

## In My Opinion: Is It Yours?

Summer 2026, Tuesdays 1-2:30 pm

Virtual On Zoom

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### Course Description

Each week, a different guest speaker with expertise in a particular area will speak. The speaker will present the basic information, and the class will have an opportunity to ask questions, offer comments, or express alternative opinions. Every class will be different, with a very wide variety of topics being discussed. Because we are online, geography is not a barrier to participation. Expect presentations from Scotland, Oklahoma, Michigan, California, Asia, and Nevada.

### Commitments so far include the following topics:

History of Southern Nevada with **Mark Hall-Patton**. I was delighted when this local celebrity agreed to fit us into his very busy schedule. He retired as the director of the Las Vegas museums. He is the expert known for his regular appearance on Pawn Stars, and now has a new YouTube series.

**Forrest Valkai**, a biologist who specializes in evolution. He is a regular on social media and has a huge following on YouTube, with videos explaining how evolution actually happened and a series called "Reacteria," in which he addresses YouTube mistakes made by evolution deniers.

**Susan Gerbic**, who is the leader, trainer, and creator of a Wikipedia editing group that works to ensure the information presented is accurate. She is also well known for debunking false psychics.

**Mary Phillips** is a sign language interpreter and advocate for the deaf. **Celestia Ward** is one of the two hosts of the Squaring the Strange podcast and is a local caricaturist with extensive experience in this art form. **Yvonne Thigpen**, a retired hospital dietician who is familiar with the actual nutritional needs of our population.

In addition, there will be a panel of women formerly identified as men who will explain what their lives are like now and what they were like before. A Scottish couple will give insight into British politics, and several others are pending. There is a local author who is considering talking about the reality of getting books published. There will also be opportunities with political figures, both local and international.

\*content/order/classes/speakers subject to change if needed.