



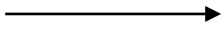
4747 Troost, Basement Level
 Kansas City, MO 64110
 (Direct Entrance off of Forest Ave)
 816-235-2870
 Email: spark@umkc.edu
<https://LifelongSpark.org>

SUMMER 2026 JUNE 1-26 CLASSES

*Lifelong Learning Classes
 For Seniors*

*SPARK membership is required
 for all classes, tours, and clubs.*

Use this QR code
 for more detailed class
 descriptions online.



SAVE THE DATE!

**2026 FALL KICKOFF
 TUESDAY, AUGUST 25**

DETAILS TO BE DETERMINED



Mondays



Tai Chi for Arthritis (TCA)

This safe, effective exercise program was designed by Dr. Paul Lam, with a team of medical experts and Tai Chi masters. The Arthritis Foundation adopted it for anyone with arthritis or similar chronic pain. Also good for balance and fall prevention.

Sarah Stanmorr – Nurse and Certified Tai Chi for Arthritis Instructor

Both levels meet twice weekly

Mon (June 1–22) and

Wed (June 3–24)

Beginners: **10–11 am \$40**

Advanced: **11 am–Noon \$40**

Both Sessions – In Person Only



An Inside Look at KC Rep

Learn how musical theatre became New York's biggest arts entertainment and who made that possible. Connect to your inner Broadway star with Musical Theatre Choreography! Be ready to "Razzle Dazzle" and become "One Singular Sensation" while you learn a short Musical Theatre Combo. Attend all four sessions and you'll receive tickets to the Rep's September musical *Come From Away*.

A Kansas City Rep team will present this class.

June 1–22 1:30–3:30 pm
 In Person Only – **\$40**

Tuesdays



American History Through Art

We'll explore U.S. history from the end of World War II to the present through the lens of visual art, music, film, and popular culture. Learn how artists have reflected, challenged, and shaped major historical developments including the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the rise of consumer culture and contemporary social movements.

Doug Sheer – SUNY (New Platz, NY) Educator in mathematics and complex computational systems

June 2–23 10 am–Noon
 ZOOM Only at home or SPARK – **\$40**

Tuesday or Wednesday



Western Civilization: The Struggle for Power in the 18th Century

After the Treaty of Utrecht ended the War of the Spanish Succession (1714), England and France emerged as rival dominating powers resulting in the War of the Austrian Succession (1740) and the Seven Years' War (1756).

Carol McCavitt – MS Queens College; Carnegie-Mellon University PhD Studies

Choose class:

Tuesday June 2–23

10 am–Noon

In Person Only – **\$40**

Wednesday June 3–24

10 am–Noon

In Person or Online – **\$40**

Tuesday GEMs

American
History Trivia
Contest!



Early American Trivia Contest

Celebrating America's 250th anniversary, we will have a quiz about the period from the 1760s to the 1820s. Each question will be posed as either multiple choice or open-ended and will include portraits as well as maps, famous quotes and other graphics. It's a fun way to learn about our nation's history, check our own knowledge and compete with our friends. Answer sheets will be provided. Team answers will be acceptable.

Doug Sheer – SUNY (New Platz, NY) Educator in mathematics and complex computational systems

June 2 1:30 pm

ZOOM Only at home or at SPARK



Seeking Hope Through Writing

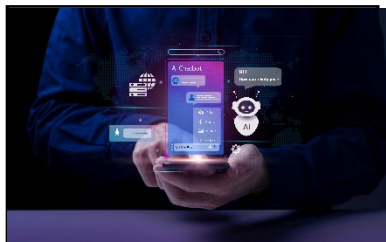
Jay will discuss his life as described in his book, "Sometimes You Just Get Lucky" and his search for hope through writing "More Things in Heaven and Earth."

Jay Mowbray – Adopted twice, Jay has 8 parents, and has experienced frequent poverty. He earned two BA degrees before entering into an electrician apprenticeship. His 10-year career as an electrician ended when he was electrocuted. This led to Jay pursuing an MS in Library Science and a JD law degree. He has been a criminal defense and appeals attorney and is the lead singer of the *KC Aces*.

June 9 1:30 pm – In Person Only

\$10 each

GEMs last 1-2 hours depending on the topic and presenter.



AI: Not as Scary as You Think

Learn how Generative AI tools like ChatGPT, Gemini and Claude can be helpful; what the interface looks like, and what you can do with it. Taught by an MIT-trained innovation leader who engineers trusted, scalable systems that deliver durable value.

Andrew Ngui – Kansas City's first Chief Digital Officer, Andrew bridges the gap between technical potential and organizational success. He identifies challenges that hinder service delivery, then drives adoption strategies that align with real-world needs.

June 16 1:30 pm – In Person Only



SOE: Educating Students In Financial Literacy

The School of Economics (SOE) delivers financial literacy education to students across Eastern and Suburban Jackson County, equipping the next generation with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to make sound financial decisions over a lifetime.

Sam Cook – Translates organizational goals into campaigns and materials that connect with the SOE communities.

June 23 1:30 pm

In Person Only

Wednesdays ²



Understanding Movies

Our summer theme is Movies That Dare to Compare. Titles will include *The Breakfast Club*, *The Perks of Being a Wall Flower*, *The Return of the Secaucus 7* and *The Big Chill*. Each week will include a 15-minute discussion, then watching the film, followed by insights gained while viewing the film.

Joe Heyen – Professor, Film Production and Editing, Maple Woods Community College; Documentary filmmaker; past president of the Independent Filmmakers Coalition and MOMMA

June 3–24 1–4 pm

In Person Only – \$40

Thursdays



Advanced iPhone Class

This class will go beyond the basics and cover topics like Calendar, Text Messages, Emergency Contacts, Navigating the Photo App, and other topics you'd like to explore. Come to class knowing your Apple ID and password and be sure to update your phone to iOS 26.

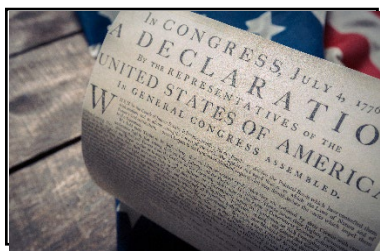
Bud Nolker – SPARK Board; Master of Public Administration, UMKC; self-taught iPhone expert

Three weeks

June 4, 11 and 18 10am-Noon

In Person Only – \$30

Register early. Class size limit 15



The Multi-Strategies of Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence

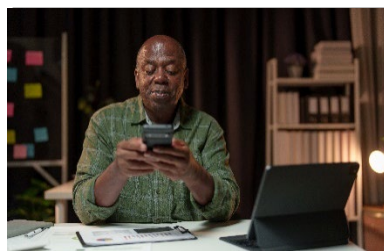
The obvious intent of the Declaration was to advise the King (and Parliament) of America's intent to sever the political bonds connecting them. This class explores the story behind each clause and the reason it was chosen to secure the commitment of the 13 colonies.

Deborah Keating – PhD History, UMKC; Research Assistant

June 4–25

10:00–Noon

In Person or Online – **\$40**



Technology Workshop

As the internet becomes more complicated to maneuver, learn how to:

- protect your online information
- spot online scams and fraud
- use search engines
- navigate websites and the internet
- set up a new email account and use email
- manage account and password security

Malcolm Cook – KC Shepherd's Center Digital Literacy Coordinator

Three weeks only

June 4, 11 and 18

2–4 pm

In Person Only – **\$30**

Register early. Class size limit 15



The Remarkable Men and Women of Montgall Avenue

Learn about some of Kansas City's most important Black leaders who lived on one block of Montgall Avenue throughout the 20th Century. These men and women built and ran the institutions that served Kansas City's Black citizens during the Jim Crow era and later, when Jim Crow was replaced with redlining. We'll also explore the impact of those policies on Montgall Avenue.

Margie Carr – MA Museum Science; Ph.D. Economic Education; Author of *Kansas City's Montgall Avenue*

Three weeks only

June 5, 12 and 26

10:00–Noon

In Person or Online – **\$30**

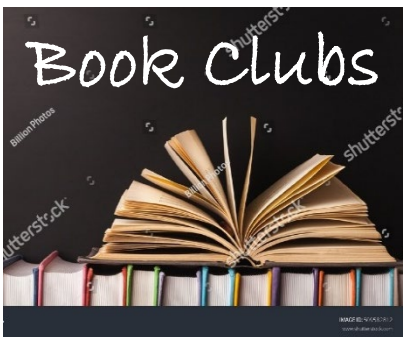
Make Some New Friends



Let's Eat Out

Friday Lunch Club

We meet on Fridays at 11:30 at different restaurants. Contact **Lynn Lieberman**, 816-223-1658 or lynnleee2001@yahoo.com



Book Clubs

Margaret Sturges Book Club

Third Monday of each month. Contact **Barbara Phillips**, 417-860-5070 or barbaraphillips66@gmail.com

Thursday Book Club

Fourth Thursday of each month. Contact **Sue Habiger**, 816-616-2636 or shabiger22@gmail.com



Mah Jongg Club

Friday Mah Jongg

Members who already know how to play are welcome to join us for our on-going Mah Jongg games each Friday. We play the New York National Mah Jongg League version, which is changed annually.

June 5–26 10 am–Noon

In person only

\$20 per quarter or \$60 per year

SPARK membership is required for the Friday Lunch Club, the Margaret Sturges and Thursday Book Clubs, and the Friday Mah Jongg Club

Two Great Friday Tours!



Native Arts In Miniature

National Museum of Toys and Miniatures
5235 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO, 64112
*On the SE corner of
52nd and Oak*

Enter the Museum's free parking lot off
52nd Street

This visiting exhibit at the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures explores diverse tribal traditions, family heritage, and creative innovations expressed by Native American artists working in miniature. Video interviews and written interpretation highlight artists' voices discussing their artworks, techniques, and inspirations.

June 5 1:30–2:30 pm

\$15

Register early. Tour size limit 20



Zhou B Art Center

1801 E. 18th Street, Kansas City, MO, 64108
*On the southeast corner of
18th and Woodland*

Free parking lot is located on the north side of the building. Enter though the driveway from Woodland. A large modern, glass, black foyer is the entrance to the building.

Zhou B Art Center of Kansas City is located in the former Crispus Attucks School in the Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District. Learn how the building, on the National Register of Historic Places, was renovated to become a supportive environment for the 30 artists with studios in the facility. The non-profit center showcases a diverse range of artists with exhibitions, events, and community outreach.

June 12 1:00–2:30 pm

\$15

Register early. Tour size limit 25

For Tours: Please enroll online
– or call 816-235-2870
– or use this QR code



Check the online catalog
for detailed parking info.