



Bringing lifelong learning to you

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Catalog
2025-2026

ILR-Reach: Bringing Lifelong Learning to You

Are you looking for engaging, expert-led presentations at your organization?

ILR-Reach is the outreach arm of the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Baldwin Wallace University—a dynamic **speakers bureau** offering one-hour, on-site presentations by our experienced instructors.

With a wide variety of fascinating topics—including history, culture, the arts, science, character reenactments, and more—ILR-Reach brings high-quality, enriching programming directly to your location.

Our presenters are passionate educators who love to spark curiosity and encourage lively discussion. Whether you're planning a special event or enhancing your regular programming, ILR-Reach makes it easy to offer something truly memorable and meaningful.

PRICING:

These one-hour, in-person sessions are conveniently held at your location and can be scheduled to fit your availability with discounts when scheduling multiple presentations.

- Single presentation: \$150
- 6 presentations: \$135 each
- 12 presentations: \$120 each

About the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Baldwin Wallace

The Institute for Learning in Retirement was founded over thirty years ago by visionary professors at Baldwin Wallace, recognizing the value of affordable continuing education for adults.

The ILR offers more than 40 classes every fall, winter, and spring. Each of these low-cost courses are held once a week for six weeks in Berea and surrounding locations.

Contact

Questions or scheduling of ILR-Reach presentations, please contact:

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Ann Over

AO-100 Story of Aerospace Failures: Human Factors Have Lost Missions

Engineers are smart, but also human, and can make mistakes, some that cost missions. Case studies and lessons will be shared for a rocket hit by lightning, a large satellite factory accident, and a new commercial rocket test flight gone wrong.

AO-101 Story of Aerospace Failures: Why are the Moon and Mars So Hard?

There is a renewed focus around the world, both government and commercial, to explore the Moon and beyond. Case studies and lessons will be shared for a lunar lander that ran out of fuel, a Mars lander that plunged, and another Mars mission that missed the planet.

AO-102 Story of Aerospace Failures: Near Misses, Airplanes and Space

Many spectacular aerospace failures become “near misses” because engineers, pilots, and operators find a way to save the mission. Case studies and lessons will be shared for an airplane that lost a panel, but still landed, another airplane that landed without engines, and an astronaut who almost “drowned” on a spacewalk.

Beryl Prusinoski

BP-100 Celebrating Independence

Prepare for the 2026 Semiquincentennial (*who makes up these words?*) with this enjoyable look at the history of America’s independence.

Trace the story of Independence Day from its revolutionary roots to the traditions we recognize today. Review the factors that led to the dramatic summer of 1776. Explore the declaration of Independence and cast aside some of the common misconceptions about the document. Witness the evolution of the celebration of Independence as society and key issues changed over the years.

BP-101 Victorian Flowers

Discover the secret meanings Victorians attributed to flowers. Explore how they used flowers in crafts, cooking, and clothing. Re-live the spring holidays that were centered around flowers.

BP-102 Colors of Flowers

Flowers adopt all the colors of the spectrum – and even some colors that humans can’t see! Go on a romp through the rainbow with flowers and hear some special stories of the plants along the way.

BP-103 History of Christmas

Did you know that many of our Christmas traditions go back even more than 2,000 years? Discover the origins of our wintertime festival, how it developed over the centuries. Learn the legends of popular plants used for Christmas decorations.

BP-104 Honoring Those Who Serve

Three holidays honor military service: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. Survey the history of these observances, and experience some of the rituals we use to recognize and respect our service members.

BP-105 Around the World with the New Year

Take a virtual tour of January 1 as the new year dawns around the world. Discover cultures who celebrate the start of a year at times other than the global standard of January.

BP-106 Halloween, a Haunting History

Our holiday of horror has roots that go back thousands of years. Learn about the earliest practices of All Hallows Eve and uncover the origins of the spooky symbols we see every October.

BP-107 Thanksgiving and Harvest Time

People have always expressed gratitude for successful harvests, and the American Thanksgiving holiday continues this tradition. Journey through time from early thanksgiving observances before the pilgrims, to our modern day of family, feasting and football.

BP-108 WWII: The Double Cross System

The Germans established an elaborate network of spies in Britain during WWII. What they did not know is that these spies were under the control of the British! Uncover the evolution of the Double Cross system in which the British used German agents to feed misinformation to the enemy.

BP-109 WWII: Bodyguard of Lies

Trace the web of deception that misled the Germans about the time and scale of the invasion of France in World War II. Evaluate the impact of the ruse in the aftermath of the Normandy landings.

BP-110 WWII: The Ghost Army

After the invasion of Europe, the Allied armies were supplemented by American troops who were ... imaginary. Travel from Normandy to Germany with the Ghost Army and witness their successful missions.

BP-111 Notable Women of World War II

Well-known names, from Betty Crocker to Eleanor Roosevelt, joined the millions of ordinary women who toiled for success in World War II. Meet some of the leading women of the 1940's as they used their talents and positions to contribute to victory for the Allies.

BP-112 The Firelands

The "Firelands" is a large tract within the Western Reserve, but few understand its origin. Uncover the reason the land was set aside, and witness the settlement of the area.

BP-113 Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve

The work of women was essential for the survival of the first settlers on the Reserve. Meet some of the women who were pioneers in northeast Ohio, and uncover their hardships and contributions.

BP-114 WWII: The Home Front in Northeast Ohio

Take an inspiring look at Northeast Ohio during World War II. Watch the transformation of industry and the medical community as they adapted to fulfill the needs of the conflict. Learn how citizens coped with the demands of work and wartime restrictions,

BP-115 Colors of Animals

Science meets survival in the dynamic world of animal colors. Unravel the mechanisms animals use to produce color, and discover the roles that hues play in defense and mating. Enjoy the alluring spectrum offered by birds, butterflies, and fish as they live in their varied environments.

BP-116 Colors of Life – the Plant Kingdom

Plants use an intricate palette of colors to thrive and to communicate. Learn how vegetables telegraph their nutrition via stunning hues, experience colors only pollinators can see, and uncover the mechanisms behind the dazzling display of autumn leaves.

BP-117 Steeped in Tea

Tea is the world's most popular beverage. Travel in time from the discovery of tea 5,000 years ago to the American innovation of iced tea, and see how the brew seeped into cultures around the world.

BP-118 Life is Sweeter with Chocolate

Chocolate does grow on trees! Discover *Theobroma cacao* and how its fruit is processed into the beloved confection. Follow the history of chocolate, from an exotic, spicy drink to the favorites placed enticingly by modern supermarket registers.

BP-119 Sacred Roots: Plants of the Bible

Journey through scripture to uncover the symbolic and practical significance of some of the plants mentioned in the Bible. From the Cedars of Lebanon to the humble fig, experience plants that tell stories of faith and culture

BP-120 Celebrating Independence Day

Prepare for the 2026 Semiquincentennial (who makes up these words?) with this enjoyable look at the history of America's independence.

Trace the story of Independence Day from its revolutionary roots to the traditions we recognize today. Review the factors that led to the dramatic summer of 1776. Explore the Declaration of Independence and cast aside some of the common misconceptions about the document. Witness the evolution of the celebration of Independence as society and key issues changed over the years.

Following are additional presentations by Beryl Prusinowski. Descriptions available upon request.

BP-121 Settlement of the Western Reserve

First People of the Reserve	Journey to the Reserve	Pioneer Women
Cleveland Begins	Pioneers of Lorain County	War of 1812
The Firelands	Settling Dover Township	

BP-123 History of Holidays

New Year Around the World	Fun February	Mardi Gras	Easter
Honoring Those Who Serve	Celebrating Patriotism	Halloween: A Haunting History	
Thanksgiving and Harvest	History of Christmas		

BP-124 Great Periods of British History

Roman London	Saxon Britain	Invaders from the Sea
Catastrophe	Queen Victoria	

BP-125 Timelines of WWII

Battle of Britain	The Blitz	The Holocaust
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BP-126 Women of WWII

Notable Women of WWII at War	Arsenal of Democracy	College Grads Go to War	Nursing
	Women in Uniform	Reporting the War	
	Breaking the Codes	The Red Cross Goes to War	

BP-127 WWII: Success Through Subterfuge

Enigma	Double Cross	Bodyguard of Lies
Ghost Army	Heroism in the Holocaust	

BP-1278 The Home Front

From Isolation to Engagement Civil Defense and Propaganda
Northeast Ohio in WWII War Brides and Camp Followers
Feeding Democracy Life Magazine Explains the Home Front

BP-129 Behind the War: POWS

POWS in the United States Allies in Captivity Escape and Evasion

BP-130 Color in a New Light

Science of Color Colors of Animals Colors of Plants
Around the World with Color Shades of Meaning: Color in Clothing and Art
Pigments of the Past Color: More Than Meets the Eye

BP-131 A Potpourri of Plants

A Rainbow of Flowers Plants that Heal Mother Nature's Weird List
Sacred Roots: Plants of the Bible

BP-132 Food for Thought

Food for Thought Steeped in Tea Life is Sweeter with Chocolate
How do you Like Them Apples Are you Nuts The Tangy Tale of Citrus
With the Grain The Roots of Tubers The Columbian Exchange

BP-133 Greatest Hits of the Periodic Table

Science of Atoms Carbon, Nitrogen, Silicon, Calcium and Iron

BP-134 Additional Topics

It's About Time - the History of Calendars Sherlock and Doyle

Bev Sadowski

BS-100 JFK: The Search for Truth

This presentation will provide an overview of the events that occurred November 22, 1963, along with pertinent facts leading up to the assassination and following it. Ballistic, medical, and other documented evidence will be provided through a variety of sources and formats, including much gleaned through first-hand contact with an ARRB staff member, an FBI agent, eyewitnesses, and other researchers. The preponderance of events is indicative of a high-level conspiracy and cover-up.

BS-101 Who Killed RFK? Unanswered After Almost Fifty-five Years

RFK's campaign for the presidency was reaching its zenith when he was struck down after winning the California primary in June, 1968. The official account of his assassination is fraught with contradictions. What evidence exists to dispute the conclusion that Sirhan Sirhan was the assassin? Why have some of RFK's family asked for a reopening of the case? Forensic, medico-legal, eyewitness, and recently discovered acoustic evidence will be presented... some of which was never introduced at his trial.

BS-102 The Wit and Wisdom of JFK

John F. Kennedy's brief presidency represented a time of abiding hope and inspiration, despite the Cold War and its looming specter of thermonuclear exchange. His repeated references in so many speeches to "our children" and "future generations" illuminated President Kennedy's exceptional visionary approach to both domestic and national policies.

The words, actions, and style of JFK provide a window into why he continues to be regarded as one of the most admired presidents of the modern era. We should not fail to recall a time when the spoken words and outward demeanor of a United States president portrayed so powerfully to the worldwide community the best that America had to offer.

This presentation will focus on the intellect and humor of the 35th president, illustrating why his presidency came to hold such an exalted position throughout the world during his lifetime and beyond.

Bev Stives and Mary Massey

BM-100 Gardening as You Age

Enjoy the rewards of gardening at any stage of life! This session highlights innovative tools that make gardening easier for those with limited mobility, along with important safety tips to help prevent falls and injuries. We'll also explore how gardening supports physical and emotional well-being—serving as a natural antidepressant while offering countless health benefits.

BM-101 Composting: Turn Dirt into Healthy Soil

Transform "dead" dirt into rich, living soil! In this session, you'll learn how composting reintroduces beneficial microorganisms that help your garden thrive. We'll explore different composting methods, tools, and supplies, as well as practical tips for working with local soil types—whether clay, sandy, or somewhere in between. Discover how to build healthier soil and a more vibrant garden, naturally.

BM-102 Saving the Monarchs

Help bring monarch butterflies back! Monarch butterfly populations have declined by 90%, but you can help make a difference! In this hands-on session, learn how to raise Monarchs from eggs to newly emerged adults, including the supplies you'll need and the diseases to watch for. Discover how to grow the plants they depend on—from milkweed for caterpillars to pollinator-friendly flowers for adult butterflies—and play a vital role in supporting these iconic pollinators.

Bill Brauning

BB-101 I Love the 60's Music

The 1960's were an explosive decade in art, fashion, politics and music. New sounds were being heard and new performers were gaining popularity every day. Styles such as Surf, R&B Soul, Bubblegum, British Invasion and Rock were populating the airwaves with these new sounds Take journey back to the 60's and enjoy the music of our generation

BB-102 Pioneering Women of Rock

Before Elvis and Bill Haley were playing this new music called Rock and Roll, women were exploring and performing music that would become the roots of rock. However, these brave musical pioneers never received their due, as male performers received all the attention and fame. We will meet these female singers/songwriters and see the influence they had in the music world.

BB-103 The British Invasion

In the Winter of 1964, the Beatles came to America to bring their unique style of music, and in so doing, led the way for what was to later become the British Invasion. We will listen to and see the many other bands that followed, as part of the Invasion. Not to be outdone, many British female performers were part of this as well. We will hear the top song makers of the British invasion.

BB-104 The Golden Age of Television - The Dean Martin Show

In 1965, NBC Television started broadcasting the Dean Martin show. From his roots in Steubenville, Ohio to Hollywood, California, we will follow both his TV and Film career with clips from both. His music and humor made him one of Hollywood's entertainment icons.

BB-105 Great American Songbook

Based on a book of the same name, this is a program featuring the great American Composers such as Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, George Gershwin and many others.

BB-106 Golden Age of TV - Variety Shows

We go back to the early days of television and look at the great Variety shows that dominated the airwaves...including the Andy Williams Show, Ed Sullivan Show, Judy Garland and many more.

BB-107 Hooray for Hollywood - The Musicals

A review of the Great Hollywood Musicals starting in the 1930's and moving through the decades up to the 60's.

BB-108 Early Days of Rock and Roll

Before there was Elvis and Bill Haley, there were pioneering performers playing their own brand of Early Rock—from Hillbilly to Rockabilly to Boogie-Woogie and Doo-Wop. These unsung heroes made a splash on the music scene and led the way for Rock as we know it today.

Brian Pavlac

BP-100 The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire

We will examine how the obscure Latin people of the city of Rome came to build an empire dominating the Mediterranean Sea and northwestern Europe for several hundred years. Along the way, Romans established a democratic republic, later taken over by absolutist monarchs. Even as the empire spread Christianity as a major religion, much of the Roman Empire fell to so-called barbarians.

BP-101 The Beginning and End of the Witch Hunts

From the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries, many Europeans worried about the phenomenon of witches, believed to be members of a new sect hostile to humanity. We will survey key ideas and events of this "Witch Craze," which tortured and killed thousands of people for threats that did not empirically exist.

BP-102 The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich

In the early 20th Century, Adolf Hitler led the National Socialist German Workers' Party to transform Germany into the so-called Third Reich, which then tried to dominate Europe and even the world. We will scrutinize the Nazis and their horrific legacy.

Don Auble

DA-100 Inventions Coming Your Way

Ideas become new inventions every day. We'll review some developments in new aircraft, home products, autonomous vehicles, building systems, civil engineering, architecture and more.

DA-101 The REAL Old West – Not the REEL One

You've probably seen your share of Westerns featuring John Wayne, Gary Cooper, Randolph Scott, Walter Brennan...even Bob Hope! But Hollywood's version of the frontier often traded accuracy for adventure.

In this lively session, we'll uncover what life was *really* like on the prairies and in the mountains of the 1800's. We'll peek at movie clips that came closest to getting it right, take a virtual stroll through a ghost town, and discover the true "Code of the West" – and the Cowboy Ethics that still resonate today.

DA-102 From Oz to Grease: The Magic of Hollywood Musicals

Hollywood musicals have delighted audiences for generations...but creating that joy on screen was no small feat. In this program, we'll explore how beloved classics like *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), and *Seven Bride for Seven Brothers* (1954) were made, then take a behind-the-scenes look at more recent favorites – *Grease*, *Chicago*, *The Greatest Showman*, and *Mama Mia*. Along the way, we'll uncover fascinating stories, technical challenges, and creative choices that helped turn song and dance into movie magic.

Doug Imhoff

DI-101 History of Cleveland Media: Newspapers, Radio, TV & Movies

Explore the rich history of Cleveland's media! This presentation covers newspapers, radio, television, and movies in the city. Learn about legendary radio personalities like Gary Dee, Larry Morrow, and John Lanigan, and iconic TV figures such as Captain Penny, Ghouardi, Dorothy Fuldheim, and Barnaby. We'll also highlight broadcast journalists like Doug Adair, Wilma Smith, and Joe Tait. Plus, discover movies that have been filmed right here in Cleveland!

DI-102 History of the Cleveland Mafia

Dive into the fascinating history of the Cleveland Mafia from the early 1900s to today. Learn about the "Sugar Cane" wars during Prohibition, rivalries between gangs over control of drugs, prostitution, and unions, and why Cleveland earned the nickname "Bomb City" in the mid-1970s. The presentation also includes a detailed biography of Danny Greene and explains why Cleveland was considered one of the top five organized crime cities in the U.S.

DI-103 Henry Ford

Explore the life of inventor, industrialist, and automotive pioneer Henry Ford. This presentation covers his childhood, education, groundbreaking inventions, business innovations, and franchising success. Learn about his relationships with workers, his personal life—especially his relationship with his only son—and the controversial views that shaped his legacy.

DI-104 John D. Rockefeller

Discover the life of one of the wealthiest men in history, oil magnate and business innovator John D. Rockefeller. This session explores his childhood, education, innovative business practices, personal life, and significant philanthropic contributions to hospitals, colleges, and other community institutions. We'll also touch on some of his controversial practices in business.

DI-105 Franklin Roosevelt

Learn about one of America's most influential presidents, Franklin D. Roosevelt. This presentation examines his upbringing, education, and political career, including the New Deal legislation of the 1930s and leadership during WWII. We'll also cover his personal life, including his relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt and some lesser-known aspects of his private affairs.

DI-106 General History of Cleveland

We will discuss the General History of Cleveland since the Civil War Including: immigration, labor, business, politics, sports, entertainment (such as Radio and TV) the many landmarks of the city and much more! The purpose of the program is to provide some knowledge about Cleveland and its history and bring back memories for the people who have made Cleveland their home for many years.

Julie Koenig

JK-100 Diana, The People's Princess

Learn about her childhood and teenage years, engagement and marriage. "One minute I was a nobody, the next minute I was Princess of Wales." Mother to Prince William, future King and Prince Harry. Her charity work after her subsequent divorce from Prince Charles. The Revenge Dress!

JK-101 British Royal Weddings – Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and her Family

Discover all the pomp and ceremony. All the details about the royal weddings of: Princess Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth II) and Prince Philip of Greece & Denmark, her children, Princess Anne, Prince Charles, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, and her sister Princess Margaret. Learn all about the traditions, the dress, music, church, wedding breakfast, cake and guests. Did the late Queen really dance the YMCA?

JK-102 A Tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

A typical day, stately sleepovers, friends and inner circle. Horse racing and corgis. Crown jewels, dignitaries and world leaders. What happens at a jubilee? Queen Elizabeth had a Silver, Gold, Diamond, and Platinum Jubilee.

JK-103 British Royal Scandals - Part 1

Mrs. Brown (Queen Victoria...Buckingham Palace "lax" security...Edward & Mrs. Simpson.

JK-104 British Royal Scandals - Part II

Annus Horribilis...The Day Diana Died...Princess Margaret.

JK-105 British Royal Scandals - Part III

Prince Philip: Faithful or philanderer...Camilla: Mistress to Queen...Paul Burrell: The Rogue Butler.

JK-106 Coronation of King Charles III

A coronation for our times...The Royal Procession...The Ceremony...The Regalia and all the historic traditions...The four-day celebrations.

JK-107 The Royal Jewelry

What the royal ladies like to wear from the royal collection...State Regalia...Tiaras, necklaces, bracelets, brooches, earrings - over 100 pieces to discuss.

JK-108 British Royal Weddings

All the pomp and pageantry, details about the dresses, the jewelry, and tiaras, the music and cake, the wedding breakfast.

JK-109 The Future of the Monarchy

William & Kate: Royal role models, Childhood and teenage years, Commoner vs. Royal...
Living quarters, Children & Charities

JK-110 The Royal Wardrobe

Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Diana and Princess Catherine, Spanning the decades,
On duty/off duty, The royal glove, shoe, and hat makers, Favorite designers

JK-111 Royal Palaces and Gardens

Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, Sandringham Estate, Highgrove House,
Frogmore House, Glamis Castle

JK-112 The Mitford Sisters

6 aristocratic sisters, the original Downton Abbey aristocrats labeled the "Bright Young Things",
novelist, farmer, fascists, communist and Duchess - a Mitford for everyone.

JK-113 American Royalty - Grace & Jackie

Early life, school, family, working Princess and First Lady, Meeting their famous husbands,
Marriage, children, tragedy, legacy

JK-114 Raine, Countess Spencer

Married Princess Diana's father...Three times a Countess – a coincidence? Career woman,
shop girl, politician, Apt to selling the Spencer family heirlooms

JK-115 Haunted History of Halloween

Ancient traditions, where it all began, traditions around the world. +Costumes and make-up.

JK-116 A British Royal Christmas

Who gets to trim the tree, royal locations and gift giving and Christmas day speech. How many
changes of clothes? Boxing Day and other traditions.

JK-117 Christmas Traditions - Europe

Italy, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

JK -118 Unsung Heroines of Wartime Resistance

Christine Granville, often described as Winston Churchill's favorite spy, was a trailblazer in the world of espionage during World War II. Equally inspiring are the Cook sisters, Ida and Louise, two British opera enthusiasts whose love of music led them to undertake extraordinary acts of kindness and courage.

JK-119 Unsung Heroines—Pippa Latour, Charity Adams, and Virginia Hall

Pippa Latour joined the ranks of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II, by a personal desire for justice after her godmother's father was killed by the Nazis. Charity Adams was a trailblazing African American officer in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II. Virginia Hall was one of the most remarkable and daring Allied spies of World War II, famously known as "the most dangerous of all Allied spies" by the Gestapo.

JK-120 Unsung Heroines—Violette Szabo, Nancy Wake, and Vera Atkins

Violette Szabo was a courageous member of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II. Nancy Wake, often described as "a real Australian bombshell," was a nurse and journalist before joining the ranks of the SOE as a courier. Known for her fearless demeanor and quick wit. Vera Atkins was a pivotal figure in the SOE, responsible for recruiting, training, and deploying 37 women agents into occupied territories.

JK-121 The Women's Land Army—Land Girls, Land Lassies, and Farmerettes

The Women's Land Army (WLA) emerged as a vital force during World War II, mobilizing thousands of women to work the land while men were away fighting. In the United Kingdom, these women became known as Land Girls or Land Lassies, and in the United States, they were called Farmerettes.

JK-122 The Code Breakers

The Code Breakers were pivotal to the Allied victory in World War II, using their intellect and ingenuity to unravel enemy communications and expose secret strategies. Their efforts saved countless lives and shaped the outcome of the war in ways few could have imagined.

Alan Turing (British): Widely recognized as one of the greatest minds of the 20th century, Alan Turing played a central role at Bletchley Park, the British code-breaking center.

Elizabeth Smith Friedman (American): A pioneering cryptanalyst, Elizabeth Smith Friedman
Marian Rejewski (Polish): Before the war began, Marian Rejewski and his colleagues at Poland's Cipher Bureau made a breakthrough by deciphering early versions of the German Enigma machine.

JK-123 The Suffragettes – UK

The Suffragettes in the United Kingdom were a bold and determined group of women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote. Led by the charismatic Emmeline Pankhurst, founder of The Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU).

JK-124 The Suffragettes - USA

The suffrage movement in the United States was shaped by extraordinary women who challenged the status quo and fought for equality. Among the most influential leaders were Susan B. Anthony and her lifelong friend and collaborator, Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

John Kipp

JO-100 Understanding Today's Criminal Element

How to stay safe in our changing world while defining the criminal and how to spot them as they before they prey on you. Includes safety tips when shopping, driving, hiking/walking.

JO-101 Avoiding Crime - Prepare Before Things Go Wrong

Raising your Personal Awareness of the world around you. Tips on how to insulate yourself from bad actors. What “signals” are you giving them that they are looking for and how to avoid them.

JO-102 Internet Security and Computer Scammers

Computer hackers are abundant. Tips and tricks to avoid detection attempts. You are a not as safe as you might think. Don’t fall victim to predators by letting them in.

Linda Witkowski

LW-100 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Was the quintessential English Gentleman but was also prone to adventure and perhaps did some writing as well. He had a love/hate relationship with his greatest creation, Sherlock Holmes. Let’s explore this literary father/son relationship.

LW-101 Ida Saxton McKinley

Ida Saxton McKinley was the wife of William McKinley, 25th president of the United States. Her life was marked by tragedy. She suffered through physical debilitations, the loss of 2 children and finally the loss of her husband when he was assassinated in 1901. Yet, she persevered. Hers and William’s was a love story for the ages.

LW-102 Coco Chanel

French fashion designer. Ladies, if you are no longer wearing a corset – you can thank Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel. She revolutionized fashion in ways still being felt today. She rose from the child left in a country abbey in the care of the nuns to being supported and kept by European royalty. Her business acumen allowed her to survive 2 world wars with her influence intact. Today, if you own original Chanel clothing – your retirement is assured.

LW-103 Sojourner Truth

Born in upstate New York circa 1797, Sojourner Truth was the self-given name, from 1843 onward, of Isabella Baumfree, an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist. Truth was born into slavery, but escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. She devoted her life to the abolitionist cause and helped recruit black troops for the Union Army. Her best-known speech on racial inequalities, "Ain't I a Woman?" was delivered extemporaneously in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention.

LW-104 Lucretia Coffin Mott

Founding Mother of the Women's Movement. Suffragist, Abolitionist, Quaker
Cousin of Benjamin Franklin, her earlier life was spent working for the abolition of slavery. It did not take Lucretia long to realize that the condition of women and that of the slave were related, and that securing equal rights for one group would necessitate demanding them for the other.

Lucretia helped to draft the Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls in 1848. She was the first to sign the Declaration which is recognized as the founding document of the Women's movement. Her contemporaries included Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Thomas Mann and William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass.

LW-105 Miguel de Cervantes/Don Quixote

Don Miguel created what is recognized as the first modern novel. If you like Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson – meet their original prototype – Don Quixote de la Mancha and Sancho Panza. Don Quixote threw himself into the 17th century equivalent of social media and had more than a few problems. Meanwhile, his creator gave birth to his literary creation while languishing in a Turkish pirate prison.

LW-106 Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper - Computing Pioneer

Grace Brewster Murray Hopper or "Amazing Grace" was born in 1906. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics at a time when women seldom went to college. She joined the WAVES in WWII. When she retired from the Navy in 1986 at the age of 80, with the rank of Rear Admiral, she was the oldest member of the Navy on active duty. Along the way she also managed to pioneer the field of computing, becoming a programmer on the Mark I at Harvard Labs during WWII. She is recognized for her contributions to technology, identified the first computer “bug”, and in 1969, was named the Data Processing Management Associations' "Man of the Year"!

LW-107 The Conservationists

Jacques Cousteau - Inventor of the Aqua Lung, Oscar winning documentarian, influential conservationist of the world's oceans and owner of the iconic exploration ship "Calypso". "There beneath the keels of our boats lies a little known yet penetrable universe teeming with life – a wild marine jungle separated from our civilized world only by the surface of the sea."

Steve Irwin - The "Crocodile Hunter" whose Australia Zoo has grown from an original 4 acres to its current 1000 acre. It also contains a wildlife hospital capable of caring for up to 10,000 LW- Jacques Cousteau - Inventor of the Aqua Lung, Oscar winning documentarian, influential

LW-108 Doc Holiday/ Ned Kelly

Doc Holliday – John Henry Holliday – Dentist, outlaw, OK Corral survivor, sufferer from Tuberculosis, lover of Big Nosed Kate - much more than just Wyatt Earp's friend. (Also, the best role Val Kilmer ever played!)

Ned Kelly - Australian bushranger, outlaw, gang leader and convicted police murderer. The American West was not the only source of colorful outlaws! Aussie tea towels proclaim him as Australia's Last Outlaw.

LW-109 Mercy Otis Warren

1776 was a very good year!

Ken Burns chose the words of Mercy Otis Warren to bring life to the nation's formative years in his lauded "American Revolution".

An ardent foe of slavery, Mercy wrote "The origin of all power is in the people." She dared critique the U.S. Constitution, resulting in many of the ideas that went into our Bill of Rights. She went on to write the first history of the American Revolution.

Be a part of the shared experience of one who lived the beginning.

LW-110 Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer and statistician, widely regarded as the founder of modern nursing. She rose to prominence during the Crimean War in the 1850's, where she organized effective care for wounded soldiers and greatly improved hospital conditions. After the war, she established the world's first secular nursing school in London and became an enduring symbol of compassion and professionalism, inspiring modern humanitarian medical efforts, including the Red Cross.

Lude Kemock

LK-100 Artificial Intelligence: AI and U!

Step into the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence! This presentation takes you on a journey from AI's origins to its cutting-edge applications in everyday life. Through real-world examples and compelling case studies, you'll see how AI is transforming industries, solving complex problems, and shaping our future. No prior experience is needed—just curiosity! We'll also

explore the big questions about ethics, security, and the role of AI in our lives. Perfect for anyone who wants to understand a practical application of AI.

Marcia Nauts

MN-100 Did You Know You Are Speaking Latin?

“I learned Latin as an honor and Greek as a treat”—Churchill.

“I enjoy feeling that wizards would continue to use Latin in their everyday life”—J. K. Rowling.

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson often corresponded in Latin. So many famous people studied Latin and realized its continuing influence. Actually, we all speak a little Latin already. It is found in many catch phrases and abbreviations we use every day. Cities, universities, and businesses use it in their slogans and mottos. A majority of our English words are derived from Latin words. This presentation will examine many of the phrases, abbreviations, and words commonly used in everyday conversation.

You did know you were speaking Latin, didn't you?

MN-101 From the Trojan War to the Founding of Rome

Homer's epic, “The Iliad,” quotes Odysseus: “If they ever tell my story, let them say I walked with giants. Let them say I lived in the time of Hector, and in the time of Achilles.”

This presentation starts with the Trojan War. Why was it fought? Actually, was it fought? What do archeological facts tell us about the existence of Troy? The story continues with Odysseus' wanderings to return home after the war and finishes with the founding of Rome. Now that's a story!

MN-102 Julius Caesar in Four Quotes

Julius Caesar was a Roman general and politician. He expanded Roman rule in Europe and started a civil war. He saw the end of the republic as he declared himself dictator of the Roman Empire. Throughout it all, he said four quotable quotes. You probably could recite them now.

This presentation will delve into each of them and explain the political and geographical situation of each quote.

Mary Kolk

MK-100 [Historic Sites Hidden in Plain Sight](#)

Come on a journey through Ohio's overlooked landmarks – places people pass every day without realizing their rich past. From grand buildings and forgotten neighborhoods to surprising cultural gems, each session uncovers stories of transformation, resilience and community identity. Through archival images, storytelling and “then and now” visuals, participants will discover how history surrounds us in unexpected ways, and how these hidden sites shaped the Cleveland area's character.

Mel Mauer

MM-100 [The Abe Lincoln Trivia Game](#)

Step into a lively game show on Abraham Lincoln hosted by me! Test your knowledge, learn surprising facts, and win an engraved picture of Abe (a penny) for correct answers. By the end, you'll know more about Lincoln than you ever imagined—while having fun along the way!

MM-101 [Abe Lincoln at Gettysburg](#)

Discover the real story behind Lincoln's Gettysburg Address—no, it wasn't written on the back of an envelope! Travel back to November 19, 1863, to hear how Lincoln thought, wrote, and delivered one of the greatest speeches in American history - and the reaction to it.

MM-102 [The Battle of Franklin](#)

The story of this significant battle in 1864. I lived in Franklin - south of Nashville - for four years - and I came to know that battle well. Living down there was a historian's dream for a student of the Civil War. I also do a talk on the book, "The Widow of the South." The woman in the story lived in Franklin during the war and created a cemetery on her land for the fallen Confederacy.

MM-103 [The Titanic – Perfect Disaster](#)

Go beyond the iceberg! This popular talk reveals how mismanagement—not just fate—sank the Titanic. Discover why the “unsinkable ship” still fascinates more than a century later. The so-called “unsinkable ship” really is unsinkable in popular culture and has been since it sank in 1912.

MM-104 [The Truth about the Titanic](#)

In character as Col. Archibald Gracie IV, a real survivor of the Titanic disaster, you'll step back to September 1912 and hear his gripping firsthand account of the sinking and his harrowing escape. A dramatic, immersive experience!

MM-105 I Was a Titanic Survivor

I portray Colonel Archibold Gracie IV, a survivor of the Titanic. We pretend it's September of 1912, 5 months after the ship sank and Colonel Gracie tells of his experiences on the great ship and his escape from it as it sank.

MM-106 The Man Who Would be Batman

It's the humorous true story of my adventures playing Batman in Franklin and Nashville for "Toys for Tots" when I was the T4T Campaign Chairman for Williamson County just south of Nashville. What was it like as an executive of a major division of a large corporation to have a secret life as a superhero? Over the years it has become popular as a Christmas presentation. A humorous true story of a corporate executive by day—and Batman by night! Hear about his adventures donning the cape for Toys for Tots in Tennessee, and how a secret superhero life became a community favorite (especially around Christmas!).

MM-107 Jesse James – The Last Rebel

The true story of Jesse James – Confederate Guerrilla and notorious outlaw – subject of countless articles, numerous books and over 70 movies and TV shows. Jesse James was an early celebrity for all the wrong reasons. Was he a true folk hero – an American Robin Hood - or was he a ruthless criminal – a killer who served only his own interests? His life is covered from birth through assassination - told with a sense of history and with humor.

MM-108 Performance as President Lincoln: An Evening with President Lincoln

It's February of 1865 and President Lincoln had been reelected the past November and will be inaugurated for his second term on March 4th. His wife Mary, in her efforts to raise money for soldiers and their families, has committed Lincoln to a talk at a fundraiser before an audience in Washington DC at Ford's Theater. The President will speak about his life, beliefs, policies, and the war as it nears its end. His words will provide insights into that era, seasoned with his characteristic sense of humor. President Lincoln will take questions from the audience after his remarks, and all are encouraged to participate.

MM-109 Lincoln on Leadership

In this performance, President Lincoln addresses West Point cadets on leadership—its triumphs and its failures. Drawing on examples from Civil War commanders, Lincoln offers timeless insights on character, courage and responsibility.

MM-110 The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

The shocking story of April 14, 1865 – how the plot was hatched, the murder carried out, and the conspirators captured. A compelling slide presentation of one of the most dramatic events in American history.

MM-111 The Escape and Capture of John Wilkes Booth

Follow the dramatic 12-day manhunt for Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. This slide presentation traces his escape, pursuit, and ultimate capture—a story of intrigue, betrayal, and justice served.

MM-112 Protecting the Kennedy's

I portray Secret Service Agent Clint Hill, who was Jackie's agent and was there when JFK was assassinated. He talks about his experiences with the Kennedy family and the assassination.

Michael Lautrenty

ML-100 Finding Your Bliss

We are emotional creatures sometimes overwhelmed by the world around us. In this session, we will examine simple ways to garner the power of the healer inside ourselves to empower logic and regulate emotion. This cleansing will help you find balance and assist in your life's journey.

ML-101 The 1940s

The decade known as the "War Years" is a subject of patriotism and hope, sorrow and development. We will move from Roosevelt's final term, the travesty of WAR, to the Boeing B-50's first non-stop flight around the world, and more!

ML-102 The 1950s

The decade is known by many names including the "Atomic Age, Decade of Prosperity, and the Golden Age of television." It was the postwar years, and a time of growth, economic prosperity, and low unemployment, However, it was also thwarted by segregation and the Cold War. We will move through the primarily President(ed) "Eisenhower era" and rediscover more!

ML-103 Breaking Down the World Around Us

Ever wonder just how many countries there are in the world, how many waterways exist, percentages of population, or other general facts about the world around us? Well, let's get started and discover that this third rock from the sun has much more to offer than most of us realize!

ML-104 Leave Your Legacy Behind!

I have never heard a story of a boring life because everyone has a story to tell. Why not share yours so others can have a better understanding of your point of view about what you did in your life. Don't wait any longer! Let me help you gather your thoughts, develop a plan, and then chronicle all that is YOU! If only my parents left this for me, it would be a treasure!

ML-105 The 60's

Please join us as we travel back to the 1960's and recall the music of Motown, the space race, the Civil Rights movement, countercultures, fashion, films, and festivals. There's too much to mention, so reserve your seat and standby for a review of the transformative decade in American history.

Pat Blackmon

PB-100 Mindfulness Made Simple - The Science of Calm

Discover the fascinating history of mindfulness and its deep roots in both science and practice. This presentation explores the powerful connection between the brain and the mind, the role of the breath in regulating the nervous system and why our brains are wired with a "negativity bias." Through discussion and guided practice, you'll learn how breath, meditation and simple techniques—like Dr. Andrew Weil's 4-7-8 Breathing Exercise—can help quiet the mind, reduce stress and bring more curiosity, calm and presence into daily life.

Peggy Cannon

PC-100 Low Impact Dance and Exercise Using Irish Dance Basics

This class provides a low impact exercise opportunity for seniors. Irish Dance offers many health benefits, including but not limited to, improving balance, sharpening the memory and strengthening muscles around the joints to assist with arthritis and overall fitness. All are welcome and no experience is necessary. The class will cover various styles of Irish Dance from "old style" to "Irish Ceili (social dance)" and basic steps of traditional Irish step dance that are used in Ceili Dance. Sean Nos is the oldest form of Irish Step dance characterized by a relaxed upper body and steps danced close to the floor. It is very different from modern style Irish Dance. In Sean Nos, arms move freely with the natural rhythm of the dance steps, and the steps are typically confined to a small space. The steps interpret the music. There are many similarities to tap dance and clogging. Ceili dance uses very basic Irish dance steps allowing all to participate. Everyone can learn the steps for Ceili dance, even without a partner and benefit from the exercise and fun.

Rachel Metz

RM-100 Intro to Aromatherapy: Essential Oil Toolkit for Holistic Living

Searching for a more natural solution to incorporate into your lifestyle while shifting away from harsh chemicals? I will be sharing my passion and knowledge about the science and art of essential oils, and how to easily integrate them into your home environment and personal-care routine.

Topics will include choosing and caring for your oils, tips for optimal seasonal use, and ideas to nurture your spaces, your senses, and your body with this beautiful plant medicine.

Participants will leave the workshop with the tools to create their own personalized blends along with two complimentary recipes.

Renee Durkee

RD-100 Prohibition in Northeast Ohio

We discuss the who, what, where and why of Prohibition and its impact and reaction on Northern Ohio. Featured are infamous Lake Erie Rumrunners, secret coves, Coast Guard chases and local gangsters like the Purple Gang. Participants will learn all about how Lake Erie was a major route of alcohol smuggling.

RD-101 Civil War Nurses

At the outbreak of the Civil War, nursing was a male profession, with many nurses being fellow soldiers. Women were considered too delicate for the occupation. However, the war changed public opinion as demand outweighed the supply of nurses. Women, rising to the need, proved they were not only capable, but often superior caregivers. Explore the requirements and dangers faced by female nurses on the battlefield and in hospitals. Discover the stories about outstanding nurses who went above and beyond the call of duty, including the only woman given permission by Generals Grant and Sherman to serve on the front lines.

RD-102 The Witch Trial of 1692

In the 1690's, the people of Salem, Massachusetts and the neighboring countryside became obsessed with the belief that the devil was turning good citizens into witches. A widow named Susannah Martin stood trial. Learn of her fate, her defiance against her accusers and her surprising connection to this program's presenter.

RD-103 The Wreck of the Henry Clay

In October, 1851, the propellor ship, Henry Clay, was struck by a fierce gale after departing Cleveland. An eye witness gave the chilling account of the ship as it lost its struggle with the storm. The great, great, great grandfather of this program's presenter was the First Engineer aboard the Henry Clay that fateful night. His fate and that of his cremates will be told, as well as how a coin given to his young daughter would pass down generations in remembrance.

Sean Crum

SC-100 The Land of the Pharaohs: The Art of Ancient Egypt

A land of God Kings, richly endowed tombs and beautiful temples is the focus of this presentation. The stories of The Great Pyramids and the discovery of King Tut's Tomb will thrill you. Through the sands of time of 3000 years, the Egyptian Empire lasted longer than any ancient society.

SC-101 The Art and Life of Leonardo Da Vinci: The Quintessential Renaissance Man

The life and art of Italian genius Leonardo da Vinci is the subject of this lecture. The Last Supper, the Virgin of the Rocks and the Mona Lisa were such innovative and revolutionary works of art that they influenced generations of artists to follow. Leonardo also was a geologist, botanist, anatomist and military engineer.

SC-102 The Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Painting in the 17th Century

This class will cover the protestant secularism that created a new realistic art in Holland, of which Rembrandt is the most famous practitioner. Portraiture, landscape, still life and genre scenes all become important new art forms.

SC-103 Impressionism: From Manet to Monet

The Impressionists forged a new way of painting and looking at the natural world. They challenged historical conventions that stood for centuries and created a new vision based on direct observation, bold brush strokes, high keyed color and a keen awareness of the science of perception. The art of Manet, Monet, Degas and Renoir are featured.

SC-104 The Story of Michelangelo and the Painting of the Sistine Ceiling

Michelangelo created an epic masterpiece for the ages when he painted the Sistine ceiling. His story of torment and exaltation in the painting of this spectacular work of art is the subject of this presentation.

SC-105 Starry Night: The Art and Tragic Life of Vincent van Gogh

The life of the Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh has been the subject of countless biographies and films. His highly expressive art reveals the joy that painting held for him, but also the mental torment that tortured him for the last two years of his incredibly productive life. This lecture will cover every stage of his artistic development and the life of this troubled genius.

SC-106 Famous Forgeries and Art Thefts: The Dark Side of Art

Have you ever taken a class on art forgeries and art thefts? Here's your chance! We will discuss everything from the famous art forger Han Van Meegeren, the theft of the Mona Lisa and the still unsolved art thefts from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.

SC-107 [The Cleveland Museum of Art: Its History and Its Most Famous Masterpieces](#)

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of the finest museums of art in the nation as well as the world. Cleveland has one of the greatest collections of eastern art and their medieval holdings are admired the world over. This program will look at their most prominent works.

SC-108 [The Feminine Touch: The History of Great Female Artists](#)

Throughout history, great women artists have produced, often behind the scenes, wonderful and important masterpieces. This lecture will cover some of the greatest female artists in history from Judith Leyster to Judy Chicago.

SC-109 [Picture This: The History of Photography](#)

Is photography an art form? This lecture answers that question in the affirmative. Since its infancy, photographs have captured our world like no other artistic medium. It has been used to document historic events, to express humanitarian views and to create new original art forms. From daguerreotypes to digital and from Mathew Brady to Ansel Adams, this lecture focuses on all of it.

SC-110 [The Art of Love: A History of Love in Art](#)

“Love is a Many Splendored Thing” when “Love is All Around” and “Love” is all around in art. It always has been. From the earliest Neolithic fertility images to Rodin’s “The Kiss”, love, in all forms, is a constant theme in the visual arts. Let’s explore the sensual side of art together in this lecture of “love art” through the ages.

SC-111 [Christmas Story: The Story of Christmas in Art](#)

The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Adoration of the Shepherds, The Epiphany and The Flight into Egypt. These iconographic Christian themes are studied in a lecture that explores the efforts of some of the greatest masters in art history. Raphael, Leonardo Da Vinci, Giotto, Robert Campin, Jan van Eyck and others tell the story of Christmas in a Seasons Greetings lecture.

[Ted Smith](#)

TS-101 [Free Will and the Garden of Eden](#)

A review of Free Will; what we think it is versus what it really is. Did Adam and Eve steal it from God, creating the original sin? Were they tricked by the serpent? Or did God give it to humanity willingly? If so, why?

TS-102 Origins of the Celtic People

We tend to think of St. Patrick converting the Celts to Christianity. While true, recent archaeological evidence suggests that was towards the end of a Celtic Empire that dominated much of Northern Europe even before Ancient Rome rose to power. A grand tour of pre-historic Europe!

TS-103 A Tour of the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea's history is fascinating, dating back to at least Biblical times. Today it is much more than just a tourist attraction, it is a border between two nations, and sometimes hotly debated. It has supplied much of Israel's exports, providing minerals for health and beauty, pharmaceutical ingredients and even industrial production around the world. History shows us wars were fought for control of the Dead Sea, and given recent irrigation needs, its future is uncertain.

TS-104 The Strange Case of the Disappearing Town of Cheshire, England

For over 300 years the residents of Cheshire, England, were baffled by the seemingly random appearance of sinkholes; swallowing roads, railroad bridges, even whole buildings or homes. What was causing this? The clergy blamed the devil, townsfolk blamed the mining company, yet the shafts didn't seem to correspond to the sinkholes. We'll 'uncover' the mystery.

TS-105 Jefferson's Bible

Of all his accomplishments, Thomas Jefferson was most proud of self-governance, freedom of religion and education. He wanted a solid philosophy to guide both the people of his fledgling nation and their elected representatives. Jefferson literally took a razor blade to several copies of the Bible, cutting and pasting the teachings of Jesus onto blank pages. The result is "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth." We will explore his life and times, what he put in and left out and why.

TS-106 Marco Polo: The Myths, Legends Far Out Fables of a Venetian Merchant

He was only 17 years old when he left with his father and uncle to the Court of Kublai Kahn. 25 years later he returned with stories that his contemporaries (and some historians) found suspicious. While it is somewhat difficult to get a historically accurate account of what happened, the kid had to be somewhere for 25 years. We'll try to find the truth of it.

TS-107 American Revolution and the Role of Salt

General Washington had a salt supply for food preservation and medicine at the time of the Revolution, and the British wanted it. Meanwhile, Yankee entrepreneurs in New England saw a golden opportunity for salt making and earning a living in the battle for independence. Find out how salt played a role in Americans winning their independence.

TS-108 The Erie Canal

In the early 19th century, the Governor of New York was desperate to make the port of New York an international trading hub. All the natural resources of the Wild West (Ohio) would ensure that. In an age before industrial earth-moving equipment, the idea of digging a canal over 300 miles seemed crazy. Luckily, all the recent Irish immigrants to the United States were up to the task!

TS-109 Slaves, Salt and the Civil War

It may seem odd that saltworks in both the North and the South were considered 'military targets,' yet that is exactly what happened as it was needed for horses to move military equipment. Lincoln's naval blockade of Southern ports effectively cut the South off from international trade, forcing the civilian population into the unthinkable.

TS-110 Mysteries of the Mind and Brain

An examination of the relationship between our brains and our minds and how memory works (or sometimes doesn't) between both. We'll explore some of the shocking discoveries of neuroscience in the last 50 years.

Terry Meehan

TM-100 East Ohio Gas Fire - 1944

On October 20, 1944, a liquefied natural gas storage tank ruptured at the East Ohio Gas facility on Cleveland's East 55th Street near St. Clair Avenue. Once released, the liquid gas vaporized and ignited, resulting in one of the worst fires in Cleveland history. The fire covered a one-square-mile area bordered by the Shoreway to the north, East 67th St. to the east, St. Clair Avenue to the south and East 53rd Street to the west. 130 people died, including 73 East Ohio Gas employees. This presentation will provide the background of how it happened and tell the stories of some of the survivors. Rare on-site footage will be shown.

TM-101 How to Get More Out of Watching Movies

Why do we like some movies more than others? What makes a movie good? (Or bad!). This presentation will help us take a closer look at the movies we see in terms of the techniques that are involved in making them. There are seven: Screenplay, Acting, Directing, Cinematography, Art Direction, Sound and Editing. (SAD CASE). We will view and discuss clips that show examples of how each technique contributes to the overall impact of a film. We know we love certain movies; now we will find out why.

TM-102 [Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Revenge \(1955\)](#)

Although Alfred Hitchcock had been making cameo appearances in his films since 1927, the first time most people heard his voice was on the evening of October 2, 1955, when he introduced “Revenge,” the very first episode of Alfred Hitchcock Presents. Elsa, played by Vera Miles, is assaulted by an unknown attacker. When her husband (Ralph Meeker) arrives home, he notices that she seems somewhat disoriented. Nonetheless, he seeks revenge by driving her around town in search of the culprit. We will begin with a brief introduction and then view the full half-hour episode. After the screening, we will share our reactions.

TM-103 [Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Glass Eye \(1957\)](#)

“The Glass Eye” is about a woman who falls in love with a famous ventriloquist and finally gets a chance to meet him. It stars Jessica Tandy, Tom Conway and a young William Shatner. Hitchcock and a ventriloquist? What could go wrong? Although Hitchcock had been making cameo appearances in his films since 1927, the first time most people heard his voice was on the evening of October 2, 1955, when he introduced the first episode of Alfred Hitchcock Presents. We will begin with a brief introduction and then view the full half-hour episode. After the screening, we will share our reactions.

TM-104 [Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Right Kind of House \(1958\)](#)

“The Right Kind of House” is about a man driving through a town and seeing a home for sale that seems just perfect for him. If the price is right, he just might spend the rest of his days there. But she wants \$50,000! It’s only worth \$9,000! Starring Robert Emhardt and Jeanette Nolan.

Although Hitchcock had been making cameo appearances in his films since 1927, the first time most people heard his voice was on the evening of October 2, 1955, when he introduced the first episode of Alfred Hitchcock Presents. We will begin with a brief introduction and then view the full half-hour episode. After the screening, we will share our reactions.

TM-105 [Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Lamb to the Slaughter \(1958\)](#)

“Lamb to the Slaughter” is about a happy housewife, (Barbara Bel Geddes) who is getting ready to serve her husband a nice leg of lamb when he gets home from work. Sounds quite pleasant, but you may have noticed the word ‘slaughter’ in the title. The episode was directed by Mr. Hitchcock himself and written by Roald Dahl.

Although Hitchcock had been making cameo appearances in his films since 1927, the first time most people heard his voice was on the evening of October 2, 1955, when he introduced the first episode of Alfred Hitchcock Presents. We will begin with a brief introduction and then view the full half-hour episode. After the screening, we will share our reactions.

TM-106 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Man from the South (1960)

In “Man from the South”, a creepy character played by Peter Lorre, proposes a bizarre bet to an overconfident gambler played by Steve McQueen. The woman with the dangling dress shoe is played by Neile Adams, who was married to McQueen at the time. From a story by Roald Dahl.

Although Hitchcock had been making cameo appearances in his films since 1927, the first time most people heard his voice was on the evening of October 2, 1955, when he introduced the first episode of Alfred Hitchcock Presents. We will begin with a brief introduction and then view the full half-hour episode. After the screening, we will share our reactions.

Tom Benson

TB-100 The Space Race: From Sputnik to the Moon

The earliest days of space exploration (1950 – 1970) were characterized by a spirited competition between the Soviet Union and the United States. This talk explores the “space race” between the two countries. The Soviets had an early lead in rocketry and spacecraft, including Sputnik and the first man in space. President Kennedy decided to answer that challenge with a bold decision to go to the Moon. The Gemini and Apollo programs lead to the eventual American triumph. Finally, we will look at the immediate aftermath of the race for both countries and why we have not returned to the Moon in the last half-century.

TB-101 Life with Gravity: The Astronaut Experience

Humans have been continuously living in space on board the International Space Station since November of 2000. Crews routinely visit the station for 6-month assignments. But living on the station is anything but routine. Working, eating, sleeping, bathing and exercising are all affected by the weightless environment. This talk will explore and explain these changes using on-orbit video clips featuring Cleveland native astronaut Suni Williams.

TB-102 Beyond the Wright Brothers: Ohio’s Aviation Legacy

Proudly emblazoned on our Ohio automobile license plates is the phrase “Birthplace of Aviation”. Most people associate that phrase with the Wright Brothers from Dayton, Ohio, who are credited with the invention of the airplane. But many other Ohio residents made important contributions to the early development of the aircraft industry. This talk will present these other aviation pioneers and their accomplishments.

TB-103 The Birth of Flight: The Wright Brothers’ Story

Mr. Wilbur Wright of Dayton, Ohio, will present results from experiments concerning the development of a practical, piloted flying machine. The experiments were conducted between 1899 and 1905 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, and Dayton, Ohio, with his brother, Orville Wright. He will explain and demonstrate many of the technical aspects of their invention by using models and actual photographs of the experiments. The unique flight control system will be

discussed in some detail, along with the propulsion system and supporting wind tunnel experiments. Wilbur Wright will be presented by Tom Benson, who is a retired aeronautical engineer from the NASA Glenn Research Center.

Tom Marini

TO-100 How WWII Transformed America: From Factories to Freedom

Discover how World War II didn't just shape world history... it reshaped America. This eye-opening session reveals how the U.S. became the "arsenal of democracy," with factories roaring to life as industries pivoted from toasters to tanks. Learn how this dramatic shift sparked an economic boom, skyrocketed productivity and opened doors for women and minorities to enter the workforce like never before. A fascinating look at how war changed the home front -- and the American identity -- forever.

TO-101 Truth or Trash? How to Find Credible Information Online

In a world overflowing with headlines, hashtags and "breaking news," how do you know what's real? This empowering session teaches you how to separate fact from fiction online. Learn how to spot trustworthy sources, evaluate authority and accuracy and recognize bias -- before you click "share." With practical tools and real-world examples, you'll gain the confidence to navigate the digital world with a sharper eye and a critical mind.

Valerie B. Williams

VW-100 Sign Language is FUN!

American Sign Language (ASL) has been a meaningful part of my life since 1979, when I had the privilege of learning under a Missionary who shared the Scriptures with the Deaf community. Her dedication and kindness deeply inspired me, and I've been passionate about sharing ASL ever since.

Over the years, I've introduced ASL to learners in schools, libraries, churches, public facilities and private classes — and I'm excited to welcome *you* to the experience!

In this fun, interactive session, participants will learn the basics of ASL through role play and other engaging activities. We'll start with the alphabet and numbers 1–10, building fingerspelling skills to help you communicate.

With continued practice, you'll be able to spell your name, sign common words, greet others, enjoy songs, and even tell short stories. The focus is on having fun while learning — and sharing what you learn with family and friends.

No experience necessary — just bring your hands and your curiosity!

VW-101 Sing-Along - Let's Celebrate the Power of Music Together!

According to the *World History Encyclopedia*, music has been part of human life as far back as 2000 BC. Over the centuries, it's been said that music can do many things — keep us company, soothe our worries, help us sleep, boost our memory, and bring us joy.

In my home, music was always playing. Later, as a parent, I shared that love with my children. One of our favorite traditions was visiting nursing homes to sing for the residents — moments filled with harmony, laughter and connection.

To this day, music remains close to my heart. What about you? Have you ever gone to a concert just to hear that one song you love?

Now's your chance. Join us for a joyful Sing-Along featuring some of your favorite tunes — from Big Band and Classical, to Country, Inspirational, Jazz, R&B, Theater and more. Let's celebrate the power of music together!

Vera Bartasavich

VB-100 Stress - How to Manage It

In this presentation we explore stress management, examining what stress truly is, its impact on us, and practical strategies for managing it effectively. The goal is for a better understanding of how to recognize stress, manage and build resilience for the challenges faced.

VB-101 Diabetes Basics

How carbohydrates impact blood sugar? Different types of Diabetes Signs/Symptoms of Prediabetes/Diabetes Overview of lifestyle Management of Prediabetes/Diabetes.

VB-102 Overview of Men's & Women's Health & Speaking with Your Doctor

Men's & Women's Health Statistics Review Health Screenings Lessen Risks

VB-103 Mindfulness: What is Mindfulness?

Benefits of mindfulness. Mindful eating. Other aspects of life to use mindfulness.

VB-104 Positive Thinking... and How you Can Achieve it

This presentation goes through how positive thinking can benefit our daily lives. We will engage in activities aimed at achieving positive thinking. For example: coming up with positive affirmations and how to use them in one's life.

Walter Topp

WT-100 The Immigrant Experience: How Immigration Helped Build Cleveland

Immigration to Northern Ohio predates the arrival of Moses Cleveland in 1796 and remains a significant factor in the regional economy. This presentation will examine the role immigration has played in the history of Cleveland, including its impact on the development of the modern city and its potential impact on the future of the region.

WT-101 How Transportation, Immigration, Industrialization and Politics Built Cleveland

In 1929, Clevelanders celebrated the grand opening of the spectacular Union Terminal complex. On the eve of the Great Depression, the nation's sixth largest city was a world-class manufacturing, finance and cultural center. Enjoy a glimpse of the city at its height, examining the various threads that came together to build modern Cleveland.

Biographies

Ann Over

Ann Over enjoyed a 36-year career at NASA following her graduation from The Ohio State University in 1983 with a B.S. in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. At NASA's Glenn Research Center, she began designing trajectories for interplanetary missions and Earth-orbiting spacecraft. She later managed teams that developed and operated multiple Space Shuttle payloads, including the largest flown on Columbia's final mission.

Ann also directed the in-house development of an advanced communications payload at Glenn, which was launched by JAXA and successfully operated aboard the International Space Station. Her leadership extended to managing technology and science programs, contributing to Space Shuttle mission planning at NASA Headquarters, and concluding her career with the Orion/European Service Module Program supporting lunar exploration.

Her achievements earned her the NASA Leadership Medal, the 2018 AAS Space Flight Award, several NASA Honor Awards, and the Silver Snoopy Award. She is most proud of sending six successful items to space and mentoring young engineers who went on to significant careers.

Since retiring in 2019, Ann has continued to share her expertise through AR NexGen, LLC. She and her husband, Randy, have three adult children in science and engineering and three grandchildren.

Beryl Prusinoski

Beryl Prusinoski has a BA in Mathematics from CWRU and an MS in statistics from Purdue. She worked in the chemical industry for more than forty years.

Upon retirement, Beryl adapted her interests in science and history to delivering adult education classes. She has taught classes with ILR since 2017 and also delivers individual lectures for local civic groups. Her especial interest is probing the history and science within topics such as holidays, colors, food and plants.

Beverly Sadowski

Beverly Sadowski earned a BA in History and Psychology and an MA in Education from Baldwin Wallace University. She taught in the Berea City Schools until her retirement in 2014. Bev continues to speak on the Kennedy presidency and both the JFK and RFK assassinations to a myriad of educational and professional organizations, libraries and private groups throughout the Cleveland Metropolitan area. She recently was a featured speaker at Johnson City Community College in Kansas City, Kansas (April, 2024) and Dallas (November, 2024), at conferences sponsored by the JFK Historical Group in collaboration with Project JFK.

Bev Stives

Bev Stives has been gardening since she was a child, where she spent many hours learning from her father. She is now a Master Gardener. Bev enjoys teaching others, children and adults, about the joy of gardening. Her yard in Avon Lake contains many flower and vegetable gardens. Bev encourages older gardeners to continue gardening in a safe and healthy way.

Bill Brauning

Bill Brauning spent 35 years in education while also performing music since 1964 in styles from Rock and R&B to Jazz and Latin. He has toured, recorded, and composed original works. For the past 15 years, he has presented Pop Culture Programs at colleges, libraries, and senior communities, focusing on television, film, musicals, and music across the decades. *Let's Get Pop Cultured!*

Brian Pavlac

Brian A. Pavlac is a Professor Emeritus of History from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He has written *Witch Hunts in the Western World* and other articles and books on European history. He currently resides in Berea.

Donald Auble

Donald C. Auble holds a BA from Baldwin Wallace and an MS from the Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University. He was a founder and then owner of Jaeger Advertising, a full-service advertising agency, for over 20 years. Don taught marketing and advertising classes as an adjunct professor at Baldwin Wallace for 15 years. He has developed and taught other ILR classes: "Explorers of the Pacific Northwest" and "How They Make...MOVIES." Interests include flying, sailing, family and travel.

Doug Imhoff

Doug Imhoff earned both a BA and MBA at Baldwin Wallace University. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Financial Planner (CPF) and worked as an internal auditor in various management positions for several companies in the Cleveland area. In addition, he has a lifelong interest in American and World history, government and politics.

John Kipp

John Kipp is certified as an armed private security officer by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and has taught courses on personal safety for 15 years. He is also an Ohio Peace Officer Training Administration range safety officer and has served as an instructor and consultant.

Julie Koenig

British-born Julie Koenig is a keen observer and lifelong student of the British monarchy. She offers fascinating insights that go beyond the usual headlines and media coverage. She is well-versed in the colorful history, traditions and scandals of the British monarchy.

Linda Witkowski

Linda Witkowski holds a Master of Arts degree in modern language and literature from Case Western Reserve University where she did several years of fellowship teaching. She is recently retired, having spent 50 years in the computer technology field, witnessing the emergence of this fascinating industry. She has also performed at area theaters for countless years, more recently working with 'Women in History' and the Downtown Cleveland Historic Gateway Walking Tour program "Take a Hike."

Lude Kemock

Lude Kemock is a licensed real estate broker in Ohio and has been practicing real estate for over 45 years. He has taught real estate at several Northeast Ohio colleges for over 30 years and recently retired from his final position as National Director of Transitions and Implementation at Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporate Office in Madison, New Jersey, where he worked for over 30 years previously as a Manager, National Trainer, Business Consultant and Innovator of marketing and training tools. He is currently Associate Broker at Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realty in Westlake.

Marcia Nauts

Marcia Nauts has a BS in Education from Ohio University (Athens, Ohio); an MA from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, Michigan); taught Latin for 36 years in Toledo Public Schools at Bowsher High School and then for 4 years at St. Ursula Academy (Toledo, Ohio).

Mary Ruth Kolk

Mary Ruth Kolk has been presenting classes on reversing Type 2 diabetes for over 20 years. She is also the producer of the DVD set *How We Beat Diabetes*. Her leadership experience includes serving as President of the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Baldwin Wallace University (2020–2022), President of Jack 'n Jill Nursery School, President of LIVE Multimedia, and Vice President of the Cleveland Ad Association.

Mel Maurer

Mel Maurer has a Bachelor of Science from John Carroll University. His education includes many historical symposia focused on Abraham Lincoln. He is past president and historian of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable and has appeared in several of its plays. He is a lifetime member of the Lincoln Forum. For 43 years, he was Manager of Administrative Quality and Distribution for the Boston Weatherhead Division of Dana Corporation. In retirement, he is a writer, speaker and actor.

Michael Laurenty

Michael is a retired United States Navy veteran and Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine who is currently a Professor of English at Cleveland State University. He is a produced playwright and published author who has written over sixty courses for various academic programs. He has earned Associate degrees in Business Management and Massotherapy, a bachelor's degree in Dramatic Arts, and a Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting.

Patricia Ann Blackmon

Judge Patricia Ann Blackmon served five terms on the Eighth District Court of Appeals in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, retiring in 2021 after 30 years on the bench. She has presented nationally and internationally on judicial ethics, wellness, and mindfulness through the National Judicial College. Since 2012, she has taught *Understanding the Court System* for the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Baldwin Wallace University.

Peggy Cannon

Peggy Cannon, a lifelong Cleveland resident, founded Cannon Irish Dance in 1982 after winning the Mid-America and North American Championships. She has taught all ages—from preschoolers to adults—in the Fairview/North Olmsted area ever since. In 2016, she introduced a low-impact senior program that blends Irish dance basics with exercise, helping improve balance, memory, and strength while enjoying lively music. Peggy believes Irish dance is for everyone—no age or experience required.

Rachel Metz

Rachel Metz is a 500-hour certified yoga instructor with 23 years of personal practice and six years teaching. She is trained in aromatherapy, Thai yoga massage, Ayurveda, and trauma-informed yoga, and teaches vinyasa, yin, and restorative styles. Passionate about the mind-body-heart connection, she aims to inspire others to experience the same magic.

Rachel holds a BA in weaving and textile art from Kent State and is developing her own textile business. She also enjoys dance, nature, knitting, reading, and creating blends with essential oils.

Renee Durkee

R.C. Durkee is a writer, artist and local history speaker. Her debut novel, "*Rum Run*" was selected for Ohioana and inclusion in the state's library. She lectures local history for college lifelong learning courses, libraries and organizations and was a recurrent program speaker for Case Western Reserve University's STEM program. The sixth generation to be raised on her family's 190-year-old farm, her love of history, nature and rural life are reflected in both her art and writing. She is currently writing a narrative nonfiction set during the Civil War.

Sean Crum

Sean Crum has a Master of Art from Case Western Reserve University (1977) and was an art teacher at North Ridgeville City Schools for 35 years, retiring in 2012. He was the chairman of the Art Department and taught AP Art History in a program he created, as well as authored the curriculum (published by The College Board online in 2005). He is also an artist, printmaker, and musician.

Suzanne Halstead

Suzanne Halstead has an MA in education from Concordia University and a BFA in studio arts and art education from Syracuse University. She is an artist, educator and museum professional, having taught art in public schools, colleges, galleries, studios and museums throughout her career. She has worked extensively in many cultural and museum environments as an educator and exhibits and program developer. Suzanne believes in enabling and empowering others so each may find and explore his or her own creative energies.

Ted Smith

Ted Smith is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace. His interests and research are in traditional Chinese medicine, history, current events, science and theology. In his personal quest for balance, he has done considerable independent research into various spiritual, historical and sociological practices in an effort to see what has worked for and against humanity's quest for balance.

Terry Meehan

Terry Meehan earned a BBA in marketing from Cleveland State University and an MA in literature and film from Kent State University. He teaches film appreciation at Lorain County Community College and at several adult education programs, including the Cleveland Film Society. At Chautauqua Institution, he has presented the Movies of Alfred Hitchcock and Early Western Films. He also curates and presents a monthly film series.

Tom Benson

Tom Benson is a Retired Senior Research Engineer from the NASA Glenn Research Center. He retired in 2015 after more than 35 years of service at NASA Glenn. For the first 20 years, he specialized in computer modeling of supersonic and hypersonic flows in propulsion systems. The last 15 years were mainly devoted to educational outreach.

Tom earned a Bachelor and Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Ohio State University in 1971. He then spent four years in the Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB doing high speed inlet testing and installed engine performance calculations for the F-5E, YF-16, YF-17, and B1-A. He returned to graduate school at OSU and passed the qualifiers for a PhD before working at NASA in 1978. He is a board member of the Cleveland Astronomical Society, where he has given talks on the Apollo Moon Program, the International Space Station, and NASA Science Missions.

Tom Marini

Tom Marini has held leadership roles in business libraries at the University of Michigan, William & Mary, and the University of Virginia. He taught senior military officers in the Secretary of Defense Executive Fellows Program, conducted threat analyses on Middle Eastern and asymmetrical warfare, and worked as a contractor with military companies. From 2009–2010, he was a Fulbright Scholar in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

Valerie Williams

Valerie has been teaching American Sign Language for over 45 years. She was first introduced to ASL by a missionary instructor and deepened her knowledge through the Deaf community, Cleveland Hearing & Speech, community colleges, Akron University, and a variety of in-person and online programs.

Valerie has taught ASL in a range of settings. Passionate about promoting Deaf culture, she encourages her students to dedicate time to study, assuring them that learning ASL is both rewarding and enriching.

Vera Bartasavich

Vera Bartasavich earned graduate degrees in Health Education and Nutrition Education and is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) focusing on prediabetes and diabetes education. Vera has 30+ years of experience in the food industry. She enjoys presenting health and wellness topics in a variety of settings.

Walter Topp

Walter Topp is a writer and instructor. He has worked at various times as a police officer, naval officer, newspaper reporter, technical writer and emergency manager. He holds an M.S. degree from the U.S. Army War College and a master's degree in Public Administration from Cleveland State University.