

2019 FALL ENCORE PRESENTATIONS

Encore presentations this spring are scheduled for 10:00-Noon in the lower level meeting room at Applewood Retirement Community, One Spencer Drive, Amherst. Please park on Spencer Drive, not in the parking lots.

A note to Applewood residents: You are *all* welcome, come join us!

September 27, 2019

Carpets from Iran

Presenter: Nina Scott

Seminar: History & Culture of Iran

Description: After oil, Iranian carpets are one of the most important exports of the country. This presentation lays out the process of weaving, traditional designs, and recent deep changes which are affecting an artistic industry which has flourished for centuries. In preparation for this talk, please view the following videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaBsaQwwV7Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyQWEItxWYk>

The Nuclear Agreement with Iran

Presenter: Roger Webb

Seminar: The History and Culture of Iran

Description: Iran's foreign policy and its search for nuclear weapons. What's involved in making a nuke, why Iran wants one, and how the US and other countries have attempted to prevent them getting one.

October 4, 2019

How to Behave Badly in Elizabethan England

Presenter: Christine Heckman

Seminar: The Elizabethan Era

Description: Learn how to insult, mock or threaten almost anyone during the Elizabethan period, as well as rude things to do with your hat and an introduction to staff-fighting. Pictures and demonstrations included.

Stefan Zweig and his World of Yesterday

Presenter: Richard Stonberg

Seminar: European Destiny & the Hapsburgs

Description: After decades of relative obscurity, the life and career of Jewish biographer and dramatist Stefan Zweig (1881-1942) has been rediscovered as witnessed by director Wes Anderson's film, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, based on Zweig's novels and short stories. Zweig's final work, *The World of Yesterday*, is a fascinating chronicle of 3 ages: the Golden Days of Vienna that ended with WWI; that war and its aftermath; and the Hitler years. In exile in Brazil, Zweig's memoir proved to be both an autobiography and a long suicide note since both he and his wife Lotte killed themselves the day after he posted the manuscript to his publisher.

October 11, 2019

Co-evolution of language and brain

Presenter: John Armstrong

Seminar: Language and Evolution

Description: All animals communicate, but only humans have language...many thousands of languages. Recent developments in various sciences have shed light on how this may have come to pass: a universal language instinct, but no universal human language.

The role of culture in language

Presenter: Gene Fisher

Seminar: Language and Evolution

Description: It is impossible to imagine human society without language. Yet, it is also impossible to understand the origin and evolution of language without culture. Culture invents language to unify society around its knowledge, roles, and values.

October 18, 2019

Andreas Vesalius and William Harvey

Presenter: Edward Brandt

Seminar: The Age of Reason

Description: The accomplishments of these two transformative figures created the foundation of our fascination and interest in human biology and medicine. Their work challenged the dogma of their time periods. Vesalius and Harvey emerged from the Renaissance to free medicine from superstition and revolutionize scientific research.

Noam Chomsky

Presenter: Tom Jones

Seminar: Language and Evolution

Description: Exactly what is language, why is it unique to humans, and how did it begin? These questions have been hotly debated over the last 150 years. This presentation will introduce the views of four of the most important, even controversial, figures in these debates.

October 25, 2019

Populating the Americas

Presenter: Kathy Campbell

Seminar: Humanity's Past

Description: What have we learned from the new science of ancient DNA sequencing about the arrival of humans in the western hemisphere? Have older theories been confirmed or overturned? Has the result been greater clarity or greater confusion? This talk is a review of the evolution of our knowledge over the last century.

Languages of North America

Presenter: Clarise Patton

Seminar: Language and Evolution

Description: There seem to be 3 sets of languages in all of North America. In the US portion of languages, they can differ as much as Chinese and English, and have some fascinating characteristics like Having to specify how you know something - did you see it, hear about it, or assume it due to other things. Also, a Cherokee man, having heard about 'talking leafs' developed a written language which is still in use today.

November 1, 2019

Comfort and Connection - A Reader's Theater

Presenter: Jane Holloway

Seminar: Dealing with Dying and Death

Description: 12 actors will present Journey with Ed, the true story of a woman and her dying husband as they consciously and lovingly work through their final months together, finding comfort, meaning, even creating their own special rituals. It's a story of love and loss, but also one of connection as a circle of dear friends offer their support through emails. Handouts include ways to provide comfort for the patient and support for the caregiver, even if you live far away.

Boston Police Strike

Presenter: Bonnie Vigeland

Seminar: Boston 1919

Description: Exactly a hundred years ago, the city of Boston experienced a year of unprecedented unrest - economic, social, political, racial – that culminated in an explosive police strike that gripped the city for days and had repercussions across the country. My talk will explore some of the national movements that led to the strike (divisive politics, race riots, anti-immigration sentiments, labor issues), the specific events of those days in Boston, and the tensions that remain unresolved today.

November 8, 2019

Holyoke's Mills and Canals

Presenter: Carol Walker

Seminar: 1800's Massachusetts Architecture

Description: This presentation focuses on the mills of the City of Holyoke, the first planned industrial community in the United States. Still known today as the Paper City, Holyoke was the largest paper manufacturing city in the world, producing an estimated 80% of the writing paper used in the U.S. It was also home to the world's largest silk and alpaca wool mills as well as the most famous architectural firm specializing in water-driven mills.

Holger Cahill (1887-1960) and American Art under the WPA

Presenter: Ruth V. Elcan

Seminar: FDR's Supporting Cast

Description: We can all be glad that the WPA kept some artists from starving, but did anything of lasting value come out of federal support for visual art during the Great Depression? The common answer is "not much," but the programs conceived by New Deal arts program director Holger Cahill suggest "quite a lot." Who was this unlikely administrator and why are his achievements for American art mostly unrecognized now?

November 15, 2019

Memoir

Presenter: Fred Bogin

Seminar: Techniques of Memoir Writing

Description: After 38 years of pediatric practice and a number of years writing about memorable patients, Fred has turned his pen toward his experiences as a patient and the parent of an adult child with serious illness. He will read two relatively brief essays, one about his own open-heart surgery, and one about his daughter's successful battle with cancer.

Charles Dickens

Presenter: Alan Armstrong

Seminar: Victorian Britain

Description: (n/a)