



# ALP-HORN

**SPRING  
2015**

**Newsletter of the ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM**

## **JODY BLANKENSHIP TO SPEAK AT SPRING PREVIEW MEETING** *"The Role of the Connecticut Historical Society"* Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Mr. Blankenship is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS), a private, not-for-profit museum, library, research and educational center. CHS' mission is to connect you to the story of Connecticut. Founded in 1825, the CHS houses an extensive and comprehensive Connecticut-related collection of manuscripts, printed material, artifacts and images that document social, cultural, and family history.

Prior to his appointment at CHS, Mr. Blankenship served as the Kentucky Historical Society's education director. He also managed the Ohio Historical Society's Outreach and Field Services Department, where he helped establish partnerships with multiple statewide and regional organizations to create and implement outreach programs for K-16 students, faculty, and local history professionals across Ohio and the nation.

Mr. Blankenship is a 2007 graduate of the American Association of State and Local History's Seminar for Historical Administration. He received an M.A. in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program, State University of New York at Oneonta, and a B.A. in History from Ohio Northern University.



### **SPRING PREVIEW MEETING – PARKING AND AGENDA**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 6, 2015 – 9:45-12:00 AT SEABURY, BLOOMFIELD**  
(Snow date, Thursday, January 8)

As usual for preview meetings, you must park at the Beth Hillel Synagogue parking lot and take the Seabury bus (it will run from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.) to the front entrance of Seabury. There is no parking available at Seabury unless you have a Handicapped Permit.

9:30-10:45	Coffee and tea will be available at the top of the stairs.
9:45-10:15	Visit with course presenters and obtain further information about courses. Enrollment/payment accepted.
10:15-10:30	Heritage Hall will be vacated to set up for meeting/speaker.
10:30	Brief membership meeting in Heritage Hall.
11:00	Our speaker will be introduced. After his talk there will be a short Q & A period.
12:00 noon	Adjournment. The shuttle will return you to the parking lot.

## **ALP'S WEBSITE: A PLACE TO KNOW**

On the **HOME PAGE**, you'll see messages about ALP activities and **class cancellations**.

On the **CALENDAR** menu, you can find **descriptions** of every class being offered this semester. You can also create and print your own **Personal Calendar** for a day-to-day schedule of the classes you've selected to attend.

On the **ABOUT US** menu, you can learn about ALP's **affiliations**, its **committees** and **history**. Learn who's on ALP's **Board of Directors** and who's the head of each committee.

On the **HELP YOU** menu, learn **who to contact** if you have any questions, get **driving directions** to Seabury and Duncaster, find out about **carpooling**, and print an **ALP information sheet** to pass on to a friend or neighbor.

On the **PUBLICATIONS** menu, you can view and print a copy of the **ALP-Horn**.

On the **FORMS** menu, you can print a **registration form** to attend classes, and learn how to submit new **seminar ideas** for ALP's curriculum.

Visit **alp.uconn.edu**. It's a learning experience.

## **ALP DVD LIBRARY**

Bertina Williams, ALP Coordinator, is available at the ALP office on Monday and Thursday mornings to take your request to borrow a DVD from the ALP library. Call her at 860-380-5038. The following DVDs are available for loan periods of two weeks subject to a refundable deposit of \$25.00.

***Stretch Your Mind***. Panel Discussion, Simsbury Community TV, 2007. Moderator - Don Noel; Panelists - Richard Edwards, Ivan Backer, Ruthanne Hartzheim and Ann Steele (30 min).

***Mr. Lincoln: The Life of Abraham Lincoln***. A tour of Lincoln's life, from his ancestors arrival in America through an evaluation of how his legacy lives for us today (12 lectures).

***A History of Hitler's Empire (2nd Edition)***. This course describes how the Nazis were able to establish the foundations of a totalitarian regime and cause a devastating war that would consume many millions of lives (12 lectures).

***The Meaning of Life - Perspectives from the World's Great Intellectual Traditions***. These lectures offer a rigorous and wide-ranging exploration of what various spiritual, religious and philosophical traditions from both East and West have contributed to this profound line of questioning (36 lectures).



### **Special and Ongoing Events at Seabury and Duncaster**

As an ALP member, you are welcome to attend some non-ALP events scheduled for Duncaster and Seabury residents. Events such as lectures, concerts, courses and recitals are described on our website at [www.alp.uconn.edu](http://www.alp.uconn.edu)

## DONORS TO ALP, FALL 2014

Ivan Backer	Trudy Lovell
Virginia Baldwin	Bob Mackeown
Don Berry	Rachel Markowitz
Ingrid Boelhouwer	Birch Milliken
Jackie Brown	Edward Savage
John Buckey	Orlene Spinney
Harold Buckingham	Selma Squires
Joyce Buckingham	Halsey Stevens
Frances Carpenter	Eleanor Sulston
John Condon	Bernita Sundquist
Lucy Creevey	Ralph Sundquist
Alice Cruikshank	Dave Swicker
Shirley Dudley	Barbara Taylor
Diane Edell	William Taylor
Virginia Edelson	Patricia Walker
Kiki Eglinton	Mary Ann Watson
Edith Fein	Susan Watson
Paula Fisher	Patricia Zwerling
Sally Foster	Steve Zwerling
Fannie Gabriel	
Winifred Granger	
Diane Harris	
Florence Havens	
June Johnson	
Susan Kaehrle	
Elizabeth Kellerman	
Marion Kelliher	

## SEABURY PARKING FOR ALP CLASSES

TO ALL ALP MEMBERS: For those of you who are not Seabury residents who have graciously complied with previous requests to park in the UPPER parking lot when attending classes, thank you. Your cooperation has been most appreciated.

For those of you who have forgotten or may not be aware of parking restrictions, your future cooperation will be equally appreciated. The lower level parking area in front of the main entrance is needed to accommodate those who are there to visit Seabury residents or the administrative office. There are generally plenty of parking spaces on the upper level for ALP members to use.

If you are interested in car pooling, please visit our website at [alp.uconn.edu/help/carpooling](http://alp.uconn.edu/help/carpooling).

On behalf of the Seabury staff who do so much to support ALP, we thank you.

## NEW MEMBERS

Marian Adler	Bloomfield
Virginia Baldwin	Bloomfield
Anne Brock	Bloomfield
Charles Burstone	Bloomfield
Renee DeSalvatore	Bloomfield
Eileen Hammond	Bloomfield
Bette-Jane Harderson	Bloomfield
Charles Harderson	Bloomfield
Keith Hook	Bloomfield
Theodore Johnson	Bloomfield
R.J. Michaud	Bloomfield
Birch Milliken	Bloomfield
Joel Neuwirth	Bloomfield
Cathy Norris	Granby
Mary Osborn	Bloomfield
Zellene Sandler	Bloomfield
Donald Shapiro	Bloomfield
Betsey Stevens	Bloomfield
Halsey Stevens	Bloomfield
Delcene Fuller	Glastonbury
Edith McGough	Granby
Jim McGough	Granby
Michael Peruch	Newington
Betty Eisen	Simsbury
Marlene Fein	Simsbury
Nancy Weissman	Simsbury
Dennis Winkleblack	Simsbury
Jeanne Winkleblack	Simsbury
Jane Bartlett	West Hartford
Dorothy Cotter	West Hartford
Betty Lebedinsky	West Hartford
Patricia Magee	West Hartford
Tony Stevens	West Hartford

## FINDING NEW MEMBERS

Our membership is growing but there's always room for more. If you know of anyone who would like to join us (we don't advertise—it's all by word of mouth) please contact either Shirley Morrison ([shirlmorr@comcast.net](mailto:shirlmorr@comcast.net)) or Marnie Clark ([marnie.clark1968@gmail.com](mailto:marnie.clark1968@gmail.com)), co-chairs of Communications, and we'll be happy to see that they receive a copy of the ALP-Horn.



## SPRING 2015 SEMINARS

### SS-1. UNDERSTANDING GREEK AND ROMAN TECHNOLOGY II

Richard Woodring, Presenter. Wednesdays, Jan. 28; Feb. 4,18,25; Mar. 4,18. 10-12, Heritage Hall.

This series of lectures is a continuation of the course offered in the fall term. The lectures will begin with "Engineering a Roman Aqueduct" and finish with "The Modern Legacy of Ancient Technology."

### SS-2. REVISITING OUR LIVES

Karen Will, Facilitator. Thursdays, Jan. 29; Feb. 12,19,26: 10-12, Media Room. Limit, 16

Each participant will be asked ahead of the class to give thought to 3 questions: what is our background, what major decisions directed our adult lives, and what unexpected events changed our course along the way? Sharing will be timed so that we can hear from everyone, or four stories per class period.

### SS-3. BIG HISTORY IV

Jim Yaeger, Presenter. Thursdays, Jan. 29; Feb. 5,12,26; Mar. 5,12. 1-3, Heritage Hall.

This is the fourth and concluding semester of "The Big Bang, Life on Earth and the Rise of Humanity," one of The Teaching Company video lecture courses. We begin with the Modern Revolution, about 1700 CE. This threshold marks the initiation of the vast social, economic, and cultural transformations of recent centuries that introduced the modern era of human history and created today's world. The concluding lectures look to the future of humans, of the Earth, and of the Universe.

### SS-4. CREATIVE WRITING

Dorothy Sterpka, Presenter. Wednesdays, Feb. 4,18,25; Mar. 4,11,18. 10-12, Hearthside Parlor.

This semester we will experiment with techniques of indirect inspiration. We will use *Now write! Nonfiction*, Sherry Ellis's compilation of exercises, as well as models from other sources, to help us write nonfiction, fiction, poetry, or memoirs.

### SS-5. MOVIE BUFFS

James Hanley, Presenter. Thursdays, Feb. 5; Mar. 5; Apr. 2. 10:30-12, Media Room. Participants view films at Cinestudio on the campus of Trinity College or elsewhere, at a time of their choosing, and then discuss them in class at Seabury with the knowledgeable director of Cinestudio.

### SS-6. CLASSIC FILMS

Joe Panitch, Presenter. Fridays, Feb. 20,27; Mar. 6,13,20,27. 9:30-12, Media Room.

Classic films are often distinguished or unique works of cinema that have transcended time and trends, with indefinable quality. Classic films are often universal favorites that hold up after repeated screenings. Selecting a group of "classic films" is often subjective. Here are the ones chosen by the presenter: *Citizen Kane*, *The Third Man*, *Metropolis*, *All About Eve*, *Grand Illusion*, and *Modern Times*.



*An Alphorn quartet*

## SPRING 2015 SEMINARS

*Continued from Page 4*

### **SS-7. THE WORLD WAS NEVER THE SAME: EVENTS THAT CHANGED HISTORY**

Ivan Backer, Presenter. Thursdays, Mar.12,19,26; Apr.9,23; Friday, May 8. 10-12, Heritage Hall.

This video lecture series, given by J. Rufus Fears, continues and concludes this spring. It covers events during the 20th century, including both World Wars, and the dropping of the Atom Bomb, and concluding with the attack on the World Trade Center. In each session two half-hour DVD presentations will be shown, followed by discussions that focus upon specific questions primarily intended to integrate lecture material with situations and issues of the present day.

### **SS-8. THE LOST GENERATION - SARA & GERALD MURPHY**

Walter Mayo and Ruthanne Hartzheim, Presenters. Tuesdays, Mar. 17,24,31. 10-12, Heritage Hall.

"That's what you are. That's what you all are; all of you people who served in the war. You are 'A Lost Generation.'" (conversation between G. Stein & E. Hemingway - Paris, 1922.) Lecture and Video discussion about Sara and Gerald Murphy; talented and wealthy expat Americans who were the center of the literary scene in Paris in the 1920's that included Picasso, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Cole Porter, Dorothy Parker and all of the fascinating friends who surrounded them. Suggested reading: *Everybody Was So Young*, by Amanda Vaill.

### **SS-9. WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS**

Leta Marks, Presenter. Tuesdays, Mar. 17,24,31; Apr. 14. 1-3, Hearthside Parlor. Limit 18.

Each week we write short memoirs, bring them to the group to read, and delight in hearing one another. You, too, can come and participate in writing, talking about good writing, and giving/receiving positive, constructive conversation about your piece so we all feel energized to write more.

### **SS-10. SHORT STORIES**

Carol Matzke, Presenter. Thursdays, March 19; Apr. 16; May 14. 1-3, Media Room.

We will discuss two short stories at each session and also learn about the authors.

### **SS-11. EUROPEAN ART HISTORY III**

Ruthanne Hartzheim, Presenter.

Wednesdays, April 1,8,15. 1-3. April 22, 12:30-3, Heritage Hall.

This will be the last of the European Art series. We will finish the art of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and introduce 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Neoclassicism and Romanticism; 19<sup>th</sup> Century Impressionism and Post Impressionism will be followed by 20<sup>th</sup> Century "Art Between the Two Wars." The 4<sup>th</sup> class will conclude with a presentation of the documentary, "The Rape of Europa." (This session will begin half an hour early.)



## SPRING 2015 SEMINARS

*Continued from Page 5*

### **SS-12. THE PLAY'S THE THING**

Nancy Kramer, Presenter. Mondays, Apr. 6,13,20,27. 1-2:45, Center for Spirituality (South Lounge).

We will be reading two plays. No acting skills are required. The presenter will give some information about the author, and then together we will read the play and discuss it.

### **SS-13. EVOLUTION AND HUMAN VARIATION**

Nibedita Mitra, Ph.D., Presenter. Tuesdays, April 7,14,21; May 5. 10-12, Heritage Hall. Maximum class size, 15-20.

The presenter explores and evaluates the human's place in nature, the role of adaptability and diversity on human survival and success as a separate species. The topics to be discussed include: evolution/historical perspective; influence of genetics, heredity and environment; role of social behavior (culture, ethnicity, and sex); and the impact of cultural changes in humanity; issues and controversies.

### **SS-14.AMERICAN POETS LAUREATE II**

Karl Mason, Presenter. Mondays, Apr. 13,20,27; May 4. 10-12, Media Room. Limit 20.

This semester we'll take a look at a new group of poets laureate; ranging from Consultants in Poetry (1937-1986) to Poet Laureate Consultants in Poetry (1986-present). In each one hour session we'll examine the poetry of one poet laureate; this semester we may consider Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Hayden, Maxine Kumin, Richard Wilbur, Howard Nemerov, Stanley Kunitz, Louise Gluck, and Donald Hall. ALP members who signed up for the fall course and were not admitted to the

course because of the class size limitation will be given priority this semester.

### **SS-15. SPRING HIKES**

Betty and Richard Carlson, Leaders. Fridays, Apr. 17; May 1,15. 9:30-12. Explorations of interesting sites in our area. Participants should be able to walk three or four miles over uneven terrain. Details are communicated by e-mail a week in advance of the hike.

### **SS-16. GOOD OL' DAYS**

Bob Ellis, Presenter. Thursdays, May 7,14,21. 9:30-12, Heritage Hall. Part history lesson, part nostalgia, part interactive sharing and part sing-a-long, this six-hour PowerPoint-supported presentation is a look back at the entertainment, fashions, newsmakers, and home life we enjoyed during the 40's and 50's when life – as we remember it – was slower and simpler with a different set of values. If you're over 70, this will be "a program to remember."





**ALP MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM  
SPRING 2015**

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

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS PAGE, THEN MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO UCONN/ALP TO :

Hartford County Extension  
University of Connecticut  
1800 Asylum Avenue, Room 110  
West Hartford, CT. 06117

For additional information, call the ALP office: (860) 380-5038

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Street\_\_\_\_\_Apt.\_\_\_\_\_

Town\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a new member?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (Spring)    \_\_\_\_\_\$55

SEABURY AT HOME, SEABURY AND DUNCASTER RESIDENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\$45  
(Fees are reduced in appreciation for their providing space to ALP)

**HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE?**

ALP is a volunteer organization with each of us contributing his/her share. Please let us know which committee or activity you'd consider working on or learning more about.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Curriculum Committee:** Plans all seminars and single sessions.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Membership Committee:** Integrates new members into ALP; nurtures leadership among members; nominates board members; plans and staffs membership meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Communication Committee:** Reaches out to potential new ALP members through news publicity, Public Access TV, libraries, speaking engagements, website, and the ALP-Horn.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Presentations:** Present a seminar or single session, or put us in touch with a possible presenter.

Name (PLEASE PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

SEMINAR SELECTIONS - Please check the courses you wish to take. If a course has limited enrollment and is over-subscribed, a lottery will be used to select the participants no earlier than one week after the Preview Meeting and no later than one week before the course is to be held. All registrants will be notified of the results of the lottery in a timely manner. This new procedure will enable new ALP members to be included in the registration process for all ALP courses.

Please do not register for more seminars than you intend to take. If you find you cannot participate in a seminar please inform the ALP office (860-380-5038) so that others may be considered. You do not need to notify the office if you will miss a single session.

**Please make a record of the courses chosen.** You can create your personal calendar on our website, **[www.alp.uconn.edu](http://www.alp.uconn.edu)**.

Unless you are notified from the ALP office that you are on a waiting list, plan to attend the course.

### SEMINARS

- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-1 Understanding Greek...Technology
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-2 Revisiting Our Lives
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-3 Big History IV
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-4 Creative Writing
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-5 Movie Buffs
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-6 Classic Films
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-7 The World Was Never The Same...
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-8 The Lost Generation...
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-9 Writing Your Memoirs
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-10 Short Stories
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-11 European Art History III
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-12 The Play's The Thing
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-13 Evolution And Human Variation
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-14 American Poets Laureate II
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-15 Spring Hikes
- \_\_\_\_\_ SS-16 Good Ol' Days

### SINGLE SESSIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-1 A Survey of Technical Theater
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-2 The Origin of Evil...
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-3 Embracing Your Introvert
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-4 Witchcraft in New England
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-5 Two U.S. Supreme Court Cases
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-6 Traveling In Eastern Asia
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-7 The Aging Brain
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-8 Race Revisited
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-9 Retributive Justice
- \_\_\_\_\_ SSS-10 Megachurch America...



*Douglas Hyland, Director of the New Britain Museum of American Art, addressing the 2014 Preview Meeting.*



## SPRING 2015 SINGLE SESSIONS

### **SSS-1. A SURVEY OF TECHNICAL THEATER**

C. Nikki Mills, Production Manager, TheaterWorks, Presenter. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1-3, Heritage Hall.

The presenter will describe the preparation of a play from the perspective of a technical manager from introduction of text through opening night.

### **SSS-2. THE ORIGIN OF EVIL AND THE SOCIAL BRAIN NETWORK**

Prof. William Shoemaker, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Presenter. Tuesday, Mar. 10, 10-12, Heritage Hall.

By the "origin of evil" in the title the presenter is referring to people who are psychopaths. He describes the social brain network and the defects that produce abnormal behavior, and discusses why it is beneficial to learn that "evil" people have a brain lesion rather than believe in a world populated by demons and evil spirits.

**SSS-3. EMBRACING YOUR INTROVERT** Carol Simpson, Retired personnel manager and trainer, State of Connecticut, Presenter. Wednesday, March 25, 1-3, Heritage Hall.

"We're told that to be great is to be bold, to be happy is to be sociable. We see ourselves as a nation of extroverts...(but) one third to one half of Americans are introverts... If you're not an introvert yourself, you are surely raising or married to one" (from the book *Quiet*, by Susan Cain)." In this seminar we'll explore together what it means to be an introvert and how to recognize and appreciate introverted personality traits in ourselves and those we love.

### **SSS-4. WITCHCRAFT IN NEW ENGLAND**

Jennifer Cote, Associate Professor of History, University of Saint Joseph, Presenter. Monday, Mar. 16, 10-12, Heritage Hall.

The presenter will examine the history of witchcraft persecution in New England. We'll discuss Puritan theology and social construction with a particular focus on gender in order to contextualize and explain outbreaks of witchcraft hysteria in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### **SSS-5. TWO U.S. SUPREME COURT CASES**

Judge David Borden, retired acting presiding judge of the Connecticut Supreme Court, Presenter. Wednesday, Mar. 25, 10-12, Heritage Hall.

*The First Amendment, the Supreme Court and Corporations:* Justice David Borden will discuss the recent Citizens United and Hobby Lobby decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court.

### **SSS-6. TRAVELING IN EASTERN ASIA**

Dan Heuer, Presenter. Thursday, Apr. 2, 1-3, Heritage Hall.

We will see a slide show, with music, narration, and discussion, describing a ten-week trip to Asia, starting in Japan; we will see historical sites and gardens in Kyoto, and rebuilt Hiroshima. The next part of the trip was in Bangkok, Thailand, where the presenter and his wife taught English to Buddhist monks. In China we will see street scenes from Kunming, Chuxiong, and Dali, and scenes from the Li River, considered to be one of the most beautiful sights in China, and Hong Kong. The trip concluded in North China; we will see Xi'an and the ancient terra cotta warriors, and Beijing, with the ancient Forbidden City and other sights.

## SPRING 2015 SINGLE SESSIONS

*Continued from Page 9*

### **SSS-7. THE AGING BRAIN**

Sarah Raskin, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Trinity College, Presenter. Monday, Apr. 6, 10-12, Heritage Hall.

The presenter will focus on what is currently known about the way the brain ages. The topics will include recent evidence of both gains and losses in the brain that occur with age. These topics will be reviewed at the cellular, systems, and cognitive levels. In addition, a review of the major brain disorders associated with aging will be briefly reviewed with a focus on the most recent findings in causes and treatments. The effects of cognitive training exercises, diet and physical exercise on the aging brain will also be discussed with a focus on best practices.

### **SSS-8. RACE REVISITED**

Michael Alan Park, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus (Anthropology), Central Connecticut State University, Presenter. Thursday, Apr. 9, 1-3, Heritage Hall.

Although it has been well established for decades that human races do not exist on a biological level, and that race is a cultural construction, the issue won't go away. It was brought back into the lime-light by the publication in 2014 of former-New York Times science reporter Nicholas Wade's "A Troublesome Inheritance: Race, Genes, and Human History" which purported to document scientific evidence for the reality of human races and their behavioral characteristics. The book was reviled by some, lauded by others. We need, then, to reprise the topic. WHY are there no human biological races? Is this just wishful, "feel-good" thinking? Or is there sound scientifically supported data for the idea?

### **SSS-9. RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE**

Gordon Bates, Retired Executive Director, Connecticut Prison Association, Presenter. Tuesday, Apr. 21, 1-3, Heritage Hall.

What is retributive justice? How did we get 40 years of retributive justice? Is the tide beginning to turn?

### **SSS-10. MEGACHURCH AMERICA: DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE ON TELEVISION**

Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion, Hartford Institute for Religion Research, Hartford Seminary, Presenter. Tuesday, May 12, 10-12, Heritage Hall. The Megachurch phenomenon has dominated the American religious landscape over the past two decades. Yet very few New Englanders have actually attended one of these massive churches; rather our perceptions of them are formed by an accidental encounter on cable TV or an occasional *New Yorker* article. Very few of them resemble what you see portrayed on television. This interactive lecture will take you inside the phenomenon with slides, video and a talk informed by 25 years of study and brand-new 2015 national survey results. Come to this discussion and put your preconceptions to the test.

### **ALP COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

Curriculum Committee - Tuesdays, Feb. 3, Mar 3, Apr. 7, May 5, June 2. 1-3 PM;

Membership Committee - Mondays, Mar. 9, May 11, 1-3 PM;

Advisory Board - Thursdays, Jan 22, Mar. 26, Apr. 23, 1-3 PM.

*Editors note: The following essays were written for an ALP course. Many of the pieces prepared for ALP courses can be found at our website: [www.alp.uconn.edu](http://www.alp.uconn.edu)*

### **THE PAINTING AS ENTRY**

Artist: Frederic Edwin Church; Title: Aurora Borealis; Year: 1865; Medium: Oil  
*Ellie Northam*

This painting of a winter scene in the far north is beautiful but foreboding. The aurora borealis is spreading its beauty down on the frozen landscape, where it spreads across the sky in waves of undulating colors. It lights up the land with its bright array. The northern lights mostly end above the mountains below, but on the right hand side of the painting, it continues down to the low lying clouds abutting the partially frozen



ocean. This area has a white, hazy tint as opposed to the rainbow of muted colors on the rest of the painting.

The remaining colored waves form an arch of light above the old, erosion-smoothed peaks below.

The lower part of the painting seems to be showing a frozen channel between the cliffs and a point of land out of view in the foreground. A two-masted schooner headed through this body of water appears to be ice-bound. There are two lighted windows on the ship. The sails are all rolled up along the booms and bowsprit. All around are patches of huge chunks of ice, frozen into a dangerous looking, rugged terrain on the waters of the channel.

In the very bottom of the painting, painted so small that it could easily be mistaken for more crags of ice (I spotted it and had to look at it through a magnifying glass to see what it was), is a 5-dog sled driven by one person, heading over the ice toward the ice-bound ship, hopefully as a part of a rescue operation.

The fall trip of the supply boat carrying the supplies for the whole winter for the little village nestled on the banks of the bay hadn't arrived. Food and supplies were running out. They could hunt, but if they didn't get some supplies, they wouldn't make it through the long winter. Five brave men volunteered to make a run down the channel to the nearest big town, about two days south, hoping they could get there and back before the freeze set in. They took what food the town could afford to give them and set sail in an old, worn out schooner, its two masts looking barely strong enough to carry the weight of the sails. As it set sail, all of the remaining townspeople lined the shores, watching as it disappeared around the bend.

Among them was a beautiful, young, and very pregnant young woman, the wife of one of the five sailors. Her husband had insisted on going on this rescue mission, insisting that the more men who went, the more chances for someone getting there, buying the supplies and returning to the isolated town. If his unborn child was to have a chance, he wanted to be a part of it. His wife stoically watched as the ship sailed away into the bleak darkness, terrified that she would never see him again.

The old ship slowly made its way down the channel, heading toward the open sea. They made good time for the first couple of days. They made it to the large town and stocked up on the life-saving supplies and quickly headed back up the coast to their tiny village. On the second day of their return trip, the weather turned. It became heavy, ominous. The temperatures plummeted and the deadly, thin sheets of ice started to form on the water's surface. Terror struck their hearts as they thought of their fate and the fate of their loved ones abandoned in the village. The man thought of his unborn son and mourned him, and his wife.

The old ship labored its way through the ice until it was less than a day's journey back to the village. Every time the ice boulders thudded against the old wooden side of the ship, the sailors

thought that was the end, but still the boat kept on. Each mile forward gave the men a little more hope, but the forward movements became fewer and fewer with less time between them until finally, the vessel came to a stop, never to move again. The relentless waves drove the razor sharp sheets of ice at the sides of the boat until, finally, the side gave way and the water ventured into the hull. The boat, however, didn't sink immediately. It lay grounded, half in the water, half above on a shallow reef. However, the water was so rough that it would be impossible to swim to shore; the whole village would perish.

But, no! The young man with the pregnant wife shouted that he would try to swim for the shore and reach the village. Before they could stop him, he jumped off the boat onto the semi-frozen water, and headed toward the shore, half swimming, half crawling. The men were horrified, but there was nothing they could do. They watched him until he disappeared.

Miraculously, the man made it back to the village and reported the wreck. While the rest of the village prepared to rescue the men and supplies, he hitched up a dog sled and headed back across the frozen water toward the doomed ship. His shipmates spotted him returning and started shouting with joy. When the rest of the village appeared on the horizon with their dog sleds, towing enormous sleds behind them, they realized that they were being rescued and that the village would be saved.

And as for the young man and his pregnant wife, a healthy son was born to them that night while the aurora borealis gleamed overhead.

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## MY FIRST WEDDING

Noreen Channels

I stood at the back of the church in my silky dress, a flower in my hair, with my parents at my side. I looked down the aisle, my eyes following the white runner that stretched to the altar, where roses spread in every direction. The organ

music filled the room and the sun streaked through the stained glass windows. I had been looking forward to this day for a long time! It was 1950. I was six. I had just finished first grade and Miss Brown, my truly wonderful teacher, had invited me to her wedding. It was my first, but already I was beginning to learn how to feel and what to dream about.

An usher offered me his arm and walked us to our seats. I felt very grown up! I felt like *I* was the bride! My parents let me have the seat on the aisle.

When the bridesmaids were all in their places and the wedding march started, I leaned out to get a better view. What I saw was a magnificent lady! Like a queen! I felt unsure, a little confused. Then, the magnificent lady winked at me! Now I knew her.

At the reception, I got a hug, bigger than ever at school, and Miss Brown – oops, *Mrs. Reynolds* – introduced me to her parents. Her mother was crying the whole time – in happiness, my dad said.

The huge cake was like a castle, with a little bride and groom on the top. I gasped, but everyone else laughed, as Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds smashed cake into each other's faces. People yelled for a kiss! Yuck! A kiss!

Outside, I threw rice. And then they drove away, tin cans tied to the bumper, shaving cream on the windows. A big sign said "Just Married." Of course, no one knew where they were going for their honeymoon.

But I knew where *I* was going! I was on my way to knowing how things are supposed to be, how girls measure success in life. The rules and the promises were laid out for me -- pick a man, have a fantasy wedding, children should follow. A career? Maybe . . . if necessary, if your husband doesn't mind, if it doesn't hurt the children.

But are these good lessons for a girl? Does one size really fit all? Now, I say "Of course not!"

But - as a girl - these messages were everywhere, and I soaked them up. This is what I wanted! And, I spent years running around with a slip on my head,

## **CLASSES BY DAY OF THE WEEK—SPRING 2015**

***SS = Spring Seminar, SSS = Spring Single Session***

### **MONDAY**

SS-12 The Play's The Thing; April 6, 13, 20, 27. 1-2:45 PM  
SS-14 American Poets Laureate II; April 13, 20, 27, May 4. 10-12 AM  
SSS-4 Witchcraft in New England; March 16. 10-Noon  
SSS-7 The Aging Brain; April 6. 10-Noon  
ALP Membership Committee; March 9, May 11. 1-3 PM

### **TUESDAY**

SS-8 The Lost Generation—Sara & Gerald Murphy; March 17, 24, 31. 10-Noon  
SS-9 Writing Your Memoirs; March 17, 24, 31, April 14. 1-3 PM  
SS-13 Evolution and Human Variation; April 7, 14, 21, May 5. 10-Noon  
SSS-2 The Origin of Evil and the Social Brain Network; March 10. 10-Noon  
SSS-9 Retributive Justice; April 21. 1-3 PM  
SSS-10 Megachurch America: Do Not Believe What You See On Television;  
May 12. 10-Noon  
ALP Curriculum Committee; February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2. 1-3 PM

### **WEDNESDAY**

SS-1 Understanding Greek and Roman Technology II; January 28, February 4, 18, 25,  
March 4, 18. 10-Noon  
SS-4 Creative Writing; February 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18. 10-Noon  
SS-11 European Art History; April 1, 8, 15. 1-3 PM; April 22, 12:30-3 PM  
SSS-1 A Survey of Technical Theater; February 11. 1-3 PM  
SSS-3 Embracing Your Introvert; March 25. 1-3 PM  
SSS-5 Two U.S. Supreme Court Cases; March 25. 10-Noon

### **THURSDAY**

SS-2 Revisiting Our Lives; January 29, February 12, 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26. 10-Noon  
SS-3 Big History IV: January 29, February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12. 1-3 PM  
SS-5 Movie Buffs: February 5, March 5, April 2. 10:30-Noon  
SS-7 The World Was Never the Same: Events That Changed History; March 12, 19, 26,  
April 9, 23. 10-Noon (See Friday schedule for May 8 session)  
SS-10 Short Stories; March 19, April 16, May 14. 1-3 PM  
SS-16 Good Ol' Days; May 7, 14, 21. 9:30-Noon  
SSS-6 Traveling in Eastern Asia; April 2. 1-3 PM  
SSS-8 Race Revisited; April 9. 1-3 PM  
ALP Advisory Board; January 22, March 26, April 23. 1-3 PM

### **FRIDAY**

SS-6 Classic Films; February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27. 9:30 Noon  
SS-7 The World Was Never the Same: Events That Changed History; May 8. 10-Noon  
(See Thursday schedule for other sessions)  
SS-15 Spring Hikes; April 17, May 1, 15. 9:30-Noon

**ALP: ADULT LEARNING  
PROGRAM**

Hartford County Extension  
1800 Asylum Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117-2600  
Coordinator: Bertina Williams  
860-380-5038 (Hours by appointment)  
E-mail: [admin@uconnalp.org](mailto:admin@uconnalp.org)  
Co-Editors: Jim Yaeger, Gwen Sibley

**Meeting Place:**

Seabury  
200 Seabury Drive  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

**What Is ALP?**

ALP is a participatory organization, directed by its volunteer members, open to adults interested in academic learning. Members design and lead programs on a variety of subjects. It is a partnership 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 [www.alp.uconn.edu](http://www.alp.uconn.edu)



*Meeting With Course Presenters*

**ALP SPRING PREVIEW MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015  
9:45 A.M.-12:00 NOON**

Heritage Hall, Seabury  
200 Seabury Drive, Bloomfield, CT  
(Parking at Beth Hillel Synagogue)

*Meet with Seminar Presenters  
Learn about Single Sessions  
Socialize with ALP Members  
Hear Our Featured Presentation:*

**JODY BLANKENSHIP  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
"The Role of the Connecticut Historical Society"**