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SMCI hosts life builders book club event

LEAKESVILLE – The SMCI Life Builders Book Club recently had an extraordinary moment when they connected with Moshik Temkin, a renowned Harvard history professor, for an engaging discussion about his acclaimed book *Warriors, Rebels and Saints*.

Professor Temkin joined the conversation live from Beijing, China, making the encounter even more remarkable.

The book club participants came prepared with thought-provoking questions about Temkin's central thesis: Does history create the leader, or does the leader create history? This compelling inquiry formed the backbone of a dynamic Zoom conversation that kept everyone engaged. The energy in the virtual room was palpable as participants wrestled with the nuances of leadership, legacy, and the forces that shape historical moments.

Professor Temkin, whose scholarly work extends to several other influential titles, brought depth and nuance to each question. When reflecting on his research, he noted that "leadership is not simply about individual brilliance—it's about how individuals navigate the currents of their time." He further emphasized that "history reveals that the most transformative leaders are those who understand both the constraints and possibilities of their era."

The event showcased the true spirit of collaborative learning. Carla Falkner of the Mississippi Humanities Council was present and contributed to the discussion, bridging the book's themes of leadership with real-world community impact. Her presence underscored how the book club's conversations extend beyond academic discourse into tangible social action.

Special thanks go to Professor Joe Peterson, a history professor at the University of Southern Mississippi and the book club's spokesperson. His facilitation ensured that every voice was heard and every question received the attention it deserved.

The conversation with Professor Moshik Temkin was a testament to what makes the SMCI book club so special: the willingness to think deeply, the courage to ask difficult questions, and the joy of intellectual community.

