RAP CLASSES

RAP Membership
A twelve month RAP membership is $25 and is renewable on your membership anniversary. You can register for the membership and RAP classes online at www.mchenry.edu/rap. You need a valid membership to enroll in RAP classes. For more information, please call (815) 455-8559.

Fee: $25 (one year)

Chess for Beginners
This class will cover the essentials of chess to get you started. It will also give you all the resources to progress and play. For those who already know the course will also cover basic strategy and how to practice to continue on your chess journey.

Fee: $25
# 2472 T 1/4–2/22 10–11:30 a.m. A, MCC

What’s On Your Wall? Art in Two Dimensions
“It appears we just got Banksy-ed.” An incident that shocked the art world and made instant history occurred when a work of art shredded itself. The auctioneer had just made the final blow of his hammer signifying that someone had won the bid on ‘Girl with Balloon’ by anonymous graffiti artist, Banksy, when the painting began beeping and then shredded half of itself in front of a room full of horrified people. This painting had just sold for $1.4 million. We’ll explore a world where giant murals and art alleys transform neighborhoods and cities, including the art of that Banksy fellow!

Fee: $12 Ann Leslie
# 2417 F 1/7 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

Writer Wannabees
Are you interested in writing, but don’t know where to start? Do you like to write and share your thoughts? Are you looking for an honest, gentle critique? Join other RAP members to discuss the rewards and challenges of writing. Facilitated by Dan Giallombardo, this is a self-directed writing support group. Registration is limited to 15 people. Class meets on: Jan. 12, 26, Feb. 9, 23, Mar. 9, 23, April 13, 27, May 11, 25, & June 8, 22.

Fee: $15 Dan Giallombardo
# 2403 W 1/12–6/22 1–2:50 p.m. A, MCC

Can You See Me Now?—The Art of Photography
From the macro of space to the micro of electron microscopes and everything in between, we look at EVERYTHING! This is about the eye of the photographer who might spend a moment, or years, waiting to capture just... the... right... MOMENT! Many of those photographers just happen to be in the right place at the right time. Could you be the next one?

Fee: $12 Ann Leslie
# 2418 F 1/14 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

The following classes are offered through remote instruction using the Zoom meeting platform or in person when a specific location is listed. For remote classes, program staff will notify registered participants with information to access your class 24 hours before class begins. To register online visit www.mchenry.edu/rap or call (815) 455-8588.
Rod Serling and The Twilight Zone
As you begin to read this, relax your mind. “You unlock this door with the key of imagination. Beyond it is another dimension: a dimension of sound, a dimension of sight, a dimension of mind. You're moving into a land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas. You've just crossed over into...The Twilight Zone.” These were the words of the famous narrator, Rod Serling as he took viewers into the well-known, psychological thriller television series, The Twilight Zone. Historian Jim Gibbons will discuss The Twilight Zone, the amazing works, and the life of genius creator, Rod Serling. You'll hear about the many accomplishments and awards that he received over his lifetime for his screenwriting, television production, and narration, including being inducted into The Television Hall of Fame in 1985. He'll also discuss the movies, writings, and other works of Serling; his military background; and his fight for change in issues of television censorship, politics, racism and more.
Fee: $12
# 2410 Th 1/20 1–2:30 p.m. Remote
James Gibbons

What is That, Really?—The Art of Architecture
We moved out of caves, on to make our homes inside airplanes, treehouses, mud, up in the air, under the ground and yes, back into caves. We’ve made the most extraordinary places spectacular with design, finesse, and style by redesigning EVERYTHING, including skyscrapers built on sand. Our adventure begins with giant slides swooping us down from the top floor to the ground floor of an office building!
Fee: $12
# 2419 F 1/21 1–2:30 p.m. Remote
Ann Leslie

The Mississippi River: Ally and Enemy
The largest river in the United States, approximately 2,350 miles in length is the mighty Mississippi. It travels through or along ten states in all, from Minnesota in the north to Louisiana in the south. It also forms the backbone for shipping and commerce for the United States and world trade. Compared with the Nile, Amazon, and Yangtze, the Mississippi is ranked number four amongst the greatest rivers in the world. Millions of people depend on this river every day for their livelihood. Yet, within a matter of moments, this great friend and ally can turn from a river of strength and stability to a raging monster, wiping out any life and land within its path! Historian Jim Gibbons will present historical facts about the Mississippi River and its mighty influence on our everyday lives.

This class takes place at Clarendale of Algonquin, 2001 West Algonquin Rd., Algonquin.
Fee: $15
# 3033 T 1/25 1–2:30 p.m.
James Gibbons

On the Body—The Art of Adornment
There are places in the world where men dress like birds to catch a good wife and world class artists use human bodies as a canvas to create something else entirely. In obscure areas of the world, people dress like their ancestors wearing their wealth, status, beliefs, and practices that date back over a thousand years. It is vitally important to preserve this form of art or it will disappear into the blah of homogenized, mediocre fashion and convention. These people are beautiful and stunning in unique ways, join us as we visit them!
Fee: $12
# 2420 F 1/28 1–2:30 p.m. Remote
Ann Leslie

Introduction to the Apostles Creed
The Apostles Creed was written about three hundred years after the birth of Christ and is considered to be the oldest and simplest confessional creed of the Christian church. Because it summarizes the foundational beliefs and shows unity within the Christian church, it is accepted, and used at some level, by all Christian faith communities. This class will present information about the Apostles Creed from a historical perspective as you are enlightened about this historic creed that used across the world.
Fee: $15
# 3047 W 2/2–2/16 9:30–11 a.m. A, MCC
Fr. Michael Black

Chicago’s Mayor Richard J. Daley: The Man, His Times, and the City He Loved
Richard J. Daley was born in Bridgeport, on Chicago’s South Side. This was a working-class, Irish neighborhood where he lived his entire life. Later, he moved into politics eventually becoming the legendary Mayor of Chicago for 21 years and the Cook County Democratic Central Committee Chairman for 23 years. He held both positions until his death on December 20, 1976. Daley played a major role in Democratic politics supporting both John F. Kennedy in the 1960 Presidential Election and Hubert Humphrey in 1968. He also faced monumental challenges such as the decline of the major cities; the 1960’s Civil Rights Movement; the 1968 rioting in the aftermath of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; the 1968 Democratic National Convention; and the Vietnam War protesters. Historian, Jim Gibbons, will present the life of the man referred to as “Hizzoner,” who was a man of vision, courage, and dreams for a great city. Through his legacy today, Chicago has an extensive expressway system; one of the world’s busiest airports, O’Hare International; a major convention center, McCormick Place; and legendary buildings such as the Hancock Center, Willis Tower (formerly The Sears Tower), and Marina City. Chicago, under his administration, was called “The City that Works!” To this day, people still remark, “You know this never would have happened when Richard J. Daley was alive! This class takes place at Clarendale of Algonquin, 2001 West Algonquin Rd., Algonquin.
Fee: $12
# 3034 W 2/2 1–2:30 p.m. Clarendale of Algonquin
James Gibbons

To register, visit www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment or call (815) 455-8588
Eleanor Roosevelt and Civil Rights Movement
As the First Lady of the United States, the head of the NAACP, and the first woman Ambassador to the United Nations to become the chair of the UN Human Rights Commission, Eleanor Roosevelt became one of the most admired women in American history! She was one of the most skilled, admired, and controversial politicians of the 20th Century, a major advocate against social injustice, and an unrelenting advocate for human rights. Though she never ran for public office, she wielded tremendous power by influencing those that governed, particularly her husband. In the 1930's she joined the NAACP, and following her husband's death, she became a member on the Board of Directors of the NAACP and the Congress of Racial Equality. She was an advocate for civil rights and a fervent supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Though extremely lady-like in manner, she was inflexible as steel when she stood up for the causes she believed in. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called Mrs. Roosevelt, “perhaps the greatest woman of our time.” He praised, “the courage she displayed in taking sides on matters considered controversial,” and her “unswerving dedication to high principle and purpose.”

Fee: $12
James Gibbons
# 2412  Th  2/3  1–2:30 p.m.  A, MCC

To Touch the Soul—The Art of Sculpture
Sculpture is unique because some we can touch, walk around, look through, look over or into, and sometimes become a part of. Their physical presence changes our ideas, presents new ones, touch our hearts, and create impressions in profound and lasting ways. We’ll begin with sculpture galleries, under the oceans, seas, and rivers!

Fee: $12
Ann Leslie
# 2421  F  2/4  1–2:30 p.m.  Remote

Crisis of Freedom: America, 1790–1815
Ten years after the Constitution was signed, the nation was so fractured that some feared civil war would soon break out. Those who had so recently fought Britain together, even the leaders, were at each other’s throats. This course traces the United States’ first four administrations: the Cabinet battles under Washington; the politics around building Washington City; the federal government’s attack on political speech, the exploration of the West, and war with the British and the united Indian nations under Tecumseh.

Fee: $12
Joyce Haworth
# 2425  M  2/7  1–3 p.m.  Remote

Unique Festivals Around the World
Most of us are familiar with Mardi Gras or Carnivale. These popular festivals attract millions of people every year who are ready to join the fun and festivities. Many of you might be aware of The Running of the Bulls in Pamplona or the Balloon Fest in Albuquerque. But there are many other festivals around the world that are truly unique. Have you heard about the Boryeong Mud Festival, the Burning Man Festival, or the International Hair Freezing Festival? Join this class as we learn about some of the unusual ways people celebrate…just to have fun!

Fee: $12
Suzanne Rauch
# 2404  T  2/8  1–2:30 p.m.  Remote

Identity Theft—Are You the Only You?
This class will cover the most recent AARP information on identity theft including current coronavirus-related frauds and scams. Learn how the scammers are targeting your personal information needed to steal your identity. Specific examples will be provided and ways to avoid being a victim. There will be time for Q&A and sharing of experiences.

Fee: $12
Bob Bertolasi
# 2437  Th  2/10  9:30–11:30 a.m.  Remote

Outrageous Festivals—The Art of Celebrating EVERYTHING!
We celebrate just about everything under the sun and if we don’t have a reason, we find one! Can’t think of anything? I’ve got a list, so dress for a frozen city of ice, bring a gallon of sunscreen for the desert, goggles for the sub-tropics, formal wear for Belgium, plus flip-flops and swimsuits for the beach. Who’s up for OUTRAGEOUSLY FUN FESTIVALS?

Fee: $12
Ann Leslie
# 2422  F  2/11  1–2:30 p.m.  Remote
Black Inventors Prove They are the Real McCoy

In celebration of Black History Month, this presentation will review the many contributions of Black inventors in the U.S. Prior to the Civil War, enslaved Blacks were banned from obtaining patents in their own name, but that didn’t stop these industrious men and women from inventing new products and services that continue to impact our life today. Thomas Jennings, a free Black man, was the first person to receive a patent for his dry cleaning methods in 1831. Once the color ban was lifted, Martha Jones became the first black woman to obtain a U.S. patent in 1868, for improvements she made to the Corn Husker. Elijah McCoy, a free Black born in Canada after the family escaped from slavery in Kentucky, returned to the U.S. after being educated as a mechanical engineer in Scotland. McCoy, who had a fascination for steam engines, returned ready, willing and able to create. He obtained his first patent in 1872 for the invention of an automatic lubricating system which oiled steam locomotives and ships. By the time he died in 1929, McCoy had secured 57 patents and was known and revered as a genius in the field. Following McCoy’s influence on the patent industry, patent officials were known to query new inventors, whether Black or White, if their invention was “the real McCoy.”

Fee: $12

Gloria Van Hof
# 2714 M 2/14 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

A History of the Electric Vehicle

You might be surprised to learn that Elon Musk and Tesla did not invent the electric car! More than one hundred years ago electric vehicles (EV) were the most popular automobiles in the world! In the late nineteenth century and at the start of the twentieth century, they outsold every other type of car including steam or internal combustion engine (ICE) powered vehicles. And yet, at the start of the twentieth century, thousands of battery-powered cars disappeared from the streets, replaced by the internal combustion engine, and their place in the history of the automobile was quietly erased. Join us as we explore the economic, political, and societal forces that caused electric vehicles to fail in the early 1900s as well as the recent comeback of the electric car and the current challenges that it faces.

Fee: $12

Barbara Barrett
# 2405 T 2/15 1–2 p.m. Remote

Abraham Lincoln

The president speaks about the Civil War; its beginning; the misconceptions Northerners and Southerners had about each other; the crisis decisions those first 40 days; his trouble with generals; his purpose to preserve the Union and free elections and to place slavery on the road to extinction. President Lincoln speaks about his life: growing up in Kentucky and Indiana, attending a blab school. He reviews major election contests: Congressional race against evangelist Peter Cartwright when Cartwright asked if Lincoln were going to Heaven or Hell and Lincoln said, “I’m going to Congress;” and his debates with Stephen Douglas. The famed Lincoln humor is revealed as the president share stories about critics, office-seekers, lawyers, generals and Congressman. In conclusion the president says he is “but an accidental instrument, temporary, to serve for a short time.” He says it will be up to the American people to preserve the Union and its liberties to the latest generation.

Fee: $12

Robert Lindsey
# 2439 W 2/16 1–2:20 p.m. Remote

1945–1948: The Greatest Generation Comes Home

Our soldiers were victorious in Europe and the Pacific. Then they came home by the tens of thousands and found a country different than the one they left. Rosie the Riveter and other women had a different perspective on their roles. There was not enough housing or cars or consumer goods. Unions wanted their members to achieve wage gains postponed by the war effort. Harry Truman had to respond to all of this, plus significant international challenges.

Fee: $19

Gary Midkiff
# 2406 Th 2/17–2/24 9–11 a.m. Remote

Color and Meaning in Renaissance Art: From Fresco Technique to Oil

Did colors have meaning? Unlock the role of color and technique used by artists in Renaissance painting 1300–1500. How did artists use color to communicate to an uneducated public? What pigments were available and how did age and restoration effect what we see today? Examine fresco technique used by early Renaissance artists such as Giotto and the innovation and revolution of oil painting with its effect on future artists.

Fee: $12

Susan Langworthy
# 2415 F 2/18 1–2:20 p.m. A, MCC

America’s First Ladies—The Best, the Worst, and the Strangely Forgotten

Explore which First Ladies have ranked highest and lowest (or most in-between) with historians and why. Who do you think was best or worst? Why were some so vilified? And what might the future hold for the role of American First Lady?

Fee: $12

Leslie Goddard
# 2413 M 2/21 1–2:20 p.m. Remote
The Civil War: An American Tragedy
Antebellum Years 1820–1860 Journey back to the years pre-ceding the Civil War from the Missouri Compromise to John Burns capture of Harper's Ferry. Learn of the nine events that occurred during the antebellum years that led up to the greatest American tragedy with the greatest loss of lives in our country's history, and of the state of nations economic, political and military lack or preparedness resulting in this greatest tragedy of American history. Part 2 – The War Years 1861 - 1865 Experience the war's greatest and most tragic battles from Ft Sumter to Appomattox to include Bull Run, Shiloh, New Orleans, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Vicksburg and many others. Learn of Sherman's march to the ocean and Grant's overland battles. Experience the actual three day battle of Gettysburg with a bird's eye view and the sounds of cannon fire! Part 3 – The Post War Years 1866 – 1877 Learn of the turbulent years following the end of the Civil War and the efforts to reintegrate the Southern states, and the four million freed slaves into the country. Review the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments that were achieved as a result of the tragic loss of 750,000 American lives to include our 16th President. Review where we are now two hundred years from the beginning of the antebellum period.

Fee: $15 Daniel Esta
# 2852 T 2/22 1–4 p.m. A, MCC

Color and Meaning in Renaissance Art: Searching for a Style
Discover the role of color and technique used by artists in Renaissance painting 1400-1600. How did the understanding of optics contribute to color theory, style, and the role of the viewer? Examine how new styles of painting emerged due to four distinct color systems used by Leonardo, Raphael, and Michelangelo, and how the use of color was also subservient to Venetian artists such as Giorgione and Titian.

Fee: $12 Susan Langworthy
# 2416 F 2/25 1–2:20 p.m. A, MCC

Those New Fangled “Moving Pictures”
We're going to the humble beginnings of “pictures that move!” Get your hot dog, buttered popcorn, and cold drink as we explore the backstory of Wile E. Coyote and the Roadrunner, Walt Disney, motion pictures, internet GIFs, and even TikTok. Our adventure begins with 200-year-old toys captivating the imagination of people around the world. But there's a catch, they aren't really moving, it's actually an illusion!

Fee: $12 Ann Leslie
# 2407 T 3/1 1–3 p.m. Remote

Richard Wagner and King Ludwig of Bavaria: Between Music and Madness
The 146th anniversary of the Wagner Opera Festival in Bayreuth presents us with the perfect opportunity to not only pay homage to this brilliant, prolific, and controversial composer, but to also explore the legendary relationship between him and his devoted patron, the extravagant, tragic, and mad - King Ludwig of Bavaria! Join German Historian Anette Isaacs and delve into a captivating friendship that was defined by music, money, and a deep affection between two exceptional German cultural icons!

Fee: $12 Anette Isaacs
# 2408 W 3/2 1–3 p.m. Remote

The Life, Laughter, and Legacy of Robin Williams
Comedian and actor Robin Williams, touched most everyone. You might remember a greeting of Nanu-Nanu happily given by Mork from Ork, Peter Pan in Neverland, the magical city of Agrabah and the Genie, or maybe the charming, whimsical nanny, Mrs. Doubtfire. To many, Williams’ amazing talent was larger than life. Through his on-the-spot improvisational skills, genuine personality, and quick-witted humor, Williams captured the attention and hearts of many throughout the world. Historical Presenter, Michelle Gibbons, will take you into the life and mind of the comic genius, Robin Williams. She’ll discuss Williams’ famous works, movies, TV shows, and success; his personal struggles and achievements; as well as the impact he made on others during, and after his life.

This class takes place at Clarendale of Algonquin, 2001 West Algonquin Rd., Algonquin.

Fee: $15 Michelle Gibbons
# 2851 Th 3/3 1–2:30 p.m. Clarendale of Algonquin
19 Crimes: Criminals to Colonists

Nineteen crimes turned criminals into colonists. Rather than facing death, British rogues who were convicted of at least one of the crimes, were sentenced to be transported to Australia. This punishment by transportation began in 1783, and although some died at sea, many survived the journey. As pioneers in a frontier penal colony, they forged a new country and new lives, brick by brick. Their stories survive into the 21st Century with... 19 Crimes wine! The men and women on the wine labels are not those of fiction, they were flesh & blood, criminals & scholars. Our sessions will focus on “The Gang,” John Boyle O’Reilly, Michael Harrington, James Wilson, Cornelius Dwyer Kane, and James Kiely. You’ll also learn about Jane Castings, who was one of the women banished to Australia. We’ll explore their lives and their world, plus the 19 Crimes!

Fee: $25
Ann Leslie
# 2430 F 3/4–3/18 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

Inside the CIA

A look inside the secret organization that was born from World War II. From their operations overseas to the Cold War and their work alongside organized crime, the CIA has played a significant roll in foreign policy and during war times.

Fee: $12
Tim Wilsey
# 2423 M 3/7 10 a.m.–Noon Remote

Profiles in Courage: Women Who Fought for Freedom

Following the abolition of slavery and the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, Black men won the right to vote, however, women were denied that privilege. This prompted many women who had fought diligently to abolish slavery in the United States to take on yet another challenge, one that would give all women an equal voice through their power to vote. Women who played a significant role in the abolition of slavery and the suffrage movement included Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sojourner Truth, Mary Richardson Jones, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Anna Murray-Douglass (first wife of Frederick Douglass). After more than a half century later, women won the right to vote in 1920, but in many ways this was a shallow victory for Blacks. Voter suppression, Jim Crow laws, Ku Klux Klan lynchings and other violent attacks prevented men and women of color from exercising their right to vote. Join us as Gloria shares information about the brave women who fought for freedom.

Fee: $12
Gloria Van Hof
# 2715 T 3/8 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

Photo Editing for Social Media

You will learn easy ways to crop, clean, and edit your photos prior to posting on Facebook and other social media sites, and in preparation for use in albums and photo scrapbooks. Techniques for altering backgrounds and eliminating unwanted images within a picture will be shown. Techniques for restoration of old photos will also be demonstrated. Built In, as well as free standing editors will be discussed and demonstrated. For better understanding of course material, participants should have at least basic computer experience.

Fee: $12
Bob Bertolasi
# 2438 Th 3/10 9:30–11:30 a.m. Remote

The Colorful History of The Little Black Dress

In this illustrated lecture, historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., explores the history of this fashion icon. Learn how Chanel helped dissociate black from mourning, how Audrey Hepburn helped establish the LBD; and how it has been reinvented by everyone from Betty Boop to Versace.

Fee: $12
Leslie Goddard
# 2414 M 3/14 1–2:20 p.m. Remote

To register, visit www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment or call (815) 455-8588
The Life of Walter Cronkite

Walter Cronkite made a name for himself in American Broadcast Journalism, often being called the "most trusted man in America." Cronkite received the most fame from his position as an anchorman for CBS News from 1962 to 1981. During that time, he covered some of America's most important historical events including the Nuremberg Trials, Watergate, the Iran hostage crisis, and the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr., and John Lennon of The Beatles. Cronkite led audiences in the broadcast of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, breaking the news to a shocked nation. With a tear in his eye and with a slight struggle to not break his composure, Cronkite stated, “From Dallas, Texas, the flash apparently official, President Kennedy died at 1p.m. Central Standard Time, 2:00 Eastern Standard Time, some thirty-eight minutes ago.” Historian Jim Gibbons will explain how Cronkite was selected by the United States Army to fly as a member of the “Writing 69th” during World War II, how a man who never walked on the moon was recognized and awarded by NASA, and also how Cronkite set a standard for anchors years to come “And that's the way it is.”

This class takes place at Clarendale of Algonquin, 2001 West Algonquin Rd., Algonquin.

Fee: $12 James Gibbons
# 3035 W 3/16 1–2:30 p.m. Clarendale of Algonquin

St. Patrick's Day and the Luck of the Chicagoland Irish: Historical Facts and More

Every year in March, Chicago entertains its residents by turning the Chicago River green! Is this a trick by the infamous St. Patrick’s Day Leprechaun or a Chicago tradition that dates back for years? How and why did the annual tradition of dying the river green begin in Chicago? Historian Jim Gibbons will explain this and more in his St. Patrick's Day historical program! He’ll discuss Chicagoland’s Irish history and heritage, St. Patrick’s Day themed parades and food, and Irish settlers themselves in Chicago and the surrounding areas! So sit back, relax and get ready for a fun celebration of the Irish heritage! And if you’re lucky, maybe you’ll find a pot of gold of information at the end of this rainbow!

Fee: $12 James Gibbons
# 2411 Th 3/17 1–2:30 p.m. A, MCC

Sakura Tales: An Introduction to Japanese Folklore

Japanese stories sparkle with magic, wisdom and humor. Learn about Japanese folklore and culture as you listen to storyteller Anne Shimojima tell stories of the oral tradition that have been passed down through the years to delight listeners today.

Fee: $12 Ann Shimojima
# 2428 Th 3/24 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

Accident, Suicide, or Murder? The Woman Who Disappeared

Christmastime 2010, a woman disappeared outside of Chicago, without a trace and very few clues for law enforcement to investigate. There was widespread speculation as to her whereabouts with the story moving past local news and onto both national and international press. Her husband was dead, and her children were left behind without their parents. Detectives were stymied, and her sister self-medicated herself to deal with her grief. We’ll explore the facts, clues, and speculation of this tragic case.

Fee: $12 Ann Leslie
# 3036 F 3/25 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

Reconstruction: America’s Second Civil War

This class will review the major events of Reconstruction starting in 1863, continuing through the 1877 inauguration of Rutherford B. Hayes as President, and the aftermath of Southern redemption. It will explain how the impact of Reconstruction is still with us today and how many of those issues still have not been resolved. There will also be Civil War and Reconstruction trivia questions throughout the presentation.

Fee: $12 Bob Presman
# 2475 M 3/28 10 a.m.–Noon Remote

To register, visit www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment or call (815) 455-8588