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FUN & INSPIRING LEARNING FOR SENIORS

Stay mentally fit with our fun and exciting lecture series at America's award-winning senior-living community. We created Discovery University for lifelong learners who yearn for captivating topics and personal enrichment. With a variety of subject matters to explore, you're sure to find classes that you'll enjoy. So if you're the type who would like to participate and learn, give us a call to find out more!

Lectures are FREE* and open to the public.



Limited Seating. Call Today To Reserve Your Seat!

Check Out Our Schedule Of Classes By Scrolling To Page 2!



At Parkland Commons: 5999 University Dr., Parkland, FL 33067 | 954.255.0906

At Pelican Marsh: 4800 Aston Gardens Way, Naples, FL 34109 | 239.593.3744

At Pelican Pointe: 1000 Aston Gardens Dr., Venice, FL 34292 | 941.240.1000

At The Courtyards: 231 Courtyards Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573 | 813.642.8950

At Sun City Center: 1311 Aston Gardens Ct., Sun City Center, FL 33573 | 813.642.8950

At Tampa Bay: 12951 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa, FL 33626 | 813.855.2811

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care | AstonGardens.com

*Donation required for lectures held at Aston Gardens At Pelican Pointe.

Preferred seating for first-time visitors to lectures at Aston Gardens At Parkland Commons.



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EXERCISE FOR THE BRAIN

In modern world history, there have been milestone years in which events significantly change the course of world affairs for decades to follow. In those years the issues might be of war or peace, poverty or prosperity, or domestic tranquility versus societal hostility. During these times, notable individuals emerged who contributed to the resolution of the challenges, amplification of issues or the exacerbations of tensions. Join us each month as we chronicle and recount the events of four such "Pivot Point" years, and present a thorough and thoughtful biography of those notably involved in those events. As Mark Twain once said: History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes.

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– JANUARY 2018 –

1918: Armistice and Optimism for a New World Order

The fighting in the Great War, World War I, ended with the Armistice of November 11, 1918. Warring nations surveyed the carnage and destruction wrought by modern "industrial" warfare and were determined to sanction the aggressors, compensate the victims, and dismember empires in Europe and the Middle East. These were partially accomplished by the Paris peace treaties of 1919. To prevent future World Wars, a League of Nations was created, wherein international disputes might be peacefully resolved.

Woodrow Wilson: American Dreamer

Holding elective office for the first time in 1910 at age 54 as Governor of New Jersey, in 1912, Wilson was elected President in a race against both incumbent William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt. As America's first PhD President, Wilson accelerated the Progressive agenda then sweeping through the country, and in 1917, persuaded Congress to enter the First World War. Personally leading the American delegation at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, through his "Fourteen Points," he argued for the formation of smaller autonomous nation-states, and a League of Nations to insure future world peace.

– FEBRUARY 2018 –

1938: Depression at Home, the Drumbeat of War Abroad

As the effects of the Great Depression still stubbornly stunted growth in America through high unemployment and slow economic growth, in Europe, British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, believing he'd achieved "Peace in Our Time," permits German annexation of the Sudetenland, part of Czechoslovakia. In November in Germany, Nazis burn and loot Jewish-owned businesses in the Kristallnacht. Meanwhile, Americans begin an angry debate regarding our role in the looming World War.

Eleanor Roosevelt: Not Your Mother's First Lady

A niece of Theodore Roosevelt, who married her distant cousin, Franklin, Eleanor Roosevelt had found an activist voice and a number of causes to advocate by the time she became First Lady in 1933. Through press conferences, many travels and her own newspaper column, "My Day," she spoke out for human rights, children's causes, women's issues and against racial discrimination. Following FDR's death in 1945, Eleanor would continue her activism and serve on the American delegation to the United Nations.

– MARCH 2018 –

1968: Domestic Chaos Against the Backdrop of an Unpopular War

Through 1968, racial unrest, intergenerational strife, and a rising crime rate, were each exacerbated by the growing unpopularity of the war in Vietnam. After the TET offensive in January, Lyndon Johnson announces in March that he won't seek re-election as President. In April, Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis; in June, Robert F. Kennedy, the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, is murdered. As Hubert Humphrey is nominated at the chaotic Democratic convention in Chicago, Richard Nixon emerges as the Republican nominee with a "Southern Strategy" and an appeal to the Silent Majority.

Lyndon B. Johnson: Master Politician

From humble Texas roots, Lyndon Johnson rose from the ranks of the House of Representatives to become the leader of the Senate in the 1950s. Becoming President upon the assassination of John F. Kennedy, this southern President would drive landmark legislation through Congress, creating Medicare and Medicaid and strengthening civil rights and the right to vote. The shadow of Vietnam, however, would shorten his tenure in office and mar his legacy in the eyes of history.

– APRIL 2018 –

2008: Economic Meltdown, Unprecedented Presidential Election

In a year in which Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns would cease to exist and other venerable institutions such as Merrill Lynch and AIG are forced into mergers, the bursting of a real estate bubble would bring economic distress to America and calamity to the world. Congress would expend nearly 1 trillion dollars to "bail out," endangered banks and the Federal Reserve would lower interest rates to 0. "Bernie Madoff," "CDO," "credit default swap," and "sub-prime mortgage" would become part of our lexicon. In November, a newcomer in so many ways, Barack Obama would defeat his Republican counterpart, John McCain, to win the Presidency.

Senator John McCain, Political Maverick

The son and grandson of Admirals, McCain was a naval fighter pilot when he was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967; he would be held as a POW for nearly 6 years. The Arizonan was elected to the House of Representatives in 1982 and then to the Senate in 1986, a seat he still occupies. After waging a maverick campaign against George W. Bush in the 2000 Republican primary race, he lost the presidential election of 2008 to Barack Obama. A "hawk" on defense issues, McCain has been a more vocal critic of The Trump Administration policies following a recent diagnosis of an aggressive malignant brain cancer.

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