



PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning



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Welcome to PILLAR Institute, the Pikes Peak region's only institute for lifelong learning for the past 26 years!

PILLAR is a dynamic hub for curious minds seeking intellectual growth and meaningful community connections. Through an array of engaging programs, thought-provoking lectures, and enriching activities, PILLAR fosters a culture of continuous learning for adults of all ages. Our mission is to inspire lifelong learners by providing opportunities to explore diverse topics, cultivate critical thinking, and connect with others who share a passion for discovery.

**Lifelong Learning Opportunities for
September to December 2025**

Class Locations

PILLAR: 6385 Corporate Dr. In the New Altitude building. Park in the north parking lot to access the 2nd floor.

ZOOM: A link will be sent with your confirmation email.

AR: Aberdeen Ridge, 2744 Grand Vista Circle

IGP: Inn at Garden Plaza, 2520 International Circle

NG: Natural Grocers, 7298 N. Academy Blvd.

SC: Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave.

PILLAR Partners



ABERDEEN RIDGE®
A PMMA Community



Colorado Springs
Senior Center



**THE INN AT
GARDEN PLAZA**
A CENTURY PARK COMMUNITY

Wednesday Mah Jongg

Every Wednesday morning, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, PILLAR plays Mah Jongg in the New Altitude lobby.

PILLAR Member-FREE Not-Yet-Member-\$2.00 per week

#3000 Taste of PILLAR ~ Three Mini PILLAR Classes Thursday, September 4, 10:00am - 12:00pm

A life-changing event ~ Dr. Dick Fairley

It is often said that life-changing events are not recognized as such until later in life, if ever.

The Search for General Ben F. Butler: “Civil War Hero:” or “The Beast” ~ Bill Wright

Butler was one of Lincoln's political generals, hated by the South for his actions in New Orleans.

Poetry for the Common Man: Doggerel and Plain Language Poems ~ Sandy Halby

Call it verse, doggerel, or poetry for the common man, these poems are everyday poetry.

PILLAR Member and Not-Yet-Member—FREE

#3002 Walking Tour: Culturally Modified Tree Tour
Monday, September 8, 1:00pm - 3:00pm (note day and time)

This walking tour would include viewing and learning about Native American Culturally Modified Trees and their uses, meanings, etc. **Max: 15**

Location: Fox Run Park. 15926 Roller Coaster Road. Meet at the parking lot/trailhead on Rollercoaster Road, just south of Baptist Rd.

Heidi Wigand-Nicely: BA in Elementary Education. She has volunteered for the Native American Sacred Trees and Places, learning from Ute elders (and others) regarding the culture, sacred places, and spirituality. Heidi is the Tree Tour Leader for NASTaP and has just published her second book, *Energy at Sacred Sites*, which has a chapter on Culturally Modified Trees.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3003 Zoom Enos Mills and Rocky Mountain National Park
Tuesday, September 9, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Enos Mills was a naturalist and author who made famous Rocky Mountain National Park.

Location: Zoom. You will receive a Zoom link in the confirmation email.

Katherine Scott Sturdevant: BA, MA, PhD Candidate in History. She is now Emerita Professor of History, Pikes Peak State College. Kathy started teaching with PILLAR when PPSC first offered lifelong learning classes, c. 2000.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3005 Moses and the Exodus

Wednesday, September 10, 10:00am - 12:00pm

About 400 years after Joseph saved Egypt from famine, a baby called Moses was born to a Hebrew family in the midst of enslavement by the Egyptians and a decree by the Pharaoh to kill all the baby boy Hebrews. We will learn about the early life of Moses, the Burning Bush, the Ten Plagues brought upon Egypt, and the parted Red Sea to Mt. Sinai where the Ten Commandments were.

Jamie Foster: BA in Geology from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Jamie has been a primary and secondary school teacher and has developed and taught several church-related courses.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3006 Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star**Wednesday, September 10, 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Let's take a closer look at stars, those fascinating objects that are sometimes regarded as mundane and ordinary.

Sandy Halby: BS in Mathematics from the University of Alaska. She is a military veteran and retired from the federal government as a civil servant. Currently, she is president of a local Mensa group.

PILLAR Member-FREE**Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00****#3007 IGP: I Am Lucky To Be Here: A Holocaust Story****Thursday, September 11, 10:00am - 11:30am**

In this presentation, I will discuss the remarkable survival stories of my mother's family from Nazi persecution.

Location: Inn at Garden Plaza, 2520 International Circle.

Peter Knepell: PhD in Applied Mathematics at Cornell University and BS in Mathematics at the United States Air Force Academy.

PILLAR Member-FREE**Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00****#3010 The Great Depression of the 1930's****Tuesday, September 16, 10:00am - 12:00pm**

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in the worst economic and social crises in U.S. history. This presentation will explore the 1929 stock market crash, the worst period of 1929 to 1932, and the New Deal.

Dr. Dick Fairley: PhD in Computer Science and Systems Engineering from UCLA. He worked as an engineer, university professor, consultant, and as a jazz disk jockey at KRCC.

PILLAR Member-FREE**Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00****#3011 Music, Mood, and a Memoir****Tuesday, September 16, 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

What's really happening when music you love crawls inside your head? This presentation explores how our dominant behavior patterns actually choose the music we're drawn to, and its impact on our state of mind, body cells, and spirit.

Molly Lord: Molly is the author of *Holy Dirt*, a memoir about her Camino de Santiago pilgrimage experience, and how the theory of "music and mind" helped shape her experience.

PILLAR Member-FREE**Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00**

SC: Finding Life's Purpose

Wednesday, September 17, 10:00am - 12:00pm

When we were younger, we often defined our life's purpose by our work or our families. This presentation will provide you with insights on how to define your life's purpose as you age.

Location: Senior Center, 1514 North Hancock Ave.

Kent Mathews: MSW from Arizona State University and a BSED from Concordia Teachers College.

Cost: \$10 - Must register through the Senior Center: https://operations.daxko.com/Online/3115/ProgramsV2/Search.mvc?location_ids=B935&keywords=pillar

#3013 and #3018 A Discussion on Social/Governmental Problems, Parts I and II

Wednesdays, September 17 and 24, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

This will be a discussion of our social/governmental problems and some new alternatives we might want to consider.

Daryl Kuiper: MA in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3014 Walking Tour: *Tesla's Walk: An Invitation to Nikola Tesla's Colorado Springs*

Thursday, September 18, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Let's spend a couple of hours in 1899 Colorado Springs as we discuss the goings-on of inventor and futurist Nikola Tesla while he lived and worked downtown and just outside of the (then) city limits at his Experimental Station firing 50 million volts into the atmosphere. We will discuss Tesla's timeline before and after his trip to Colorado Springs, his intentions while here, and his own Colorado Springs Notes 1899-1900. **Max: 15**

Location: The walking tour will start at the Penrose Library lobby. 20 N. Cascade Ave. Park in the library parking lot. The tour will end with coffee or lunch at La Baguette.

Jimmy Sena spent five years digging through the archives at the Pioneers Museum and Colorado College and reading PPLD's old *Evening Telegraph* articles, as well as Tesla's own journal and notes to write *Tesla's Walk*.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

**#3015 Beginning Mah Jongg Lessons: Two Extended Lessons
Sundays, September 21 and 28, 1:00pm - 5:00pm (note days)**

Learn Mah Jongg using the National Mah Jongg League rules. The 2025 card can be purchased for \$14. **Max: 12**
Sandy Halby: BS in Mathematics from the University of Alaska. She is a military veteran and retired from the federal government as a civil servant. She is president of a local Mensa group and plays in Mah Jongg tournaments around the country.
PILLAR Member-FREE Not-Yet-Member-\$100.00

#3016 Division among Muslims: The Early Centuries of Islam

Tuesday, September 23, 10:00am - 12:00pm

The Islamic community suffered civil war thirty years after the death of the Prophet. It has not constituted a single political entity since the defeat of the Umayyad Caliphate about 750 CE. How did differences about theology, history, law, and politics emerge? How do they affect the modern Muslim world?

Dr. Bob Lee: PhD in Political Science from Columbia University, MA in journalism from Columbia, and a BA in history from Carleton College.

PILLAR Member-FREE Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3017 Isolationism: 1800 to 1941

Wednesday, September 24, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Isolationism is a movement that occurs when a group of citizens or a national government wants to avoid entanglement in or confrontation with the cultural, economic, military, and/or political affairs of other nations. We will present the history of isolationism, starting with George Washington's Farewell Address in 1796, then the 1800s, the early 1900s, World War I, and during the 1930s, which ended on December 7, 1941.

Dr. Dick Fairley: PhD in Computer Science and Systems Engineering from UCLA. He worked as an engineer, university professor, consultant, and as a jazz disk jockey at KRCC.

William (Bill) Wright: MSA in Management Engineering from George Washington University and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech. Bill has thirty-seven years of federal service as an engineer for the US Navy and a VA Hospital Administrator.

PILLAR Member-FREE Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3019 The Ben-Hur Saga

Thursday, September 25, 10:00am - 12:00pm

This is an overview of this grand story *Ben Hur*. We will discuss the author (General Lew Wallace), Broadway play, clips from the 1925 silent movie, 1959 Heston movie, and 2016 remake. We will see dozens of artifacts, merchandise, posters, an original novel-1880 edition, a chariot race diorama, Roman soldiers' boots from the 1959 movie, and much more from the speaker's collection.

Ken Valles: Ken has investigated this remarkable span of events for over a decade.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3020 Friday Foodies at Marigolds Café and Bakery

Friday, September 26, 12:00pm

Must pre-register with PILLAR. No walk-ins. We will be going Dutch. Max. 10

#3008 Walking Tour: Weber-Wahsatch Historic District

Tuesday, September 30, 10:00am - 11:30pm

The Weber - Wahsatch historic district was listed in the National Register in 1985. It is significant as the best intact middle-class historic neighborhood in Colorado Springs. Although generally Late Victorian in character, it charts the changes of popular housing tastes, as well as the accommodation of autos. This tour begins at the district's southern end and contains the oldest buildings. Properties were built from the early 1880s to 1907, and thus reflect the Cripple Creek affluence. **Max: 15**

Location: Meet at 219 E. St. Vrain.

Tim Scanlon: Master of Regional and City Planning from University of Oklahoma and BA in History from University of Tulsa. He spent twenty-five years as a Senior Planner in the Colorado Springs Comprehensive Planning Division.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3022 Rocky Mountain Women's Film in the Community - (film to be announced later)

Wednesday, October 1, 10:00am - 11:30am

PILLAR Member and Not-Yet-Member—FREE

#3023 and #3028 Ballots: How Candidates and Issues Get There, Parts I and II

Wednesdays, October 1 and 8, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

What is the process of getting candidates and issues listed on the ballot?

Daryl Kuiper: MA in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska and a BA in Mathematics from the University of Colorado.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3024 Castle Tour: Glen Eyrie Castle

Thursday, October 2, 10:00am - 11:30am

Join us as we tour Glen Eyrie Castle with our very own PILLAR instructor, Jim Furfari. **Max: 15**

Location: Glen Eyrie, 3820 N. 30th St. Meet at the tour room in the carriage house. The front gate will direct you there.

Jim Furfari: BS in Electrical Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy. He has been a tour guide at Glen Eyrie Castle since 1994.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3025 Zoom class: Pocahontas Really? What We Know, What We Want, and What It Means

Tuesday, October 7, 10:00am - 12:00pm

From John Smith's legendary reports, to Disney's animated romance, to Michelle Kwan's beautiful Olympic skating routine, Pocahontas (aka Matoaka) has survived centuries of interpretations, with varying degrees of accuracy. She certainly performed many "firsts": a Native baptised Christian, marrying an Englishman, visiting the King of England, and being buried in England.

Location: Zoom. You will receive a Zoom link in the confirmation email.

Katherine Scott Sturdevant: BA, MA, and PhD Candidate in History. She is the former Chair of Social Sciences, Chair of History; now Emerita Professor of History, Pikes Peak State College. Kathy started teaching with PILLAR when PPSC first offered lifelong learning classes, c. 2000. She is a historical editor and author for several scholarly publications.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3026 M&M: Medicare and Medicaid Explained

Tuesday, October 7, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Confused about the difference between Medicare and Medicaid? Rabea Taylor will explain the difference between the two and how you sign up or qualify. This course will cover the different Medicare options and supplemental insurance and also dive into what is and is not covered when it comes to long-term care, such as in-home care, assisted living, and nursing home care.

Remember, Medicare enrollment is coming up.

Rabea Taylor: JD from University of Denver Sturm College of Law and University of Tübingen in Germany.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3027 The Federal Reserve: The Reality vs. the Myth

Wednesday, October 8, 10:00am - 12:00pm

This session will focus on the Federal Reserve, the Central Bank of the United States, and its effects on the US economy and on our wallets. We will examine the tools the Federal Reserve uses to try to achieve its dual mandate of maximum employment and stable prices. We will consider what constitutes maximum employment and stable prices.

Dr. Neal Rappaport: PhD in Economics at MIT and an MBA in Finance from University of Chicago.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3029 Zoom class: An Introduction to Stoic Philosophy: Reading Epictetus

Thursday, October 9, 10:00am - 12:00pm

This class provides participants an opportunity to read a highly influential early Stoic philosopher, Epictetus. Born a slave with a bad leg, he gained his freedom and became one of the most famous philosophers in Rome in the 1st and 2nd centuries. This will be a *Great Books* method class, where the students will read the short book first and then the instructor will entertain questions from the book. Here is the link to *The Enchiridion* by Epictetus:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/45109/45109-h/45109-h.htm>

Location: Zoom. You will receive a Zoom link in the confirmation email.

Martin Cook: PhD and MA in Philosophy and Religion from the University of Chicago. Dr. Cook has taught comparative religion at the US Air Force Academy and at Ashesi U. in Ghana.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

**#3030 Tickling the Dragon's Tail: A Layman's Overview of U.S. Nuclear Weapons History, Strategies, and Current State
Tuesday, October 14, 10:00am - 12:00pm**

This presentation will provide an unclassified review of nuclear weapons development and their use, deployment, proliferation, and anti-proliferation and reduction treaties. We will look at the strategy evolution from WWII on and challenges in current strategy and maintenance of the arsenal.

Thom Rogers: Certificate in Advanced Computer Studies from University College, University of Denver and AS in Telecommunications Technology from Napa Valley College.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

**#3031 From *Erasure* to *James*: Reading Percival Everett
Tuesday, October 14, 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

The book *James* was the winner of the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Percival Everett's reimagining of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is told from the perspective of the enslaved Jim. But who is Percival Everett and what does his work say about race and identity in America? Focusing on two of Everett's most notable novels, this session invites readers to take a closer look at the author and his unique contributions to contemporary American fiction.

Durthy A. Washington: M.A., M.S., a former English professor, is the founder of LitUnlocked LLC and author of *Culturally Responsive Reading: Teaching Literature for Social Justice*.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3032 Space Domain Awareness

Wednesday, October 15, 10:00am - 12:00pm

There are tens of thousands of satellites and other objects orbiting the Earth, and more being launched all the time. Space Domain Awareness (SDA) is the process of identifying, tracking, and understanding objects and activities in space. This class presents an overview of the Space Domain Awareness problem, what's in orbit, how do we keep track of it all, and how do we predict, identify, understand, and respond to events in space?

Edward Brown: MS in Mathematics and Statistics from University of Houston Clear Lake. Ed has satellite operations and astrodynamics experience. Ed is a UCCS Instructor teaching Fundamentals of Astronautics and Space Mission Design.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3033 Get Informed and Vote the Issues

Wednesday, October 15, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Come ready to learn about the November issues we will vote on.

Daryl Kuiper: MA in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3034 **Tour: Water Resource Recovery Facility**

Thursday, October 16, 10:00am - 12:00pm

The J.D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility began operating in 2007 to help manage growth in the north and northeast parts of the city. It can treat 20 million gallons of wastewater per day. **Max: 20**

“Appropriate dress, which includes long pants (no dresses or skirts), closed-toed walking shoes, and clothing/accessories for expected weather, is mandatory for all tours. This tour may include loud noises and may include heights.”

Location: J.D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility, 4205 Mark Dabbling Blvd.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3036 Genesis in the Culture Wars

Wednesday, October 22, 10:00am - 12:00pm

We will examine how the stories from the first book of the Bible influence contemporary debates over sexuality, capital punishment, and war in the Mideast.

David Weddle: PhD in Religious Studies from Harvard University and a BA in Philosophy from Hope College. David is Professor Emeritus of Religion at Colorado College. He is the author of *Miracles: Wonder and Meaning in World Religions* and *Sacrifice in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3037 and #3042 Why Do We Vote? Part I and II

Wednesdays, October 22 and 29, 1:00 - 2:30pm

In this class, we will discuss types of voting, voting machines, in-person voting, importance of voting, responsibility for voting, what can be done to improve voting procedures and security, and the advent of RCV (Ranked Choice Voting) will be discussed.

Daryl Kuiper: MA in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3040 NG: Hacks for Healthy Blood Sugar Balance

Tuesday, October 28, 10:00am -11:00am

In this class, you'll discover simple and effective strategies that can have a profound impact on your blood sugar response to the foods you eat, with no drastic lifestyle overhaul required.

Location: Natural Grocers, 7298 N. Academy Blvd.

Dawn Franz: BS in Nutritional Science from the University of Arizona. She has been a Nutritional Health Coach for Natural Grocers since 2005.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

Have you ever thought about putting PILLAR in your will or trust?

Did you know you can give your RMD through a QCD and not pay tax, as the donation goes directly to PILLAR from your financial institution?

*There are many ways in which you can support PILLAR for the future! **Questions? Ask Vickie or attend #3052 Giving With a Purpose.***

#3044 Friday Foodies at La Baguette French Bistro

Friday, October 31, 12:00pm

Must pre-register with PILLAR. No walk-ins. We will be going Dutch. **Max: 10**

Location: 4440 N. Chestnut St.

#3045 U.S. Civil-Military Relations during the Two Trump Administrations

Tuesday, November 4, 10:00am - 12:00pm

This presentation will examine the origins of civilian control over the military beginning with the Constitution and the separation of powers. Over its history, the U.S. military has focused primarily on the defense of the country and has not been a political institution.

Dr. Bill Berry: PhD in International Relations with a focus on East Asian Politics from Cornell University

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3046 Free Exercise of Religion

Tuesday, November 4, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Can parents, on behalf of their children, opt-out of school English classes that read books about same-sex marriage, LGBTQ+ issues, or similar topics, on the grounds that having their children read such books violates their “Free Exercise of Religion” rights to control their children’s religious up-bringing? In *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, the Supreme Court says “Yes.”

Eric Hall: JD at Notre Dame. He represents religious institutions and schools in all legal matters with an emphasis on First Amendment litigation.

Judge Richard Hall: JD in Law from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a Judge for forty-six years in the municipal, county, and district courts.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3047 IGP: Captain Jack (Nicaagat) and the Meeker Massacre

Wednesday, November 5, 10:00am -11:30am

Ute Warrior Chief Captain Jack was also known by his Ute name (Nicaagat). He was involved in the conflict with the U.S. Cavalry, that resulted in the Meeker Massacre.

Steven Antonuccio: MLS from Emporia State.

Location: Inn at Garden Plaza, 2520 International Circle.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3048 The Race to Find the Source of The Nile

Thursday, November 6, 10:00am -12:00pm

Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and Europeans had searched for the source of the Nile River for two thousand years. Among the barriers to their success were the varied and rugged terrain, the climate, diseases, hostile nations, and primitive means of transportation. Compounding those problems was the fact that there are two Nile Rivers, the White and the Blue.

Julia Hargrove: MA in American History from the University of Texas at Austin; BA with a double major in History and English from WSC (now WSCU) in Gunnison, Colorado.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3050 The Swing Era

Tuesday, November 11, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Swing music was popular during the 1930s and World War II (1941-1945). In this presentation, we will trace the beginnings of the swing era in the 1920s, swing's popularity in 1930-1945, and the decline in popularity after WWII.

Dr. Dick Fairley: PhD in Computer Science and Systems Engineering from UCLA. He worked as an engineer, university professor, consultant, and as a jazz disk jockey at KRCC.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3051 An Audience with Georgia O'Keeffe: Letters, Paintings and Photographs (Portrayed by Audrey McGuire)

Tuesday, November 11, 1:00 - 2:30pm

"I am Georgia O'Keeffe. I've always known what I wanted. When I was small, I played alone for hours and hours. I do things other people don't do." Hear the story of one of America's most famous artists portrayed by Audrey McGuire.

Audrey McGuire has been a teacher, elementary school counselor for Harrison District 2, and served as a Docent President at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3052 Giving with Purpose: Philanthropy

Wednesday, November 12, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Explore the benefits of charitable giving and how to align your philanthropic efforts with your values, goals, and legacy. This engaging session offers practical strategies from donor-advised funds to mission statements to help you give with clarity and impact. If you wanted to know what QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions) is, this is your class.

Herman Tiemens: A CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ with an MBA from London Business School, Herman currently serves as the senior advisor with Purple Mountain Group at Morgan Stanley. He is a Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisor (2021–2023), and has extensive experience in wealth planning, philanthropy, and legacy strategies.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3053 Israel and Iran's Twelve-Day War: A First-Hand Experience

Thursday, November 13, 10:00am - 12:00pm

What is it like to be in Israel during a war? The presenter was attending a course on the "Holocaust and Antisemitism" in Jerusalem when Israel preemptively struck Iran's nuclear infrastructure, aided by the US Air Force, which left him unable to leave Israel until the war ended. The focus of the presentation is on the circumstances leading to the June 2025 Twelve-Day War, the war's outcome, and what future outcomes lie in store for the greater Middle East region.

Dr. Brent Talbot: PhD in International and Comparative Politics from the University of Denver. Brent is a Professor of Military and Strategic Studies at the Air Force Academy.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

PILLAR's Mission: To provide lifelong learning opportunities for adults in the Pikes Peak region.

PILLAR's Vision: To be an institute of excellence in lifelong learning.

#3055 Zoom class: Writing Up the Family Tree

Tuesday, November 18, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Writing up the family tree is the sure way to organize your vast collection of family information and preserve that information in a way that is accessible for future generations. What story do you want to tell? Who is your audience? What is your deadline? What form is your story going to take? Once you've made those decisions, you are on the way to preserving your family history.

Location: Zoom. You will receive a Zoom link in the confirmation email.

Carol Cooke Darrow: BA in English and History from the University of Texas at Austin. Carol is a professional genealogist and the author of *The Genealogist's Guide to Researching Tax Records*.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

**#3056 Annual PILLAR Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

PILLAR
INSTITUTE
LEARNING FOR THE FUN OF IT

#3057 The World of Gemstones**Wednesday, November 19, 10:00am - 12:00pm**

Gemstones are made naturally and by man. Some gemstones come in virtually every color of the rainbow, and some occur in very limited colors. Some are quite valuable, others not so much.

Jamie Foster: BA in Geology from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

PILLAR Member-FREE**Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00****#3058 The Artist's Palette: The Rare, the Precious, the Poisonous, and the Fugitive****Wednesday, November 19, 1:00pm - 2:30pm**

Hear some of the fascinating stories behind the pigments artists have used through the ages, from Tyrian Purple, beloved by the ancient Phoenicians and requiring 10,000 sea snails to produce a single gram of pigment, to Vanta Black, the blackest black ever created (or is it?). During our stroll over the rainbow with Roy G. Biv, you'll also have a chance to see artworks that utilize each of the featured colors.

Cindi Zenhert-Strange: BA in English from Greenville College in Illinois. She was as publishing manager, a grant director, and a docent at Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

PILLAR Member-FREE**Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00****#3059 Tour: Tuberculosis: Its History, Impact on Colorado Springs, and The Disease in the World Today****Thursday, November 20, 10:00am - 12:00pm**

Tuberculosis (TB) is considered one of the oldest contagious diseases. It was known as consumption in the 1800s and was responsible for an estimated quarter of all deaths in Europe. By the 1880s and 1890s, Colorado Springs had more than a third of the city's residents being treated for TB. After a docent tour of the TB exhibits, we convene to discuss more on its treatment, medical breakthroughs, and the disease in today's world.

Location: Pioneer Museum, 215 S. Tejon St. Meet at the entrance. Max: 12

Norm Renaud: MS in Administration with a major in Elementary Education from UCCS.

PILLAR Member-FREE**Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00**

#3060 CSU: Water Systems and Future Supply

Tuesday, December 2, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Discover how CSU acquires, treats, and delivers water from 100 miles away to homes and businesses in Colorado Springs. They will also share plans for a sustainable water future.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3061 Big History III: The Recent History of Everything and Everyone

Wednesday, December 3, 10:00am - 12:00pm

This will be the third Pillar class on the Big History topic, a relatively new course about the entire 13.8 billion year history of the universe. In this session, we will focus on human evolution, the development of agriculture and the associated rise of civilizations, and, finally, the impact of industrialization.

Carol Bach: MD in Medicine from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

Sarah Young: MS in Biology from Stanford University and a BS in Biology from Stanford University.

Randy Stiles: PhD in Aerospace Engineering from Purdue University.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3062 The Long History of mRNA Vaccines, How They Work, and Their Exciting Future

Thursday, December 4, 10:00am - 12:00pm

In 2023, Drs. Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries dating back to 2005 that led to the rapid development of the mRNA vaccine for COVID 19. We'll look at their story and the current work on applications of mRNA technology in the fight against cancer, allergies, genetic disease, heart disease, and so much more that will revolutionize medicine in years to come.

Deborah G. Johnson: MD from CU School of Medicine, Denver, Colorado, and an MS and BS in Chemistry from CU Boulder and Texas Tech Lubbock. For twenty-seven years, she was employed as a forensic pathologist/Medical Examiner.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3063 PILLAR Christmas Party **Friday, December 5, 1:00pm - 3:00pm**



#3065 History of the Steam Engine

Tuesday, December 9, 10:00am - 12:00pm

The steam engine was the first modern engine that generated enough power to do meaningful work. In this presentation, we will cover the early days of steam engines, when the dangers of uncontrolled steam power caused many accidents, the development and application of stationary engines, the motive force used to power marine and wheeled conveyances, and the key role steam engines played in the development of railways.

Dr. Dick Fairley: PhD in Computer Science and Systems Engineering from UCLA. He worked as an engineer, university professor, consultant, and as a jazz disk jockey at KRCC.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

SC: Gen. Albert Clark: The True Story of the Great Escape **Wednesday, December 10, 10:00am - 12:00pm**

Gen. Albert Clark was a fighter pilot in WWII. He was shot down over France and spent three years in Stalag Luft III, the infamous prison camp where "The Great Escape" occurred.

Location: Senior Center, 1514 North Hancock Avenue.

Steven Antonuccio: MLS from Emporia State. Bachelor of Science in Communications from the University of Colorado.

Cost \$10 - Must register through the Senior Center: <https://operations.daxko.com/Online/3115/ProgramsV2/>

#3067 Hubble and Webb Telescope Findings

Thursday, December 11, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Learn what the space-based Hubble and Webb Telescopes have seen and what they've taught us.

Jamie Foster: BA in Geology from Carleton College. Jamie has been a primary and secondary school teacher.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3072 Russell and Remington

Wednesday, December 17, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Charlie Russell and Frederick Remington are considered to be the two definitive artists of the American West. Let's compare their lives and their art.

Sandy Halby: BS in Mathematics from the University of Alaska.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00

#3073 Research Strategies for Writers

"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."—Zora Neale Hurston

Thursday, December 18, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Whether you're writing fiction, nonfiction, essays, or memoir, you're going to do some amount of research. Research not only improves your writing, it also boosts your credibility with your readers. In this class, you will learn about a variety of research methods. You will review how to work with historical sources, like old diaries, historic newspapers, and archives and learn how to use genealogical resources, such as census records, city directories, and other public documents. You will also master how to spot faulty information and verify your facts.

Steven Veatch: MS in Earth Science from Emporia State University in Kansas. He is an award-winning writer of over one hundred articles about science, nature, and history and is known for his articles, books, and presentations on local history. Steven has researched his family history, particularly his father who worked for General Palmer.

PILLAR Member-FREE

Not-Yet-Member-\$25.00



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Website: www.PillarInstitute.org

Phone: 719-633-4991

PILLAR office hours: Generally Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, when classes are in session. Office opens at 9:30am.

Class Registration Information

- Registration starts on September 1.
- Pre-registration is required for all classes and tours as all classes have maximums.
- Register for classes online yourself at <https://www.PillarInstitute.org/learn>, call the office at 719-633-4991, mail in a registration, or come in when the office is open.
- The most current class schedule is on the website and in weekly emails. Make sure you are on the PILLAR email list.
- A mailed print catalog is \$5.
- **If you cannot make a class, please send an email to director@PillarInstitute.org, so someone on the waiting list can attend.**
- PILLAR follows School District 11 closures. If D-11 is closed due to weather, then PILLAR is closed. Closing notifications will be made by email.
- **Where is PILLAR located?** PILLAR is located on the New Altitude floor of The Resource Exchange (TRE) Building across from Furniture Row. Park on the north side of the building to enter directly into the New Altitude floor. The PILLAR office is located by the Pinon conference room.

NEW! - All Inclusive PILLAR Membership

\$75 per trimester (Jan.-Apr., May-Aug., or Sept.-Dec.)

or

\$175 annually

with All FREE classes.

(Day trips and special classes may have associated costs.)

Not-Yet-Member is \$25.00 per class