

LIFE TIMES

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OCTOBER 2020

LIFE: Exercise Your Mind

It's a well-known fact that the LIFE program is pretty nimble at meeting the needs of our participants. We study the reviews you write after each class so we can respond in ways that meet your expectations. The Program Committee is always on the look-out for new classes, or repeats of favorites for those who missed a class in the recent past. But this summer, the LIFE leaders outdid themselves: **On-line courses.**

Many of us have family who are working from home with virtual teams; some of us communicate with our children and grandchildren via Skype and other apps, so the concept of connecting virtually is not new to us. But little did I suspect that offering classes online would prove so popular with our LIFE participants. It seems as if all of us are happy to fire up our computers and Zoom into classes from the comfort of our homes. And what a grand collection of classes there is.

I've always loved the excitement of back-to-school-activities, and I still hear the siren call of new school supplies. But now, the most important school supply item on my desk is my copy of the LIFE course catalog. As in previous months, the October courses are so tempting I may need to get a job to pay the fees for all the ones I want to take. Among the intriguing: "1936 Berlin Olympics: the Nazi Games, ""...English Idioms...," "Closing Time: A brief history of Bars and Saloons of the Twin Cities," "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: The Ship, the Storm, & the Song," (who can forget the song?) and "Minnesota's Most Haunted Locations."

I challenge you to find another place where you can exercise your mind with such an interesting collection of classes. Therein lies the strength of LIFE. We aren't offering just one or two types or subjects, and we don't focus on some defined audience. Our Program Committee works to be inclusive so everyone can find classes to attend and enjoy.

One last reason to participate in LIFE on-line is the isolation so many of us are facing these days. Mostly we stay close to home to avoid getting sick, which is a good idea. But, as we all know, socialization, especially for our age group, is a valuable part of staying healthy. Now LIFE on-line gives us the benefits of social interaction while avoiding potential exposure to the coronavirus. And, perhaps best of all, we don't have to look for a place to park – gotta love that!



Pixy Russell LIFE Board Member

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Teacher Feature...

Andy Sturdevant is an artist and writer living in Minneapolis. He has written about art, history and culture for a variety of Twin Cities-based publications and websites, including ArchitectureMN, Mpls. St. Paul, MinnPost, Apology, The Smudge, The Growler and others. He also made art and creates public projects. Some of this work has been exhibited at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Flaten Art Museum at St. Olaf College, as well as in museums, galleries and spaces in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle and elsewhere. He was born in Ohio, raised in Kentucky and has lived in Minneapolis since 2005.



Andy Sturdevant presents on Oct. 13

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