

## Adventures in Learning - Friday, April 5, 2024

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **News and Views - Current Events - Get Involved with Kevin McFarland**

Kevin McFarland stays abreast of the news and asks for YOUR views. Discussions cover everything from City Council issues to national politics; an exchange of ideas & viewpoints. Comments welcomed.

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **A Look at the History of Kansas National Guard with Ed Gerhardt**

This presentation will include the history of the Kansas Militia and Kansas National Guard as displayed in the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. The period covered is from the Civil War until the current Global War on Terrorism.

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **"Beecher Bibles, Brothers and Sisters" with Bill Stumpf - In Person and via Zoom**

Come hear the stories about Beecher Bibles, aka Sharps Rifles, and the Beecher family including Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Bill Stumpf will share about the many Kansas connections with the Beecher Bible, Rifle Church and Kansas Immigrants.

**10:00 Break - Refreshments provided by Tanglewood Health and Rehab**

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **Writing Children's Books on Grown-up Topics with Rosie Williams, Author**

Meet Rosie, the talented author behind the popular books "Repurposed Faith," and "Nine Pairs of Boots in Vietnam." In 2021, she launched her heartfelt children's book "The Little Jeep Who Couldn't Beep" Vol 1 of the Sgt. Willie series. In January 2024, Rosie released Vol 2. titled "Pink Bows and Yellow Ribbons." Join Rosie as she shares her motivation and passion behind her writing. You may even hear about a miracle or two!

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **History of The Topeka Parks Department with Bill Riphahn**

An historical look at the birth, and development of the Topeka Park System. This slide presentation has many old photos, some over one hundred years old, of various parks interwoven with humorous park stories.

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **My Journey of Faith with Rev. Ever V. Mudambanuki, Lowman UMC — In Person & via Zoom**

Pastor Ever will share about her native country, Zimbabwe, and her spiritual formation from her late father and mom, who formed her into who she is today. She will share her venture as a new convert in her home church, Chitakatira UMC, and how she became a local Pastor at a large Mutambara Mission School. She will share her journey of faith, college, marriage, miracles, and how she came to the United States of America.

## Adventures in Learning - Friday, April 12, 2024

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **News and Views - Current Events - Jim Brewer Moderating**

Kevin McFarland stays abreast of the news and asks for YOUR views. Discussions cover everything from City Council issues to national politics; an exchange of ideas & viewpoints. Comments welcomed.

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **Learning from the Past with Brittany J. Keegan, Curator of Exhibitions, TSCPL Alice C. Sabatini Gallery**

Brittany Keegan will discuss how the two exhibits currently at the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery – Sorting Out Race: Examining racial identity & stereotypes in thrift store donations and Our Stories: African American Topeka Before and After Brown - use historical artifacts to explore connections between the past and present.

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **The History of Topeka First United Methodist Church with Larry Wills - In Person and via Zoom**

Do you know that First United Methodist Church is the oldest congregation in Topeka and was built on a fort? Larry Wills will discuss the 169 years of the rich history of the First United Methodist Church that has been preserved in photos and documents.

**10:00 Break - Refreshments provided by Brewster Place**

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **All God's Creatures with Pastor Jeff Potter**

Animals are an essential part of our everyday lives in so many ways ranging from food, to labor and innovation, to deep companionship. But how does all of this intersect with our Christian faith? Come be a part of an introductory exploration into the vast and often overlooked world of how our relationships with animals and with God are interwoven.

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **A Proven Experiment: The Shepherd's Center Story with Rusty Ryan**

Dr. Rusty Ryan has compiled and published a legacy book with the purpose of serving future older adult generations across the U.S. The book documents the unique Shepherd's Center By, With, And For Older Adults model with a team of writers who helped to shape its history.

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **Vintage Baseball with Ben Coates - In Person and via Zoom**

The Western Base Ball Club plays per rules of the National Association of Base Ball Players from the early 1860's. Ben Coates will share his experiences with this vintage game.

## Adventures in Learning - Friday, April 19, 2024

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **News and Views - Current Events - Get Involved with Kevin McFarland**

Kevin McFarland stays abreast of the news and asks for YOUR views. Discussions cover everything from City Council issues to national politics; an exchange of ideas & viewpoints. Comments welcomed.

**9:00 - 9:50 am Services, Resources & Opportunities at Washburn Tech Business & Industry Center with Mark Stock**

The Washburn Tech Business & Industry Center provides services, resources and learning opportunities to business partners and the general public via customized training, apprenticeships, and continuing education opportunities.

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **The Red Brick Buildings on SBA Hill: A Retrospective with Paul Post - In Person and via Zoom**

Martin's Hill, SBA Hill, Menninger Hill: These are the names by which the prominence west of Topeka has been called over the last 150 years. Overlooking, as it does, the Kansas River Valley, just to the north, and in the distance to the south, the Wakarusa Valley, this geographical landmark has maintained a close nexus to Topeka since shortly after the founding of our city. Its connection to the Topeka community continues to this day.

**10:00 Break - Refreshments provided by CedarHurst of Topeka**

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **The Ugly Truth About Falls with Kathy Selig**

Each year 3 million older adults are treated in the emergency room for injuries related to falls and it is the number one reason older adults come into Stormont Vail with injuries. It is a myth that poor balance is a "natural" result of aging. There are many interventions that can reduce your risk of falls. We will discuss home safety, realistic goals and offer exercises to begin to address improving your balance strategies and making you safer in your community.

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **"Murals+, in Topeka" with Andy Valdivia**

Andy will share his series of images - people, places, and events that share personal and community histories, **field trip to follow.**

**10:40 - 11:30 am Gravitational Waves: A New Window on the Universe with Dr. Karen Camarda In Person & Zoom**

Predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity 1916, gravitational waves were first detected directly in September of 2015. These waves, which we measure as tiny deviations in the gravitational force, are produced by distant violent events such as the collision of two black holes. In my presentation, I will talk about what gravitational waves are, how they are detected, what we can learn from them, and their contribution to "multi-messenger astronomy."

## Adventures in Learning - Friday, April 26, 2024

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **News and Views - Current Events - Get Involved with Kevin McFarland**

Kevin McFarland stays abreast of the news and asks for YOUR views. Discussions cover everything from City Council issues to national politics; an exchange of ideas & viewpoints. Comments welcomed.

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **Topeka Literacy Council "Each One Teach One" with Kathy Diehl Board Member and Tutor**

Kathy will discuss the importance of the Topeka Literacy Council, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers who provide free and confidential one-to-one tutoring to adults, both native and non-native English speakers who want to improve their literacy skills in order to improve their economic standing and raise their self-esteem. The council also serves individuals who want to learn English as a second language.

**9:00 - 9:50 am**

### **Forgotten Stories that Form Topeka's Heritage with Don Chubb In person and via Zoom**

A popular notion in the 19th century was that the Baptists and Congregationalists accompanied the first settlers. The Episcopalians came later and took the train. In Topeka the story is different. The Episcopalians were present at Topeka's founding, and they built the train. The roots of the church in Topeka entwine some of the city's earliest critical institutions, including the first girl's school and its first charity hospital. Topeka native Don Chubb, businessman, longtime church deacon and local historian, paints stories behind how Episcopal churches and institutions, through times of boom and of destruction, contributed to the growth and vitality of the capital city.

**10:00 Break - Refreshments provided by Midland Care**

**10:40 - 11:30 am**

### **Adventures in Music with Randy Wills — In Person and via Zoom**

Join us to uncover the captivating story of Randy Wills, the co-founder of the iconic band The Exceptions, which was established in 1966. With decades of experience leading a highly acclaimed pop/variety band in the Midwest, Wills has not only crafted his own musical legacy but has also been instrumental in fostering budding artists. Randy will share his remarkable evolution as a musician

**Please Register for Adventures in Learning before Friday, March 22 to avoid a \$5 late fee.**