



Emerging Issues Discussion Group

September 12 6:30 – 8:30 pm

The Hispanic Community in Western Colorado — John Arenas

The first and largest group of non-native peoples to settle the area that would eventually become Colorado, Hispanics now account for nearly one in five residents of the state. Join us to learn about the history of, and modern-day issues facing, a community that forms an important part of the cultural makeup of the Western Slope.



October 10 6:30 – 8:30 pm

The "Green New Deal" - An Insurgent Movement for An Ambitious Climate Change Solution — Wayne Quade & Marv Ballantyne

Humanity has just over a decade before catastrophic climate change impacts become unavoidable. Politicians are generally ignoring that problem. Young people, who will be forced to live with the ravages of climate change, are finding this unacceptable. They have proposed a plan of their own called the Green New Deal (GND) — a term purposefully reminiscent of FDR's original New Deal in the 1930s. This presentation will address the "pros and cons" of the GND -- a "vision" of investments in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure, meant to transform not just the energy sector, but the entire economy.

November 14 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Puerto Rico: Past and Present — John Broadbooks

Puerto Rico has been a territory of the U.S. since 1917. We will examine among other questions: What are the challenges of this status? How has hurricane Maria (Sept 2017) impacted life on the island?



December 12 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Can Ordinary Farmers Reverse Global Warming and Keep a Better Hold on Their Farms? — Stu Krebs & Ken Dolezal

Some farmers are doing these things already through regenerative agriculture. And when they've gotten into it, it's easier, cheaper and more fun than what most other farmers are doing these days. We will start our session with a 16-minute YouTube video of North Dakota farmer Gabe Brown describing what he does on his farm and how it differs from conventional agriculture. We will also look at the removal of carbon from the atmosphere and storage in the soil through the operation of regenerative agriculture on American and world farmlands, and the possible effect on climate change.

January 9 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Responding to Our Aging Demographics — Meg Nagel

For the first time ever – and predicted to be the future norm – people age 65+ outnumber children 5 and under. Global aging is a success story, a triumph of medical, social and economic advances. It also presents tremendous challenges and opportunities. Consider these demographic and demography-driven trends: life expectancy increases; the number of our oldest old (age 85+) rises; chronic and noncommunicable diseases become predominant; fertility levels decline; family structures change; work and retirement patterns shift; social insurance systems evolve; new economic effects emerge. Individuals, organizations, and societies will all have to adapt. What's being done locally, in Colorado, and nationally?



Please join us for Great Decisions, an 8-week discussion series starting in February 2020!