



Central RED Society Class Schedule & Registration

Fall 2020

Kick-off Celebration with Milly Vande Kieft: "100 Years in America"

Thursday, August 27, 5:30 p.m.-Dinner, 6 p.m.-Presentation

Vermeer Banquet Room, Graham Conference Center

Cost: \$15 cash bar available

Learn the experiences of Grace Van Roekel (Dutch name Grietje Engeltjes) during her immigration to America with her family in 1920. Hear her stories of leaving loved ones in The Netherlands, arriving at Ellis Island, and being quarantined just after their arrival in Iowa. Milly will share the joys and struggles of her mother's immigration, made very real again when visiting Ellis Island with Grace and in her hometown of Elburg, The Netherlands.

Milly Vande Kieft is a retired instructor of Children's Literature at Central College. She has been an elementary teacher and a children's librarian. Milly serves on the Convention and Visitors Bureau board, is a Pella tour guide, and is a part of the Dutch Demos at Tulip Time. She is active in her church leading children's activities and musicals and finds great therapy in working on charity quilts and weighted blankets.

"Iowa Water Quality: Past, Present and Future" with Pete Eyheralde

Wednesday, September 2, 5:30 p.m.-Dinner, 6 p.m.-Presentation

Vermeer Banquet Room, Graham Conference Center

Cost: \$15 cash bar available

A history of landscape change in Iowa and its impacts on freshwater lakes, rivers and streams. We'll look at the effects of degraded water quality for fish and aquatic wildlife species, as well as for human consumption and recreation. We'll also explore possible solutions to Iowa's water quality problem, discuss potential roadblocks, and a vision for the future of waterways in our state.

Pete is an associate professor of biology at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he teaches Biology and Ecology courses. He earned a PhD from Iowa State University in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. His dissertation research focused on the role of bison as seed dispersal agents in tallgrass prairie ecosystems. His current research combines studies of basic ecological questions with applied research, focusing on the conservation of biological diversity. He is interested in vertebrate population dynamics, responses to landscape change, and the conservation and management of wildlife.

Maggie Donovan: "The Puppy Jake Foundation"

Thursday, Oct. 15, noon-lunch, 12:30-presentation

Vermeer Banquet Room, Graham Conference Center

Cost: \$10

Puppy Jake Foundation's mission is to improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of wounded military veterans through well bred, socialized and professionally trained service dogs. They select, train and place service dogs to assist men and women of the U.S. Armed Services in their homes and in the community. They believe no American hero should have to go it alone. The dogs provide independence and empower veterans with physical and invisible disabilities.

Maggie graduated Loyola University Chicago with a degree in Spanish and Ethics & Moral Philosophy and moved back to her hometown of Des Moines a year later. Maggie's fondness for charitable work began when her dad started volunteering with the Salvation Army on a weekly basis and was encouraged by her mom, a retired administrator with the Des Moines Public Schools. Her love of Labrador retrievers comes from her last dog, a Chocolate Lab mix named Biff. This all made Puppy Jake Foundation a perfect fit. Maggie and her husband reside in Des Moines with their bulldog, Boo

"From the Beginning: The Liberty Street Kitchen Story" with Jake Warner

Thursday, Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m.-lunch noon-presentation

Vermeer Banquet Room, Graham Conference Center

Cost: \$10

Jake will be sharing what was involved in bringing Liberty Street Kitchen to Pella. In his presentation we will learn some of the intricacies of the restaurant business and what it takes to keep a restaurant like Liberty Street Kitchen vibrant in a community. This will be our opportunity to learn first-hand what it takes to create a successful restaurant business.

Jake Warner is an Iowa "local" from Des Moines, graduating from Valley High and Iowa State University. His career has spanned several locations and entrepreneurial experiences. He has worked as General Manager and been involved in creative new restaurant concepts in Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Cleveland. Prior to moving back to Iowa to work on the Liberty Street Kitchen project here in Pella, he was General Manager for City Works Restaurant in Philadelphia.

"Christ is Born – as told in Gullah Dialect" with Jason Taylor

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.-dinner 6 p.m.-presentation

Vermeer Banquet Room, Graham Conference Center

Cost: \$15 cash bar available

Learn about the Gullah People; a people left stranded on an island in South Carolina when slavery was abolished. They found ways to survive and created their own language. Jason will present the Christmas Story in the dialect of the Gullah People. Come join us as we enter the Christmas season.

Jason Taylor is a student in the RCA's Commissioned Pastor program and is currently serving as the pastor of the First Reformed Church in Prairie City, IA. Before that, Jason served as a youth director for 14 years for the Second Reformed Church in Pella, IA. He is a graduate of Iowa State University. Jason is also known as a storyteller extraordinaire.