



Blue Ridge Center for
Lifelong Learning

www.BRCLL.com

828-694-1740

May and June 2026

Volume 2026 Number 5

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.

Exploration of Lost Worlds*

2 Sessions
Wednesdays
May 6 & 13

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
BRCC - Room 239
Sink Building/Zoom

Fee: \$40

Course Code: 80712



Come learn about previously unknown to little-known cultures that precede ancient cultures you learned about in school. Archaeologist **James Brewer** will present diverse exploration sites including:

- *Gobekli Tepe*, monumental structures in Turkey that predate Stonehenge by 6000 years
- *Talianki*, a village in Ukraine, older than Mesopotamia
- *Harrapa* and *Mohenjo-duro* in Pakistan, known for advanced urban planning, sophisticated drainage and sanitation systems, and standardized architecture
- The *Watson Brake* mound complex in Louisiana, predating the pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge
- *Poverty Point* prehistoric earthworks (also in Louisiana), remnants of a significant trading hub and cultural center, showcasing the engineering and organizational skills of its builders.
- *Caral-Supe* in Peru reflecting complex urban planning, pyramids and advanced social organization 5000 years ago

You'll learn the mosaic of human history is more complex and interwoven than previously thought. These new discoveries are changing how we view the past and the interconnectedness of modern society.

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.

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



WWII Frank's Nightmare*

1 Session
Monday
May 11

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

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 81354



Former Athens, GA resident Lt. Eugene Cook was the pilot of "Frank's Nightmare," a jinxed B-17 Flying Fortress from the 91st Bomb Group. This plane was shot down on Cook's fifth mission - the famous August 1943 "Double Strike" on Schweinfurt and Regensburg, Germany. Following a harrowing experience landing, he spent almost two years in a German POW camp. Cook discovered after the war that he was the sole survivor of this ill-fated Flying Fortress.

Through an unbelievable coincidence, presenter Bill Cosgrove visited the crash site near Heimbach, Germany and solved a 70-year mystery for both Cook's family and the people of this small village in the Eifel Forest of western Germany.

Bill Cosgrove retired from the US-EPA following a 35-year career in Athens, GA where he served as an adjunct instructor at UGA. Bill has taught OLLI programs since 2013. His father served with the American Field Service in India/Burma, and his father-in-law was an artillery officer in Patton's 3rd Army. Most of Bill's ten field trips to the European Theatre of Operations have focused on the combat trail of WW2 veterans. He has volunteered with the *Witness to War* program and wrote *Time on Target: The 945th Field Artillery Battalion in World War II*. www.timeontarget.us

WWII Wooden Medical Wonders*

1 Session
Thursday
May 14

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

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 80398



Have you ever wondered where and how injured WWII service men and women were treated? We will focus on the design, construction, operation, and impact of behemoth wooden hospitals serving thousands of wartime patients and employed hundreds of civilian and military medical staff. Some of these 'temporary' frame structures, built to serve only 5 years, were used beyond the 1970's. Moore General Hospital in Swannanoa, NC was an example of these amazing war time facilities. WNC's resorts/hotels also treated our recuperating troops including the Biltmore, Grove Park Inn and Lake Lure Inn. And a little-known Army airfield near Fletcher, NC served as a medical transport site for incoming and outgoing patients visiting WNC's multiple war time medical, rest and recreation facilities.

Thomas Keating is a retired officer who served in the Army's Medical Service Corps, performing duties at large Army medical centers, mobile field hospitals, general hospitals and legacy wooden cantonment hospitals built during WW II. He experienced how these mammoth WW II hospitals, some holding 1000+ patients, dramatically changed the delivery of health services throughout post-war America. Keating is a retired civilian hospital administrator and served in large, academic medical centers.

Carolyn Keating is a former Army Nurse who served in a variety of clinical assignments including orthopedics, emergency medicine and women's health. She graduated from the Army Walter Reed Institute of Nursing.

Astrology—Let’s Have Fun

1 Session
Monday
May 18

1 p.m. — 3pm
BRCC - Room 239
Sink Building

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 81179



In an engaging manner, **Edwin Castro** will help participants gain insight into their personalities using astrological symbols. You will gain clarity on things you already know and could feel more in control.

We will cover:

- How astrology started: Western, Indian and other systems of astrology
- Astrology used today, referencing Wall Street, world leaders and health practitioners
- Astrology basics
- Transits, a predictive tool useful for discerning what is going on in your life today?
- What the future holds

Edwin Castro began studying astrology in 1968 while serving in the Air Force in West Germany. He founded the Astrology Club at the United Nations where he served for 17 years. Edwin has been teaching at UNC OLLI and Weaverville Community College. He has tutored both groups and individuals to a client base worldwide.

When Music is History*

1 Session
Tuesday
June 2

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

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 83489



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.

Canine Assistance Worldwide—Exciting New Roles for Dogs

1 Session
Monday
June 8

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

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 80406

We will cover both conventional uses of assistive canines -- service dogs, police dogs, therapy dogs and search and rescue canines -- AND emerging uses of canines, including seizure response dogs, court dogs, K-12 reading dogs, cancer detection canines, mobility partners and dogs used for autism and psychiatric support.

Join Tom and Carolyn Keating as they explore cultural differences throughout the world in terms of the acceptance of canine assistance, and why the use of assistance dogs has grown rapidly in many countries.

Thomas Keating supports the *Alliance of Therapy Dogs* organization which registers, trains and certifies therapy dog teams. Tom and Rocky, his therapy dog team member, a retired racing Greyhound, provided therapy dog visits throughout Henderson County until Rocky passed 2 years ago. Tom is now working with Rory, also a retired racing Greyhound, who enjoyed a successful track career and is being trained as a therapy dog.

Carolyn Keating has served as the WNC representative for *Second Chance Greyhounds* which coordinates dogs initial training by prison inmates at women’s penal institutions in Georgia. This program schedules basic obedience lessons for the Greyhounds while also providing a positive activity and career option for inmates. A long-standing supporter of retired Greyhounds, Carolyn advocates for these talented canine athletes who are gentle and graceful companions - 45 mph couch potatoes!

History of WNC Black Lives

1 Session
Monday
June 15

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

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 81830



The decades following the Civil War were rife with social, cultural, and economic change in Western North Carolina. Although Black Americans were legally freed from bondage, oppressive and discriminatory policies continued. Join local historian and 6th generation Western North Carolinian Katherine Calhoun Cutshall as she provides an overview of

the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras in Buncombe County covering topics including criminal justice, health and wellness, housing, economic development, and education.

Katherine Calhoun Cutshall is an “aggressively enthusiastic” historian and archivist with deep roots in Western North Carolina. She earned degrees in History (BA) and Liberal Studies (MLAS) at UNC Asheville.

Katherine has worked in museums, historic sites, and served on boards and commissions across the region since 2014 including the Gov. Zebulon B. Vance State Historic Site, The Asheville-Buncombe African American Heritage Commission, Swannanoa Valley Museum & History Center, The Joint Vance Monument Task Force, and the North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center. Her research primarily focuses on the WNC region before the Civil War.

WNC's Land Barons*

1 Session
Tuesday
June 23

10 a.m. — Noon
Room 239/ZOOM
Sink Building

Fee: \$30

Course Code: 80511



Owning land in WNC was a dubious prospect in the early days. After all, if resources abounded, how could one get them to market? And so the mountains were gradually settled by "mountain people," folks who weren't trying to get resources to market, folks in survival mode.

Things changed over time and moguls emerged: folks who saw value in large land holdings. We know about the famous WNC estate of Vanderbilt and his contemporaries from the 1880's . . . but who were Tench Coxe and Waightsell Avery, who acquired acreage by the tens of thousands in the 1780's? What about the railroad companies? The loggers? The federal government? The utilities (hello, Duke Energy)?

Join Chumley Cope to look at the story of large-scale land acquisition in WNC. We'll consider interesting cases of individuals who led the way, and corporations who made their mark. We'll evaluate the condition of those land holdings then and now.

Chumley Cope is an explorer whose roots grow out of NC 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.

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 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

To inspire curiosity, engagement and community among lifelong learners.

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). Messages may be left at any time and are returned as soon as possible.

As a reminder, BRCLL follows the inclement weather policy of Blue Ridge Community College. If the Community College is closed because of weather or another alert, BRCLL classes scheduled for that day will be canceled. If the campus is on a delayed scheduled. BRCLL classes will be held accordingly. Please don't expect individual communication from your specific class instructor/program.

Any decisions regarding college schedules for the weekend or the upcoming week will be communicated through Blue Ridge Alert notifications, the college website at www.blueridge.edu/alert social media, and local broadcasters. The Blue Ridge Alert website also includes a list of local broadcasters that share official college updates.

You may also sign up for text notifications following the guidance in the graphic below:



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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