Retired Adult Program (RAP)

The following Retired Adult Program (RAP) classes are now being offered through remote instruction using the Zoom meeting platform. 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.

**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)

**Writer Wannabees (975) Dan Giallombardo**
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. Class meets: Jan. 6, 20, Feb. 3, 17, March 3, 17, 31, April 14, 28, and May 12, 26. Registration is limited to 15 people.

Fee: $15

**Course Code # Day Date Time**
NRA S02 003 W 1/6–5/26 1–2:50 p.m.

**Movie Music: Elvis Presley (838) John LeGear**
Elvis had all the tools: a distinctive style, good looks, a passion for his craft and an absolutely beautiful voice. And he put them all together like no one else in history. Where do you begin when making a movie music show about Elvis? We decided to place the emphasis on the first half of his 23-year career, which began in 1954. We capture his natural joy of singing from the depth of his soul. You’ll also see that we split the screen between Elvis and his leading ladies. Elvis would have liked that, even if his longtime manager Colonel Tom Parker would not. Enjoy the movie music of Elvis Presley!

Fee: $12

**Course Code # Day Date Time**
NRA S29 001 F 1/8 1–2:50 p.m.

To register, visit www.mchenry.edu/rap or call (815) 455-8588 (use course code # when registering)

For more information contact: Dori Sullens, Director, Community Education at dsullens@mchenry.edu
Exotic Creatures (835) Suzanne Rausch
We’ll take a look at some of the more unusual creatures that have evolved on our planet! What about a hot pink snail or one that is larger than some dogs? Have you ever seen a crab that could fill up a hot tub? How about a bat that looks like it has the face of a moose? Be assured—these are not photo shopped! These are critters that share this planet with us! Join us in touring the more unusual...the weirdest of the weird in the animal kingdom!
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA C22 001 Th 1/14 1–2:50 p.m.

The Future of American Foreign Policy (858) Gary Midkiff
After we won our independence in 1783 our foreign policy focused on Europe. In the 1800s we expanded our horizon—the Monroe Doctrine, the Pacific, Southeast Asia. In the 1900s we swung from Teddy Roosevelt’s Imperialism, to isolationism, through WWII—emerging as the world’s leading economic and military power—to the Cold War and the end of the Soviet Union. We entered the 21st century with 9/11, and now the world looks very different than it ever has before. What are the likely issues we will need to respond to? What trends can we identify? Will this be the century of China or international coalitions or sectarian/religious conflict? What challenges will we face in the international arena as we confront climate change and the slow approach of the end of fossil fuels?
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA C33 001 W 1/20 9–10:20 a.m.

Those New Fangled “Moving Pictures” (954) Ann Leslie
Many inventions begin in the odd moments when we are searching for an answer to a specific question and that “a-ha moment” becomes reality. We’re going to the humble beginnings of “pictures that move!” Our adventure begins with 200 year old toys that captivated the imagination of people around the world. But there’s a catch, they aren’t really moving, it’s an illusion! Come and share this trip into illusion and fantasy.
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA C24 007 F 1/22 1–2:20 p.m.

The 1918 Spanish Flu (873) Jim Gibbons
The year is 1918. Thousands of troops are involved in World War I and many will die. In the United States, an additional war is forming. It is called “influenza” and it will take over 40 million lives. President Wilson must make a choice. He needs to decide to either quarantine the troops as the war rages on; or to send the troops over to win the war and hope for the best. Historian Jim Gibbons will take you on the rollercoaster ride of your life: the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, the decade of the 1910’s and World War I. Gibbons will describe all the ups and downs, twists and turns, fears, and joys of the 1910’s that will pave the way for the excitement of the Roaring 20’s!
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA S27 004 T 1/26 7–9 p.m.
Mr. Rogers: America’s Role Model of Kindness and Caring (876) Jim Gibbons
Historian Jim Gibbons will discuss the life of Fred Rogers, an American icon of neighborly kindness with a heartwarming smile. He was a Presbyterian Minister and an American television host/producer that made Mister Rogers Neighborhood a popular show for young children from 1968 to 2001. Over his lifetime, Mister Rogers received many awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Emmy in 1997 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002. In 1999, he was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame. In 2019, a movie starring Tom Hanks was made, which was dedicated to his philosophy of life and his honor.
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day  Date  Time
NRA S30 004   W 1/27  1–2:50 p.m.

Plagues and Pestilence: The Black Death vs. COVID-19 (830) Susan Langworthy
How was it possible to lose at least 50% of the population of Europe in such a brief period from 1348-1353? Are we mistaken about the cause, and are we still living with the plague today? Is COVID-19 similar to the Black Death? Take a journey through the history of these plagues, enjoy (and gulp) at the art that was born from the ashes of medieval Europe, and discover how their new world slowed the pace to the blossoming of Renaissance Italy.
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day  Date  Time
NRA S13 001   F 1/29  1–2:20 p.m.

Great Decisions 2021 (884) Bill Sobolak
The always-popular, eight-week “Great Decisions” series features lively discussion and stimulating conversation on eight world topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). Discussions are facilitated by RAP members, and all points of view are welcome. Prior to the course, you’ll need to order your briefing book, which is published by the FPA as a discussion supplement. The book can be ordered directly from the FPA’s website, www.fpa.org/great_decisions/. Each topic in the briefing book places the thematic or geographic issue in historical context and provides background, current policies, and alternative policy options. The video will be viewed during class. Topics for spring include:
• February 4: Global Supply Chains and National Security
• February 11: Persian Gulf Security Issues
• February 18: Brexit and the European Union
• February 25: Struggles Over the Melting Arctic
• March 4: China’s Role in Africa
• March 11: The Korean Peninsula
• March 18: Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic
• March 25: The End of Globalization?
Fee: $15
Course Code # Day  Date  Time
NRA S19 001   Th 2/4–3/25  1–2:50 p.m.

To register, visit www.mchenry.edu/rap call (815) 455-8588
(use course code # when registering)

For more information contact: Dori Sullens, Director, Community Education at dsullens@mchenry.edu
The Tsar is Dead, Long Live the Tsar! (923) Ann Leslie
Nicholas II buried his father and within eight days, married his cousin. His coronation is marked by a mob stampede that kills and maims thousands. Never having learned how to govern, he’s ignorant of the needs of his vast and complex empire. Deep within the “Never-Never-Land” of unbelievable wealth and absolute power, the seeds of discontent are firmly planted but as the song goes, “And The Band Played On!”
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA S22 007 F 2/5 1–2:20 p.m.

Snoopy, Sparky, and Peanuts: The Life of Charles M. Schulz (874) Jim Gibbons
Historian Jim Gibbons will discuss the life of Charles M. Schulz and his creation of the classic Peanuts’ characters plus the storyline that became part of American culture. After his death, Schulz’ legacy lives on. Two Apollo 10 models were named in his honor, the “Snoopy” and the “Charlie Brown.” A museum, located two blocks from Schulz’ studio, was named in his honor, “The Charles M. Schulz Museum & Research Center.” Schulz was honored twice by Forbes magazine and was also inducted into the United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame. You’ll discover how Schulz became widely-known as one of the most influential cartoonists of all time, and how he went on to receive many awards, including the prestigious Congressional Medal Award signed by President Bill Clinton.
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA S27 005 F 2/12 1–2:50 p.m.

The Underground Railroad Had Depots Here (928) Gloria Van Hof
The network was called the “Underground Railroad” because its activities had to be conducted in secrecy—so railroad terms were used. Underground Railroad researcher Gloria Van Hof will present a fascinating account about the Underground Railroad homes and abolitionists in McHenry and surrounding counties using documented stories, letters, newspaper articles, and photographs.
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA S18 002 M 2/15 10–11:20 a.m.

Typhoid Mary (962) Leslie Goddard
Between 1900 and 1907, an Irish immigrant cook named Mary infected dozens of New Yorkers with typhoid fever. Tracked down through detective work, she was finally taken into custody and quarantined on an island off Manhattan, where she died decades later. This fascinating lecture tells the remarkable story of the woman known as “Typhoid Mary” and why she is remembered as the first “healthy” carrier of a deadly virus. At a time when viruses pose serious questions about the threats and quandaries of epidemics, Typhoid Mary’s story couldn’t be more timely.
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA C24 008 T 2/16 1–2:20 p.m.

To register, visit www.mchenry.edu/rap call (815) 455-8588 (use course code # when registering)
For more information contact: Dori Sullens, Director, Community Education at dsullens@mchenry.edu
**The Cuban Missile Crisis (859)**  
Gary Midkiff  
In October of 1962 the United States and the Soviet Union came within a few minutes of nuclear war. Neither John Kennedy nor Nikita Khrushchev wanted to show weakness by backing down from a dispute about Soviet missiles being deployed in Cuba. Both men did not understand each other and as a result made poor decisions based on incorrect assumptions. Eventually three other men would make world-saving decisions – the U.S. Secretary of Defense, a reporter for ABC news, and a Soviet submarine officer. The story is fascinating...and frightening.  
Fee: $12  
Course Code # Day Date Time  
NRA C34 001 W 2/24 10–11:20 a.m.

**The Black Death, Florence, and Siena:**  
Susan Langworthy  
14th Century Art (833)  
Usually referred to as The Great Mortality (1348-53), approximately 50% of the Florentine population was dead by 1353, dropping from 100,000 to 60,000, almost overnight. The beautiful city of Siena fared even worse. How did artists portray this horrific period? Why was Giotto’s art rejected? Was it a hop, skip and a jump to the Renaissance or did something else happen? Take a lesson from the artists and consider – are we as far away from this late Medieval culture as we think?  
Fee: $12  
Course Code # Day Date Time  
NRA S37 001 F 2/26 1–2:20 p.m.

**Dr. Seuss is on the Loose: The Life of Theodor Seuss Geisel (877)**  
Jim Gibbons  
Theodor Seuss Geisel was his name, and as “Dr. Seuss” he will claim his fame. Learning words that rhymed at his mother’s knee, he will put it to good use for you and for me! He will start to write books about Mulberry Street, which will change reading forever and was really quite a feat! Creating new words, just so long as they rhymed, he made reading fun, not a bore or a grind! Then, Random House Publisher, Bennett Cerf will read one. He loved all the wording, the artwork, the fun! And said, “I will publish as many, as Seuss can get done!” From *Green Eggs and Ham* to *Horton Hears a Who!*, *The Cat in the Hat*, and *McElligot’s Pool*, over 60 books in all, amazing works he shall do! Oh the places he’ll go, the things he shall see, from book signings, to lectures, and even T.V.! Over 600 million copies, 20 languages and more, now animation and filmmaking, and lots more! Dr. Seuss is so popular, so famous in size, he won two Academy Awards, two Emmy’s, and a Pulitzer Prize! Historian, Jim Gibbons, 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!  
Fee: $12  
Course Code # Day Date Time  
NRA S30 005 T 3/2 1–2:50 p.m.
A Revolution...Then, A Little War... (925) 

Ann Leslie

The Imperial family had lots of secrets, all of which were considered state secrets: the heir who had the ‘blood disease’ from his Mother, the creepy monk, Rasputin, (who has an unhealthy influence on the Tsarina herself), possibly even the Tsar. And yet, Faberge’s art reflected the splendid aspects of their lives in the most exquisite gold, diamonds, and pearls, as if nothing or no one could touch the Imperial family.

Fee: $12

Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA C44 005 F 3/5 1–2:20 p.m.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (963) 

Laura Keyes

Learn about the foundations of women’s suffrage from Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1866, when the Civil War was over, but the battle for women’s suffrage was just beginning. Mrs. Stanton fought for equal rights for women for over fifty years. Join Laura Keyes, as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, for this informative and inspiring presentation.

Fee: $12

Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA S67 004 T 3/9 1–2:20 p.m.

The Inevitable Consequence of WW II & Hitler (955) 

Ann Leslie

The seeds of WW II are clear to us today looking back into the past but it was not clear to ‘most’ of the people of that time period. Through a series of mistakes, poor decisions, manipulation and blood revenge, the world moved predictably into another “War to End All Wars” placing Hitler into power. And yet, there were moments when it might have gone a different way.

Fee: $12

Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA C46 001 F 3/12 1–2:20 p.m.

The Perfect Sociopath (956) 

Ann Leslie

Hitler appears to have had ADHD, one of the worst disorders to have in an Austrian school system marked by poor communication between teachers and students, traditional class distinctions, lack of trained personnel, etc., etc. He is the student that falls between the cracks and yet is brilliant with a near photographic mind. He is a focused megalomaniac marked by delusional ideas. What could possibly go wrong?

Fee: $12

Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA C46 002 F 3/19 1–2:20 p.m.

The Art World Prepares While the Band Plays On (957) 

Ann Leslie

Before Hitler invades anyone, he sends German spies out across Europe and into the US to not only track military operations but to begin lists of items to be appropriated from museums, libraries, universities or any place of importance. When he begins invading European countries, museum curators across North America prepare for invasion with some members becoming the core of the Monuments Program.

Fee: $12

Course Code # Day Date Time
NRA C46 003 F 3/26 1–2:20 p.m.

To register, visit www.mchenry.edu/rap call (815) 455-8588 (use course code # when registering)

For more information contact: Dori Sullens, Director, Community Education at dsullens@mchenry.edu
Hitler’s revenge on anyone began as a child and continued until he died. His response to any problem was immediately violent and uncompromising. His range of power exceeded the theft of art masterworks and included clothing, furniture, baby toys, anything that could be taken away or completely destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of train cars were filled to the brim, not just with human beings but the everyday items of life, all to disappear into the Reich. And with German efficiency, every item, person and thing was neatly categorized into lists and/or catalogues.

Fee: $12
Course Code #  Day  Date     Time
NRA C46 004  F    4/2      1–2:20 p.m.

Thousands of people working quietly in the background saved as much of the culture & artwork of the world as possible but they could not save everything. Some of these people would be thought of as German sympathizers but they just played the game and hung on until the Allies came. Thousands of other people acted as entitled thieves stealing masterpieces with no regard for anyone but themselves, masterpieces that are still being found today.

Fee: $12
Course Code #  Day  Date     Time
NRA C46 005  F    4/9      1–2:20 p.m.

This class will provide insight on exploring parks through day hikes, highlight parks and features via the trails, and share some interesting destinations for those who might be interested in hitting the trails. David will share pictures and reflections on some of his favorite day hikes within the 421 National Park Service units he’s visited. David authored the first published narrative introducing all 400+ National Park System units.

Fee: $10
Course Code #  Day  Date     Time
NRA S50 001  Th   3/18    1–2:20 p.m.

The year is 1909 and work is hard to find. Many men are willing to work for long hours far below the surface of the earth, mining coal. The hours are long, and the work backbreaking. You’re not paid by the hour but are paid by the ton, for a flat rate of $1.08. Time is money! Join us and learn about the Illinois Cherry Mine Disaster. Approximately 481 men and boys went into the mine on a bleak, November day and 259 of them lost their lives. This presentation will walk you through the danger, fear, and destruction that happened in the Cherry Mine. In 1910, the Illinois Legislature established stronger fire and safety regulations governing the mines. Not soon afterwards, the State of Illinois adopted a Liability Act which eventually became the Illinois Workmen’s Compensation Act. New mining safety procedures became law, strengthening the case for new members by the United Mine Workers. The Cherry Mine Disaster is ranked among the top three mining disasters in our nation’s history.

Fee: $12
Course Code #  Day  Date     Time
NRA S27 006  T    3/23    7–8:50 p.m.
Lyndon B. Johnson:
The Accidental President (968)    Don Barrett
This course will discuss Lyndon Johnson’s rise to
power and the innovative massive financial clout
that was essential to his success in government.
Johnson was considered a master of the use of
power and money with his innovative political
methods serving as a model for today’s political
financial system. Any discussion of the Lyndon
Johnson presidency would involve his Civil Rights
Legislation, Voting Rights Legislation, and the
Vietnam War, but also should include his use of
power and money as a template for and lasting
legacy to our modern political system.
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day  Date         Time
NRA S05 002  Th  3/25  10 a.m.–Noon

Constitutional Crisis (860)    Gary Midkiff
The phrase is overused by the media and often
substitutes for a commonplace challenge from
one branch of government to another. For
example, the Federal Executive branch changing
immigration policies at the southern border may
anger some members of the Federal Legislative
branch who will seek to challenge those policies
but that is not a “constitutional crisis”. However,
when a President acts contrary to the Bill of Rights
or refuses to follow a decision of the Supreme
Court, we do have a crisis. Join Professor Gary
Midkiff for a review of true constitutional crises,
why they happened, how they were resolved,
what we learned and in many cases how laws were
changed to reduce the chance of a similar crisis
recurring.
Fee: $12
Course Code # Day  Date         Time
NRA S69 003   M  3/29  10–11:20 a.m.