CENTRAL RED SOCIETY

WHAT IS CENTRAL RED SOCIETY?

Central RED (Ready to Engage and Discover) Society is Central College’s innovative, lifelong learning program that enriches members’ lives through relevant, broad-based learning experiences. Central RED Society fosters creativity, intellectual curiosity and engagement with Central and the community!

Courses range from recreational to academic: everything from organic gardening to water aerobics to financial planning to philosophy to you decide! It’s part education ... part socializing ... and always fun!

DO I HAVE TO BE A CENTRAL ALUM TO PARTICIPATE?

No! While we anticipate that many participants will be alumni, events are open to anyone.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

ALL CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND. FIVE TO EIGHT CLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS WILL BE HELD EACH SEMESTER WITH AN ASSOCIATED FEE. YOU MUST REGISTER AND PAY IN ADVANCE FOR EACH CLASS YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.
MISSION STATEMENT

The Central RED Society is a volunteer-driven, lifelong learning and social organization with an abiding partnership with Central College alumni and friends who wish to share knowledge, talents and experiences. Central RED offers non-credit educational opportunities to enrich the lifelong intellectual, cultural, social and spiritual lives of its members.

SUMMER 2024

“BARNSWALLOW FLOWERS: A FLOWER HARVEST EXPERIENCE” WITH MEREDITH NUNNIKHOVEN
9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 28
Barnswallow Flowers: 2560 IA-23, Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Cost: $25 Lunch is not included in the cost

Experience the beauty of sustainable flower farming as we visit Barnswallow Flowers in Oskaloosa. We will learn about flower farming sustainability in Iowa, harvest flowers and create bouquets to take home. Nunnikhoven will also share the legacy of the farm, her invention of the compostable vase and an introduction on how to grow and care for dahlias that bloom in August. We will grab lunch afterwards. Bring lawn chairs, water and your creative spirit!

Meredith Nunnikhoven is a fifth generation Iowa farmer and co-founder and current owner of Barnswallow Flowers. In its 14th year, the fresh-cut flower business offers CSA programs, retail floral arrangements, flower seedling packets, educational opportunities and you-pick experiences. The flower farm is sustainably regenerative and chemical-free. All flowers are grown outside without hoop support making it one of the most unique flower farms in Iowa.
“9/11 WINNIPEG” WITH ROB BANDSTRA
11:30 a.m. Lunch, Noon Presentation, Wednesday, Sept. 11
Dave and Ardie Sutphen Common Room, Graham Annex
Cost: $15

Now 23 years ago, most Americans remember where they were when they learned the World Trade Center’s twin towers were attacked by terrorists on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. Many can also recall how eerily quiet the sky became that afternoon when all planes were grounded across North America — except in one region. Bandstra will convey the military context and commands that occurred that afternoon as a fourth hijacked aircraft threatened the West Coast in what was feared to be “the second wave” of attacks. The presentation chronicles that day from Bandstra’s perspective as the executive officer to the commanding general in charge of North American Air Defense at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Events of that day would shape the rest of his career and American military operations for the next quarter century.

Rob Bandstra enlisted in the Air Force after graduation from Pella Christian High School. Starting at the lowest rank, he worked his way up into broader roles of responsibility throughout his 30-year career, ultimately being promoted to Lt. Colonel and commanding two special operations squadrons. Bandstra earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science, and master’s degrees in logistics administration and military operations management. Bandstra and his wife Kim live in Pella and have two married daughters. He continues to serve as the executive director of Veterans Affairs for Marion County.
“NEAL SMITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, EXPLORING THE SAVANNA” WITH NANCY CORONA

10:30 a.m. Walk, Lunch to Follow; Wednesday, Sept. 18
Oak Savanna Trail
Limit of 25
Cost: $15

Join us for a guided walk through the endangered oak savanna ecosystem along the ½ mile Oak Savanna Trail Loop. We will learn about this ecosystem and an overview of the natural resource management practices that are used to restore this endangered ecosystem and the plant and animal community that depends on it. The oak savanna is home to a host of wildlife including the red-headed woodpecker and eastern bluebird.

The trail surface is soil/gravel with gradual inclines. It is recommended that participants wear pants and closed sturdy shoes suitable for walking on a trail. Free loaner binoculars will be available. Lunch will be provided by Magg’s Catering out of Prairie City.

Nancy Corona was raised in New York City and studied wildlife biology and biology in college. She has always been passionate about wildlife and nature and has been a federal employee for 34 years, working as a park ranger. Corona started as the visitor services manager at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in 2016. She enjoys living in Iowa and helping to conserve the tallgrass prairie by educating students and visitors about the importance of conserving our natural lands and wildlife populations.
“MEMORY AND SELF-DISCOVERY: A HANDS-ON INTRODUCTION TO EXPLORATORY WRITING” WITH DAN WEEKS

5:30 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Presentation, Tuesday, Oct. 8 and 15
Dave and Ardie Sutphen Common Room, Graham Annex
Cost: $40

We’re made of memories. Some are straightforward recollections of the settled past. Others are puzzling, inexplicable. We wonder: Why did that happen to me? What does it mean? How has it affected me? Why have I chosen to recall it? There is a way to find out, writing to explore. Personal essay writers use exploratory writing to discover parts of themselves they don’t quite understand or of which they aren’t fully aware. The insights gained are often of as much value to their readers as they are to the authors.

During each session, the instructor will read aloud from one of his personal essays spawned from a memory. The class will discuss the essay. Class participants are encouraged to write and offer to share their own essays for similar discussion in the second session. The essay will be emailed to Weeks in advance of the second session and he will choose which to present to the class, seeking to share writings of a variety of memories and writing styles.

Dan Weeks is a retired book and magazine writer and editor. He has a B.A. from Grinnell College and an M.A. in creative nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa. He has written and edited magazines ranging from Civitas to Better Homes and Gardens publications along with more than a dozen books, including the Discovery Channel bestseller “Deadliest Catch: Desperate Hours.” He’s lectured and led workshops on writing and creativity at colleges, universities and leadership training organizations nationwide. In retirement, he’s writing personal essays that explore the great deal of his own experience that he doesn’t quite understand.
An examination of the election results from the 2024 general election. The discussion will focus on who won control of the major branches of government, preliminary explanations for the outcomes on Nov. 5, and what the results mean for governing and public policy making moving forward.

Andrew Green is the institutional research director and professor of political science at Central College. He completed his B.A. in political science at Wartburg College in 1999, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Riverside, in 2002 and 2005 respectively. Green’s teaching and research interests include American politics and policy, political behavior and state and local politics and government. His research focuses primarily on state and local politics and policy, and he has been published in journals such as State Politics and Policy Quarterly, State and Local Government Review, and California Journal of Politics and Policy. Andrew is the author of “From the Iowa Caucuses to the White House: Understanding Donald Trump’s 2016 Electoral Victory in Iowa.” A native of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he resides just west of Pella with his wife Amber and sons Reese and Reilly.
On June 15, 1944, nine days after the Allied landings in the Normandy region of France, U.S. Marines stormed the beaches of the strategically significant Japanese island of Saipan. The goal was to gain a crucial air base from which the U.S. could launch its new long-range B-29 bombers directly at Japan’s home islands. Of the 71,000 U.S. troops that landed, nearly 3,000 were killed and more than 10,000 wounded. Out of the entire Japanese garrison of 30,000 troops, only 921 were captured; the rest died. The Japanese commanders and some 5,000 others committed suicide rather than surrender. U.S. veterans who survived the battle described it simply as, “Hell on earth.”

Mark Barloon was born in northeast Iowa and raised on a family-owned hog farm. After high school, he attended Iowa State University (B.A., History), the University of Iowa (M.A., History), and the University of North Texas (Ph.D., History). Barloon spent several years working as an intelligence officer. He returned to Iowa and has been teaching at Central College for over 20 years.
“MANNING IS A LITTLE PELLA ... EXCEPT WE ARE GERMAN” WITH TIM WEIBLE

5:30 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Presentation, Thursday, Dec. 5
Dave and Ardie Sutphen Common Room, Graham Annex
Cost: $20

Manning, Iowa, was established in 1881 after becoming the site of a depot along the Iowa Southwestern railroad. Weible will share the history of Manning and how it has become the best small town in Iowa.

Tim Weible is a 1973 graduate of Manning High School and a graduate of Iowa State University with a business administration and economics degree. His career was in pharmaceutical sales, and he is now a professional tour guide for the Heritage Park in Manning. Weible is active in his church along with volunteering for other organizations and projects.
Summer/Fall 2024 Class Registration
SIGN ME UP FOR CLASSES!

+ Class reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Class sizes may be limited.
+ You may sign up more than one person on a sheet. Please include both names and payment for both people.
+ Please mail to Central College Alumni Office, Attn: Mary Benedict, 812 University St., Campus Box 5200, Pella, IA 50219. Be sure to add a check. Class reservations cannot be held without payment. Make checks payable to Central RED Society.
+ Sorry, no refund on classes unless the entire class needs to be canceled.

Name (1): ________________________________ Name (2): ________________________________
Street: ________________________________ Street: ________________________________
City/State/Zip: __________________________ City/State/Zip: __________________________
Phone: ________________________________ Phone: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________ Email: ________________________________

CLASSES I’M SIGNING UP FOR

Name(s) attending:

Barnswallow Flowers: A Flower Harvest Experience $25 each = __________

9/11 Winnipeg $15 each = __________

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Exploring the Savanna $15 each = __________

Memory and Self-Discovery: Introduction to Exploratory Writing $40 each = __________

Election 2024: What Just Happened? $15 each = __________

Saipan: D-Day in the Pacific $15 each = __________

Manning is a Little Pella $20 each = __________

TOTAL = __________

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☒ Check enclosed. Please make checks out to Central RED Society.

Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards at this time.