



*Blue Ridge Center for*  
**Lifelong Learning**

www.BRCLL.com

828-694-1740

**March and April 2026**

**Volume 2026 Number 3**

Go [here](#) to register online.

To drop a class go [here](#).

Please note that while we welcome walk-ins with [exact fees/credit card](#) (pending late class cancellations and space availability) Online registrations can occur up to the day before the course.

**Modern Aircraft  
Carrier Operations\***

1 Session  
Wednesday  
March 4

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/Zoom**

Fee: \$30

**Course Code: 80403**



Step aboard the most powerful warships in the world and explore how modern U.S. aircraft carriers operate in today's complex global environment. Experience an insider's look at life aboard a nuclear aircraft carrier and how this city of over 5000 men and women operate. We'll cover everything from day-to-day operations and organization to

advanced technologies, evolving missions, and the carrier's place in modern warfare. No prior military background is needed—just curiosity and a sense of adventure.

**Kevin Albright** earned his Master's degree at Naval War College and undergraduate degree at US Naval Academy. He served in active duty of the military for 27 years, retiring in 2005. Earning CAPT/0-6 rank and designated naval aviator, he commanded an F-18 squadron and carrier air wing, and participated in numerous carrier operations and combat operations in Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan. He did joint staff tours and Pentagon assignments developing requirements for the Navy's F-35C aircraft. After the military, Kevin worked on aviation related projects for a DC area consulting firm for 9 years, followed by marketing a Norwegian-based company's anti-ship cruise missile to the US Navy and USAF. He retired from Kongsberg Defense & Aerospace at the end of 2023.

Click [here](#) for online registration or  
hold your camera over the QR code.



**Roman Time Capsules\***

2 Sessions  
 Wednesdays  
 March 11 & 18

**1 p.m. — 3 p.m.**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/Zoom**  
 Fee: \$40

**Course Code: 80529**



Imagine the impact of a huge, unexpected volcano eruption on everything in its pathway. Presenter James Brewer will take us back almost 2000 years ago to envision the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum both before and after the Vesuvius eruption. We will examine contemporary descriptions of the 2 cities on both the day of the eruption as well as its aftermath. You will learn about the accidental discoveries of the cities in the late 16th century, followed by their explorations beginning in the 18th century. We will trace the evolution of archaeological methods from haphazard treasure hunting to systematic scientific investigation. Through these lenses, we will uncover the rich daily lives of Romans in these unique "time capsules."

**James Brewer** received his doctorate and masters in classical archaeology from FSU and his BS in anthropology/cultural geography from LSU. James grew up near Poverty Point, LA, a UNESCO World Heritage site, giving rise to his curiosity about the world and how ancient cultures developed and continue to influence the world today.

**Geology of WNC\***

2 Sessions  
 Mondays  
 March 16 & 23

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/Zoom**

Fee: \$40

**Course Code: 80418**



In two 2-hour sessions we will take an overview of the geology of the Blue Ridge and Piedmont of western North Carolina. This exploration will show the remarkable history of continents colliding and separating, and the manner in which this geologic history is reflected in the natural beauty and landscape of the region, including our state and national parks. In addition, we will see how the rock and mineral resources have been used for diverse purposes including building roads, manufacturing silicon chips, and gold mining.

**Richard Wiener** is a lifelong geologist who received his BA in Geology from Colgate University and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He taught at the State University of New York at Oneonta for 2 years, worked at NY State Geological Survey for one year, and then in geological technical roles at ExxonMobil for 30 years. He retired to the Asheville area and has been teaching geology courses at OLLI at the UNC Asheville campus since 2012, including the Geology of North Carolina.

**One Hour Activist\***

2 Sessions  
Tuesdays  
March 17 & 24

10 a.m. — Noon  
BRCC - Room 239  
Sink Building/Zoom

Fee: \$40

Course Code: 80468



Being an effective advocate for the issues you care about does not need to be a full-time job and you don't need specialized training. By learning what you can bring to the issue and the most effective way to communicate with legislators, you can be a strong voice for your issue without committing your life to it. In this **One Hour Activist** course with Angela Taylor, you will learn:

- How to track and analyze legislation that affects your issue
- When to ask legislators to take action
- What conversations legislators want to have with constituents
- Your communication options and pointers to make your message stand out
- How to prepare for the opposition

We will not discuss politics or any particular issues; we will focus on the ways in which regular citizens like you can become effective advocates.

**Angela Taylor** was a consultant with Soapbox Consulting in Washington, DC for 22 years, working closely with grassroots advocates from all over the U.S. Her client portfolio included The American Heart Association, The American Psychological Association and The American College of Emergency Physicians.

**Body Disposition Options\***

1 Session  
Wednesday  
April 8

10 a.m. — Noon  
BRCC - Room 239  
Sink Building/Zoom

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 82340



Funerals today have come a long way since the time of our grandparents when the only option was direct burial into the church cemetery or family graveyard. While many of us have some experience of a loved one being buried or cremated, we now have more choices than just burial – options that are more environmentally friendly. And nothing is more environmentally friendly than a green burial.

**Late cancellation**

Michele Skeelee will help participants discover the options for body disposition currently in practice, and some that are still up and coming, to help with the very important task of planning ahead for our deaths. Planning for the inevitable is a tremendous gift to our families and communities.

**Michele Skeelee** has been involved with end-of-life care for over twenty years. She is a Home Funeral Guide with the Center for End-of-Life Transitions (CEOLT) in Asheville, helping families to care for loved

**When Music is History\***

1 Session  
Tuesday  
April 14

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/Zoom**

Fee: \$30

**Course Code: 80396**



Photo Credit: Rolling Stones Facebook



Photo Credit: thesongbook.org



Photo Credit: YouTube Official Video



Photo Credit: IMDb

Music and history are deeply intertwined. Historians can look to music to learn more about society and cultures. Music often reflects a regional or community's cultural identity, expressing shared values and beliefs. It can unite people with different backgrounds, fostering community and shared identity. Music has played a significant role in social movements and inspiring change. Slave spirituals, Civil Rights, Vietnam, Live Aid, Concert for the Carolinas are examples of music preserving stories and experiences that might otherwise be forgotten. Join us on a stroll down memory lane to explore history inspired by and reflected in their songs.

**Stacie Dotson**, a retired English teacher and history buff, has studied at Western Carolina University, NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, Pearl Harbor, and primary sites of WWII and the Holocaust. A National Board-Certified Teacher and a Holocaust education professional, she volunteers at the NC Council on the Holocaust and presents workshops about the Holocaust and World War II.

Stacie teaches literature through a historical lens because the humanities reflect the events of the day. Words, music and art often record the creator's impressions, thoughts and feelings on what is happening around them. From seemingly mundane daily routines to the cries of a generation, and everything in between, these creations become lessons from history.

**Revolutionary War Locally\***

1 Session  
Tuesday  
April 21

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/Zoom**

Fee: \$30

**Course Code: 80533**



A new SC license plate will read: *South Carolina -- Where the Revolutionary War Was Won*. If there was more space, it might read: *North and South Carolina -- Where the Revolutionary War Was Won*. And we could add Virginia for some southern solidarity.

The point is, the war really did "come of age" in the southern colonies - meaning that it went from "winnable," from the Crown's perspective, to "unwinnable . . . let's get out." Tell that to Boston tour guides and they have no clue at all "where the Revolutionary War was won."

Join Chumley Cope to examine the war in the South. It unfolded in distinct phases, raised heroes and antiheroes on both sides, and climaxed in two major Patriot victories, not 40 miles as the crow flies from Blue Ridge Community College. And there are heroines who saved the day, more than once or twice. Intrigue, murder, neighbor versus neighbor, dark hours, unlikely rallies, and an ending almost too happily bizarre to make up.

**Chumley Cope** is an explorer whose roots grow out of North Carolina and the Appalachian Mountains. His weekly "me-time smoothie" tastes of a drive down an unknown road, a new hiking trail under foot, or an opportunity to photograph that just-noticed dogwood branch catching the sun, both fuel and feed his discoveries to share. Much like his forebears marched in time to seasons and subtleties in this region, Chumley stakes a claim to the same. His questions and discoveries are fodder for his travel company, Explore Up Close, now in its 21st year.

**Japan Revealed\***

1 Session  
Wednesday  
April 22

**10 a.m. — Noon**  
**BRCC - Room 239**  
**Sink Building/Zoom**

Fee: \$30

**Course Code: 80595**



Come explore Japan, a land where ancient shrines stand beneath neon skylines and centuries-old traditions coexist with cutting-edge technology. From the bustling streets of Tokyo to the tranquil temples of Kyoto, Japan offers a rich tapestry of tradition, history and innovation in their ancient customs, daily life and modern wonders.

Whether you're planning a trip or simply curious about the culture, you'll gain valuable insights into

Japanese etiquette, language and everyday experiences. You'll learn about the lasting influence of the Edo or Samurai era, Japanese greetings and communication styles, business and corporate culture, family life, their education system, Japanese cuisine, places to visit and common cultural myths.

**Dave Tanenbaum** spent 14 remarkable years living and working in Japan, an experience he calls the most meaningful of his life. As Director of Employee Development for Marine Corps Community Services, he worked alongside Japanese colleagues and led cultural awareness workshops to help Americans better understand Japanese customs, values and communication styles. His most popular course, *How to Work with Your Japanese Counterparts*, helped bridge cultural gaps and build lasting connections.

Before moving abroad, Dave directed an Early Childhood Education Center in Washington state and taught workshops on grant writing and nonprofit leadership. Warm, engaging and grounded in real-world experience, he offers a unique perspective on Japan's fascinating cultures.

## NEW!! Online registration – try it – IT'S EASY!

Go to: <https://blueridge-register.fundfive.com/filtered/course/BRCLL> Gretchen

HOME / REGISTRATION  
CURRENT COURSE OFFERINGS

Blue Ridge has more to offer! [Click here to see all classes](#)

Click on the name of the course below for additional information about each course section.

Show 25 entries

Course Name	Location	Start Date	Start Time	Price	Seats Available
1962 Cuban Missile Crisis	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	03/18/2024	10:00 am	\$40.00	30
Berlin 1933	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	04/09/2024	10:00 am	\$30.00	30
Cracking the Singapore Code!	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	03/27/2024	10:00 am	\$30.00	30
Elevated Living	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	05/29/2024	01:00 pm	\$30.00	30
Fission & Fusion	Please see the address in the building information in the section details for this Henderson County Campus course.	04/22/2024	10:00 am	\$40.00	30

Click on class you want to see more information on/register for.

- Classes are listed alphabetically.
- Click on the START DATE header to view classes in date order or reverse.
- On payment page, for "signature", type your name.

### Attention Zoom class participants!

Only classes listing a Sink Building /Zoom location in newsletter are available to Zoom



- Enter [www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join) in your browser or install Zoom app.
- Select "join meeting"
- Enter meeting ID: 573 909 3090
- Enter meeting passcode: BRCLL
- Be sure to use/monitor the group chat



## Miscellaneous

### Mission

We are committed to nurturing intellects, inspiring imaginations, and expanding the horizons of adult lifelong learners.

### Vision

Through our educational and culturally diverse offerings and opportunities, we expand the minds and inspire the imaginations of our adult lifelong learning participants plus enhance the quality of life in our community.

### Values

We are inclusive. In all that BRCLL does, we create an atmosphere that is welcoming and open to all who want to benefit from and enjoy our programs and services.

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Blue Ridge Center for Lifelong Learning is committed to creating a sense of community, focusing on individual enrichment and growth, ensuring excellence and innovation to benefit our participants and enhance the quality of life in our community.

## Important Information

Office hours depend on many things including class schedules. In general, the office is open during class times. The office program specialist, Gretchen Koehler, can be reached at **828-694-1740** or by email ([g.koehler@blueridge.edu](mailto:g.koehler@blueridge.edu)). Messages may be left at any time and are returned as soon as possible.

If the College is closed for weather-related issues, all Lifelong Learning programs scheduled for that day are cancelled. If BRCC is on a delayed opening, please report to class at the scheduled time (i.e. 10:00 a.m. if scheduled or 1:00 p.m. for an afternoon class). Always check before arriving for any last minute changes. Closing information is sent via Blue Ridge Alert and broadcast on local radio and television stations. You can also call the College at **828-694-1700**.

Handicapped parking is available in front of the Sink Building.

Remember to bring a sweater if you tend to get cold as the temperatures in the rooms vary.

## Center for Lifelong Learning Board of Directors

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