


**LIFE
PROGRAM**
Learning Is ForEver

NOV/DEC 2020



Providing adult education, insight, and engagement
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Greetings from the RCTC

LIFE Program!

Jamie and I continue to work from our homes. We need to look at this situation and see that "every cloud has a silver lining" – we are being able to hear classes from presenters from all over the United States. This catalog we have presentations from a Ohio State University professor, a retired UW-Milwaukee professor living in Oregon, and an award-winning author in Chicago to name just a few. We hope to see you on Zoom – give it a try, it is easy and definitely worth it! We have several members who are willing to assist you to get you on the LIFE Zoom train.

Take care and stay well.

Chrisanne and Jamie



'A Most Beautiful Thing' – A Must See Documentary On Mending the Socio-Economic Gap in the Black Community...



Called one of the best documentaries to unveil at South by Southwest by Brian Tallerico of Roger Ebert, an "absolute must watch" by Deadspin, and "a film we could really use right now" by Frank Scheck of The Hollywood Reporter, "one of the best films this decade" by ChicagoNow, A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING, narrated by the Academy-Award/Grammy-winning artist, Common; executive-produced by NBA Stars Grant Hill and Dwyane Wade along with Grammy-award winning producer 9th Wonder; and directed by award-winning filmmaker (and Olympic rower) Mary Mazzio, chronicles the first African American high school rowing team in this country (made up of young men, many of whom were in rival gangs from the West Side of Chicago), all coming together to row in the same boat. An amazing story.

Watch the documentary at <https://www.peacocktv.com/freesignup>

Arshay will be presenting to RCTC LIFE on Tue, Nov. 2 at 1 pm.

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Letter from the LIFE Board Chair

One of our favorite instructors, Todd Lefko, presented a class in September on how the pandemic will change the world. As I was listening to his presentation he reminded me that the pandemic has already brought positive and negative changes to our own lives. It has given my husband, Dean, and me time to explore new walking trails and State Parks. But on the other hand, we have had to struggle with the lack of physical connectedness to our family and friends. We are adjusting to the fact that we are in the high risk category for contracting COVID-19 and our actions and the actions of those around us can affect our health. The LIFE board has also had to change as a result of the pandemic by developing new ways to sustain our LIFE program. We are grateful for you, the LIFE participants, for supporting us through this transition to ZOOM classes. Without your willingness to learn how to connect on ZOOM for class presentations, our program would not have been able to continue. As of this writing, we have had over 2200 registrations for classes in just September and October! We are also amazed at the increased number of instructors who are so willing to give of themselves and their precious time to present to us. Because of our new format we are able to recruit more out-of-state instructors. A big factor for this is that they do not need to travel to present. Thanks to Chrisanne Pieper for all her detective work in locating exciting new instructors and encouraging our frequent presenters to stay with us and feel comfortable with our new format. Of course there is a downside to this for some. The camaraderie of meeting old friends and making new ones is more difficult than in the traditional classroom setting, but at the same time we do not need to brace for the weather or hunt for a place to park!

With the pandemic, we do know that classes have become more important than ever to provide an intellectually stimulating activity to our members as we try to keep ourselves healthy by staying home as much as possible. You will notice in the new course offerings we have many familiar speakers, but also interesting new ones for you to consider. We hope you find so many tempting classes it will be difficult for you to decide. See you in class!



Just a note.... if you are hesitant to participate in a Zoom class because you need some computer guidance to connect please contact Chrisanne at (chrisanne.pieper@rctc.edu) or Jamie at (jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu).

Julie Stenehjelm, LIFE Board Chair



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LIFE Program

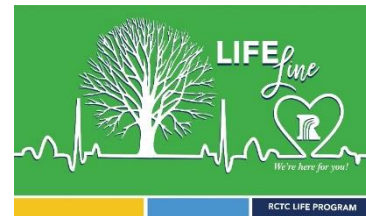
Gift Certificates

are available in any amount.

Please email Jamie at

Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu

to order today!



LIFE has moved to this online offering of classes to keep us connected and safe.

LIFE still has budgetary obligations. Tax deductible donations for the program can be sent to RCTC Foundation, 851 30th Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904. Checks must be made out to RCTC Foundation – LIFE Program. Thank you for your ongoing support!

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

The United States Flag: Origins, Evolution, and Symbolism

The United States Flag is an important, perhaps, the most important, symbol of our identity and national pride. The history of the Flag reflects the history of our Nation itself. Join us to hear that story.

Date: Monday, November 2 **Time:** 10-11:30 am **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$10 **Non-Member Fee:** \$15



ARSHAY COOPER is a Rower, Benjamin Franklin award-winning author, A Golden Oar recipient for his contributions to the sport of rowing, motivational speaker, and activist, particularly around issues of accessibility for low-income families. Arshay grew up on the West Side of Chicago, witnessing family and friends become products of their environment. But a chance encounter changed Arshay's life. In 1997, he joined (and later became captain of) the first African-American high school rowing team at Manley High School, an experience that changed Arshay's life. Arshay attended Le Cordon Bleu, becoming a personal chef for events and professional athletes. After years of working in the foodservice industry, Arshay returned to his true passion, working with young people.

Arshay Cooper, Messenger of Hope: "A Most Beautiful Thing"

"Their eyes have no soul, like life has been sucked out of them. They are as thin as drinking straws and speak no words, only noises. I'm petrified every time I tiptoe past them." That's how "Suga Water" author, activist and self-proclaimed messenger of hope Arshay Cooper describes the drug addicts in the West Side of Chicago building where he grew up. Cooper was raised by a single mother, who overcame drug addiction, in a neighborhood plagued by gang violence and drugs. He was recruited to the rowing team of Chicago's Manley Career Academy High School. Skeptical at first, he joined the team, a decision that he says transformed his life. Arshay made sports history when he became the captain of the rowing team at Manley—the first all-Black high school rowing team in America. He graduated high school. Cooper's experiences competing in an exclusionary and predominantly white sport are recorded in his striking memoir and recent documentary "A Most Beautiful Thing." Arshay has also started several rowing programs anywhere a puddle of water exists, so that other young people can experience the profound change that can happen on the water. "In rowing, you move forward by looking in the opposite direction. I learned that it's ok to look back, as long as you keep pushing forward." - Arshay Cooper

Date: Monday, November 2 **Time:** 1-2:30 pm **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$15 **Non-Member Fee:** \$25

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Bernadine Joselyn directs Blandin Foundation's Public Policy and Engagement program, where she leads efforts to facilitate the building of knowledge and catalyze community action around issues and opportunities that align with the Foundation's mission of strengthening rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area. Bernadine spent the first 15 years of her professional life in Soviet (and then post-Soviet) Affairs. She served seven years as diplomat with the U.S.

Department of State, where — after an initial tour in New Delhi, India — she was assigned to Moscow, Russia, and Washington, D.C., focused on the U.S.-Soviet/Russian relationship. After the collapse of the Soviet Union Bernadine left the diplomatic corps to work on international academic and cultural exchange programs.

Ensuring All Kids Can Learn in the Time of Corona Virus: Partnership for a ConnectedMN

The global COVID-19 pandemic is shining a bright light on the role of the internet in keeping us all connected. Many Minnesota students lack access to the technology they need for remote learning. Partnership for a ConnectedMN was created by philanthropic and business leaders, in collaboration with Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan, to ensure students from disinvested communities have the tech devices and high-speed internet connectivity they need to learn, thrive and prosper. Bernadine will describe why and how the Partnership was formed, and how the funds it is raising are being used to ensure that schools and teachers are prepared to offer equitable access to quality distance learning this fall and for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Date: Wednesday, November 4 **Time:** 10-11:30 am **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$9 **Non-Member Fee:** \$12



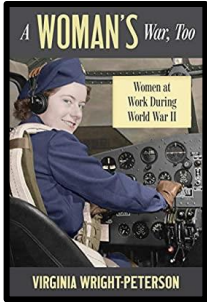
Chad Lewis is a paranormal researcher and author for *Unexplained Research L.L.C.* Lewis holds a master's of science degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He had trekked across the world in search of the paranormal. Lewis has been featured on the Discovery Channel's "A Haunting," ABC's "World's Scariest Places" and hundreds of radio interviews, TV appearances and newspaper articles. Lewis has presented for crowds of seven to 700.

Minnesota Lumberjack Legends and Lore

From Paul Bunyan to the Hodag, this program is filled with all of the Lumberjack traditions of the old lumber camps. Tales of far-fetched superstitions, folklore, history and legends. Filled with tall tales of mysterious creatures lurking in the woods, boasts of supernatural feats, and every yarn told in between, this program celebrates our rich and storied lumberjack history.

Date: Wednesday, November 4 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$15 **Non-Member Fee:** \$25

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Virginia Wright-Peterson is committed to collecting, preserving, and sharing stories--especially women's stories--often omitted from published histories, including the daily news. In her search for a broader perspective, she deployed to a military base in Iraq with the American Red Cross and taught as a Fulbright Scholar at University of Algiers. Virginia has a Ph.D. in English and currently serves on the administrative team at U of MN Rochester. Her first book, "Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation," was a finalist for the 2017 MN Book Award and has a Chinese translation.

Stories You Have Probably Never Heard: Women in Minnesota During WWII

Virginia Wright-Peterson will share stories about the important contributions women made in every branch of the military, in industry, and in the home and community during WWII. Women from Minnesota were on-site at Pearl Harbor, the fall of France, the liberation of Dachau, the Aleutian Islands, many areas in the Pacific, and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. She will share stories of spies, welders, journalists, nurses, and entertainers, as well as women involved in the German and French resistance movements.

Date: Thursday, November 5 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$10 **Non-Member Fee:** \$15



Jessica Michna, a recipient of the Presidential Service Center's Distinguished Service Award, has become widely known for her riveting portrayals of First Ladies, notable women of history and fictitious characters. Jessica's performances are compelling and emotionally enthralling. Audiences laugh along with her humorous anecdotes. They share in her tears as she relates how the horrors of war have impacted families. She has a powerful effect on an audience.

Helen Keller: "A Life Nearly Lost"

In the late nineteenth century a little girl struggled out of the depths of fear. At the age of two, Helen experienced a life threatening illness. She was plunged into a dark, silent world. For several years it seemed as though Helen's life would never improve. Anne Sullivan, a determined young teacher, would find the key to unlock Helen's prison. Through Anne's diligence and perseverance, Helen would become a world renowned speaker and advocate for the disabled. This inspirational program begins in Helen's own voice, quoting excerpts from the 1925 "Knights of the Blind" speech.

Date: Friday, November 6 **Time:** 1-2:15 pm **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$10 **Non-Member Fee:** \$15

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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.

Woman's World: Women Artists in Russia

Where in the world are the women artists? The answer: In Russia. This ppt presentation traces the ways in which women artists were vital to the development of their culture's visual artistry. Textile artists, painters, folk artists and non-conformist women contributed both to their own country and to the international scene.

Date: Monday, November 9 **Time:** 10 am-Noon **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$15 **Non-Member Fee:** \$25



Salt, Samovars, Seasons: An Overview of Russian Celebrations with Carol Veldman Rudie

Each culture has its own series of celebrations and unique customs around the special events of life. The rhythm of those shape the year and even the day of participants in the Russian experience. This ppt presentation highlights just a few as it offers a background understanding to some of the key cultural experiences celebrated both during special times of the year and in ordinary life.

Date: Monday, November 9 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$15 **Non-Member Fee:** \$25

**LIFE members can register online with a credit card at
www.learningisforever.net**

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JoMarie Leth Morris is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Winona State University. She served as a legislative intern for Minnesota State Senator Steven Morse prior to attending William Mitchell College of Law where she graduated with honors and served as associate editor of the law review.

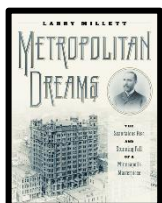
She was a partner at Klampe, Delehanty & Morris law firm in Rochester for 18 years practicing civil litigation and immigration. She served as President of the Olmsted County Bar Association, and was an adjunct professor at Winona State University developing the curriculum and teaching Introduction to Paralegalism and Ethics. JoMarie is passionate about social justice issues and has done significant pro bono work relating to domestic abuse, sex and labor trafficking, and citizenship for refugees receiving numerous awards for her pro bono work. She is currently leading the effort to bring a Jeremiah Program to Rochester.

Jeremiah Program: Ending the Cycle of Poverty Two Generations at a Time

JoMarie will discuss the history of Jeremiah Program, the Two Generation approach to ending poverty, Jeremiah Program's 5 Pillars, and the status of Jeremiah Program's launch into Southeast Minnesota.

Date: Tuesday, November 10 **Time:** 10 am-Noon **# of Sessions:** 1

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



Larry Millett is an architectural historian and the author of "Lost Twin Cities," "Twin Cities Then and Now," and "AIA Guide to the Twin Cities." He has also written six mystery novels featuring Sherlock Holmes, all but one of them set in Minnesota. He lives in St. Paul.

"Metropolitan Dreams: The Scandalous Rise and Stunning Fall of a Minneapolis Masterpiece"

When it opened in Minneapolis in 1890, the twelve-story Northwestern Guaranty Loan (later Metropolitan) Building was among the tallest, largest and most magnificent office buildings in the United States, even if the man behind it turned out to be a crook. The building's needless destruction in 1961-62, at the height of urban renewal fever, has now come to be regarded as an act of civic vandalism that deprived Minneapolis of one of its greatest monuments. In his illustrated talk, Larry will tell the story of the Metropolitan, from its design and construction amid financial chicanery to its demolition following the first big historic preservation battle in state history.

Date: Thursday, November 12 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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

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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.

Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science. Question 2

This series of short courses will provide a friendly introduction to some big questions about science and its role in our lives and society: what it is, how it has changed over time, some philosophical ideas about it, and ways in which we can distinguish “science” from “non-science.” Examples will be drawn from a wide variety of disciplines, including medicine, biology, astronomy, and economics. The individual courses are as follows:

2. What is the scientific method? (Nov '20)
3. How do scientific theories change over time? (Jan '21)
4. Is scientific progress possible? If so, how? (Mar '21)
5. What is the difference between science and non-science? (May '21)

While the courses are designed as a sequence, each course can be taken independently.

Date: Friday, November 13 **Time:** 10 am-Noon **# of Sessions:** 1

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



Dr. Elizabeth A (Ebbie) Stewart is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. Dr. Stewart is an internationally recognized expert in the fields of uterine fibroids and infertility. She has authored over 150 peer-reviewed articles and two books: *Uterine Fibroids: The Complete Guide* and *Mayo Clinic Guide to Fertility and Conception*. She has also served on the World Health Organization's Global Infertility Guideline Development Group and her research has been funded by the NIH, foundations and industry.

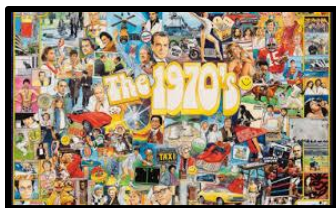
Beyond IVF: New Frontiers in Assisted Reproductive Technology

In vitro fertilization (IVF) was originally introduced to overcome infertility for women with blocked or damaged fallopian tubes. With increasing success rates, IVF became the go-to treatment for all kinds of infertility. Today, outgrowths of the technology are allowing couples and individuals to preserve fertility prior to chemotherapy or radiation, overcome congenital barriers to infertility and avoid genetic diseases in their children.

Date: Monday, November 16 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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

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Chad Israelson received his BA from the UW-La Crosse and his MA from the University of Nebraska. He has taught at RCTC since 1996 as well as 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 1970s

Relive one of the oddest decades in American History. We will cover how television, movies, and music of the decade reflected the events of this time period, and served as a response to the tumult of the 1960s.

Date: Tuesday, November 17 **Time:** 10 am-Noon **# of Sessions:** 1

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



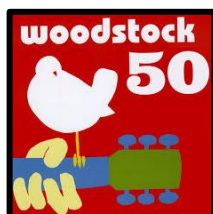
Bob Beery was Curriculum Director with the Rochester Public Schools and worked on national and state curriculum- development projects. His professional publications deal with the teaching of history and social studies. In retirement, he has served as an adjunct faculty member at the U of M, WSU, RCTC, and Saint Mary's University.

The Underground Railroad

You probably know that the "underground railroad" was a major antislavery institution in the years leading up to the Civil War. One of many ways that the enslaved resisted the dehumanization of their condition, the underground railroad was a desperate illegal means by which they attempted to escape their bondage. But was it really a series of tunnels with railroad tracks, engineers, conductors, and coal driven locomotives? That's how it is dramatically presented in a recent popular novel — Oprah book club selection, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner! How did this "railroad" really function? What were the results of this defiant activity?

Date: Tuesday, November 17 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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



Paul Koeller is a retired IBMer and active Mayo Volunteer who loves researching and presenting music and local history topics. He has given many history presentations and presented rock music classes for Rochester Community Ed.

Woodstock 1969--Looking Back 50 Years Later

Join Paul as he uses photos and music to tell the story of the 1969 Woodstock Festival. You'll learn the history behind the concert, learn about the performers, and listen to samples of the music from the festival.

Date: Wednesday, November 18 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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

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Mark Canning was born in Munich of American parents but grew up in Minnetonka. (His dad was the Managing Editor of the Star). After graduation from college in 1977, he went overseas and only moved back last spring. Most of those 41 years were spent with the State Department as a diplomat. He lived in, and had to study the languages of, Poland, South Africa, Zambia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Korea, and China. He also worked as a college lecturer and radio news announcer (Taiwan), soldier (Korea) and student (London, the Soviet Union). Mark retired from the State Department on April 1, 2018. Since then he has taught

Chinese at Concordia College, given lectures on North Korea, been a panelist at Twin Cities Public Television, and mentored an exercise for the Army War College based on the North Korean nuclear talks. Mark is married and has four grown kids who grew up overseas, but now live in the Twin Cities. He loves cycling and has raced on four continents.

VIPs: How the Embassy Prepares

American embassies coordinate the details and make most of the arrangements for high level visits by everyone from the president, the First Lady, cabinet officers, Supreme Court justices, senators and congressmen, and even sports and cultural figures such as Adrian Peterson of the Vikings. When the president comes to town, many hundreds of people are involved and serious planning begins at least six weeks in advance. Mark will discuss the logistics of these visits, with examples from his own career beginning with George H. W. Bush and running into the Trump Administration.

Date: Thursday, November 19 **Time:** 10 am-Noon **# of Sessions:** 1

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

Prospects on U.S./China Trade Agreement with Mark Canning

One of the biggest issues President Trump took on in his first years in office was what he perceived as unfairness in US-China trade. He imposed tariffs on goods from China, triggering reciprocal Chinese tariffs, which hurt US businesses, farmers, and consumers. Trump promised the pain would be rewarded by a trade deal that would result in increased purchases of US goods and services, better protection for American intellectual property, and better market access for US banks, financial houses, and tech firms. The first, and admittedly preliminary phase of the deal, was signed January 15, 2020. Specific targets were set for increases in the purchases of specific US goods. Trump promised that further discussions on what would be phase two of the deal, would begin soon. We'll look at where the deal stands now (Spoiler alert: there are significant problems) and what the prospects are going forward.

Date: Thursday, November 19 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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

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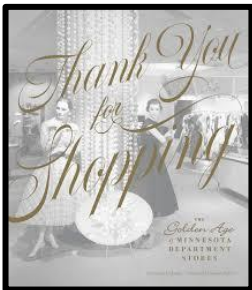
Timothy R. Johnson is the Morse Alumni Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Law at the University of Minnesota. He is a nationally recognized expert on U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments and decision making. During his career Johnson has co-authored three books about Supreme Court oral arguments 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.

The Supreme Court in American Society

The principal purpose of this course is to introduce students to the least understood federal branch -- the U.S. Supreme Court. Specifically, we will examine how justices make decisions from choosing which cases to place on the docket to the process through which cases are finally decided. Through anecdotes, data, and other stories you can expect to learn how much of life and law takes shape in the Ivory Tower.

Date: Monday, November 30 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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



Kristal Leebrick has worked for more than three decades as a writer and editor for community newspapers, trade magazines, and book publishers. She is the author of *"Dayton's: A Twin Cities Institution"* as well as several nonfiction juvenile books.

"Thank You for Shopping: The Golden Age of Minnesota Department Stores"

Throughout the twentieth century, department stores ruled the retail landscapes of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. More than just shopping centers, stores like Dayton's, Powers, Donaldson's, Young-Quinlan, the Emporium, and the Golden Rule were centers of social life. From the legendary Dayton's Christmas and spring flower displays to celebrating a special occasion at Schuneman's River Room, the department store was a destination for generations of Minnesotans, within the Twin Cities and beyond. "Thank You for Shopping" author Kristal Leebrick presents the history and stories behind Minnesota's great department stores, offering a lively trip back to the glory days.

Date: Tuesday, December 1 **Time:** 10-11:30 am **# of Sessions:** 1

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

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David Stebenne earned a B.A. in history from Yale and a J.D. and a Ph.D. in history from Columbia. He is a member of the Maryland Bar, and a specialist in modern American political and legal history. He has taught at Ohio State since 1993. He has written two books and co-authored a third one. The first, "Arthur J. Goldberg: New Deal Liberal," explores the rise and decline of New Deal era liberalism from the 1930's through the 1960's. His second book, "Modern Republican: Arthur Larson and the Eisenhower Years," is a study of the rise and decline of moderately conservative ideas from the 1940's through the 1960's. David co-authored a history of the leading suburban new town of Columbia, Maryland with Joseph Mitchell. The book was published by the History Press in 2007 with the title "New City Upon A Hill: A History of Columbia, Maryland." He is currently working on a new book project, which is a history of the rise of the American middle class from the 1930's through the 1960's. His new article entitled "Is American Democracy Endangered?" was published in the Drake Law Review in December 2018. He contributes to such publications aimed at educated general readers as: The Conversation, the Huffington Post, the New Republic, the Observer, and Salon.

The Middle Class in the Great Depression

This class will explore what the experience did to and for the American middle class. Although a terrible time economically for many Americans, the trauma of the Great Depression helped shift American values, priorities and public policies in new directions that helped lay the foundations for rapid middle class growth thereafter. These changes included not just matters of economics and politics but also social and cultural ones, and the class will explore them all.

Date: Wednesday, December 2 **Time:** 10 am-Noon **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$15 **Non-Member Fee:** \$25

Thomas Emmert, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at Gustavus Adolphus College, is a historian of Russia and Eastern Europe. He received his B.A. in history from St. Olaf College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Russian and Balkan history from Stanford University. His publications include "Serbian Golgotha: Kosovo, 1389" (1990) and, most recently, "The Scholars' Initiative: Confronting the Yugoslav Controversies"(2009), a collaborative project of scholars from around the world dedicated to providing an objective analysis of what happened to Yugoslavia at the end of the 20th Century. For 38 years Professor Emmert taught popular courses in Western Civilization, the Balkans, Imperial and Modern Russia, the Ottoman Empire, and a highly regarded seminar on Stalin for senior history majors.

Thinking about Serbia

Once a mighty empire in the 14th century, Serbia is now a land-locked Yugoslav successor state knocking at the door of the European Union. This course surveys the long history of this Balkan people and thinks about its future both in the Balkans and in Europe as a whole.

Date: Tuesday, December 8 **Time:** 10 am-Noon **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$15 **Non-Member Fee:** \$25

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Jere Lantz, conductor and lecturer is entering his 41st season conducting the Rochester Symphony, Jere Lantz also directs the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra and Minnetonka Choral Society. Founding Music Director of the Minnesota Opera Touring Company, Lantz has guest conducted Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, orchestras from coast to coast, and internationally in Latin America, Europe, and Asia. He has served on advisory panels to the Minnesota State Arts Board, MPR, and the League of American Orchestras. Known for delighting audiences with “the story behind the music,” Maestro Lantz has written notes for hundreds of programs and appeared frequently in media of all sorts. In lectures that are both erudite and entertaining, he has unveiled the mysteries of music to music lovers of all ages. He holds degrees through the doctorate from Yale University.

Magic and Mystery of Christmas Carols

We all are barraged with Christmas carols at the end of each calendar year—at home, in church, on the street, in stores, riding elevators. We just can’t get away from them. How is it that so many wonderful songs have been inspired by this season of the year? Where did they come from? Who created them? When? Why? We explore the stories behind our favorite holiday music, some shrouded in mystery spread over centuries, some from a specific time and place. And we’ll be surprised at how many traditional carols originated in America and how much wonder was involved in how our favorites came to be.

Date: Thursday, December 10 **Time:** 1-2:30 pm **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$9 **Non-Member Fee:** \$12



Jessica Michna, a recipient of the Presidential Service Center’s Distinguished Service Award, has become widely known for her riveting portrayals of First Ladies, notable women of history and fictitious characters. Jessica’s performances are compelling and emotionally enthralling. Audiences laugh along with her humorous anecdotes. They share in her tears as she relates how the horrors of war have impacted families. She has a powerful effect on an audience.

Margaret Cummins: Christmas at Balmoral

Join the Christmas festivities at Balmoral Castle. Meet Margaret Cummins, head housekeeper of Balmoral during the reign of Queen Victoria, as she prepares for the arrival of the royal couple and their nine children. Learn about the traditions and history of the season. In this program, the audience becomes the incoming household staff of the castle. Don’t be surprised in Mrs. Cummins checks to see if your hands are clean.

Date: Friday, December 11 **Time:** 1-2:15 pm **# of Sessions:** 1
Member Fee: \$10 **Non-Member Fee:** \$15

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Thomas Hubka is a Professor Emeritus from the Department of Architecture, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Through almost forty years of scholarship and teaching he has attempted to link the practice and teaching of architecture to historical and cultural context. His latest book explores America's most common housing such as workers' cottages, bungalows, and duplexes: *"Houses without Names: Architecture Nomenclature and the Classification of America's Common Houses"* (University of Tennessee Press). He is working on a new book: *"Modern*

Housing for a New Middle Class: The Transformation of Working-Class Housing, 1880-1930." He is currently living in Portland, Oregon where he has taught courses at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, and Portland Community College and continues to study the neighborhoods of Portland and Oregon.

"How the Working-Class Home Became Modern, 1900-1940"

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the average American family still lived by kerosene light, ate in the kitchen, and used an outhouse. In *"How the Working-Class Home Became Modern, 1900-1940,"* Hubka analyzes a period when millions of average Americans saw accelerated improvement in their housing and domestic conditions. These improvements were intertwined with the acquisition of entirely new mechanical conveniences, new types of rooms, and new patterns of domestic life. Such innovations (from public utilities and kitchen appliances to remodeled and multi-unit housing) are at the center of the story Hubka tells. This narrative, amply illustrated and finely detailed, traces changes in household hygiene, sociability, and privacy practices that launched large portions of the working classes into the middle class—and, in Hubka's telling, reconfigures and enriches the standard account of the domestic transformation of the American home.

Date: Monday, December 14 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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



Brandon Chamberlain began working for the NPS as a summer seasonal ranger and living historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park while attending San Jose State where he majored in military history. After making computer games for fifteen years, he returned to the only job he ever truly loved, working as a ranger for the Park Service. He spent the next six years as a seasonal Park Ranger working at Adams

National Historical Park, Boston National Historical Park and Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area before gaining his permanent status at Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site and Salem Maritime National Historic Site. His passion for studying the American Civil War finally brought him to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park about nine years ago where he is the Lead Ranger, Education Coordinator, and Historic Weapons Supervisor.

Appomattox Campaign and Commissioner's Meeting

The Appomattox campaign was a series of American Civil War battles fought March 29 – April 9, 1865, in Virginia that concluded with the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to forces of the Union Army (Army of the Potomac, Army of the James and Army of the Shenandoah) under the overall command of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, marking the effective end of the war.

Date: Tuesday, December 15 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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

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*Drawn to music at a young age, **Travis Beck** started piano lessons at age 5 and began playing for his church's worship services at age 13. A native of Nashua, IA, he once filled in for his childhood piano teacher at the historic Little Brown Church and played for seven weddings over New Years' Eve and New Years' Day. His education includes degrees in music from Wartburg College and Luther Seminary. He currently serves full-time as Director of Worship, Music, & Arts at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Rochester. He lives with his wife, Samantha, and their daughter, Nora.*

From Saint to Santa: The Evolution of Father Christmas

He goes by many names: Sinter Klaas, Père Noël, Babbo Natale, Kris Kringle. But how did a Christian saint become transformed into the sleigh-riding, present-delivering, cookie-devouring, "jolly old elf" that we know today? From a real-life fourth-century bishop to the patron saint of New York, from the reindeer who pull his sleigh to the Krampus who tags along and punishes misbehaving children, we'll explore the magic and mystery of the world's most iconic character.

Date: Wednesday, December 16 **Time:** 1-3 pm **# of Sessions:** 1

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



*Originally from Chicago, **Bob Nowicki** has been a Rochester citizen for 46 years. He retired from IBM and immediately immersed himself in community service including serving on the Rochester City Council for 8 years. Bob has been an active member of the Rochester Woodcarvers Club since 1980 and is known for his unique use of small power tools to execute his carvings. Bob is an active member of the Rochester Kiwanis Day Makers, a Mayo Clinic Volunteer and Team Leader, board member and co-founder of RNeighbors, husband to Joan, three daughters, five grandkids and one great-granddaughter. He is the creator of the Bare Foot Santa, a Santa figure reproduced and sold nationally for 8 years.*

4,000 Year History of Santa

The celebration of Christmas is made up of rituals that developed over many centuries and in different cultures. Early Christians long debated over the date of the birth of Christ finally deciding to place the Nativity at the heart of winter. They borrowed or carried over elements of mid-winter celebrations, feasting, traditional foods, garlands of holly, raising the Christmas tree, but most of all, the giving of gifts. Today in our culture we recognize the gift giver as Santa Claus. This jolly fellow is the most loved fictional character of all time but so little of his development is well known. Bob will take us through 4,000 years of the evolution of this legend from images of pagan gods to priestly figures as Christianity developed using some of the Christmas figures he carved over the last 30 years.

Date: Thursday, December 17 **Time:** 10-11 am **# of Sessions:** 1

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

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October classes!



- 10/5, 1-2:30 pm - 1936 Berlin Olympics: The Nazi Games with David E. Jones
- 10/6, 10 am-Noon - Indigenous Traditional Plant Medicinals with Megan Schnitker
- 10/6, 1-3 pm - Lakota Women & the Land with Megan Schnitker
- 10/7, 10 am-Noon - Walt Whitman: America's Promise with Vaunceil Kruse
- 10/8, 1-3 pm - Past, Present, & Future of Copper-Nickel Mining in MN with Aaron Klemz
- 10/8, 10 am-Noon - "Beating About the Bush: English Idioms & Other Wild & Woolly, Tongue-in-Cheek Phrases" with Anatoly Liberman
- 10/12, 1-3 pm - Tick Talk - Boom! Tick-borne diseases in MN with Bobbi S. Pritt MD
- 10/13, 10 am-Noon - Presidential Elections with Chad Israelson MA
- 10/13, 1-3 pm - Closing Time: A Brief History of Bars & Saloons of the Twin Cities with Andy Sturdevant
- 10/14, 10 am-Noon - The U.S. & Mexico: Partnership Tested with Robert Scarlett
- 10/19, 1-2:15 pm - Sari (Ma) Semple "The Truth, As I Recollect" with Jessica Michna
- 10/20, 1-3 pm - "MN Mayhem, Mystery & Moxie, Part 2: (Mostly) True Tales of Courage, Muscle & Grit in the Land of 10,000 Lakes." with Ben Welter
- 10/21, 1-3 pm - The College of St. Teresa with Ken Allsen
- 10/22, 1-2:30 pm - Rochester 1959: 60 Years of Progress with Paul Koeller
- 10/26, 1-3 pm - FDR & the Fight for Freedom with Gary Stamm
- 10/27, 10-11:30 am - The Minnesota Marine Art Museum & You! with Heather Casper
- 10/28, 6:30-7:45 pm - Goode Rebeka, Trial by Fire "The Salem Witch Trials" with Jessica Michna
- 10/29, 1-2:30 pm - "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: the Ship, the Storm, & the Song" with Steven A Ackerman Professor, UW-Madison
- 10/30, 10 am-Noon - Minnesota's Most Haunted Locations with Chad Lewis



Register Online Today or
Mail in the Sep/Oct Registration Form at
www.learningisforever.net



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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 year is **\$25** per person and is in effect August 1 through July 30 each academic year. An additional fee is charged per course or event. Anyone is welcome to join. The only prerequisite is an active interest in learning. There are no educational requirements, no term papers, no tests—everyone succeeds!

All ages are welcome! Gift Certificates are available!

Faculty/Presenters

A variety of courses are led by professional educators, community leaders, and peer volunteers.

Location

LIFE will present classes for Fall 2020 thru Spring 2021 via Zoom due to the COVID-19. Your safety is our number one priority.

Registration

To register for any of the activities in this catalog

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

* **Online registration is now available for LIFE members only with credit card payment!! Please contact Jamie at jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu.**

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Class refunds: will only be given **5 business days prior** to the class start date—a \$5 processing fee will be charged. In the event that a class is canceled due to low enrollment or instructor conflict, refunds will be processed in full. LIFE annual membership fees are non-refundable.

Contact Information:

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