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.

**RAP CLASSES**

**Best of 1970’s Television**
The decade of the ‘spin offs’—household names created with characters who carried on to new shows. Happy Days, MASH, All in The Family, The Brady Bunch and many more. Join us as we take a nostalgic look at these television classics.

Fee: $12

Tim Wilsey

# 2424  M  4/4  10 a.m.–Noon  Remote

**The Battle of Gettysburg**
The Battle of Gettysburg was the largest and most tragic battle of the Civil War. You’ll hear the story of the mounting and intense pressure as 170,000 American soldiers of the largest Union and Confederate armies converge in the small peaceful town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in July of 1863. There were 51,000 casualties suffered in such patches of land with the names of Wheatfield, Peach Orchard, Devil's Den, Culp's Hill, Cemetery Ridge and Little Round Top. You’ll learn about the exploits of Generals Lee and Meade, as well as Generals Longstreet, Hitchcock, Green, Sickles, Stuart, Ewell, Buford, and Reynolds. Also hear about the heroic stands of General Green, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, the 1st Minnesota Infantry and General Winfield Scott Hitchcock, and finally the ill-fated result of Pickett’s charge.

Fee: $12

Daniel Esta

# 3091  W  4/6  1–2:30 p.m.  A, MCC

**Monsters Next Door: The Rwandan Genocide Remembered**
Between April 7th and July 15th 1994 an estimated 1,000,000 people were murdered in the Rwandan genocide while the rest of the world stood silent. The majority Hutu government sanctioned a genocide of its Tutsi and Twa minorities as well as moderate Hutus. The genocide was particularly horrific as neighbor turned against neighbor with machetes as the weapon of choice. The presenter was in Rwanda during its Civil War two years prior to the genocide and will recount his own harrowing experiences there.

Fee: $12

John Ulferts

# 2476  Th  4/7  9:30–11:30 a.m.  Remote
Frank Lloyd Wright
Frank Lloyd Wright has been called “the greatest American architect of all time”, but where did his ideas come from? Who and what shaped his formative years, which then inspired him to create designs that were so different from other people? We’ll take a look back to see the world from Wright’s point of view, from the tiniest sconce light fixtures to grandiose buildings. Many people love his work, but many still see his designs as, “That’s too modern for me!

Fee: $12

# 3318
F
4/8
1–3 p.m.
Remote

Ann Leslie

Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson
This class will offer a perspective of the differences and similarities between two founding fathers that forged our nation. This will be a lively discussion about these memorable founding fathers whose vision for our country was equally grand, unique, and compelling. Although the vision that each individual held for America was fiercely different and would divide them personally throughout their lifetime, each held the same convictions for our country that formed the bedrock for our nation. We will look through a window of history to explore their heated and turbulent lives.

Fee: $12

# 3092
T
4/12
1:30–3:30 p.m.
Remote

Don Barrett

The Kentucky Derby
First run in 1875, the Kentucky Derby is the oldest continuously running sports event in the nation. But that’s only one reason we love it. In this lively illustrated lecture, historian Leslie Goddard traces the history of the Kentucky Derby, looking especially at the traditions that make it so beloved. Put on your fancy hat, grab a mint julep and get ready to learn what makes the first Saturday in May so special.

Fee: $10

# 3093
W
4/13
1–2:15 p.m.
Clarendale of Algonquin

Leslie Goddard

Stories Aboard the Titanic
On April 14, 1912 the H.M.S. Titanic strikes an ice berg and sends out an S.O.S. At 1:30 a.m. Managing Editor Carr Van Anda of the NY Times reads that wireless message. Van Anda presents a slide program detailing the ship’s construction: its luxurious accommodations and modern safety features. Then he recounts the hour by hour events of the dramatic maiden voyage that led to the fateful iceberg collision. As the ship sinks Van Anda tells the stories of several passengers from First, Second, and Third Class; Who were they? Why were they on board. What fate awaited them?

Fee: $12

# 3095
F
4/15
1–2:30 p.m.
Remote

Robert Lindsey

Sky’s Not the Limit! Cool Apps
Your smart phone is your ticket to explore the world. It’s an interactive library that can help you discover hundreds of fascinating things that are fun, thought-provoking, entertaining, and enlightening. For example, there’s an app to open the sky and allow you to examine stars, galaxies, satellites, and planets. But there are so many more! We’ll delve into many apps & websites, plus you’ll also get a list of additional resources in your handout.

Fee: $12

# 3317
F
4/22
1–3 p.m.
Remote

Ann Leslie

Civilian Conservation Corps—CCC
This class provides the background that brought on the Great Depression and the creation and purpose of the CCC. It covers FDR’s response to get people, particularly young, single men, back to work through the CCC, working in our National Parks and Forests. Other New Deal programs are also mentioned. A close look is given to three CCC projects in Illinois and one CCC project in Wisconsin.

Fee: $12

# 3096
M
4/25
10–11:30 a.m.
Remote

Mark Peterson

Comedy Gold on the Silver Screen
Join us for a guided tour through the past 100 years of outstanding comedies in John LeGear’s newest film history presentation Comedy Gold on the Silver Screen. John captures the essence of the comedies, while adding twists and turns to vintage films that you may not have seen before. While enjoying the laughs, you’ll learn of little-known insights and fresh perspectives on some of film history’s comedy classics, among them Charlie Chaplin’s “Gold Rush” (1925); Buster Keaton’s “The General” (1926); Cary Grant and his delightful aunts Josephine Hull and Jean Adair in “Arsenic and Old Lace” (1944); “Some Like it Hot” (1959); “Young Frankenstein” (1974); and “When Harry Met Sally” (1989). Don’t miss this laugh-out-loud homage to some of the most hilarious moments in film history.

Fee: $12

# 3097
T
4/26
1–2:30 p.m.
Clarendale of Algonquin

John LeGear

Morocco: A Kaleidoscope Tour
A rich blend of religion, history, anthropology, culture, landscapes, food, souks (markets), and agriculture make Morocco a special place to visit. Take a tour with Betty to follow her experiences on a colorful 13-day kaleidoscope tour of this incredible country. From the bustling capital city of Rabat and nearby Casablanca, to the narrow walkways in the maze of “streets” in old Fez’s famous Souk; a camel trek in the Sahara Desert, to crossing the Atlas Mountains; the famous markets of Marrakech, and the coastal wonder of the port city of Essaouira and its fascinating medina (old town); the historical and cultural opportunities throughout, Morocco are amazing and leave you full of wonder.

Fee: $10

# 3099
Th
4/28
10–11:30 a.m.
A, MCC

Elizabeth Trummel
Alaska: By Large and Small Cruise Ship and RV-ing the Alaska Highway

When you hear someone mention Alaska, it conjures up a lot of images. Alaska is the largest state in area, but smallest in population density. It truly is a national treasure. The rugged and vast outdoors is abundant, and traveling there is often the trip of a lifetime; a wild adventure, complete with glaciers, rivers, mountains, valleys, interesting flora, and incredible wildlife. Join Betty Trummel as she shares her travels to Alaska...in three different ways! She's traveled to our country's 49th state by large cruise ship, small cruise ship, and by RV (from Iowa to Anchorage)!

From the southeast coastal region to the highest mountain in North America, amazing flora and fauna, national parks to remote highways and byways, Betty will take you on a journey with her...to learn more about this wonderful state!

Fee: $10

Elizabeth Trummel

# 3100    Th  4/28  1–2:30 p.m.   A, MCC

RAP Hike—Coral Woods Conservation Area

Join a McHenry County Conservation District educator for a fall hike through the sugar maple forest of Coral Woods Conservation Area in Marengo. We’ll hike an easy 1.2 mile trail with a mostly flat surface, enjoy the fall colors, and stop along the way to talk about what makes this place so special – maple trees that produce maple syrup every year! Please dress for the weather and hiking, with sturdy shoes, and bring your own water. 7400 Somerset Drive, Marengo IL 60152

Fee: $5

# 3347    F  4/29  10–11:30 a.m.   M.C.C.D.

The Discovery of a Masterpiece

Mallory Mortillaro serves as the Curator of Collections for the Hartley Dodge Foundation in Madison, NJ. While she was cataloging the artwork housed inside of the Hartley Dodge Memorial she uncovered a masterpiece that had been lost to the art world since the 1930’s. After a year of research the piece was authenticated as an official work by Auguste Rodin. Mallory will share the story of how a simple art cataloging project evolved into a search for a mysterious piece's provenance, and became one of the biggest art finds in recent history.

Fee: $12

Mallory Mortillaro

# 3401    T  5/3  3–4:30 p.m.   Remote

Archaeology: Death Scene Investigations

Award-winning forensic archaeologist, and published author Steven A. Katz will present an overview of forensic archaeology/anthropology in relation to the identification of human remains. The class will start out with a brief introduction on how archaeologists record, store, and ethically handle human remains. You’ll also learn about the various methods employed during the search and recovery of human remains, plus the issues that may hinder identification. Several well documented homicide cases from the United Kingdom and the United States will be discussed. THIS COURSE INCLUDES GRAPHIC CONTENT

Fee: $12

Steven Katz

# 3351    W  5/4  1–2:20 p.m.   A, MCC

Improve Your Balance

Falls are a leading cause of injury and loss of independence as we get older. As we age, our ability to maintain our balance in more challenging situations, such as on uneven surfaces and in the dark, becomes more difficult. In this class, we’ll explore how balance works, reasons balance begins to fail as we age, and what to do to improve your balance. This class will include balance assessments for all participants, along with tips, tricks, and basic exercises to stay more steady on your feet!

Fee: $7

Dana Tress

# 3090    Th  5/5  1–2:30 p.m.   A, MCC
The Story of Tiffany—Series

In business for 185-years, selling to presidents, heads of state or the common man and still relevant, are quite the bragging rights for anyone. Begun as a fancy goods emporium, morphing into a serious jewelry studio who bought the French Crown Jewels and redesign the Great Seal of the United States, John B. Young & Charles Lewis Tiffany changed the way people buy goods even today. This is the beginning of two empires, only one survives.

Take each class individually — or register for the entire series and save!

Fee: $29

Ann Leslie
# 3319 F 5/6–5/20 1–3 p.m. Remote

Tiffany and Co

In business for 185-years, selling to presidents, heads of state or the common man and still relevant, are quite the bragging rights for anyone. Begun as a fancy goods emporium, morphing into a serious jewelry studio who bought the French Crown Jewels and redesign the Great Seal of the United States, John B. Young & Charles Lewis Tiffany changed the way people buy goods even today. This is the beginning of two empires, only one survives.

Fee: $12

Ann Leslie
# 3320 F 5/6 1–3 p.m. Remote

The Saving of Tiffany

In 1957, the 84-room mansion of Louis Comfort Tiffany burned to the ground. This is the story of Laurelton Hall, the Art Nouveau country estate finished in 1905 with conservatories, stables, and sixty acres of carefully planned gardens overlooking the Long Island Sound. This grand estate housed the extensive collection of Tiffany’s most personal and prized art, created at the Tiffany Studios of New York. Hundreds of objects were saved, including Tiffany’s rarest and most prized creations. Statuary, windows, furnishings, mosaics, glass, pottery, and ornamental work were bought by Hugh and Jeannette McKean and became the most important part of The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, located in Winter Park, FL. The splendor of Laurelton Hall is visited through rare photos of the estate and mansion, including the exceptional works of art that survived.

Fee: $12

Ann Leslie
# 3355 F 5/20 1–3 p.m. Remote

The Tiffany Studios of New York

Lewis Comfort Tiffany begged, borrowed, and stole ideas that he used to turn ordinary objects into extraordinary works of art, such as jewelry, trophies, pottery, glass, desk sets, and mosaics, in addition to the stunning lamps and the palatial windows of the White House. We’ll look behind the scenes at the Tiffany Studios of New York and a man’s vision to sell to the wealthy, and eventually, the ordinary person.

Fee: $12

Ann Leslie
# 3352 F 5/13 1–3 p.m. Remote

Johnny Cash

Johnny Cash received worldwide fame for being America’s beloved musician and outlaw. With his deep, baritone voice and songs of genuine folkloric poetry, he inspired a new style of music. Cash’s music intertwined country, rock and roll, rockabilly, blues, gospel, and folk music, inspiring future musicians for years to come. Born as John (J.R.) Cash to a poor cotton-farming family in Arkansas, he would strive for a deeper meaning in his music throughout his life, bringing to light the injustices, pain, and strife in the world. He received his trademarked nickname, “The Man in Black,” due to his somber attire of all black during his concerts. Historical Presenter, Michelle Gibbons, will take you into the life, love, struggles and stardom of Johnny Cash. She’ll discuss Cash’s famous albums and songs, including: “Folsom Prison Blues,” “I Walk the Line,” “Ring of Fire,” “Get Rhythm,” “Man in Black,” and more. She’ll also discuss Cash’s unconditional love for his wife, June Carter, and how their romantic undying love for each other and inspired the 2005 movie, Walk the Line.

Fee: $12

Michelle Gibbons
# 3102 Th 5/12 1–2:30 p.m. Clarendale of Algonquin
Thomas Paine
The Voice of the American Revolution America’s first best-selling author tells his story of rising from working class roots to the pinnacle of world fame. His pamphlet “Common Sense” inspired the people to support independence. His words “These are the times that try men’s souls” inspired Washington’s army to continue the fight. Paine dramatically describes the pivotal Battle of Trenton where George Washington, against all odds, defeated the Hessian mercenaries after crossing the Delaware River. Paine speaks of his writings: “Common Sense,” “The Rights of Man” and the controversial criticism of revealed religion “Age of Reason”. His belief in abolishing monarchy and establishing republican government earned him a British death sentence and French citizenship during their revolution. The first person to use the phrase “the United States of America” Thomas Paine helped create the modern world.

Fee: $12 Robert Lindsey
# 3103 W 5/18 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

The Haunting of Joliet Prison
The Old Joliet Prison remains one of the most notorious penitentiaries in history, despite its closure. In 2018, the State of Illinois opened the prison to visitors, and Chicago historian, folklorist, and paranormal investigator Ursula Bielski was invited to design ghost tours of the prison as part of the tour programs. What she and her team discovered in their research and onsite nighttime investigations was more than they could have imagined. After dozens of visits, Bielski chronicled their experiences in her book, The Haunting of Joliet Prison. Join her for an in-depth look at the history and hauntings of this fabled site, immortalized in Prison Break, The Blues Brothers and many more films, books, poetry, and art.

Fee: $12 Ursula Bielski
# 3405 F 5/27 1–3 p.m. Remote

Movie Music Elvis Presley
Elvis Presley was a pioneer of the music industry, similar to what Bing Crosby was in the 1930s and what The Beatles brought to the world in the 1960s. 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 doing what he did better than anyone of his generation, or perhaps any generation: 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: $10 John LeGear
# 3098 T 6/7 1–2:30 p.m. Clarendale of Algonquin

Memorials to Freedom: Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass
100 Years ago, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. was dedicated on May 30, 1922. Then on August 12, just four miles southeast of the Memorial, the home of Frederick Douglas was dedicated as a museum and historic site that same year. In this program, we will look at the difficult path that these Memorials to Freedom took from concept to reality. The Lincoln monument’s classical form was controversial at the time, with many prominent critics upset that a more “American” design was not chosen. Restoration of Douglass’ Cedar Hill was stalled for years due to lack of funding. You’ll hear how the legacies of these men were interpreted at the time of the dedications: Douglass remained a revered warrior in the fight for freedom, while Lincoln’s role in ending slavery was downplayed. The Lincoln Memorial includes text of the Gettysburg Address but not the Emancipation Proclamation. We’ll then explore how both men contributed to the advancement of the ideals of the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, and how they differed over racial equality. We’ll see how their legacies have been used and abused, and how they both can best be understood by centering them in the context of their times.

Fee: $12 David Clark
# 3104 M 5/23 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

NASA’s Next Great Telescope
The James Webb Space Telescope will fundamentally alter our understanding of black holes, the early Universe, the life cycle of stars, planets, and more. Join us to learn more about this groundbreaking mission as we prepare for the next giant leap forward in astronomy and space exploration.

Fee: $12 Michelle Nichols-Yehling
# 3316 M 6/13 1–2:30 p.m. Remote
Searching the Internet: Safety & Security
A look at the safety and security of using Google for searching the Internet and other less-known, but better-protecting options. Discussion to include a comparison of features and conveniences provided by Google Chrome to other safer alternatives. Learn the advantages and disadvantages of using more secure sites and why you might want to switch between them. Find out the good and the bad of having search criteria linking to “relative products” that show up the next time you log onto Facebook or the weather channel.

Fee: $12

# 3420 T 6/14 9:30–11:30 a.m. Remote

Stephen T. Mather: Saving America’s Scenic Wonders
Stephen T. Mather, founding director of the N.P.S., tells the dramatic story of saving the parks from congressional neglect, ruthless loggers and greedy developers. When an illegal sawmill in Glacier Park refused to close down, Mather blew it up with some handy charges of TNT. It all began in 1914 when Mather hiked in the Sequoia and Yosemite Parks witnessing their deplorable condition. He wrote a letter of complaint to Franklin Lane, Secretary of the Interior. Lane wrote back, Steve, if you don’t like the way the national parks are being run, why don’t you come on down to Washington and run them yourself. He did. If an important piece of land or a roadway were in private hands, Mather and his wealthy friends bought it and donated to the park system. At first Congressman Fitzgerald thought Mather must be trying to bribe somebody. Stephen Mather made his millions in the Borax business. An advertising genius he created the 20 Mule Team Borax campaign. He wrote letters to newspapers and magazines posing as a homemaker who had discovered the virtues of using borax. Mather traces his own important life experiences that made him the best person to be the first park director. Director Mather also traces the history the of first national park, Yellowstone, with tales of Napoleon, Thomas Jefferson, and John Colter. Colter’s description of a place of fire and brimstone was dismissed as mere delerium. Other stories follow: Yosemite and John Muir, the Park to Park highway, the adventure of a Mather mountain party, and the final drive to pass the National Park Service bill, including if needed, diverting an opposing Congressman to the golf course during voting. During his tenure, the park system nearly doubled in size and more Americans visited than ever before. Director Mather tells his story with stunning photographs of the park lands and wildlife he fought to save.

Fee: $12

# 3105 Th 6/16 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

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

# 3403 T 6/21 1–2:30 p.m. Remote

Archaeology of Northern Illinois
Enjoy an overview of the archaeology of northern Illinois from a cultural resource management perspective. You’ll see examples of archaeological material and information about several known sites, general geology, and excavations in McHenry, Winnebago, Kane, and Cook counties.

Fee: $12

# 3353 W 6/15 1–2:30 p.m. A, MCC
The Vanishing Hitchhiker: Legend or Reality?

In this single session mini-course, folklorist and historian Ursula Bielski explores the myriad cases of so-called vanishing hitchhikers in ancient and modern ghost lore. From Biblical accounts to contemporary encounters, students will hear the firsthand accounts, new stories, and other evidence that there may be more to these phantoms than mere ghost stories.

Fee: $12
Ursula Bielski
# 3406  W  6/22  1–2:30 p.m.  Remote

RAP Hike—Elizabeth Lake

Elizabeth Lake Nature Preserve Varga Archeological Site is a large, diverse wetland community composed of every different stage of high-quality wetland. Archaeologists believe that small groups of Indians settled in temporary hunting camps on the land during warmer months of the year from as early as 12,000 B.C. – 1700 A.D. Artifacts such as arrowheads and pottery were found on the site during archaeological studies in 1974, 1994 and 2000. The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) has identified Lake Elizabeth as the highest quality lake ecosystem remaining in McHenry County and one of the highest in Illinois. Enjoy an educational and inspirational walk through this very picturesque gem in McHenry County.

The entrance is located at 11059 Lakeview Road, Richmond.

Fee: $5
# 3354  F  6/24  10–11:30 a.m.

Riverview Park

It was once the “world’s largest amusement park.” It boasted the world’s first suspended roller coaster and first parachute ride. Today, it’s merely one of Chicago's best loved memories. The names alone evoke nostalgia: the Pair-O-Chutes, Aladdin’s Castle, Shoot the Chutes and of course, the Bobs roller coaster. Join historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D. for a look back at the history of Riverview, from its opening in 1904 to its sudden closing in 1967.

Fee: $12
Leslie Goddard
# 3094  T  6/28  1–2:15 p.m.  Remote

History of the Chicago Hot Dog

The histories of the City of Chicago and the hot dog are closely linked. With German immigrants providing the recipe and Chicago’s mighty meat packing industry providing the raw materials, the Chicago style hotdog ultimately became a celebrate culinary triumph. Today, the Chicago area has more hotdog restaurants than Burger Kings, Wendy’s, and McDonald’s combined. This class will look at the inimitable ingredients that make up this Chicago treat.

Fee: $12
Jack MacRae
# 3402  W  6/29  10 a.m.–Noon  Remote

Debating Independence: The American Revolution in 1776

In 1775 most Americans agreed they should remain part of Great Britain. Despite turmoil and bloodshed, the notion of creating a nation out of 13 weak and far-flung colonies seemed a dubious effort. They wanted full British rights, not American independence. But by July, 1776 most people considered independence necessary. This lecture charts the profound change in popular opinion that made American nationhood possible.

Fee: $12
Joyce Haworth
# 3404  Th  6/30  10 a.m.–Noon  Remote