



## Newsletter of the ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM

### SPRING PREVIEW MEETING

Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 10:00AM

#### WE'RE BACK!!!



Hmmm, well, no. Not yet. For our own safety, we still can't conduct our Preview Meetings the way we used to. There won't be any in-person presentations, no coffee and danish, no rubbing elbows and shaking hands with other members, definitely no hugging, and no guest speaker. But you will be able to see and hear many of the presenters who will be giving us a verbal glimpse of the 25 programs being offered via the Zoom platform this spring semester.

And what a semester it will be! Not only will our participation be easier with our Zoom learning curve diminished to a speed bump but take a look at the curriculum described in this newsletter. Among the courses offered, we'll be learning about Islam, Macbeth, Art, Native Americans, Hinduism, Slavery, Birding, Sculpturing, Beethoven, Picasso, Writing, the Black Plague, and Comedy. And for all that and more, you'll be paying a "tuition" fee of \$55 maximum. There hasn't been a bargain like that since Filenes had a basement.

So relax in the comfort and safety of your own home, listen to the presenters, read the course descriptions, select the classes you want to attend, and register – using the enclosed registration form or the faster on-line registration process available on our website at [alp.uconn.edu](http://alp.uconn.edu).

And hope for good times ahead.

#### A MESSAGE FROM JACK

The ALP Board of Directors wants to sincerely thank all the members who have made our Zoom programs such a huge success. Over 250 members registered for the fall semester with an average of 5.56 courses selected per member. With the many hours and days of speculative effort put in by our Zoom Team, this is truly a gratifying and rewarding result. The key members on the team are Kim Hunt, Tom Gworek, Bob Ellis, Agnes Pier and our Zoom Consultant Phil Will. A special thanks to each of them.



For those individuals who have previously registered for classes but elected not to participate in Zoom classes, be assured that **WE WANT YOU BACK** for our spring semester that begins in January. Our website ([alp.uconn.edu](http://alp.uconn.edu)) has Zoom instructions for you to reference ahead of time and ALP is also pleased to announce that we will once again provide training sessions for those who need it. A schedule for the Zoom training sessions will be shown on the Website under the Registration tab. We'll let you know when it's available.

-- Jack Gregory, ALP Co-Chair

## PREVIEW MEETING AGENDA

The traditional agenda for the Preview Meeting has once again been modified to fit the Zoom occasion:

- 9:45 **Join the Meeting:** Look for your e-mailed invitation and use the link to join the meeting **now**; don't wait until the last minute with the assumption that the Zoom God won't decide to surprise you with some technical problem that will make you miss part of the meeting.
- 10:00 **Introduction of Presenters for the fall semester:** Each Presenter will provide a brief monologue about their course.
- 11:00 **Q and A time.** Members may ask questions of Presenters using Zoom's "Raise Your Hand" feature (see *Guidelines on ALP's website* ([alp.uconn.edu](http://alp.uconn.edu))).
- 11:30 Adjournment

## PREVIEW MEETING PARKING

Find a comfortable chair. Finding one near a computer would be good.

A chair with a cup holder would also be nice. And a foot stool. And someone to refill the cup so you don't miss any part of the meeting. And snacks. If you can find a cup-filler who also provides snacks, you're all set – even without the computer.

Instead of all that, you could just buy a laptop or smart phone and stay in bed. But the cup filler/snack provider is still an excellent idea.

## NAME TAG REMINDER

Don't worry about it; name tags are not required this semester. Just make sure your name is properly displayed when you join a Zoom meeting.

Do not, however, throw away those name tags. This #@%&#\* social distancing will end some day and when we actually meet and shake hands, we'll probably need some help. Forgetting names is what old people do best.

## MEANDERING MUSINGS OF A MUTANT MIND (Chapter 11)

- Did the same person who put the first "R" in February put the first "D" in Wednesday?
- If you see a glass as half empty, pour it into a smaller glass and stop complaining.
- When French people swear, do they say "Pardon my English"?
- Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.
- You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and try to get back up.



## TRADITION ODDITY

The words to the song Auld Lang Syne, meaning "Days Gone By" in today's English, was written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788. It first became popular in this country in the 1930's when Guy Lombardo and his orchestra began playing it on national radio every New Year's Eve and has since become a tradition. The sponsor for his show? Robert Burns cigars.

## The Tale of the Website and the Webmaster

Once upon a time, ALP had a website that was miserable from lack of use. It wanted to be helpful and offered a lot of useful information but members had access to the same information from a variety of other sources and so it remained largely underused. Over the years, the website grew with more information, more history, more photos, and more current news that attracted more visitors. And the Webmaster who controlled the website was pleased. Then a feature was added to the website that allowed members to register and pay for their membership on-line so the website became very popular – and important. And the Webmaster lived happily ever after.



For the past four years, Donna Cote, ALP's Webmaster, has been keeping the website ready, relevant and reliable. She is responsible for its upkeep and has been involved in the design changes that have made it into a highly useful tool for members to better enjoy their ALP experience. Amazingly, Donna had no website experience when she volunteered for the job in 2017. A retired music teacher from the Somers school system, she spent 35 years teaching children how to sing, not build or maintain websites. She did, however, use her computer's access to the internet to help in her teaching efforts and so became familiar enough with the concept of websites and internet navigation to establish a comfort level with the technology.

What she also had was a willingness to contribute her time and effort to help ALP – to give something in return for the education and enjoyment she was receiving from attending the many classes offered to her. She also satisfied the basic requirements for being ALP's

Webmaster: (1) the ability to read, (2) the ability to follow directions, (3) the ability to write a complete sentence – sometimes two or three in a row, and (4) the ability to use a phone to ask for help. With a complete set of "how to" instructions available to her and with an occasional helping hand from the previous Webmaster, Donna landed in her job with both feet running and never looked back.

**After four years of outstanding service, she is now awaiting the opportunity to begin training her replacement – for whenever that need occurs. All she needs is a volunteer to step forward and say "I want to help and I can do that." Here's what "that" entails:**

- Upload the curriculum twice a year – as provided by the ALP Administrator.
- Maintain the home page as needed to reflect current news.
- Update class scheduling information as changes occur.
- Upload copies of the newsletter, member's writings and photos as received from contributors.
- Upload a list of the current membership twice a year as provided by the ALP Administrator.
- Send e-mail blasts to the membership as directed by members of the Board.

Being a baby-sitting grandmother of two, Donna will attest to the fact that none of her Webmaster tasks are terribly time-consuming - which has enabled her plenty of time not only to bond with the grandkids but to continue to serve on the board of directors for Opera Connecticut, take a trip to Tibet, and serve as a Red Cross volunteer.

So if you're willing and able to get involved, contact ALP's Administrator, Agnes Pier (860-785-5609 or [admin@uconnalp.org](mailto:admin@uconnalp.org)). She will put you in touch with Donna.

### POPULATION PROBLEM?

In the 75 years since the end of WWII, the U.S. has more than doubled its population to over 330 million people. Our current population per square mile, however, is only 93 people. France has 319, England 725, and India 1,202. The most densely populated country, Monaco, has an unbelievable 68,000 people per square mile.

## SPRING 2021 MULTI-SESSION SEMINARS

An asterisk (\*) next to the course code indicates a course has limited enrollment.

*See Registration Form, side 2.*

**NOTE:** The views expressed by the presenters of ALP courses do not necessarily reflect the views of the ALP organization or the members of its Board of Directors.

### **SS-01 Matisse and Picasso: Friendship, Rivalry, Art**

Rhea Higgins, Professor, Art History, U of Hartford, Wesleyan Institute Life Long Learning -- Thursdays 1:00-2:30, 1/21, 1/28 -- Zoom Teleconference

Matisse and Picasso are considered today the most widely recognized artists of the 20th century. In their careers, they both managed to produce monumental bodies of work as well as develop visions of artistic expression with astonishing concepts that strained the conventions of art criticism. Each painted with differing priorities: Matisse emphasizing color, and Picasso form. Just ten years apart in age, they became both friends and rivals, competing and challenging one another but also inspiring one another artistically. We will examine their early works to later ones, stressing their innovations with what each considered their personal vision.

### **SS-02 Black Death: The World's Most Devastating Plague**

Jack Gregory & Tom Gworek, ALP Co-Chairs -- Tuesdays 10:00-12:00, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2 -- Zoom Teleconference

So you think COVID-19 is disrupting your life! Let us look at a tragedy far more devastating to the then known world. It will be fascinating to compare the plague of the 14th century with the present situation. If one thinks that things could not be worse than they are today, a few sessions of this program will show how terrible a pandemic can truly be. Enough similarities exist between the two eras to be fascinating but the differences are much wider and disturbing. Great Courses DVD

### **SS-03\* Creative Writing**

Kim Hunt -- Mondays 1:00-3:00, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8 -- Zoom Teleconference Size Limit: 15  
This is a discussion group for both the beginner and the more experienced writer. The spectrum of creative writing: essay, fiction, memoir, poetry, free verse - commonly involves guided reflection. Issues of trust, motivation, privacy, habit, goal, structure and quality entwine to both hamper and clarify the beckoning impulse, enticed by discoveries in 'creativity'. Reflection offers vast reprieve for much that causes us to grieve.

### **SS-04 Industrial Revolution III**

Richard Woodring, Professor of Civil Engineering Emeritus, Drexel University -- Thursdays 10:00-12:00, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11 -- Zoom Teleconference

This course is a continuation of our series of lectures in the fall of 2019 describing the social, political and technological changes taking place in England. Our study will move to Europe and America. We will study the contributions of Isambard Kingdom Brunel - Master Engineer, Eli Whitney, De Lesseps, Eiffel, Rockefeller, and Carnegie. One lecture will describe how poets and novelists responded to industrialization.

### **SS-05 Comedy, Comedians & Comics**

Bob Ellis -- Wednesdays 9:30-12:00, 2/10, 2/17 -- Zoom Teleconference

This five-part PowerPoint supported program will cover all aspects of comedy from the political satire of Aristophanes (450 BC) to the slapstick of the Three Stooges to the one-liners of Henny Youngman to the improvisations of Robin Williams with lots of trivia thrown in about the men and women who made us laugh. Part 1: Aristophanes through Vaudeville; Part 2: Silent Movies and Radio. Parts 3 - 5 (Talkies/TV and A Study of Styles) will be offered in the fall semester. Attendees are encouraged but not required to bring a favorite joke to share.

## **SPRING 2021 MULTI-SESSION SEMINARS (page 2 of 3)**

### **SS-06 Journal Writing**

Jane Newpeck, English teacher -- Tuesdays 10:00-12:00, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13 -- Zoom Teleconference

We will learn about structuring a journal to each person's desires and some helpful hints to add flavor. Members will try questions, allusion, memory, quotation, emotional impact and incident impact in adding interest and flow to their writing. We will read and critique a sample of each other's writing in an effort to incorporate the above interest points.

### **SS-07 Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground**

Kathy Hermes, Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University -- Wednesdays 10:00-12:00, 3/10, 3/17 -- Zoom Teleconference

For the first session the presenter will explain the Ancient Burying Ground project and discuss the history of Native, African, and African-American people in Hartford in the colonial period. For the second session she will do a workshop on how to do research in Native and African-American history in the Connecticut records. The course will be based on the website <http://www.africanativeburialsct.org>.

### **SS-08 Macbeth**

Milla Riggio, Professor of English, Trinity College -- Thursdays 10:00-3:30, 3/18 -- Zoom Telecon. Movie, lecture and group discussion on Shakespeare's Macbeth. The course will be an all-day program with a viewing of Macbeth DVD/Video in the morning. There will then be a one and half hour lunch break; participants will return after lunch for the lecture and group discussion. Macbeth Summary: Three witches tell the Scottish general Macbeth that he will be King of Scotland. Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth kills the king, becomes the new king, and kills more people out of paranoia. Civil war erupts to overthrow Macbeth, resulting in more death.

### **SS-09\* Hinduism: Basis of Science and Spirituality**

Nibedita Mitra, Doctor of Anthropology -- Wednesdays 10:00-12:00, 3/24, 3/31 -- Zoom Teleconference  
Size Limit: 10

This course will cover the history of Hinduism, one of the oldest religions of the world, association of Veda/Vedic knowledge, its scientific basis, core beliefs and practices, yoga/meditation and Ayurveda.

### **SS-10\* Native American Perspectives**

Jane Newpeck, English teacher -- Wednesdays 10:00-12:00, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28 -- Zoom Teleconference  
Size Limit: 25

In an effort to destroy stereotypes we will look at three key times for American Indians as seen through their eyes. We will explore the first contact with Europeans, the rise and influence of the American Indian movement and the contemporary renaissance of the Indian nations. We hope to gain a new understanding of Indian difficulties through hearing their own words in films and speech. Topics will include, Before the Mayflower, Pequot War, American Indian Movement and Contemporary Indian Situations. Ample time will be allowed to encourage discussion and questions.

### **SS-11\* Reading 'Beloved' Together**

Jane Barstow, Professor Emerita, University of Hartford -- Thursdays 10:30-11:30, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22 -- Zoom Teleconference  
Size Limit: 20

Appreciation of Toni Morrison's magnificent achievement requires contributions from as many readers and perspectives as possible. We begin with a review of the personal and artistic apprenticeship that prepared Morrison to write Beloved and a close reading of its first 60 pages. We next focus on the novel's dramatic core: the reincarnated Beloved's relationships with Sethe, Paul D, and Denver in the context of slavery's most horrific scars and a community's efforts at healing. Finally, we consider where Morrison finds hope, even humor in the tragic tale she tells, and the novel's lasting significance as understood by all readers.

## SPRING 2021 MULTI-SESSION SEMINARS (page 3 of 3)

### SS-12 Beethoven's Symphonies

Howard Sprout, Baritone Soloist -- Tuesdays 10:00-12:00, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4 -- Zoom Teleconference  
We continue to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth by looking at his 4th, 5th, and 6th symphonies. British conductor John Eliot Gardiner says that as Beethoven wrote his 4th Symphony he was "composing for the ages." The opening of Beethoven's 5th Symphony is probably the most famous passage in musical repertoire. It was the motivation for allied forces on D-Day. We also explore its ties to the French Revolution. The 6th symphony breaks from the classical notion of "symphony." It has five movements and each has a title that directs the audience toward specific scenes in the countryside.

### SS-13 Hikes

Kevin Gough, Wintonbury Land Trust -- Fridays 9:30-12:00, 4/23, 5/7, 5/21 -- Offsite TBA  
We will visit hiking trails within a 20-mile radius of Bloomfield which have been recommended for their natural beauty, historical significance, flora and fauna, or other unique characteristics. Carpooling will often be suggested. Participants should be able to walk 2 1/2 to 3 miles over uneven terrain. There is an additional non-refundable fee to offset ALP's insurance cost for this program. In the light of the pandemic CDC/State guidelines, we will schedule 3 additional dates (previous Wednesday or Thursday) to accommodate social distancing, if necessary.

### SS-14\* Citizens, Arm Yourself (against Fake News)

Susan Campbell, Distinguished Lecturer, Univ. of New Haven -- Thursdays 10:00-12:00, 5/13, 5/20 -- Zoom Teleconference Size Limit: 30

Just a few years ago we talked about being in an information age. Now we are in a misinformation age, and in order to move effectively through the world, we need to be able to separate the falsehoods from the truth.

### SS-15 An Introduction to Islam in America

Terry Schmitt, Retired Executive Director, Interreligious Understanding -- Tuesdays 1:00-3:00, 5/18, 5/25 -- Zoom Teleconference

We will explore the basic tenets of Islam as an introduction to the religion, including a bit of history as well as current organizational structure. Then we will explore some of the experiences of Muslims in America today, with both opportunities and difficulties discussed. Questions & answers will be an important part of the course.

### SS-16 Idylls of Imagination: American Landscape Painting

Richard Friswell, Director, Wesleyan Institute for Lifelong Learning -- Wednesdays 1:00-3:00, 5/19, 5/26 -- Zoom Teleconference

For the first 200 years of American history, landscape painting was held in low regard. Tastes ran toward European genres with their rich history of castle ruins. It was not until the early 19th century, as the US came into its own as a nation and westward expansion discovered new vistas, that our unique features of forest, mountain and sea became noteworthy. A carefully-crafted, romantic-era vision of America became foundational for shaping a national identity - one that could offer authentication for 'who we are' and one that would be reshaped by events like the Civil War, industrialization and modernism.

**Overheard during a Zoom meeting break:** *"I read about people my age going mountain climbing, sky diving and skate boarding. I feel good just getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance."*

# ALP MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM --

SPRING 2021

An Adult Learning Program (ALP) membership entitles you to participate in all seminars and single-session classes for which you have registered.

You can register online ([alp.uconn.edu](http://alp.uconn.edu)) or fill out this form, and mail it with your check, made out to UCONN/ALP, to:

Adult Learning Program  
Hartford County Extension Center  
Exchange Building – Suite 262  
270 Farmington Ave.  
Farmington, CT 06032

For more information, call - ALP office:(860) 785-5609 or go to our website: <http://alp.uconn.edu>.

## ----- PLEASE PRINT -----

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
 Check here if you are a new member

Check here if you prefer a black and white, rather than colored version, of the ALP-Horn

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 \$55 One-Semester Membership

\$45 If you are a Seabury at Home, Seabury or Duncaster resident, your fees are reduced in appreciation for the in-kind services space the institutions provide.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to ALP

## ----- HOW ELSE WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE? -----

ALP is a volunteer organization with everyone contributing his/her share. Please let us know which committee/activity you would consider working on or learning about.

**Curriculum Committee** - Plans all seminars and single-session classes.

**Event & Membership Support Committee** - Integrates new members into ALP, nurtures leadership among members, nominates board members, plans and staffs membership meetings.

**Communication Committee** - Provides information to potential and current members through word of mouth, the preparation and distribution of promotional handouts, the ALP-Horn newsletter, and the ALP website.

**Presentations** - Present a seminar or single-session class, or put us in touch with a possible presenter.

# ALP REGISTRATION FORM – SPRING 2021

(side 2)

**NAME: (Please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

From the list below, please check the courses you wish to take.

If a course has limited enrollment, there is an asterisk (\*) in the course code. First priority in these courses will be given to those who are on the waiting list from the last time the course was offered, if they sign up for the course this semester. Then, a random selection will be made from the others who enroll this semester. You will be notified whether or not you are in the course a few weeks before it begins.

If you find you cannot participate in a seminar, please inform the ALP office at (860-785-5609) so that others may be considered. You do not need to notify the office if you will miss only one class.

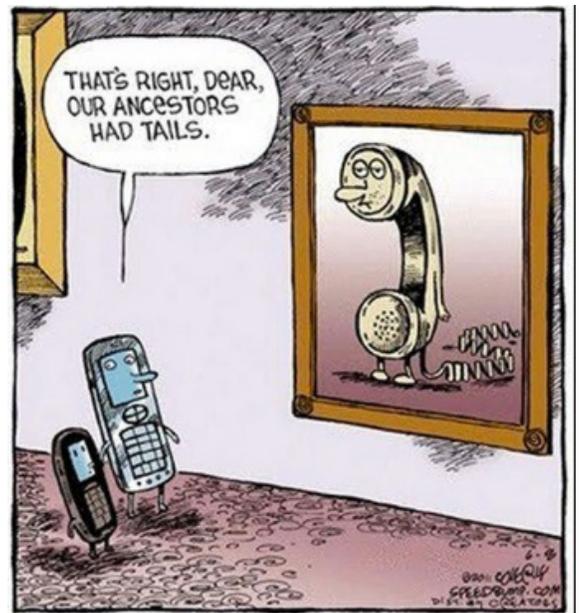
We will send you a list of your course selections. You can also create your personal calendar on our website: <http://alp.uconn.edu>.

## SEMINARS

- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-01 Matisse and Picasso
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-02 Black Death
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-03\* Creative Writing
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-04 Industrial Revolution III
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-05 Comedy, Comedians & Comics
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-06 Journal Writing
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-07 Ancient Burying Ground
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-08 Macbeth
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-09\* Hinduism
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-10\* Native American
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-11\* Reading 'Beloved' Together
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-12 Beethoven's Symphonies
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-13 Hikes
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-14\* Fake News
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-15 Islam in America
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-16 American Landscape Painting

## SINGLE- SESSIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-01 American Democracy
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-02 Evelyn Longman: Art & Career
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-03 Lyme Disease
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-04 Ancestry Testing
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-05 Architecture of Old Deerfield
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-06 Health & Travelogue
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-07 Comanche & His Captain
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-08\* Birding 101
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-09 Mass Incarceration



## SPRING 2021 SINGLE SESSION CLASSES

### **SSS-01 Expanding American Democracy**

Jeffery Ogbar, Professor of History at the University of Connecticut -- Wednesday 1:00-3:00, 2/3 -- Zoom Teleconference

This program will provide a thumbnail sketch addressing 400 years of America's inconsistent efforts to embrace the abstract and elastic notion of democracy, touching upon - inter alia - the adoption of the post-Civil War amendments, Lyndon Johnson's Civil Rights Acts, and the issues affecting voting rights. This course is rightly titled African Slaves to America and its Impact "Expanding American Democracy."

### **SSS-02 Evelyn Longman: A Sculptor's Art and Career**

Liz Burke -- Wednesday 10:00-11:30, 2/24 -- Zoom Teleconference

This program will explore the career and art of sculptor Evelyn Longman, the first woman sculptor inducted to the National Academy of Design. Many of her works as well as her 1920 - 1949 studio and her career archives are on the Loomis Chaffee campus.

### **SSS-03 Lyme Disease: Discovery, Origins & Controversy**

Jonathan Dixon, M.D. -- Wednesday 1:00-3:00, 3/3 -- Zoom Teleconference

This will be a story about how two calls came into the Rheumatology Division at Yale concerning an outbreak of arthritis in several local communities and how investigators figured out what was going on. It is a fascinating story about how clear scientific thinking, careful observation and investigation can solve a confusing problem. The presenter will touch upon the current controversy surrounding the diagnosis and treatment of chronic Lyme Disease which, to some extent arises out of conspiracy theories about the validity of evidence-based medicine. Questions and audience comments are welcome.

### **SSS-04 Ancestry Testing Services: Pros and Cons**

Michael Park, Professor Emeritus, Anthropology, CCSU -- Monday 10:00-12:00, 4/5 -- Zoom Teleconference

An analysis of the popular DNA ancestry services, such as '23andMe': How do we evaluate the reports? What are the limitations of the services? How can the reports be misinterpreted? To accurately and fairly address these questions we will look at 1. how genetics work, 2. some important aspects of human evolution, and 3. what do we really mean by ancestry. Then we will answer those questions through a detailed look at the ancestry services and how you can interpret your results.

### **SSS-05 Buildings as Social History in Old Deerfield, MA**

James Golden, Director of Interpretation, Historic Deerfield -- Monday 10:00-12:00, 4/26 -- Zoom Teleconference

Deerfield, Massachusetts is the site of numerous beautiful, architecturally-significant early American homes. This talk examines the history of the Connecticut River Valley through six remarkable buildings, constructed on either side of the American Revolution. It will teach the audience how to "read" an eighteenth-century building, understanding it as evidence of social history as well as aesthetic developments.

### **SELF-HELP IDEAS**

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes? We'd come out wrinkle free and three sizes smaller.

If you can't think of a word, say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

## SPRING 2021 SINGLE SESSION CLASSES (page 2 of 2)

### SSS-07 Comanche, the Warhorse & His Captain

Janet Barrett, Author -- Wednesday 10:00-12:00, 5/5 -- Zoom Teleconference

Following Janet Barrett's previous book, "They Called Her Reckless," this is a story about another great warhorse, Comanche, who was in service to the famed U.S Cavalry at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. Comanche stood alone as the sole survivor. This is his story.

### SSS-08\* Birding 101

Zellene Sandler (Former President, CT Audubon Society), Ian Clark & Betsy Tonkin, -- Friday 7:30-9:30 AM, 5/14 -- Offsite TBA Size Limit: 15

There will be a short lecture on bird recognition. We will go down to the edge of the meadow and watch, listen and learn about birding. Please bring binoculars and bird books, if you have them, sturdy shoes, and a cell phone for recording bird calls. Practice using the binoculars before attending class.

### SSS-09 Mass Detention and Incarceration

Honorable James Carr, U.S. District Judge -- Thursday 10:00-12:00, 6/3 -- Zoom Teleconference

Why the problem? What can be done about it? Judge Carr will discuss our country's long-standing practice of over-incarcerating pretrial detainees and sentenced defendants, its origins, causes, consequences, and reforms.

#### OMG!! ANOTHER BAD JOKE

Walking into the bar, Mike said to Charlie the bartender, "Pour me a stiff one – I just had another fight with the little woman."

"Oh yeah?" said Charlie, "and how did this one end?"

"When it was over," Mike replied, "she came to me on her hands and knees."

"Really," said Charles, "now that's a switch! What did she say?"

She said, "Come out from under the bed, you little chicken."

#### FEGHOOT OF THE YEAR

(look it up)

A skeptical anthropologist was cataloguing South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal doctor. The doctor indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for any case of constipation.

When the anthropologist expressed his doubts, the doctor looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, you don't need enemas."

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."* -- Winston Churchill

*"A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have."* -- Thomas Jefferson

## NEW MEMBERS

It took an intrepid group of people to join ALP during a pandemic when we didn't really know if we could conduct classes using an unfamiliar telecommunication technology. But that's what the following members did and we thank them for their interest and their confidence in our program.

Lynn Blair, Marilyn Boehm, Liz Burke, John Cappadona, Carolyn Hardin-Engelhardt, George Engelhardt, Austra Gaige, Charles Griffen, Marye Gail Harrison, Suzanne Hertel, Gerald Hess, Carol Hunt, Stephen Langford, Sally Lord, Virginia Lougee, Theda Marinelli, Claire Murphy, Martha O'Donnell, Catherine Pepin, Anne Schenck, Carolyn Schnatz, David Schnatz, Evelyn Smith, Nancy Titchen, Bill Warner-Prouty, and Susan Woodward



## DONORS

Equally impressive were the following members (old and new) who had faith that the ALP organization would survive these extremely difficult times and backed up that faith by making financial contributions to help ease the burden of the challenge. On behalf of the entire membership, we thank each of you.



Joyce and Dick Armstrong, Patricia Brecker, Arlene and John Buckey, Ruth Budlong, Carolyn Clark, Ian Clark, Martha Colton, Kayla Costenoble, Donna Cote, David Crombie, Diane Edell, Julie Fewster, Louise Fisher, Joy Floyd, Sally Foster, William Fuller, Austra Gaige, Mary Jane Gately, Toni Gold, Jack Gregory, Florence Grieb, Gloria and Thomas Gworek, Wendy Haller, Bette Hardersen, Marye Gail Harrison, Patricia and Ron Hensley, Beth and Carl Horlitz, Carol Hunt, Kim Hunt, Katherine Ill, Christine Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Dick Keeffe, Nancy Kline, Ursula Korzenik, Nancy Kramer, Steven Law, Stephanie Levine, Adlyn Loewenthal, Mary Martin, Errol Matzke, Birch Milliken, Marian Moore, Clifford Morin, Don Noel, Doris Nussbaum, Harriet Odlum, Dolores Peruch, Brenda Pfeiffer, Zellene Sandler, Anne Schenck, Carolyn Schnatz, Lynn Scull, Sandra Slipp, Evelyn Smith, Orlene Spinney, Karen Sprout, Judith Stearns, Betsy Stevens, Richard Wenner, and Phil Will.

## JOB OPENING - ALP ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

ALP is looking for a part time administrator to play a role in many parts of the Adult Learning Program's operations. The administrator, a paid position, plans and coordinates all administrative services for ALP. The administrator must be an effective communicator. The ability to multitask is necessary. Other important skills the administrator should have include:

- Computer literacy skills include proficiency in the Microsoft office suite of programs with aptitudes in Access database and Excel, as well as, Word.
- Communications and customer service skills to work with members, course presenters,

committees and the board of directors on a regular basis.

- Skill in the use of the Internet with experience on the use of the Zoom technology and knowledge with webpages and browsing.
- Organizational skills managing current and upcoming program terms, administration of ALP committees, calendars, members, course presenters and events.
- Time management skills since the work times of the job are irregular.

**Please pass this posting onto friends and families for wide distribution. For further information, contact Agnes Pier (860-785-5609 or [admin@uconnalp.org](mailto:admin@uconnalp.org)).**

# ON LINE REGISTRATION A SUCCESS

by Errol Matzke, ALP Treasurer and Project Chair

Registrations for the fall session went off very successfully with almost exactly two-thirds of the fall registrations made online (165 of 250 total). The same ratio held with regard to payments, in which again almost exactly two-thirds of the dues and donation payments were made by credit card. All of that wraps into a very successful introductory season.



## New Feature

To add to the convenience of the system, we plan to add a feature for the spring session. It will allow members who register online to submit an online supplement in which they can add courses that were not included in their original registration. Doing so will not involve any credit card entry or additional payment. You simply submit a second registration with your additional courses selected and instead of selecting a payment option you select the new option that says “*I have already registered.*” Follow the procedure from there as you normally would. You will come to the “*Confirm Payment*” page which will tell you that no payment is necessary, and then click the “*Place Order*” button. ALP does not keep your credit card information.

Incidentally, for anyone who does not wish to use a credit card, a debit card works equally well – and you won’t be asked for your pin number.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know you could have your own “National Day”? It’s true. Like those who suggested National Fried Chicken Day (July 6) or Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (June 27), you can submit your own idea for a national day and get it recognized. Oh, your chances of having a day named after you are pretty slim, but if you have a cause or an event or product (no specific names) you think deserves some recognition, you have a chance.

Congress used to control these things but gave up trying to keep up with the requests in 1995. And the President can still create a “day” by proclamation (e.g., September 11<sup>th</sup> is now Patriot Day) and on occasion even proclaims a national week (School Lunch, Fire Prevention, Volunteers) or month (Black History, Cancer Control, Child Abuse, etc.). There are 63 such days, 20 weeks and 55 months (huh?) with special recognition of people, events and other activities proclaimed by our Presidents as being worthy.

But for the most part, the government has stepped aside when it comes to recognizing special days, leaving that task to two different organizations: **Chases** publishes the “*Chases Calendar of Events*” that is commonly recognized as the most thorough source for identifying dates associated with holidays, historic events, celebrity birthdays, and “national days”. Their first publication in 1957 consisted of 32 pages with 364 entries. Last year’s edition was 753 pages with 12,500 entries. That’s a calendar that probably won’t look good hanging on your kitchen wall.

“**National Days Calendar**” is a website which may be the most extensive source for whimsical as well as serious “National Days.” Started just 8 years ago by a group of residents in a small town in South Dakota, it now considers 20,000 requests a year from which a committee of four select 20-25 deserving entries. Unfortunately, due to a “substantial backlog,” they are currently only accepting suggestions from companies and organizations. How about a “National ALP Day”?

No, no, there’s no need to propose a “national newsletter editor” day. It’s been done – and rejected.

## COURSE LISTINGS BY DAY OF WEEK

### MONDAY

SS-03*	Creative Writing	1:00-3:00	2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8
SSS-04	Ancestry Testing	10:00-12:00	4/5
SSS-05	Architecture of Old Deerfield	10:00-12:00	4/26

### TUESDAY

SS-02	Black Death	10:00-12:00	1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2
SS-06	Journal Writing	10:00-12:00	3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13
SS-12	Beethoven's Symphonies	10:00-12:00	4/20, 4/27, 5/4
SS-15	Islam in America	1:00-3:00	5/18, 5/25

### WEDNESDAY

SS-05	Comedy, Comedians & Comics	9:30-12:00	2/10, 2/17
SS-07	Ancient Burying Ground	10:00-12:00	3/10, 3/17
SS-09*	Hinduism	10:00-12:00	3/24, 3/31
SS-10*	Native American	10:00-12:00	4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28
SS-16	American Landscape Painting	1:00-3:00	5/19, 5/26
SSS-01	American Democracy	1:00-3:00	2/3
SSS-02	Evelyn Longman: Art & Career	10:00-11:30	2/24
SSS-03	Lyme Disease	1:00-3:00	3/3
SSS-07	Comanche & His Captain	10:00-12:00	5/5

### THURSDAY

SS-01	Matisse and Picasso	1:00-2:30	1/21, 1/28
SS-04	Industrial Revolution III	10:00-12:00	2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11
SS-08	Macbeth	10:00-3:30	3/18
SS-11*	Reading 'Beloved' Together	10:30-11:30	4/8, 4/15, 4/22
SS-14*	Fake News	10:00-12:00	5/13, 5/20
SSS-06	Health & Travelogue	2:00-4:00	4/29
SSS-09	Mass Incarceration	10:00-12:00	6/3

### FRIDAY

SS-13	Hikes	9:30-12:00	4/23, 5/7, 5/21
SSS-08*	Birding 101	7:30-9:30	5/14



**ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM INC.**

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Editor: Bob Ellis

**What Is ALP?**

ALP is a self-governing, non-profit organization composed largely of retired people who share a common interest in ongoing education. Members participate in courses presented by fellow members and guest lecturers on a variety of subjects. It is associated with the Department of Extension at the University of Connecticut and is one of more than 400 Lifelong Learning Institutes in Retirement affiliated with the Road Scholar Institute Network. Visit us at <http://alp.uconn.edu>.

**Meeting Places**

Seabury  
200 Seabury Dr.  
Bloomfield, CT

Duncaster  
40 Loeffler Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT

The McAuley  
275 Steele Rd.  
W. Hartford, CT

**SPRING PREVIEW MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 10:00–11:30AM**  
**via Zoom Teleconferencing**

**Your opportunity to listen and talk to  
the Presenters of ALP's spring semester courses.**