



# Never Stop Learning

## Life Long Learning Classes at Freedom Village

We are proud to present the **Winter-Spring 2026** series of Life Long Learning classes brought to Freedom Village by instructors at 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. **There is a \$25 charge for the 5-week classes.**

There will also be lectures on the fourth Thursday or Friday of the month in the auditorium. **The lectures are free.**

# 1. American Songbook Masters: The Musical Legacy of Frank Sinatra

**Instructor: Bill Palmerio**

**Mondays from 1:30-2:30**

**January 5,12,19,26, February 2 - Learning Center**

**COST: \$25**

Frank Sinatra: Saloon singer, recording artist, movie actor, devoted father, social activist, unrepentant womanizer, and committed hedonist. It can also be argued that Sinatra's vast legacy of commercial recordings remains as perhaps the greatest single influence on the evolution of what is now commonly referred to as the "Great American Songbook". In this class we will examine the career of Frank Sinatra the musician, focusing on the evolution of Frank's musical style over a decades long career, and his close collaborations with the gifted songwriters, lyricists, musicians and arrangers who created the American Songbook canon. We will hear many of the great Sinatra standards, recorded during his glory years as a recording artist, focusing on his work with the Columbia, Capitol and Reprise record labels. The best albums from the vast Frank Sinatra discography reflect his carefully crafted vocal style and meticulous attention to the smallest of musical details. If you enjoy hearing the great American Songbook standards, sung by a uniquely talented vocalist, the back story of Frank Sinatra's long recording career is bound to enhance that enjoyment!

**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. The Supreme Court**

**Instructor: David Hudiak**

**Mondays from 1:30 -2:30**

**February. 9, 16, 23, - March 2, 9 - Learning Center**

**Cost: \$25**

The United States Supreme Court is one of the most significant but least understood branches of government. This course will explain how the Supreme Court works and how it has developed over the years. Every Chief Justice from John Jay to John Roberts will be discussed, and important Associate Justices will be profiled as well.

**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. The Modern Middle East.**

**Instructor: Jeff Heim**

**Mondays from 1:30-2:30 - Learning Center**

**March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13**

**Cost: \$25**

The goal of this course is to understand how the modern Middle East political map evolved. The Ottoman, Mameluke, Wahhabi, Zionist and colonial power stories are identified. The result is the emergence of a very muddled area in which there are few identifying markers for solidarity or unity.

**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



## 4. America – The Land of Immigrants Pt 2

**Instructor – Bob Collins**

**Mondays from 1:30-2:30**

**April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18**

**Learning Center**

**Cost: \$25**

The United States is often called The Land of Immigrants. Unless you are an American Indian, you are the descendant of someone who came to this country from somewhere else seeking a better life. This course will examine five

different groups of immigrants who migrated to America at various times. It will focus on who they were, where they came from, why they came here, where they settled, what they did, and will identify some outstanding reasons from each group. This is the second group of American Immigrants: You need not have attended the first class to enjoy this one.

**Bob** holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering from Villanova University.

He worked for 49 years as a Civil Engineer for several local engineering firms, specializing in soils testing, foundation investigations, reuse of municipal and industrial by-products in construction applications, construction inspection of building and public utility projects, and documentation of new and replacement storm drainage facilities.



## **Afternoon Lecture Series will continue – Thursdays or Fridays – at 2 p.m. in the Greg Walsh auditorium. No charge or sign up needed**

1. Tuesday, January 20 – 2 p.m.  
**“Andrew Lloyd Webber...”**  
**Patti Garver**

Andrew Lloyd Webber is one of the most successful Broadway composers in modern history. He has written the music for some of the world's best known musicals, including PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, EVITA, CATS, SUNSET BLVD, and many more. In one period in 2017, he had four musicals playing simultaneously on Broadway. In 2018, he released an autobiography, received a special tribute at the Tony Awards; and a live performance of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR was televised on Easter Sunday. And, he is still working on new musicals. So, come and learn about the life and enjoy the music of this extremely successful and well-loved composer, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber.

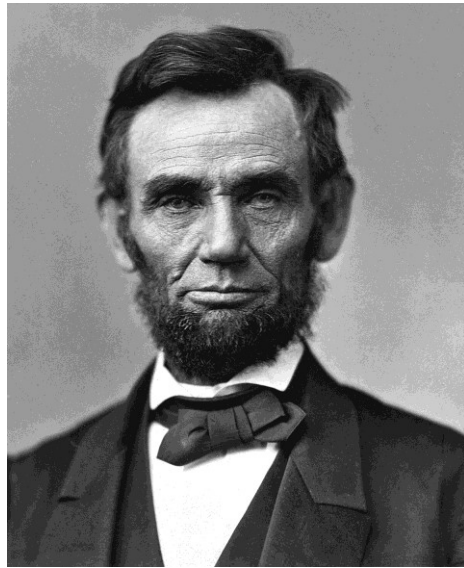
**Patti Garver Patti** is certified in clinical counseling, life coaching and music/sound healing. She has been an instructor for Life Long learning programs, Neumann University and the Community College of Philadelphia. She is a member of the resident chorus of the Philly Pops, the Media Chamber Chorale and the Healing Presence of Singers. She firmly believes in the healing power of music for body, mind and spirit.

2. Thursday, February 26, 2 p.m. –  
**“The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln”**  
**David Hudiak**

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln was one of the major events in American History, and one of its turning points. The story of the assassination unfolds like a great drama, with twists and turns and multiple instances where things could have

turned out differently. This lecture will tell the story of the assassination and its major figures.

**David Hudiak, Esq.** has extensive teaching experience, having taught numerous paralegal classes as well as seminars in law school admission test preparation. His love of presidential and American history comes through in all his talks. He has been listed in both Who's Who in American Law and Who's Who in American Education.



3. Friday, March 13, 2 p.m.

**“Ida Jones – American Folk Painter”  
Thea Horstink Searles**

Ida Jones, native of Chester County, was a folk artist who began painting at age 72 and completed over 300 works of art in less than 14 years. Ida's art is primitive, akin to Grandma Moses. She has been called the Grandma Moses of Chester County. Her grandson, Milton Jones Searles, spent his retirement years researching her story. His wife, Thea, has completed the journey and she will tell us about this remarkable woman

**Thea Horstink Searles**, is from Gelderland, the Netherlands. She met her future husband, Milton Jones Searles, from Ercildoun, PA by chance in the train station in Basel, Switzerland in 1971. Unbeknownst to them, my husband Rand and Ginny Moll happened to be passing through in Basel that same day and were stuck in a

traffic jam! Milton and Rand were best friends and colleagues. They were both language teachers in the Coatesville Area High School. Thea [Taya] and Milt were married in the Netherlands in 1973, after which Thea moved to the States. Sadly, Milton passed away in 2022. Since then, Thea has continued Milt's "work" to get his Grandmother Ida Ella Ruth Jones and her primitive/folk art more well-known in Chester County and beyond.

4. Friday, April 17, 2 p.m.

### **"Rachel Carson: Environmentalist"**

**Roberta McManus**

Many know Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* (1962) as the inspiration that led to the environmental movement and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Not as many know about her unconventional upbringing in Pennsylvania or her work at Johns Hopkins University and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service while supporting her family and writing bestsellers about ocean life. Join us to learn more about this fascinating woman who truly made a difference in how we viewed science and nature.

**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 is a lecturer at the Osher program through Widener university. She enjoys researching historical figures,, particularly women and especially ones with local Chester County connection



5. Friday, May 15, 2 p.m. TBD

## **American Revolution- Its Roots and Consequences – John Meicht**

**American Revolution** Discontent smoldering in the American colonies under British rule flared into open hostilities on April 19, 1775, on a stretch of country road outside of Boston. What brought these colonists to this world changing event? Find out how the British government miss handled, and miss judged this so call American rabble. Look at significant events that will forever alter history. See how strong-minded people will make critical decisions that will greatly influence the outcome of the war. What did it all mean for the British empire and for this new country that won its independence? Come and be engaged in this discussion of a cause-and-effect approach to the creation of our country.