

The Spring 2018 Encore Presentations will begin
Friday, February 23 at Applewood in Amherst (Spencer Drive)
from **10:00am to noon**.

Below please find the complete schedule of dates, presenters, topics, and presentation descriptions. The presentations are in order of appearance. The line-up is varied and promises to be extremely interesting. We hope to see you at one or more of the presentations.

Friday February 23

Gordon Wyse: Hamilton and Jefferson

Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson enormously influenced the nature and direction of the United States government—usually in opposition to each other. They personify the two schools of thought that led to the advent of competing political parties after the American Revolution. Jefferson and Hamilton came to oppose each other as secretaries George Washington’s first cabinet, and it is safe to say that they did not bring out the best in each other.

Robert Cohen: Henry Ford and Anti-Semitism

The great industrialist Henry Ford perfected the assembly line, paid his workers very well, and invented the weekend. He also had a malevolent dark side that will haunt his achievements as long as he is remembered. Ford was a rabid anti-Semite, who promulgated lies about Jews, published 500,000 copies of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a long ago discredited fake document, and became more rabid with the passage of time and the disintegration of his mental faculties.

Friday March 2

Teresa Barton: The Internet of Things

What is “The Internet of Things?” It is the network of physical devices in our vehicles, home appliances, cities, medicine, manufacturing, military, etc. which can connect and exchange data through the internet. How will this ever-enlarging network impact our lives? How do we feel about it?

Emily Hurn: Bitcoin

Bitcoin has been in the news frequently recently because it is being treated by investors as a commodity, with impressive gains and losses in value. In fact, Bitcoin began life as, and continues to be, a virtual currency. This presentation outlines the basics of how Bitcoin works and the structure of the Blockchain technology (which it pioneered) on which it rests.

Friday March 9

David Neelon: Anglicanism

A short secular account of one of the three pillars of English social history, Monarchy, Industry, and Christianity; looking back from Jane Austen's time to Henry VIII's great 17th Century land grab, and forward to the end of Empire.

Eve Endicott: Ship Notes

This piece is based on notes I took while on a cruise ship crossing the Atlantic from Florida to (on a so-called “repositioning cruise,” taking the ship from its winter base in the Caribbean to the Mediterranean for the summer). I enjoy turning travel notes into stories with characters and even some dialogue with the aim of making the writing more interesting and amusing to others — and more fun to write.

Friday March 16

Nancy Denig: Improving the Landscape: Jane Austen Style

Jane Austen's astute observations of her social milieu were not limited to drawing rooms. This encore presentation is a look at the manor house parks and gardens of her time, as seen, experienced and potentially improved by her cast of characters in Mansfield Park. Austen's writing comes late in the period of the so-called "English Landscape Gardening School", which supplanted the formalist Baroque style throughout Europe in the eighteenth century.

Patricia Warner: The Queen's Gown

One of the great portraits of Queen Elizabeth I -- the greatest, in my opinion -- was the Ditchley Portrait (1592). The gown she wears -- as does clothing in general -- tells us much about who she was in her world, and where her small island sat in the world of her time.

Friday March 23

Chuck Aulino: Colonel House

While serving as a counselor to Texas Governor "Big Jim" Hogg, House was appointed as an Honorary Colonel of the Texas Militia and was known as "Colonel House" for the rest of his life. House never held appointed or elected office, but ultimately became the closest personal adviser to President Woodrow Wilson. At Wilson's behest, he undertook the impossible task of trying to bring about a negotiated end to WWI.

Rich Szlosek: American Protective League

During World War I there was an unprecedented push for Americans to conform to a model of the patriotic citizen. The impetus for this movement came from the Wilson administration in Washington. This talk will examine that push by looking at the American Protective League, the Committee on Public Information and the roles of Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt in accomplishing that goal.

Friday March 30

Eleanor Johnson: Summer Interrupted: Lebanon 2006

The Israeli War in Lebanon during the summer of 2006 was a devastating shock to the Lebanese people. Much destruction was unleashed on that country. This piece, written for the LIR Writing to Remember seminar, is an account of my experiences during that summer.

Gary Roodman: Dancing in Squares

Many of us have done square dances in which the dancers are arranged and rearranged each time through and end up back in original places with original partners when the dance is over. I have been devising square dances for many years and I have found that one rearrangement--the one in which everyone has a different partner in a different place around the square each time through--is not easy to achieve. This presentation will (1) demonstrate how a little bit of math and a lot of careful thinking can solve the problem and (2) show a dance that actually has the different partners/different places property.

Wednesday May 9

Stephanie Levin: Civil Rights '60s

My talk will be about my unexpected encounter with the civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer soon after I arrived in Mississippi in 1966 as a civil rights volunteer. I included this experience in the memoir I wrote in Learning in Retirement's "Writing to Remember" this past fall and I presented it in an oral version at performances hosted by the Moth in Los Angeles and Boston.

Nancy Mihevc: Digital Privacy

As digital devices become ubiquitous, the Supreme Court has been struggling with how to protect our digital privacy while maintaining law enforcement's ability to investigate. I examine decisions from the first wire-tapping case heard by the Court to the most recent case of cell phone location data and demonstrate both continuity and change in the underlying rationales of the decisions – plus a board game for the audience to play!

Wednesday May 16

Rachel Borson: Hitler Youth

The Hitler Youth was the largest and most successful mass movement within the Third Reich. Historians have written that the Hitler Youth created a bulwark of replenishment for the Nazis as well as obstructing the development of visible resistance to fascism. Understanding this movement helps us understand the rise of authoritarianism in our country and around the world today.

Elizabeth Schaffer: Liberia

Description yet to come.