



Never Stop Learning

Life Long Learning Classes at Freedom Village

We are proud to present the Winter/Spring 2024 Series of Life Long Learning classes at Freedom Village featuring instructors from various Life Long Learning Programs

There will be 1 - 5 week class per session, on Mondays from 1:30-2:30 in the Learning Center. Classes will begin in **January**. **There is a \$25 charge for the 5-week classes. Sign up in Book 2**

There will also be lectures on the second Friday of the month. Location TBD. **The lectures are free. No sign up needed.**

1. “Religion: Where Are We and How Did We Get There?”

Instructor: Jeff Heim

Mondays from 1:30-2:30

January 15- February 12

Learning Center

COST: \$25

Yuval Harari [author of *Sapiens*] sees human progress as a succession of “Imagined Realities”. Does religion, from animism to monotheism, fall under that label? Themes to be considered include; exclusivity and inclusivity, ethical systems and adoration, Eastern and Western thinking. Can there be “Religious Humanism” or “Humanistic Religion?” Participants are encouraged to share their observations.

Jeff Heim. was a classroom teacher in West Chester for most of his career. He was Teacher of the Year twice. Jeff was also a Fulbright Fellow and Annenberg Fellow for studies in India and the Middle East. Since retiring, he teaches many courses at retirement communities and Lifelong Learning programs.

2. **Presidential Families:**

Instructor: David Hudiak

Mondays from 1:30-3:00 ** Please note new time

February 19, 26 and March 4 – 3 weeks ONLY

Learning Center

COST: \$25

Learn how our Presidents have been shaped and molded by their parents and siblings. How have their mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters and the personality traits, that can be traced back to their relatives, shaped these leaders? We’ll look at each president’s personal characteristics so as to better understand what he inherited from his family members and how this influenced their presidency.

David Hudiak, Esq. has been a licensed attorney for more than 35 years and is a member of the Bars of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the District of New Jersey. He has extensive teaching experience, having taught numerous paralegal classes as well as seminars in law school admission test preparation. He has been listed in both Who's Who in American Law and Who's Who in American Education.

3. Lessons of the Holocaust: Righteous Gentiles

Instructor: Roberta Matz

March 25 - April 22

Mondays from 1:30-2:30

Learning Center

Cost: \$25

There were more than **28,000** Righteous Gentiles recognized by the State of Israel. We will learn about many of these individuals who risked their lives to save Jewish lives, with no reward for themselves during the Holocaust (1933-1945). They represent 51 countries and they are drawn from all walks of life: peasants, clergy, diplomats, neighbors and royalty. This little known story of the Holocaust reminds us that there are good people in this world.

Roberta Matz was a classroom teacher for 30 years, teaching French and Hebrew languages and Judaic studies in public and private schools. Additionally, Roberta worked for the Jewish Federations of Greater Philadelphia and Delaware, where she worked on Jewish Life and learning, community development and outreach.

4. The Origin and History of the Mafia – Part 1

Instructor: Gerry Mello

May 6 - June 10 (no class 5/27 – Memorial Day)

Mondays from 1:30-2:30

Learning Center

Cost: \$25

This class will explore the provocative subject of the “Mafia,” from its epoch origins, its history and evolution throughout the centuries, and its eventual migration and emergence in the United States.

Gerry will present the Mafia’s customs, practices and internal structure along with its most influential personalities and families.

We are making you an offer you can’t refuse!

Gerry Mello studied Business Administration and Mechanical Engineering at University of Massachusetts, University of Rhode Island, and Roger William University. He worked in the consumer products industry for a career spanning 40 years. His experience spans many business disciplines including, Manufacturing, Quality Assurance, Distribution, Sales, Marketing, Finance, Human Resources. He is also an Ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church.



Friday Afternoon Lecture Series will continue monthly on Fridays, from 2-3 in the Chesapeake Room/Auditorium

1. Friday, January 12 - 2 p.m. – Bill Palmerio
“The Art and Artistry of Ella Fitzgerald: ”
Chesapeake Room

By the mid 1950s Ella Fitzgerald was an established jazz and pop vocalist enjoying enormous commercial success. Ella’s long time manager and influential jazz impresario Norman Granz had a plan, however, to elevate her recorded output to a new higher artistic level. Under the auspices of his newly formed Verve record label, Granz produced a series of albums featuring the unique vocal stylings of Ella Fitzgerald performing definitive renditions of classic standards by the greatest of American Songbook songwriters. In this presentation we’ll explore the details behind the individual recordings, and listen to selections by the great lady herself. Come learn why Ella’s Songbooks are considered an essential addition to any serious collection of jazz vocal albums.

Bill Palmerio is happily retired from a thirty-year career as a financial systems analyst and database application developer in the health insurance industry. Long before entering the corporate working world, Bill earned multiple degrees studying classical vocal music and opera. Teaching music appreciation classes to like-minded enthusiasts has in recent years become a very fulfilling aspect of his retirement life. A love of music is his first and enduring passion. Bill’s particular musical genre interests include opera, classical art songs, musical theater and, above all, the Great American Songbook.



2. Friday, February 9 - 1 p.m. ** – Noah Lewis
“Black People in Washington’s Army”
Auditorium

“Ned Hector” (aka Noah Lewis) revolutionary Army soldier, will join us to talk us about his life in Washington’s army as a teamster and bombardier. In full uniform, Ned will also talk about the blacks who contributed to the success of the Revolutionary cause. This is a unique presentation that will teach us much about our country’s history and the contributions of the black community.

Noah Lewis started the Ned Hector presentation 1996 at Bywood School, where he would go into his daughter’s 4th grade class and do presentations on electricity and biology. Mrs. Freeberry, his daughter’s teacher, asked if he had any presentations for the subject of colonial America. Through genealogical research, Noah learned about Ned Hector and developed a presentation that he has given throughout the years in schools and to community groups. A book about Ned followed - “**Edward “Ned” Hector, Black Revolutionary Hero-Time Traveler**”. Noah is blessed to be able to have the opportunity to aid in helping others to appreciate the contribution of black people made to the freedom of all Americans. He hopes the souls of these amazing contributors will rest a little more peaceful by giving them the honor they were denied for so many years.

3. Friday, March 8 - 2 p.m. – Roberta McManus
“A Woman Before Her Time – Rebecca Lukens”
Auditorium

Rebecca Lukens led a very uncommon life for a woman born in 1794. How did she rise to become “America’s First Female Industrialist”? She was strong-willed, more educated than most women of her time, and hard working as both a businesswoman and a mother of six. Rebecca’s hard work helped put Coatesville on the map. Join us to see how the events in her life shaped her Quaker beliefs, her prowess in business, her integrity, and her legacy.

Roberta McManus had a 39-year career teaching science in the Oxford Area School District, and co-authored two books on teaching strategies. She

continues to be involved with schools as a volunteer and board member with the Oxford Educational Foundation. She enjoys researching historical figures, especially ones with local Chester County connection.

4. Friday, April 12 - 2 p.m. - Jerry McNeff-
“The Titanic”
Auditorium

The Titanic may be the best-known ship of all time. It hit an iceberg on its maiden voyage, sinking in less than three hours with a loss of almost 1,500 men, women and children. How did this happen? Who perished? What happened to the survivors? This lecture will address all these questions and more!

Jerry McNeff worked for over forty years at Lockheed Martin and General Electric. In retirement, Jerry pursues his love of history and the personalities that shaped it. He has taught many courses at Widener’s Life Long Learning Institute and at other local retirement communities.

5. Friday, May 10- 2 p.m. —John Meicht
“William F Cody - aka Buffalo Bill”
Auditorium

Buffalo Bill Cody was one of the most famous and well-known figures of the American West. In a life that was part legend and part fabrication, William F. Cody came to embody the spirit of the “Old West.” He was America’s first media hero as well as the first international superstar.

John is a retired social studies teacher, having taught for 32 years in the Downingtown School District. Prior to graduating from West Chester University, he served three years in the U. S. Army. In the last nine years, he has been active with the Academy for Learning and Retirement at Widener University; lecturing at various retirement communities and cruise ships and also a docent for the Brandywine River Museum of Art.