



FALL 2026 CLASSES



CENTRAL RED SOCIETY

LEARN + ENGAGE + DISCOVER

WHAT IS CENTRAL RED SOCIETY?

Central RED (Ready to Engage and Discover) Society is an innovative, lifelong learning program that enriches members' lives through relevant, broad-based learning experiences. Central RED Society fosters creativity, intellectual curiosity and engagement with the Pella community and the surrounding communities.

Courses range from recreational, educational, and informational. In addition, it always includes socializing and fun!

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tim Baar, Dave Barnes, Valerie Brandt, Nancy Brown, Glenda Duven, Mary Glendening, Nyla Heerema, Joe Michmershuizen, Don Ringgenberg, Ardie Sutphen, Milly Vande Kieft, Sarah Van Waardhuizen.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Members pay a \$20 per person annual membership fee to be a part of Central RED. Memberships run from June 1 through May 31 each year. New members are welcome anytime throughout the year; membership fee is not prorated. Five to eight classes or events will be held every fall and spring. When the class or event includes a meal a fee is charged for the meal.

MISSION STATEMENT

Central RED Society is a volunteer-supported program open to all persons who seek opportunities for lifelong learning. Central RED offers an environment of sharing and fellowship that provides opportunities for intellectual, social, and cultural stimulation and growth.

Monarch Butterflies

Dave & Ardie Sutphen Common Room • Graham Annex

Thursday, August 13 • 11:30am Lunch & 12:00pm Presentation

KRISTIN SIEWERT

Retired Central College Biology Instructor

Cost: \$15 (lunch included)

Kristin Siewert will share the captivating story of the monarch butterfly. Highlighted will be unique attributes of the monarch, population dynamics, migration, restoration efforts, and results from several student-faculty research studies. She will also discuss raising monarchs, tagging monarchs, and ways you can participate in pollinator restoration.

Kristin Siewert, a recently retired member of the Central College biology faculty, is an animal ecologist with enthusiasm for restoration. She has been involved in several Iowa restoration efforts including peregrine falcons, wetland communities, and butterfly species. In addition to teaching, her focus the past 10 years has been monarch conservation, education, and student-faculty research.



Stories From WWII

Harry & Bernice Vermeer Banquet Hall • Graham Conference Center

Wednesday, September 9 • 5:30pm Dinner & 6:15 pm Presentation

PAM WOOD & TOM DE VRIES

Interviewed by Harry Smith

Cost: \$20 (dinner included)

Harry Smith will interview Pam Wood who lived on the Isle of Wight and was six years old when WWII began and Tom De Vries who lived in Dokkum, Friesland, in the Netherlands during the war.

Pam Wood (Pamela Dorothy Alice Reeves) was born in 1933 on the Isle of Wight, England, in Shanklin, a village by the sea. She was 6 years old when World War II started in 1939, and she became a child of war.

Tom De Vries was born in Dokkum, Friesland, the Netherlands in 1927. Tom experienced Germans moving into the Netherlands and the changes that their presence project about. He emigrated with his family to the United States in 1948 at the age of 20.

Harry Smith, a retired NBC news reporter, teaches Central students about curiosity as an essential skill in today's workforce. His goal in class is to foster curiosity and other life skills. Harry graduated from Central in 1973 and spent nearly four decades covering stories from all 50 states and every continent.



Iowa PBS: A Look Back and a Look Forward at Public Television in Iowa

Dave & Ardie Sutphen Common Room • Graham Annex

Tuesday, September 22 • 11:30am Lunch & 12:00pm Presentation

ROB HILBERT

President of the Iowa PBS Foundation

Cost: \$15 (lunch included)

This presentation explores the past, present, and future of public television in Iowa through the story of Iowa PBS. We'll look back at the network's founding and early impact, trace how technology has transformed the way we create and deliver content, and examine the rapidly evolving media landscape today. Along the way, we'll highlight Iowa PBS's enduring mission and purpose, and share clips from recent and upcoming documentaries that showcase the power of storytelling made for—and about—Iowans.

Rob Hilbert is President of the Iowa PBS Foundation, where he leads fundraising and foundation operations. With nearly 30 years of nonprofit fundraising experience, he serves on the PBS Development Advisory Committee and the Contributor Development Partnership Innovation Council. Rob was named the 2019 C. Scott Elliott PBS Development Professional of the Year and has maintained his Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential since 2002.

He also earned the International Advanced Diploma in Fundraising with Distinction in 2015. An active leader in the nonprofit sector, Rob has served on several professional boards, speaks nationally on fundraising and nonprofit management, and holds a degree in Public Relations and Communications from the University of Northern Iowa.



George Washington and the First Turning Point of the American Revolution

Harry & Bernice Vermeer Banquet Hall • Graham Conference Center

Wednesday, October 7 & 14 • 5:30pm Dinner & 6:15pm Presentation

MARK BARLOON

History Professor at Central College

Cost: \$20 (dinner included both nights)

October 7 - Part 1: An examination of George Washington's failed defense of New York City in 1776 which resulted in the near-collapse of his army and an early end to the Revolution.

October 14 - Part 2: A presentation of Washington's audacious plan to counter-attack the British by striking both Trenton, NJ, and Princeton, NJ, in 1776-77 which resulted in the salvation of both his army and the American bid for independence.

Professor Barloon received a B.A. in History from Iowa State, an M.A. in American history from the University of Iowa, and a Ph.D. in American history from the University of North Texas. In 2002 he accepted a faculty position at Central College after working as an intelligence analyst for the U.S. government.



The Hidden Story Inside the Machine: Making Sense of Generative AI

Dave & Ardie Sutphen Common Room • Graham Annex

Tuesday, November 10 • 11:30am Lunch & 12:00pm Presentation

DR. MICHAEL THOMPSON

Associate Professor of Computer Science at Central College

Cost: \$15 (lunch included)

This presentation will provide a brief history of the development of artificial intelligence tools, with a focus on generative AI. It will discuss how generative AI tools work, as well as their impacts on society, the workplace, and our daily lives.

Dr. Thompson is a 1998 graduate of Central. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2007 where he studied techniques related to current advances in Artificial Intelligence. He currently is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Central.



Pella Swing, on Social Dancing

Dave & Ardie Sutphen Common Room • Graham Annex

Tuesday, December 8 • 11:30am Lunch & 12:00pm Demonstration

ERIC WEIRUP

Pella Swing Commissioner

Cost: \$15 (lunch included)

A quick introduction, a bit about who we are and why we love swing dancing. We will do a simple demo of the classes we typically teach at our swing dances!

Eric Weirup (Commissioner) – Iowa State Grad, working at Vermeer as an engineer.

Emma Auberg (Singer) – National Guard, working at Elliot Aviation as an aircraft mechanic.

Levi Smith (Instructor) – Dordt University Grad, working at LDJ as an engineer.

Anna Lutteneggar (Instructor) – Cedarville University Grad, working at Vermeer as an engineer.



CENTRAL **RED** SOCIETY



JOIN US *THIS FALL!*

Fall 2026 Class Registration

SIGN ME UP FOR CLASSES!

- + Class reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.
- + You may sign up more than one person on a sheet. Please include both names and payment for both people.
- + Please mail to Central RED Society, P.O. Box 152, 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

Annual Membership (<i>dues are renewed at the start of each fall semester</i>)	\$20 each = _____
Monarch Butterflies	\$15 each = _____
Stories from WWII	\$20 each = _____
Iowa PBS: A Look Back and a Look Forward at Public Television in Iowa	\$15 each = _____
Part 1 - George Washington and the First Turning Point of the American Revolution	\$20 each = _____
Part 2 - George Washington and the First Turning Point of the American Revolution	\$20 each = _____
The Hidden Story Inside the Machine: Making Sense of Generative AI	\$15 each = _____
Pella Swing, on Social Dancing	\$15 each = _____
Total	_____

Payment Options

- ☐ Check enclosed. Please make checks out to Central RED Society.
Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards at this time.



PO Box 152
Pella, IA 50219

