



Never Stop Learning

Life Long Learning Classes at Freedom Village

We are proud to present the **Fall 2025** 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. **9/11-Never Forget-**

Instructors: Gerry Mello and Jerry McNeff

Mondays from 1:30-2:30

September 8, 15, 22, 29, October 6 - Learning Center

COST: \$25

The physical and symbolic void left by the destruction of the Twin Towers is especially etched in the minds and hearts of those who remember that fateful day, when for the first time in the history of the USA, our homeland was brutally attacked by the radical Islamic terrorist organization, al-Qaeda. In the aftermath of the tragic events on NY city's Twin Towers, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA, which led to over 3,000 casualties, our country has changed in many ways.

Please join us as we recall this calamitous event, explore its origin, and the many ways it has served as a turning point in our nation's history.

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 40 years and held mid and senior executive positions with three top Fortune 500 companies, a Fortune Global 100 company and a privately held family-owned company. He is also an Ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church. He began teaching Life Long Learning classes in the past few years, sharing his knowledge and interests.

Jerry McNeff spent his business career working for General Electric and Lockheed Martin. He has a BA in Mathematics from La Salle University and an MBA from Western New England University. He has a deep love of history and has taught numerous courses at Life Long Learning and various senior living facilities.



2. **Lessons of the Holocaust – Jewish Resistance**

Instructor: Roberta Matz

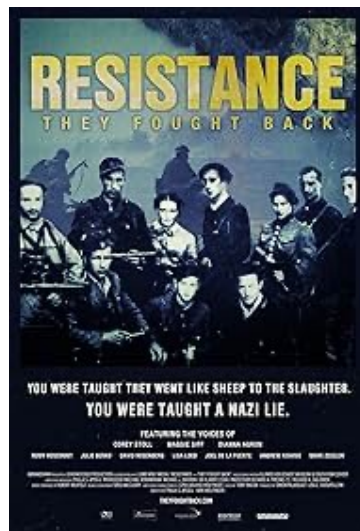
Mondays from 1:30 -2:30

October 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10 - Learning Center

Cost: \$25

European Jews **did** their best to resist the Nazi scourge- in ways that were mostly unknown. Resistance was not only armed and physical, but took many forms meant to preserve their heritage, dignity, and their lives. We will focus on the many activities in ghettos, concentration camps and with partisan groups as we uncover this little known aspect of the Holocaust.

Roberta Matz was a classroom teacher for 30 years, teaching French and Hebrew languages and Judaic studies in public and private schools. Roberta also worked for the Jewish Federations of Greater Philadelphia and Delaware, where she focused on Jewish Life and learning, community development and outreach. She loves preparing and teaching life long learning classes on many topics.



3. **America – The Land of Immigrants Part 1**

Instructor – Bob Collins

Mondays from 1:30-2:30

November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 15

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, starting with the Colonial period. 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. The first five groups are the British and Northwestern Europeans, the Scots-Irish, the Irish Catholics, the Germans, and the African Americans. A second group of American Immigrants will be presented in a separate course in the Spring of 2026.

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. In retirement, he has taken his love of history and music and created and taught life long learning classes on various topics. We welcome Bob to his first class at Freedom Village



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

1. Friday, September 26, 2 p.m. –
“Examining the Jewish Calendar- so many holidays...”

What holidays are on the Jewish calendar? – which are Biblical, which are historical? Why do they move all over the Gregorian calendar- what is a lunar calendar anyway? How does the Jewish community celebrate these days? Roberta will explain it all to us! (with treats)

Roberta Matz was a classroom teacher for 30 years, teaching French and Hebrew languages and Judaic studies in public and private schools. Roberta also worked for the Jewish Federations of Greater Philadelphia and Delaware, where she focused on Jewish Life and learning, community development and outreach. She loves preparing and teaching life long learning classes on many topics.



2. Thursday , October 23, 2 p.m. –

“Columbus – Hero or Villain”- John Meicht

When it comes to Christopher Columbus, most famous of the Age of Discovery explorers, it is hard to separate truth from myth and fact from legend. His voyages set into motion a global transformation; opening the door to further exploration and genocide of the Native American Indians. Come, find out how and why this happened.

John Meicht 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 retirement John has been active with the Life Long learning programs at Widener University and at various retirement communities He is also a docent for the Brandywine River Museum of Art.

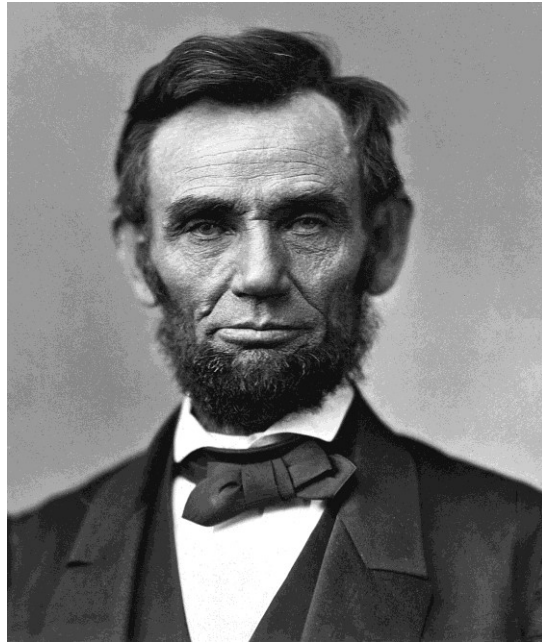


3. Friday, November 14, 2 p.m.

“Lincoln – the Man” – David Hudiak

Abraham Lincoln is well known as a War President, an eloquent speaker and a great moral leader. However, there was much more to Abraham Lincoln. This lecture will discuss his personality, his marriage, his children, his parents, his health and other fascinating aspects of his life. By studying these things we will get to know the real Abraham Lincoln.

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 and continues in retirement to teach at various life long learning programs . He has been listed in both Who's Who in American Law and Who's Who in American Education



4. Thursday, December 11, 2 pm.

“Jewish Songwriters and the Holiday Songbook” – Bill Palmerio

Music has always been integral to joyful holiday celebrations all over the world. How many precious memories of happy holiday times are triggered when we start hearing our favorite seasonal songs and carols - usually beginning the first day after Halloween! But did you know that many of our favorite Christmas tunes were written by Jewish songwriters? It is common knowledge that Irving Berlin and Mel Torme wrote “White Christmas” and “The Christmas Song” respectively. However, many other treasured holiday song standards were also written, or partially written, by established Jewish lyricists and composers. In this presentation we’ll take a closer look at the interesting back stories behind many of these holiday favorites, and hopefully

come away with a new appreciation of the creative range of the great Jewish songwriters!

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.

