betrayed.

**Date(s): Monday, March 6 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

## **"Women and Radio: A Sound Relationship" with Dr. Kristin Skoog, BA, PhD, FHEA Senior Lecturer in Media History, Bournemouth University, Poole, UK, Co-founder of WREN (Women's Radio in Europe Network)**

This presentation will provide an overview of the historical relationship between women and radio from the 1920 to the 1950s – a key period when radio established itself as a key medium for education, entertainment, information and news. Questions we will explore are: What role did women and women's programmes play in the development of radio? How did women and the women's movement use radio to further their cause and promote women's voices, concerns, and experiences? The presentation will focus on research exploring women broadcasters and women's radio at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) but also draw on wider national and transnational contexts and examples. The suggested reading are two chapters from: "Radio Voices. American Broadcasting, 1922-1952." Minneapolis; London: University of Minnesota Press, 1997 by Michele Hilmes: Chapter 5 The Disembodied Woman (pp. 130-150) and Chapter 6 Under Cover of Daytime (pp. 151-182)

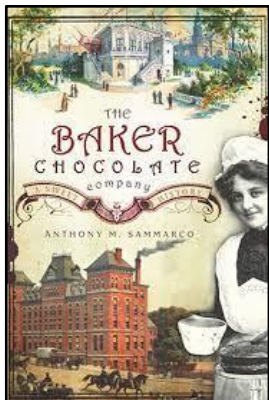


**Date(s): Monday, March 6 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Kristin Skoog PhD, is a Senior Lecturer in Media History at Bournemouth University, UK. Her research is centred on media history, the role of radio in post-war reconstruction, and the history of women's radio and women broadcasters. She has explored women's radio at the BBC as well as transnational networks of radio women. She is also the co-founder of the Women's Radio in Europe Network (WREN).*

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"The History of the Baker Chocolate Company: A Sweet History" with Anthony M. Sammarco**

In 1765, Dr. James Baker of Dorchester stumbled upon Irishman John Hannon crying on the banks of the mighty Neponset River. Hannon, though penniless, possessed the rare skills required to create chocolate, a delicacy exclusive to Europe, and Baker, with pockets bursting, wished to make a name for himself. Using a mill powered by the same river upon which they met, the duo built America's oldest and most beloved manufacturer of this rich treat. Local historian Anthony Sammarco details the delicious saga of Massachusetts's Baker Chocolate Company, from Hannon's mysterious disappearance and the

famed La Belle Chocolatiere advertising campaign to cacao bean smuggling sparked by Revolutionary War blockades. Both bitter and sweet, this tale is sure to tickle your taste buds.

**Date(s): Tuesday, March 7 Time(s): 10-11:15 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

Referred to as the "Balzac of Boston History" by the *Boston Globe*, **Anthony Mitchell Sammarco** is a noted historian and author of over seventy books on the history and development of Boston, and he lectures widely on the history and development of his native city. He commenced writing in 1995, and his books "Lost Boston," "The History of Howard Johnson's: How A Massachusetts Soda Fountain Became a Roadside Icon," "Jordan Marsh: New England's Largest Store" and "The Baker Chocolate Company: A Sweet History" have made the bestsellers list. Mr. Sammarco teaches the popular course *Boston History* at the Boston University Metropolitan College. He has also taught at The Urban College of Boston since 1997, where his courses led to him being named Educator of the Year. He wrote the book "Boston's Immigrants" for the widely diverse ethnic base of students to use in his course on Boston immigration; he serves on the Leadership Council.



## **"A Funny Program about Funny Programs: The Greatest Sitcoms of All Time" with Martin Gitlin, Author**

Award-winning author and pop culture historian Martin Gitlin hosts this fun and enlightening presentation based on his book, *The Greatest Sitcoms of All Time*. He is the only author to actually rank the best of the best, including *I Love Lucy*, *The Honeymooners*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Get Smart*, *All in the Family*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*,

*Cheers*, *Seinfeld*, *Frasier* and *The Big Bang Theory*. He will show funny snippets from those shows and others, challenge patrons with sitcom trivia (including identifying cool theme songs!), discuss the criteria he used to rank 70 years of sitcoms and talk about how they have evolved over the decades in humor, presentation and content. This program is really entertaining so join in on the fun!

**Date(s): Tuesday, March 7 Time(s): 1-2:15 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## "Marriage Reform in Nineteenth Century America" with Carol Faulkner PhD, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

This presentation explores the centrality of the "marriage question" to nineteenth-century social movements. Feminists, abolitionists, spiritualists, and communitarians criticized the institution of marriage as legalized prostitution or legalized adultery. In its place, they proposed a variety of alternatives, from consent to liberal divorce to free love. While marriage reformers are often dismissed as the scandalous fringe of social movements, they helped advanced the view that marriage should be about love.

**Date(s): Wednesday, March 8 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Dr. Carol Faulkner is a professor of history and associate dean for academic affairs at the Maxwell School. She studies the history of the nineteenth-century United States, with a particular focus on women, gender, sexuality, and social movements. She is the author of "Women's Radical Reconstruction: The Freedmen's Aid Movement" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003), "Lucretia Mott's Heresy: Abolition and Women's Rights in Nineteenth-Century America" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011), and "Unfaithful: Love, Adultery, and Marriage Reform in Nineteenth-Century America" (University of Pennsylvania Press,*

*2019), and the editor of "Women in American History to 1880: A Documentary Reader" (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011). She is a co-editor of "The Selected Letters of Lucretia Coffin Mott" (University of Illinois Press, 2002), "Interconnections: Gender and Race in American History" (University of Rochester Press, 2012), and "Lucretia Mott Speaks: The Essential Speeches and Sermons" (University of Illinois Press, 2017). Professor Faulkner teaches classes on American social protest and the history of sexuality.*



**Gift Certificates are available throughout the year.  
Contact Jamie at (507) 280-3157**

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe" with Richard Bell PhD, University of Maryland**

"So you're the little lady who started this great war!" said President Abraham Lincoln in the fall of 1862 when he finally met Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of the blockbuster antislavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. But Lincoln might just have well have been talking to and about Harriet Tubman, the most famous conductor on America's underground Railroad. Both women's extraordinary activism advanced the fight against slavery and edged this

country closer to Civil War.

**Date(s): Thursday, March 9 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

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



## **"A Very British Explorer: Shackleton and the Antarctica" with Andrew O'Brien MS**

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton was an Irish Antarctic explorer who led three British expeditions to the Antarctic. Learn about the wreckage of a failed expedition to cross the continent by land and how Shackleton would save his crew in one of the most daring exploits of the Twentieth Century. He is remembered as one of the principal figures

of the period known as the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration.

**Date(s): Monday, March 13 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## “World Religions from Hinduism to Buddhism and Their Movement through Asia” with Joyce Salisbury PhD, Professor Emerita, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Hinduism is the oldest urban religion, and as such it sheds light on our earliest religious beliefs. This course will begin with the principles of Hinduism and humans looked for the spiritual beings that surrounded them. Then people began to look for meaning in their own suffering and Buddhism was born. This course will look at Buddhism and see the changes as the religion spreads all the way to China.

**Date(s): Monday, March 13 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Dr. Joyce Salisbury, Professor Emerita from the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, has a PhD in Medieval History from Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is an author of more than ten books on history and religion, most recently Rome’s Christian Empress, and The Beast Within: Animals in the Middle Ages, expanded 3rd edition. Salisbury is also a lecturer for the streaming service Wondrium that produces educational DVDs. Her courses “History of Spain: Land on a Crossroad,” “Warriors, Queens, and Intellectuals: 36 Great Women before 1400,” and “The Middle Ages Around the World” are very popular. In addition, Salisbury has lectured for the History Channel, PBS, and many other venues around the world.*



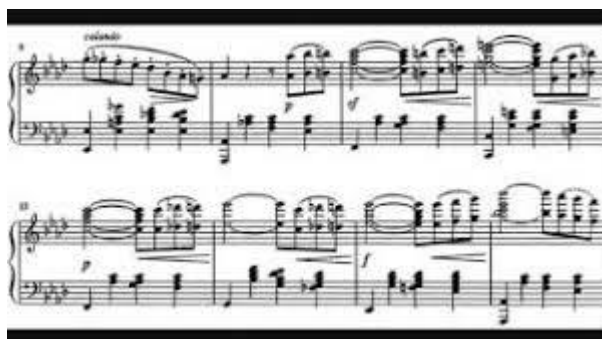
## “The German Virtuosa – Inside the Life and Times of Clara Schumann” with Anette Isaacs MAs

She was not only a divine pianist, talented composer, and successful teacher, but also a mother of eight and the main breadwinner in her family. In the very male dominated 19th century, German superwoman Clara Schumann did it all while juggling a 61-year concert career that made her internationally famous. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for an intimate look at the life of the very exceptional Clara Virtuosa!

**Date(s): Tuesday, March 14 Time(s): 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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





# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"The Life and Times of Margaret 'Molly Brown'" with Docent, The Historic Denver Inc.'s Molly Brown House Museum, Denver, CO**

Trace Margaret Brown's life from her early childhood in Hannibal, Missouri, to Leadville, Colorado, where she met and married J.J., and finally to her days of glory in Denver and New York.

**Date(s): Tuesday, March 14 Time(s): 1-2:30 pm # of Sessions: 1  
Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$15**



## **"Ukrainian Antiquities followed by Woven Art" with Carol Veldman Rudie, Docent, Museum of Russian Art**

### **Ukrainian Antiquities: Golden Treasures and Lost Civilizations**

From pre-historic times the Black Sea and its northern shores attracted varying populations of people groups. They left behind artifacts that testify to the layers of civilizations preceding the modern era. Archeologists have unearthed some of these layers; students of history see the connections between yesteryear's artifacts and today's visual culture.

### **Woven Art: Village Textiles in Today's Ukraine**

Textile creation combines environmental considerations, necessity and aesthetics. The variety that results is especially evident in the geographical expanses within the current boundaries of Ukraine. Sampling the wealth of textile designs not only explores the cultural variety but the complexities of historic people groups. Exploring this theme gives some background to the upcoming fall exhibit at The Museum of Russian Art.

**Date(s): Wednesday, March 15 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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

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



# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

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## **"Dressed for Freedom: The Politics of Fashion in American History" with Einav Rabinovitch-Fox, Modern American Women History Professor, Case Western Reserve University**

What is the connection between fashion and women's rights? How pockets, skirts, and bras became political statements? How does fashion function in our political system? This talk will examine how fashion became a tool to express and challenge gender, race, and class identities during the long twentieth century, and how women used fashion to advance their political agendas - from the suffragists to today's politicians. Learn how American women employed new clothing styles to expand feminist activism beyond formal participation in political organizations and movements. From 1890s shirtwaists to the miniskirts of the 1960s, from the flapper's skirts to the unisex styles of the 1970s, the talk will reveal the importance of clothing and in struggles for freedom and equality and why clothes matter.

**Date(s): Wednesday, March 15 Time(s): 1-2 pm # of Sessions: 1**

**Member Fee: \$7 Non-Member Fee: \$10**



*Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox's 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. You can follow her on twitter @DrEinavRFox*

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## **"Great Decisions 2023 Discussion Group Topic: War Crimes" with Steve Troutman, Facilitator**



Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in widespread charges of war crimes and calls for justice. But what exactly are war crimes? Opinions of what constitutes a war crime have evolved, as have ways to identify and punish the perpetrators. How will the war crimes committed in Ukraine be dealt with? (This class is included the 8 part series if you registered.)

**Date(s): Wednesday, March 15 Time(s): 3:30-5:30 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **“Condor’s Flight” followed by “The Land that Shapes Us” with Distance Learning Rangers, Grand Canyon National Park**

### **Condor's Flight**

Discover the tumultuous story of the endangered California Condor, and its unique role in the ecosystem, while considering the impact of humans on the environment.

### **The Land that Shapes Us**

Students engage in a thoughtful, critical look at Grand Canyon’s history while considering how the past can influence the future.

**Date(s): Thursday, March 16 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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

## **“The Presidency of Herbert Hoover” with Bennett Smith MA**

We will examine his early life, career and political path to the White House. Hoover was born in West Branch and is the only President born in Iowa. Prior to becoming President, Hoover achieved tremendous success in business and as a humanitarian leader and should rightfully be considered as a great American for his contributions in those fields had he never become President. Of course, being elected in the Fall election of 1928 just a year prior to the Crash of '29 and the subsequent Great Depression presented a severe challenge and one that will engulf his Presidency. Join us for a balanced look at the life and Presidency of Herbert Hoover.



**Date(s): Thursday, March 16 Time(s): 2-4 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

*Bennett Smith is an instructor in history and political science at North Iowa Area Community College. He is also an instructor in various lifelong learning programs including the NIACC lifelong Learning Institute; the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University and the LIFE program at RCTC. He*

*holds a Bachelor of Science degree in speech communication and a Master of Arts degree in history from Iowa State University.*



## **“A Very British Explorer: Livingstone & the Search for the Source of the Nile” with Andrew O'Brien MS**

Obsessed by a desire to find the source of the River Nile, David Livingstone devoted his life to this search, because he believed that its discovery would help him end the East African slave trade. Out of contact with Britain for over 6 years, Livingstone is feared dead.

American-born Stanley, who had not set foot in Africa before, assembled a caravan of over 100 porters with the promise to bring Livingstone back dead or alive.

**Date(s): Monday, March 20 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **"Ca' d'Zan! - The Ringling!" with Katie Nickel, Head of Education Programs, The Ringling!**

Discover Ca' d'Zan, the winter residence of circus mogul John Ringling and his wife Mable. Completed in 1926, the Mediterranean Revival mansion is a jewel on sparkling Sarasota Bay. During this virtual tour, we will explore five floors of entertaining and living spaces including the Grand Hall, Ballroom, Tap Room, Belvedere Tower and state-of-the-art Kitchen. Throughout the tour we will learn about Ca' d'Zan's famous owners, The Ringlings, and discuss the role they played in shaping Sarasota into the travel destination it is today. Following the interactive presentation, questions and discussion will be welcome.

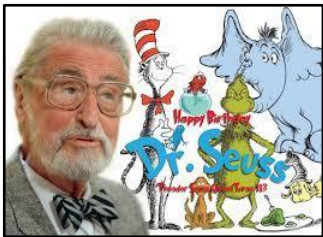
**Date(s): Monday, March 20 Time(s): 1-2:15 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



*Katie Nickel is the Head of Educational Programs at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. In her past ten years as an educator, Katie has worked in art museums throughout Florida and the United Kingdom and has a background in early childhood education. In 2017, Katie earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Florida in Museology, specializing in art museum education. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of South Florida in the Educational Innovation and Program Development department. Katie has presented widely at conferences including the Florida Association of Museums,*

*American Alliance of Museums, and the National Art Educators Association and publishes on current museum education trends and issues. Katie's work is centered on creating inclusive and playful experiences where all people can learn, explore, and engage around works of art.*



## **"Dr. Seuss is on the Loose: The Life of Theodor Seuss Geisel" with Jim Gibbons, Historical Presenter**

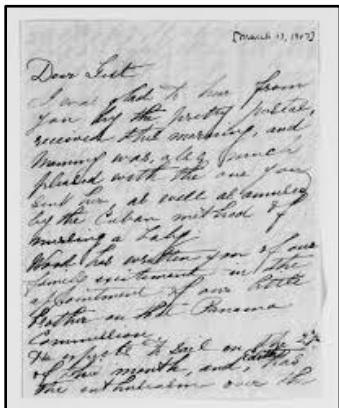
Jim will present the life of Theodor Seuss Geisel, whose life was not boring, not even a trifle. You'll hear about "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish;" "How the Grinch Stole Christmas;" and "If I ran the Zoo;" "Ten Apples up on Top;" and "The Lorax" too! Oh, the things you shall learn, no time will you waste, we'd tell you more still, but we've run out of space!

**Date(s): Tuesday, March 21 Time(s): 10-11:30 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"Letters from the Edge: One Family's Correspondence in a Time of National Crisis and Change, 1856-1884" with Katherine Jellison PhD, Ohio University, College of Arts and Sciences**

Between the mid-1850s and the mid-1880s, members of New York City's Cheney Sherman family periodically left behind the financial and social strains of life in the big city to seek the agrarian ideal in the countryside of upstate New York and western Massachusetts. Cheney and his son George and daughters Emma and Caddie each took turns seeking health and emotional and/or financial stability in life on the farm. The extent to which individual members of the Sherman family actually achieved the

rewards they sought in the countryside depended on a number of variables, including a family member's age, marital status, and—especially—his or her gender. Based on genealogical records and the family's extensive correspondence, Jellison's case study of the Sherman family will examine both the expected and unexpected ways in which gender determined a person's success or failure in using the countryside as a safety valve for the pressures of urban industrial life.

**Date(s): Tuesday, March 21 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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

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



## **"His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh" with Andrew O'Brien MS**

Like his wife, Prince Philip, is a great-great-grandchild of Queen Victoria. After marriage and children, was Philip a model husband? What was his role in navigating the royal family through tremendous change: from Princess Diana to Meghan Markle. Born in Greece as a member of the Greek and Danish royal families, how did Philip survive those early years abandoned by his father and uncared for by his mother? Much later, Philip's mother would become a Greek Orthodox nun. What role did his maternal uncle, Mountbatten, play in bringing

about a relationship between Philip and the British royal family?

**Date(s): Monday, March 27 Time(s): 9-11 am # of Sessions: 1**

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

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

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **“The Architecture of Thomas Jefferson” with Ken Allsen**

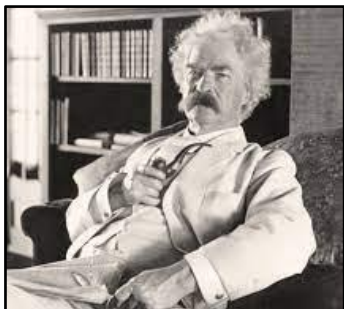
Thomas Jefferson is best known as a founding father and the third President of the United States. But during his lifetime he was also the most notable theorist of architecture in the country. He was also an accomplished hands-on architect and draftsman in his own right, producing plans for a significant number of projects. This class will present an overview of those projects and the evolution of his own intense interest in architecture and construction.



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

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

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



## **“Seventeen Summers in a Garden” followed by “How to Reform Conscience” with The Mark Twain House & Museum**

### **Seventeen Summers in a Garden**

Although his most famous works were set along the Mississippi River of his childhood, Mark Twain composed those novels while living in Nook Farm, a neighborhood of Hartford full of celebrated literary figures. This program explores what it was like in this vibrant community of authors and activists, whose residents included not only Twain, but also novelist

Harriet Beecher Stowe, travel writer and journalist Charles Dudley Warner, Civil War hero and senator Joseph Hawley, and female suffrage campaigner Isabella Beecher Hooker. It also considers the ways Twain’s decades in Connecticut shaped his writing, family, and social life.

### **How to Reform a Conscience**

Mark Twain described *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as “a book of mine where a sound heart and a deformed conscience come into collision and conscience suffers defeat.” This hour-long program considers how Twain came to recognize the way his own conscience was “deformed” with regards to racism and white supremacy, and explores the ways he successfully – and not-so-successfully – worked to reform it. Note: While this program is an excellent companion to reading *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, participants do not need to have read the book to fully engage with and learn from this program.

**Date(s): Tuesday, March 28 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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

**LIFE members can register online with a credit card at  
[www.learningisforever.net](http://www.learningisforever.net)**

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **"Archaeology and Cultures of Arizona" with Allen Dart, Professional Archaeologist, Executive Director (Volunteer), Old Pueblo Archaeology Center**

Many different peoples have contributed to making Arizona such a unique and fascinating cultural place. In this program Mr. Dart summarizes and interprets the archaeology of Arizona, from the earliest Paleoindians through Archaic period hunters and foragers, the transition to true village life, and the later pre-Contact archaeological cultures (Ancestral Pueblo, Mogollon, Hohokam, Patayan, Sinagua, and Salado). He also discusses connections between archaeology and history, and provides an overview of the Native American, European, Mexican, African, and Asian peoples who have contributed to the Southwest's recent history.

**Date(s): Tuesday, Mar 28 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



Registered Professional Archaeologist **Allen Dart** – who encourages us to call him "Al" – 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.



## **"La Belle Epoque, Part 3" with Taylor Hagood PhD, Professor of American Literature, English Department, Florida Atlantic University**

The final session of the series on La Belle Epoque will focus on art and literature of the era. From the hard-hitting work of Zola to the breezy writing of Collette, this was an era of important fiction and poetry. Meanwhile, this era saw the art of Impressionists and post-Impressionists, from Toulous-Lautrec to Suzanne Valadon.

**Date(s): Wednesday, March 29 Time(s): 10 am-Noon # of Sessions: 1**

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

**Dr. Taylor Hagood** teaches American literature, with specialization in the writing of William Faulkner, African American literature, and the literature and culture of the United States South. His scholarship examines literary and cultural production in an approach informed by postcolonial theory, theorizing of social interaction via secrecy as a cultural item, and disability studies. Hagood's books include *"Faulkner's Imperialism: Space, Place, and the Materiality of Myth"* (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.

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## **"The 1840s America's First 1960s" with Chad Israelson MA, RCTC History Professor**

The death of a president, a controversial war, a prominent counter-culture, racial divisions, communes, and much more. The 1840s in America mirrored the higher profile 1960s yet, contained many of the same features. As the United States headed towards the Civil War, the 1840s foreshadowed the tumult to come in both the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Date(s): Wednesday, March 29 Time(s): 1-3 pm # of Sessions: 1**

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



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

## **"The History of Maine Whaling" with Charles Lagerbom, Author**

The history of American whaling is most frequently associated with Nantucket, New Bedford and Mystic. However, the state of Maine also played an integral part in the development and success of this important industry. The sons of Maine became whaling captains, whaling crews, inventors, investors and businessmen. Towns along the coast created community-wide whaling and sealing ventures, outfitted their own ships and crewed them with their own people. The state also supplied the growing industry with Maine-built ships, whale boats, oars and other maritime supplies. For more than two hundred years, the state forged a strong and lasting connection with the American whaling industry. Author and historian Charles H. Lagerbom reveals why Maine should rightly take its place alongside its more well-known New England whaling neighbors.

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

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



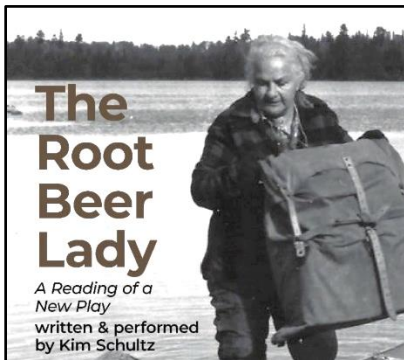
**Charles H. Lagerbom** received his MA in History/Archaeology from University of Maine. He organized surveys of ship remains in Maine lakes, the 1779 Penobscot Expedition and the 17th century English galleon Angel Gabriel off Pemaquid. Two field seasons were spent in Antarctica with University of Maine Quaternary Institute, now Climate Change Institute. He is author of "Maine Whaling" and "Maine to Cape Horn: A Most Dangerous Journey" and writes a column entitled *Half Seas Over: Interesting Research Related to Maritime Maine* for the local newspaper *The Camden Herald*. In addition to AP US

History, Charles teaches *New England Maritime History* and co-teaches the *Marine Studies Class* as part of the *Belfast Marine Institute* while also frequently speaking on Antarctica, Cape Horn, Maine whaling and New England colonial and maritime history.



# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## TRIPS--JAN/FEB/MAR/APR

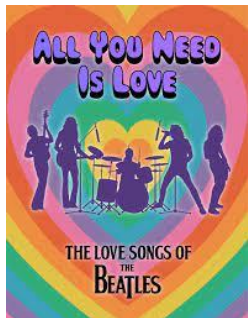


### "The Root Beer Lady" at the History Theatre

1986. The story of the indomitable Dorothy Molter, the last legal non-indigenous resident of the Boundary Waters. The story reflects the beauty and hardships of Molter's solitary yet satisfying life beginning in 1934. The play, funny and passionate, explores her independence, fortitude, and love of nature. and pushes back against the premise that her time in the North Woods made her the "Loneliest Woman in America," as the Saturday Evening Post claimed in 1952. Dorothy Molter's story will delight all, young and old. 1899. Fee includes coach

transportation, theatre ticket, and lunch at Burger Moe's (choice of cheeseburger or veggie burger, served with fries, a beverage, and dessert). No refunds after January 5.

**Date(s): Thu, Feb 9 Time(s): 8 am-4 pm Location: RCTC Sports Center Member Fee: \$96**



### "All You Need is Love: The Songs of the Beatles" at the Ives Auditorium in Bloomington

The same team that has produced "Fools Fall In Love" annually since 2020 has something new for you in 2023! "All You Need Is Love" celebrates the incredible music of the Fab Four with the 'Fools' singing their way through the most indelible works of the Lennon/McCartney/Harrison/Starr catalog. You'll hear early records including "She Loves You", "I Want to Hold Your Hand," and "Yesterday," and later releases from the Beatles' studio years including "When

I'm Sixty-Four" and "Something." Enjoy an atmosphere of fun, romance, and BEATLEMANIA from Sidekick Theatre this Valentine's Day! Fee includes coach transportation, lunch (Honey Garlic Chicken, Cheesy Potatoes, Roasted Veggie Blend, Winter Salad, Dinner Rolls, Assorted Dessert - Chef's Choice, Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Hot Tea) and theater ticket. No refunds after January 10.

**Date: Wed, Feb 15 Time: 10 am-5 pm Location: RCTC Sports Center Member Fee: \$96**



# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"To Kill a Mockingbird" at the Orpheum**

All rise for Academy Award®-winner Aaron Sorkin's adaptation of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork. The New York Times Critic's Pick To Kill a Mockingbird is "the most successful American play in Broadway history." (60 Minutes). Rolling Stone gives it 5 stars, calling it "an emotionally shattering landmark production of an American classic," and New York Magazine calls it "a real phenomenon. Majestic and incandescent, it's filled with breath and nuance and soul." With direction by Tony Award®-winner Bartlett Sher, To Kill a Mockingbird — "the greatest novel of all time" (Chicago Tribune) — has quickly become "one of the greatest plays in history" (NPR). Emmy Award®-winning actor Richard Thomas will play the role of Atticus Finch in the national tour. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Fee includes coach bus transportation and main floor theatre ticket (Section MF4, Rows O -> Z). Bring a lunch for on the bus. No refunds after January 5.

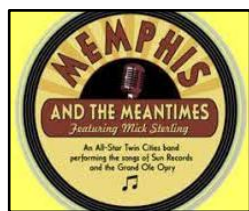
**Date: Sun, Feb 19 Time: 10:30 am-5:30 pm Location: Northrop School Member Fee: \$102**



## **"Tina - The Tina Turner Musical" at the Orpheum**

There is only one. Her voice is undeniable. Her fire is unstoppable. Her triumph is unlike any other. This new musical reveals a comeback story like no other, of a woman who dared to defy the bounds of racism, sexism and ageism to become the global Queen of Rock n' Roll. Tina – The Tina Turner Musical is a celebration of resilience and an inspiration of triumph over adversity. One of the world's best-selling artists of all time, Tina Turner has won 12 Grammy Awards and her live shows have been seen by millions, with more concert tickets sold than any other solo performer in music history. Fee includes coach transportation and main floor theatre ticket (Sections MF3 and MF4, rows M-T). Bring a lunch for on the bus. No refunds after January 13.

**Date: Sun, Mar 12 Time: 10:30 am-5:30 pm Location: Northrop School Member Fee: \$96**

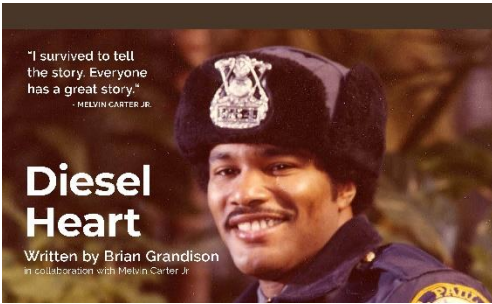


## **"Mick Sterling Presents: Memphis & the Meantimes—Songs of the Grand Ole Opry & Sun Records" at the Ives Auditorium in Bloomington**

Celebrate the music that changed the world from the Grand Ole Opry and Sun Records! This is the stuff new Country can only dream of being. Featuring songs from Cash, Haggard, Lewis, Orbison, and many others, MEMPHIS AND THE MEANTIMES have been thrilling audiences for years by providing them with an 8-piece powerful presentation. Featuring Dan Neale, Lisi Wright, Ben Kaplan, Peter Guertin, John Wright and vocals by Cate Fierro, Shalo Lee, and Mick Sterling, this show is the best of American popular music. Gourmet lunch is available before the matinee. The menu features BBQ Ribs and BBQ Chicken, Beer Cheese Mac, Southern Style Green Beans, House Coleslaw, Biscuits with Honey Butter, Dessert, and Coffee/ Water/Hot Tea (upon request). No refunds after March 1.

**Date: Wed, Mar 22 Time: 10 am-5:30 pm Location: RCTC Sports Center Member Fee: \$96**

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023



## **"Diesel Heart" at the St. Paul History Theatre**

"Born and raised in St. Paul's, Rondo neighborhood, the story of Melvin Carter Jr. begins at a time of racial tension in the 1950s and '60s. During this time Melvin Carter Jr struggles in school, questions his worth and turns to fighting and trouble in the neighborhood. This play, inspired by Melvin Carter, Jr.'s book, DIESEL HEART, is a story that has you crying and laughing with joy. Melvin story reminds us that the journey we

take to finding our voice is never clean or straightforward. Fee includes coach transportation, theatre ticket, and lunch at Patrick McGovern's (choice of hot turkey sandwich, veggie burger, or cheeseburger with sides, dessert, and beverage.) No refunds after February 10.

**Date: Thu, Mar 23 Time: 8 am-4 pm Location: RCTC Sports Center Member Fee: \$96**



## **Saint Paul's Gangster Tour**

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

where many gangsters spent time socializing with the public. DeGideo's on West 7th Street will be our lunch stop - another notorious mobster hangout at the time! Fee includes coach transportation, lunch at DeGidio's, and tour guide. No refunds after March 20.

**Date: Fri, April 14 Time: 9 am-4 pm Location: RCTC Sports Center Member Fee: \$96**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**LIFE'S 30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

**Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Watch for me details!**

# RCTC LIFE Program – Winter 2023

## Registration Information



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

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

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

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

\* Return the registration form by mail to RCTC LIFE Program, 851 - 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 Chrisanne at [chrisanne.pieper@rctc.edu](mailto:chrisanne.pieper@rctc.edu)

### **Cancellation and Refund Policy:**

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

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

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

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

